

ESMOND-EVERGREEN CEMETERY WALK --- List of Stations

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Station 1: Ella C HODGES

According to cemetery records, Ella C HODGES was the first person buried here at this cemetery. As her tombstone reads, she was born on March 12, 1860 and died on April 18, 1888. She was just 28 years of age. Her death record was never recorded in Iosco County.

The cemetery records also indicate that she died during childbirth and that her baby is also buried here, although there is not a grave marker to identify the child.

This tombstone also states that Ella C was the wife of Warren S HODGES.

Warren S HODGES came to Plainfield Township from Ionia County, Michigan, according to census records. He moved here sometime between 1880 and the death of Ella. Chances are that Warren and Ella were married in Ionia County, however a marriage record has yet to be located.

HODGES owned 80 acres in section 14 of the Township 23 North Range 5 East portion of Plainfield Township. To locate that property easier today, I will tell you that it is the southeast corner of the intersection of M-65 and Webb Road.

Warren Smith HODGES was a farmer in Plainfield Township and remained a widower until his death on November 9, 1916. His death record has been listed on seekingmichigan.org. According to that record, he was born on September 2, 1853 in Oakland County, Michigan. His parents were Allen C HODGES and Aurelia BRIDGEMAN. He died after contracting typhoid fever.

The death record of Warren Smith HODGES also states that he was buried in the Plainfield Township Cemetery, to which this burying ground was often referred. Chances are he is buried next to his wife and child, and never bought himself a grave marker before his death.

Lauri:

- a. Flower
- b. Fern
- c. Drapery with tassels on 3 sides of marker
- d. Script H

Station 2: The Charles David LOVE Family

Charles David LOVE was the son of David and Emeliza LOVE, who we will visit later during this cemetery walk. According to his obituary he was born in Tyrone Township of Livingston County, Michigan on September 6, 1866.

Charles David LOVE was a young boy of about 4 years of age when he moved to this area from Tawas Township with his parents and older brother. The year was 1871, according to his father's obituary. His birthdate, as listed on his tombstone, is September 6, 1866.

At the age of 24, Charles David LOVE married Ellen M GRAVES on November 5, 1890 in Tawas City. Ellen was the daughter of Nelson and Anna GRAVES, who we will also feature later in this walk. Here is the tombstone of Ellen, also known as Ella May. She was born on March 4, 1870 and died on July 27, 1892.

The short life of Ellsworth Manard LOVE is also documented on this tombstone. As one can see, his birthdate is July 27, 1892, which is also the death date of Ella, or Ellen. From that we can easily conclude that she died from complications due to childbirth. She was only 22 years 4 months and 23 days of age, which is also written on the monument.

Little Ellsworth Manard lived only six days. His epitaph reads: "To us for six anxious days his infant smile was given; And then he bade farewell to earth and went to live in Heaven."

It is interesting to note here the difference between the tombstone date of July 27, 1892 and the recorded death record at the Iosco County clerk's office as July 25, 1892.

On September 29, 1897, Charles David LOVE married for the second time. This go-round his wife was May SOPER, or also known as Bertha May, as depicted on the tombstone. The couple was married in Reno Township. The bride was the daughter of Alfred and Sarah SOPER. The couple went on to have ten children, five which died in infancy.

Bertha May Bell Soper LOVE, as stated in her obituary, was born in AuGres on June 27, 1876. She died May 21, 1924 at the age of 47 years 10 months and 24 days in Bay City.

Charles David LOVE died on March 28, 1951 in West Branch. He was 84 years old.

I will read two paragraphs from his well-written obituary, which was printed in the Iosco County News on April 12, 1951:

"When he was four years of age, his parents moved to Iosco county and took up a homestead not far from Indian Lake. The family lived at Indian Lake, the Tinkle house and others in that vicinity. During this time he attended the Laidlaw school. In 1888 Mr Love purchased the land in Plainfield Township, upon which he resided at the time of his death.

“He was an expert river driver, having worked at the Seney Lumber Camp, also at camps in the Upper Peninsula and Wisconsin. He drove logs on the AuSable, which was one of the most treacherous streams in the country. He held various township offices and was a life member of the Grange 1063, of which he was an active member at the time of his death.”

This family plot features many footstones, and Lauri will focus on their presence here.

Lauri:

- a. 8 different footstones
- b. Nellie ftst, age 10 mos
- c. epitaphs

Station 3: Clark and Edward ESMOND

The Esmond Family plot holds special significance to this cemetery, as obviously this is the family for which the cemetery is named. As Lauri stated in the historical introduction of this cemetery, it was Edward V ESMOND that donated ten acres of property to establish this cemetery.

Beverly Sutter Johnson put together a fine account on the lives of the Esmond brothers. It is from that document, and from existing census, marriage, and death records, that I have put together their story.

Hiram ESMOND and Julia Ann VINCENT are the parents of both Clark and Edward. Edward's middle name is Vincent, which was his mother's maiden name. Not much is known about Hiram, and research efforts have not determined if he ventured to Michigan from New York with Julia and her two sons.

Let us start with Clark, the younger of the two brothers. Clark was born on February 12, 1847 in New York.

Clark ESMOND enlisted in Co D of the 7th Cavalry at Brookfield, Michigan on September 9, 1862 at the age of 18. He mustered out at Ft Leavenworth, Kansas on December 15, 1865. For his military efforts, Clark ESMOND was awarded 160 acres of property in sections 19 and 20 of Plainfield Township of Iosco County. After homesteading the property for five years, he was granted ownership of the property. Land records show that he claimed this property sometime around 1877.

At the time of the 1870 census, enumerated on June 2, at age 23, Clark lives with Henry and Mary COLLINS in Carmel, a small settlement in Eaton County, Michigan. Also living with him are his wife, Lorinda, and his step-son, Robert BOYER, age 3.

On July 30, 1870, Clark and Lorenda ESMOND are listed on another census. For this census they are living in Charlotte in Eaton County. Living with them is a daughter, Ellen, age 7 months. Robert BOYER is not listed in the household in Charlotte, and Ellen was not listed in the household in Carmel, so try to figure that one out. It is very rarely that one can discover two listings for an individual for the same census, but it does happen.

