

Michigan Genealogical Council Newsletter

Volume 44 Issue 1

Winter 2020

The Michigan Genealogical Council is Pleased to Announce
Judy Sheldon is the 2019 Lucy Mary Kellogg Award Recipient

The award was presented at the November 8th delegate meeting. Judy has been active in the Michigan genealogical community for over 20 years, and has served Huron Shores Genealogical Society in a number of positions, including treasurer, senior researcher, and president. She represents HSGS at Michigan Genealogical Council and has served as the Public Relations Chairperson for MGC since 2013.



L-R Dale Harwood: delegate, Dan Stock, Lauri Finerty and Judy Sheldon



Judy with award

Her nominating team stressed her gifts as an instructor, communicator, and facilitator encouraging inter-organization sharing and cooperation. Judy has been involved in countless research projects and is lauded for a tremendous attention to documentation and detail. She has shepherded digitization projects, handles the majority of research requests at the HSGS resource room at the Parks Library in Oscoda, and contributes regularly to their quarterly newsletter. She was also a major contributor to the research and writing of the Arcadia history: Iosco County 1892-1904: The Photography of Ard G. Emery published in 2015.

In recognition of these exceptional contributions to the genealogical community, MGC is pleased to award Judy with the 2019 Lucy Mary Kellogg Award and thanks her for her service and dedication!

Jessica Trotter
MLK Chairperson



(Cake was delicious)

President's Message

Can you believe we are entering a new decade? Do you think 2020 will be remembered by our descendants like the **"Roaring Twenties" are remembered now? Often time family history researchers are busy finding that next generation** on our family tree that we forget about recording our history. Have you cited and sourced facts, dates, and details for yourself? Include everyday details about the car you drive, the clothes you wear, your hairstyle, and other things that we would love to have known about our great grandparents. Look at the past decade, and year, and write down the things most remembered.

MGC-wise the past year was a very good one. I started my first year as President, in July. First off was the successful 2019 Abrams Seminar, followed by a wonderful out-of-Lansing meeting in Frankfort, and then a great 2019 MGC Fall Family History Event with Diahn Southard. The success of the November event shows that it really does take a village. My village was the wonderful board and committee members of MGC, the staff of the Archives of Michigan, and the staff **of the Library of Michigan. I asked for volunteers and they didn't disappoint. The seminar was well attended, so well attended that lunch seating was cramped. I vow to work on that for our next seminar. 2020 will bring more genealogical opportunities including the 2020 Abrams Seminar with Judy Russell. This is going to be another big event and one you won't want to miss. Save the date of July 10th and 11th for this seminar. More details will be coming in the Spring. Our 2020 Fall Family History Event will be held November 14, 2020. Our speaker will be Sunny Morton. Look for more information on this event in late summer. Those are the big items for 2020, but don't forget about our delegate meetings.**

Our January delegate meeting will feature Jill Arnold from the Archives of Michigan. She will be giving us the latest and **greatest on the new online databases at "Michiganology." I don't know about you, but I wouldn't want to be Jill. Did you know that Michigan will be the number one state for online digitized archival records soon? That is a great achievement that the staff at the archives deserves recognition for. You can help make Michigan records accessible by continuing to index the Michigan Naturalization records at Family Search.**

March's delegate meeting will be on "Volunteer Recognition Ideas" for your society. I will be presenting ideas, big and small, to honor your societies volunteers. I am sure MGC will be coming up with new ideas throughout the year. If you have any ideas that you would like MGC to consider, whether it be delegate meeting speakers, projects, etc., please let me know. I wish you all a happy and healthy start to the new decade.

Sincerely,

Brenda Leyndyke,
President Michigan Genealogical Council



Fall Event

News con't:

Basic Genealogy and More

Presented by

Huron Shores Genealogical Society Members

Saturdays, January 4-25

From Noon to 2pm

At the Iosco County Historical Museum in East Tawas

Huron Shores Genealogical Society newsletter

43rd Annual Seminar

March 21, 2020

Monroe County Community College
Administration Building

Kristine Smets will be presenting the following topics for their seminar:

- Immigration from Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg to North America
- How to find US Immigration and Naturalization Records
- Introduction and researching your Belgium, Dutch or Luxembourg ancestors
- Going Beyond: Using other records to tell your ancestors story

Monroe County Genealogical Society flyer

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At their annual meeting the Gratiot County Historical and Genealogical Society agreed to set up a facebook page. They also went on tours of their museum and log cabin.

Their summer fundraising raffle was a 'Dinner for Six at the Museum'. It included a private tour of the museum and a 1900s entrée provided by The Hearthstone Oven in Utica. **Dinner was served using the museum's collection of antique china and tableware.**

In September they visited the Clinton Northern Railway Depot Museum and Railroad cars for their meeting.

Janice Nicewander, one of their long time volunteers at the Genealogy Library passed away this summer.

Gratiot County Historical and Genealogical Society newsletter



Peggy Louise Sawyer Williams

Peggy was born on November 28, 1931 to Stanley Sawyer and Wealthy Belle Guy-Sawyer in Blanchard, Michigan. She was the sixth child and youngest daughter born to this union. Peggy accepted Christ at a young age and was a longstanding member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Detroit, MI. She departed this life on November 26, 2019 at the age of 87. She met her husband to be, Wallace Nathaniel Williams, a native Detroit and married on September 15, 1950. They were married for 60 years before his death in 2011. Born to the couple were three children, Rochelle, Wallace, and Nanette.

It was during the early 1980's that Peggy began her journey as a family historian and as a genealogist. She joined the Detroit based Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society (FHWGS). The organization was the first such organization in Michigan focused on the study of genealogical research from an African American perspective. The FHWGS is also named after Peggy's uncle by marriage. For over 30 years, she spent her free time doing extensive research and preservation of materials on the families of: Sawyer, Guy, Williams, and other extended families. She conducted numerous genealogical workshops and was a source of inspiration to many other genealogists.

Peggy's membership in the FHWGS led her to becoming the President of the organization in 1999, and she served in this capacity until 2005. Under her leadership, she has contributed to the success of Detroit 300, a celebration of the 300th birthday of Detroit; published *Our Untold Stories: A Collection of Family History Narratives*, worked in the creation of a ten panel traveling exhibit; *Every Family is a History*, which depicts the lives of four prominent Detroit families; and joined others in commemorating the Underground Railroad through the dedication of two monuments, Gateway to Freedom, on the Detroit side of the river, and Towers of Freedom, on the Canadian side of the river. Finally, it was during Peggy's presidency that the Society donated the Leontine Cole Smith Collection to the Detroit Public Library, Burton Historical Collection.

