

Michigan Genealogical Council Newsletter

Volume 44 Issue 3

Summer 2020

The Filby Award for Genealogical Librarianship Awarded

Kris Rzepczynski, senior archivist at the Archives of Michigan, was presented with the Filby Award at the recent National Genealogical Society conference. The Filby Award, sponsored by ProQuest, recognizes genealogical excellence in a library setting.



State Archivist Mark Harvey says Rzepczynski “embodies the many aspects of an exemplary genealogical librarian/archivist.” He worked with the Abrams Family Historical Collection at the Library of Michigan from 1998 to 2012. In 2012, he moved, with the Collection, to the Archives of Michigan. He continued hosting the Abrams Family History Seminar and introduced researcher “lock-ins” the night before the seminar, drawing up to fifty researchers who could get one-on-one research attention from a team of family history archivists and librarians.

MGC President Brenda Leyndyke says Kris “partners with the Michigan Genealogical Council to provide the best that genealogy research has to offer. Our council serves over 6200 members from over 75 genealogical and historical societies in Michigan. Kris meets monthly with our board, and bi-monthly with our delegates, to promote genealogical research using the resources available at the Archives. Kris provides our meeting attendees with the latest and greatest information, always with enthusiasm for genealogy. Kris is the 4th Filby Award winner from the Library and Archives of Michigan. Past winners include Carol Callard, Randy Riley and Tim Gleisner. We are blessed to have such wonderful leaders.

MGC congratulates Kris Rzepczynski on this great achievement.

Congratulations, Kris.

President's Message by Brenda

We are six months into 2020 and already we have seen events of historical proportions. Any one of these events would be unsettling and we have all three in the same six months. We are dealing with a pandemic, floods, and racial injustices.

During these disconcerting times I hope everyone is doing well, staying safe, and remaining optimistic. We can overcome all these challenges if we work together as a community.

Genealogists are in a unique position to understand the inequities, inequalities, and injustices in history. Our research shows many examples of this throughout history. The MGC board decided it was time to make an inclusion statement committing to the Black community. (see below) We need to listen to each other, learn from each other, and support each other, now more than ever.

Some of the ways MGC supports the Black community includes recruiting minority members to serve on our board, having a nondiscrimination policy, and supporting the efforts of our Black genealogical members and societies. We can improve by including more diverse speakers and programs, and encouraging all societies to listen, learn, and support the Black community.

I am interested in having this conversation with you. If you would like to share ideas on how Michigan Genealogical Council can be more inclusive and supportive of the Black community, please email me at President@mimgc.org.

Also, we are transitioning to a new normal. What will that mean for our society meetings and events? Many meetings and events have been cancelled, some have gone virtual, and others are still trying to figure it out. MGC is here to help **you transition to virtual meetings, just ask. Also, be sure to check out the newly updated Speaker's List, available on the MGC website**, where you will see a computer icon for those who can present virtually.

MGC has transitioned to virtual board and delegate meetings. The Barbara J. Brown Family History Event in July will be virtual, as well as our Thursday July 9th delegate meeting. Our September Out of Lansing meeting, in Sturgis, has been postponed until 2021. We are working on a virtual presentation for September 10th. MGC is making plans for the November Fall Family History Event with Sunny Morton to be virtual. I know we like to see our genea-friends, but look on the bright side, we are opening our events to all and you can even wear your bunny slippers!

In good news, I want to congratulate Michigan's own, Kris Rzepczynski, on his National Genealogical Society's Filby Award for Genealogical Librarianship. We all know what a treasure Kris is to our community, now the national community knows. Congratulations, Kris.

A great big round of applause and thank you goes to Carolyn Haines, our newsletter editor, who is retiring from her editor position after eight and one half years. I never had to worry about the newsletter because Carolyn is a great editor. The MGC community is going to miss her newsletter skills. Thank you, Carolyn. If anyone is interested in being our next newsletter editor, please send an email to President@mimgc.org.

Lastly, we are a community and even though we aren't meeting in person, yet-we can stay in touch via email, Facebook, and virtual meetings. I hope everyone stays safe and stays well.

