

JHA NEWSLETTER



Issue 3, July/Aug./Sept. 2018

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JHA Update

What a busy spring we had!! Third graders from the Jenison Schools made their annual visit to the museum. Always so much fun when the kids come....ohhs, aahs and lots of questions. They keep us on our toes! The third graders from Pinewood gave us a presentation as well suggesting their ideas for our museum! Some very thoughtful ideas!

In addition to this, we also had the Poor Farm presentation at the GT Connections, the Bus Tour of Jenison and a puppet show. And of course our regular Open Houses and general work.

Its been a great spring!

Summer Time

It is summer, it is summer!
how beautiful it looks!

There is sunshine on the old gray hills
and sunshine on the brooks,

A singing bird on every bough,
soft perfumes on the air,

A happy smile on each young life,
and gladness everywhere!!

*Jackson Citizen Patriot
Jackson, Michigan
July 25, 1894, page 8*

Naming our Communities and Streets

Georgetown Township - A wealthy lumberman, George Ketchum, built gang sawmills, a foundry, and a machine shop as early as 1837 on Rush Creek. Early census records record it as "George's Town." Early in 1840, the township was organized and was attached by legislation to Ottawa County. Named Georgetown for Mr. Ketchum.

[History of Ottawa County, Michigan with illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers. 1882]

Jenison - Founded by and named for the Jenison family in the mid-1830s. Originally called Jenisonville. The community chose not to incorporate and thus remains under the administration of the township.

City of **Hudsonville** - Homer Hudson, for whom the city is named, purchased land in Georgetown Township from the Jenisons in 1858. He developed a nursery where he raised and sold fruit trees. He was the first postmaster for the settlement then called South Georgetown, which boasted a post office as early as May 1, 1868. The federal government designated it as Hudsonville on February 18, 1872. The Chicago and West Michigan Railroad tracks were completed through Hudsonville in 1872. Twenty acres of this land was platted in February 1873, and this tract was dedicated to the village of Hudsonville.

[URL: <http://ottawa.migenweb.net/twprecords/Georgetw/history.html>]

Shackhuddle - The naming of this community escapes explanation but common legend has suggested it was due to the numerous "shacks" that were all "huddled" together. Located in the south corner of Georgetown township, Shackhuddle had its own schoolhouse, cemetery and sawmill. It had a "flag stop" on the Grand Rapids, Holland & Chicago Electric Railway. The township plat maps of 1876, 1912 and 1920 show family names that were in the area known as Shackhuddle although the name itself does not appear. Today, the schoolhouse is a private residence and the cemetery has been abandoned. Unincorporated.

[one-room school.org] ; Ghost Towns [ghosttowns.com]

Hanley - Today, Hanley is in Jamestown township, however, this area was until 1849 part of Georgetown township. When they drew the lines for the new township, the line between Georgetown and Jamestown cut through Hanley. This hamlet was known early on as the Village of Hanley but it was never incorporated. Hanley was named for Charles Jacob Hanley who died in the Civil War. His wife and sons were living in Hanley. Hanley had a school, general store, cemetery and a post office. There was also a Methodist church here as early as 1888 using the schoolhouse as their meeting place.

[one-room school.org] ; Hanley CRC [hanleycrc.org]

The Story of Bauer

In December of 1867, Nicholas Bauer left Prussia for America. He was 34 years old and had a wife and three children. He departed from Antwerp, Belgium, and landed in New York. It appears that Nicholas came first and his wife, Barbara and their children, Margaretha, Johann and Catherine, followed shortly after him. By 1870, Nicholas and family were settled in Grand Rapids where Nicholas worked as a wagon maker. Before 1875, Nicholas moved the family to the area known today as 48th and Bauer Road. It was here that Nicholas plied his trade as a blacksmith and wagon maker.

About 1873, Charles O. Smedley arrived in this area to teach school at Blendon. He later operated a general store at this section with his brother. Its likely that between the school, where Nicholas's children would have attended, and the general store, explains how Nicholas and Charles met and developed a friendship. It was Charles O. Smedley that named the area of 48th and Bauer Road as "Bauer's Corners" and the road that led from Jenison to Bauer's Corners became Bauer Road. This is how the community of Bauer got its name. However, there is more to Nicholas' story.

