



HUBBARDSTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER NUMBER FOURTEEN, AUGUST SEPTEMBER 2005
Box 183, HUBBARDSTON, MI. 48845
WWW.HUBBARDSTON.ORG

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 25-Fall Social and Potluck Dinner-All Welcome

Tuscan Masonic Lodge-Former Methodist Church

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Presenters: Linda Harwood-Rug

Hooking Demonstration and Blacksmithing Demo

Music by **The "Clintonaires" Barbershop Quartette**

September 22 General Membership Meeting-7:00 p.m.

Presenter-to be announced

October 27 General Membership Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

Guests: Lyons-Muir Historical Society

November 17 'Celebrate the Holidays' Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Bring 'Holiday Cookies and "White Elephant" Gift

January 26 General Membership Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Presenter-Citizen of the year-Bruce Tasker-Palo History

February 23 General Membership Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Annual "Show and Tell" Bring your photos and artifacts.

March 23 General Membership Meeting-Nominations

Presenter – Alberta Gage-Herbalist, Nature Medications

April 27 General Membership Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Slate of Nominations for Board of Directors-Proposed Budget

Presenter to be announced

May 27 Annual Membership Social and Election

St. Johns Parish Hall 10:00 a.m. Brunch and Speaker

Hubbardston Irish Dancers 12:00 Noon

HAHS Historic Museum Room Open 12:30-2:00 PM

HAHS Board of Directors and e-mail addresses

Philip McKenna, co-chair pmckenna@mcka.com

JulianneBurnsMcKenna, co-chair julianneburns@iserv.net

Marie Sweet-Secretary mms2389@pathwaynet.com

Mark Stoddard-Treas.-stodtke@comcast.net

Duane Fahey-Hubbardston web-site-dfahey@visualautomation.com

Jennifer List-Media-jennifer@churchill-list.com

Pat Baese-Artifacts-dbaese@carsoncity.k12.mi.us

Peter Burns-Generology-pejabur@3DNorth.com

Jack Fahey-Generology, PR- jalfahay@cmsinter.net

Joanne Howard-Membership, Newsletter-mjh655@pathwaynet.com

Mary Stoddard Caris-Artifacts, Newsletter

HAHS meetings are at 7:00 p.m. in St. John's School Museum Room (unless otherwise noted) except June, July and December. Exciting information and interesting presentations are delighting audiences. In addition, the 'home-made' treats and coffee are a delicious aid to conversations. Tuesday and Wednesday morning's 'coffee hour' is always well attended so we discuss topics of interest to visitors, and celebrate the special events in our daily lives. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to stop by for a few minutes or to spend the day. We have shelves of materials, always a project underway, and it's great fun!

MICHIGAN TOWNS PROJECT

Gene Scott of the Livonia Historical Society has completed his research on "Michigan towns who refuse to die."

Hubbardston history is well documented in this amazing collection of data. On September 13, 2005, in the Lake Superior Room of the Lansing Archives Building, the research will be unveiled, complimentary copies presented to contributors and the book designated as an historical resource. Joanne Howard will present a short review of "Our Steadfast Village" and receive her complimentary copy for the Hubbardston Historical Society in return for her contribution to the research. For info on purchase of copies, e-mail Joanne at mjh655@pathwaynet.com. This promises to be an enlightening volume of history.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Mary Stoddard Caris was awarded this title at the Annual Meeting in May, 2005, for hours and hours of devotion to the Hubbardston Area Historical Society. No one ever has to 'ask' her to do anything. She contributes articles for the newsletter, does research, donates time, materials and food at the HAHS museum room, drives two days each week from Hastings to work; and besides that, she always has a smile and 'never a discouraging word.' You're one in a million, Mary.

A VISIT FROM GALWAY, IRELAND

Picture it! A lovely June day, Coffee-Hour devotees at the HAHS are chatting when Agnes Donahue McKenna walks into the room followed by three lovely young ladies. Imagine our surprise when she introduces two of them as visitors from Ireland, in town for her grandson's wedding. Just to listen to their beautiful brogues was entertaining, but these young ladies were absolutely charming. Samantha Hudson, Georgiana Flaherty and Samantha Taylor of Westport and Co. Galway, Ireland met through a student exchange program from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids Mi. Samantha Hudson, who did a practicum in Ireland, is from the Battle Creek area and a middle school math teacher in Carson City. Samantha Taylor was born in London, England, lived in Africa for 19 years, was educated in Johannesburg, South Africa (her parents lived in Capetown), and returned to London after graduation. Not content, she found Ireland more enticing and today works in Westport. Her mother was from Kenya, South Africa and her father from London England. Georgiana Flaherty, great granddaughter of Grace O'Malley, was born on Renvyle Peninsula, educated at Kylemore Abbey in Connemara and is a permanent resident of County Galway.

Her father Daniel was born in Galway and her mother Rosaline Berney Flaherty in the Wicklow Mountains area. We had a lovely stroll around the historic grounds of our HAHS home. The ladies were excited to find familiar materials in our displays and we loved our chat with these current residents of the 'ould sod,' God bless them all and thanks to them for making the day very special for every one of us.

