

**Newsletter Number One
Hubbardston Area Historical Society
Box 183, Hubbardston, Michigan 48845**

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

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Have You Heard About Philip Orin Parmelee?

Phillip was born in Matherton, Mi. on March 8, 1887 to Charles W. and Sadie Parmalee. Phillip grew up with a love of mechanics and on July 1, 1910 he became a student protégé of Orville and Wilbur Wright. He was among the first flight school graduates at Huffman Prairie, near Dayton, Ohio. He joined the Wright Exhibition Team of Brookins, Hoxey, Johnstone with his best friend, Cliff Turpin. With his F.I.A. flying license No. 25, he set many records across the nation. On November 7, 1910, he delivered the first air shipment of merchandise from Dayton to Columbus, Ohio, flying the 62 miles in 55 minutes. From January 7-25th, 1911, Phillip was at Selfridge Field, San Francisco, where he and Lt. Myron Crissy of the U S Coast Artillery conducted the first live bomb (about 12 pounds) tests from an airplane. He then got the job of training the Army's one-man, one-plane Air Force. On January 23, 1911, he won national acclaim for establishing the new American endurance record of three hours, 39 minutes and 49½ seconds which netted him \$5000. From August 12-20th 1911, he set a new altitude record of 10,837ft. carrying 458 pounds for an extended flight. The first manhunt by plane occurred in January, 1912 when the first aeroplane posse was sent out in pursuit of two bandits who shot Deputy Marshall Amescua at Burbank. Parmalee was sworn in as the first policeman of the air. Phillip Parmelee was killed June 1, 1912 during an exhibition flight in North Yakima, Washington. Ironically, this was the day after Wilbur Wright died. Phillip's friend, Cliff Turpin escorted his body home for the funeral at the Methodist Church in St. Johns, Mi. with burial in East Plains Cemetery, Matherton, Mi. He was 25 years old and unmarried. (Shirley Karber, History of Clinton Co., 1980)

To Commemorate "Michigan Week!"

Why did our ancestors choose Michigan? Land? Freedom?

In the days when only the Native Americans inhabited 'Michigan,' a French explorer, Etienne Brule, was the first white man to cast eyes on Sault Ste. Marie in the year 1618. Military forts, Fort Michilimackinac at the northern tip of the Lower Peninsula and Fort Ponchartrain on the Detroit River were established to protect against the Spanish and British. Fort Ponchartrain eventually became Detroit. In 1776, the colonies declared their independence from England. The Ordinance of 1787 declared the Territory of the Great Lakes was to be a part of the Northwest Territory. In 1805 the area was again divided and called "The Michigan Territory." In 1812, William Hull, the governor, surrendered Michigan to the British. American Forces reclaimed the territory and Lewis Cass was appointed the military and civil governor. After the war of 1812 government surveyors came to Michigan and decided the area was unfit for human habitation, but decided to give it to the war veterans for free. Reconsideration changed this option because it was looked upon as an insult to give the 1812 vets a swamp in which to live, and what they had viewed of the Michigan territory was a swamp. Later, Mr. Dexter came to Ionia and found the area near Bertha Brock Park. He

then spread the word of Michigan's beauty. In 1835, residents applied for statehood but a dispute over a strip of land including the city of Toledo was an obstacle. Michigan gave Toledo to Ohio in exchange for the western 4/5ths of the Upper Peninsula. In 1837, Michigan became the 26th state and the largest state east of the Mississippi. E Pluribus Unum – "From many, One" and "Tuebor" – "I will defend" are on the Great Seal used on all official documents. Motto - "If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you."

In 1847, Lansing, selected as the home of the state government, had eight registered voters and one sawmill. They built a "temporary capitol" one block southeast of the present capitol building which was dedicated January 1, 1879. It stands at the head of Michigan Avenue, the major east-west city street. **Following are Michigan "Firsts."**

The nation's **first state university** was founded in 1817, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

The first agricultural college in the world and the nation's first land-grant college, Michigan Agricultural College-later renamed MSU was founded in 1855.

The **first teacher's college** west of the Alleghenies was Eastern Michigan University at Ypsilanti.

