



# 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 and August) beginning at 6:30 PM currently on ZOOM meetings due to COVID quarantine. Presentations will begin around 6:45 PM. Below are the known meeting dates and the topics:

**SEPTEMBER: Tuesday, September 14, 2021**

**It's our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary month!**

**Watch for details**

**OCTOBER: Tuesday, October 12, 2021**

**Betty Coleman in charge**

**NOVEMBER: Tuesday, November 9, 2021**

**Another Fun Class on Ancestry.com**

**(updates)**

**Presenter: Randon Morford**

**DECEMBER: Tuesday, December 14, 2021**

**Gifts For & By The Genealogist**

**Presenter: Debra Sheets**

### **Saginaw Family History Center (FHC)**

The Saginaw Family History Center located at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 1415 Center Road will be reopening the week of August 1, 2021! Dates are pending. Refer to the SGS website for details and updates.

#### **Question #1:**

**What are 3 mountain ranges in Michigan?**

## CROW ISLAND

by Mike Sonnenberg

Posted in **Ghost Towns**

The story of Crow Island goes way back to the treaty of 1819, with the Chippewa Chief Kawkawisou, or as the white settlers referred to him "The Crow". The Indian chief was given 640 acres on the east side of the Saginaw River, and the island opposite Zilwaukee and called Crow Island.

In 1864 the Oneida Salt and Lumber Company built a mill on the Crow Reserve, on the east side of the Saginaw River north of Saginaw in Buena Vista Township. A spur line was added to the Pere Marquette Railroad to bring in supplies, and haul out the freshly cut lumber from the mill. In 1882 the sawmill was purchased by **Ralph A. Loveland** who owned the Saginaw Lumber and Salt Company, which had offices in the Beringer Building. The sawmill was successfully operated by Mr. Loveland's sons, and in 1882 was given a post office, and the town named Crow Island. The town continued to grow with a population of about 800 residents, and had a general store, several homes, and a school with about 60 students attending.

After the timber in the Saginaw valley was cut, Mr. Loveland purchased several tracts of land along the Georgian Bay in Canada, and had the logs floated to the mill. The sawdust and the waste from the mill were dumped in the marshes eventually increasing the land around the town. In 1895, a fire broke out in one of the stores in town, and the wind carried the flames to several structures in the town, including a large boarding house, and several homes. The post office was closed in 1895 and it may have been a result of the

fire. The Lovelands continued to operate the mill until 1901 and then moved the mill to Canada to be closer to the timber.

It was in 1914 that a group of investors purchased the island and divided it up into 50 feet by 150 plots to create a resort community. The plans were to have a bridge built to allow access to the island by motor car, but that never came to be. Over time the Saginaw River was changed, and the part of the river that created the island was filled in or dried up, and the island is no longer an island.

The area where the town once stood is part of the Saginaw Waste Water treatment plant and the Buena Vista Sewer department. The old Chippewa Indian Reservation is now the Crow Island State Game Area.

#### Question #2:

**What is the largest falls east of the Mississippi River, with the exception of Niagara Falls, that is in Michigan?**

### HOW DID THAT TOWN GET THAT NAME?

**TAHQAMENON:** Chippewa County-- this was the name of the post office (but spelled "Taquamimon") first given to the village of Hulbert; the name is retained by a river rising at the conjunction of Luce, Alger, and Schoolcraft Counties and flowing through Chippewa County to Whitefish Bay; its larger falls, nearly 50 feet high are on the county line of Luce and Chippewa; this is the "rushing Tahquamenaw" of **Henry Longfellow's** poem, *Hiawatha*; from its copper speckled bed, the Indians gave it their name for "dark waters."

**TAWAS CITY:** Iosco County—it was founded in 1854 by Oakland County former judge, **Gideon O. Whittemore** when **G.O. Whittemore & Company** built a sawmill on the site; it was platted in 1855 but not recorded until 1866; township supervisor **James O. Whittemore** became its first postmaster on Jan. 26, 1856; incorporated as a village in 1885 and as a city in 1895; it was named after the Indian tribe, the **Ottawas**, others say after **Otawas**, a local Chippewa chief.

**TAYLOR:** Wayne County-- the first settler in the area was **Peter Coan** in 1830; Taylor Township was erected in 1847, with **Jared Sexton** as its first supervisor, and was named for **General Zachary Taylor**, then fresh from his victories in the Mexican War; given a post office as Taylor Center on Jan. 12, 1863, with Mr. Sexton as its first postmaster, the office operating until Feb. 15, 1914; from then on the town was served by several adjacent post offices until **Stanley A. Grendel** became the first postmaster of Taylor on Oct. 7, 1958; incorporated as a city in May, 1968.

