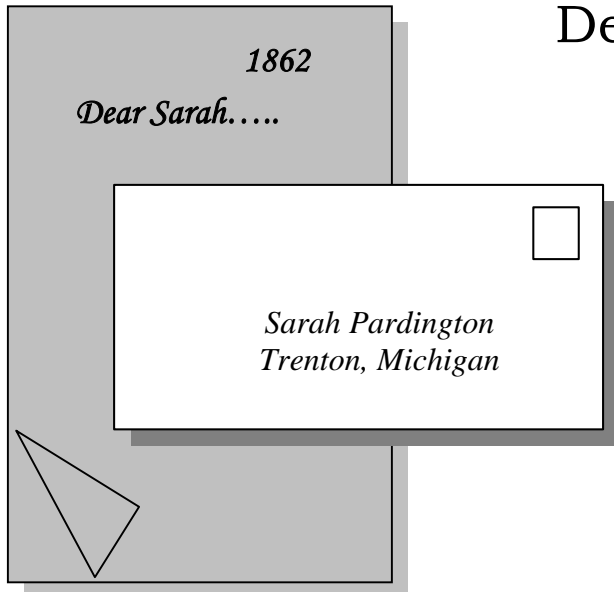


# WINDOW TO THE PAST

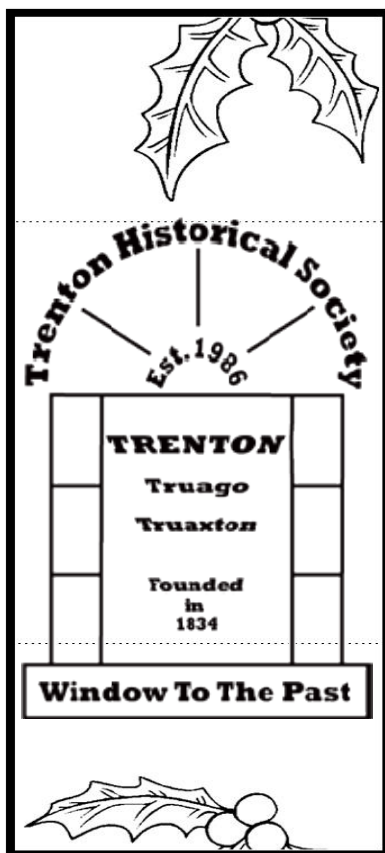
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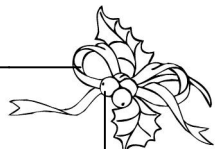
December 2010

Dear Sarah.....

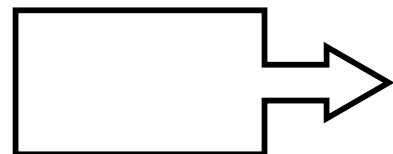


New Genealogy Website  
Research Help  
Be in the know about where to go!



- 
- 2011 Calendars
  - Trenton Tidbits
  - Future Speakers
  - The Census
  - Membership

**MORE..... INSIDE**



# WINDOW TO THE PAST

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## DEAR SARAH

Edited by Coralou Peel Lassen  
Indiana University Press (1999)

Historical and intimate letters, from John Henry Pardington from the battlefields fighting for the North during the Civil War written to his wife, Sarah Ann Knapp Pardington. John's letters were preserved by his family, but John destroyed Sarah's letters so not to fall into enemy hands.

John Pardington married Sarah Ann Knapp on December 29, 1860. They lived in the village of Trenton, Michigan. A daughter, Maria Pardington, was born on June 11, 1862. Two and a half months later, John left for the battlefield as a private in Capt. Isaac Ingersoll's Company B of the 24<sup>th</sup> Michigan Volunteers.

John's letters to Sarah tell of the hardships his regiment, and other soldiers, faced during those times. The pay, if any, was infrequent and John begged Sarah to send him some funds for some extra food, supplies, and medicine. "...I am much Obligrd [obliged] to you for What you sent me. For to tell you the truth, dear Sarah, I needed it for we have not received any Pay yet and I do not know When we will."

John's first battle was in December of 1862 at the Battle of Fredericksburg, where the Union lost. "...Our Regiment suffered some from shell and canster and grape. We lost about 19 or 20 killed and wounded. There was three men struck down along side of me." John came through unhurt but some of his fellow soldiers died not only from the battle, but from exposure they suffered as they lay wounded and unattended on the battlefield.