For the 1880 census, Clark and Lorinda ESMOND are living in Plainfield Township of Iosco County. Living with them are Robert ESMOND (should be BOYER), age 12, Ella M ESMOND, age 10, and William H ESMOND, age 6. Also in the household is Lorinda's father, Alonzo KNIGHT, age 55, divorced and a farmer. Clark lists his occupation as farmer.

1897 proved to be a year of suffering for Clark ESMOND. According to a death record at the Iosco County clerk's office, Julia ESMOND, mother to Clark and Edward, died on

January 24 of that year in Plainfield Township from paralysis. She was 80 years 8 months and 11 days of age.

On August 2, 1897, Carrie, the second wife of Clark, to whom he had been married for 13 years, died as a result of dropsy. She was just 38 years of age. Clark married Carrie BURCHAM at his home in Plainfield Township on December 27, 1884. At the time of their marriage, he was 37 and she was 27. It is on this marriage record that Clark's birthplace is listed as Parma, Jackson County, Michigan.

Then, shortly after the death of Carrie, this happened, as printed in the August 13, 1897 Tawas Herald: *"The wife of Clark Esmond died Monday, August 2nd, and on Thursday his house and most of its contents was destroyed by fire. Mr Esmond has the sympathy of the entire community."*

To continue with the tragedies of 1897, and on October 20 of that year, Clark lost a daughter named Ruth. She was only 1 month and 10 days old, as recorded on the death record. Obviously, an error in calculating her age has occurred, as she was probably more like two months and 12 days old. Ruth could not have been born after her mother died! So, always be aware that mistakes are always made on recorded documents, even when the information is given with the truest of intentions.

For the 1900 census, Clark ESMOND lives with his son, William, and daughter-in-law, Anna, in Plainfield Township.

Clark ESMOND died from gastro enteritis on October 3, 1901. His obituary, which was printed in the Tawas Herald on October 11, 1901, reads as such: *"Ex-Sheriff Clark ESMOND, of Hale, died last Friday, at Welch's camp near Loon Lake where he was at work. He was taken ill with inflammation of the bowels early in the week and died very unexpectedly. The deceased was about 56 years of age and one of the pioneer residents of this county. He leaves one son and one daughter, besides other relatives and a large circle of acquaintances. The funeral was held on Sunday last."*

Edward Vincent ESMOND was the older brother to Clark. To keep his story brief, I will state that he was born on August 24, 1844 in New York. On May 7, 1868 he married Frances PARDEE in Parma, Jackson County, Michigan. Both Edward and Frances are buried in this plot. The couple had six children: Orlo, Maud, Jessie, Bertha, Charles, and Stacy. Stacy died from accidental drowning at the age of 15 and is buried here. Daughter Jessie was the first white child born in Plainfield Township; her birthdate is February 8, 1873. We will revisit Jessie later in this walk at the Stacy YAWGER gravesite.

Like his brother Clark, Edward was also a Civil War veteran. However, even more than that, Edward was a Civil War Confederate prisoner. He was taken prisoner at Lake Maurepas, Louisiana on April 12, 1863; was paroled on June 23, 1863; exchanged and

reported for duty on September 1, 1863; re-enlisted as a veteran on February 1, 1864, and was on board steamer Clara Bell when fired on and burned by a rebel battery on July 24, 1864. Edward was discharged at New Orleans, Louisiana on August 20, 1865.

A document, dated November 10, 1876, which was submitted to the government to certify the Homestead application of Edward ESMOND reads like this: *“We, Clark Esmond and Alonzo Knight, do solemnly swear that we have known Edward Esmond for 5 years last past; that he is head of a family consisting of a wife and four children, is a citizen of the United States; that he is an inhabitant of Lots 1 and 2 of SW ¼ of SE ¼ of section No. 18 in Township No 23 N of Range No 6 East and that no other person resided upon the said land entitled to the right of Homestead or Pre-emption.*

“That the said Edward Esmond entered upon and made settlement on said land on the 15th day of May, 1871, and has built a house thereon; log house 18 x 24 with a lean-to 12 x 24, shingle roof, 6 doors and 10 windows; a comfortable house to live in.”

“And has lived in the said house and made it his exclusive home from the 15th of May 1871 to the present time, and that he has, since said settlement, plowed, fenced, and cultivated about 3 acres of said land and has made the following improvements thereon, to wit: chopped 5 acres, built a log barn 16 x 20, set out 14 fruit trees, and dug a well.”

Edward V ESMOND was responsible for raising funds to establish the first public school of the township. Additionally, he established the first Sunday school and organized a society which eventually became responsible for erecting the First Baptist Church of Plainfield Township. He served on the education board of the township for many years and his life was one of continuous service to the community.

Without a doubt, the ESMOND brothers definitely had a positive impact on the early establishment and development of Plainfield Township.

Lauri:

- a. Will discuss the military markers at this site

Station 4: Isaac B NUNN

In an effort to save some time, I will read the well-written obituary of this influential man, which was printed in the Tawas Herald dated October 10, 1913.

“Rev I B Nunn of Hale Dies as Result of Fall”

“Rev Isaac B NUNN, a resident of Hale for the past twenty years, died Thursday evening, October 2, as a result of a fall which he sustained while working on a scaffold at the new house being erected by his son, Will Nunn. The old gentleman fell about 14 feet, striking his head and suffering a concussion of the brain from which he never regained consciousness.

“Isaac B NUNN was born in Brantford Ontario, June 24, 1837, and at the age of 14 removed to Carroll County, Missouri. He enlisted in the US Army on July 4, 1861 and served under Colonel Mulligan, participating in the important engagements in the west. He was mustered out of the service in the fall of 1862.

“He returned to Ontario in 1863 and was there united in marriage to Mary Ann HANSTEAD of Delhi, on January 20, 1864. They removed to Flint, Michigan in 1871.

“He was ordained in the Baptist ministry July 8, 1874, and as a minister has had charge of various churches throughout the state, preaching during that time 3,507 sermons. His last sermon was preached on December 3, 1911.

“He moved to Hale from Tuscola County on October 20, 1892, taking charge of the Hale Baptist Church, and has since resided there. During the latter part of his life he was engaged in farming.