Peggy spent many years in the study, research and documentation of her ancestors; and as such, was a longtime member of the Daughters of the Union Veterans (DUV). The DUV is a patriotic organization that honors the memory of soldiers who fought in the Civil War.



News con't:

New Facebook Group

Western Michigan Genealogical Society has started a new group. This group will provide our local and not so local friends a place to join together to discuss West Michigan genealogy topics, discover new cousins or connections and have another way to learn what is going on in our society.

To join: search on facebook for 'Western Michigan Genealogical Society' and look for the name with 'Group' below it or go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wmgs.org/>

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2020 WMGS Writing Contest

**"A Memorable Trip or Journey"**

Travel is a part of many family experiences and the stories that come from the trips we and our ancestors have made shape us into who we have become. Write a story about a memorable trip or journey.

The WMGC has worked for 60 years to educate researchers in evaluating and citing sources. Your story may inspire someone else to use new research techniques or discover a unique resource. The Writing Contest will recognize unpublished excellent genealogical writing by awarding substantial prizes.

There is no entrance fee and you do not have to be a member of the WMGS. Stories should be between 1,500-3,000 words. More rules and information can be obtained by contacting:

Julie DeVisser, Michigana Editor  
at: [michigana@wmgs.org](mailto:michigana@wmgs.org)



Pulitzer Prize—Winning Photographer  
David Kennerly to Keynote at RootsTech

**Who better to help you understand how to capture 'The Story of YOU' than one of the world' leading photographers?**

We are so excited to announce that the man behind some of the most iconic photographs in American history—David Hume Kennerly—is coming to RootsTech as a keynote speaker on Friday, February 28, 2020. Kennerly has photographed more than 50 covers for major magazines and covered assignments in over 100 countries.

Kennerly, who is brought to you by Canon, has photographed every US president since Richard Nixon and has been on the frontlines for many of the biggest moments in world history. The stories he can tell will be a perfect fit for the RootsTech stage.

RootsTech runs 26-29 Feb 2020 in Salt Lake City, Utah

*FamilySearch.org email*

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Everyone Needs Some Humor

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, **but I'd never met herbivore.**

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her **job because she couldn't control her pupils?**

**Tom Luke, editor's Australian friend (punography)**

*Please Note:*

The Library of Michigan has rescinded the rule limiting patrons to 2 obituary requests annually. Patrons may now request an unlimited number of obituaries via email to: [librarian@michigan.gov](mailto:librarian@michigan.gov) or telephone at 517-335-1477. There is NO statewide index for all obituaries from Michigan newspapers. The library's collection of newspapers may be viewed at: <https://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan/0,9327,7-381->





**News con't:**



**Lucy Mary Kellogg Award  
Nominees Sought**

The Michigan Genealogical Council is once again seeking nominations for the Lucy Mary Kellogg Award, given annually to a member of an MGC member society. The **award's namesake was the founding member of the council** and the first woman and first Midwesterner to be inducted into the Genealogical Society's Hall of Fame. First awarded in 1992, the award is given annually to an individual whose hard work and dedication has greatly benefited our genealogical community. Recent awardees include: Constance Olson (2016) Ralph Hillman (2017) Shirley DeBoer (2018) and Judy Sheldon (2019).

The nomination form and list of requirements for qualification can be found at [mimgc.org](http://mimgc.org). Forms and supporting materials – or updates for those previously nominated – can be submitted to [info@mimgc.org](mailto:info@mimgc.org). Submissions are due May 31, 2020

*Jessica Trotter, Lucy Mary Kellogg Chairperson*

How an Irish Airline Will Help you Find your Ancestors [Dick Eastman · December 12, 2019 · Travel · One Comment](#)

IRELAND:  
Discover Your Roots  
From \$1,299



- The package includes:
- Round-trip economy class airfare to Dublin (DUB)
  - 2 nights in Dublin at the North Star Hotel, or similar
  - Admission to EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum
  - Admission to the Irish Family History Centre →

- 90-minute private consultation with a genealogy expert at The Irish Family History Centre
- Manual, economy-sized car rental for 6 nights – upgrade to automatic or larger car available
- Pick up Dublin City Centre, Drop off Dublin Airport
- 6 nights in your choice of B&Bs throughout Ireland

If your heritage points to Southern Ireland, you may want to visit the culture-packed cities of Cork, Waterford, and Kinsale. Find out your family's from the North? Focus your time near Galway, Limerick, and Westport! Along the way, stop off at hidden gems off the beaten path. Take in the beauty of the Irish countryside from the Wicklow Mountains to the Cliffs of Moher to Killarney National Park. For an extra local perk, you'll enjoy B&B stays in the destinations of your choice. Cozy up in quaint homes, enjoy homemade Irish breakfasts, share stories with your friendly hosts, and become immersed in traditional Irish culture!

Is this a good offer or will it be a productive one? I have no idea. However, you can check it out for yourself by starting at: <http://bit.ly/34kl8X7>.

*Dick Eastman, Eogn.com*

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**Court, Land, and Probate Records**

**Massachusetts Plymouth Colony Deeds, 1671-1673**

This new database presents an e-book of Plymouth Colony deeds, which contains a verbatim transcription of *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England, Vol. III, pt 2, 1671-1673* completed in 2019 by Scott Andrew Bartley. (Although filed between 1671 -1673 these deeds also refer to earlier events that span the life of Plymouth Colony, 1630-1691.) Names and places are indexed, and the preface provides a detailed explanation of how the material is presented. More than 250 pages and 2,300 names are included.)

(Note: This book is only available to members of the NEHGS on [AmericanAncestors.org](http://AmericanAncestors.org))  
*AmericanAncestors Magazine*

**The Speaker's List is updated. Thank you to Tom Koselka for updating this. Sign in under "member society log in", then select "secure download" and "speaker program list Nov 2019."**

**If you are interested in MGC's annual report, it is on the same page.**

2020 Census

It cannot be said strongly enough – EVERYONE in our state needs to be enumerated on the 2020 Census! Michigan stands to lose an estimated \$1,800 per person per year in federal support for programs that use census data. These include Medicaid, nutrition assistance, highway construction and planning, Title I and Special Education Grants, Foster Care and Child Care Grants, K-12 education, Section 8 Vouchers, and Head Start/Early Start – key programs that thousands of our citizens need! As an example, the State of Michigan received more than \$14 billion in 2015 from the enumeration of 2010.

