

Houghton Keweenaw County Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 72
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From the Desk of the President

November 2017

Welcome once again to my annual update of the Societies activities. As we go into our 19th year the Society has made several changes which we hope will benefit the membership.

The biggest change is that we now have Paypal up and running. For those who wish to renew their annual membership, make a donation or purchase a publication they can do so on line at our website ~ HKCGS.org. We also put the newspaper index for the years 1915, 16 and 17 in our members only section of our online data and started putting the early Tree Climber publications on line.

Vice President, Doug Terrell, who maintains our online calendar and organizes our monthly meetings, is currently working with the Portage Lake District Library to put our public data bases and records on their computer in the History section. He also keeps track of our volunteers at the Carnegie Museum. Volunteers Rae Louise Matson, Ruth Gleckler and Doug cover their Saturday hours and a big thanks to them for doing that.



After fourteen months we completed cleaning and rehousing the Hanchette and Lawton Law Records for the Keweenaw National Historical Park and now are working on a name index and are half way through the thirty-four boxes. These records start in 1866 and end in 1958. There are a few records in the early years but the majority run from the late 1870's to 1908. From then until 1958 they are all wills.



Photo's courtesy of the Keweenaw National Historical Park

Through the sales of the "Families Left Behind" book which pertained to the 1913 Italian Hall disaster we were able to donate \$4,660 to the memorial being erected. It was due to be installed this fall but they ran into a glitch. When the granite was inspected it had some unacceptable flaws in it and new granite had to be ordered. Since the granite takes three months to arrive it has delayed the installation until next spring.

A former member, Ken Gardner, recently passed away and his family donated twenty-eight boxes of his genealogy work to the Society. So, our next project will be sorting, digitizing and rehousing the collection. The majority of these records are French Canadian and Lake Linden families.

Enjoy researching
Avis West, President