

HUBBARDSTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOX 183, HUBBARDSTON, MICHIGAN 48845 WWW.HUBBARDSTON.ORG
NEWSLETTER NUMBER THREE-NOVEMBER, 2002

BASEBALL CHAMPS THROUGH THE GENERATIONS
 Independents-1947 Pee Wee Champs-2002 Hubbardston Little League-2002



Hubbardston Independents ^ (Back) Elmer Ciuningham, Leonard Smith, Fred Hearld, Allan Stoddard, Eli Griswald, Les Moore, Keith Clark, Cliff O'Grady. (Front) Junior McGinn, Jack McGinn, Bob Barker, Spike Greenwalt, John Kohn, Dale Gage, Ray Donahue, Francis Schafer.

Pee Wee Champs-2002 (Front) Lucas McCrackin, Sean Mills, Logan McClintock, Will Mc Crackin, Lucas Ratu, Nick Schafer. (Back) Coach John Ratu, Michael Mills, Tony Larkins, Ben Bratcher, Bryce Traverse, Jonah Ratu, EJ Kipp, Coach Tom McCrackin. Record-11 wins, 0 losses. Great! >



<The Hubbardston Little League won first place at the Summer 2002 Youth League Ball Tournaments in Crystal. (Back) Coach Rod Wiles, Taylor Wiles, Cory Schneider, Spencer Malek, Andrew Hogan, Coach Ed Schneider. (Front) Ryan Silvernail, Calvin Cusack, Garret Lacey David Howard. David Buchanan and Jordan Stewart also are team members.



Hubbardston Little League Win First Place in Crystal Tournament ^

Today... I wish you a day of ordinary miracles:

A fresh pot of coffee you didn't have to make yourself.
An unexpected call from an old friend.
Green stoplights on your way to work or shop.
The fastest line at the grocery store.
A good sing-a-long on the radio.
Your keys right where you look.
The feeling that the Lord is smiling on you because you are someone special and rare. (M. Fletcher)

**Before I speak, I have something important to say.
(Groucho Marx)**

First General Membership Meeting A Success

A Social Hour and Lunch opened the evening at the I.O.O.F hall in Hubbardston. Bud and Joanne Howard, Pete Burns, Jennifer Churchill, Mary Caris and Karl Harter set up the luncheon, beginning at 5:00 PM. Hot Beef Sandwiches, Hot Nacho Cheese Dip and chips, cheese, crackers, fruit tray, vegetable tray, cheesecake squares, nuts, mints, fruit punch and coffee were served by the committee until 7:15. Approximately 50 people were present enjoying the conversation and refreshments.

Joanne introduced **Evan Lattimer** who is a 7th generation resident, an artist from Kansas City, Mo., and daughter of Dr. John Lattimer; prominent surgeon, educator, author and historian from Columbia University in New York, who spent every summer with his grandfather on Jones Road east of Hubbardston. Evan gave a ten minute report on the Goolthrites, Lattimers, Townsends and Kings who were part of a total of 13 early families who sold their farms in New York, traveled the Erie Canal to Detroit, took the railroad work train to Owosso, bought parcels of land in the Carson City-Hubbardston area and proceeded to live their lives in this new developing Michigan Territory. Her presentation was not only informative but delightful to hear.

Pete Burns introduced Jim Moses who explained the First Families Book project underway by the Ionia Genealogical Society. **Jim, a local historian and genealogist from Lyons, Mi. gave a presentation on early photography** starting in 1839. He was well received, informative and had many examples to validate his research. We adjourned at 9:00PM.

