



Ford Genealogy Club
Volume 14 Number 1

1st Quarter March 2009

A message from our Prez...

Sitting here in my office enjoying the view out my windows. I keep thinking to myself I am so ready for this change, ready for spring, for summer, for trips to the cemetery to locate headstones, time to spend outside with the grandsons, time for Mark & I to run off for the weekend. Yep, time for some change. And so it is with the Ford Genealogy Club too.

Some days it seems as though I have been president for a very long time – some days it feels as though I've only started the process. Whatever the feeling at this time, I do feel its time for some change, I'm ready for it and I think you are too. I've enjoyed my time as president of this club. I've watched our membership shrink to almost nothing and now I see it starting to build again. I've enjoyed sharing all this genealogy time with all of you, the summer picnic, the Christmas party, the summer dinners. It feels more like a small family reunion than a club.

Before I just close this & walk away – a few thank you's - first to my love, Mark for all his support thru my ranting & raving and craziness over the past few years; Diane O., for all her support as VP those years & as newsletter editor; Andrea for taking minutes, Nancy for her undying commitment to making sure that everything balances out; Mike B., for being a great secretary in the earlier years and for he & Cindy for ALWAYS being there... Jerry Jacobs for

taking care of membership, Sharon B., for always stepping up & filling in when we needed a speaker... so many others, all friends... Even if I didn't name you here I still appreciate your support and commitment to our club. I could go on and on. I can't say enough how much I've appreciated all your support & friendship over the years of me being president.

Like I tell the grandsons – just because you don't see me doesn't mean the rules have changed – document that research and never give up!

Karen



Mark & Karen Krugman

The Ford Genealogy Club

Serving Ford Motor Company Employees and Family
since 1995

President	Karen Krugman
Vice President	Mike Wesner
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Past Presidents:	Steve Brown, Mark Krugman, Chuck Oslund, Karen Krugman & Sharon Brevoort

Meetings: 2nd Thursday each month
5:00pm Regular Meeting

Location:

Ford WHQ Conference Room 5A-East
1 American Rd
Dearborn, MI 48126-2701

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Member Club of FERA
(Ford Employees Recreation Association)

Ford Genealogy Club
P.O. Box 1652
Dearborn, Michigan 48121-1652
<http://www.fgc.miprofgenie.com/>

newsletter archives
http://www.teamfordfirst.org/JWT/Ford_Genealogy_Club-Rear_View_Mirror-Archive/

Queries Free For Members

Dues \$12 per year, includes our newsletter



Genealogy is a learning as you go hobby. (Or If only I knew then what I know now)

When I first started researching my family lines, I went to my older relatives and asked questions. Just like a good genealogist is supposed to do. I even took a tape recorder once and recorded a conversation with my mother, grandmother, grandfather and myself. I ran across the tape recently and played it.

You should listen to this thing. At times my mother and grandmother were holding one conversation while my grandfather and I were holding another. Whew is that hard to listen to. In my in-experience I didn't know how to keep that from happening. I didn't know how to be more specific in my questions. When I asked my grandmother to tell me something about her childhood, she replied with something on the lines of 'It's so long ago I don't remember.' Which left me at a loss as to what to ask next. I should have asked what did they do on holidays, did they stay home, or visit the grandparents? What chores did they have to do after school every day? Or some such. The questions should have been specific in focus so they would have given her something to think about and stir her memories. A blanket question, 'What was your childhood like?' got me absolutely nothing.

Pay attention to what you are told...

In listening to this interview I realized there was a bit of information I completely forgot or ignored at the time. In asking my grandparents about their ancestors and if any of them fought in any wars, my grandfather stated that both his grandfathers were in the civil war.

When I got to the point of researching civil war records trying to find if any of my ancestors served in that war, I had

completely forgotten my grandfather's comment. His one grandfather, James, was talked about more than the other, 'Isiah' or 'Isaac', and James' obituary even mentioned his war service so I knew to look for him. I even looked for Isiah/Isaac, since he would be of a similar age, in the indexes but didn't find him listed and deduced he didn't serve. But if I had recalled my grandfather's statement that both his grandfather's fought in that war I would have dug deeper looking for him. But alas I did not recall that tidbit of valuable information.

