

TimberTown Log/Newsletter

Encompassing all of Saginaw County, Including the surrounding Townships

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Meeting Roster Mark Your Calendars

Monthly meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month from September through June (excluding July, August, and December) beginning at 6:30 PM on ZOOM. After a brief business meeting, presentations will begin around 6:45 PM. Below are the known ZOOM meeting dates and the topics until May 2021.

There are no meetings held in July, August and December.

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

DEBRA SHEETS PRESENTS-CHRONICLING AMERICA THRU NEWSPAPERS

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

DONNA CARLEVATO PRESENTS - THE ULTIMATE GENEALOGISTS GOOGLE TOOLBOX

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

KATHY LANDES PRESENTS - MAKING MEMORIES WITH SHUTTERFLY

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

BOB SZCZYPKA PRESENTS - TIDYING UP YOUR GENEALOGY

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

KAREN REYNOLDS PRESENTS - TBA

Question #1:

What was the name of the French Jesuit priest who came to Saginaw from St. Ignace and acted as a missionary to the native people?

Saginaw Family History Center (FHC)

The Saginaw Family History Center located at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is closed at this time until further notice due to the COVID-19 quarantine.

HOW DID THAT TOWN GET THAT NAME?

INKSTER: Wayne County—the area was first settled in 1825 and was given a post office as Moulin Rouge on Dec. 31, 1857, with **Josh Dort** as its first postmaster; **Robert Inkster** operated a steam sawmill on present-day Inkster Road, Near Michigan Avenue, in the early 1860s, and the post office was renamed Inkster on July 11, 1863; given a station on the Michigan Central Railroad by 1878; incorporated as a village in 1926 and as a city in 1964.

INTERLOCHEN: Grand Traverse County—named from its location between two lakes, to which their Native American names have been restored: Lake Wahbekaness (Water Lingers), formerly Duck Lake, and Lake Wahbekanetta (Water Lingers Again), formerly Green Lake; partly the site of the ghost town of Wylie (which see); a station on the M. & N. E. and the C. and N. M. Railroads; storekeeper **James R. Lee** became its first postmaster on July

26, 1890; **Willis Pennington**, a Quaker, came here about 1900; he opened a drug store, and later a children's camp; in 1927, he induced **Prof. Joseph Edgar Maddy**, head of the Music Education Department at the University of Michigan, to locate his National High School Orchestra Camp Association (now the National Music Camp) here; Interlochen Arts Academy followed in 1962.

INTERMEDIATE: Charlevoix County—on March 2, 1874, **Eugene A. H. Cole** became the first postmaster at this midway between the south and north ends of the south arm of Pine Lake (now Lake Charlevoix), the office operating until Nov. 30, 1892.

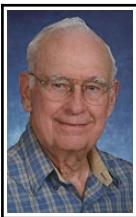
IOSCO: Iosco County—when organized in 1857, the county was named with an often-used word in the published works of **Henry Rowe Schoolcraft**, Iosco, said to mean “water of light”; first settled in 1849, it developed as a great lumbering area and became the site of Lumberman’s Memorial; the Iosco post office operated until Jan. 30, 1932.



Lumberman's Memorial

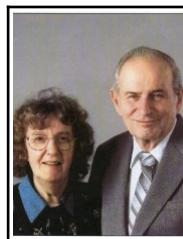


Our Condolences



With deepest sympathy we announce the passing of **Jack M. Netzley**, a dear husband to our SGS member, **Dorothy Netzley**. **Jack was born on Dec. 6, 1929 in Isabella County**. He worked at different times as a farmer, soldier and custom cabinetmaker. Jack retired in 1993 as a carpenter from General Motors-Malleable Iron in Saginaw. He met his future wife, **Dorothy M. Smith** at Brockway Roller Rink in 1950. They married in 1955. He leaves behind his wife, three children and three

grandchildren. Jack passed away two days short of his 91st birthday on Dec. 4, 2020.



With deepest sympathy we announce the passing of **Anne C. Pickett Pufahl**, beloved wife of SGS member **Joseph W. Pufahl** (pictured with Anne) on October 18, 2020. She was 83. Anne was born on May 4, 1937 in Evanston, Illinois. She married Joseph Pufahl on January 1, 1958. She was a bookkeeper for over 25 years at the Jo-Den Service, Inc. She enjoyed playing the piano, reading and gardening. Her family would describe her as a tenderhearted, loving and caring wife, mother and grandmother. She leaves behind her husband, two children and two grandchildren.



