

**Newsletter Number Two-August-September, 2002**  
**Hubbardston Area Historical Society**  
**Box 183, Hubbardston, Michigan 48845**

The purpose of the Hubbardston Area Historical Society shall be to promote the preservation, understanding and appreciation of the historical and cultural heritage of Hubbardston and the surrounding area by: (1) encouraging historical and genealogical study and research, (2) collecting, preserving, interpreting and exhibiting historical and cultural objects, artifacts and sites, (3) encouraging public participation in the activities of the society through publications, programs and the preservation of archives and historical collections and to encourage the establishment and operation of a local historical museum.

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### Tentative Meeting Schedule

#### Meetings at Celtic Path at 7:00PM

- August 22- (First) General Membership-7:00 PM**  
**Welcome, Introductions, Social Hour**  
**Speaker-Jim Moses-Historian, Genealogist**  
**Masonic Hall-Hubbardston, Mi.**  
**Open to the Public-Stop by and say "Hello"**
- September 26-General Membership Meeting  
October 24- General Membership Meeting  
November 21 General Membership Meeting  
December - No Meeting-Holiday Break  
January 23- General Membership Meeting  
February 27- General Membership Meeting  
March 27- General Meeting-Nominating Committee  
formed for Board of Directors  
April 24- General Meeting-Slate of Nominees presented  
for Board of Directors  
**May 22- Annual Meeting-Elect Board of Directors**  
**Budget presented**  
**June 6- Board of Director's Annual Organizational**  
**Meeting, Election of Officers, Approval of**  
**Annual Budget**

### What is the Longevity Secret?

St. John the Baptist School was built in 1917. That prestigious history can be found in the book St. John the Baptist Parish on Fish Creek (available at the Celtic Path in Hubbardston). In June 1964, the doors closed forever because of the shortage of teaching Sisters. In 1988, a call to all surviving alumni went out by Julie Burns Esch, and the result was a wonderful experience of renewed friendships, awareness of our accomplishments directly related to the education we received within those walls. Today, who are these experts of historic data from this group? **Actually, there are 86 survivors and here are the masters! The oldest-Helen Burns, 1925- lives in Lake Odessa with her sister Frances Hybarger. Next is Rose Herald Dyke, 1926-lives in Detroit near her daughter Gaye Ann Stillwell (The Herald-1971).The oldest Member of St. Mary's parish and a graduate of St. Mary's High School is Carroll O'Connell-1926.. Jim Herald , 1929-lives in Ionia and is doing well. Ford Burns, 1930-lives in Big Rapids with his wife Lucille (Geller) and drove to Hubbardston last month to attend a funeral. Fan McKenna, 1931-lives in Lansing and attends all of our parish celebrations. These folks in their 90's are an inspiration. They are still giving us precise data, entertaining us with their experiences, and are wonderful to be near. Find your friends in the following list:**

- 1932-Frances Burns Hybarger, Sr. Laurentia (Mary McMillan)**  
**1934-Louis Hearld**  
**1935-Marie O'Brien**  
**1936-Jerry Burns, Mary Catherine Sheaffer, Louise Tabor McKenna, Florence McMillan Behan and Esther O'Connell**  
**1937-Bernard Burns, Elmer Cunningham, Elaine Dailey Lutz, Donna Herald Kelly, Julia O'Brien (Sr. Patrice),Allan Stoddard.**  
**1938-Quinten Cusack, Betty Riley Geller, Rosaline Schafer McMillan**

### 1939-Julia Burns Esch, Patricia O'Brien Koenigsknight, Jack McGinn

1940-Clare Cunninham, Rose CunninghamClark, Margaret Ann Cusack Donehue, Elmer Esch, Florence O'Brien Hummel  
1942-Anna Marie Schafer, Harold Stoddard

***And the earliest classes to have all still surviving are:1939 & 1943-Leonard Cunningham, Dorothy Cusack McGrath, Agnes Donehue McKenna, Barbara Jean Rogers Billings and Richard Cusack.***

Check the listing in the parish history book (St. John the Baptist on Fish Creek) and determine the answers to questions about other years and other classes.(or send your questions to Box 183 and we'll find answers for you!