*Editor: I drove by this next town and wanted to find out how it got its name. I figured it had to do with alcohol, or rather, the lack thereof.*

**TEMPERANCE:** Monroe County—**Lewis Ansted** and his wife, **Marietta Hayden Ansted** (an ardent member of Women's Christian Temperance Union) owned a 140 acre farm here in Bedford Township and on all deeds to the lots they sold was included the clause that no liquor was to be used, made, or sold on the land; this provision was even assented to by the Ann Arbor Railroad when it obtained right-of-way through the property; Mr. Ansted platted the village about 1884 and successfully petitioned for a post office named Temperance, of which he became the first postmaster on Dec. 8, 1884, serving until 1890; the village is still dry.



### UPDATE: Searching for Susan by Karen Reynolds

This is a TRUE story. The names have been changed to protect the family. Refer to our March issue for the original story.

**My friend: James Hill**  
**His "cousin": Susan Thomas or "Cousin Susie"**  
**His Great-aunt: Louise Miller**  
**His Great-uncle: William Miller**

We received the Birth Certificate of Susan. It is a "delayed" record, filed in September of 1943, when Susan was 46 years old. Perhaps it was filed then in order for her to obtain a Social Security number. It states the parents of Susan are: William Miller, age

22, and Louise , age 25. Susan's birth date is recorded as September 5, 1897 and in Saginaw, Michigan. Nothing new was obtained by reading this certificate. Rats. Susan's secret remains a mystery.

### Saginaw's Bearinger Building



Taken from: *Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame*

**Ever wonder how the Bearinger Building in Saginaw got its name? Read on...**

**James "Ike" Bearinger**, born July 12, 1900, was often called Saginaw's "Mr. Baseball" for bringing professional baseball back to Saginaw in 1940 after a lapse of many years. The name "Bearinger" was one of the foremost in business and social circles in old East Saginaw of the lumber era. The family fortune came from lumber, real estate and his father's other far-reaching business interests, but he held a national reputation for his baseball endeavors.

#### Question #3:

**What Hollywood movie was filmed in 1979 on Mackinaw Island?**

The owner of the Bearinger Building was the prime mover in organizing the Central Baseball League where he owned and operated the Saginaw White Sox (1940-41) and the Saginaw Bears (1948-50). Bearinger was a dominate figure on the Saginaw sports scene. His principal interest was in baseball, but he was a fine golfer and also played baseball and softball. He attended Saginaw Public Schools, including Saginaw High School, but left in the 10th grade to attend Military School in Mobile, Ala. As a youth, he was a great favorite of "**Ducky**" **Holmes**, manager of the Saginaw Ducks of the former Southern Michigan League. Holmes indulged the then 13-year-old "Bearinger Kid" by

occasionally allowing him to pitch batting practice. Bearinger was one of the city's best golfers and represented Saginaw Country Club in some of the state's top tournaments. When softball came into prominence in the 1930's he organized the Bearinger Wildcats. Besides a long and active membership in the Saginaw Country Club, serving once as a director and treasurer, he also was a member of the Kiwanis Club and Saginaw Elks Lodge and was a life member of Saginaw Gun Club. Besides his leading role in the organization of the Central Baseball League, which he served as vice-president, Bearinger organized the Saginaw Stadium Corporation which built the city-owned Veterans Memorial Stadium. He operated the Saginaw Bears until 1950, when he sold it to a Saginaw syndicate. He died August 19, 1957, and is entombed in the family mausoleum at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

#### James Isaac Bearinger

**b: 12 July 1900**

**m: 10 Mar 1934**

**d: 19 Aug 1957**

#### wife:

**Helen E. Slack**

**b: 14 Jan 1910**

**d: 14 Jan 1988**



James Isaac Bearinger

#### Parents of James father:

**Isaac Bearinger**

**b: 6 Jan 1846**

**m: 1 Apr 1897**

**d: 3 Nov 1904**

#### mother:

**Adelaide McCormick**

**b: 17 Jan 1868**

**d: 3 Aug 1946**

### Tittabawassee River Drownings

**Editor:** Nancy found 2 more drownings in the Tittabawassee River. Here is an addendum:

➤ July 3, 1897 Averill: **Leonard Pawling, Jr.**, aged 22, and **George Christie**, aged 20, both drowned in the Tittabawassee River when Leonard grasped George around the neck when he was trying to save Leonard, and they both went down.