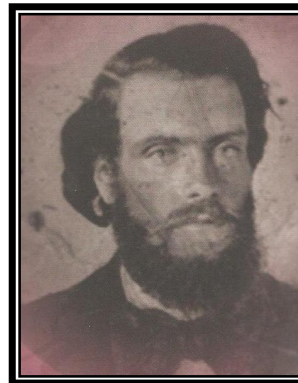
Their letters tell of their love for each other, their new child and the hopes of being together again soon. On Christmas day, John wrote his holiday dinner consisted of "...a little boiled rice with a spoonful of molasses on it. That was quite a

dinner was it not. That was all for supper hard Tack and coffee."

Then suddenly, in July of 1863, the letters stopped coming. John fought in the Battle of Gettysburg and it is believed he died there. A letter came from the chaplain who explained that he was unsure of John's whereabouts, "...Those I buried on the field were so changed that I should not have known his body had it been there." The dead and wounded lay on the battlefield for many days making identification impossible for some. It is believed that John was buried in an unmarked grave.

Just what happed to John Paddington? What happened to Sarah and little Maria?

This would also make a great Civil War/Romance type movie, with Ben Affleck as the dashing John Pardington and Jennifer Garner as sweet, lovely Sarah Knapp Pardington. Read the book and see what you think!



John Henry Pardington



Sarah Ann Knapp Pardington

## BECOME A MEMBER

Become a member in the Trenton Historical Society and help us grow. The Trenton Historical Society is a tax-deductible organization and all funds we receive are used to acquire items of Trenton history as well as the presentation of programs and speakers throughout the year.

If you wish to become a member or have any questions, please call Pauline Arthurs at (734) 676-3589.

### 2011 MEMBERSHIP IT'S AS EASY AS 1.. 2.. 3!

The Trenton Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation registered by the State of Michigan. Contributions are tax-deductible. Dues are payable by January 1, 2011.

... Student	\$ 5.00
... Adult	\$ 10.00
... Family	\$ 15.00
... Contributing	\$ 25.00 +
... Business	\$ 25.00 +
... Patron	\$ 50.00 +

We appreciate your support in preserving Trenton's history.

1. Tear off the bottom of the last page and fill in your information;
2. Write a check (the Family Membership is a great savings); and
3. Mail it to:

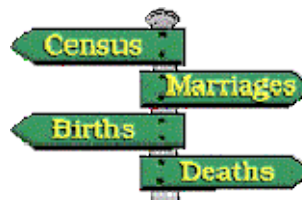
Trenton Historical Society  
PO Box 596  
Trenton, MI 48183

**See, that wasn't so hard!**

## MORE INEVITABLE LAWS OF GENEALOGY

(Author Unknown)

- The old photo of 4 relatives, one of whom is your direct ancestor, carries the names of the other 3.
- Copies of old newspapers have holes occurring only on last names.
- Ink fades and paper deteriorates at a rate inversely proportional to the value of the data recorded.



### The Census

Ever wonder why you can't make heads or tails out of the census?

The census, taken every ten years, provides a perfect snapshot of a day in the life of your ancestors. The census returns are made public after 100 years.

The Census was taken on a particular day. If you were not at home when the enumerator called, you weren't counted as part of that household.

Errors were inevitable in any census record, but particularly when you bear in mind that illiteracy was still rife in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and are a definite source of potential mistakes. From **The Genealogical register for July, 1906:**

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## “Ocupayshun, Cencus Taker”

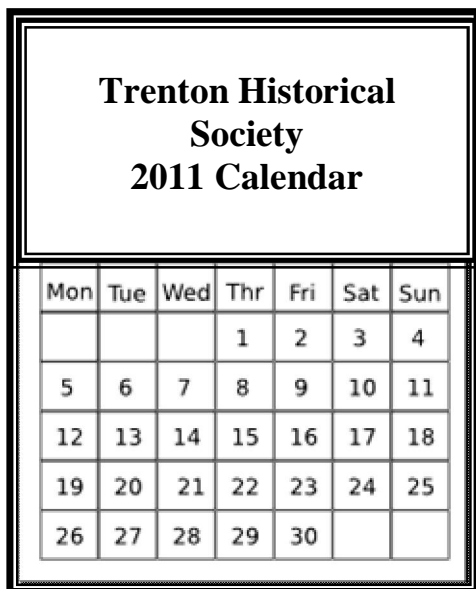
"I am a cencus takers for the city of Bufflow. Our city has groan very fast in resent yeers & now in 1865, it has become a hard & time consuming job to count all the peephill. There are not many that con do this werk, as it is nessessarie to have a ejucashun, wich a lot of pursons steal don not have. Anuther atribeart needed for this job is god speling, for meny of the peephill to be counted can hardle speek inglish, let alon spel there names!"