MGC's Inclusion Statement

Black history in the United States has been rife with racism, violence, and hate. It is time to change that history. The Michigan Genealogical Council (MGC) stands in solidarity with the Black community and opposes inequality and injustice. Now more than ever, we must support one another and speak up, MGC vows to be silent no more.

Society News

Ancestry.com announces recent Collections on Ancestry®
"Europe, Registration of Foreigners and German Persecutees, 1939-1947"

We have additional records available this month to discover your WWII family story. We're adding 1.7 million records covering records gathered from the French Allied Zone and areas outside of modern Germany.

This collection consists of foreigners and German persecutees in Germany between 1939-1947 who were persecuted by public institutions, social securities and companies. The records may also include information on those who died, including burial information. The documents were assembled according to the Zones of Occupation - American, British, French and Soviet - by the Allied forces within Germany. Areas outside Germany were also recorded.

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/61758/>

Ancestry's May Society News

Irish Blessing

Premiered Pentecost Sunday, 31 May - 9:45am I/BST

The Irish Blessing - over 300 churches from our island sing a blessing over Ireland and beyond

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TascswZPj8U>

Update: September Meeting Information

MGC has decided to hold the September 10th, 11:00 am, delegate meeting virtually via Zoom.

MGC thanks Tri-State for their offer to host what is usually our Out of Lansing meeting. We look forward to going to Sturgis in September 2021.

More information, including registration details, will be sent closer to the meeting date.

Ruth Talbot McMahon

Notice was given to DSGR via Facebook that Ruth passed away on May 21, 2020. She was currently living in Texas.

Ruth was a professional genealogist. One of her major projects was indexing the original Wayne County death records held at the Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library. The index does not include the City of Detroit. The records can be ordered for a nominal fee on the Burton web site.

According to DSGR membership records, Ruth was a member of DSGR from 1986 through 2013. Ruth represented DSGR at Michigan Genealogical Council meetings as a delegate as late as 2009-2010.

Lifting a City

What do you do if a city goes underwater? Lift it up using **hydraulic jacks and jackscrews, obviously. That's what Chicago did in 1858**, when the city built on a swamp realized it was barely four feet above Lake Michigan. This resulted in loads of swampy streets without proper drainage, leaving water and sewage nowhere to go. The only solution was to install a storm water and sewer system, but **due to the city's level, city planners understood they'd have to literally lift the whole of Chicago to install these systems below the street**. Crazy as it sounds, this is what they did. Over decades, entire buildings and city blocks were lifted.

Then and Now Historical and Genealogical Library Quarterly



News con't:**“The Generations Project”**

“The Generations Project” is a reality television series produced by and shown on BYU Television that helps those who have questions about their family history investigate their own identities by embarking on a journey to uncover the lives and stories of their ancestors. During this journey each participant attempts to retrace their ancestors foot-steps often participating in immersion experiences, meeting experts, and even sometimes connecting with family they never knew they had. As each participant on the show sets out on their journey they discover new details about the lives of their ancestors, answer questions about identity, about time and place, and even discover things about themselves. Overall this journey helps participants learn where they have been and make their own conclusions about where they are going. This show can be found on www.byutv.org

WMGS newsletter

Hints to Finding Your Female Ancestor

- ◆ Research a woman indirectly by seeking records of her relatives-husband, father, siblings and children. She may be named as an heir, witness or traveling companion. A letter may mention her, too.
- ◆ Marriage records are most likely to contain a woman's maiden name. If you notice from censuses most of her children were born in one county, start your marriage records search there. Look for a certificate and license application in county records. Churches many have marriage bonds or banns. Study historical newspapers, too, for an announcement.
- ◆ Seek records on each of a woman's children, even those not in your line, including birth and baptism records, marriage records and death records. One may give a maiden name if others don't. Also note others named, especially witnesses, as they may be her relatives.
- ◆ At her tombstone, look at plots near hers, since families often were buried near each other. Study the caretaker's burial records for more information about

- ◆ those people to see if anyone was buried nearby with out a headstone.
- ◆ Once you have a guess at a surname, start researching families in the area with that surname to see if any have children with your female ancestor's first name. Keep note of all the clues that support, as well as those that refute, the conclusion you've found your ancestor's maiden name. It's likely that a collection of clues will lead to her name, rather than a single momentous record that states, "I, Mary Smith Pearson .."