“Deceased leaves to mourn his loss two daughters, five sons and five sisters, besides numerous friends.

“The funeral services were held at the Hale Baptist Church Sunday afternoon, October 5, with Rev O E Moffet officiating, and was largely attended. The Masonic fraternity, of which deceased was a member, conducted the service at the grave.

“The family of I B Nunn extend their heartfelt thanks to the friends and neighbors for the kindness and assistance extended them during their recent bereavement.”

Lauri:

- a. Handshake symbol on grave marker

Station 5: Jacob and Mina KOCHER

Jacob Henry KOCHER was born in Ohio on January 3, 1879. His funeral record states that he died in Traverse City on February 7, 1929. Most of what we know about him we can learn from the obituary of his wife, Mina.

Her obituary, which was printed in the Tawas Herald dated December 11, 1925, reads as follows.

“Mrs Jacob Henry KOCHER, wife of a well-known Hale merchant, died Friday, December 4 at her home after an illness of five weeks. Internal cancers were the cause of death. The funeral services were held Sunday, December 6 at the Hale Baptist Church. Interment was made in the Evergreen cemetery. Rev Joshua Roberts officiated.

“Mina Sadie Willey was born September 11, 1878 at Toledo, Ohio. On August 8, 1899 she was united in marriage to Jacob Henry KOCHER. Fourteen years ago Mr and Mrs Kocher came to Hale where Mr Kocher entered the mercantile business. During those years Mrs Kocher made many friends who are grieved at her death and will miss her.

“She is survived by the husband, three daughters, Wilma Henrietta Nunn, Bertha Eva Montgomery, and Eleanor Lurene Kocher, and one son, Charles Henry KOCHER, also her mother, Mrs Alice R Willey and one sister, Mrs Bertha Taylor, both of Toledo, Ohio.”

Lauri:

- a. Roses on both markers
- b. Family plot

Station 6: The HUNTON Brothers

Louis G and Frederick G HUNTON were probably born in or near Lowell, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. In the 1880 US census the two brothers are living there with their parents, Jonathan Granville and Sarah. At that time, Louis G was 5 years of age and his younger brother, Frederick, was 3. Their father was a hotelkeeper.

Louis G, sometimes spelled Lewis G, enlisted in the 6th Massachusetts Infantry on May 24, 1892. He mustered out on January 21, 1899. He was commissioned to 1st Lieutenant.

Fred G also served as a soldier of Co G 6th Regiment of the Massachusetts Infantry. He was commissioned to corporal.

Both brothers served in the Spanish-American War, which makes their story somewhat unique. This conflict between Spain and the US occurred from April 25 to August 12 of 1898. The main issue of the war was the independence of Cuba. Over 300,000 US men fought in the conflict, resulting in slightly over 3,000 casualties.

After the war, and at the time of the 1900 census, both boys returned home to reside with their parents, but they each have a wife living with them, too. They all still live in Lowell, Massachusetts.

Louis G HUNTON married Meribah LAWTON in Rhode Island on November 15, 1897, according to a marriage record found on familysearch.org.

The 1900 census states that the couple has been married for three years. Louis is a bookkeeper and Meribah is some sort of operator.

Also, in 1900 Fred G HUNTON has been married for two years to Mabel, maiden name unknown. She is a photographer and he works in a cotton mill as an operator.

Later, when the 1910 census was enumerated, Fred is divorced and Louis remains married, however a wife does not reside with him. The two boys still live under the same roof with their parents in Lowell at 263 Appleton Street. City directories disclose this information.

Sometime between 1910 and 1920, their father died. At the time of the 1920 census, Louis and Fred live with their mother Sarah, age 72. Louis is 44 and Fred is 42.

During a time of industrial advancements, the HUNTON brothers leave their home state of Massachusetts and move to Michigan to work in the automobile industry. In 1930, they are living in Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan. Louis claims to be married, however a wife is not living with him, and works as a clerk in a body manufacturing facility. Fred, a single man, is working as a machine operator in a foundry.

Undoubtedly, while working in Detroit, the brothers choose to purchase property in northern Michigan and move here to Plainfield Township upon retirement.

Fred was the first brother to die. As stated on his tombstone, he died on April 8, 1939. His funeral cost \$72.00, as the record was discovered in the Jud LITTLE funeral record collection in the HSGS library. The Jud LITTLE undertaking business was in Prescott. Part of the funeral costs was for a suit, underwear, stockings, and a tie. Now whether that payment was for the deceased or the bereaved is anyone's guess. Another interesting note about the funeral record is that the record is dated April 7, 1939; which is one day before the death date inscribed on his military marker.

Louis died on December 29, 1954. The brothers lie beside each other and their graves are marked with government-issue military markers, of which Lauri will describe.

Lauri:

- a. More on military markers
- b. Provide a statement to honor their military commitment

Station 7: Chief Sodney MAUKHAHKOOSH

Mary Hewitt, a member of the Plainfield Township Historical Commission, has volunteered to share a photo of Chief Sodney. Thanks, Mary, for sharing!

I will read a portion of the entry on Chief Sodney that Jean BELL entered in her book "Hale and Up the Tracks." This is a great writing on this area's most famous native American.

"His name Sodney meant Salt of the Earth.

"His father was Preacher John, a Methodist minister. He died when Sodney was young and Sodney went to live with a white family by the name of Adams.

"Sodney married a beautiful Indian girl from his own tribe and they had one daughter, Eliza.

"In 1908 at a Fourth of July celebration at Long Lake, there was a ceremony in Sodney's honor. Governor Warner conferred upon Sodney the title of "Honorary Chief of the Chippewas."

"At the ceremony, Sodney wore his beautiful white deerskin suit decorated with beadwork and porcupine quills which had been made by an Ottawa woman. His headdress was made with eagle feathers.

"He worked for the farmers and rode his horse to the various farms, where he helped with the harvest. He worked for many years on the Jennings farm.

"Sodney was one of the most beloved people in Hale. He made and sold baskets.

"The little home he owned in Hale was a workshop for his trade.

"Sodney seldom spoke of an Indian dying. The term was GONE WEST.

"Sodney became ill in 1929. His illness was never diagnosed and his exact age was not known. Shortly before his death, he called on his good friend, Fred Jennings, who also was terminally ill.