With deepest sympathy we announce the passing of **Allen Streeter** on Dec. 14, 2020. He was a member of the SGS for many years. Allen was born on Sept. 18, 1923 in Flint, Michigan, the son of Everett and Elizabeth (Allen) Streeter. He worked for General Motors at AC Spark Plug until entering the US Army in 1943, and serving in Europe during World War II. He married **Doris Mae Loomas** in 1945, she predeceased him in 2006. He served on the Saginaw Township Planning Commission for 33 years and was elected a Township Trustee from 1970 to 1974. Allen's special interests were travel, family genealogy, music/theatrical events and photography. He is survived by three children with several grand and great-grandchildren.

Question #2:

Steve Land Hardaway Judkins was born in Saginaw in 1950. What name does he go by now?

Saginaw's Schuch Hotel by the Saginaw Historical Society

“You get a good meal at the Schuch Hotel, but chances are you might find it hard to remember what you ate. Vying for your attention-- and getting it-- will be a collection of 500,00 historical objects that crowd every corner, ledge, and niche in the old building.”

“Don’t just drop in on the oldest operating hostelry* in Michigan with the idea of a quick snack. You will find it

difficult to break away even after hours of inspecting its charms." *The Saginaw News, June 28, 1948*



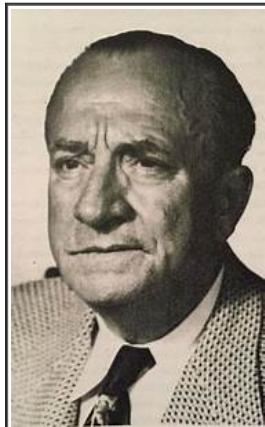
Saginaw's Schuch Hotel in the late 1800s

The Schuch Hotel has a rich history. **John Schuch** wrote that it was completed in 1868 as the Benson House. Saginaw City directories and other sources indicate that it was completed about 1872 as the Brockway House. There would be other owners and name changes before it became the Schuch Hotel in 1912 when purchased by **Henry L. Schuch**. It was his son, **John** who transformed it into a revered Saginaw landmark and made it famous throughout Michigan.

It is hard to summarize **John Phillip Schuch's** career – and still leave time for you to prepare this famous recipe. Born in 1887, by the time he was fourteen he was selling newspapers and magazines on the railroad. This gave way to work as an advance man for traveling theater companies. [In a pre-internet world, and advanced man would arrive in a city prior to the arrival of a theatrical company and secure arrangements.] After acquisition of the hotel, he devoted his time to managing it. As his biography in the Saginaw Hall of Fame notes: his interests would soon broaden:

"He served as sheriff of Saginaw County from 1922-24. He was Michigan Commissioner for the George Washington Bicentennial in 1932 and was chairman of the Saginaw County Selective Service Board during World War II.

In 1940, he served as a state representative and senator for two terms each. During that time, two of his initiatives were returning captured Confederate flags to the southern states and promoting the use of the Turner House in Lansing, a replica of Mt. Vernon, for use as headquarters for the Michigan Historical Society. He was also elected to president of the Historical Society of Saginaw County.



From its start in 1933, he was a loyal friend of Pit and Balcony and members of the theater group looked on the Schuch as a second home, gathering there nightly after rehearsals, crew nights, and performances.

Probably Schuch's greatest contribution to Saginaw was his keen interest in local history and his leadership in the formation of the Historical Society of Saginaw County, which was founded in the late 1930s. John was especially involved in the society's efforts to educate the public through a series of lively stories about local characters that were broadcast on radio stations.

From 1912 to 1940 he made his home at the Schuch Hotel, living with his favorite items from a collection in an upstairs apartment. In 1941, he moved to a new house he had built in Golfside (*editor: area of homes on the west side of Saginaw near the golf course on Gratiot Rd.*) again surrounded by collections.

When he passed away in 1953, the hotel was left to a niece. In a Saginaw News article she noted that "dusting the collections in the hotel took 365 days. When one completed the dusting of the snuff boxes, the walking sticks, guns, carved elephants, jade carvings, china, Bibles, Saginaw historical memorabilia, and much more, it was time to start over."

While the inn has had several owners and his collections have been dispersed, the building remains clearly recognizable and still carries the Schuch name.

*It appears that this claim to being the oldest hostelry was based on the premise that it was the oldest continuously operating hotel in its original building in Michigan in 1948. (Not unlike many firsts and oldest, there is some editing in the process.)