"Youth is not a time of life; it is a state of mind. It is the freshness of the deep springs of life. Whether seven or a hundred seven, every human being can experience wonder... the undaunted challenge of events, the unfailing childlike appetite for the future, the joy of living. For we are as young as our faith, as old as our doubt; as young as our self-confidence, and as old as our despair. As long as our hearts receive messages of beauty, hope, cheer, courage and power from God and from our fellow man, we are young." (Noreen Littleton)

What ingredients are mothers made of? God makes mothers out of clouds, angel hair and everything nice and one dab of mean. (Third grader)

BUD AND JOANNE CELEBRATE 50TH

June 10, 2005 will live in our memories forever. For our 50th Wedding Anniversary, our children provided for us, our close friends and relatives an anniversary Mass and candlelight dinner celebration to be cherished for its beautiful music, impressive celebrant and handsome grandchildren. To Fr. Phil Sessions (who traveled from San Diego) for his 'reverent elegance' in celebrating our 'renewal', his brother Michael, his sister Mary and pianists David Wiseman and Carol Lehto Howard, our special thanks for an astoundingly beautiful performance. Members of our original wedding party John Burns and R. J. Kussmaul (stepping in for maid-of-honor Kate McKenna Kussmaul) were Eucharistic Ministers and bridesmaids Katie Burns Cashen and Charlene Burns Ward were in attendance with their families. Special thanks to my choirs; St. John's, St. Mary's and St. Michael's for making beautiful harmony as always. We thank all of you friends and neighbors for your cards, gifts, visits and good wishes in helping us celebrate these fifty years. Hugs and kisses to our daughter, Ginny for planning this event and Russ and Cindy and Mark and Lisa for all working so beautifully together to make 'our day' spectacular! We are blessed; we are grateful; we are the luckiest people in the world!

"Next time you are admiring all the wonderful things God has made...remember that each of you are one of them!"

All our love and appreciation, Bud and Joanne Burns Howard

JERRY AND LOUISE BURNS CELEBRATE 60TH

On May 8, 1945 Jeremiah Patrick Burns and Louise Ann Koenigsnecht were married in Fowler, Mi. They made their home on O'Brien Road, the Burns homestead, shortly after their marriage and raised eight sons. On May 15, those sons and their families held a surprise party to celebrate this remarkable day. Family, friends, neighbors, and the original

wedding party (all are still alive) were treated to a fantastic "steak barbecue" with all the trimmings. It was a beautiful party and a lovely way to celebrate two "special" people!

May God be with you and bless you. May you continue to see your children's children. May you be poor in misfortune but rich in blessings. May you continue to have a wide circle of family and friends near you. And may you have nothing but good health and happiness from this day forward. God Bless you both. (Irish Wedding Toast)

Hubbardston Genealogy 1780-1930 by Peter Burns and Joanne Burns Howard available at HAHS Museum Room for \$29.95 or call 989-584-3803. 500 pages of terrific data. Makes a great birthday or Christmas gift! Special prices for multiple copies!

"As plentiful as the grass that grows, or the sand on the shore or the dew on the lea, so the blessing of the King of grace on every soul that was, that is, or ever will be." (Irish Blessing)

FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to HAHS charter members **Larry and Delores Tabor, John and Shirley Bennett Burns, Bud and Joan Shively McKenna, Gene and Donna Lynch Cook** who celebrate 50 years together this year, **Bill and Joie O'Connor Spencer** celebrating 49 years and **Ed and Linda Herald Heckman** who celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on August 28th. Best Wishes also to **William P. and Florence Kohn Burns on their 55th** anniversary in July. Who ever said there was no stability in marriage these days! To all of you anniversary people out there in our membership, cheers and years of happiness!

'What do bullet proof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers have in common? They were all invented by women.

"VERY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS!"

Happy 98th birthday in June to Helen Burns and Happy 102nd Birthday to Gerry Boomer in October! Happy 100th birthday to Julia Dwyer Carlson in January. Happy days, continued Good Health and God Bless you every day! Happy days also to you youngsters in your 90th years; Ford Burns 92, Louis Herald 91 and John Lattimer 91. More? Send them on to me!

THE YEAR IN REVIEW (MAY, 2004-MAY, 2005)

Over the course of the past year HAHS has held nine general meetings and four Board of Directors meetings. Guest presenters spoke at eight of the General Membership Meetings. Each of these presenters furthered HAHS's mission of promoting historic preservation and genealogy in the community. At the August Pot Luck Dinner, "100 Years of Fashion," a style show, drew a large audience and was widely covered by local newspapers.

As the organization has matured HAHS's focus has shifted away from creating the organization's framework of policies and procedures to conducting educational and entertaining meetings for the community and our members.

St. John the Baptist National Historic Site was found suitable as a HAHS Museum Room site following the mandate from the Strategic Planning Session to find a location with "space" for our collections. This spring a beautiful, outdoor sign was donated and erected by volunteers which clearly designates the Historical Society's location at the school. Volunteers have organized displays and inventoried research materials throughout the winter. The HAHS Museum Room opened in April and is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m. and by appointment. You will find: coffee, conversation, treats, and assistance with your genealogy or historical questions.