Speed the clock forward. I have now been doing research for years, I have filled in all kinds of information on my family, have copies of James' civil war records, both military and pension. I have all, I think, there is to know about Isiah/Isaac. Even that his name is most likely spelled Isaiah instead of how I had been spelling it. I have filled in lots of information on his children, but I have a brick wall when it comes to his wife. Family lore is that she left the family and went back to New York to her family, and was never heard from again. But some family said no that's not true. So I had to search for her in both Michigan and New York.

In researching Ann (Annie, Ann E), Isaiah's wife, I found a few tidbits on her I won't go into now because they have no direct bearing on what I'm writing about here. They were tidbits of information on her while living in Michigan but by 1903 she disappears completely. I could not find her in New York, nor in Michigan after that year. But then one single person alone is hard to find. Especially with a name like Ann E Green (maiden name) or Ann (Anna) E Welch (married name). There are multitudes of women out there with both names which makes my search for her all the harder.

Speed the clock forward some more. Every

once in a while I go back to my brick walls and do some internet searches to see if there is anything new out there that can help me. So one day I was looking on Ancestry.com for one of Isaiah Welch's brothers that I knew died in the civil war. I never followed him in the military records but felt it was time I did so. I also looked for another brother that just disappears and discovered he too fought and died in the war. While looking for them I stumbled over an Isaiah Welch who also fought in the war. That got my attention. I must have discounted him when I checked the microfilm index because the first name was spelled differently than what I had for 'my' Isaiah (Isiah/Issac) and I was too in-experienced to pick up on the similar name and follow it through. (I'm guessing here—I don't really know why I didn't find him the first time) If I had recalled my grandfather's comment so long ago, perhaps I would have.

I couldn't wait to get this guys military and pension record to prove he was or wasn't my Isaiah. The records proved he was. I was elated to have found something new on him as I had thought I had everything to be found on Isaiah already. Guess we never have it all.

Anyway in looking over his pension record, I had a tiny hope that Ann would be mentioned somewhere. But I was shocked to actually find a copy of a letter actually written by Ann to the pension office. I copy it here with no corrections.

Sandy Creek Feb 12, 1912
Pension Department
Washington D.C.

Dear Sirs,

Will you please inform me if a soldier by name of Isiah Welch of the 15th regiment of N.Y. engineer volunteers is still drawing his pension. I am his wife and can furnish proof of re same and have his ___ discharge papers

in my possession. As I wrote you June 1, 1910 from Wallace N.Y. and have not heard from it.

I ask you to answer by return mail I am in destitute circumstances and unable to work.

Respectfully Yours

Mrs. Anna Welch

Sandy Creek

Oswego Co., N.Y.

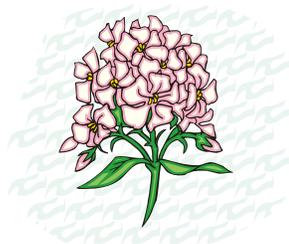
Care S. M Hillon (or Hilton)

Route 1

This is great stuff! Even though so far I can't find any trace of Ann in Oswego County, (I might have her in Wallace in 1910), I'm happy to have a place to look.

Also in the pension papers Isaiah states when and where he and Ann were married. When asked if they are now living together or separated he states they have been separated "9 year as far as I no she ben dead 2 year." This paper was dated 29 March 1915. So I have a window for Ann's death. I'm not there yet but much closer then I was a short while ago.

If I had remembered the comment by my grandfather, or had played the tape of that old interview long before I had, would I have found Isaiah's pension/military record years ago and spent less time looking for Ann/Anna where she was not going to be found? Maybe.



Question: Why do we chase our ancestors?

Answer: We don't have the energy to chase our descendants!

Question: Why do we spend so much time with our dead relatives?

Answer: They don't irritate us like the live ones do.

Question: Why do we research the past?

Answer: Because we can't research the future.

Thought to ponder:

Genealogy is a 50/50 gamble. You can witness the birth of the baby, which proves the mother. It's a little harder to witness the conception to prove the father.

FORD GENEALOGY CLUB Minutes of the January 8, 2009 Meeting

There aren't any.

We had a round table discussion commenting on new finds or brick walls. We discussed the latest version of Family Tree Maker and Legacy. Many went out to dinner afterward and continued to socialize.