Nicholas was well settled in this community. He became the postmaster in August 1885 which continued until 1889. The Bauer family was Catholic. In June 1886, daughter Margaretha married Bernhard Gustav Begemann at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grand Rapids. Mr. Begemann was a merchant in Blendon township. In April 1894, daughter Katie married Charles W. Cook of Georgetown township, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grand Rapids. Margaretha would have four children and Katie had one child. It doesn't appear that son Johann married. He died in December 1894 and was buried in Mt Calvary Cemetery. Katie would follow her brother in July 1897. She, too, was buried in Mt Calvary.

In 1891, Nicholas sold his interests in the wagon making business and retired to a small farm in Georgetown township. In 1900, Nicholas and wife, Barbara, after the death of their daughter, Katie, were living with son-in-law Charles W. Cook and grandson, Charles. Before 1904, they moved in with daughter, Margaretha and family in Allegan county. In August 1904, Barbara died at Dorr, Allegan, Michigan. She, too, was buried in Mt Calvary Cemetery in Grand Rapids.

Nicholas was still living with Margaretha and her family in 1910. However, in the next couple of years, Margaretha and her family moved to Midland, Michigan. Nicholas returned to Germany. There is a 1916 postcard written by Nicholas to his grandson, Albert, in which he tells about the war... "*I hear the cannons boom every day but see nothing of it*" and the farming. What was his reason for going back? He had lost his wife and two children but he still had a daughter and several grandchildren. He had lived in Michigan for 40 plus years. Perhaps it was just to visit but he could not return because of World War I. We don't know. On January 16, 1916, he celebrated his 82nd birthday and that's the last we know of him.

Charles O. Smedley went on to become a successful lawyer in Grand Rapids with his son, Harold Smedley becoming a state representative. Little did Charles know that he was ensuring a bit of Nicholas Bauer, blacksmith/wagon maker, would remain in Georgetown township by naming the community Bauer. Bauer is unincorporated. [*Charles O. Smedley obituary; Census Records; Allegan Gazette, 1916; Portrait & Biographical Record of Muskegon & Ottawa Counties, Michigan 1893, Chicago: Biographical Publishing Company Pg. 562, 563; Detroit Free Press, August 1885*]

- Street Names -

Most of this information came from a 1997 Garret Koopman interview with Virginia Timmer about street naming in Jenison. These are some of his comments. Additional information added from our records.

Baldwin was originally called *Sand Hill Road*. Baldwin, west of 12th Ave., was a very steep hill. At one time, buggies had to go around pine stumps in the road following the lumbering era. Likely named for Gov. Henry P. Baldwin.

Bauer Road was named for Nicholas Bauer, wagon maker/blacksmith. [*see Bauer story*]

Rosewood was originally called *Pinery* because it ran through the middle of the Jenison's pines. When the township was renaming streets "forty or fifty years ago" Pinery was changed to *Crapo* for Gov. Henry H. Crapo. People did not like the name because it was being called Crap-O so it was changed to Rosewood.

Port Sheldon has had several names along its long route. The Jenison end of Port Sheldon was called *Holland Road* because it led to Holland before M-21; *Maple Lane* for a row of maple trees; *Beach St.* because there was a beach tree in front of the house at 12 Port Sheldon. Port Sheldon further west was called the *Borculo Road* because it leads directly to Borculo.

12th and Chicago Dr. [M-21] intersection was once known as "Rainy's Corners," named for Rainy Doornbos. For a time, they also tried to call a section of **Chicago Dr./M-21** "*Lilac Lane*" because lilac bushes were planted here as a beautification project after M-21 came through. The name died along with the lilac bushes.

12th Ave. was originally known as *Houseman Road* because the Houseman family lived in a house on the west side of 12th, just north of Rosewood.

Cottonwood St., was originally known as the *Grand Haven Road*. We assume it was named for the Cottonwood trees that once grew in this area.

Cottonwood extension, or simply Cottonwood, was originally *School St.* which ran between Baldwin and Chicago Dr.

Main St. has been chopped up and all that is left of it is the small section between Baldwin and the railroad tracks. Every town had a Main St.!

Union St. once part of Main St., it was renamed for the Union Bank when the streets were moved.