HAHS participated in Greenville's Women's Expo; a grant workshop sponsored by the Michigan Council for the Arts; applied for a grant; developed materials for a "Colonial Cookbook" as a direct result of the "Colonial Recipes" presentation given at the March meeting. It will be available this fall, hopefully. A tourist destination "Day Trip" map highlighting historical and interesting sites in the Hubbardston area was developed. The website www.hubbardston.org hosting the Hubbardston Area Historical Society has been updated, reflecting a multi-faceted site for the entire community with historical photographs, maps, and newsletters of both the Society and American Legion plus all current community data. Peter Burns and Joanne Howard published Hubbardston Genealogy 1780-1930, a complete genealogy of the first families who settled in the Hubbardston area. Copies are available for \$29.95, a portion of which is donated to the HAHS.

Membership has held steady at well over 200 with 55 five year memberships. The organizations financial base is strong with over \$4000 in donations and membership fees. Without the Board of Directors dedicated service, project chairmen and scores of willing volunteers, none of these accomplishments would have been possible. A sincere thanks goes out to each and every person. (Julianne Burns McKenna and Phillip McKenna, co-chairs)

ONE MAN'S JUNK IS ANOTHER MAN'S FORTUNE

Indirectly, you can blame Niles, Mi. for all of those catalogs crowding your mailbox. Perhaps if eleven-year-old Aaron Montgomery Ward had been happier here while earning 25 cents a day working in the local barrel factory, he might never have been inclined to start the country's first mail-order business. In 1872 he sent out a single page offering 162 items for sale with a "satisfaction or money-back" guarantee. When he died forty-one years later, Montgomery Ward had annual sales of \$40 million. (Michigan Curiosities, 2003)

"Love never runs down, never wears out. It goes wherever you go. And no matter how much of it you give away, it never runs out." (Billie Cunningham)

There is not enough darkness in the world to put out the light of even one small candle.
(Robert Alden)

MONTE CASSINO BY MATTHEW PARKER, HUBBARDSTON VETERAN LAUDED!

This book was donated to the historical society by Rick Cunningham, nephew of World War II hero and army veteran, Clare Cunningham. Matthew Parker is the author of The Battle of Britain and this current best-seller Monte Cassino. "Only the bloodbaths of Verdun and Passchendaele or the very worst of the second World War fighting on the Eastern front can compare to Monte Cassino. The largest land battle in Europe, Cassino was the bitterest and bloodiest of the Western Allies struggles against the German Wehrmacht on any front of the second World War." Hubbardston native Clare Cunningham was a young 21 year old soldier and in the first ranks, landing at Salerno at H hour plus seventy minutes. "But there were no footprints on the sand other than ours. I heard many years later that the marines in the Pacific were told before landings, 'Oh, yes, you're the third wave, you'll just walk in.' Well, when they got there they were the first. So that was just to build up their morale." Clare suspects that the same trick might have been played on his unit. For Clare's 36th Division's 143rd Regiment, it had been a very difficult first taste of battle, and they lost nearly 4000 men, a high portion of them who did the fighting in the front line. "Everyone knew someone who got killed," said Clare... It was the hardest fought battle of World War II and these surviving veterans' interviews give us their first-hand experiences in this "hellish conflict." Clare is quoted twelve times throughout the book as the battle is described. Clare's unit had been on Mount Castelone for a week when the big counterattack began...Code named Operation Michael, the attack was launched at 4 A.M. on 12 February, preceded by the heaviest German bombardment of all the Cassino fighting. Cunningham was an early casualty: "Katula and I were hit before daylight. A shell went in right at the end of our foxhole, blew us out and filled in the foxhole with dirt." The two buddies had been blasted out of the hole in opposite directions. "I was unconscious for a few moments, then I tried to get back in the hole, but there was no real hole there." One of his legs was completely smashed and the other was broken. "I crawled back to the remains of the hole, while Katula lay unconscious in the open. Most of the day I dozed off. I could hear the firing going on." ...It was bitterly cold and some of the weapons were frozen...After noon, the Germans called off the operation and left 150 dead, killed by their own artillery...Clare was evacuated about five o'clock that afternoon but didn't get to an ambulance for another ten hours. Once at the casualty clearing station, his leg had to be amputated below the knee...Back in a civilian world where killing was once again murder and a cardinal sin, there was inevitable confusion, regret and self-disgust...The American Clare Cunningham says that, when killing someone, there was no regrets as "you're kind of angry and it made up for them killing our guys. But afterwards it gets working on you. For years I'd wake up at night dreaming of those things..."

“Perhaps though, the greatest sympathy should be for the dead fathers, the ‘Poor devils, well out of it,’ those whose worst fear was leaving behind their loved ones, the people who needed them.” You can find Monte Cassino in the ‘reading corner’ of our HAHS museum room.

It's time to renew your memberships for the 2005-2006 season. The due date of your membership is on your address label to the right corner. One year-\$15. Five years-\$60, with one year free. Keep your newsletter coming by renewing before the end of January. Time on your hands? Like to volunteer or teach a craft? Call 989-583-3803!

Hubbardston Teachers Licensed in Clinton Co. in 1897

Mabel Banta, Eva L. Harris, Fred W. Holbrook, Mary O'Brien, George Holmes (Clinton County Trails, June 2005)

St. John the Baptist Cemetery Map Completed

Thanks to Jack Fahey, Peter Burns, Ed Heckman, Joanne Howard and the Ionia Genealogical Society we have an analysis of St. John the Baptist Cemetery, complete with individual names encrypted on each site. Credit for completion of the project goes to Jack Fahey who has worked two full days each week since April 1, 2005 (14 weeks) condensing and recording all of the data. The 3' by 4' laminated display copy is available for your perusal at the HAHS Museum Room in St. John's School, designated a Michigan and National Historic Site in September of 2001.