Source: Family Tree magazine
Huron Shores Genealogical Society

Cemetery Walk

Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society

Our 4th Annual Cemetery Walk will take place on Sunday, **Sept. 27, 2020 at St. Michael's Cemetery in Richmond.**

We are excited to be working with St. Augustine Catholic Church in coordinating a memorable walk that includes the stories about the following Richmond people: Father Schrauder, Scott F. and Agnes M. (Corbat) Burke, Lois Wagner, and Dr. John Engels, as well as a special presentation at St. Augustine Church.

If you have stories or memories about any of these people that you would like to share, we would love to hear them. Please contact Mary Ellen at mlogan5477@sbcglobal.net.

RAHGS newsletter

Disasters

Disasters seem to be an appropriate topic at the moment, and as we all know, there have been numerous kinds of disasters our ancestors have lived through or not.

<http://gendisasters.com> What you will find on the website – newspaper articles about train wrecks, fires, floods, ship-wrecks, plane crashed, accidents and other disasters. Most of these articles list the dead and injured or missing. Use the Search Box to search for your ancestors or browse the articles by type of disaster, state or year.

Northville Genealogical Society newsletter



News con't:

How to Digitize Your Most Important Documents

The New York Times has published an article by J.D. Biersdorfer that I will suggest should be required reading by every genealogist. Here is a quote: **“But even if you’re already backing up your digital files, do you have a back-up plan for your one-of-a-kind documents and photos that you have only on paper – like birth certificates, marriage licenses and military discharge papers? Scanning copies of your personal papers creates a digital archive that can also be used as a backup, especially if you have the files password-protected and stored in a secure location. And even if you don’t have a document scanner, you can create your personal archive with a smartphone, a few apps and a bit of time. Here’s a guide to getting started.”**

The article isn’t written for the genealogy audience but it does include a lot of common-sense information FOR most everyone, including genealogists.

How to Digitize Your Most Important Documents may be found at <https://nyti.ms/2JOFgsk>

Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter dated April 8, 2020

NOTICE

The annual Waterford Genealogical Society Lock-In has been rescheduled for August 29, 2020.

Check their website for more information – <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~miwatgs/index.htm>

Farmington Genealogical Society newsletter

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 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/0,9327,7-381-88854_90003---,00.html

OLD NEWS at AADL

The Ann Arbor District Library has obtained copies and rights to many local newspapers over the years, including the Signal of Liberty, The Ann Arbor Argus, The Ann Arbor Courier, and most recently, The Ann Arbor News. OLD NEWS is the online home for all of this information.

<https://aadl.org/oldnews/papers>

DNA and Genealogy: Free Subject Guide from NEHGS

DNA has become an important tool in genealogical research, and as more people take the test, the number of matches increases, making it even more useful. The goal of this subject guide is to explain the tests and to show what tools are available for research and how to use them to identify ancestors and previously unknown relatives.

<https://tinyurl.com/yadl5cez>

Looking Ahead: The 1950 Census

Mark your calendars: The 1950 census is scheduled to come out on April 1, 2022, 72 years to the day after it was **taken. That’s still a couple of years away, but you might be curious about what to expect.**

The 1950 census asked fewer questions than the 1940 census did. The enumeration recorded responses to just 20 questions, including name, age, address, relationship to head of household, marital status, state or country of birth, occupation and (if foreign-born) whether a naturalized U.S. citizen. A 5-percent sample was asked additional questions, including the country of birth of the person’s father and mother and whether the person had served in the U.S. military.

When it was released in 2012, the 1940 census was placed online and made available for free, but indexes took several months to be created. The release of the 1950 census will probably follow the same pattern. Without an index to the 1950 census, you’ll need to know the →

News con't:

enumeration district (E.D.) so you can browse records **once they're released. To find the E.D. for your ancestor's** place of residence, go to the Unified Census ED Finder from Stephen P. Morse and Joel D. Weintraub at <https://stevemorse.org/census/unified.html> .