"He said, "Fred, we are best friends. Soon we will both GO WEST. When we go, I want to be buried next to you.

"It came about as he wished. His grave lies in the lot closest to the Jennings lot in the Esmond-Evergreen Cemetery in Hale.

“There was no money to pay for funeral expenses so merchants in town took up a collection for this and also erected a small marker on the grave.”

Lauri:

- a. Rocks at gravesite
- b. Many different spellings of his name

Station 8: Lavern IN THE TREE

Is he a SHELLNBARGER or an ATWELL??

After Lauri and I had photographed this entire cemetery, we were walking back through to see if we missed any tombstones. In this large tree, embedded in the roots, we discovered this small footstone marker. We referred to it as “Lavern in the Tree.” Until we searched for a record to substantiate exactly who Lavern was, we called him “Lavern in the Tree.”

I believe that the cemetery records did indicate that Lavern’s surname was SHELLNBARGER. But, of course, we wanted more documentation.

A death record for a person with this name did not exist at the county clerk’s office. There was nothing written in the local newspapers about a death of a Lavern in the Hale area. But, finally, Lauri discovered a Lavern Eugene SHELLNBARGER as a member of a SHELLNBARGER family tree on ancestry.com. The little bit of information accompanying this individual fit for our “Lavern in the Tree.”

Lavern Eugene SHELLNBARGER was the son of Jesse Leroy SHELLNBARGER and Elvira RILEY, who are both buried right here. Lavern was born January 23, 1926 and died April 2 of that same year. He was just slightly over 5 weeks of age. Supposedly, he died in Pinconning, Bay County, Michigan, so that is why a death record for him does not exist in this county.

Lauri will do this one.

Station 9: Charles T FOLLETTE

World War II was the deadliest military conflict in world history. Over 60 million people were killed, which was slightly over 2.5% of the world population at the time.

Technical Sgt Charles T FOLLETTE was one of those casualties.

Charles T FOLLETTE was the son of Edwin and Edna FOLLETTE. He had four years of high school under his belt when he enlisted in the US Army on April 25, 1941. FOLLETTE enlisted in Detroit, where he was working and living at the time. He claimed to have a semi-skilled machine shop trade occupation on his enlistment record.

FOLLETTE was killed in action on the island of Luzon, which is the largest island of the Philippines, on May 16, 1945. The conflict on Luzon lasted from December 18, 1944 until July 4, 1945. General Douglas MacArthur led the campaign on Luzon, for which he was both applauded and criticized. Casualties on both sides were staggering, both due to wartime fighting and disease.

Printed on the front page of the June 15, 1945 Tawas Herald was this article.

“Word has been received here of the death of Charles FOLLETTE of Hale, killed on Luzon in the Philippine Islands, May 16.

“He was the son of the late Mr and Mrs E B FOLLETTE, prominent Plainfield Township residents.

“He had taken part in many of the engagements for the islands in the Pacific area up to and including the Philippine campaign and had been wounded four times.

“He has two brothers in the service, Lyle, in the Pacific area and Gilbert, in Italy. He also has two other brothers, John and Paul, and a sister, Mrs Luella WANDREY, all of Detroit.”

Printed in the Hale social column, with no title or heading, in the November 1, 1945 issue was this short article, which tells more about his death, burial, and service.

“Word has been received that Gilbert FOLLETTE who is with a Construction Battalion in Luzon happened upon the grave of his brother, T/Sgt Charles FOLLETTE, in the American Cemetery at Santa Barbara, Pangasinan province, Luzon, Philippines. Sgt FOLLETTE was killed in action on May 16, 1945. His company was successfully holding strategic positions atop an important hill. Enemy snipers hidden caves on adjoining hills continued to harass the company. Charles, attempting to locate one such sniper, was struck in the chest by rifle fire causing instantaneous death. He was buried with the ritual and honor by his Protestant chaplain. His grave is plainly marked and registered so as to insure preservation of identity.”

We honor and acknowledge Tech/Sargeant Charles T FOLLETTE today for his bravery and service to our military and for sacrificing his life for the betterment of our own.

This is a picture gathered from an online source of the chapel at the American Cemetery in the Philippines, where Sgt FOLLETTE is buried.

Lauri:

- a. Discrepancy of birthdates on two different tombstones
- b. Monuments without body

Station 10: KEITH and LINDSAY Misspellings

Lauri will discuss this topic.

Why does this happen?

Just because it is etched in stone does not mean that it is correct!

Station 11: Aaron and Augusta SHELLNBARGER

Sometimes, while researching family and/or local history, interesting stories rise from the mounds of records very unexpectedly. Such is the case with Aaron SHELLNBARGER and Augusta SHELLNBARGER.

According to census records, a SHELLNBARGER family history that is on-line, and several other documents, Aaron and Augusta have the same grandfather. His name was Abraham SHELLNBARGER. I will attempt to make their story as uncomplicated to understand as possible.

Grandfather Abraham and his wife Dorthy DOYLE had eight children. Of those eight children, one was named Abraham, which we will refer to as Abraham 2, and another was Aaron, which we will refer to as Aaron 2.

Abraham 2 married Rachel METCALF. Among their children was a son Aaron, which we will call Aaron 3. This is the man that is buried here.

Aaron 2, who is a brother to Abraham 2, married Elizabeth KNAPP. Among their children was a daughter. Her name was Augusta Jane. She is buried here, beside her husband, Aaron 3. Logically, that makes Aaron 3 and Augusta Jane first cousins, because they both have the same grandfather.

Today, most of us immediately think that marriage between cousins is taboo and inappropriate. Basically, we think that because laws prohibit marriage between first cousins in 25 states. However, six other states allow marriage between first cousins, but only under certain circumstances. I never really knew this, but many famous Americans did marry their cousin, including Thomas Jefferson, Jesse James, Edgar Allen Poe, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Franklin D Roosevelt. Even the famous English naturalist and biologist, Charles Darwin, married his first cousin, as did the famous German-born physicist, Albert Einstein. And, even Queen Victoria married her first cousin!

On another interesting note, not one country in Europe prohibits marriage between first cousins today!