### The Round School-from The History of ClintonCounty-1980

A unique octagon structure known as the Round School has stood guard as a sentinel over a rural community in Lebanon Township, Clinton County for about 125 years. School records show that in 1857 Holbrook Hunter leased land to School District No. 6 as a site for the erection of a school building. In the following year the Round School was built on an old trail that connected Maple Rapids and Pewamo. The first report of School Inspectors was in 1859 and it listed Dist. No. 6 as having 26 students, two female teachers, and four and two-thirds months school. As we go through the early records many pioneer names come to light-Hale, Brooks, Duffer, Frank, Messer, Winans, Stone, O'Connor, Phillips, etc. At a school meeting September 5, 1868, it was voted that the district purchase a lease of three-fourths of an acre of land in square form on the north east corner of Section 29. This would be approximately 300 yards east of its former location. It cost \$60 to lease the land and move the school. It has remained at this site-the corner of French and Grange Roads- four miles north and three miles west of Fowler. In 1942, after 82 years of service, the doors were closed as the people of the community chose to annex to Dist. 12 and transport their children to Fowler Public School. The Round School was used as a recruiting station for soldiers during the Civil War. Mr. Johnson of Matherton was said to be the builder. (Regretfully, it burned to the ground before getting an historic designation.) Submitted by Mary Caris

### Newsletter Reception

We are so pleased with the response to our first HAHS Newsletter. So many nice notes have come in with membership dues from all over the country. Pat Baese, our treasurer has been kept pleasantly busy collecting mail and depositing dues and donations. Thanks to **Rick Cunningham** for that unique Charter Membership card. He and his staff at Cunningham Design on South Cedar in Lansing do wonderful work. Also donations sent along with dues arrived from: **Georgiann Ward, Fr. James Bozung, Phil and Cathy Stoddard as well as Phil McKenna, Pete Burns, Mark Stoddard and dozens of people who have spent time and talent to get things going so well-so soon! Thanks everyone!**

Those interested in Membership in the H.A.H.S. should complete the form below and send it with \$15 annual membership fee made payable to Hubbardston Area Historical Society. **All persons joining prior to September 1, 2002 will be Charter Members.** Send to: H.A.H.S., Box 183, Hubbardston, Mi., 48845. Memberships run June through May.

Membership Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZipCode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
List surnames you are researching: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: All information may be published in upcoming newsletters unless you indicate in writing otherwise.

**Drop by "The Celtic Path" for a wonderful trip down 'memory lane.' Pat is abounding in pictures and memorabilia dropped off by friends, neighbors and visitors to the area. Become sleuth for a day and give your expertise in identifying the unknown persons in these ancient files. Great time to shop, visit and share 'old times' with friends.**

### Surnames-Family Data?

Peter Burns will be given the surnames you wish explored as sent with you dues. The Genealogy Study Group consists of Peter and Nick Burns, John and Mark Stoddard, John Fahey, Allen and Janet Kelley and Quint Cusack.

### Success

**He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often and loved much; who has enjoyed the trust of pure women, the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children; who has filled his niche and accomplished his task; who has left the world better than he found it, whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem or a rescued soul; who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it; who has always looked for the best in others and given them the best he had; whose life was an inspiration; whose memory a benediction. (Bessie Anderson Stanley, 1904)**

Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died.(Bombeck)

## Ionia County Genealogical Society

### Family History Book

Free of charge, you may have your family history published in book form if you wish to submit your family story to the Ionia group. Preferably we would wish that you send a duplicate copy to Pete Burns at his address on the front of the newsletter or to Box 183 Hubbardston, 48845, to be included in our efforts to complete the family history studies to aid our researchers.