Other streets named for Presidents and Governors: President Millard **Fillmore**; Gov. John S. **Barry**; Gov. Robert **McClellan**; Gov. Andrew **Parsons**; Gov. Austin **Blair**; Gov. Josiah W. **Begole**; Gov. Henry P. **Baldwin**. They all served from 1842 to 1885.

Main Street, Jenison





Above: Totten Mill, Shackhuddle;

Below: Holland Evening Sentinel, 09 Nov 1955, Wed · Page 1

First Lilacs Planted Along M-21 Boulevard

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (UP)—
The first of more than 1,000 lilac bushes to be planted on M21 between here and Holland were scheduled to be put in the ground today.

Today's plantings were to be made between Jenison on the outskirts of Grand Rapids and Hudsonville. It's hoped the 25-mile stretch of highway between Grand Rapids and Holland eventually will be known as "Lilac Lane."

JHA Museum Open Houses

Also by Appointment - call 616-457-4398 or 774-6523 [Ken Williams]

VISIT THE MUSEUM

July 3 - 10 to Noon July 21 - 2 to 4 pm.
August 7 - 10 to Noon

GRAND RIVER LANDINGS

September 4 - 10 to Noon October 2 - 10 to Noon
September 15 - 2 to 4 pm. October 20 - 2 to 4 pm.
November 6 - 10 to Noon

CHRISTMAS AT THE JENISON MUSEUM

December 8 - 1 to 4 pm
January 5, 2019 - 2 to 4 pm.

SPECIAL EVENTS

JENISON HISTORY PRESENTATION - August 16 - 7 p.m. - Free Event
location: Georgetown Twp. Connections [Senior Center]

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION 2 - September 13 - 1 p.m. - Free Event
Area farming [i.e. dairy, muck, etc.] - location: Georgetown Twp. Connections

GRAND LADY BOAT RIDE - October 13 - Noon to 2 p.m. - \$10/ticket

Below: M-21 under construction 1940s



JHA Trustees

Chair - Liz Timmer [2019]
457-3708

Vice Chair/Curator/Tours -
Ken Williams [2019]
772-6523

Treasurer - Ruth Lowing [2019]
540-4709

Social Secretary -
Nellie DeLaat [2019]
457-1193

Recording Secretary -
Linda Droog [2018]
457-3016

Archivist - Barb Semeyn [2019]
457-9343

Maintenance/Historian -
Mike Timmer [2019]
531-1218

Trustees -
Yvonne Williams [2019]
772-6523

Gene Kort [2019]
534-6769

Township Rep- Becky Steele

Editor - Ronnie Aungst
780-1056

Museum Location

28 Port Sheldon Road - Jenison, MI. 49428
Phone: 616-457-4398

Meeting Schedule

Meetings are open to the public and held the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:45 pm. Please note the location.

Dates for 2018:

July 19 - Georgetown Twp. Library
August 16 - Georgetown Senior Center*
September 20 - Georgetown Twp. Library
October 18 - Georgetown Twp. Library
November 15 - Georgetown Twp. Library
December - no meeting

*Georgetown Twp. Senior Center
7096 8th Ave.

NOTE - this meeting will be held at 6:00pm before the History Presentation at 7:00pm