If You're Under 50, Amusing! Over 50, Reality!

I felt like my body had gotten totally out of shape so I asked my doctor's permission to go to a fitness club to start exercising. He said I could take an aerobics class for seniors so I joined one. The first time I went, I bent, I twisted, I gyrated, I jumped up, I jumped down, and I perspired for more than an hour. By the time I got my leotards on, the class was over. (J. Billings)

LETTERS FROM READERS:

Pam and I will begin our fifth year teaching together in Denver in September. We are at Montebello High School. Pam teaches three Advanced Placement Social Studies courses – United States History, World History and Government. I teach two AP English courses – Language and Literature. We have a blast working with the same students. I met Pam when we were teaching together at Carson City in 1967. Between her teaching stints, Pam owned her own business in Boulder. I have taught since I graduated from Aquinas in 1963.

Our latest grandson arrived May 22, 2005. Andrew is Jennie's second. Matthew will be two in September. Mike's daughter Whitney just graduated from kindergarten. His son Taylor will be three in July. **(Bill Burns, Boulder, Colorado)**

Thank you for another year of memories in the newsletter. I enjoy every word of every issue. There are so many wonderful people in Hubbardston it is such fun to read about so many of

them. Again, each issue is like a letter from home. **(Mary Jo Cusack Goodroad, Brandt, South Dakota)**

I am so glad the history of Hubbardston is being gathered. I enjoy the newsletter my son gets for me on the internet. Joanne Hansen-a relative- sent me the book “Hubbardston” by Helen Cusack. So many people I remember. My dad, Howard Chick was in a couple of pictures – also his brother George. Also my mother Lillian Cranson and great grandmother Emogene Brayton were in some. So many memories I have of growing up in Hubbardston. Patience McGinn taught me in 1st grade and Bertha Hogan 2,3, and 4th. Elfa Gardner in 5th, 6th and 7th and Florence Hansen (my step-aunt) in 8th. When they closed the school I rode the bus to Maple Rapids and graduated there in 1943, went on to Cleary College in Ypsilanti and graduated there in 1944. We moved to town from the country, I walked to school, played with Therese Cunningham and Barbara Rogers. I remember seeing Mary Cunningham lying on a board when she broke her back. We lived our first year in the house that Eddie Bradbury's widow now lives in when we first moved to town. Times were hard. Grandma Bennett lived next door. She was such a dear. The Cunningham's, Steven's, H. Smith were our neighbors when we moved to Lyle Bennett's farm. I remember swimming at Langdon's bridge and ice-skating in winter on Fish Creek; dad and others hauling ice to store in the ice house. I think there is a park in that area now. I used to go to the flour mill with my dad so he could sharpen axes, etc. Mr Slocum with his pipe was always covered with flour. I remember Memorial Day in the park across from the church. I think I had to recite the Gettysburg Address one year; free movies on the side of Gilbert Wohlfert's garage; 5 cent ice-cream cones at Willie Dodson's - if you had the nickel.

Some of the relatives on dad's side were the Brayton's, Townsend's, Hitchcock's and Browns. On mother's side of the family were Cranson's and Hale's. My great grandfather was in the Civil War – Samuel Cranson who is buried in the East Side Cemetery. I have a music box that plays paper rolls that Samuel Cranson gave his bride when they married in the 1800's. Well, I could go on and on. I don't want to keep you reading any longer. I am looking forward to the next newsletter. Sincerely, **(Emogene Chick Drost, Germantown, Tennessee)** *You don't know how much I enjoyed your letter, Emogene. Send me more! Anytime! Ed.*

Thank you for sending me copies of the HAHS newsletter along with your book. It is very enjoyable reading and brings back many childhood memories. Several summer vacations were spent with my aunt and uncle Ted and Anna Williams (McMillan). Uncle Ted delivered the mail covering the route from Pewamo to Carson City. I was his passenger. More exciting was learning how to fish in the local creek. The book is well put together and very informative. My father, Joseph B. McMillan often talked about several people mentioned so it was interesting to connect parents with children. I am looking forward to receiving future copies of the newsletter. I didn't realize Hubbardston had such an active group. **(Bill McMillan, Farmington Hills, Mi.)**

I know that Hubbardston had some great baseball teams, especially when Spike Greenwalt was in his prime. Could someone research and put a few articles in coming editions? Your newsletter is fantastic for our Irish ego's. You do a great job. **Thanks. (Jack Fox, Lansing, Mi.)**

Be assured I always enjoy every bit of new and old news from the Hubbardston area. It is a joy to spend an afternoon in the nooks and crannies of the town and linger over old names.

(Florence Behan, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.)