The Ionia County book will be divided into several chapters. The first chapter will document county facts with written narratives, illustrations, photographs, maps and charts. Other chapters will be devoted to the history of schools, churches, clubs, organizations and local businesses. **The final chapter will be devoted to families wishing to have their family biographical sketch - up to 500 words and one photo- included in the book.** For information on the project call Pam Swiler, Ionia County Genealogical Society president at 616-374-3141. Brochures on how to participate will be available in early August, hopefully. This in my estimation is a very worthwhile project which we can all enjoy in the future at our leisure.

### Go Granny Go

A police officer was waiting along the side of a highway waiting to catch speeding drivers. There weren't as many violators this day as usual. The State Police Officer sees an old car pattering along at 22 miles per hour. He thinks, "This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder. So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over. Approaching the car, he notices that there are five elderly ladies - two in the front seat and three in the back - wide eyed and white as ghosts.

The driver, obviously confused says to him, "Officer, I don't understand. I was doing exactly the speed limit. What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am," the officer replies, "you weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers."

"Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly...Twenty two miles an hour!" the old woman says a bit proudly.

The State Police Officer, trying to contain a chuckle explains to her that "22" was the route number, not the speed limit. A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask...is everyone in this car ok? These women seem awfully shaken and they haven't muttered a single peep this whole time," the officer asks with concern.

"Oh, they'll be all right in a minute officer. We just got off Route 115." (Porcupine Press, October 2001)

**Laughter is the sun that drives the winter from the human face. (Victor Hugo)**

**My formula for success? Rise early, work late, strike oil! (J. Paul Getty)**

## Celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

How many times does it happen that a co-worker celebrates a Golden Wedding Anniversary? Quinten and Agnes McGrath Cusack (Genealogy Committee) were married September 13, 1952 by Father Lector Bourgois at St. Joseph's Church in Hancock, Michigan (U. P.) Agnes graduated from Hancock High School and attended St. Scholastica College in Duluth, Minnesota with practicum at nearby St. Mary's Hospital. Agnes's dream from childhood was to be a nurse and she managed to stay active in the Medical Surgical field for 41 years (1951-1992) while raising ten children. Quint, a real estate and insurance salesman, and part-time farmer on the family estate of Charles and Helen O'Connell Cusack west of Hubbardston is a grandson of Thomas and Ann Keenan Cusack, parish pioneers. Large families attest to the solidarity of these marriages. Thomas and Ann had 10 children. Charles, his son (and Quint's father) had 14 children and Quinten and Agnes raised 10 children, who along with family and friends arranged this remarkable opportunity to celebrate fifty years of fun, family and memories.

Agnes's maternal grandmother, Ann Rogers, was born in Cornwall, England and married James Spence. Their daughter, Elizabeth was born in Calumet, Michigan where relatives still live on the original family homestead of grandfather James, who was affiliated with the 'mines' in 'Copper and Iron Country.' Elizabeth married George McGrath whose grandparents immigrated from County Waterford in Ireland to Newfoundland, Canada to Calumet, Mi. Agnes has one brother, Martin (father of six children), who lives in the Hancock area.

Friends from near and far attended the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration on August 10, 2002 at the family farm on Borden Road in Muir, Michigan. Quint has three sisters and two brothers remaining of his thirteen brothers and sisters and those in good health attended.

**A bit a history to refresh you follows.** Attending Quint and Agnes's wedding in Hancock from Hubbardston, were Irwin (Sherm) Roach, Terry Shiels (Michigan's Oldest Tavern), John O'Brien and Rich O'Connell (father of Carroll O'Connell of Carson City). As was the tradition in those days, Agnes called Catherine O'Connell O'Brien, Johnny's mother, to secure permission for him to travel with Sherm, Terry and Rich for an extended weekend jaunt to the Upper Peninsula wedding celebration. With a 10:00 AM wedding, it had to be more than a day trip. She complied and the quartet was a 'social hit' as Agnes said; "My father thought that they should attend all future family celebrations, he enjoyed them so much!"