The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain. (Dolly Parton)

Tom and Vicky Cannon-The O'Neill Story

On October 6, 2002, a phone call asking about genealogy, led to a preemptive and wonderfully informative visit. Vicky and Tom Cannon of Las Vegas, Nevada were looking for the O'Neill property and gravestones. Vicky's great grandmother (Elizabeth Callan) married Henry O'Neill in Livingston County, New Caledonia, New York on November 11, 1866 at

St. Patrick's Church in Mumford, N.Y. He was 30, she was 21. Henry's parents came from Dunbur Parish Cullen, Ireland and Elizabeth's from County Louth in 1834. Their children were: Henry (1867) a priest, Eugene (1870), James (1872), Margaret-Sr. Mary Louise (1873), Catherine Veronica (1874), Elizabeth-Sr. Wilfredia (1876), Jennie-Mrs. Pat Fox (1877-1968), Nellie (1879-1959), Mary Cathryn (1880-1965) Anna (1881-1964), Julia (1884-1970), Rose Victoria (1886) and Theresa (1879). Vicky's grandmother Anna Ruth O'Neill married Joseph Miller and their children were: Beatrice-Sr. Dorothy Mary (1910-1997), Dorothy (1912-1921)) Margaret Ann (1915-1996), Josephine (1918-2000). Vicky's mother, Josephine married Edwin Preston of Edmore in 1946. Edwin Jr. was born in 1947 and Vicky (Margaret Victoria) who was born in 1949 came to visit me with her husband Tom Cannon. Now for some neat trivia. Mary, Julia and Rose attended Normal school in Ypsilanti, became teachers, moved to Detroit on Birchcrest Street, and received advanced degrees from Wayne State University. Theresa worked at Park Davis for 15 years and then was persuaded to become 'house mother' for all of her sisters. Nellie joined them from Hubbardston after Eugene and Henry died on the Cowman Road homestead. Rose was always the chauffeur, and these ladies traveled extensively, sailing to Europe previous to WWI on a shopping spree. Why didn't they marry? They had a beautiful home; each sister had her own bedroom and private bath, good job, traveled everywhere in a day when careers for married women were limited to nursing and teaching and then only until the first baby arrived. Most women had an average of eight children. The "pill" was in the far distant future and many women had 10-18 children. They were all good cooks, using only "The Mutual of Omaha Cookbook," 1902 edition and were masters at gingerbread and melt-in-your-mouth molasses cookies. The world is not so large! Today Vicky (retired social worker) and Tom's son-in-law is a pilot for Delta Airlines, daughter Kelly Ann is a teacher in Texas and their son John is a PhD at the University of Texas. And who doesn't enjoy a surprise visit, cold milk and warm molasses cookies on a brisk autumn Sunday afternoon by the fireplace with friends both old and new? By the way, **Jerry Burns, our resident historical expert** easily directed them to the old homestead where the family home is still standing. An addendum: Hubbardston residents will remember Mary Pat Fox (1916-1999), Jennie's daughter who was a teacher trained at Marygrove College. She married Martin Wellna at age 57 and lived in East Tawas, Mi.

The biggest seller in books is cookbooks and the second is diet books-how not to eat what you've just learned to cook. (Andy Rooney)

Happiness often sneaks through a door you didn't know you left open. (John Barrymore)

California, Wisconsin, Ionia, Mi.-At the Celtic Path

Thursday morning, August 22, I was visiting at The Celtic Path when two beautiful women walked in followed by a very familiar face from the past. I recognized Elwyne Cotton, younger brother of Orville from grade school days in Hubbardston and soon discovered that the ladies were Justine Cotton Francis and Martha Cotton Krause. Both have Master's Degrees and exciting professions. Justine taught in the elementary grades in California (where she still resides) for 42 years and Martha was a 'bank president' in Wisconsin for years. Their parents were Percy and Armantha Manning (sister of Welcome Manning) Cotton and they lived on O'Brien Road. Their mother was killed in an auto accident while the children were still living at home. They graduated from Maple Rapids High School in the late 1950's and were here for a family reunion, the first in seven years. What a pleasant encounter on a lovely summer morning.

Readers Response to Newsletter and HAHS –Great!