You both are doing a great job. Keep healthy and enjoy another 50 years. Sorry I didn't get dues in sooner. **(Sharon Schafer, Hubbardston)**

I need to get my dues to you for my heritage paper. I will say that your paper inspires me more than the Gazette. **(Betty Burns, Carson City)**

As I have told you before, I get so much enjoyment out of those newsletters. The stories and the news items are all about local people which really keeps me in touch back there. You and Bud do a fantastic job on both letters. I hope someone is understudying you so they won't expire when you run out of steam. Of course that won't happen for at least another 20 years. I hope all is well with you and Bud. **(Ray Burns, Gladstone, Oregon)**

"Life is but a stopping place, a pause in what's to be, a resting place along the road to sweet eternity. We all have different journeys, different paths along the way. We all were meant to learn some things, but never meant to stay. Our destination is a place far greater than we know. For some the journey's quicker, for some the journey's slow. And when the journey finally ends, we'll claim a great reward, and find an everlasting peace together with the Lord." **(Jean Laird)**

FAREWELL TO A SPECIAL LADY

Frances Burns Hybarger was born October 31, 1914, the daughter of James and Belle Henley Burns. She married Wayne Hybarger on August 12, 1938 and had two children Denny and Janie. A charter member and avid fan of everything about Hubbardston, the Irish and the Historical Society, Franny was called home to heaven to finally meet her mother. The year prior to her death, she fell and broke her neck, spent months in a nursing home in an atrocious head brace, recovered beautifully only to be stricken with an aggressive cancer. For years, she and her sister Helen watched over each other, visited together in the nursing homes, loved to chat and play cards and truly enjoyed each other's company. Her mother died when Frances was born and her father Jim Burns was a mortician long into his elder years. Surviving are her two children, her sister Helen of Hastings and brother Ford Burns of Portland. Funeral services and internment were in Lake Odessa. Frances had an infectious smile, a real zest for life and enthusiasm for everything. Many are the notes she sent expressing her interest in local happenings and people in general. Her many friends in heaven welcomed her I'm sure and if Euchre is allowed, there will be marathon games. Rest gently and in peace, beautiful Frances'.

ROSALYN "ROSIE" FEUERSTEIN KOHN

Roselyn Kohn, 70, of Belding passed away June 22, 2005 at her home under the loving care of her family. She was born March 2, 1935 in Ionia, the daughter of Ambrose and Martha Lehman Feuerstein. She graduated from Belding High School in 1953 and married Thomas Kohn (former resident of the Langdon Mansion) on July 11, 1953 He survives along with her children; Michael and Deborah Kohn of Belding, Douglas Kohn of Rockford, Mark and Kathy Kohn, Nicholas and

Renee Kohn, Becky and Brian Higgins and Julie Kohn all of Belding. Mass of Christian burial was offered at St. Joseph's Church in Belding with internment at St. Joseph's Cemetery.

"Memories are a gift from God that death cannot take away."

RULES FOR TEACHERS-1872

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps and clean chimneys.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Make your pens carefully. You whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one night a week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
5. After 10 hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years. So that he will not be a burden on society.
8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.
9. The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves. (And we think we have it bad!)

For membership, complete the form below and send it with \$15 annual fee for one year or \$60 for a 5 year (one year free) membership, made payable to HAHS. Send to: H.A.H.S. c/o Joanne Howard, Box 183, Hubbardston, Mi., 48845. **Memberships run June through May.**
Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZipCode: _____

Telephone: _____ E mail: _____

List surnames you are researching: _____
NOTE: All information may be published in upcoming newsletters unless you indicate in writing otherwise.

The Blackthorn Cane-A True Irish Tale

Timothy (Thady) Glynn immigrated to Michigan in the late 1850's. His wife, Mary Fahey and son Martin (1859-1942) immigrated in 1861. Martin was baptized in Kiltartin Parish, Gort, County Galway). Marie Marion Sweet's great grandmother, Bridget Fahey (Hugh O'Kelly, Matthew Marion) was a sponsor at Martin's Baptism.

Timothy Glynn (in the census of 1900 was living in Hubbardston) according to newspaper reports appears to have returned to Ireland in the late 1890's. He very possibly traveled with, knew or met with Daniel Quirk who also returned to Ireland in the 1890's and died only three weeks after his arrival

Timothy, after a short time, decided to return to the farm in Michigan out west of Hubbardston on Cowman Road, better known in those days as Hell Street. "Timothy Glynn landed on American soil early last week direct from the Emerald Isle. When he left Hubbardston he thought to spend his days abroad, but upon arriving in the "Auld Country" he found only two persons left that he ever knew and he decided to take the back track to Michigan."(Carson City Gazette, Nov. 11, 1937)

Timothy returned, bringing with him a blackthorn cane which he used in his elder years. He then passed it on to his son Martin who made good use of the walking stick till his death. (Martin became a US citizen in 1938. His obituary states that he was the oldest of 11 children)) Martin's brother John then became owner of the blackthorn trophy.

Harvey Allen (1915-2003) was postmaster at Hubbardston for thirty years and in later years had need of a cane for walking. John Glynn gave his sturdy blackthorn cane to Harvey and told him to make good use of it.

And now-the rest of the story: In June 2005, Harvey Allen's wife of 62 years, Shirley, traveled from Summerfield, Florida to attend the HAHS Annual Meeting in Hubbardston. As part of the program that day, Shirley Allen presented to the Hubbardston Area Historical Society, that Blackthorn Cane with the long and interesting history. With grateful praise for her generosity, we placed it on display in the HAHS museum room for all to see. So many thanks to dear Shirley for her neat little speech and her wonderful gift. We treasure it and the 'tale' it represents.