Contact Information

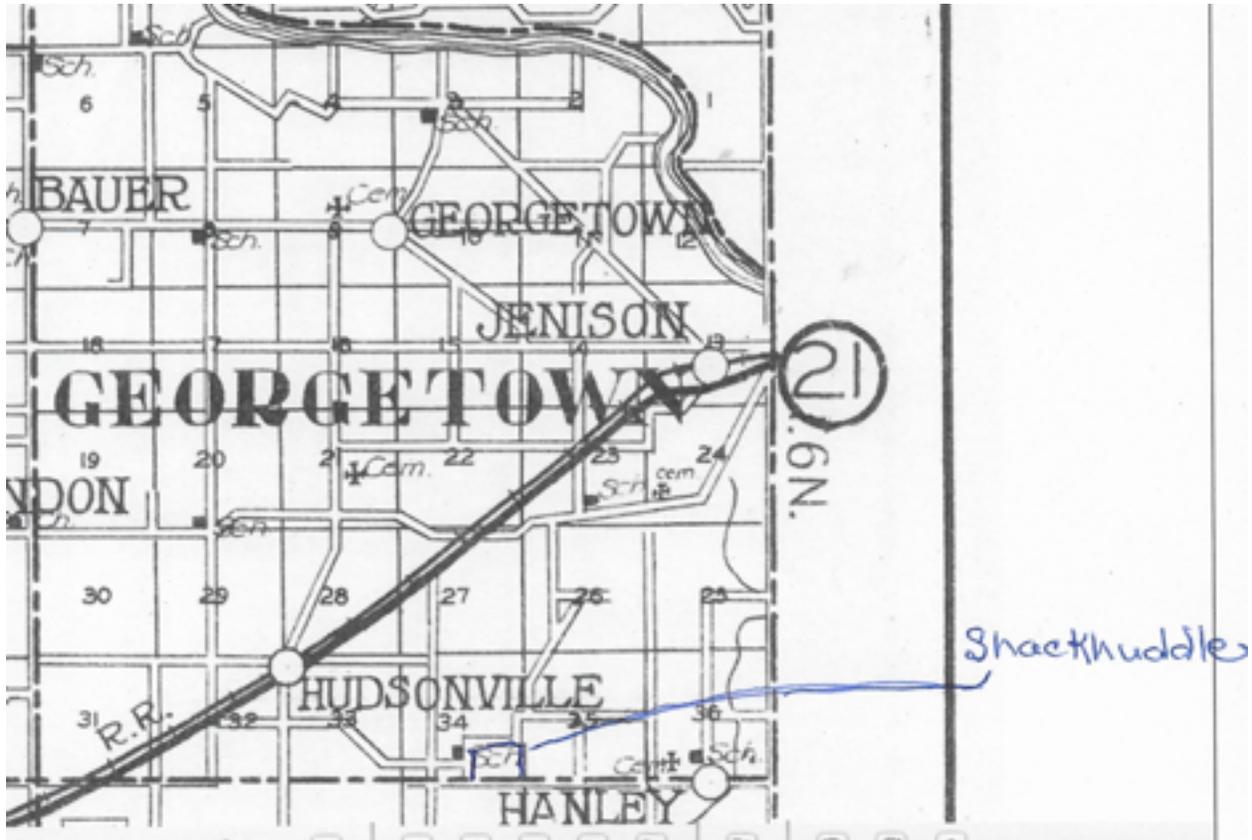
Contact Trustees at their phone number or leave a message at 457-4398 or info@jenisonhistory.org or find us on Facebook at Jenison History Association.

Membership

Become a member and support the local history and museum. We have members from the teens into the 80s. Please join us.

Membership is just \$10 per year.

Forms on last page.



Volunteer

Come to any meeting or open house or you can contact us at 616-457-4398 to leave a message. There's plenty of opportunities. We can help you find your niche.

Gift Shop

We have many Jenison History items available for purchase. They make great presents for your history lover and support the museum.

Some items include:

Bend In The River book, ornaments, historical drawings and stationary.

Find us on the registry of the Historical Society of Michigan at www.hsmichigan.org

Editor's Desk

Would you like a specific topic covered in our newsletter? Maybe something you have always wondered about concerning Jenison and/or Georgetown township history? Drop me a line and I will dig into our files to see what I can find. Email me at: gmira@yahoo.com and let me know what your thoughts are.

Correction:

In the April Newsletter I mislabeled the picture at the bottom of page 4 as John Moss and his wife, Alice Isenga. This picture is Cornelius J. Moss and his wife, Hattie Reminga, parents of John Moss.

Roads left to right: Main St., Mill St. Old M-21, Jenison, early 1900s



MEMBERSHIP or GIFT FORMS

Yes, I wish to support the Jenison Historical Association (JHA) and Museum.

MEMBERSHIP -

Contact Name (s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

\$_____ is enclosed for 2018 JHA membership. [\$10.00 per year]

GIFT -

This gift is made in memory/honor of:

Please mail an acknowledgement to:

(name) _____

(address) _____

City/State/Zip _____

\$_____ TOTAL enclosed.

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO -

Jenison Historical Association

MAIL TO:

Jenison Historical Association, 28 Port Sheldon, Box PO. 664, Jenison, MI. 49428

