15 CHILDREN BEFORE NAMING ONE JUNIOR

Whatever might be said about old Daniel Murray Seaman, Drummond Island’s original Seaman, no one can say he was in a hurry to name a son for himself.

Before he died in 1863 he had sired 16 children, six of them sons. And the very last one, born in April 1862, was given the name Daniel Murray Seaman, Jr.

Even so, it appears that at least 18 months elapsed before old D. M.’s last born was given any name at all.

D. M.’s five preceding sons, most of them born before the Seamans came to Drummond, were named in succession Samuel, William James, Edwin, Don, and Ludlow. Three daughters, Lovina, Olive, and Eliza, had come between Ed and Don, and two more daughters, Alice and Stella, came between Don and Ludlow.

Don, born in 1852, had been born in the Mormon-controlled Beavers. Alice, Stella, and Ludlow were born on Drummond Island. After Lud, the final daughter, Lillie, came along in 1860, and then in 1862, D. M. Jr., the final son, was born.

Mrs. Evelyn Brown of Riverside, CA, who is a daughter of Stella Seaman, is authority for the story that Daniel Murray Seaman, Jr. remained unnamed for 18 months. When, according to Mrs. Brown, her grandfather lay sick abed, and seemed to realize that death hovered close by, he called the still nameless youngster to his bedside, placed a hand upon the child’s head, and said, “Son, I want you to have my name.”

That was in November, 1863, and the new Daniel Murray Seaman had been born in April of 1862. Just what prompted that most unusual delay is not evident in the records.

The Civil War was on when D. M. Jr. first gazed out upon the white-blanketed fastnesses of Drummond Island. The island still had a pitifully small group of white settlers but the years immediately following the war were to see a considerable influx.

Over on the mainland in DeTour Tom Sims, who had settled in the area in 1856, and young J. Wells Church, who had come down from Sugar Island in 1861, were operating stopover stations to service the ever-expanding boat trade.

Murray Seaman, as he came to be called, was born in the year his 17-year old sister, Viny, married Sam Butterfield. His brother, Ed, was 18, and his stepbrother, Sam, was in his twenties, and was married, too. George Murray was born in 1864, when little Murray was only two years old. It was on June 9 of that year, incidentally, that J. Wells Church launched the “Pioneer”, the very first steamer driven tug to be
In the middle seventies, when Murray had attained his first ‘teen year, the firm of Perry & O’Dell, Drummond Island’s first lumbering concern, began operating.

It was in 1875 that Murray’s brother, Ed, was married, and his niece, Nona Butterfield, was born and an early settler named Cass Newell visited folks on and about the island to collect taxes. Just a year later, in ’76, the island’s second quarry was opened, by which time Cass and Doty Newell were operating DeTour’s first hotel, an imposing structure called “The Lakeview.”

Rough Winter

The Melvins came to DeTour in 1877 and they were to supply a bride for Murray’s older brother Ludlow. The winter of 1879-80 was rough and long and it was during 1880 that the Baileys, George Warren and Cornelia and their six youngsters, came to make such an impression on life about the big island.

In 1881, when Murray was only 19, he was made postmaster on the island, and Capt. J. Wells Church came over from Harbor Island to paint a shining new “Post Office” sign for him. The Churchs had settled on Harbor Island in 1868 after a short sojourn in Traverse City.

The following year, the McAdam brothers, William, Tom, and John, came to the island, and this was to mean much to Murray, because it was Tom McAdam’s daughter, Sarah Jane, who Murray married.

The last of the original family of Seaman was stout, of medium height and with blue eyes. He wore no beard, but he had a short-clipped, pyramid-shaped moustache. Whereas his brother, Ludlow, was inclined to be short tempered, Daniel Murray, Jr. was smooth tempered, and good natured, and serious minded.

Alas, unlike Ludlow, Murray produced no large family. He and Sarah Jane raised only one son and one daughter, the latter having been adopted.