Michigan was the **first state to guarantee** every child a tax-paid **high school education**.

The first auto traffic tunnel between two nations is the mile long Detroit-Windsor tunnel under the Detroit River.

In 1929, the Michigan State Police established **the first state police radio system in the world**.

The first automobile produced in Michigan cost \$950.00

The **first paved road in the world** was Woodward Avenue in Detroit between Six and Seven Mile Roads.

Michigan was the **first state to employ a game warden, ban capitol punishment, employ a policewoman, have a state fair and receive aid from the Red Cross**.

How Did They Get Their Names?

Ionia County, 1837, was named for a province in Greece.

Montcalm County, 1850, was named for French General, Marquis de Montcalm.

Gratiot County, 1855, was named for Capt. Charles Gratiot who built Fort Gratiot, Now Port Huron.

Clinton County, 1839, was named for New York Governor DeWitt Clinton, whose administration built the Erie Canal.

Barry County, 1839, was named for Postmaster General for Andrew Jackson, William T. Barry of Kentucky.

1618 population-.....15,000 Indians

1835 statehood-population-.....31,000

1990 population-..... 9,500,000

(From Michigan...a home to be proud of-Gustafson)

In America we have an upper crust and a lower crust, but it's what's between – the middle class – that gives the real flavor. (Virginia McCleary)

The best inheritance a parent can give to his children is a few minutes of his time each day. (God's Little Devotional)

Cead Mile Failte-One Hundred Thousand Welcomes!
May you live long, die happy, and rate a mansion in heaven. (An Irish Blessing)

Welcome to the newest little Irish lad and lassie. **Aoife Theresa O'Grady (Eefa) was born to Sean and Beth O'Grady on April 2, 2002.** Aoife's great, great, great grandfather, John Cowman, was the first Irish Catholic in North Plains. **Connor Steven Smith arrived on May 18, 2002 to Danny and Krista Ward Smith.** Connor's great, great, great grandparents were John and Maria Rooney Welsh and Michael and Ann Kelly Burns. **"Grandchildren are gifts of God and His way of compensating us for growing old."**

The following was taken from an Autograph Book found in Albuquerque, New Mexico (used book store) in the 1980's.

November 14, 1939

Dear Maggie,

When you are old and cannot see, put on your specks and think of me.

Your friend, Clara Hogan

P.S. In memory of a very nice day spent at the Coonan's

A highly prestigious member of Post 182 is Dr. John K. Lattimer, Professor and Chairman Emeritus of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in New York City with summer residence on Jones Road in rural Hubbardston. At 85, John is spirited, a fountain of information, a delightful conversationalist, exuberant about life and all of his wonderful adventures, his family and life in general. He has authored five books and countless medical publications in his field as Doctor of Urology. He is the consummate professional, works every day and relishes the task of the yearly Orientation Speech to incoming Freshmen Medical Students and their parents. "They need to know the history of what they are about to experience!" stated John. Life is an adventure and he is a warm and engaging friendly resource person extraordinaire.

Daughter Evon is an artist; genealogist and researcher in Kansas City, Missouri and his two sons are Doctors of Urology in Hawaii. Grandfather John Lattimer and both of his uncles were general practitioners in Mount Clemons.

According to Ovid historian Byron Townsend, the last wife of Henry VIII was a Lattimer and a Lattimer bishop has a Memorial Monument near Buckingham Palace in England where he was buried alive. Mary, daughter of Catherine of Aragon ordered the three Bishops: Cranner, Riddley and Lattimer, burned because of the problem of Henry's unacceptable divorcing of his wives.

Capt. Lattimer, the early immigrant to America landed in W. London Connecticut in 1600 and the area became known as Lattimer's Reef.