## 2011 CALENDARS

The Trenton Historical Society 2011 Calendar is now ready! They are a great bargain at \$10 each and help support many activities of the Historical Society. If you have not already requested a calendar, they are located for sale at the following establishments:

- West Grange Pharmacy
- Charlie's Marathon
- The Framery
- Trenton City Hall – Treasurer's Office

Or, please contact Sharleen Stack at (734) 362-8036 for information.



## NEED HELP WITH GENEALOGY?

The Trenton Historical Society has assistance with:

- Use of the Trenton Library computers for “Ancestry (Library Edition)” funded by the Trenton Historical Society;
- Books on Michigan and Downriver;
- High School Yearbooks;
- Obituaries;
- Family Files;
- Cemetery Records;
- Artifacts;
- Archives;
- NEW AND IMPROVED RESEARCH WEB SITE LISTINGS – INCLUDING COST INFORMATION!

Amateur genealogists are also available for assistance at the Trenton Veterans Memorial Library in the Local History Room on the:

**1st Tuesday of the month**  
From 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

**4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month**  
From 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Stop in and browse our resources, pick up a copy of the new web site research listing or just share your stories of Trenton.

Check out our web site at  
[www.trentonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.trentonhistoricalsociety.org)

*In Memoriam*



Delores Orel, age 96, passed away on October 1, 2010. Delores was a long time and active member of the Trenton Historical Society and a volunteer at the Trenton Museum. She will be missed by all.

# WINDOW TO THE PAST

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## Thank You

A special Thank You goes out to Larry Pettinga of The Framery, located at 2621 West Jefferson, Trenton, MI. Larry has generously contributed a limited supply of pen and ink drawings of the Alvin Clark. The Alvin Clark was a ship that was built in Trenton, Michigan. The prints are numbered and signed by the artist, Jim Clary. Our supply is limited and selling for \$10 each. For information please contact Carol Hendricks at (734) 676-4375. Proceeds from the sale will go toward upkeep of the archives, payment for free access of Ancestry Library Edition at the Trenton Library and ongoing projects.

## JANUARY 16, 2011

Mark your THS Calendars! Trenton Historical Society presents: **Genealogy 101 or Genealogy for Dummies©** on January 16, 2011 at Westfield Activity Center, Fireplace Room at 2:00 PM.

Everything you need to know to be a savvy genealogist including all the information you need to get started researching your ancestors. How to use the Library's Ancestry Library Edition (free – donated by the THS). We will help you with finding your way through the myriad of websites on the Internet, roadblocks, quick fixes, research aids, handouts and helpful hints.

Resident genealogists (Historical Society members) will be on hand to answer any of your questions and give you any help needed. You do not have to be a Trenton resident or have Trenton roots to attend. Many of our families come from different states and countries. Bring your family and friends. Everyone is welcome.



It's in the works!

What is it? The Trenton Historical Society has authorized the publication by Arcadia Publishers of a new and updated book on Trenton. The last book published was over 30 years ago and a lot has happened since then. Any stories and photos etc. that you may have, and would like to share would be greatly appreciated. Call: Carol Hendricks at (734) 676-4375. Stay tuned for further updates and information.

## TRENTON HISTORICAL TIDBITS

### The Civil War Years

The census of 1860 indicated that the State of Michigan had attained a population of nearly 750,000. When Abraham Lincoln took office as President he deemed it necessary to call for 75,000 troops to put down what he called an insurrection. Michigan's newly elected governor, Austin Blair, issued a call to Michigan for one complete regiment, fully equipped, clothed and armed. Confidently believing that the insurrection would soon be brought under control, the President's call was for a volunteer army for only a 3 month period.

Following the "three months" Infantry, "... Michigan furnished a total of 30 regiments of infantry, 12 regiments of cavalry, one regiment of Negroes, 14 batteries of artillery, one regiment of sharpshooters and one of engineers." Shirmer, Lucy Armstrong, **Snug Harbor, Early Trenton by the River**, The Exponent Press (1983).

# WINDOW TO THE PAST

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|  
*Seasons Greetings from the Trenton Historical Society.....  
.....and a Happy New Year 2011*



**Trenton Historical Society  
Board of Directors**

Pauline Arthurs  
Randi Lynn Owen Olson  
Evelyn Chekan  
John Holmes  
Mary Ellen Wiber  
Sharleen Stack  
Carol Hendricks  
Bill Olson  
Peter Poulos

*Please tear off and return.*

*We appreciate your support in helping preserve Trenton's history.*

**TRENTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 596, TRENTON, MI 48183**

*The Trenton Historical Society is a non-profit corporation registered by the State of Michigan*

**2011 MEMBERSHIP**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student...\$ 5.00  
Contributing...\$25.00+

Adult...\$ 10.00  
Business... \$25.00+

Family...\$ 15.00  
Patron... \$ 50.00+