Loses Only Son

With only one son to follow him, it was a cruel twist of fate that snatched that son from him. That tragedy occurred on a chilly October evening in 1908.

The year 1908, by the way, must have been a rough year for the tragedy-plagued Seaman family. Charles Fairchild, Lattie Seaman’s husband, died that year, and Rosina Richard, Sam Seaman’s granddaughter was burned to death in the Sault.

Late in the afternoon of October 18, Murray Seaman, his wife Sarah Jane, their only son, Clyde, and a friend named James Burns started up the St. Mary’s in Murray’s 40-foot launch, which had been christened Clyde in honor of the 17-year-old son.

They were enroute to the Sault for gasoline and supplies, just as Murray himself and his brother Ludlow had done in a sailboat 40 years before.

About 8:30 that evening, while the Clyde, still upbound, was off Nine Mile Point, the comparatively huge freighter, John P. Donaldson, suddenly leaped out of the darkness and rammed the smaller craft. The Clyde was a new vessel, having been built the year before by Frank Payment, of Sault Ste. Marie, but no small boat could withstand a collision of that type.

Murray, his wife, and Burns were continued on page 7

**Ancestors run in my family.**

Chippewa GenTalk - April 2006
Volume VI Number 2
Editor/Designer: Gail Pratt
(gpratt@sault.com)
Staff Writer: Marjorie Cooper
Contributors: Kathleen Hendricks, Jan Reed, Carol Storey, Charlie Meiser, Glee Lindal.
A quarterly issued January, April, July, October.
CCGS members are encouraged to submit articles and queries. Such queries are free to members. © April 2006
From the President's Pen

At the January 2006 meeting the Chippewa County Genealogical Society presented a genealogical gift to the Bayliss Library of Sault Ste. Marie in memory of Yvonne Hogue-Peer, who passed away a few years ago. Yvonne was an avid historian and genealogist who had a keen interest in her French-Canadian and Chippewa Indian heritage. She was a fount of knowledge and is greatly missed by the community.

Yvonne had given the Bayliss Library her Tanguay microfiche, a Tanguay CD-ROM and her two-volume set of Drouin books. The CCGS gift adds to the French-Canadian resources at Bayliss. We donated Drouin on CD, Leboeuf’s Complement au Dictionnaire Genealogique Tanguay, and Jean Guy Cote’s French Canadian Marriage.

The Bayliss Collection of French Canadian resources now includes:

- Le Dictionnaire Genealogique des Familles Canadiennes by Cyprien Tanguay (Microfiche and CD-ROM). This is the seminal work in French-Canadian genealogy.
- Complement au Dictionnaire Genealogique Tanguay by J. Arthur Leboeuf. This is a companion volume to Tanguay with additional information to supplement the original work (CD-ROM).
- Dictionnaire Nationale des Canadiens-Francais by the Institut Genealogique Drouin. Listings (by groom) for marriages from the origin of the colony until 1760. This reference includes marriages that are not found in Tanguay or that are in conflict with information found in Tanguay. Lists known dit names. 1,352 pages. (CD-ROM and Books.)
- French-Canadian Marriage by Jean-Guy Cote. CD#1 contains 1,698,806 individuals, 81,311 surnames, and 716,571 marriages. CD#2 contains 1,423,906 individuals, 65,807 surnames, and 565,725 marriages. Each CD-ROM includes a series of easy-to-search indexes. Each record will include: names of the married couple, their parents’ names (if known) along with the date and place of marriage. A record may also include known children with pertinent genealogical information on each. Most names are hyper-linked and when clicked upon will automatically bring you the previous or next generation. The bulk of the marriage dates are from the 1700’s to the early 1900’s but extend from the 1500’s to the late 1900’s.
- Our French-Canadian Ancestors by Thomas LaForest. (30 volume set). This series contains hundreds of biographies and historical anecdotes relevant to today’s French-Canadian and Franco-American genealogist and historian. Over the years some of these volumes have disappeared, but the volumes we have are a wonderful resource.