Gladys Lenfester Lattimer (Nellie Soutier, was her mother) and Irve Lattimer, were John's parents. Irve's parents were

Susan (1862-1946) and Albert (1856-1931) Lattimer. Susan's parents were Orrin and Angela Townsend. Uncle Almond Townsend (1807) and Aunt Chloe (1804) built the Lattimer home on Jones Road in 1865, while their grandson Myron Goolthrite built a mansion on Maple Rapids Road near the intersection of Jones Road. The Lattimer home made of oak siding with the corner and main beams of black walnut, is now a centennial farm and still - solid as a rock. John's father was known as Irving or Irve. Irve had one brother Orrin who died in infancy (1881). The infant's grave stone was not found until the summer of 2000 when Evon was doing some needed repairs on the chimney. When she removed the rock, which was placed over the chimney to keep out rain, snow and animals, she discovered an inscription on it. It was the missing grave stone of her uncle.

Gladys Lenfester's people came from the Island of Guernsey off the coast of France then traveled on to Canada. Later they migrated to Ann Arbor and then to various areas in the Hubbardston and Carson City vicinity. Charles Langdon and Mabel Goolthrite Langdon lived in the cobblestone house on the corner of Jones Road and Maple Rapids Road.

Susan Goolthrite Lattimer (1862-1946) (John's grandmother) was born in New York but lived on Jones Road in Hubbardston. She kept hearing about the Erie Canal. A prospector came through town with a huge bear trap over his shoulder. Susan was 7 or 8 years old at the time and so much fuss was made over the 'bear trap' that she came home from town and told her mother she had seen the Erie Canal!

*The Erie Canal boats came to Niagra, then on to Detroit. Dexter broke the trail from Detroit to Ionia, later called Dexter Trail. It ran along the Grand River north of Grand Ledge for a ways. People ventured here - dropped off and settled different places along the way. **Dr. Lattimer is scheduled to speak at the Chicken Barbecue on August 11, 2002, at the Walter T. Roach Hubbardston American Legion Post 182. Please don't miss it. Last year's talk on "The Nuremburg Trials" was fascinating and the audience loved it. Make plans to attend. This year's subject: "The Kennedy Assassination-Ballistics and Forensics conducted in Hubbardston" in collaboration with the Warren Commission. Great history! Don't miss it!***

The Langdon Family (James arrived in 1832) built the mansion on West Lincoln Street which now houses Walter T. Roach American Legion Post 182 (since 1946). One of the Langdon's was the first governor of the state of New Hampshire. It was one of his relatives, James Langdon, who bought up all the land around Fish Creek, from the Maple River to the Carson City line as a land speculation, well before the Civil War. A portion of that purchase is the present village of Hubbardston.

The hardest years in life are those between 10 and 70. (Helen Hayes)

Great truths about life that families have learned:

Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts.

Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground. (Paul Potter)

Did you know?

We had a prestigious Civil War veteran living in Hubbardston in the late 1800's? General (listed as First Lieut. in 1881 Ionia History book) Oliver Clark Townsend of Co. D., 21st Michigan, North Plains, mustered out June 8, 1865. He lived in one of the early mansions on the hill on the north side of town. (This home was later owned by Kate and Sam Meyers and their neighbor was C. Ray Cowman, owner of the General Merchandise Store in town.) Clark kept his beautiful, pure white Civil War horse there and took great pride in it. On occasion when the Detroit Diocese bishop was due for a ceremony at the Catholic Church, Mr. Townsend would attire himself in his full dress uniform, and astride that beautiful white horse, journey to the top of the hill south of town to Cook Road. There he would anticipate the arrival of the bishop's surney and proceed to escort the entourage, leading the procession through town to the destination of St. John the Baptist's Church rectory (priest's residence). It was a sight to behold in the words of the older residents. Mr. Townsend belonged to the Methodist-Episcopal Church, but highly respected the authority of a fellow churchman. (Jerry Burns)

Tentative Meeting Schedule

Meetings at Celtic Path at 7:00PM

June and July-No meetings-Summer break

August 11- Dr. John Lattimer, Speaker 3:30 PM

American Legion Club Post 182

Chicken BBQ-12:00-3:00 PM

**August 22- (First) General Membership
Welcome, Introductions, Social Hour
Speaker-Jim Moses-Historian, Genealogist
Masonic Hall-Open to the Public**

September 26-General Membership Meeting

October 24- General Membership Meeting

November 21 General Membership Meeting

December - No Meeting-Holiday Break

January 23- General Membership Meeting

February 27- General Membership Meeting

March 27- General Meeting-Nominating Committee formed for Board of Directors

April 24- General Meeting-Slate of Nominees presented for Board of Directors

**May 22- Annual Meeting-Elect Board of Directors
Budget presented**

June 6- Board of Director's Annual Organizational Meeting, Election of Officers, Approval of Annual Budget

Sing While You Drive

An Old Clipping from the Casualty and Surety Journal (1938)

At 45 miles per hour, sing "Highways Are Happy Ways."