The original Cusack family farm was located across the road from Quint and Agnes's home. When Charles and Helen O'Connell Cusack married, his father (Thomas) purchased the present site from an Englishman, John Williams who built this house in 1880, with his dreams exceeding his pocketbook. When the mansion became a financial burden for John Williams, Thomas secured it for his son, Charles, and today it is the home of Quint and Agnes. Close family friends as the children were growing up, were the Nick and Dorothy McKenna family (who are the parents of our HAHS co-chairman, Phillip McKenna.) It is ironic that seven of the nine McKenna children were able to attend the anniversary celebration on August 10, 2002.

In anticipation of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Quint and Agnes treated

themselves to a spectacular trip to Antarctica in February of this year. "At sea aboard the Ryndam, the couple celebrated the romance of 50 years in the white nights of the Antarctic Circle underneath the Southern Cross and the Andromeda Constellation...the 12 deck Ryndam trekked the 6000 nautical miles from Valparaiso, Chile to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 20 days... "It was an experience of a lifetime, Agnes said. "I'd go back in a heartbeat. It was so different, so unique."

"I didn't think you could go to heaven without dying," Quint said. "You never had to ask for anything." Quint's favorite stop was a cattle ranch in Argentina and Agnes climbed the 190 steps to the famous statue of Jesus with the outstretched arms overlooking Rio de Janeiro (River of January). (Sentinel Standard, March 2, 2002)

How do you stay happily married 50 years? Agnes said, "You take it day by day and love it as you go. I wouldn't change anything today for the life I've lived... and it has all passed so quickly." (Joanne Howard, Interview, 7/29/02)



**Quinten and Agnes Cusack-September 13, 1952-2002**

**A dimple is the mark left by an angel's touch when it blesses a newborn baby. (Morgan Lylwelyn, 1921)**

## Letters from Readers:

Thank you for the opportunity for Charter membership in HAHS. It's interesting that the lead story had a picture of the old flour mill and Hank Slocum. I don't know whether you remember or not, or whether you ever saw it, but Hank had a black Labrador that was very old as I recall, but Hank used to take off his glasses, perch them on the dog's nose, prop his right front paw up on a ruler or stick, and the old dog would sit like that for as long as Hank let him. Also there was a spring under that mill that had the hardest water in creation. You could smell the minerals from yards away. Thanks for the thoughts! **(Raymond J. Burns-Gladstone, Oregon, 7/15/02)**

I'm glad you are doing this -James Fahey was my grandfather. I wish that I'd asked questions while the folks who had the answers were still alive. Any information concerning how "they" got from Ireland to Michigan and when would be appreciated. **(Maryrita Weiss, Grand Rapids, Mi. 6/09/02)**

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to join your society. My cousin, Kay Davern Perry has done some family research, however we can find no information other than Great Grandfather Patrick Davern and Great Grandmother Katherine Dwyer Davern were from County Tipperary. In August we plan to drive up to Hubbardston when we are spending time in Michigan. Looking forward to your newsletter. God Bless. **(Shirley Davern Fox, Salinas, California)**

Thanks for sending us the first edition of the Hubbardston Area Historical Society Newsletter. It was very interesting and if there are any left, we would like a copy of the book by Joanne Burns. **(Lila and Richard Stevens, Clarksville, Mi.)**

Enclosed is my donation for the Historical Society. Thanks for sending the newsletter. Good Luck! You are doing a great job! **(Helen Riley Tait, Hubbardston)**

Glad to hear about the formation of your "Historical Society." Love to hear news from Hubbardston. We are also very interested in keeping in touch and learning as much as possible about our ancestry. Sincerely, **(John Cowman, Ann Arbor, Mi.)**

Please accept this check as membership in the HAHS. Anything we can do, please let us know. **(Tom and Donna Baker, Lansing, Mi.)**

A friend of mine sent me your newsletter. Please accept my application for membership in the HAHS. My connection with Hubbardston is by way of my great grandparents, John and Ellen Bohem Fitzpatrick and James and Anna Keasy O'Connor and Julia O'Connor (Kearney). All of these people are buried in St. John the Baptist Cemetery. I am looking forward to coming newsletters. **(Joie O'Connor Spencer, Muskegon, Mi.)**