Much success with the HAHS. Enjoying the newsletters. **(Bonny Burns, Michigan City, Indiana)**

My mom, Margery Proctor is a goldmine of information on the early settlers in the Hubbardston area. Thanks for starting the historical society. **(Shirley Proctor, Armada, Mi.)**

Thanks so much for the effort put into the newsletters. I enjoy them. **(Alice Churchill, Hubbardston)**

Love your newsletter...I am searching for the Schafers from Hubbardston area. Also, I have published a book "Weber Families of the Westphalia-Fowler Area, 1700-2002) Do you have a library for other family history books? **(Audrey Meidinger, Lansing, Mi.)** *At this point, you may leave your book at The Celtic Path and it will find viewers. (Editor)*

We enjoyed the Newsletter! This money is for our membership and a bit extra for mailing. **(Frances Hybarger and Helen Burns)**

We are happy to learn of the new Hubbardston Area Historical Society. Enclosed is our check so we can become charter members. My husband Harvey, was Hubbardston Postmaster for 30 years. Our family roots go back many years when Harvey's maternal grandfather Lloyd Marcus Nichols purchased a farm on Maple Rapids Road...Born in Salisbury, Herkimer Co. N.Y., as a boy Lloyd helped his father in their livelihood. In 1857 when he was 12 years old, the lure of the pioneer trend to go 'west' caused him to want to travel to new lands. Having a sister, Marabe Nichols Lattimer, living with her husband John M. Lattimer on a farm in Michigan, he packed his valise and with his dad's blessing boarded a vessel on Lake Erie and sailed to Toledo, Ohio where he got passage on a train going to Detroit, Mi. Traveling north through the woods by foot and catching rides on logging wagons, he came to the lumbering town of Matherton where he got directions to his sister's home. Picking up his valise, he walked the last few

miles to the place where he was to live the rest of his life in Lebanon Twp., Clinton Co. State of Michigan. There's more...Lloyd Marcus Nichols lived with his sister Marabe Nichols Lattimer until he was a young man. Then he purchased a piece of land across the road from the Lattimers. There he put up a new house, married and raised one daughter, Amy Nichols Allen. It was the Allen farm until Bill Schafer bought it in about 1965. My daughter Jane has information she would be glad to share. **(Sincerely, Shirley Allen, Summerfield, Florida)**

Hope this arrives in time to be a charter member. If there are any copies of the first newsletter I would appreciate getting one. If there are any copies of Joanne Howard's book available, let me know. **(Robert Kavanagh, Lansing, Mi.)**

Please add my name to your excellent publication. My Aunt, Julie Burns Esch sent me your first two editions. I found them to be very informative. I found a few pearls of knowledge of great interest. Keep up your great efforts. **(Sincerely, Richard Burns, Rolling Hills Estates, California)**

I can't tell you how much we enjoy the newsletters of HAHS. Keep up the good work. I have a thousand stories to tell. Sometime I would like to meet with you and tell you everything. Please find check enclosed for charter membership. **(Love, Ford Burns, Big Rapids, Mi.)**

Thank you for sending me the newsletter...It is very well put together and very informative. Keep up the good work. **(Betty Buchanan, Lake Havasu, Arizona)**

Special Thanks To Our Members and Friends

Thanks Phil McKenna for the tables; Quint Cusack for working on programs; Pat Baese for being such a receptive host to our efforts; the Masonic Lodge for our general membership meeting and Karl Harter especially; to Helen Burns, Frances Hybarger, Yvonne Sweet, John and Sharon Schafer for monetary donations. We thank Rose Clark for bringing in eight memberships from her own family. **And to all of our 153 members nationwide, thank you for your faith in us. We'll do our best**

Happy 88th Birthday Frances Hybarger. Brother Ford Burns is in the young 90's. Our Genealogist Pete Burns is Ford's son.



Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of 80 and gradually approach 18. (Mark Twain)



The original Wandaugon, “Salt Springs”-Matherton area as Mary Caris, John Stoddard and Evan Lattimer research the site. (October, 2002)