At 55 miles "I'm But a Stranger Here, Heaven Is My Home."

At 65 sing, "Nearer My God to Thee."

At 75 miles, "When the Roll Is Called up Yonder, I'll Be There."

At 85 miles per hour sing, "Lord, I'm Coming Home!"

Membership Information

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

Membership Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ ZipCode: _____

Home Telephone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

List surnames you are researching: _____

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

Triumph is just "umph" added to try. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. (Galatians 6:9)- God's little Devotional for Women.

Questions about your family ancestry?

Peter Burns has done substantial research over the past 35 years on the 'First Irish Families' who immigrated to North Plains Township. The Genealogical Committee Study Group consisting of Peter and Nick Burns, John and Mark Stoddard, John Fahey and Allen Kelley are issuing a call to each of you for specific immigration and pre-immigration stories of your family and their origin (country, parish, town, county, etc.) enabling them to complete a map tracing the immigration trail from their birthplace, to the United States - to their final destination in Michigan. **For convenience, you may send your stories or request for information along with your membership application.**

New Member Expertise

As we organize, we are so fortunate to have such wonderful talent available with strategic information on historical and genealogical research and organizational procedures. You will find the names listed on the cover page, with phone numbers, e-mail addresses and work sites where you can contact them with your additions, requests and suggestions. Archivist Helen Hoskins is an expert at organization and preservation. Media specialists Jennifer Churchill and Duane Fahey will keep you informed with monthly newspaper articles and the development of our website - www.hubbardston.org which was donated to the society by Duane Fahey. Mark Stoddard, an attorney from Grand Rapids advises us of our legal implications. Philip McKenna and Julianne Burns are responsible for getting the H.A.H.S off to a great start. Join us as we revel in the glory of the legacy we have all inherited.

Preserving History, Heritage

Irish community of Hubbardston forming new historical society

Special to the Gazette

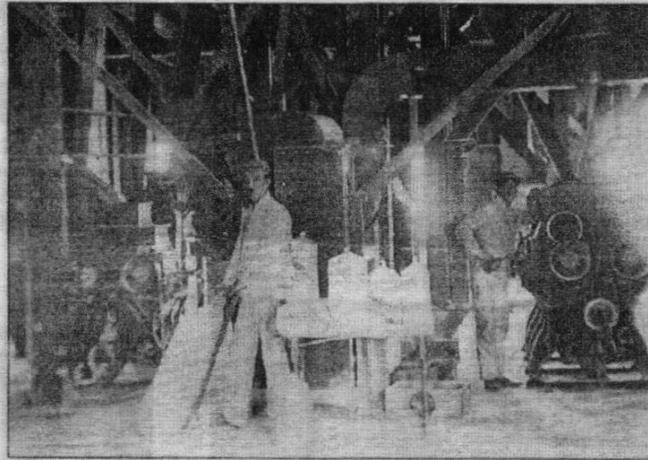
HUBBARDSTON — For the past 150 years or so, the small village of Hubbardston has been synonymous with Irish-American culture and pride, and there has always been an interest amongst its inhabitants in their shared history.

But there has never been an organized, official historical organization to guide and ensure the preservation of that shared history.

Until now.

A small group from the community has been meeting monthly since January, hashing out bylaws and mission statements, and bringing to fruition the dream of forming the Hubbardston Area Historical Society.

"The Hubbardston area has a wonderful group of people, with a unique and varied history," said Julianne Burns, a founding member of the society and grants administrator for the city of Ionia. "I feel that it's important for a community with so many deep and extended roots to preserve its history for future generations, so that they can appreciate how this



Courtesy photo

The old Hubbardston Flour Mill in the 1890s; pictured are Lee Middlebrook and M.H. Slocum. Slocum once owned the mill and is Hubbardston Area Historical Society member Jennifer Churchill's great-great-grandfather.

small, rural community evolved."