## What's New in Ancestry.com

### NAME LABEL OVERLAY

When zoomed in on the image, a transcription of the name from each row on the image will appear on the left side of the viewer once you have panned beyond the image's name column. This will allow you to view any part of the image without losing track of which name was on each row.

Index panel	14	15	16	17
Olive Cook				
Roy Jr Cook				
Anstin S Nester				
Mary Nester				
Ansten C Nester				
Donald P Nester				
Harold Ahn				
Helen Ahn				
Barbara Ahn				
Harry Mc Burney				
Laura Mc Burney				

### INDEX PANEL

The Index Panel can be opened either by selecting "View index" from the "Actions" menu or by clicking the green "Index" tab at the bottom of the image viewer. This will open a panel that displays all of the indexed data that is currently available for the image. It will also highlight your currently selected household in green and currently selected person in yellow.

Index		
Surname	Given Name	Relatic
Page	Virginia M	Daught
Davis	George S	Head
Davis	Lucy E	Wife

### HIGHLIGHTS

Find people quickly with automatic highlighting of the entire household, where available.

**Yellow highlight** -Whether you selected someone from your tree or searched for someone new, that person will be highlighted in yellow when viewing his or her record in the Interactive Image Viewer.

1	Thomas Marshall Gubben
2	Label Gubben
3	Thomas Marshall Gubben Jr
4	Gornbude Mary Blazier

**Green highlight** -If the person that is highlighted in yellow is in a household that has any other members, they will all be highlighted in green.

**Orange highlight** -An orange highlight will be placed on any row that is not already highlighted in green or yellow when your mouse hovers over that row.

### INFORMATIVE TIPS

Hover over each cell to see a transcription and learn more about each fact in the record, where available.

W 2 5	40 yrs	Low a
W 30 5	no yrs	Miner
W 29 5	40 yrs	W 2 40

## Presentation of Family Tree to John Cammin Sr. and Family

**John Cammin** and his wife, **Myrna**, have been active members of the Saginaw Genealogical Society for years. John allowed **Betty Coleman** and **Karen Reynolds**, from the SGS, into his house to search through his documents, pictures, etc. to help piece together his family tree. Then **Debra Sheets** from SGS spent over a year researching and developing a well-sourced and complete family tree for the Cammins. The three ladies presented the 3-inch thick binder to the couple and their children at their home on Sunday, May 30, 2021. Their family tree has the names: **Cammin, Swarthout, Edsall, Mosher, Gosen**, to name a few.



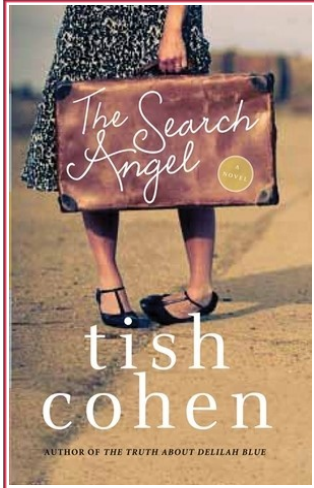
**Left to right: John Cammin Jr, Karen Reynolds, Betty Coleman, John Cammin Sr, Myrna Cammin, Debra Sheets**

- Answer to Question #1:**
1. Porcupine
  2. Keeweenaw
  3. Huron

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

### *The Search Angel* by Tish Cohen

As the owner of the upscale children's boutique Pretty Baby, Eleanor Sweet is surrounded by gleaming strollers, organic cotton onesies and round-bellied expectant mothers. It's a serene atmosphere of new beginnings—but for the graffiti-splattered record shop next door and Eleanor's fierce desire for a baby of her own. Her wish is finally granted in the form of Sylvie, an orphaned baby en route from earthquake-stricken Baja California. But when Eleanor's husband unexpectedly gets cold feet and backs out, her dream of adopting Sylvie is at risk.



Adopted herself, Eleanor has always been reluctant to search out her birth mother, afraid of what she might find. But she is determined to save the adoption and to give Sylvie the family she deserves. Eleanor hires Isabelle, a search angel, to find her birth mother. What Eleanor discovers about love and family isn't what she expects, but it gives her a new understanding of what it means to be a mother.

**Answer to Question #2:  
Tahquamenon Falls**

### PICTURES OF HEADSTONE CARVINGS/ ICONS AND WHAT THEY MEAN

**Genealogists visit a lot of cemeteries. There are all kinds of symbols and icons on the headstones. This will be an ongoing post to gain some understanding of the meanings and the origins of these images.**



### Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks

Since 1868, millions of Americans have joined the *Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks*, more commonly called *The Elks Club*. There are currently more than 2,100 Elks lodges across the nation. Initially, a male-only fraternity, the Order of the Elks voted in 1995 to admit women.