Recent Acquisitions for the HAHS Museum Room

Emilene Vogel-100 year old book stand table
Bob Fahey-Frank McCourt Audio Tapes
Mary Caris-Table, 3 shelf cupboard, walnut chest, pie safe
Rick Cunningham-Monte Cassino book
Priscilla Schafer-collection of books
John and Ann Fahey-Antique Sterioscope, pictures, Irish Myths
Beth O'Grady- Michigan Law Books, History and Records
Nick Burns- Jim and Ford Burns Funeral Records
Marie Sweet-Collection of Irish Myths, History and fiction
Tom Fitzpatrick-History of the Fitzpatrick Family
Gerald Benedict- I Had the Right to Remain Silent autobiography
Beautiful 4' by 4' steel Outdoor Historical Sign- anonymous
Bud Howard-six 2 and 3 shelf cabinets, toaster oven, crock pot, coffee pot, dishes, fan and collection of books
Jack and Sandy Stoddard- three shelf cabinet, supplies, class pictures display, blackboards cleared
Doug Monroe-Fireproof file repaired free in O'Grady name
Joanne Howard- Lingerie from 1800's, Fr. Reitz Farewell Album
Hubbardston Village- Referendums, Ordinances, Records
Sharon Bennett-Pinkney Family Yearbook
Ginny Howard Rademacher- Computer, printer, scanner, overhead projector, VCR, shelving, 9 ink cartridges, antique plant stand, two oriental rugs, wire shelving
Julianne Burns McKenna- rugs, lamps, clothing screen, antique dresses, files, pictures
Bob and Katie Cashen-iron antique baby crib
Bill Kruger- North Plains Township tax records-1800's

Phil McKenna, Tony Bennett- Maps, Platbooks, Records
Shirley Allen- Blackthorn cane
Anonymous- Sewing Books, Cook Books, Gourmet Treasures
Elaine Lutz- Collection of family photos
Helen Hoskins- Family photos, "How to Books," Irish Tapes
Cash Donations to HAHS- Mary Egan Klein, Debby Keebler, Barb Billings, Agnes Cusack, Nancy Woodcock, John Lattimer
Meijers Ionia Store-two 12' sections of metal shelving
Stanton Video-Rotating display stand

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 genealogical and historical study and research, (2) collecting preserving, interpreting and exhibiting historical and cultural objects, artifacts and sites, (3) encouraging public participation in the activities of the society through publications, programs and the preservation of archives and historical collections and to encourage the establishment and operation of a local historical museum

Many thanks to all of our generous donors. And a special thank you to Mary Caris, Jack and Ann Fahey, Marie Sweet, Bud and Joanne Howard and Jack and Sandy Stoddard who are in service doing volunteer work every day at the HAHS Museum Room at St. John's School. The days fly by and we all enjoy great conversation, good coffee, tasty snacks and we even get work done if we don't have too many visitors. Come join us every Tuesday and Wednesday.

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Beth O'Grady's Truffles - Melt in Your Mouth Treats

12 oz. milk chocolate chips
6 oz. semi sweet chips
1 cup heavy whipping cream
1 T orange zest plus 2 T orange extract
Place chocolate in large bowl. Heat cream and orange zest to soft rolling boil, pour over chips and let set for 1 minute. Wisk mixture until smooth. Add orange extract and wisk again until mixed well. Cover and put in refrigerator for about 45 minutes or until it begins to set. Place (small) teaspoon sized amounts on waxed paper covered cookie sheet. Put in fridge for 5 minutes. Roll each candy into a ball. Can cover in chocolate or white vanilla almond bark. Make sure you melt 1 or 2 tablespoons of shortening in with whatever coating you use. Store in fridge. Beautiful as well as a 'real taste treat!'

The Jubilarians-55th Wedding Anniversary-1936

Thomas Alphonsus Marion (1859-1937) and Anastasia Roach (1863-1939) were married November 8, 1881 at St. John the Baptist Church in Hubbardston with Rev. Peter J. DeSmedt officiating. Their children were Nicholas Robert Marion, (1882) who married Winifred L. McDonough and resides in Rochester, N.Y., Morgan Patrick Marion (1887-1911), Margaret Marion Bradley (1888-1920) married Benjamin F. Bradley in 1912 and lived in Ann Arbor, Mi. and Ruth Mary Marion (1902).

Their grandchildren were: Ruth Marion Rodenhouse, Helen Marion, Rita Marion, Loraine Marion and Thomas Bradley.