Information, the timeline for the key dates, fast facts, media messages, translated materials, recordings of TV/radio ads and informational flyers and more can be accessed from this site: [www.becountedmi2020.com](http://www.becountedmi2020.com). **Regional census “Hubs”** – locations for obtaining in-person information, getting questions answered and supportive resources – are located here: <https://becountedmi2020.com/engage/>

Please share with your neighbors, watch for advertising about the census on TV, radio, billboards and more. Your help and support in reaching out to your neighbors and friends is key to success for our state!

From: Judy Nimer Muhn  
judy@muhn@gmail.com

Family Tree Maker 2019

In the summer of 2019, Lansing African American and Ingham County Genealogical Societies hosted Family Tree Maker 2019 at the Sam Corey Center in Holt. Over 100 attendees enjoyed hearing about new features and the ability to preorder at a discounted price. Thanks, FTM!



Mark Olsen, FTM



October is Family History Month

**Editor: It is now January....what have you done since October?** Here are some ideas from the Ingham County Genealogical Society newsletter

Things to do to commemorate your family’s history.

1. Get started tracing your family tree. **If you’ve been** thinking about it, what better time than now to get started.
2. Create a family cookbook. A cookbook of collected heirloom recipes is a great way to preserve memories of favorite meals shared with family.
3. Record family stories. Recording family stories on audiotape, videotape or in legacy journals brings family members closer together, bridges generation gaps and ensures that your family stories will be preserved for future generations.
4. Uncover your family health history. Creating a family health history can be a useful tool to aid you and your medical care provider in interpreting patterns of health, illness and genetic traits for you and your descendants.
5. Take a trip back in time. Grab a map and hop in the car for a family adventure. Check out the old family homestead, the house where you grew up or a cemetery where great-grandpa is buried.
6. Scrapbook your family heritage. A heritage scrapbook **album is a wonderful way to document your family’s history** and create a lasting gift for future generations.
7. Start a family website. If you or someone in your family is a web designer, by all means go to town.
8. Preserve your family pictures. Make this the month you finally get the family photos out of the shoe boxes or bags in the back of your closet. Then share some of your photo finds with the family by creating a family photo calendar or a family photo book.
9. Get the next generation involved. Most children will learn to appreciate their family history if you turn it into a detective game.



**Con't family:**

10. Craft a heritage gift. From picture frame Christmas ornaments to heritage quilts, your family history makes a great gift.

*Ingham County Genealogical Society newsletter*

**New Pioneer Certificate Program**

The Waterford Genealogical Society presented their first Pioneer Certificates and pins to two of its members, Pam Schmaltz and Carol George. Both worked with volunteers in the Waterford society to insure a successful submission to this committee. All Michigan Genealogical Council member societies are encouraged to promote and then work with members, and others interested, in submitting a Michigan Pioneer Certificate application. This is a great opportunity to celebrate, honor and preserve the history of your Michigan ancestors, with a goal of having well documented lineages of our pioneers.



L-R  
Pam Schmaltz  
Carol George

Two categories are offered at the nominal fee of \$25.00 per certificate: Pre-Statehood (before January 26, 1837) and First Families (January 26, 1837-December 31, 1880). Each certificate is custom designed and comes with a corresponding lapel pin. The Pioneer Certificate application and a promotional brochure are available to download on our website: <https://mimgc.org/>.

A short Power Point Presentation is also available for download, in the Members secure download area, for any society interested in sharing this program with their members.

*Kim Smith*

*Pre-Statehood and First Family Certificates*

**A Conversation with Kenyatta Berry in Detroit**

On November 2, 2019, the Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society presented, A Conversation with Kenyatta Berry: Uncovering Your Ancestry, at the Detroit Public Library.

Berry is co-host of Genealogy Roadshow on PBS. Over 200 members and guests attended the special event celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Society. The event included an interview of Ms. Berry by FHWGS immediate past president, Leslie C. Williams, followed by a question and answer session with the audience.



*Leslie Williams  
Kenyatta Berry*

After answering questions from the audience, Kenyatta Berry was presented with a State of Michigan Special Tribute from State Senator Adam Hollier (by his father, Carl Hollier) and an Honorary FHWGS Life Membership by FHWGS president, Shaun Thomas.

L-R  
Shaun Thomas  
Kenyatta Berry  
Carl Hollier



After the presentations, she signed copies of her book, 'The Family Tree Toolkit: A Comprehensive Guide to Uncovering Your Ancestry and Researching Genealogy'.



*Kenyatta Berry*

*Shaun Thomas  
Photo credits: Carl and Jacqui Hollier*

## GEDmatch, the Controversial Genealogy Website has been Bought by a Forensic Genetics Firm

[Dick Eastman · December 9, 2019 · Business News, Education · 2 Comments](#)

Late breaking news: Crime scene DNA sequencing company [Verogen](#) has just acquired GEDmatch, a genealogy database credited with helping to solve some 70 rapes and murders.

Verogen, a San Diego-based company that provides equipment for high-tech sequencing of crime-scene DNA, has announced that it has acquired GEDmatch, a website that rose to fame after it led cops to the alleged Golden State Killer.

**(You can read about GEDmatch's genealogy DNA matching web site in previous articles in this newsletter by starting at: <https://duckduckgo.com/?q=site%3Aeogn.com+gedmatch&t=brave&ia=web>.)**

GEDmatch has been caught in the crossfire of a bitter argument between genealogists who believe the site has **compromised its users' privacy and those who want to work with law enforcement to help solve violent crimes.**

**Although GEDmatch's new owner is a forensic science company, it is promising a firm line on protecting users who don't want cops to access their genetic information. "We are very committed to privacy," Verogen CEO Brett Williams told BuzzFeed News.**

You can read more in an article by Peter Aldhous in the *BuzzFeed News* web site at: <http://bit.ly/2YxWJvG>.