A Look Into the Beginnings of Muir, Michigan

The village of Muir, formerly known as Montrose, began as a tract of land cleared by W. Z. and J. C. Blanchard who cleared farmland, built a house and barn and installed a tenant farmer there. A L. Soule, R.L. and A.B. Robinson and Isaac Errett, extensive owners of Michigan pine land along the Maple River and Fish Creek, bought the Blanchard farm when the times disclosed that the Detroit and Milwaukee railroad was making its way westward. Soule rushed to Detroit when he heard \$10,000 was wanted by the railroad for coming through Ionia County, and beat out the village of Lyons in the securing of the railroad for Muir. They proposed to build a sawmill, secure construction of the railway through the neighborhood and locate the station on their property. When this happened as planned, Soule platted a village and they named in Montrose. In 1860, because of confusion in the sorting of the mails with two Montrose villages in Michigan, the name was changed to Muir in honor of H.K. Muir, superintendent of the Detroit-Milwaukee Railroad because he favored the town in choosing the railway location. An interesting aside here: Soule from Chagrin Falls, Ohio made his fortune manufacturing “Soule’s Sovereign Balm Pills.” He also induced Rev Errett to start a ‘Disciples of Christ’ church by giving him a joint deed to 1500 acres of timber land. Soule was also aware that **Garfield, the future president was a good friend of Rev. Errett.**

James Abraham Garfield preached in Ionia and Muir in 1861. As a young man he had worked his way through Hiram College in Ohio through carpentry and later rose to head the school. He was a close friend of Rev. Isaac Errett, a pastor of the Muir church of the Disciples of Christ, in which faith

Garfield had been ordained. As the Civil War was brewing, Garfield stayed at the Bailey House and visited Errett every week in Muir. When he was shot down by a disgruntled office seeker in 1881, it was Errett who preached his funeral sermon **The Muir Township Board Meeting minutes for September 23, 1881 read as follows:**

The board met, minutes were not read and Trustee Simon Town read the following preamble and resolutions which were unanimously adopted and ordered placed on record. Whereas: James A Garfield our much beloved President has been stricken down by the hand of an assassin and whereas we sincerely mourn and deplore his loss and would honor and respect his memory be it therefore resolved first; That the Common Council of the Village of Muir will in a body attend the services to be held at the Presbyterian on Monday at 10 1/2 o’clock. and further that we request the citizens to attend said services. Secondly, be it resolved that all business firms be requested to close their respective places of business during the day and they be solicited to cooperate with us in doing honor to the nation’s Chief Magistrate so ignobly cut off in the midst of his glory and greatness. Signed, J. P. Heydlauff, Clerk. (Muir Records Book of 1878-1896)

Muir’s first banker was Sam Webber, president of Banking House of S.W. Webber & Co. established in 1869. The bank advertised that it had \$100,000 to loan upon approved security. That “security” was often just a man’s good character, which would satisfy Sam. The first National Bank of Muir was the second bank chartered in 1872 with N.B. Hayes as its president. The banks of this period paid four percent interest on savings and anyone who had a bank account of their own was called a “Capitalist.” Because of the rich farmland, “farmer” and “capitalist” were practically synonymous terms. The general banking law of 1837 provided that the capital must not be less than fifty thousand dollars or more than one hundred thousand dollars. Interest could not exceed seven percent and the banks were required to make semi-annual dividends. The security for the payment of the bank’s obligations, were to be bonds and mortgages on real estate to be held by the bank commissioner, and the specie in the vault of the corporation. Few banks had this specie, though the law required thirty percent of the capital to be paid “in legal money of the United States.” The fact was, the bank commissioner who examined the banks every three months, was often deceived. One bank would inform another when the commissioner was coming, and each would borrow money from the other to exhibit to the commissioner and take it back when he left. The same specie would serve for the use of several banks. They just shifted the cash!

The Salt Connection to the Survival of Towns and Banking Lebanon Township in 1838 was the scene of wild speculation. The pioneers yet living (in 1873) tell the story of excessive prices of wild or uncultivated lands...due to the excessive amount of paper money then afloat in the state, and men were