Burns also acts as staff advisor to the city of Ionia's Citizen's Advisory Committee for Historic

Preservation.

Hubbardston, which is in the northeast corner of Ionia County and closely borders the northwest corner of Clinton

County, is best known for its blow-out St. Patrick's Day celebration, which takes place at the American Legion Hall and at the local bar, Sheils Tavern (www.shielstavern.com), holder of the oldest standing liquor license in the state of Michigan.

Many residents of Hubbardston are descendants of Irish immigrants who moved to the farming community in the mid-1800s to escape the Great Potato Famine that struck Ireland. The last names of many residents prove the Irish connection, names like O'Grady, Cunningham, Riley, Burns, Cusack and McKenna.

"Without a historical society or a museum in the community," Burns said, "it would be difficult to preserve the past, making it readily available to be enjoyed and appreciated."

One founding member of the historical society is Joanne Burns Howard, who recently authored a successful book about the history of Hubbardston and its mostly Irish families, "St. John the Baptist Parish on Fish Creek" (The County Press, 2001).

Welcome To the First Edition of the Hubbardston Area Historical Society Newsletter

Philip McKenna had been promoting the idea of this organization with the help of Julianne Burns for the past year, when it became evident that many people were vitally interested in the early ancestry of the Ionia- Montcalm areas. The first meeting was held in January at The Celtic Path in Hubbardston with nine members present. Julianne Burns, a member of the Ionia Historical Society volunteered to help with organization. Peter Burns and Marie Marion Sweet, genealogy buffs developed the Mission Statement and By-laws with the expertise of Julianne. Shaun and Beth O'Grady, Jack Stoddard, Bud and Joanne Howard and Mary Stoddard Caris all collaborated on St. John the Baptist Parish on Fish Creek, the Beginnings, published in February, 2001. With the legal help of attorney Mark Stoddard, writer Jennifer Churchill, Special Collections Manager at the Michigan State Library-Randy Riley, the Celtic Path meeting place from Pat Baese and the expertise of local historians Quint Cusack, John Fahey, Allen Kelley, Nick and Peter Burns, we are off to a great start. Organizer Philip McKenna donated \$200 in 'seed money,' Mark Stoddard provided \$275 for first mailings. Peter Burns donated a case of paper for the first newsletter and everyone is giving countless hours to paperwork, contacts and research. Thanks to all for their generosity in this 'initial effort.' We hope to get our families, villages, counties, clubs and church histories documented and the data organized while these materials still exist. Just what, when and where will have to be determined by the interest focus of the membership as well as space available for our project. At the present time we meet the fourth Thursday of each month (except June, July and December) at The Celtic Path in Hubbardston (the old township hall). **All those who join prior to September 1, 2002 will become charter members. The dues are fifteen dollars a year (fiscal year-June to May). Bring a chair and join us.** We have submitted documents for our legal classification thanks to Phil McKenna, Mark Stoddard and Julianne Burns. If you are interested, have stories to share, have oral history to document, or have curiosity about your family tree, we can work together to develop data for future reference.

The above clipping is the work of Jennifer Churchill. M.H (Hank) Slocum you will remember from our parish history as being

the 911 person of the day on July 23, 1918, when he banged on the rectory door and announced, "Father, your damn church is on fire!" His team and wagon saved the church, when he pulled the burning 156 foot steeple to the ground after Jimmy Cunningham, Jack Burke and crew chopped it loose and tied a rope to it. Hank's team hauled it away and saved history.

Father Jim Cusack, Hubbardston's #1 Proponent



October 13, 1929-February 20, 2002200213

"Fired at Random Spiritually" was a work in progress by Father Jim Cusack (45 years a priest) when he was called by his maker to assume the position of 'chief orator of heaven!' No one could be better qualified. He was known nationwide for his clear, direct, spell-binding interpretations of the 'word of God.'