On Sunday July 26, 1936 a Mass of Thanksgiving was said at 7:30 a.m. St. John the Baptist Church and a Banquet was held at the Hubbardston Methodist Church at 1:00 p.m. The program presented was: Vocal solo-“Silver Threads Among the Gold” by Virginia Hogan; Vocal solo-“Trees” by Maurice Smith; Community singing of favorite songs; Vocal solo by Charles Langdon; Presentation of gift by Fr. Flanagan; Response for Jubilarians by Nicholas Marion. Ironically, the couple would have only one more year together. On November 3, 1937, Thomas Marion died at the age of 79. He came to Michigan when he was 21 years old. The family resided on a farm two miles northeast of Hubbardston. After many years, they moved into the village where Thomas was proprietor of an oil station. His widow of 62 years survives, one son, Nicholas of Rochester, NY, one daughter, Ruth, at home, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Funeral services were held on Saturday morning with all business places closing in respect to his memory. The large funeral was conducted by Rev. Fr. Charles Kraft with interment in St. John the Baptist Cemetery. *On November 11, 1937, Leonard (Jack) Burns took over the Standard Oil Station formerly operated by Thomas Marion. Ed.*

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS AT ANNUAL PARTY-2005

There were two floral centerpieces and three [Hubbardston Genealogy 1780-1930](#) books given away to Martha Fahey, Barbara Billings, Agnes Cusack, Patrick Burns and Mary Caris. The Irish Dancers performed beautifully and the “Irish Stew” was excellent. Our Chairwoman Julianne Burns did a marvelous job of the Annual Report while Mark Stoddard, Peter Burns, Bud Howard and Patrick Burns sold memberships, tickets and books. Jack and Ann Fahey staffed the Historical Society’s museum room in the school. It was a very busy and Good Day!

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor’s office. “Is it true that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?”

“Yes, I’m afraid so,” the doctor told her.

“There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, “I’m wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked ‘No Refills!’”

A Bit of Faerie Knowledge-Irish Superstition!

What other aspects of our ancestor’s life in the last few centuries needs considering. Besides their deep attachment to their faith, one must mention their belief in faeries, deeply rooted in Irish Peasant belief through these long decades. The general explanation of the Sidhe (Shee)-the largest part of the faerie host – is that they are the ancient Tuatha de Danaans, second race to invade Ireland in legendary history. The “people of the Goddess Dana” were men of a far off age who vanished into the hillsides and mountains, dwelling in “raths” (faerie raths), actually the fortresses of ancient times. The usual appearance of the Sidhe or faerie folk took place around “Beltane” or Mayday and “Semain” or Halloween and around

the last Sunday in July, “Lammas” time...There were specialized faeries such as the ‘bean-sidhe’ or banshee (the white faerie) who sang sad laments at the death of a member of an old family; the leprechaun (the little cobbler faerie); the puca (the Puck of Shakespeare); and the maighdean-mhara or sea-maiden. There were faerie hills, faerie raths, faerie thorn trees, faerie meadows, etc.” Milking and the making of butter and other rustic tasks were faerie oriented. ([The Passing of the Gael](#) by McGee, 1975)

Milking and the making of Butter

“It was proper when having finished milking a cow to put one’s thumb in the pail of milk and with the wet thumb make the sign of the cross on the thigh of the cow on the side milked to be safe against faeries...whenever milk fell on the ground during milking it was taken by the faeries, for faeries need a little milk. After churning, the knife which is run through the butter in drying it must not be scraped clean, for what remains belongs to the faeries. Out of three pounds of butter, an ounce or two must be left for them. Faeries are believed to control crops and their ripening. A field of turnips may promise well. But if the crop is short, the explanation is, that the faeries have extracted too much substance from it.” ([Irish Folk Ways](#) by Estyn Evans, 1957)

“Birth” in the “Turf-fire” cabin.

“The sounds meant nothing to the man and the woman working together in that stuffy bedroom where the angel of death hovered briefly, was fiercely rejected, then folded his wings and vanished and left the two of them alone. And then there were three. As the child emerged, one of its hands reached out, grasped his father’s finger and held on tight.” The miracle of life! (Morgan Llywelyn, 1921)

This was the land of our people (our forefathers). A world of lush landed estates and burgeoning peasantry kept at the subsistence level by the potato! It was a land of faith linked to a growing sense of oppression, of deep-rooted superstition and of ancient gentility that poverty could never completely smother.”(McGee)

An exasperated mother whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, “How do you ever expect to get into heaven?”

The boy thought it over and said, “Well, I’ll run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, “For heaven sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!”

A DEMOCRAT BUGGY? BALLOON TIRES?

In a 1995 chat with my dad Joe Burns, he discussed one of his prime interests – cars! With millions of miles under his belt, he had his strong opinions and whether you agree or not is up to you! He left farming in 1938 following the disaster of the Depression and drove a cream truck until the 1950’s when he began his job as field manager, inspector and artificial inseminator (among other titles) for Fred Walker at Dairyland Co-operative Creamery in Carson City. Until the day he died at age 96 in 1996, he could name every cream number of every farm as we drove through the country. He memorized everything so easily and held it in mind for years. And now the story:

Old John Coonan who lived on Hogan Road brought his mother to church with him every Sunday in his "Democrat Buggy." "The Democrat Buggy" was a double buggy; it had two seats. Three people could ride in each seat. It had no top. Tops were expensive. They cost \$29 extra. Frank Burns, Joseph's dad, had a Surrey and a grey team (he pulled the funeral cortege for his brother, Jim with this team). The Surrey had a top, side steps and leather fenders over the wheel. It was fancier than the Democrat, but the Democrat buggy was heavier and could haul 6-8 bushels of corn and 2 hogs (over 200 pounds). Four people could carry the crate with the two hogs in it and load it into the "Democrat Buggy."