FORD GENEALOGY CLUB Minutes of the February 12, 2009 Meeting

Andrea Ketten called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

Nancy Kelly gave the Ford Genealogy Club Treasurer's report stating that the club had \$895.38 in savings and \$201.32 in checking, for a total of \$1,096.70.

Nancy mentioned that the Genealogical Society of Monroe County is holding their 32nd Annual Spring Seminar featuring "A Day with John Humprey" on Saturday, March 21, 2009. She passed around flyers on this seminar for those interested in attending.

This month's speaker was Sharon Brevoort, who spoke on "Planning Your Genealogy Research Trip." Sharon said we should start by asking ourselves "where would we like to go?" There are several steps we need to do before our trip:

- Step 1: Select a Focus Family and/or Location
- Step 2: Develop a Research Plan
- Step 3: Research at or Near Home
- Step 4: Make Travel Arrangements
- Step 5: Pack Your Bags

We were given a copy of online genealogy resources compiled by Sharon in addition to a travel checklist which she uses getting ready for a trip.

After the Planning Your Genealogy Research Trip presentation, a round table was held. There were 15 members present and one guest, Rick Broome.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM and several headed off to dinner.

Respectfully submitted

Andrea Ketten
Secretary

Thoughts from our editor...

It's March 3rd of 2009. I'm sitting at my desk adding the meeting minutes from our February meeting to this newsletter. I'm also looking at all the blank pages I need to fill and wondering just what I'm going to fill them with. I should have been working on this newsletter since I finished the last one in December of last year. But I have not.

I'm also pondering things going on in my life. Chuck & I have my one nephew living with us for 2 years. He is a med school student out of Michigan State University and is doing a residency, if that's the correct term, (his 3rd and 4th years of medical school) in the Ford Hospital system in Metro Detroit. He's been with us since July so we have a long way to go. It has not been bad. Josh tries very hard to not get in the way. He tries to be quiet when he's here. He eats at the hospital a lot, or gets take out. When he's here most of his time is spent in his room studying. We get to visit with him & his his girlfriend from time to time and have learned that it isn't just teenagers that live on their phone.

I should be adding things about his stay with us and his interest in bicycle racing (he wants to race) and such, just as our president, Karen, encourages us to add color to our family trees. But am I? Not one word so far.

There is also the issue of my mother getting older and wanting to change how we've always or at least for many years have done holidays. Discussing alternate ways to do holidays has turned out to be a stressful endeavor because some want to go their own way and some want to keep the family together. Nobody it appears is willing to host all the family at their home, or if they are, they don't live close enough for the others to be willing to make the drive.

On a recent visit to my mother we discovered several boxes of cereal that were very outdated still in her cupboard while the box she's using is kept on the fridge because there is no room for it in her cupboard. So we did a bit of cleaning and need to go back and do some more.

I have an elderly neighbor that I drove to church for nearly 2 years. She has declined to the point I can no longer take her. But every once in a while she'll call and ask why I didn't take her to church or tell me she isn't up to going so won't be going with me.

Now I'm pondering where I'm going with all this. I have no particular reason to tell you all this. There is no big lesson I'm trying to share. Maybe I'm just melancholy. Maybe I'm just sharing parts of my life with you because I realize you all have similar things going on in your lives. As much as we love genealogy and spent much time researching our families, we still have to live. We still have to deal with neighbors, friends and family in the here and now. Maybe we should add tidbits of 'today' to our note fields. Maybe we should start a diary and add something about our daily lives. Maybe we should get busy and jot some of this down in our family files before time softens the edges and we start forgetting bits and pieces then am not quite sure we're remembering it correctly. Maybe I need to stop writing this newsletter and do just that right this very minute.

But I have to get ready to go do research in Lansing tomorrow. I need to get this newsletter finished as it goes out to you folks next week. I have photographs shared with me by one of my sisters, I'm cleaning up, renaming and adding to my scanned photograph database. Need I go on? I have several projects going, so when do I stop and smell the flowers? It's easy to say, just do it. But actually doing it is something not quits

so easy to do.

I need to come up with a plan. Maybe I need to spend ½ hour on a given (set) day adding to my database things like my nephew's interest in racing, his studies, his being on his cell phone so much I think it's part of his ear. Or how and when we change what we do on holidays. Just one little thing, dated, kind of like a diary entry. And later on if I decide I don't want something I included, I do have a delete key.