anxious to become wealthy at once. Unscrupulous at times, they usually sought victims from the east side of Lake Erie. In 1836-37, Robert Parks, Lawson Warner, among others, purchased land on sections 10, 15, 17 and 20. Soon after, rumors of salt springs of value existed on that part of section 15 lying north of the Maple River. Some old residents have asserted that Parks sunk a barrel of salt in a hole on the bottom of Maple River in the present Lebanon Township for the purpose of "speculation." Others assert that to their personal knowledge, Indians boiled salt in the present township of Lebanon; hence the origin of the original name Wandaugon, meaning "Salt springs." In 1838, the legislature passed an act which incorporated the "Clinton County Salt Works Co." Parks, Warner, Hubbell, Andrews and Parks created a body corporate by the name of "Clinton Salt Works Co" which is situated on section 15 in township No. 8 north, of range No. 4 west in the Grand River land district for the purpose of manufacturing salt. The finding of salt, at least in paying quantities, proved an utter failure. "It was sold by the barrel for the price of fifty cents to one dollar." (History of Clinton County, 1980) But before the collapse, the ruling spirits of the company found time to establish the "Clinton County Salt Works Bank" under the banking law of 1837...Talk about "security." A pail full of silver coins owned by Moses Dean of Maple Township, Ionia Co. furnished the "legal money of the United States" on which was based and established, "according to law" The Clinton County Salt Works Bank and the only evidence the managers could have produced of having "species" in their vaults. This was the system of banking inaugurated in the early days of Michigan...which produced such a financial shock in the state that many years elapsed before a recovery was experienced. Thus ended the manufacture of salt and wildcat banking on the wilderness bottom lands of Maple River. (Lebanon Township, 1840)

The Maple River – It’s Potential and Frustration

Called the Riviere du Plain by the French settlers, the Maple River has a history far beyond 'salt' and 'fishing.' The 130 year history of the river flooding some 200,000 acres of farmland in three counties would never have been written if Tracey McCracken's dream had come true. He envisioned uninterrupted navigation between Lake Michigan and Saginaw Bay... McCracken, a surveyor, was chief engineer for the Maple River and Saginaw River Canal in 1837. There were no highways or railways then and McCracken thought a water route across the state would bring prosperity. The canal would start at Saginaw Bay-to the Saginaw and Bad Rivers-to the Bannister-Chalin area in Gratiot County –to the 'big bend' north of the Clinton-Gratiot County line with the Maple and Grand River completing the route to Lake Michigan at Grand Haven . This water route would have cut the lower peninsula in half, **but towns in our local area would today be ocean going sea-ports because of the St. Lawrence seaway.** What would have been? What could have been? The amazing fact is

that these early people had such far-sighted and ambitious dreams and they pursued them with vigilance and vigor. Even today, the 1871 watershed project is in evidence, moving at a snail's pace. (History of Clinton County, 1980)

This story covers only a hint of the people, places and events which make up this wonderful community in our midst. "It has rightly been said that a person who is ignorant of his origins is like a patient suffering from amnesia. No one of us should be ignorant of our roots. Nor should we fail to let our children and grand children fail to learn of their glorious heritage. (Fr. Jim Cusack, 3 July, 1988) See History of Clinton Co. 1980

It's not that I'm afraid to die. I just don't want to be there when it happens. (Woody Allen)

Local Heroes of Early Flight

Those magnificent men with their high flying dreams began right here in North Plains, Ionia County vicinity in 1905 with Ted Sweet of Eaton, later Ionia County, Philip Orin Parmalee of Matherton-1910, Clem "Batwing" Sohn of Fowler-1937 and Irwin 'Bill' Skinner of Hubbardston-1960.

Ted Sweet made a total of 1858 drops beginning in 1905-1955. In the years 1931-33-34, Sweet made over 100 jumps a year. In 1933 alone he made 111 jumps, 14 on the same day-the 4th of July. Clem 'Batwing' Sohn of Fowler was killed in Vincennes, France on April 25, 1937 when his parachute failed to open. He was the son of Guttlieb Sohn of Fowler. Parachute packing was the responsibility of the balloonist, but in traveling, tampering was probable, but impossible to prove. When Irwin Skinner's mentor Ted Sweet died, he acquired a new team of Wolverton, Hiner and Bridinger. To qualify as a balloonist, the owner operator has to have an **FAA Federal Aviation Certificate and a pilot's license.** Notification must be given to the nearest FAA Flight Service Station 72 hours before an ascension and nearby airport operators must be told the exact time and location of jumps. Federal regulations determine the point of balloon take-off relative to wind direction, open terrain and crowds. An altimeter is used by the balloonist to determine the maximum altitude of 2000 feet at which time he must parachute. In these early days of ballooning, a trench was dug in the ground beneath the bag and a kerosene and wood fire provided the hot air through the trench and into the balloon. Sweet and Skinner's balloon was 67 feet high and 165 feet in circumference, made of unbleached sheeting and took 20 minutes to fill with hot air for the ascension: the spectacular show which drew hundreds of young and old whenever and wherever the event was scheduled. (Sentinel Standard, Kimmel-Aug. 22, 1962) With today's world circling, gas fired self contained fueling systems, controlled temperatures, navigational instruments and flights lasting months, over all terrain, one realizes that these early aficionados truly were daring men risking their lives to