Select 1950, a state, county and city or town. Then click Get 1950 ED Number(s). Extracted from the article

"Counting Up" by Rick Crume, Family Tree Magazine, Mar/Apr 2020

Articles from Northville Genealogical Society newsletter

Database with 26 Million Documents on Nazi Victims, Survivors is Now Available Online

The Arolsen Archives, based in the German town of Bad Arolsen, announced that the recent addition to its database was completed with its partner, Yad Vashem, **Israel's Holocaust Memorial Center in Jerusalem. This database** can be a valuable tool for finding lost Jewish relatives.

Billed as the world's most comprehensive archive on the victims and survivors of Nazi persecution, the Arolsen Archives reached a "milestone" by publishing 26 million documents to its online database, including new information on forced laborers and deported Jews. The new uploads included data on the deportations of Jews, Roma and Sinti from the former German Empire, Austria, Bohemia and Moravia.

You can read more in an article in the Jewish News Syndicate at

<https://www.jns.org/online-database-with-26-million-documents-on-nazi-victims-survivors-now-online/>

while the Arolsen Archives may be found at <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/search/>.

from Dick Eastman's online newsletter dated April 29, 2020
Farmington Genealogical Society newsletter

Genealogical Research Journey & Tour on Your Own
Washington D.C. Trip
October 25-31, 2020

Kalamazoo Genealogical Society is partnering with the Portage Senior Center to offer a genealogical research and tour trip.

Five full days of research at three different facilities; National Archives and Records Administration; Library of Congress; and Daughters of the American Revolution.

A shuttle will be provided between the hotel and the research sites each morning and afternoon. For those who wish to sight-see the subway stations are nearby.

\$200 deposit due with registration form—spots fill quickly with final payment due Friday, August 28, 2020

Pick up October 25, Sunday in Portage and Marshall, MI

Itinerary details to be provided at a Pre-Trip meeting at the Portage Senior Center on Monday October 12 from 1:30-2:30.

Questions can be directed to: 269-324-9239

<https://www.portagemi.gov/266/Senior-Center>

Record Access Report

Posted On: Mon, 18 May 2020

Subject: (Vatican) Researchers Find that Pope Pius XII Knew About Atrocities Happening to the Jews During World War II

The IAJGS Records Access Alert previously reported on the opening of the Archives of the Holocaust Era of Pope Pius XII (who served as Pope from 1939 to 1958). Pope Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli), has been the center of many controversies over the years. A week after the opening the Archives, they were shut down due to the pandemic. However, the few days the Archive was open was adequate for German researchers from the University of Münster, to be able to review documents, which has been reported that they uncovered a document confirming that Pope Pius XII knew about what was happening during the Holocaust, proving that he failed to share this information with US authorities following their direct inquiry.

The research team also found three small photographs

Continued page 12

Pioneer Certificate Program

Finally, a break in the quarantine! With our cautious return to normalcy, this committee has been able to receive applications and start the review process.

Our member societies are encouraged to promote the certificates and to guide those interested through the application process. The goal of this committee is to receive well-documented lineages of our early pioneers.

Here are a few pointers to keep in mind:

- Please read through the directions carefully, they may be long but a lot of information is included
- Number your documents consecutively, do not separate the numbering by generation
- Find a Grave memorials, for the most part, are not documented, only the dates readable on the stone is accepted
- Censuses before 1880 do not state relationships, additional supporting documents will be needed
- Citations should be complete enough for another researcher to find the document referenced. It is not enough to say 1880 MI census
- If you cannot read it- neither can we. A transcription may be needed
- If it is in another language -transcribe it to English

It is exciting for the Michigan Genealogical Council and the Pioneer Certificate Committee to be able to honor our early pioneers. We look forward to receiving more well documented applications.

Kim Smith

Pioneer Certificate Program Chair



MGC Anniversary Awards Presented

Barb Curtindale, MGC awards chairperson virtually presented awards at the May delegate meeting to the following MGC member societies. These member societies received their certificates in the mail from Barb.