From a book by the Wayne County Historical and Pioneer Society.
“Chronography or Notable Events in the Hisotry of the Northwest Territory And Wayne county” 1890

Townships Continued from our September 2008 issue.

Romulus

Romulus was first settled by a French Canadian named Samuel Polyne, on section two, which subsequently became a part of the farm of Thomas B. Thomas. Soon after this settlement, Solomon Whitaker, Charles and Joseph Pulcifer made locations; in 1833 Jenks Pullen and his six sons, who afterward became prominent; then followed, up to 1840, Warren Blair, John Simpson, Dr. John F. Smith, John Carr, A. P. Young, Hiram Fisk, Geo. Dykeman, C. C. Burt, Peter D. Lanney and Philip Reynolds. Township organized April, 1835. Supervisor, D. J. Pullen; clerk, John Simpson.

Springwells

Springwells is contemporary with Detroit,

and was settled mainly by French. Joseph Barron was the first justice of the peace; this was in 1830. Gov. Wm. Woodbridge and Captain Whittimore Knaggs were residents prior to that time. Its history is so closely identified with that of Detroit, that that of one will comprehend both.

Sumpter

Sumpter was originally a part of Huron township, but in 1835 the legislature passed an act authorizing a portion of Huron township to be set apart, and established the town of Sumpter. In April of that year the township officers were elected.

Taylor

Taylor township was formerly a portion of Ecorse, and was set off in 1847 by special act of the legislature. The first purchaser of a tract of land was Peter Coan. After him his brother Edmund came, then George Brundit, John Hayden, Augustus Coan, the father of Peter, who was a soldier in the war of 1812; James Moat, James and Wm. Sutliff and Elias Vreeland. Jared Sexton was the first supervisor.

Van Buren

The territory comprising this township was originally that of the present townships of Romulus and Sumpter, known as the old township of Huron. It was organized in 1836. Ebenezer Eaton was the first supervisor; Job Smith, clerk; Alexander Buchanan, treasurer; Arba Ash, John M. Hiller and James Vaughn, assessors; John Buchanan, Waterman Convis and Miner Savage, school commissioners; Benjamin Brendy, Isaac Otis and Daniel Douglas, highway commissioners. The first school house was built in 1822, John Price being

the teacher. The first white child born was Anson Corkins, in 1820. Harry Hubbard settled first at Trenton in 1818, afterwards moving to Van Buren. Nathan Wood settled on what is known as the Stuffit farm in 1822. Amasa Rawson established Rawsonville in 1824. A man named Snow started a landing on the Huron in 1821. Among others of the early settlers were David and Lewis Freeman.

End

NOTE:

This next item was stumbled upon by our president, Karen Krugman. We both felt it would be of interest to the genealogists in you. It makes one wonder just how many cities have dealt with their records in this fashion. Especially larger cities. After all more and more records are being produced every year and there is only so much space to store them.

Found in the **Saginaw News** (Saginaw, MI) *Sunday July 16, 1961, page 1 of section B.*

1 ½ Million Documents Are Becoming Ashes

Probate Court Changing To Microfilm

By Donald L. Kilts News Staff Writer
[note: underscore means words were unreadable and omitted]

An estimated 1 ½ million Probate Court documents, some of them wills and records more than a century old, are scheduled to be burned.

When it's over, most of four vaults will have been emptied and _____ old records will have to unwind a spool of microfilm.

Microfilming the 1 ½ million documents will take about two years, Probate Judge Glenn E. Jordan figures. One employe has been added to the staff, exclusively for microfilming work.

“It was simply a matter of running out of space,” explained Judge Jordan.

“Documents run back to when the court was started here in 1837.”

There are four vaults, ceiling high, with filing drawers and record books. The estate files are numbered chronologically, starting with file No. 1. They run to 58,000.

Also probated and filed in the vaults are such things as juvenile and juvenile traffic documents, and delayed births --the registration of births not recorded at birth. The estates include not only wills but such items as guardianship papers and commitments to institutions.

Judge Jordan estimates about 1,000 estate documents are filed annually in Saginaw County, plus about 1,000 documents dealing with juveniles, around 1,000 dealing with juvenile traffic cases and around 500 delayed births.