One of the goals of the CCGS is to collect and preserve genealogical information. We have a particular interest in

continued on page 7

Editor’s Notes:

“How many names do you have?.. Is that all? I’ve got 30,000 in my list.”

That comment was made to me recently. And my reply was a question. What do you know about those people?

It is so easy with the Internet to collect names and it is so easy to fall into thinking that all of the Smiths are our Smiths but I would ask, “Have you researched each and every one to place them in history? Have you studied the history of their time? What was happening during their lifetime? Or are you just playing the name game?”

In the January 2003 issue of The American Genealogist editor David Greene quoted Rev. Joseph Hunter who wrote in 1854 words that are as appropriate today as they were then:

“No genealogy is of the least value that is not supported by sufficient evidence from records or other contemporary writing.

The mere possession of a surname which coincides with that of an English family is no proof of connection with that family. Claims of alliance founded on historical anecdotes relevant but of self-love and the desire of a reputation for ancestral honor...

Search out the history of your ancestors by all means, but claim no more than you can show to belong to you.

As far as you can prove you are safe, and you are doing a work that is good... when it can be proved, well and good; but no terms can be too severe to reprobate it when there is no proof, or even

where there is no show of probability.”

The facts of our ancestor’s existence are sometimes hard to find. But, after all, isn’t it the search that we find exciting? ♦

NOT ALL NEWS FROM 100 YEARS AGO WAS GOOD

July 22, 1899 - A barn off Court street owned by Wm. O’Neill caught fire and was burned almost to the ground Thursday evening before the flames were extinguished. Two valuable horses owned by Wm. Burton were in the stable at the time but managed to escape unaided. They were both badly burned however, and are now blind from the smoke and flames and may have to be killed. The origin of the fire is a mystery. By the time the department arrived on the scene the barn was a mass of flames, and owing to its tinder-like condition was beyond saving.

Mr. O’Neill’s loss is not very serious, but Mr. Burton’s will be in the neighborhood of $300.

July 22, 1899 - Harry Carpenter, aged 22, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carpenter, of 503 Easterday avenue, died Tuesday in Grand Marais of spinal meningitis. The deceased had been in ill health for some time. Mrs. Carpenter was informed last week of her son’s serious illness and left Saturday to attend him. The remains were brought to the city Wednesday night by Mrs. Carpenter. The funeral services were held yesterday morning from St. Mary’s Catholic church, and the interment was in Maple Ridge cemetery.

August 12, 1899 - While crossing the street Monday afternoon near the cor-
In our January 2006 issue, we asked the question: Who was the anonymous donor of the chimes for St. James Episcopal church?

We received several answers from members including Carol Storey and Charlie Meiser.

The answer is Chase S. Osborn. He donated the chimes in 1906.

The chimes are rung on certain occasions. When the churches have their historic walks in the summer, there is at least one occasion when they take the touring group up in the tower to see the actual workings of the chimes.

We were also told that Bob Krupa and a Mr. Aldrich play the chimes.

NEXT QUESTION

Our next question comes from CCGS member Glee Lindal from Winnipeg, Manitoba:

"Recently I have come across in the township board records for the township of Kinross a reference to a gatekeeper for the years 1906/1907. Since I have no knowledge of the duties or necessity of a gatekeeper, this piqued my interest."

Does anyone know what was a gatekeeper in Kinross in 1906?

SECOND QUESTION

This comes from CCGS member Charlie Meiser:

"I have a distant cousin that visited Sault Sainte Marie 15 July 1902. He reportedly went up the Ashmun street hill to Ryan Park. I have been unable to locate Ryan Park. It probably would have been a fairly large, open area. I’ve researched resources at the Bayliss Public Library and asked a number of persons including local history expert Dr. Arbic without success."