Schuch Hotel Beef Barley Soup

- 1 gallon beef broth
- 1 quart water
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 or 4 carrots, chopped
- 3 to 6 cups roast beef, chopped
- 1 package barley
- ¼ pound butter (1 stick)
- salt and pepper

Directions for making the soup:

Put everything except barley and salt/pepper in a large pot. Bring to a boil. Add barley. Turn fire down to simmer. Simmer until barley is done and soup is thick. If the broth is too thick, add more water to it, salt and pepper to taste.

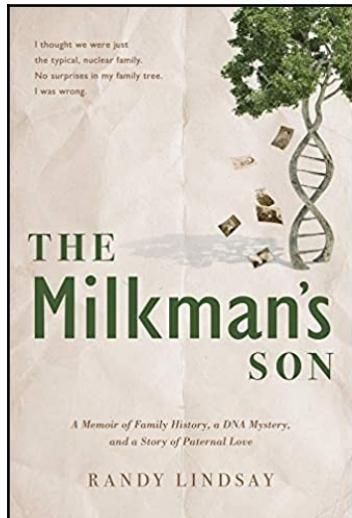
(With the chilly weather, my family loves hot soup. I did cut this recipe down so I wouldn't have too much. It had great flavor and paired well with bread and butter. It was delicious and really hit the spot. ~ Note from the family)

Question #3:
Who wrote a country song in 1964
with the lyrics: "I was born, in
Saginaw, Michigan..."?

Book Club Pick

The Milkman's Son

by
Randy Lindsay



to help with the genealogy, but after his searching leads to a dead end, he takes a commercially available DNA test. The results reveal a possible genetic match to a sister, which begins a familial quest that forever changes the author's life.

Raised in a family he bore little resemblance to, Randy was jokingly referred to as the "milkman's son." This warm and candid memoir chronicles the unraveling of a family secret, which begins with Randy's dad having dreams about deceased relatives urging him to complete their family tree. Randy agrees

Featuring a cast of vivid characters richly drawn from two distinct families, *The Milkman's Son* reveals one man's family tree, pulling back layers of new information as he gets closer to the truth--a biological father, siblings, and family members he never knew. This is a story of accepting, forgiving, and reuniting. Most importantly, it's about the bonds that connect us and the unconditional love that makes us feel like we belong.

Editor: I LOVED this book! Randy Lindsay is a delightful writer and I couldn't put the book down! I know, it's another DNA story, but it is a great read!

Hogmanay in Scotland

Consider yourself lucky if you find yourself ringing in the New Year in Scotland. Their Hogmanay holiday is one of the world's most greatest New Year's celebrations.

No one is exactly sure what the term *Hogmanay* means. It first appeared in writing back in 1604, and historians believe the festival was celebrated decades earlier. Some say that *Hogmanay* derives from the French word *hoganine*, meaning "gala day". Others believe it comes from the Norman French word *hoguinian*, meaning "New Year's Gift." Historians agree that both the term and the celebration likely appeared after **Mary, Queen of Scots**, returned from France in 1561.

Answer to Question #1
Father Jacques Marquette

One of the foremost Hogmanay traditions is *redding the house*. This involves a deep cleaning of the home for the new year. It was traditional to clean the ashes from the hearth. Some community members were called upon to read the ashes, the way some soothsayers read tea leaves. The cleaning wasn't complete until a smoking juniper branch was carried from room to room, dispelling evil spirits. One last way of keeping house was to clear up all family debts before midnight. The stroke of midnight brings the *first footing*. The *first foot* refers to the first person to set foot in your house on New Year's Day, and this first footing is symbolic of the year to come. This is why many new year's visitors come bearing gifts of shortbread and black buns, both considered luxurious foods. Hosts are obliged to offer their first footer a small drink, or *wee dram*, of whiskey. First footers often visit many homes, and the wee drams certainly add up.



Scottish Shortbread

Bonfires are also traditional for Hogmanay. Since ancient times fire has symbolized purification in Scotland. This is yet another means of cleaning for the new year. Of course, Hogmanay wouldn't be complete without the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*, written by Scotland's national poet, **Robert Burns**.



Answer to Question #2: Stevie Wonder

Strange Christmas Traditions

Christmas brings with it many beloved traditions: trimming the tree, hanging stockings, and singing carols. Many countries around the world enjoy traditions you may be less familiar with.