While the number of juvenile traffic cases is increasing annually, the delayed births are decreasing as more and more persons have certificates recorded at the time of their birth, a common practice now but rare years ago.

Each of the old documents is unfolded, laid flat and microfilmed. This permits photographing the papers in miniature, distinct enough so they can be read easily when “blown up” on a _____.

The work has been slow. Many records are more than 100 years old. They have become brittle, torn and crumbled. Occasionally they have to be patched with transparent tape before they can be photographed.

Only about 1,500 of the 58,000 file boxes have been microfilmed after nearly two months’ work. The project will move more swiftly when employes get to the more

modern flat files, eliminating the slow unfolding process.

MICROFILMING is being done with equipment in the Probate Court offices. Two copies of each document must be made. One will be stored at the Courthouse, the other at the Second National Bank.

Not all files will be microfilmed. The law, explains Judge Jordan, permits microfilming and destruction only of records of cases that have been closed at least six years or in which no papers have been filed for at least 10 years, whichever comes first.

When the work is done, there will be more space in the vaults for court supplies. The present compact microfilm cabinets can be moved from hallways into the vaults, and space will be available to other County departments hunting for storage space.

THE MICROFILMING of public records is not new at the Courthouse; it’s done in many other departments. But few departments have taken on a task as staggering as that started in Probate Court.

“Many of these envelopes haven’t been opened in 75 to 100 years or more.” Judge Jordan remarked. The older records are all hand-written. The bills, receipts, inventories and financial accounts filed with estates are a _____ peek into pioneer Saginaw and the booming wealth of the lumber era.

There are fur traders lists of transactions with Indians; inventories of articles of clothing and furniture decades out of use; bonds and checks from long-defunct banks, receipts from long-forgotten 19th Century Saginaw business places.

There are receipts for calico. High-button shoes, horse shoes – eight for \$1.20 – dinner pails, coffee mills. A man’s suit could be had for \$5.50; hominy was four cents a pound; a doctor would make six visits for \$9.

The records many of them interesting for historical purposes, will have to be destroyed. It’s the law. They’ll exist in the future only on film.

Elections are coming up in April!

Consider running for an office.

Think about all the people who have held an office in this club all the years you have belonged to the club.

Think of all the people who have stepped up to the plate when we've been in a bind.

Think of the people that are behind the scene but still help out.

Even if you can't, at this time, run for an office, take a moment to show your appreciation to the ones around you that have done so in the past or are doing so right now.

And if you can't hold an office right now, please consider taking one on in the near future.

The Ford Genealogy Club web site:

<http://www.fgc.miprofgenie.com/>

Our meeting schedule can be found on this page.

<http://home.comcast.net/~coslund234795MI/fgc/meetings.html>

March 12th is brick wall night. Bring your problems or ones you've solved for discussion. Should be a great night.

April 9th; Woodmere Cemetery by Gail Hershenzon. Many people have ancestors buried in this cemetery. Gail is an expert on this cemetery and her presentation should be a 'don't miss' one.

May 14th.

Dearborn Historical Museum Holdings by Krut Gross. If you have ancestry in the Dearborn area this is a don't want to miss meeting.

June, July & August are out dinner meetings and they will be planned at a later date.

Sept. 10th Civil War Grave Registration by Rick Danes. Another great topic to genealogists.

Oct. 8th. Now Where was I? By Linus Dregs. Sounds Interesting.

November 12th to be determined.

December is our annual Christmas dinner and will be discussed at a later date.

This is our page on where we meet and how to get there. It also has our dues information and a link for a enrollment form to be shared with people who may want to join our club.
http://home.comcast.net/~coslund234795MI/fgc/meetings_info.html

This is the home of our Newsletter Archives. If you have not visited this site you need to do so.

http://www.teamfordfirst.org/JWT/Ford_Genealogy_Club-Rear_View_Mirror-Archive/

Today is March 9th 2009. We've had a very long and very cold winter with lots of snow. We've now had some warmer weather and most of the snow is gone. I say most because I still have some icy snow in my front yard that faces north and gets mostly shade. I have hopes it will melt soon.

Ford Genealogy Club
P.O. Box 1652
Dearborn, Michigan 48121-1652
U.S.A.



Looking Backward To Our Past