Cornish Connection of Lower Michigan was founded in 1995, by descendants of Cornish immigrants. They celebrate **St. Piran's day with a Cornish pasty dinner**. MGC congratulates the society on 25 years of membership.

Ford Genealogy Club is a club for employees and retirees of Ford Motor Company. FGC strives to further genealogical research and assist club members in their research. MGC congratulates Ford Genealogy Club on 25 years of genealogical service.



French Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan was organized in 1980 as an educational, historical, cultural, and genealogical non-profit organization committed to making people aware of the rich culture and history of French Canadians in North America. Congratulations to FCHSM on 40 years of service the genealogical community.

Lapeer County Genealogical Society is celebrating 40 years as a society. It promotes interest in research and genealogy. A research center is in the Lapeer County Historical Society's museum. **Congratulations to the Lapeer County Genealogical Society on its 40 years of service.**

2020 Michigan History Day Awards

Michigan History Day, an educational program of the Historical Society of Michigan held its 2020 History Day **virtually this year**. The theme was **“Breaking Barriers in History.”** MGC sponsors an award for **“Best Use in Family History”** for the State Final of Michigan History Day. MGC President Brenda Leyndyke and Calhoun County Genealogical Society President, Kirk Leyndyke were judges for this award. The students submitted pictures of the exhibit with slides through google drive. A process paper was submitted as well. These were viewed by the judges at home. Awards were presented virtually through You Tube.

The Junior Division award went to Maren Barfuss and Virginia Weykamp, Upton Middle School, St. Joseph, **Michigan for their exhibit titled, “James Hanger’s effect on prosthetic history.”** James Hanger was the first documented amputee of the Civil War. Hanger used his engineering skills to make prosthetics for himself and others. He received patents for his work. Maren is related to James Hanger by being his 10th cousin, 5 times removed.

The Senior Division award went to Connor Method, De-tour Area High School, Drummond Island, Michigan for **the exhibit titled, “Anna Hilback’s Barrier to United States Citizenship.”** Anna Sophia Walker Hilback was Connor’s great-great grandmother. She was born in Illinois in 1896, a United States citizen, but lost her citizenship due to the Expatriation Act of 1907, because she married a man of Norwegian citizenship.

It is not required that the awardees have a familial relationship to the person in their project. It just so happened **that this year’s winners did.**

MGC is happy to support the work of the Michigan History Day award winners with a \$150 gift



Alonzo J. Sherman
Oscoda, Michigan
June 12, 1927-May 8, 2020

Age 92, of Oscoda, MI passed away on Friday, May 8, 2020 at the Aleda E. Lutz Veterans Administration Hospital in Saginaw, MI. Alonzo was born on June 12, 1927 in Grand Blanc, MI to the late Grant and Lucy Sherman (nee Culhane). After graduating from high school, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State University in Soil Conservation. Alonzo then earned his **Master’s degree from the University of Michigan in 1957** and followed that up with a PhD Candidacy at the University of Hawaii.

He served in the United States Army for 2 years. His detail included serving as an Intelligence Specialist in **Tokyo, Japan.** Alonzo’s training landed him at **Fort Knox, KY, Fort Belvoir, VA and Fort Myer in Washington, D.C.** Following his honorable discharge from active duty, he pursued a career in Federal Civil Service for the United States Government that spanned 20 years.

Alonzo moved to Oscoda in 1972, retired in 1978 and pursued his love of genealogy, antique restoration and local history. He belonged to the Huron Shores Genealogy Society and was a past member of the AuSable-Oscoda Historical Society.

Al was also the recipient of the 2009 Lucy Mary Kellogg award from the Michigan Genealogical Council. This is a state award given to one outstanding genealogist each year. Only the first recipient in 1992 has been from a northern Michigan area until Alonzo received the award this year. Following is part of the presentation ceremony:

He is known as the “local historian” who everyone turns to for information on our area. He has researched his family, written his family history, collaborated with other Sherman families through his web site and shared his knowledge with many, many others. As a member of the Huron Shores Genealogical Society since 1990, he has been

Alonzo con't

vice president, secretary, treasurer, librarian and his present position of database manager.