During the 1800s, marriage between first cousins was quite common, and very legal prior to the Civil War.

Aaron SHELLNBARGER and Augusta Jane SHELLNBARGER were married on February 3, 1878 in Gratiot County, Michigan. Both died in 1919.

Aaron died first. The date on his death record is January 6, 1919. He was 64 years 5 months and 23 days of age. Cause of death was inflammatory rheumatism. His parents are

listed as Abraham SHELLNBARGER and Rachel METCALF. His obituary was printed in the January 17, 1919 Tawas Herald.

“Death of Aaron Shellenbarger: The community was saddened Monday by news of the death of Aaron Shellenbarger, who has been sick two weeks, with rheumatism following an attack of influenza. He has lived on his farm two miles north of Hale for many years, and has a large circle of friends throughout the county. He leaves a widow, four sons, Captain, William, Irvin and Jesse, all of Hale, and two daughters, Mrs Wilson of Tawas City and Mrs Charles Taulker of Lansing to mourn his demise. Funeral services were held at the home Wednesday at 10:30 am. Burial at Evergreen cemetery.

“Aaron Shellenbarger was born in Indiana on July 23, 1854. His parents moved to Michigan in 1861. He was wedded to Miss Augusta Knapp on February 3, 1878. He is survived by his wife, six children, four boys and two girls, three brothers and one sister. The deceased passed away on January 6, 1919.”

Obviously, Augusta and Aaron attempted to conceal some of their biological relationship. On the death record of Augusta, her mother is listed as Elizabeth Knapp, which is true, but the father portion of the record is blank. This alone puts up a red flag for any genealogist, as omitting the name of the father surely indicates that there is “more to the story.”

Anyhow, Augusta was 59 years 2 months and 19 days of age upon her death. She died on December 9, 1919.

Lauri:

- a. Original marker and newer marker
- b. Unique stone at gravesite

Station 12: Samuel R SCOFIELD

Samuel SCOFIELD was the son of Jacob, who was also sometimes called Jackson SCOFIELD, and Elizabeth SHEPPHERD. He died on May 10, 1923 and was laid to rest right here. I will share his story by reading his obituary, which was printed in the Tawas Herald on May 18, 1923.

“Samuel R SCOFIELD, who was born at Venice, Ohio on December 23, 1857, passed from this life on May 11, 1923 at his home in Hale, age 65 years four months and 18 days.

“When a small boy his parents moved to southern Michigan where in 1880 he was married to Mary A GROSE. To this union eight children were born, seven sons and one daughter. Four children have preceded him---three in infancy and Deo in 1916. Those who survive him to mourn his loss are a widow; three sons, Thurman and Ulam of Hale, Moscoe of Temperance, Michigan; and one daughter, Ida, of Toledo, Ohio; 15 grandchildren, two brothers, two sisters, and many other relatives.

“In 1906, Mr SCOFIELD moved his family to Hale where he lived on his farm until four years ago. At that time he built a little home in the village and has since resided there.

“His illness of several months taught us a lesson of patience and his anxiety to depart this life proved his faith in the great promises revealed in The Bible.

“The funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at the residence. B D JOHNSON, an old time friend and Christian brother from Toledo, Ohio, officiated. Interment was made in the Evergreen Cemetery.”

Mr SCOFIELD was prepared for burial from the Evans-King funeral service in Tawas City. He was buried in a 6'3" gray casket manufactured by Weidemor and Tindem. His funeral cost \$155.00.

Lauri:

- a. Four footstones that include names, dates, and symbols; kind of unusual

Station 13: Laurel V SHERMAN

The tombstone of this man obviously describes his death---“Drowned while working on Bamfield Dam, AuSable River.” Of course, we can easily calculate that Laurel SHERMAN was a young man, only 20 years old when he died in 1924.

However, to know those little tid-bits of information only made Lauri and I yearn for more details to the life and death of this man.

Laurel SHERMAN is first found on the 1910 census for Plainfield Township. At the time of this census he is living with his parents, Harry and Clarace, and three brothers---Floyd, Oren, and Arlie. Laurel is six years old.

For the 1920 census Laurel is residing in Reno Township of Iosco County. Once again, he is living with his parents and three brothers. Oren and Arlie still live at home, but a younger brother has been added to the family. His name is Dell. Laurel is listed as 15 years of age in this census.

The Bamfield Dam is also called the Alcona Dam. Construction of this dam, which is situated on the AuSable River near Curtisville, began in 1914. When WWI erupted, the dam construction was halted. Construction began again in 1921 and was completed in 1924. The dam was built by Consumers Power, who also built houses near the worksite in which employees lived. Wages were 40 cents per hour and shifts were 10-12 hours per day. There are some amazing photos of the construction of this dam on the website curtisvillehistory.com.

After tirelessly searching the Iosco papers for an article of his death or an obituary, and not finding one, Lauri and I headed to Harrisville looking for an article in the Alcona County Review. However short, we did find something that makes the story of this man more complete.

Printed on the front page of the July 24, 1924 edition of the Alcona County Review was this:

“Young Man Drowned at Bamfield Dam: A young man named Sherman, 20 years old, whose parents live in Taft, was drowned Wednesday afternoon while bathing at Bamfield Dam.”

Lauri will do this one???

Station 14: Glenn P STALEY

The WWI draft registration card for Glenn P STALEY provides a great description of this man. Dated June 25, 1917, the card tells us that he resides in Hale, Michigan. He was born October 25, 1895 in Stanwood, Michigan. He was a natural-born citizen of the US. At the time, he works as a foreman and laborer for the Eastern Michigan Power Company and is employed in Reno Township. He is a single man. His appearance is described as tall, medium build, having blue eyes and blonde hair. STALEY registered for the draft in Hale.

World War I involved the greatest powers of the world and killed nearly ten million people. The basic cause of this Great War, as it was often referred, was a balance of power between the European nations. All of the world's greatest powers assembled in two opposing alliances. The dates of this war are July 28, 1914 until November 11, 1918.