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Gedmatch's New Owner Statement

Verogen CEO Brett Williams, the new owner, said he will continue to offer the site for searches by law enforcement that adhere to its newly restrictive terms of service. But if police try to get a court order bypassing those terms, trying to get access to the DNA profiles of people who have requested that they remain off-limits. Verogen will fight it. He said it was about trust. If patrons agree with the terms of service and those terms are violated, there is no trust.

From Joe Schuppe, NBC News

Dickinson County Library Online Local History Resources

A long-term dream of local historian, William J. Cummings has been realized at the library. The online database has been realized through the efforts of staff members as his personal files of area history are now accessible on-line on **the Library's website: www.dcl-lib.org** and all for free.

The archive concentrates on the area's early history, particularly late nineteenth century and early twentieth century material, but more recent items can also be found.

There are seven basic files for the material. An index is provided at the beginning of each file to help researchers locate information. There are many subdivisions within each index.

The files:

The Menominee Range
Dickinson County
Iron County History
Menominee County History
Florence County, Wisconsin History
Marinette County, Wisconsin History
Commercial District Designations for Archive Files

Other historical files in the Local History tab include:

Menominee Range Memories—The Rest of the Story
Local History PowerPoint Presentations
Historic Photographs
Dickinson County Business Listings (1879-1928)
City Directories and Gazetteer Information
Annotated Bibliography for Dickinson and Iron Counties, Menominee Iron Range and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan

William J. Cummings is the current President of the Dickinson Genealogical Society and had done many presentations for the group.

Dickinson County Genealogical Society newsletter

Essential Steps to Find a New York State Marriage Record

Marriage is often an important life event, and an official record of this act can be treasured in and of itself. Of course, the information contained in a marriage certificate or license is also incredibly valuable to the family history researcher - depending on the time and place of the marriage, you can find deep information on both spouses (including a specific foreign birthplace if one was an immigrant), as well as deep information on parents and witnesses.

Finding a marriage record can be a real breakthrough - it may help you solve a long-standing mystery, or open up further avenues of research to explore.

Civil marriage records can be challenging to locate in New York State. Marriage records created in New York City are kept separately from those created elsewhere in New York State, and record keeping for all vital records (civil birth, marriage, and death records) was [very spotty until about 1914](#). There are also plenty of local exceptions and idiosyncrasies that affect the research process.

Check out: <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/blog/essential-steps-find-new-york-state-marriage-record>

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## Citizenship Records on Ancestry.com

800,000 records have been added from the US Court for the Southern District of New York, (NARA series 471341). The records are declarations of the persons intention to become a citizen of the United States, a first legal step on the path to citizenship.

Declarations of Intention for Citizenship, 1/19/1842-10/29/1959 (799,867 records).

See: [ancestry.com/search/collections/nynaturalizationpetitions](https://ancestry.com/search/collections/nynaturalizationpetitions).

*New York Researcher, NYG&B Society, fall issue 2019*

## Public Record Access Report

The DNA Testing Companies Reply to Warrant Permitting Police Full Access to GEDmatch Database

November 8, 2020

Earlier this week I posted about a Florida judge granting a **warrant to law enforcement to search GEDmatch's full database**. The court basically overruled the public DNA company's policy on privacy. **Since then both Ancestry and 23andMe**—both private DNA testing companies, have issued statements.

### Ancestry

Ancestry believes GEDmatch could have done more to protect the privacy of its users by challenging the warrant in court or at least pushing back on the warrant. Ancestry **has emphasized that their customer's privacy and being good stewards of their data is their highest priority**. They also have a transparency report that outlines law enforcement requests for member data. They say they received no valid requests for information related to genetic information. To read their statement in full including the **Coalition for Genetic Data Protection's comments, of which Ancestry is a member** see: <https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2019/11/08/your-privacy-is-our-top-priority/>

### 23andMe

23andMe also issued a statement commenting on how **troubling they find GEDmatch's lack of challenging the warrant**. They question as a private database whether the **Florida court's warrant impacts them**. **23andMe also has a transparency report** and they have received 10 requests out of their 10 million customers and successfully challenged each one. They are also a member of the Coalition for Genetic Data Protection. Their statement may be found at: <https://blog.23andme.com/news/our-stance-on-protecting-customers-data/>

## DNA Testing and Law Enforcement Access to DNA Databases

November 24, 2019

There has been much in the press about the recent disclosure that a Florida judge provided a warrant for law enforcement to search an entire voluntary DNA genealogy database (GEDMatch) to help solve a violent crime. That is different than the private DNA testing companies. The DNA testing companies state they are protecting your data



**Records con't:**

and will fight even warrants, with FamilyTree DNA offering an opt-out option. According to a Baylor University Study, the majority of people -90 percent- favored police access to consumer DNA when it comes to murder cases. Rape is also considered a violent crime. Non-violent crimes fared about 34 percent of people in favor of police wanting the names of account holders. The privacy wonks are opposed to the warrant that was issued in Florida saying it was too broad, and are concerned it may be emulated elsewhere. The Los Angeles Times published an article on the issue today. See: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-11-24/law-enforcement-dna-crime-cases-privacy>

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### Copyright Issues

For those of us who have websites and publish materials it may have consequences due to much material on the internet is not sourced and could be copyrighted without our knowing it.

The Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement (CASE) bill was introduced in the US House of representatives in May 2019 and passed the House 410-6 on October 22 and referred to the US Senate.

The bill as it passed the House may be read at: <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr2426/BILLS-116hr2426pcs.pdf>. A companion bill was introduced in the US Senate, SB 1273 and passed the Senate Judiciary Committee in July.

If you use the Internet and share a copyrighted work, **such as a graphic that you don't own, you may be subject to a \$30,000 fine.** Interestingly, the copyrighted work will automatically be eligible for the damages stipulated in the bill even if the owner has not registered the item. The bill proposes the creation of a voluntary small claims board within the U.S. Copyright Office — providing copyright owners with an alternative to the existing process of bringing copyright claims (including infringement and misrepresentation under 512(f)) to federal court. The goal is giving graphic artists, photographers, and other content creators a different pathway toward receiving

damages if their works are infringed. Concern is that potential infringers have found the internet an easy way to copy and paste creative works from artists. Internet advocacy and civil rights groups (ACLU and Electronic Frontier Foundation) have warned that a system like the one proposed by the CASE Act could cost the average internet user thousands for simply sharing a meme or lead to encroachments on their First Amendment rights.