In Japan, an estimated 3.6 million families eat Kentucky Fried Chicken during Christmas season. This is largely thanks to **Takeshi Okawara**, who managed the first KFC franchise in Japan. In 1970, Okawara marketed the Christmas "party barrel", a complete fried chicken dinner replicating American turkey dinners. There were so few existing traditions in Japan that KFC filled the void. These days, if you do not pre-order your KFC dinner weeks in advance, you will have to stand in the line for hours to get your "Kentucky Christmas."

If you happen to be in Norway for Christmas, you'll be hard pressed to find a broom, for they are all hidden away. Norwegian folklore tells how evil spirits and witches emerge on Christmas Eve. Norwegians hide their brooms so that witches cannot steal them for riding.

In Caracas, Venezuela, Christmas morning brings presents and roller skates. Authorities close down the city streets on Christmas morning so that thousands of residents can roller-skate to church in safety. One tradition tells of how children go to sleep with one end of the skate lace tied around their toe and the other end dangling out the window. In the morning they are

awakened by skaters tugging at the lace to alert them that it is time for Mass.

In Ukraine, trees are not decorated with tinsel and ornaments but with faux spider webs. A common folktale tells the story of a poor woman who could not afford tree decorations. When she awoke on Christmas morning, she found her tree glistening with spider webs, courtesy of the spiders in her house who took pity on her. (*Editor: YIKES!!*)

These traditions may seem strange to you, but does your family have any Christmas traditions that others may find nontraditional?

Word of the Month

Wahbekaness: Native American name meaning "Water Lingers". Find it in this edition.

Remember that when a family member passes away, they take a library of memories with them. It's a genealogist's duty to record them before that happens.

ACTIVITIES FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

- Learn about important events or inventions from the year you were born. What inventions have come since your birth? Record this in a journal.
- On FamilySearch, find an ancestor you'd like to learn more about. Look up his or her birth year. Using a search engine, learn what world events or inventions happened that year. How was life different back then?
- Find your own personal records. A personal record could be an identification card, birth certificate, baptism certificate, report card, etc. What does each record tell you about yourself? Keep these in a safe place. A good thing to do is to have them copied and saved on a computer and on a flash drive.
- Write, or record, your family member's story on FamilySearch, (with his or her permission if they are still alive). Then capture your experience. In the future, reading or listening to your story

again will help you. It will also help those that follow you.

- Look over old family photos with other family members, and take time to remember your family's experiences.
- As a family, talk about your family traditions. How did they start? Why do you enjoy them? What traditions do you have with your extended family? Create a new tradition.
- Interview older family members to discover their memories of favorite family traditions. During the interview consider recording these stories using the FamilySearch Memories App.
- Visit places that your parents or grandparents lived: a home, a school, a church, a grave, etc. If it's not possible to go to a place nearby, then use Google Maps or Google Earth to view the places your ancestors lived.

**Answer to Question #3:
Lefty Frizzell**

SGS is looking for help in photographing old school houses in Michigan. Go to our website for more information or contact Debbie Sheets at saggensoc@gmail.com



Editor's Corner

The year 2020 is finally coming to a close! What have you learned about yourself and the world around you this year? I learned that people can be kinder and more compassionate than they are often given credit for. Neighbors helped neighbors and friends they had never met before during a horrendous flood event in the Tri-City area this Spring. Other ordinary people stopped by to see how their elderly neighbors were doing during the quarantine months of COVID-19 this year. They even offered to buy groceries for neighbors who could not risk going to the store and bring supplies to them. I like to

read a good story but I was getting quite tired of reading about toilet paper and Clorox wipe shortages in the stores. It seemed more like a panic-demic than a pandemic!

Do you feel like you were cheated out of the special holidays with your friends and family? Or did you find new ways to deal with social distancing and celebrating family traditions? Did you learn how to use Zoom to connect with church, family and work? Did you get out those jigsaw puzzles you've had for years and enjoy piecing them together leisurely? Did you spend time working on your family history because you FINALLY had some spare time to sit down and do research? I hope you were not robbed of loved ones because of this nasty virus. If this happened to you or your family, I am truly sorry.

With the advancements in Science we have been able to produce a vaccine in record time to fight the COVID-19 virus. Maybe 2021 will be a refreshing year of new experiences and time to cherish family reunions and gatherings. The New Normal may not be as bad as our Now Normal and will certainly be welcomed with our open arms to hug others, with maskless faces to smile and sing again, and loving hearts to heal each other's heartaches. Have a wonderful holiday season, however you may celebrate!

Karen Reynolds ~ Editor

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