

# CASS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter November 20

## NOVEMBER MTG: THURSDAY, 14

Changes, changes, changes and one of them is the change for the meeting to the second Thursday of the month rather than the third. Mark November 14 at 1 pm on your calendar to be at the Atlantic Public Library. Although meeting places will change into the new year, Cass County Genealogical Society will continue to meet.

LaVon

### Dates to know

Now until 14<sup>th</sup>: stop by to box and stack.

Nov. 14: Work time begins at 10 am.

1 pm. Business meeting

Room closed to visitors

Nov. 20: All packing complete

Dec. 2: Move desks before this date

Dec. 2 to Feb. 28: Library will be closed sometime between these dates.

Feb. 28: Room should be ready for furniture installation. Two new desks will be purchased.

### FOR SALE

Glenna Thompson is marketing excess items for sale on Facebook. So far 21 Javelins and two filing cabinets have been claimed. Next on the list are a variety of books. She will take some photos and make a list of titles.

Finally two desks, two metal shelves and several small miscellaneous things will be advertised. One of them is a heavy duty three-hole punch.

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*Discovering Your Roots* DVD program will be available for check out by members and other genealogy groups from the Library.

## WHERE AND WHEN THEY SERVED

Mary finds rather unusual news stories then she researches and adds interesting information about people. Her story on page 2 includes some wars where soldiers served.

If you know the dates of all of these wars, you should be a participant on Jeopardy. I hadn't even heard of some of them.

The War of 1812 was a conflict between the U.S. and the UK prompted by restrictions on U.S. trade resulting from the British blockade of French and allied ports during the Napoleonic Wars. A side effect was that it helped establish Canada's path towards becoming an independent and free country united under the Crown with a respect for linguistic and ethnic diversity.

The Black Hawk War was a brief conflict (April to August) in 1832 between the United States and Native Americans led by Chief Black Hawk. He crossed the Mississippi River into the state of Illinois from Iowa Indian Territory.

There were three different conflicts between the U.S. and the Seminole Indians of Florida: 1817-18, 1835-42, 1855-58.

The Mexican-American War was a conflict between the U. S. and Mexico 1846-1848. It was a result of the annexation of Texas which was not recognized by Mexico.

The Spanish-American War was in 1898. Remember the Maine! The conflict resulted in the U.S. acquisition of territories in the western Pacific and Latin America ending Spanish colonial rule in the Americas.

The American Civil War years were 1861-1865.

The Civil War was the bloodiest war ever fought by the United States. More lives were lost in it than in all other American wars combined, from the Revolutionary War to the Korean War.

World War I started on July 28, 1914 but the U.S. did not enter until April 6, 1917. It ended on November 11, 1918 formally on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month. You recognize that as Veterans' Day every year.

Note from Mary

**OLD SOLDIERS WHO  
DIED DURING 1913**

The opening of the year 1914 sees the number of old soldiers in this city and vicinity lessened by eight, whose deaths occurred within the year 1913. Those who passed away during the past year are John Eller, at the age of 83 years, his death occurring on January 3rd, 1913; Noah Guessford, who passed away on May 24th, 1913, at the age of 83 years; William McGeehon, who was killed on July 2, 1913, near Findlay, Ohio, at the age of 75 years; Joseph St. Louis, whose demise came on January 7, 1913, at the age of 69 years; T. G. Steinko, who died March 21st, 1913, at the age of 71 years; A. A. Wise, who passed away on June 15th, 1913; John Colter, who died at the age of 79 years on August 6, 1913, and Radph K. Okell, whose death at Lewis occurred at the age of 75 years on November 16, 1913.

Atlantic News Telegraph January 7, 1914

Since November is the month we honor veterans I decided to investigate and see what information I might find on a few of these gentlemen who died during the year of 1913.

**Ralph K. Okell**, was born in England on Nov. 11, 1838 and died at Lewis on Nov 16, 1913. At the age of 18 he came to the United States settled in Chicago before locating at Denmark, Iowa where he enlisted in Company L, 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteer Cavalry and served for over four years. Soon after the war he moved to Lewis, where he married Frances E Hopley. After her passing he married Mrs. Alica Worthington in 1886 in Lewis. Mr. Okell is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery.

The following from a Findlay OH paper and reprinted in The Atlantic News Telegraph July 8, 1913. **William McGeehon**, 75 years old, thought to be from the National Soldiers' Home at Leavenworth, Kas. Was almost instantly killed about 11:30 O'clock last evening, when he was dragged under an eastbound Nickel Plate passenger train at Mortimer. He had evidently been asleep for he did not

attempt to alight until the train had started to leave the station. He slipped and fell under the tracks of the heavy Pullman car, his right leg being severed from the body near the thigh, and the left one badly crushed. An army discharge, from Harrisburg, PA., showed him to be fourth corporal in Co. I. 134<sup>th</sup> Penn. Vol. Infantry. Interment will be in the Atlantic Cemetery.

**January 6, 1913: In the passing of Uncle John Eller** Cass county loses a man who was true in every relation in life and who was loved by all who knew him. He was of the sturdy stuff of which pioneers were made, and yet kindly and considerate in all things. The world owes much to him and to the men who were his compatriots in peopling this part of the west. They laid its foundations strong and deep and Uncle John Eller lived to see the splendid superstructure of today reared upon them. He passed to his reward "like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him and lies down to pleasant dreams."

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While scanning the Armed Forces Grave Registrations I found the following men who served during either the **Spanish American War** or the **Mexican War**: **Edward F Brown, David Chapman, Charles W Clardy, James Cline, John C. Craig, Frank Hanton, D. H. Hemphill, Henry John Hoffman, William H. Irving, Hugh Krafft, Guy Lowman, Ellery Ellsworth Mills, John J. Rapp, Alexander C. Roe, Frederick A. Roe, Fred Schrier, Charles H. Scott, Dee M. Scriven, Samuel L. Sprouse, George H. Stafford, James Stapleton, Frank H. Temple and John Ward.**

**David Chapman served both the War of 1812 and Mexican War. Richard Cotter served during The War of 1812, Thomas H. Hardenbergh served in the Seminole (FL) War. James Scovill served both during the Blackhawk War and the Civil War.** I have been researching James Scovill and he was born in MO in 1840 so I don't think he was in the Blackhawk War. I wonder if there was some confusion and it was instead his father Benjamin Scovill.