If legislation provides a new means for copyright owners to file infringement claims; for copyright users to adjudicate declarations of non-infringement; for owners and users to submit claims related to Section 512(f) of the [Digital Millennium Copyright Act](#); and for would-be defendants to submit counterclaims and legal defenses, such as [fair use](#). The bill would establish a Copyright Claims Board within the Copyright Office to hear these claims—submission to the Copyright Claims Board is voluntary. The [Librarian of Congress](#) would appoint three Copyright Claims Officers to preside over the tribunal. The bill limits damages to US \$15,000 per work, and \$30,000 total per claim. If copyright owners do not register the work in accordance with Section 412 of the [Copyright Act](#), "statutory damages may not exceed \$7,500 per work infringed, or a total of \$15,000 in any one proceeding. The newly created tribunals receives the complaints **and will issue a "notice" to the party being sued**—but we do not know from the current legislation the form the notice will take. One must respond to the notice in a tight time table.

To read more see:

<https://www.theverge.com/2019/10/22/20927545/copyright-bill-house-congress-hakeem-jeffries-case-act-dmca>

and

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2019/10/ready-pay-30000-sharing-photo-online-house-representatives-thinks-you-are>

As genealogists we may find some of the provisions of concern. Some genealogists may have made copies of photographs for their websites or other materials.

*Both articles are from:*

*Jan Meisels Allen  
Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring  
Committee*

and

*Derek Blount  
MGC Public Records Access & Records Preservation Chair-  
person*







## LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN

Matt Pacer, Reference Librarian, Library of Michigan

Library of Michigan Update!

Greetings everyone from the Library of Michigan.

2019 is winding down and there have been many displays and events at your Library of Michigan. The Jim Harrison exhibit will close at the end of December so there is still plenty of time. Please stop by and examine the display items in our Lake Erie Room on the second floor. It is a great collection of personal items and photographs.

Stay tuned to our website early next year for the announcement of the next round of Michigan Notable Books. They will make great additions to any reading club. Also, there have been plenty of additions to our collections. Below are just a few of them.

Stanislaus Parish 1892-1992. Hilliards, Michigan.

Said and Done June 1927. Muskegon High School Magazine.

Eaton Rapids High School Yearbook: Mascot, 1916.

Cass Tech High School Class of 1958 – 45 Year Alumni Reunion.

Adventures in Contentment by Michigan Author David Grayson

St. Joseph Church Maybee, Michigan. 1994 Directory.

Please search our catalog, [www.answercat.org](http://www.answercat.org), to view our holdings. We continually process and add items to our collections.

Library staff are still busy visiting Michigan libraries this year and will continue to do so into next year. Staff have also been busy presenting at different genealogical societies and libraries. The most recent ones are: Flint Genealogical Society, Albion District Library, Northville Genealogical Society and several more. Next year, staff will be presenting at Rochester Hills Public Library, Pontiac Public Library, and Salem South Lyon. Just to name a few. If you have an interest in having us speak about our collections for family history research at your society meeting, please contact us at [librarian@michigan.gov](mailto:librarian@michigan.gov). If you have other questions, please call us at 517-335-1477.

Have a wonderful holiday season.



## ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN & ABRAMS FOUNDATION HISTORICAL COLLECTION

Kris W. Rzepczynski, Senior Archivist, Archives of Michigan

With the holidays upon us, it is a perfect time to reflect on the past year and look ahead to 2020.

2019 was another successful programming year. With both the 2019 Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar, featuring Tina Beaird, and the MGC Fall Family History Event, featuring Diahann Southard, 2019 was a banner year for events and educational opportunities here at the Archives. Thank you to the Michigan Genealogical Council for your assistance throughout the year and be sure to mark your calendars for the 2020 Abrams Seminar (July 10-11, 2020); **we'll be hosting Judy Russell, "The Legal Genealogist!" The MGC fall event is scheduled for November 14, 2020 with Sunny Morton. We'll see you in 2020! This year also saw the launch of our new web site Michiganology (<https://michiganology.org>).** Michigan death records (1897-1952), state census records, Civil War records, and more, can all be found for free at Michiganology. Looking ahead to 2020, Archives staff will continue to work on improving the **site's search experience and adding new content.**

The Archives of Michigan continues to add new source material to our holdings, particularly local government records. Most of these original records are not available online, so even more reason to visit us here onsite! New archival collections include:

- Wayne County Probate Court Records, 1901-1969 / RG 2018-67; RG 2019-153; RG 2019-154
- Huron County Circuit Court Records, 1938-1992 / RG 2019-122
- Alpena County Veteran's Affairs Office Records, ca. 1917-2010 / RG 2019-109

Archives staff continues to work with local probate officials throughout the staff to transfer their historic records to the Archives of Michigan. The list above will continue to grow in the coming days and months.

In addition to the original source material above, the Archives continues to add new published material to the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection. New additions to the Collection include:

- Early Land Sales & Purchases, Lake County, Indiana, 1837-1857 / Northwest Indiana Genealogical Society / 2006
- Pennsylvania Divorces: Dauphin County, 1788-1867 and York County, 1790-1860 / Eugene Throop / 2013
- The Reunions of the Jenks Family of Oakland County, Michigan, 1911-1927 / Evelyn Roselia Seymour Jenks / 2019

The Archives thanks our generous donors, supporters, and friends, including, of course, the Abrams Foundation and the Michigan Genealogical Council.

As always, please contact us at [archives@michigan.gov](mailto:archives@michigan.gov) with any questions about the Archives and our collections, services, or digitization projects.

### Upcoming Delegate Meetings and Events

January 9, 2020

Board Meeting 9am—Delegate Meeting 11am  
Michiganology presented by Jill Arnold

February 13, 2020

Board Meeting 10am

March 12, 2020

Board Meeting 9am—Delegate Meeting 11am  
Volunteer Recognition Ideas presented by Brenda Leyndyke  
(April is National Volunteer Recognition month)



### Michiganology

[Michiganology.org](http://Michiganology.org) database continues to be updated. The 1942 and 1943 Michigan death certificates are available. I find I get the best results by using advanced search function.

Be sure to give a date range rather than an exact date. For example, if you are looking for a 12/15/1942 death certificate, use the range of 12/14/1942 to 12/16/1942.