Born in Hubbardston, the youngest of eight children of Edward and Minerva Kane Cusack, Jim's father was the youngest son of Thomas and Ann Keenan Cusack, one of the pioneer families of North Plains, (along with John Cowman, the Welsh's, the Hogan's, Beahans, McKennas, and Roaches) instrumental in the founding of St. John the Baptist Parish on Fish Creek in 1855. Father Godez of St. Mary's Westphalia (1836) was mission priest.

Jim graduated from St. John the Baptist High School in 1946 with Harold Cusack, Robert Datema and Vera O'Connell (Grady). He entered St. Joseph's Seminary in Grand Rapids in 1946 and was ordained June 2, 1956. Ten years of seminary training, plus sessions at Notre Dame, Seton Hall and a sabbatical in Rome made him the best 'garden variety priest' (his own term), with an incredible ministry. He was well known throughout Ionia County, having worked seven summers in the

circulation department of the Ionia County News while in the seminary and with the Spanish-speaking migrant workers in the Traverse City area. When he was assigned a parish, his objective was to "Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable!" Adults loved him; children adored his stories, attention and ability to put himself on their level. Does it surprise you to know that at his 70th birthday party, with dozens of church dignitaries, hundreds of former parishioners, family and friends; guests were served (following Mass) a child's (and adult) delight – monstrous farm kitchen cookies and 'make your own' ice cream sundaes. The room was quiet, in savoring delight as Jim smilingly observed the perfect ending to an evening of celebration.

Plagued with ill health throughout his ministry, his talent and prestige grew with every passing year. Merely 'bumps in the road' he accepted all life's trials with his oft repeated, "Never question God. He always has his reasons!"

Born March 13, 1929, just eleven days before the Great Depression began, he related, "They tell me whole flocks of people who had lost their fortunes were jumping from skyscrapers. It was really very tragic. They didn't know I was born so they kept right on jumping!" He praised God for his blessings and providence in being born into such a 'sound family' and never ceased to instill in his audiences the gratitude he felt (and all should feel) at the remarkable advantage that the Irish of North Plains had conferred on them with the legacy of their birth. This remarkable man left a community blessed by his presence, people educated as to their unique heritage, parishes inspired by his love and devotion, and a Father James Cusack Endowment for Theological and Inter-Faith Studies at Aquinas College. In 2000 he received the school's Distinguished Service Award for reaching his goal of a million dollars in gifts. He served at St. Mary's in Muskegon, St. Philip Neri in Reed City, St. Paul's Campus at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, St. Jude in Grand Rapids, St. Henry in Rosebush, Assumption of Mary in Belmont, Our Lady of Consolation in Rockford, St. Thomas in Grand Rapids, and Holy Family in Caledonia. He raised more than \$2 million for Esperanca, a missionary organization for medical aid to the poor in Central and South America while serving on the board of directors. In 1997, he launched a 'mentoring program' for young men; a role he said was "a gift from the Holy Spirit" and one of his most rewarding callings. He felt their need was monumental. Oh, the stories! A teller of tales he was; a master entertainer! We were blessed by simply knowing him. When asked about his final plans, he replied, "I was once asked what I would want on my epitaph. Well, the first line would have to be that Fr. Jim finally ran out of miracles." His funeral services were held at Holy Family in Caledonia on February 23 and at St. John the Baptist on February 25 with internment in the family plot in Hubbardston. "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 let our children or grandchildren fail to learn of their glorious heritage. ...Ask every person if he has heard the story and tell it strong and clear if he has not...don't let it be forgot..." (Alumni Reunion-July 3, 1988)

Fr. Jim's Morning Meditation for All Faiths

"This is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it or use it for good. What I do today is important, because I am exchanging a day of my life for it. When tomorrow

comes, this day will be gone forever leaving in its place something that I have traded for it. I want it to be gain, not loss; good, not evil; success, not failure: in order that I shall not regret the price I paid for it."

The picture above was taken June 24, 2001 at the dedication of the Michigan State Historical Marker celebration at St. John the Baptist Church in Hubbardston, Michigan; Fr. Jim's last homily in his home parish. The Parish Complex was listed as a National Historic Site on September 24, 2001.

"May the saddest day of the future, be no worse than the happiest day of your past!"