Even though America was involved on the sea and in the air, American troops did not enter Europe on land until the summer of 1918. The British and French wanted the United States to send its infantry to reinforce their troops already on the battlelines. Indeed, throughout the war, the American forces were short of their own artillery, aviation, and engineering units. However, General John J PERSHING, American Expeditionary Force (AEF) commander, resisted breaking up American units and using them as reinforcements for the British Empire and French units. Without experience in this type of warfare, PERSHING ordered the use of frontal assaults, which had been discarded by that time by the British and French, as they thought the maneuver would be too costly for their troops. As a result, the AEF suffered a very high rate of casualties in its operations in the summer and fall of 1918.

Michigan Corporal Glenn P STALEY was killed in action as a soldier of the AEF on September 17, 1918. His obituary was released in the November 15, 1918 issue of the Tawas Herald.

“Corporal Glenn STALEY, a former employee of the Reo Truck Company, was “killed in action” September 17 last in Siberia. So far as is known Corp STALEY is the first Lansing man to die in that country.

“Corporal STALEY was a member of the 85th Division to Camp Custer last June, leaving there in July.

“He is survived by his wife, father, mother, seven brothers and sisters, one of whom, Mrs N J GETSO lives in Lansing at 1410 Reo Avenue, Lansing Exchange.

“Corporal STALEY was a son of Mr and Mrs Francis E STALEY of Hale. He was born near Big Rapids, Mecosta County, on October 25, 1894. He came to Hale with his parents about ten years ago, where he made his home until his marriage.

“He was married in December 1917 to Miss Alma Lindsay of Whittemore, and the young couple made their home in Lansing, where Glenn was employed.

“Besides the bereaved wife he leaves to mourn his death his father and mother, two brothers and five sisters.

“While the pain of loss is keen these loved ones will always have the memory that their husband, so, and brother died heroically in a worthy cause and that his service for the cause of humanity will not be forgotten.”

The American Legion Post 422, located on west Main Street in Hale, was organized during the latter part of 1945. Active organizers were James SABIN, a WWI veteran, and Earl BIELBY, Harold DORCEY, and Kenneth ORMEROD, all veterans of WWII.

American Legion Post 422 honors the life of a man who so courageously fought for his country and honors him today by naming it after Glenn STALEY. A photo of STALEY hangs on the north wall of the American Legion hall.

Lauri:

- a. Crossed rifles on the marker
- b. AEF on tombstone
- c. Another type of military marker

Station 15: John G WESTERVELT

According to his application for a marriage license, John G WESTERVELT was the son of Jacob WESTERVELT and Roxena WAKEFIELD. Any of you who attended the Reno Cemetery Walk last September may recall that we talked about the Wakefield sisters, who once owned the Sand Lake Hotel and Restaurant at the turn of the last century.

Anyhow, John WESTERVELT married May C FALLS sometime after November 19, 1894. A license for marriage was issued on that date, but never returned to the Iosco County courthouse for recording.

An obituary for this man was printed in the Tawas Herald on April 1, 1927. It reads like this:

“John Garfield WESTERVELT was born in Hartland, Livingston County, Michigan on September 27, 1844 and departed this life on March 19, 1927, the cause of death being angina pectoris.

“He had been a resident of Iosco County for more than 50 years and of Reno Township for 21 years, having successfully followed the occupations of blacksmith, farmer, and merchant. He has also held various offices of trust in the community.

“In the passing of John WESTERVELT at his home in Reno on Saturday, the community has lost a well-respected citizen, noted for strict honesty in all his dealings.

“He was a faithful friend, a loving and kind father and husband, and he will be sadly missed. The bereaved family have the sympathy of their many friends.

“The funeral was held Tuesday from the Hale M E Church and interment was made in the Hale cemetery.

“Those who came from a distance to attend the funeral were Mr and Mrs Charles WESTERVELT, daughter and son, Blanche and Robert, of Lennon, Mr and Mrs William GLENDENIN, Elmer and Elizabeth GLENDENIN, and Mrs and Mrs _____ BOOMER, all of Flint.”

Lauri:

- a. Will demonstrate cleaning a tombstone here
- b. Symbols on this marker

Station 16: STAPLES and ARMSTRONG

The STAPLES and the ARMSTRONGs were “through the woods” neighbors, for the lack of a better term. Both couples were also very active in the M E Church in Hale; in fact, the ARMSTRONGs were charter members of that church.

Our research leads us to those conclusions about their relationship. Certainly, if anyone can show us how the two couples are biologically related, we would welcome your comments and insight.

An obituary for Thomas STAPLES was published in the November 13, 1925 issue of the Tawas Herald. I will read it.

“Aged Plainfield Man is Dead: Thomas STAPLES, age 91 years, passed away Thursday, November 5, at his home at Hale. He had been a resident of Plainfield Township for the past 26 years. The funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at the M E Church, Rev David Shugg of Whittemore officiated. He is survived by a widow and four brothers, John, William, George, and Samuel, all of Canada.

“Thomas STAPLES was born in Canada, March 26, 1834. In 1865 he went to Pennsylvania where he was united in marriage to Tilla ANDERSON at Oil City in 1872. Mr and Mrs STAPLES came to Plainfield Township about 26 years ago where they owned a farm about two miles from Hale until a few years ago when Mr STAPLES health began to fail, and they removed to the village of Hale.

“In his earlier days Mr STAPLES followed sailing on the Great Lakes and later spent a number of years in the oil fields of Pennsylvania.

“Mr STAPLES was a man of sterling character and was highly esteemed by his many friends and neighbors who deeply sympathize with Mrs STAPLES in her bereavement.”

Mrs Tillia STAPLES died of cardiac failure on November 28, 1930 in Plainfield Township. She was 79 years 9 months and 16 days of age. She and her husband, Thomas, never had any children.

Ezra and Mary ARMSTRONG also did not have any children. The ARMSTRONGs owned a long parcel of 120 acres in section 14 of Plainfield Township between this cemetery and Hale on the north side of Esmond Road. The STAPLES’ owned 80 acres due north of the ARMSTRONGs in section 11 off of what is now Webb Road.

I will share with you the obituary for Ezra ARMSTRONG, which was printed in the Tawas Herald dated July 21, 1939.

“Ezra A ARMSTRONG, highly esteemed resident of Plainfield Township for the past 40 years, died last Sunday at the home of Mrs S B YAWGER at Hale. The deceased was nearly 93 years of age.