#### **Only in America:**

- ...are there handicap parking areas in front of a skating rink.
- ...do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions, while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.
- ...do they have drive-up ATM machines with Braille lettering. (Deb Simon)

#### **Ever wonder**

- ...why doctors call what they do - practice?
- ...why Noah didn't swat those two mosquitoes? (Deb Simon)

**Jerry McKenna** 23, of 404 W. Sycamore, Lansing, won first place in the "Ten Best Movies of 1954" contest held in the Butterfield theaters during April. Mr. McKenna, an employee of Oldsmobile division of General Motors, received a year's pass to all local Butterfield theaters. (State Journal, May 18, 1954)

#### **Our Own Helen Hoskins-Quilt Expert**

Quilts more than simple bed coverings, serve as history books, diaries and outlets for quilt makers. The Michigan State University Museum joined with Joanne Martin, owner of Miner Road Fabrics to celebrate quilting with a Quilt Discovery Day, a free event which registered 49 local quilts in the Michigan Quilt Project on Saturday. The event, featuring Helen Hoskins, an

expert on quilt age or origin, documented twice the amount of quilts expected to be recorded and gave advice on proper cleaning. "Never store your quilts in plastic containers. They should be stored in something breathable, such as an old pillow case, or wrapped in muslin." Hoskins has been involved with quilts since 1985. "Different regions of the country have their own meaning and name for quilt patterns. It is kind of fun to see and hear the stories about quilts and depending on where you are, what the quilt design means."

The Michigan Quilt Project began collecting stories of quilts, quilt makers and quilt owners to create a statewide database in 1985. This project has since collected 7,000 files and volunteers continue to contribute information through the state. Hoskins said that she became interested in quilting in her youth and has followed in the footsteps of several generations of quilters in her family. Quilters making documentation are required to include information about how the quilt was acquired, being used, who quilted it, started and finished it, source of pattern, special stories, memories or any other interesting things about the quilt, fabrics or quilting in general. Eventually the information will be available on a Web site for historical research. (Gazette, June 4, 2002)

**Helen is our archivist at HAHS.** She married the late Shorty Hoskins and lived in Matherton, before moving west. You may remember "Shorty and His Band" who played at the Lamplight (now the Rusty Nail) and at many of the weddings and celebrations in the area. After his death, Helen was curator at an Indian Museum in the southwest and currently is affiliated with the archives section of the MSU Museum in East Lansing.



**For my mother who raised me at her breast, and my father who raised me by the work of his bones, I trust in God that when they enter his presence, there will be a hundred thousand welcomes for them in the heavens of peace.**  
**(Pat Fairon)**

**As plentiful as the grass that grows, or the sand on the shore, or the dew on the lea, so the blessings of the great God, be on every soul that was, that is, or will be.** (Irish Blessing)

### **Bloomer Girls Go Down in History**

While the naming of Carson City for the famous western town in Nevada is readily understood, there is somewhat of a mystery about the naming of the township "Bloomer." No where in the long lists of early settlers, the nation's presidents, generals or famous personages do we find a "Bloomer." Absence of such data adds credence to the story that the name originated out of an incident within the pioneer area. It seems there was a dance at the cabin of Isaac Pennington in the winter of 1851-52, not an unusual activity among the settlers who were more neighborly in their sparsely settled community. It is reported however, that several ladies attending wore what is known as "bloomer dresses" which created consternation among the "Puritanical school" who were guests in the home for the night. The incident gave a nickname "Bloomer" to the infant colony, which just naturally became official when the township was organized. (Gazette, 1967)

### **A Look Back in History-Tom Scott and the LaDue Boys**

It was 1867. President Andrew Jackson was having his troubles with Congress over the dismissal of Edward Stanton in favor of Ulysses S. Grant and a national debt of \$3 billion. Alaska was purchased from Russia for \$7,200,000. The typewriter was invented. Nebraska joined the Union and...