Does anyone know where Ryan Park was?

Send your answer to Chippewa GenTalk, P.O. Box 219, Trout Lake, MI 49793. We’ll publish your answer in the July issue.

100 YEAR OLD NEWS continued

On the corner of Ashmun and Ridge streets, John F. Arnott was struck by the shaft of an express wagon and thrown from his wheel, two ribs being broken. The accident is said to have been caused by the carelessness of the driver who failed to pay proper attention to the roadway. Mr. Arnott was picked up and removed to his home on Bingham avenue, where he is now resting easily, but will be some time in recovering.

May 21, 1892 - The Soo and vicinity was visited by a violent easterly storm this week. It began Wednesday morning and continued till yesterday morning. The wind attained its highest velocity of fifty miles an hour Wednesday afternoon and night. The rainfall was .34 inches.

April 13, 1889 - Delos J. Townsend, proprietor of the Portage Ave. restaurant, slipped on the steps entering his place about half past one o’clock Saturday morning and broke his arm. That was not the whole of the accident, however. While Mr. Townsend was having the fractured member set, a thief went through the pockets of his coat which was hanging on the wall, and obtained about $60. It’s a pretty mean thief who will take the hard earned ducats of a man with a broken arm.

Ed. Note: Was it Friday, perhaps?

15 Children continued

rescued, but Clyde Seaman’s body was not found until the following spring when it was sighted and picked up by the lighthouse tender Aspen. The death of Clyde Seaman was by no means the last time sudden death would strike at the Seaman family, but, being an only son, his loss must have been felt heavily.

Murray Seaman’s daughter Leah married Louis Fountain, of DeTour, whose father, Charles Fountain, had married one of the daughters of the town’s pioneer settler Tom Sims.

Always Home

On a sunny afternoon in May, 1952, when this writer, riding with Goldman Lehman, descendant of another oldtime Drummond Island family, journeyed over to the island to attend the funeral of Miss Leila, we saw Leah Fountain and she made one remark which is typical of every Seaman, "You know," she said, "there’s something about this island that worms its way into one’s blood. It always will be home to me."

John T. Nevill
Drummond Settlement
The Evening News
August 15, 1953

President’s Pen continued

collecting the genealogy of Chippewa County, its neighboring counties, and the counties of our ancestors in Ontario and Quebec.

In the next few months we will be looking at donating more resources to Bayliss Library. Your donations of money (or genealogical works) and your suggestions are always appreciated. Kathleen M. Hendricks
President, CCGS

A library is an arsenal of liberty.

OPEN FIELD FOR OSBORN

No Opposition for County Road Commissionship

Because there is no contest for the nomination for county road commissioner, the republican primaries in the city yesterday were not largely attended. Delegates to the county convention which will be held Monday are as follows:


Fourth ward - John R. Conrick, John F. Moloney, Jr., Williams S. LaLonde, Gerge Cairns, and William M. Snell.

The convention will be called to order in the city hall at 2 o’clock in the afternoon. The convention will be a short one and Commissioner H.A. Osborn will be unanimously renominated.

General satisfaction with the work of Commissioner Osborn is heard by the people of the county without regard to party affiliations. The Evening News
March 10, 1906
PRESENTED TWO PLAYS

Ladies of St. Mary’s Church
Give an Entertainment

The ladies of St. Mary’s church, under whose auspices the entertainment in Baraga hall was given last evening, succeeded in furnishing one of the most pleasant evenings entertainments with their two plays, the “Rough Diamond” and the “Dowager” that has been presented to be public of this city.

The hall was crowded early in the evening and many who came late were forced to stand. The audience was kept in a happy mood until the drop of the curtain after the final scene in the “Dowager.”

The plays were well presented and there were none of those waits between scenes that are liable to occur in such performances. All the parts in each play were admirable taken and showed the results of the practicing that has been going on for the past six weeks.