“Ezra A ARMSTRONG, son of David and Mary ARMSTRONG, was born December 28, 1846 in West Moreland County, Pennsylvania and when a small boy the family moved to Monroe County, Michigan. On December 1, 1869 he was married to Mary SLICK at Lambertville, Michigan. During the late nineties when many Monroe County residents were settling in western Iosco County, Mr and Mrs ARMSTRONG moved to Hale, where they resided for the remainder of their lives. In 1919 Mr and Mrs ARMSTRONG celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Four years later Mrs ARMSTRONG passed away. Since that time Mr ARMSTRONG has been gradually failing in health.

“In his earlier years, Mr ARMSTRONG worked as a blacksmith and wagon maker. He operated a shop at Samaria and other places in Monroe County. While at Hale he spent much of his active life as a carpenter and cabinet maker. Many of the homes and business places at Hale and in Plainfield Township were built by his hands.

“Early in their married lives, Mr and Mrs ARMSTRONG became members of the Methodist church. They were charter members of the Hale Methodist church, of which he had the distinction of being the oldest living member.

“After Mrs ARMSTRONG’s death, Mr ARMSTRONG made his home with the SHATTUCK family. Edna, now Mrs YAWGER, caring for him the past ten years, and through the last weeks of illness, along with her husband, doing all they could to ease his suffering and in ministering to his comfort.

“The funeral was conducted from the Hale Methodist Church at two o’clock Tuesday afternoon. Rev Howard C WATKINS, pastor of the church, officiating. Interment was made in the Hale cemetery.”

Lauri:

- a. Many names for this cemetery: Esmond-Evergreen, Hale, Plainfield
- b. Unique tombstone because the two couples were not related by blood, as far as we know

Station 17: Ira Mansfield PEMBER

Ira M PEMBER is another individual we would like some help with. Perhaps I should say that the part of him we need help with is the one word on his grave marker. That word is *ARTIST*.

We wanted to desperately find something that warranted that word being on his tombstone, but we could not find anything. So, once again, if anyone in the crowd today can help us with that, we certainly would appreciate it.

Well, anyhow, this is what we know about Ira PEMBER. He was born on February 21, 1878 or 1879 in the village of Bradner in Montgomery Township of Wood County, Ohio. His parents were Dallas PEMBER and Martha Elizabeth JACKSON. Martha PEMBER died here in Plainfield Township in June of 1930 and is buried close to Ira. Dallas, his father, died in Helena, Ohio in 1922.

Ira PEMBER, a single man, registered for the WWI draft here in Hale on September 12, 1918. His card states that he was a farmer of medium height and medium build with blue eyes and brown hair.

PEMBER married two times, and had one child from each marriage. His first wife was Clara ELY and his second wife was Eura Mae FOUT.

Ira Mansfield PEMBER died on November 30, 1959 in Hale. An obituary was not found.

Lauri:

- a. Self-designed tombstone possibly
- b. Self-proclaimed artist

Station 18: MAJESTIC WHITE PINE

Now if you want to believe this you can, and if you are skeptical, I understand.

Whenever Lauri and I visited this cemetery while preparing for this walk we admired this stately white pine. We really wondered just how old it was and if anyone really planted it here purposefully in this cemetery.

I had read somewhere that one does not need to cut down a tree to determine its age. One can make a fairly good estimate of a tree's age by using a simple formula tested and published by the International Society of Arboriculture.

Step One is to determine the diameter of the tree in inches measured at 54 inches above ground level. This tree measured eleven feet and six inches, or 138 inches.

Step Two is to divide that number by 3.14, or pi, to get the diameter. That number was 43.95.

Step Three is to multiply that number by the growth factor for the given species of tree. The growth factor for white pine (which is our state tree, by the way) is 5. Of course, this equation is really meant for forest grown trees, which this tree is not. Another similar equation states that the growth factor for white pine is 4.5.

But, anyhow, the next number one gets, when using a growth factor of 5, is 219.75, or almost 220 years old! If a growth factor of 4.5 is used the answer is 198.

That means that this tree has been here since the early 1800s! Is that possible, perhaps. Is that probable, maybe.

Want to know something even more coincidental?? Last year my husband and I measured the white pine tree at the Saints Cemetery south of Whittemore. It measured nearly identical to this tree!

What do you all think??

Station 19: CART PATHS

Lauri will talk about these important by-ways in historic cemeteries.

Station 20: Nelson and Asenath GRAVES

I will read the obituary for Asenath GRAVES, which was printed in the Tawas Herald of May 16, 1913.

“Asenath Ann HARRIS was born in Warren County, New York, in 1844. She moved to Linden, Michigan with her parents when 10 years of age. She died April 29, 1913 at the age of 68 years 9 months and 7 days. She was united in marriage to Nelson GRAVES of Fenton Township of Genessee County in 1864. To this union three children were born---John J and Charles Elmer of Hale and Mrs Ella May LOVE, who departed this life in 1892. (Recall that was the Ella May who was married to Charles David LOVE back in station number two.)

“With her husband she moved to Hale in 1886. She was one of the pioneer residents. Besides the husband and children she leaves one sister, Mrs Sarah BURT of West Branch, and one brother, Martin J HARRIS, of Linden, Michigan. Also seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, besides a host of relatives and friends who mourn her loss. She was a faithful wife and a loving mother.”

Nelson GRAVES was born in Genesee County, Michigan on June 3, 1839, according to his death certificate. According to a census record from 1850 his parents were Matthew and Norvilla, which might be also Rosilla. Nelson was a farmer and served as Plainfield Township supervisor from 1889 to 1891.

When the mid-1800s censuses of Genesee County were enumerated, the GRAVES families were neighbors to the HARRIS families. Without a doubt, that is how Nelson and Asenath knew each other.

Nelson GRAVES died in Plainfield Township from old age on February 2, 1917, according to his death record. His tombstone, as best as we could read, states the year as 1916. His age, as recorded on his death record, was 77 years 7 months and 30 days.

Lauri:

- a. Family marker is backwards from personal markers ???
- b. Dove
- c. Gate
- d. Book

Station 21: David and Emeliza LOVE

This is the station of David and Emeliza LOVE. Let's start their story by telling you where they lived.