Carson City was founded in Montcalm County, Michigan, by a progressive-minded pioneer, Thomas Scott and his two nephews, John and Thomas LaDue. The trio had just returned from Carson City, Nevada and an exciting experience in that 'boom town' and envisioned a similar development on the banks of Fish Creek, in sections 12 and 13, Bloomer Township. Henry Crapo was the governor of Michigan, the 27<sup>th</sup> state, admitted to the Union 30 years earlier. Other early settlers who had taken up lands in the township were: Joseph Roop, Abram Ely, R.M. Abbott, Robert McClelland, James Langdon, Darius Larkins, Delia Miner and H.T. Sherman. The new village was platted on land originally entered in part by Joseph Roop, Delia Miner and H.T. Sherman. Scott and LaDue built a sawmill at Fish Creek in the fall of 1868, the first in the village. Two years later a grist mill was built, also on the banks of Fish Creek to take advantage of the water power. A man by the name of Addison Mack bought a lot near the mill and opened what was probably the first store in Carson City. The mill is the same as that now owned by Mayor and Mrs. Hershel Haradine, with the exception of additions and modernizations. The saw mill must be considered the prime business of the pioneer era. Lumbering off of the huge pine trees from lands along the upper Fish Creek was the 'big business' of the day and soon there were three saw mills operating north of the city. Logs were floated down to the mill. Oldtimers report the largest log floated to the mills scaled 2,750 board feet. But the flour mill built by Scott and LaDue bears a direct connection to the present time. Shortly after Scott's death, a man by the name of William Youngs obtained a financial interest in the enterprise. It was later purchased by E.C. Cummings, pioneer banker of the community. Not wishing to continue in the milling business, Cummings traded the mill to Lorenzo Lyon and Luther Jones for two farms. Their sons, E.D. Lyon and George Jones took over the business eventually and later George was succeeded in the business by the late George Daniels, who for many years was Carson City village

president. It was Lyons and Daniels who carried the name of Carson City on their famous "Moss Rose" flour with the catchy slogan, "For GOODNESS sake, try Moss Rose." The first hotel in the community was built by Hiram and Daniel Hunt. Other firsts were the Sullivan Felch hardware store, in a building owned by Alonzo Proctor, Augustus Barnum, Elmer Lewis and Anson Davenport. Then there was the Brower and Howe planing mill, makers of sash and blinds, later owned by Lack and Acker. John Taft built a siding and shingle mill which he later moved to Edmore. In 1878 another sash and blind factory was built by H.T. Sherman and equipped with "machinery and modern appliances." Another steam-powered sawmill and car factory was later moved to Saginaw. Among the early settlers whose names have become fixed in the community were the Goolthrites, the Murrays, Mrs. Bishop who developed the south part of the village, and George Palmers who expanded an 80 acre farm south of town to a total of 280 acres. (Gazette, 1967) Submitted by Mary Caris

**We always admire the other fellow more after we have tried to do his job. (William Feather)**

### **Butternut**

Other than Carson City, there has been only one other village in Bloomer Township, and that is Butternut, on the line of Sections 8 and 9. Just after the turn of the 1900's Butternut, located on the Grand Trunk Railroad just west of Carson City, was a flourishing little community of some 150 people. A cheese factory, a pickle salting station, an elevator, Eagle Hotel, bank and post office formed the nucleus of the business community. Dr. J. Cowns was the town's physician. He also operated the town's drug store. Other stores were the DeHart Grocery; A. Conklin, general store; Deer's Hardware and Implement Store; Higbee and Bluemly were livestock buyers and Ira Ginther was the village blacksmith. The present business community consists of Montcalm County Gas and Oil Station; B. Chandler's Dry Goods and Furniture Store; Strouse's Sporting Goods Center; a motor repair shop and Pett's Insurance Agency. The community also has a thriving Butternut Bible Church. (Carson City Gazette, 1967) Mary Caris