Cars were great, but for heavy hauling, someone had to build a heavy duty carrier. Henry Ford made a "Form-a-Truck" because it was just an extension on the back of the car.. Reo Speedwagon came out and could go up to 60 miles an hour. That was the old R.E. Olds-Reo Speedwagon. He owned the land in Lansing southeast of the capitol. So he made Reo cars as well as trucks. Made some Studebaker cars also but Peoria, Illinois Studebaker didn't like that. So he started the Reo Speedwagon. In two or three (a few) years he made 200,000 of them and they were sent all over the world. International and Dodge also started to make trucks. Then they went to cars to make money which they didn't make with trucks. It was great to see all the new cars at Fairs and Picnics. The Essex was made by Hudson and was purchased by Terry Shiels for his sister Kate. Terry bought a "Peerless" for himself. That was one great car. The only one around! Tommy Connell bought a "Columbia." Lots of engines came from Muskegon. Mike Kipp got a "King" made out west. Kaiser-Frazer started to make cars after the war but they were cheap and not good cars. "When I went to Denver in the 1950's I saw a car in a Mall made in Climax, Michigan. In those years cars had high wheels, 4 inch wide tires, 36-37 inch wheels. Later they made balloon tires which were 21 inch and finally the 16 inch tires of today. The 15 inch wheels for 40-50 years with balloon tires were absolutely wonderful until the second World War when synthetic rubber came out. Those tires were no good. Paved roads and radials made a great difference." Joe drove 1000 miles a week, 50 weeks a year – that's 100,000 miles every two years when he was fieldman for Carson City Creamery. He had 10 cars in those 20 years; all with that high mileage. No one wanted to trade with him. Too many miles! In his final years, when he would see the huge diesel trucks with all the chrome and lights, he would just marvel. "Oh, to get behind the wheel and sail down the highway in one of those. That would be pure heaven!"

Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his employees. "Yes, sir," the new employee replied. "Well, then, that makes everything just fine," the boss went on. "After you left early to go to your grandmother's funeral she stopped in to see you.!"

FEYAN, BARRETT AND SCULLEY TOBACCO CO.

Old man Feyan, Barrett and Sculley used to make tobacco cigars. Frank Burns raised chewing tobacco on Cowman Road (more commonly known as "Hell Street" in the early days since the neighbors didn't get along so well and there was often trouble). Big lily type flowers grew on the tobacco plant. They were dried and chewed by Frank, Ed, Bert and Jim (the

Burns brothers). It seemed everyone chewed tobacco like Spearhead, chunk tobacco and Red Man which was made of cheap scraps. They liked Burley to chew. Frank sold the tobacco leaves to be made into cheap cigars called Hemateer Champions. The only good tobacco came from Cuba but they made do with what would grow. The stems had to be sorted out. The long leaves without stems wouldn't grow in Michigan so they had only inferior cigars. The stems were put together with a wrapper and made into Cheroots about 6-7 inches long and sold for '3 for 25 cents.' They were made in Ionia and Grand Rapids. Young Joe Burns used to go down the road on "Hell Street" to watch his dad and the others make and wrap the cigars. The first day there he got three dollars and 3 or 4 cigars for pay, so he came back on other days to spend a few hours and make a bit of money. When better times came along, the tobacco business ceased to be! (Chat with dad, 1993)

Feagh McHugh O'Byrne Firebrand of the Wicklow Mountains by Conor O'Brien

Feagh M'Hugh of the mountain –
Feagh M'Hugh of the glen-
Who has not heard of the Glenmalure Chief,
And the feats of his hard-riding men?

When these lines by Thomas D'Arcy McGee were published in The Nation in 1854, one wonders if indeed any of its readers had heard much about the feats of the Glenmalure Chieftain. These claims were not without controversy. Even Feagh's wife, Rosie O'Toole did not escape the vicious attacks by P.H. Hore's labeling him as a contemptible character and a fraud. For the quatercentennial of Feagh's death, recent scholarship has reappraised his life and reveal him to be one of the most underrated figures of Irish History. Feagh was born in the early 1540's into the house of the chief's of Gabhal Raghnaill, a junior sept of the O'Byrnes who were descended from an early eleventh century King of Leinster. Their territory ranged from Glendalough southwards to Shillelagh on the Wexford border and westwards to the Carlow border occupying about 150,000 acres. The area became known as Ranelagh. (The O'Byrnes of Ranelagh by Conor O'Brien)

Why am I presenting this vague material to you? Feagh McHugh O'Byrne is 'believed to be,' the "original" in the hereditary line of what later became the Byrne or Burns clans of the Wicklow Mountain area and the "original" of the ancestors with whom the present day Irish Burns clan can claim as "ancestor." This work to find the 'beginnings' in Ireland of the present day Irish families in North Plains Township is the latest and all-consuming project of Nicholas Burns , great grandson of the first Burns into the area; Michael and Anna Kelley Burns. The project is enormous and Nick is presently engaged in a search for a specific sampling of DNA from selected direct descendants to prove the lineage back to Feagh McHugh O'Byrne. God speed, Nick. One down and 146 to go. Is it a wonder that genealogists never have enough time for their searching? But it is a noble task you have assumed!

Hubbardston Area Historical Society
Bud and Joanne Howard
6851 East Carson City Road
Sheridan, Mi. 48884