Elks grave markers are easy to recognize at the cemetery. The fraternity symbols include an elk's head at the center, the initials BPOE, the words "cervus alces" (Latin referring to the genus and species for the American Elk), and a clock with Roman numerals. The hands of the clock are always frozen at 11 o'clock. Why 11 o'clock?

At any Elks gathering, the following toast is always read at 11 o'clock in remembrance of Elks who have passed away.

*"You have heard the tolling of eleven strokes. This is to remind us that with Elks the hour of eleven has a tender significance. Wherever Elks may roam, whatever their lot in life may be, when this hour falls upon the dial of night, the great heart of Elkdom swells and throbs. It is the golden hour of recollection, the homecoming of those who wander, the mystic roll call of those who will come no more. Living or dead, Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken. Morning and noon may pass them by, the light of day sink heedlessly in the West, but ere the shadows of midnight shall fall, the chimes of memory will be pealing forth the friendly message, "To Our Absent Members."*

The Elks Club sprung up from some very unlikely beginnings. The organization was founded in 1868 in New York City by 15 actors and theater crew under the name the *Jolly Corks*. It was a drinking club, formed to circumvent a state law that closed saloons on Sundays. As the fraternity expanded, members decided to change their name from the *Jolly Corks* to *The Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks* to avoid attracting the attention of police.

Why "Elks"? Well, that depends on who you ask. Some say the elk was chosen as a mascot because it lives in

herds, is a distinctively American animal, and is strong in defense of its own. Others say it was because some members of the Jolly Corks admired a mounted elk's head they saw at P. T. Barnum's museum. Never mind that it was really a moose head – they had been drinking, right?

But from those unlikely beginnings, sprang a very influential organization. The Order of the Elks spends more than 80 million dollars per year to promote educational, benevolent, and patriotic community programs. Some of their beneficiaries have included:

- cemetery plots for Elks members, always with a statue of an elk
- special needs children
- athletic teams
- scouting
- a national basketball free-throw contest
- physical and occupational therapy for Veterans
- drug awareness educational programs
- patriotic presentations and parades

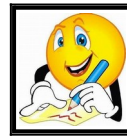
Taken from: *Symbols of the Cemetery*  
by Cathy Wallace from *Billion Graves*

**Answer to Question #3:  
"Somewhere In Time"**

SGS BOARD MEMBERS 2021-2022

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**To contact SGS:**  
**The Saginaw Genealogical Society**  
**PO Box 6584**  
**Saginaw, MI 48606-6584**  
**or**  
**[saggensoc@gmail.com](mailto:saggensoc@gmail.com)**



## Editor's Corner

I've probably mentioned before that I write a family newsletter every month. It contains ancestor birthdays, family birthdays/anniversaries, family recipes, and pictures. Using my family tree, I have compiled a spreadsheet of ancestor birthdays according to the month of their birth. It's very easy to pull up the current month, locate an ancestor I haven't written about yet, and put together a brief history of that person, including any pictures that I have. If I find information on any health problems that ancestor had, I like to include them in their story. I also include cause of death, when I find it. It might be important for my posterity to know some of these health details.

A new feature I've added is a family quiz. I ask questions such as these: ***Who was the child that weighed the least at birth? Which child would make up songs about alligators? Which child broke an arm falling out of a tree? Etc...*** My kids love being the first to text me with the answers!

Questions I ask about my husband and myself such as: ***Where did Dad go to elementary school? How long did Mom take dance lessons? What year did Dad graduate from high school? What was the first car Mom and Dad had together? Etc...***

This past month I added a section where I write about a memory that I think is important that my children know about. It's kind of like letting them see inside my head, or my personal journal.

This year I am also writing about each one of my four children during the month of their birth. I write down memories I have of them when a baby/toddler. Tell about the schools they attended and friends they had. Then I post a separate page with photos from birth to present. Only a few, like 7 or 8. Next year I am going to write about the grandchildren during their birth months. It might be a LONG newsletter in February since three of them were born then!

What are some things you write in your family newsletters? (Send me some ideas!) Do you even WRITE a family newsletter? It's really easy to create them using your computer. I email a copy to everyone and save a PDF copy on my flash drive. Some day I will print them to put in a binder.

*Karen Reynolds ~ Editor*