David and Emeliza LOVE owned an 80-acre parcel of land in section 23 of this township. That property is located at the northwest corner at the intersection of Curtis and Towerline Roads. Charles David, their son, who we spotlighted in station 2, owned and lived on the 80-acre parcel across the road (Curtis Road) from his father. Charles' farm was in section 26 and on the south side of Curtis Road. John was Charles' older brother, and he lived on and owned 40 acres west of Charles on what is now Curtis Road.

I will allow the obituary of David LOVE to tell his story. This was printed in the Tawas Herald of August 21, 1914.

"David W LOVE: Died August 10, 1914, aged 81 years 1 month and 13 days, at his farm in Plainfield Township near Hale, Michigan.

"He was born in Leon township, Cattaraugus County, New York state, June 28, 1833. He came to Tyrone, Livingston county, Michigan in 1839 when a small boy.

"He was married to Miss Emmaliza WESTERVELT (remember that name; she was a brother to John WESTERVELT from station 15) of Tyrone, Michigan on January 1, 1854, moving to Iosco County in October 1871. He settled on the present farm in 1883, and leaves a wife, two sons, near relations and friends to mourn his loss.

"The funeral service was held from the Baptist Church in Hale, Rev Fox officiating, and the deceased was laid to rest August 12, 1914 in Plainfield Cemetery."

A resolution of respect followed his obituary in the paper. The resolution was from the Grange Number 1063, of which Mr LOVE was a member at the time of his death.

The obituary for Emmaliza LOVE was printed in the Tawas Herald dated September 24, 1915.

"Death of Mrs LOVE: Emmaliza WESTERVELT was born in Dearborn Township, Wayne County, Michigan on October 3, 1835, and was married to David LOVE of Tyrone, Michigan in Livingston County, on January 1, 1854. They lived in Tyrone 16 years and then moved to Tawas, Iosco County in the year 1871 and have lived in Iosco County ever since. There are left to mourn her death two sons, John J LOVE and Charles D LOVE, both of Hale; two daughters-in-law; seven grandchildren; one brother; two sisters and two great-grandchildren, all living in Iosco County except one sister who lives in Parishville, Livingston county, Michigan. There also are other relatives and many friends.

“Her age was 79 years 11 months and 12 days. She passed away at her home in Hale September 15, 1915 and was laid to rest in Hale cemetery on September 18, 1915.”

Lauri:

- a. Drapes on monument
- b. Book on monument
- c. Gates on monument

Station 22: Stacy Barecroft YAWGER

We are going to change it up here a bit. I will read the obituary, and Lauri will complete the profile of this important man, as she has family connections to him.

As printed in the Iosco County News on August 24, 1950:

“Former Hale P M, Banker Died on August 17; Stacy B YAWGER, 85, Ill Six Months: Funeral services were held Sunday for Stacy B YAWGER, 85, of Hale, who died Thursday at his home after a six-month illness.

“He was born in Union Springs, New York on November 1, 1864 and married the late Jessie ESMOND (remember that name; she was the daughter of E V ESMOND and his wife Frances) on May 31, 1894. She died in 1934. In 1937 he married he former Miss Edna SHATTUCK, who survives.

“A carpenter by trade he had lived in Hale since 1885. He at one time served as president of the first Hale bank and was postmaster here during President Cleveland’s administration.

“Surviving are his widow; two daughters, Mrs Glenwood STREETER of Hale, and Mrs Arthur JOHNSON of Whittemore; and three grandchildren.

“Funeral services were held at 2:30 o’clock at the Baptist church. The Rev John B KERR and the Rev Roland BROOKS officiated and burial made in the Hale cemetery.”

Lauri:

- a. The man and his trade

Station 23: “John DOE”

Esmond-Evergreen Cemetery sexton Tate SHELLNBARGER will tell how the body of JOHN DOE was discovered and uncovered.

Lauri will share her theories about who she thinks JOHN DOE might be and how and why he was buried here.

Station 24: POTTER’S FIELD

A potter’s field is an American term for a place for burial of unknown or indigent people. The expression derives from the Bible, referring to a field used for the extraction of potter’s clay, which was useless for agriculture but could be used as a burial site.

The term comes from Matthew 27:3-10 in the New Testament, in which Jewish priests take 30 pieces of silver returned by a remorseful Judas.

“Then what the prophet Jeremiah had said came true: “They took the thirty silver coins, the amount the people of Israel had agreed to pay for him, and used the money to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord had commanded me.”

In your program is a list of the burials here in this Potter’s Field, as according to the cemetery records. I did find death records for 4 of those individuals and found two excerpts in the newspapers, which I will read.

The first pertains to Charles Oliver, who died March 30, 1903 from tuberculosis. He was a single farmer, with many “unknowns” written on his death certificate.

“Charles Oliver died at his home near Londo Lake, last Monday, of consumption. His remains were taken to his old home at Findlay, Ohio Wednesday for interment.”

So, for this man, we have a death record that says he is buried here and a newspaper article that says he was taken elsewhere for his burial.

I will continue, by telling you about Robert McGuire, who died on March 31, 1907. This was printed in the Tawas Herald dated April 5, 1907.

“Robert McGuire a well-known and eccentric character around Hale and South Branch for many years, was found dead about a mile and a half north of here last Monday morning. A justice impaneled a jury and viewed the remains, but decided an inquest was not necessary, as death was evidently caused by exposure. The deceased was one of the first settlers in our

village, but for several years past has lived the life of a recluse on a small island in Little Long Lake. The funeral was held from the Baptist church Tuesday and the remains interred in the Hale Lake cemetery.”

The death record of Robert McGuire states that he died from senility and exposure to cold. A contributing factor to his death was alcoholism. His age was unknown.

Lauri:

- a. More about a Potter’s Field

CONCLUSION

Lauri can introduce Jerry HEWITT, president of the Plainfield Township Historical Commission who will do the conclusion of the program.

- Jerry:
1. plug for PTHC
 2. this cemetery walk narrative will be on the PTHC website
 3. would like participants in today’s walk to complete the evaluation
 4. thanks for coming
 5. read poem “Dear Ancestor” which is on back of program