In the first play presented, the “Rough Diamond,” Margery, the leading role, was taken by Miss Angela Moloney. Sir William Evergreen was impersonated with great success by Edward J. Reinhart, while Cousin Joe (Charles Sayers) kept the audience in an uproar during the brief time of his appearance.

John O’Neil and Miss Edna McIlhargie represented Lord and Lady Plato and carried their difficult parts in a very pleasing manner, and William Martin as Captain Blenheimer, the rejected suitor, was at home at all times.

In the presentation of the “Dowager”, Miss Mary Mahon took the leading role. Miss Margaret Kelly was Lady Bloomer, Miss Mary Monohey, Margaret Beauchamp; John McKeough, Lord Alfred Lindsay; John P. Connelly, Sir Frederick Chasemore; Dr. Finian, Edward Beauchamp, and Stafford Kelly, the servant.

To discuss the merits of each of these would take up more space than is at our command. Every person in the cast threw their life into its presentation, and as a result of their efforts the audience took their departure at the end of the play with regret, and the street echoed with praises for the “actors.”

On account of the large house that was present last evening, it has been deemed advisable to give another presentation of the same plays on Friday evening of this week in order to allow those who did not take advantage of the opportunity to see them last evening to attend. There is no doubt but the hall will again be crowded.

The Evening News
January 23, 1906

HAS INVENTED A SLED

A. L. HILLMAN SAYS IT WILL BEAT A HORSE

A. L. Hillman of 320 West Spruce street has invented a sled which he claims a man can propel so easily as to beat a horse in traveling for at least a limited distance. He showed a model of his invention to The Evening News yesterday.

It is a rather ingenious contrivance. It is so constructed that a person can stand on one or the other of the runners and propel the sled with the other foot. A convenient hand hold is provided, as well as a seat for a passenger, should the person managing the sled desire a companion in his journeys.

It is also supplied with a brake that can be used when going down a hill or as the occasion may require. The apparatus weighs about 25 pounds.

Mr. Hillman has given his invention a thorough test and is very enthusiastic over it. He thinks it would prove very useful to those who have to travel in winter and cannot afford a horse and rig, as well as prove a source of amusement and recreation to persons of leisure.

So strongly is Mr. Hillman convinced of the merits of the sled that he is thinking of getting his invention patented and manufacturing the sleds to put on the market. He says they can be made to sell from $3 to $5 each, according to the finish.

Mr. Hillman is a native of Sweden. He has been a resident of this country for eight years and for the past year he has lived in the Soo. He is a naturalized citizen of the United States.

The Evening News
January 4, 1906

DETOUR REALTY MOVING

Several pieces of property near DeTour have recently passed into the hands of parties who intend them as sites for summer homes.

Last summer John P. Cowing of Cleveland bought Albert Island from Gus Lehman, and he has already commenced his improvements.

Within the last two weeks Mr. Cowing and a friend have bought Trout Island from Samuel Butterfield and Maple Island of Meldon Hill. The three islands are in a group; they are nicely wooded, have good harbors, suitable for small pleasure craft and the like, and will be ideal sites for summer homes. They are but a few miles from DeTour, and all are within sight of the main channel of the river.

The sales were made through W.D. Hitchcock.

The Evening News
January 10, 1906

MILL LEASED BY PERRY

Frank Perry has leased the old Hall & Munson saw mill at Bay Mills and will commence cutting lumber early in April.

The mill is leased for one to five years and Mr. Perry’s operations will be pushed on an extensive scale.

Mr. Perry says the work will not be confined to any special line. All classes of timber will be cut and the outlook for a long run is promising. A large force of men will be engaged in this new industry which will add new life to Bay Mills.

“I expect to start operations as soon as navigation opens,” said Mr. Perry today. “The outlook is satisfactory and I presume the mill will be operating for a term of years. I don’t know exactly how many men will be employed, but the mill will give work to quite a force.”