*Brenda Leyndyke*

### Naturalization Record Indexing

Are you looking for ways you or your society can give back to the genealogy community? Indexers are still needed for the Michigan Naturalization Indexing Project at Family Search. Use these cold winter days to index a batch or 100!

### Probate Record Scanning

Also, the archives and Family Search are in the process of scanning Michigan Probate Records. If interested in helping with this project, please contact [archives@michigan.gov](mailto:archives@michigan.gov) The work that you would be doing would be getting the records ready for scanning and returning them to their packets after the scanning is done. Family Search personnel does the scanning.

*Brenda Leyndyke*

## Walt Disney's Role

in WWII Propaganda

by Allison DePrey Singleton

The Genealogy Center's Genealogy Gems, History Tidbits, Allen County Public Library

When World War II broke out in Europe, the world was horrified that another war could occur again so soon after the Great War. When it finally reached the United States with the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, the country rose to the challenge with its full military might. As a part of the war effort to rally public support, artists created propaganda through a multitude of mediums, including **posters, comics, radio shows, and animation.** Let's explore how this effort affected the Walt Disney Studios and the films that came out of this time period.

The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, 500 U.S. Army troops marched into Walt Disney Studios, where they stayed for eight months. Their mission was not to take over the animation studio but to protect the nearby Lockheed aircraft plant from being bombed. In fact, artists from the Walt Disney Studios along with those from other studios camouflaged the aircraft plant to make it look like a suburb from the sky

[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.lockheedmartin.com/en-us/news/features/history/camouflage.html;:!ioFpBMP7IJU!njWp3FhNTDxZ04yWJ-4FE3pgFwwliR1GdZC7EDWqmc7J7e3fcLwB-2ALH47BVQ\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.lockheedmartin.com/en-us/news/features/history/camouflage.html;:!ioFpBMP7IJU!njWp3FhNTDxZ04yWJ-4FE3pgFwwliR1GdZC7EDWqmc7J7e3fcLwB-2ALH47BVQ$).

*(At the Lockheed plant, Col. John F. Ohmer began implementing his grand illusion. Airfields and parking lots were painted green and lined with plants to make them look like fields of alfalfa. The main factory was covered with a canopy of chicken wire, netting and painted canvas to blend in with the surrounding grass. And fake trees were erected with spray-painted chicken feathers for leaves, some painted green to represent new growth and some brown to represent decaying patches.)*

Soon afterward, Disney put his 550 employees to work on propaganda films for each of the branches of the armed forces. The success of these educational films led to their release to the general public as well. The output of the studio was staggering. Before the war, it averaged just 27,000 feet of film per year. In the spring of 1942,

the Navy alone requested Disney to produce 90,000 feet of film within three months. By March 1945, the studio had created more than 400,000 feet of film, the length of which would have created a movie lasting 68 hours.

Among these films was a government-commissioned series produced by the famed director Frank Capra called 'Why We Fight.' It featured such titles as 'Prelude to War' (1942), 'The Nazis Strike' (1943), 'Divide and Conquer' (1943), 'The Battle of Britain' (1943), 'The Battle of Russia' (1943), 'The Battle of China' (1944), and 'War Comes to America' (1945). You can watch the series online through the Internet Archive website:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator\\*3A\\*22Frank\\*Capra\\*22;:JSUrJO!ioFpBMP7IJU!njWp3FhNTDxZ04yWJ-4FE3pgFwwliR1GdZC7EDWqmc7J7e3fcLwB-2A-E7nn9A\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://archive.org/search.php?query=creator*3A*22Frank*Capra*22;:JSUrJO!ioFpBMP7IJU!njWp3FhNTDxZ04yWJ-4FE3pgFwwliR1GdZC7EDWqmc7J7e3fcLwB-2A-E7nn9A$)

Disney's production of 'The New Spirit' was commissioned by the U.S. Treasury in order to win public support for the levying of income tax

[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://archive.org/details/TheNewSpirit;:!ioFpBMP7IJU!njWp3FhNTDxZ04yWJ-4FE3pgFwwliR1GdZC7EDWqmc7J7e3fcLwB-2CnbWskQQ\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://archive.org/details/TheNewSpirit;:!ioFpBMP7IJU!njWp3FhNTDxZ04yWJ-4FE3pgFwwliR1GdZC7EDWqmc7J7e3fcLwB-2CnbWskQQ$).

It was followed by a second film, 'The Spirit of '43' on the same topic

[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://archive.org/details/TheSpiritOf43\\_56;:!ioFpBMP7IJU!njWp3FhNTDxZ04yWJ-4FE3pgFwwliR1GdZC7EDWqmc7J7e3fcLwB-2AOwj3elw\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://archive.org/details/TheSpiritOf43_56;:!ioFpBMP7IJU!njWp3FhNTDxZ04yWJ-4FE3pgFwwliR1GdZC7EDWqmc7J7e3fcLwB-2AOwj3elw$).

A fascinating look at other propaganda is the short film, 'Education for Death - The Making of a Nazi.' Created at the request of the U.S. Government as an anti-German film for soldiers and the general public, it showed the upbringing of a child who becomes a German soldier and how the children are taught not to have empathy or morals.

These films offer a small look into the propaganda that the United States had put out during World War II. Most of



**Disney con't:**

them are available online to stream through such websites as Internet Archive. You can find lists of the films made by Disney during the war on these websites:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://web.archive.org/web/20100619144755/http://\\*disneyshorts.org/wartime/index.html;Lw!ioFpBMP7JU!njWp3FhNTDxZ04yWJ-4FE3pgFwwliR1GdZC7EDWqmc7J7e3fcLwB-2DP7v07KA\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://web.archive.org/web/20100619144755/http://*disneyshorts.org/wartime/index.html;Lw!ioFpBMP7JU!njWp3FhNTDxZ04yWJ-4FE3pgFwwliR1GdZC7EDWqmc7J7e3fcLwB-2DP7v07KA$)

and

[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.bcdb.com/cartoons/Walt\\_Disney\\_Studios/Shorts/Armed\\_Forces\\_Shots/index.html;Lw!ioFpBMP7JU!njWp3FhNTDxZ04yWJ-4FE3pgFwwliR1GdZC7EDWqmc7J7e3fcLwB-2CYLxvPgQ\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.bcdb.com/cartoons/Walt_Disney_Studios/Shorts/Armed_Forces_Shots/index.html;Lw!ioFpBMP7JU!njWp3FhNTDxZ04yWJ-4FE3pgFwwliR1GdZC7EDWqmc7J7e3fcLwB-2CYLxvPgQ$)

Enjoy this bit of history as we acknowledge the 78th Anniversary of the Bombing of Pearl Harbor. Everyone played their part in the war effort, even Walt Disney.