test a theory. Perhaps the only comparison today would be the jet fighter or space capsule pilots who, experiencing adventure, reap success or death and do it fearlessly.

Now for the motorized machines, **Philip Parmalee (1887-1912)** was the record breaker. He earned license # 25 in 1910 and became a special protégée of Wilbur Wright. As he set records for endurance, altitude, and weight, he pioneered the way for air transportation as a reality. Turpin, his friend and partner had been injured, so Parmalee was determined to fulfill their flying commitment before returning to St. John's, Michigan and retirement to a partnership in business with his father. He was in Yakima, Washington when his plane suddenly tilted sideways and crashed into a farmer's field. He was 25 years old. His body was returned to St. John's by his buddy, Turpin, where he was eulogized and his funeral a day of mourning for the entire community. He was buried June 12, 1912 in East Plains Cemetery south of Matherton, where he was born and raised. (See Newsletter # 1 for more info)

Irwin "Bill" Skinner (1932-1963) was buried in St. John the Baptist cemetery with military honors as a service veteran and member of Post 182. **Philip Parmalee's** marker dedication at East Plains on March 29, 1978 was under the jurisdiction of Post 182 with **Comdr. Mark Fletcher, Historian-John Stoddard** and **Adjutant Ed Bradbury** conducting the memorial service and rifle salute. Chairman-**Shirley Karber** introduced the air salute, **The Pewamo-Westphalia Band** played the National Anthem and God Bless America. "High Flight" was read by **William Stoller-WRBJ Radio**. **Gina Vance** and **Michelle Cashen** played "Taps." The **Clinton County Historical Society** provided the 'Fresh Flower Drop.'

The HAHS Connection.

Co-editor **Mary Stoddard Skinner Caris** at age 31 was widowed and left with four children: William-8, Sue Ann-4, Teresa-2, Paul-1 and soon to be born, Douglas. It is the wife behind the man who plans, dreams, suffers and shares in the triumphs as well as the sorrows. The heroes perish in the adventures which secure comfort, convenience and speed of travel for the civilization to follow.

The purpose of the HAHS shall be to promote the preservation, understanding and appreciation of the historical and cultural heritage of Hubbardston and the surrounding area by (1) encouraging genealogical and historical 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.
 Philip McKenna and Julianne Burns-Co-Chairmen, Pat Baese-Treasurer
 Mark Stoddard-Vice Chairman, Jennifer Churchill, Duane Fahey-Media
 Peter Burns-Genalogy, Helen Hoskins-Artifacts, Randy Riley-Archives
 Jahn Stoddard, Shaun and Beth O'Grady-Name, Marie Sweet-By-Laws,
 Bud and Joanne Howard-Sec.-Editors, Mary Caris-Co-Editor.
 Committee Members: P.Quint Cusack, John Fahey, Allen and Janet Kelley



Irwin "Bill" Skinner and Veteran Ted Sweet

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. 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.

Holiday Greetings To All (Agricultural Almanac-1912)

A prayer that craves that none on earth have more of pain or less of mirth. Let old and young alike rejoice! From north to south, from east to west, we'll send the message of our voice; that all shall bless, and all be blessed, however wide the world may be, while gathering round the Christmas tree!

On January 23, 2003 we start our new year with a new calendar. Members are welcome always. Holiday Joy!