The Evening News
January 18, 1906
THE STRANGE CASE OF
MRS. ADELINE ENOUF

"Where are the dead?"

Since man first evolved, that question has probably been always next in order to the bread and butter question.

Today in the Soo the question, stripped of all its spiritual phrases, has loomed large as the result of the completed investigation by City Manager Moore and A. J. Eaton as to conditions at Riverside cemetery.

This report as reported to the city commission last night is so startling that it is almost unbelievable and tells a story of lax methods of burying the dead here that makes the old time nickel novel with its ghoulish tales an insipid monotony.

How graves that for years have been covered with flowers and watered by loving hands of relatives contain nothing at all; how monuments erected to the memory of former citizens stand at the head of graves that are owned by living citizens; how deeds to lots are confused in almost indescribable fashion; how records disagree over places of burial and how none of the records are in some instances right; these things and many others are shown in careful, statistical manner by the report.

Not only this but there is a hint that persons, dying in the Soo beyond the card of their loved ones, have failed to reach the cemetery, even though a grave was opened for them.

The report of the ex-manager covers 22 pages of typewritten manuscript and covers in detail his findings as to mother was laid to another body without records, there are also a number of graves which should occupy others as cited in the report of the manager to the commission.

The city clerk has the report that can give information as to specific graves. Mr. Eaton is the more familiar with the report because of the fact that while he holds a deed to one lot in the cemetery, the family monument is proven to be on another lot.

Mr. Eaton though he owned lot 15 of Block XIV. However, the Eaton monument is on lot 14. However, again, a man named Boyer is shown by the records to own lot 14. The Boyer monument is on lot 13 which the records show is unsold. On this lot 13 there are burials, as proven by the probing rod of the manager and sexton.

Sad Case of Mrs. Enouf

A case that has its pitiful features is that of Mrs. Roy Brooks of this city. For many years Mrs. Brooks has knelt over the grave in the Catholic section of the cemetery in which she was confident her mother was buried.

She has brought plants and has attended to their blooming and tears mingled with the water with which the flowers were kept smiling and the grass green.

The grave in which Mrs. Brooks thought her mother, Mrs. Adeline Enouf, was buried was not the grave at which the Enouf monument had been erected. Mrs. Brooks contended to the city manager that she was confident that the monument had been placed at the wrong grave.

"I am sure that this is where my mother was laid to rest," Mrs. Brooks told investigators.

With the permission of Mrs. Brooks and in her presence, the manager and city clerk and sexton opened the grave over which the monument to her mother had been erected. In this grave there was found a baby casket.

This casket is thought to be that of Baby Clancy. At least two of the records of the cemetery say Baby Clancy is buried there although another record says Baby Clancy is on an entirely different lot.

"My mother's casket once bore a plate with the word 'Mother' but I took the plate off before the funeral and kept it in memory of her," Mrs. Brooks told the investigators.

Then the grave which she had attended so carefully was reverently opened and a casket bearing the word "Father" was revealed.

The sexton's record shows that Adeline Enouf is buried in grave 4 lot 45. This grave proves to be the burial place of infant Helen Kane.

Another record dug up from the vault of the city clerk says that Mrs. Enouf is buried in grave 3 of lot 45. This grave was opened while the anxious daughter waited in the near distance and there was found the casket from which the plate "Mother" had been removed. The casket was opened and the clothing and even the remains of the embalmed body gave proof that it was indeed Mrs. Enouf.

While the daughter had been caring for a grave in lot 25, her mother had been buried in lot 45.

This case is typical of dozens of others as recited in the report of the manager to the commission.

It is found that some people who have reserved graves for themselves have had their rights usurped and that another body has been put to rest there.

Even as late as May of this year Claire Gilray who died of pneumonia at Camp Custer was wrongfully buried on a lot owned by Francis T. McDonald. The McDonald lot adjoins the Gilray lot.