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### Editing Indexes on Family Search.org

FamilySearch is working diligently to make name editing available on historical records. You can access this feature if there is a blue "Edit" box next to a name.

Be sure to view the document as more information may be available.

1. When reviewing a record compare what is written in the index box to what appears in the image. At this time on familysearch, the record must have both an index and an image to edit.
2. Zoom in on the image to read it carefully.
3. If you see a blue Edit link next to a name you can edit it for accuracy as needed. Click the link, then enter a revised name and select a reason for the change. You can also add a note, if you feel the change requires more information. Click save once you are finished.

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Ancestry.com Adds New Holocaust Collections

Millions of Holocaust-era records are newly searchable online for free in partnership with the Arolsen Archives. The landing page launched with two collections:

- **'Europe, Registration of Foreigners and German Persecutes (1939-1947)' has nearly 10 million records of those living in Germany who were persecuted by public institutions, social securities and companies. It may include information on related deaths and burials.**
- **'Africa, Asia and Europe, Passenger Lists of Displaced Persons (1946-1971)'. This list launched with more than a million records from lists of displaced persons, in most cases traveling from a resettlement camp to a final destination.**

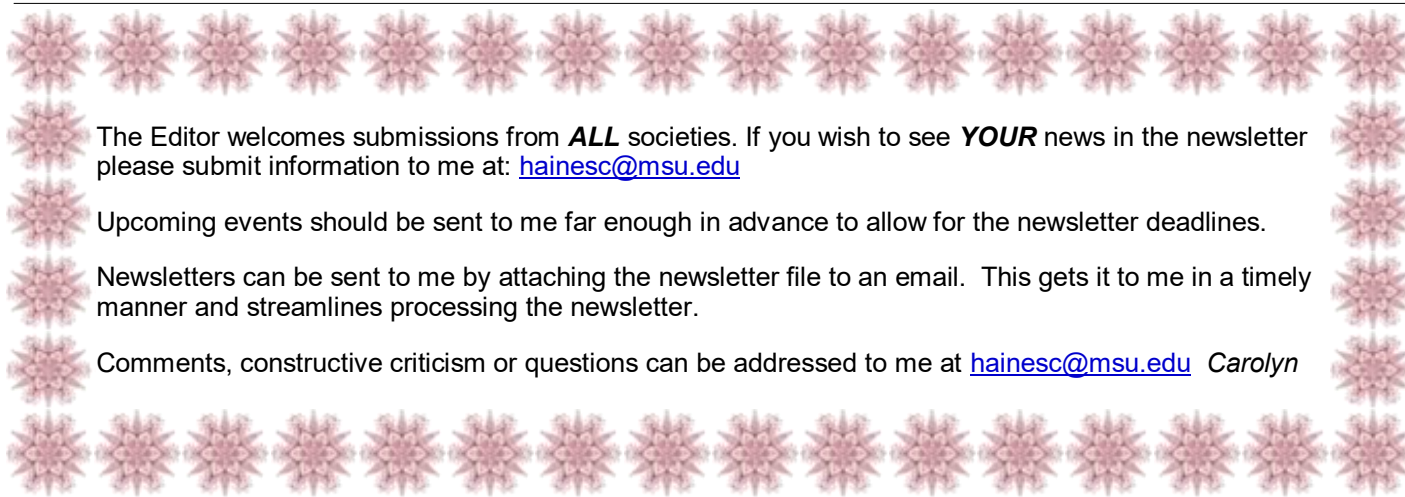
More records are expected to come online in the future.

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### 1939 Register for England and Wales

- ◆ **The register was used to produce civilian's wartime identity cards and ration books beginning January 1940. The government used it for military deployment and population evacuations. Information includes name, birthdate, address, gender, marital status and occupation.**
- ◆ The Registration district and sub-district field can help track down other records for your ancestor. Use birth and marital status to search for civil records.
- ◆ **The 'See Instructions' column may have additional information that can be followed up on for a person.**
- ◆ Information has been redacted for people who may be still living to protect their privacy. The version of the register on Ancestry.co.uk will update annually to show records that have been opened during the past year.

*Treetips from Familytree Magazine  
September and December 2019 issues*



The Editor welcomes submissions from **ALL** societies. If you wish to see **YOUR** news in the newsletter please submit information to me at: [hainesc@msu.edu](mailto:hainesc@msu.edu)

Upcoming events should be sent to me far enough in advance to allow for the newsletter deadlines.

Newsletters can be sent to me by attaching the newsletter file to an email. This gets it to me in a timely manner and streamlines processing the newsletter.

Comments, constructive criticism or questions can be addressed to me at [hainesc@msu.edu](mailto:hainesc@msu.edu) Carolyn

**DELEGATE / BOARD MEETINGS:**

Delegate Meetings are held in the *Forum* of the Michigan Historical Center 702 W. Kalamazoo St. Lansing, MI 48915 on the second Thursday in September, November, January, March, May, and July at 11 am.

Board meetings meet in the Commission Room on the Michigan Historical Center 5th Floor, Archives on the second Thursday of every month, at 9 am. on delegate meeting months and 10 am. non-delegate meeting months.



Any change in date and time will be posted at [www.mimgc.org](http://www.mimgc.org).

