

PRESS RELEASE



Photo courtesy of the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries and Absolute Michigan.

The Michigan Genealogical Council issued the following invitation on July 22. We would appreciate any help you can give us in covering this event.

Fellow Michigan genealogists and library supporters -

Now is the time for Michiganders to come to the aid of our state's history and learning.

Your Michigan Genealogical Council is planning a public assembly in Lansing to show our legislators and fellow citizens that we care about our state's past.

On Wednesday the 5th of August, let's assemble at the State Capitol, on the lawn. We have reserved the North and South lawns, and the steps. Time, 9:45 a.m. The State Senate goes into session at 10 a.m., the only time in the next few weeks we can be certain our legislators will be assembled at Lansing.

At 10:30 a.m., we will process/march over to the Michigan Historical Center and form our **Hands Around the Library** -- in hopes of good media coverage! Since the perimeter of the building is around 1800 feet, it is obvious we can use as many genealogists or friends of libraries/history of all types as possible. Please definitely let your local Society know you are coming for sure, since you can see that we need coverage - flags and ribbons can be held between people as well as hands and arms.

We'll stay around the building probably 20 minutes starting at 11:00 a.m. -- **then off to visit our legislators** -- then lunch, research, or museum viewing!

Thanks for your support of Michigan's past ... and our future. Please let us know how many from your Society will be able to participate -- and questions to Sue Irvine sjirv@yahoo.com.

Your Michigan Genealogical Council

The Library of Michigan has a long and rich history of serving the citizens of Michigan

- Keeping this collection of all things Michigan together is our highest priority.
- The largest collection of Michigan newspaper microfilm calls the Library of Michigan home, covering all 83 counties of the state, over 1700 titles covering more than 400 cities, townships and villages. A collection of this scope cannot be found anywhere else.
- The largest collection of Michigan city directories in the state. These directories document place of residence and occupation of Michigan throughout the years. Patrons of the Library still use this collection not only for studying the past genealogy, but also in planning for the future entrepreneurship and small business.
- If you are doing research regarding Michigan, you can find it at the Library of Michigan, whether it is Detroit, Grand Rapids, Flint, Lansing, Traverse City, Marquette or St. Ignace. All of this is available in ONE LOCATION.
- The Library of Michigan's Michigan collection is available to you even if you cannot come to Lansing. The Michigan Collection has an extra copy for inter-library loan. Therefore, if you live in Escanaba, Sturgis, or Dundee, and cannot make the trip to Lansing, the item you are interested in can be loaned to your local library.
- Ethnic Collections, like the Gorski collection, which focuses on Michigan's Polish Heritage, are not available elsewhere.
- The Library of Michigan funds the Michigan Electronic Library (MeL) which includes a vast collection of databases available for use from home.
- The collection also collects in the Great Lakes region, New England, the Mid Atlantic, and the Canadian provinces of Quebec and Ontario. Michigan is not in a vacuum. The Governor's Executive order would dissolve this part of the genealogy collection.
- "Innovation and Reinvention" can be done anywhere. Our state's cultural heritage center belongs together, in the Michigan Historical Center.

For more background on replacing the Library of Michigan with "Innovation and Reinvention" please read the front page of the Lansing State Journal, <http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20090719/NEWS06/907190625/1102/NEWS06>, MSU, city, state may partner on museum; Innovation center may replace Mich. Library downtown.

If you have any questions about the event at the Capitol or Library please contact Sue Irvine at sjirv@yahoo.com. Other questions regarding the position of the Michigan Genealogical Council may be directed to me.

Thank you,
Tom Koselka, Corresponding Secretary
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