The body of little Sarah A. Godras, who died in 1914 is buried in grave 2 of lot 86 and a monument stands at the head of the grave. But at the foot of this short mound there is a long grave of recent date for which there are no records. The sexton states that the grave was prepared on a telephone order.

While bodies are in the cemetery without records, there are also a number of graves which should occupy bodies which are found entirely empty.

While no charges are being made against anybody there is said to be a knowledge that in some cases after graves had been ordered and dug, no bodies arrived and, after waiting vainly for the arrival, the grave was filled in empty.

The consternation among persons who have friends buried in Riverside may be somewhat allayed by the fact that everything possible has been done by the former manager to straighten matters out and to arrange a definite program for the future.

continued on page 12
Strange Case from page 11

Hereafter, every burial will have to be accompanied by a permit signed by the city clerk and all money for such burials will have to pass through the city treasurer. A new schedule of rates has been arranged and will in all probability be carried out.

Last night the city commission was presented with the report and it was referred to the members as a committee of the whole to act on at a committee session next Friday night. That any criminal charges will be brought as the result of the disclosures is regarded unlikely, although not impossible.

The Evening News
August 6, 1918

Known in the SOO

John Blake Identified as John Zibble

TRIED FOR MURDER OF JOHN CADREAU IN 1895

Is Now Charged with Killing Jackson Policeman

According to a special dispatch received by the Evening News today, John Blake, the alleged murderer of a Jackson policeman, as been identified as the John Zibble who was tried here for murder in the fall of 1895.

The case is remembered by the people of the Soo and Chippewa county as the most sensational on record.

John W. Zibble and George Scott, soldiers of the Fort Brady garrison, were arrested on a charge of murdering John Cadreau in a drunken fight on the night of June 15. The body was found in a clump of bushes near the fort. The trial was held during the September term of the circuit court.

JOHN ZIBBLE, ALIAS JOHN BLAKE

It was a warm day. The sun had been shining and the leaves on the trees were steel green. The fall frosts had not touched the foliage so that the scene was most beautiful to look upon.

As the jury filed into the court room a sunbeam flashed its rays across the room, but hardly had the foreman announced the verdict before the sky was overcast with a dark cloud. Suddenly from out of the heavens came a blinding flash of light and a crash as if a thousand cannon had been discharged in the vicinity.

An electric bolt had struck the court house, as if the Almighty had vented his wrath on the people for the result of the trial.

The story is told by Judge Steere in a few words in the court records. On one of the margins of the book the following sentence stands out in bold relief:

"And thereupon lightning struck the court house."

The news that the John Blake previously mentioned is the John Zibble of this memorable trial will prove interesting to the people of northern Michigan.

Zibble or Black, as he is known at Jackson, is alleged to have been a member of the gang that robbed the postoffice at Brooklyn, MI last week.

After a chase to Jackson, a distance of 16 miles, he and his companions were captured. Drawing his revolver he shot and killed Patrolman Booth, who had him under arrest, and made good his escape, only to be recaptured the following day.

He has admitted his identity and made a full confession of the killing of a policeman.

The Evening News
March 26, 1906

News Flash

1852 New Year Resolutions Solve Genealogical Mysteries

It is New Year's Eve 1852 and Henry Hydenwell sits at his desk by candlelight. He dips his quill pen in ink and begins to write his New Year's resolutions.

1. No man is truly well-educated unless he learns to spell his name at least three different ways within the same document. I resolve to give the appearance of being extremely well-educated in the coming year.

2. I resolve to see to it that all of my children will have the same names that my ancestors have used for six generations in a row.

3. My age is no one's business but my own. I hereby resolve to never list the same age or birth year twice on any document.

4. I resolve to have each of my children baptized in a different church -- either in a different faith or in a different parish. Every third child will not be baptized at all or will be baptized by an itinerant minister who keeps no records.

5. I resolve to move to a new town, new county, or new state at least once every 10 years -- just before those pesky enumerators come around asking silly questions.