**Michigan Historical Center**

**Days Closed in 2020**

- Jan 1—New Year’s Day**
- Jan 20—MLK Day**
- Feb 17—President’s Day**
- May 25—Memorial Day**

**HOURS:**

**Archives of Michigan**

Reference Desk Hours:  
 1 p.m.- 5 p.m., Monday - Friday  
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday  
 Visit our Web site at <http://seekingmichigan.org>  
 For information call: (517) 373-1481  
 or email: [archives@michigan.gov](mailto:archives@michigan.gov)

**Library of Michigan**

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday  
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday  
 Visit our Web site at [www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan](http://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan)  
 For information call: (517) 373-1580  
 or email [librarian@michigan.gov](mailto:librarian@michigan.gov)

**Michigan Historical Museum**

9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday  
 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Saturday  
 1 p.m.- 5 p.m. Sunday  
 Visit our Web site at <http://michigan.gov/michiganhistory>  
 For more information call: (517) 373-3559



## Michigan Genealogical Council

Founded in 1972, the Michigan Genealogical Council is an organization composed of two delegates from each member society. It's objectives are to locate, preserve, publish and deposit in suitable repositories records of value to genealogists and to initiate activities which encourage and assist those who are involved in genealogical research. Meetings are held in the Forum of the the Library of Michigan and Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48909 on the second Thursday in September, November, January, March, May, and July. Board meetings are held at the Archives of Michigan on the second Thursday of each month. Membership is open to any Michigan genealogical or family history society, amateur or professional, with a primary interest in genealogy. Dues are no longer calculated on a "per person" basis, but rather a flat rate based on general society membership at the close of their fiscal year. Checks should be made payable to the Michigan Genealogical Council and mailed to MGC P.O., Box 80953, Lansing, MI 48908-0953. Website: [www.mimgc.org](http://www.mimgc.org).

The Newsletter is published quarterly by the Michigan Genealogical Council. It is mailed to all delegates and presidents of member societies. Content for Winter issue due Dec. 15, Spring March 15, Summer June 15 and Fall Sept. 15. E-Mail newsletter items to MGC Editor: Hainesc@msu.edu or send to P.O. Box 80953, Lansing MI 48918-0953. Permission to reprint a signed article should be obtained directly from the author. Unsigned material may be reprinted without permission provided the Newsletter is given credit. Printed newsletter subscriptions are available at the rate of \$20.00 per year for four issues—discount for delegates. See website for additional details at: <http://mimgc.org/cpage.php?pt=16> Make checks payable to MGC and mail to: P.O. Box 80953, Lansing, MI 48918-0953.

|                                          |                                                                    |                                       |                                                                    |               |                                                       |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| President                                | Brenda Leyndyke<br>309 N. Moorland Drive<br>Battle Creek, MI 49015 | Recording Secretary<br>Board meetings | Chelsea Johnson<br>110 N. Grand St.<br>Marshall, MI 49068          | Director 2020 | Larry Noyes<br>PO Box 102<br>Shepherd, MI 48883       |
| Vice President                           | Rozlyn Kelly<br>PO Box 3157<br>Farmington Hills, MI 48333          | Corresponding Secretary               | Patsy Miller<br>640-2 Lemon Creek Rd.<br>Berrien Springs, MI 49103 | Director 2021 | Faye Ebach<br>4610 Andre<br>Midland, MI 48642– 6160   |
| Recording Secretary<br>Delegate meetings | Sue Irvine<br>4215 Northgate Street NE<br>Grand Rapids, MI 49525   | Treasurer                             | <b>Jill O'Sullivan</b><br>21290 Laser Lane<br>South Lyon, MI 48178 | Director 2022 | Daniel Earl<br>13935 Ducharme Dr.<br>DeWitt, MI 48820 |

## Committee Chairpersons and Appointments

|                                                     |                                                                    |                                                   |                                                               |                                                    |                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Archivist                                           | Connie Olson<br>3327 Yellowstone<br>Ann Arbor, MI 48105-1522       | Library of Michigan<br>Liaison                    | Tim Gleisner<br>702 W. Kalamazoo St.<br>Lansing, MI 48915     | Public Records<br>Access & Records<br>Preservation | Derek Blount<br>905 N. Alexander Ave.<br>Royal Oak, MI 48067     |
| Awards                                              | Barb Curtindale<br>251 E. N-61<br>Harrison, MI 48625               | Archives of Michigan<br>Liaison                   | Kris Rzepczynski<br>702 W. Kalamazoo St.<br>Lansing, MI 48915 | Publication<br>Distribution                        | Sam Pardee<br>2518 Gary St.<br>Lansing, MI 48906                 |
| Central Mail                                        | Sam Pardee<br>2518 Gary Ave<br>Lansing, MI 48906                   | Membership                                        | John Pierce<br>2215 Marquette Rd<br>Ionia, MI 48846           | Nominating                                         | Elected Directors                                                |
| Historian                                           | Barb Curtindale<br>251 E. N-61<br>Harrison, MI 48625               | Newsletter Editor                                 | Carolyn Haines<br>3835 Bush Gardens Ln<br>Holt, MI 48842      | Media<br>Communications                            | Judy Sheldon<br>5029 Timberlakes Blvd. S.<br>Greenbush, MI 48738 |
| Finance/Budget                                      | <b>Jill O'Sullivan</b><br>21290 Laser Lane<br>South Lyon, MI 48178 | Continuing<br>Education                           | Rozlyn Kelly<br>PO Box 3157<br>Farmington Hills, MI 48333     | Webmaster                                          | Tom Koselka<br>38740 Palmer Rd<br>Westland, MI 48186             |
| Federation of<br>Genealogical<br>Societies Delegate | Tom Koselka<br>38740 Palmer Rd<br>Westland, MI 48186               | Projects                                          | Roger Moffat<br>3020 76th St SE<br>Caledonia, MI 49300        | Past President<br>Advisor                          | Katherine Willson<br>2470 Nottingham<br>Ann Arbor, MI 48104      |
| Lucy Mary Kellogg<br>Chair                          | Jessica Trotter<br>1943 Wood St. #1<br>Lansing, MI 48912           | Pre-Statehood and<br>First Family<br>Certificates | Kim Smith<br>1271 Porter Rd<br>White Lake, MI 48383           |                                                    |                                                                  |



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Events

26-29 Feb 2020  
RootsTech  
Salt Lake City, UT  
[RootsTech.org](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-3?i=100&cc=232328)

20-23 May 2020  
NGS Annual Family History Conference  
Salt Lake City, UT  
<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/program/>

10-11 Jul 2020  
Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar  
Judy G. Russell  
Lansing, MI  
[Mimgc.org](http://Mimgc.org)

2-5 Sep 2020  
FGS Annual Conference  
Kansas City, MO  
<https://fgs.org/conferences/>

25-26 Oct 2020  
MyHeritage LIVE  
Tel Aviv, Israel  
[MyHeritage](https://www.myheritage.com/en-us/what-is-new/myheritage-live)

14 Nov 2020  
MGC Fall Family History Event  
Sunny Morton  
Lansing, MI  
[Mimgc.org](http://Mimgc.org)