6. I will make every attempt to reside in counties and town where no vital records are maintained or where the courthouse burns down every few years.

7. I resolve to join an obscure religious cult that does not believe in record keeping or in participating in military service.

8. When the tax collector comes to my door, I'll loan him my pen, which has been dipped in rapidly fading blue ink.

9. I resolve that if my beloved wife Mary should die, I will marry another Mary.

10. I resolve not to make a will. Who needs to spend money on a lawyer?


My ancestors did WHAT???
A trip over the length of the canal lasted two weeks, landed in New York. Our group of ancestors then got on board a ship to traverse Lake Erie to Buffalo. I was amazed to learn that by 1847 there were over 4,000 horse-drawn canal boats in service with the majority carrying only cargo and a few just passengers and some boats.

Our group of ancestors then got on board a ship to traverse Lake Erie to Detroit.

These ships were floating palaces for those who could afford the first class accommodations. For those who could not, they were placed down near the boilers, practically with the baggage.

After getting off in Detroit, land was plentiful. It has been noted that in 1836, land sales by the United States were greater in Michigan than any other state.

In 1837 roads extended from Detroit to Chicago and by 1845 there was a railroad from Detroit to Grand Haven.

But what if our group had decided to go to the western side of the state and didn't want to travel over land.

There was ample water transportation. You could board a steamer in 1832 in Buffalo and be in Milwaukee in four days. Manistee, MI was a connection between Green Bay, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan, WI. The steerage passengers were not allowed on deck, so the four days may not have been the most pleasant, but, by far, it was the fastest way to get to their destination.

So while it may have seemed a daunting task to leave Europe for a new homeland, it now is clear that from the time of embarkation to arriving at a new home in the “west” could be accomplished in as little as three or four months.

Did you ever wonder how your ancestors got around in this country in the early days?

Because my family stayed in New England and then reached Michigan where they stayed, I never really gave it much thought.

Of course, we are all familiar with the fact that early roads followed Indian trails. We can thank King Charles II for the fact that early roads followed Indian trails. We can thank King Charles II for the fact that early roads followed Indian trails. We can thank King Charles II for the fact that early roads followed Indian trails.

But what if your ancestors were desirous of traveling west? By the late 1700’s, west for the New Englander was daunting task to leave Europe for a new home in the US were pneumonia and influenza, tuberculosis, diarrhea, heart disease, stroke.

The Panic of 1837 and President Jackson's war on the Bank of the United States ultimately caused a depression that lasted from 1841 to 1843. To escape all this, our pioneer families moved west.

In 1825 the Erie Canal was opened. A trip over the length of the canal lasted 8-12 days over 363 miles from Albany to Buffalo. I was amazed to learn that by 1847 there were over 4,000 horse-drawn canal boats in service with the majority carrying only cargo and a few just passengers and some boats.

Our group of ancestors then got on board a ship to traverse Lake Erie to Detroit.

These ships were floating palaces for those who could afford the first class accommodations. For those who could not, they were placed down near the boilers, practically with the baggage.

After getting off in Detroit, land was plentiful. It has been noted that in 1836, land sales by the United States were greater in Michigan than any other state.

In 1837 roads extended from Detroit to Chicago and by 1845 there was a railroad from Detroit to Grand Haven.

But what if our group had decided to go to the western side of the state and didn't want to travel over land.

There was ample water transportation. You could board a steamer in 1832 in Buffalo and be in Milwaukee in four days. Manistee, MI was a connection between Green Bay, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan, WI. The steerage passengers were not allowed on deck, so the four days may not have been the most pleasant, but, by far, it was the fastest way to get to their destination.

So while it may have seemed a daunting task to leave Europe for a new homeland, it now is clear that from the time of embarkation to arriving at a new home in the “west” could be accomplished in as little as three or four months. Marjorie Cooper

Understanding my ancestors puts a different perspective on today.