AuSable-Oscoda Historical Society and Museum and the Iosco County Historical Museum have benefited from his dedication to the history of the area and his many talents in restoration, organization and preservation of historical documents.

There have been two major projects in the past several years that have benefited from his expertise. The first was the scanning of the glass negative collection housed at the Iosco County Historical Museum, indexing these and placing the images in our scan file. The second is the Iosco County Veterans Memorial project (www.ioscovets.org/). Al is our Society's representative on the project committee. Our Society did the ground work on creating a working list of all veterans from Iosco County, Revolutionary War to the present. Al has spent countless hours verifying those names against our other indexes.

Alonzo was featured in the March 2008 issue of Family History Magazine as volunteer of the month. Al is an invaluable member of the Huron Shores Genealogical Society and we are all very proud of him.

Judy Sheldon, Huron Shores Genealogical Society

Membership dues are due July 1st.

The form can be found at :

https://mimgc.org/upload/files/MGC_membership_form2020_2021.pdf

Please see that your treasurer receives a copy of the form. Emails are sent to the President and Delegates, but not to the Treasurers.

Your help in this is greatly appreciated.

“Easter Eggs, Endora and Albain Butter”

by Rick Grassley

It is truly amazing what one can find on the internet and in all of the various databases now available to genealogists. After Thanksgiving, I decided to do some research on the Albain family to try to fill in those missing dates and names. **One of my queries included a search on “Newspapers.com” for the Albain surname. Looking to states other than Michigan and Ohio, I tried California and found a Richard “Dick” Albain.** It turns out that Richard Franklin Albain (1923-1999) was the third great-grandson of Robert Albin or my third cousin twice removed. Now just being able to find this connection in a relatively short time is remarkable, but it gets more interesting.

It turns out that Richard was a successful and well known **“special effects” person for both television and movies. He started a family business (ANA Special Effects) in 1970, that has been an industry leader for 49 years. Two of his more famous television shows were “Bewitched” and “I Dream of Jeannie”; combined there are over 180 episodes.**

Now, “Easter eggs” are messages, images, or a feature hidden in a television show or movie. Imagine my surprise when I found a site listing **“Albain Butter” as an Easter egg in “Bewitched” season 1,**



episode 10. In “Just One Happy Family,” - **Samantha’s mother, Endora (played by Agnes Moorehead), sits on a box of butter in the refrigerator with the label of “Albain Butter - Distributed by Albain Creamery”.**

A great story and trivia for the Albain family. You can watch the video here:

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6kp267> at the 2:23 mark

(photo used as fair use of a copyrighted work...)

Genealogical Society of Monroe County newsletter

Lucy Mary Kellogg Award

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 National 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.



The nomination form and list of requirements for qualification can be found at mimgc.org under Lucy Mary Kellogg on the left side bar of the web page.

Forms and supporting materials – or updates for those previously nominated – can be submitted to: info@mimgc.org.

Submissions are due August 31, 2020.

Jessica Trotter
Chairperson, Lucy Mary Kellogg Award

MGC Speaker's List Updated

There have been some contact changes, and a few have retired from speaking.

A new icon appears in this revision. If a speaker offers presentations as virtual presentations, below their name and contact information, you will see a computer icon. Please contact the speaker to arrange who is to provide the virtual platform. This is a valuable resource for societies wishing to partner with local libraries, archives, and historical societies to offer joint educational programs to the community.

If your society knows of a genealogy speaker who would like to be added to this list, please contact MGC. (info@mimgc.org)

Midlander receives First Families of Michigan Certification

Nancy Pnacek of Midland was recently awarded the First Families of Michigan certification from the Michigan Genealogical Council (MGC) out of Lansing.

Faye Eback, MGC representative, awarded the certification and a pin at the **Midland Genealogical Society's monthly meeting**. In addition, Pnacek's ancestors will be added to a database of early Michigan pioneers.

"It is an honor to present this Certificate to Nancy," Eback stated. "Hers is one of the first applications to be accepted and approved by the MGC for this program."



Faye Eback and Nancy Pnacek, photo by Mark Faucher

The certificates are offered to honor Michigan ancestors who settled the Great Lakes state. Pre-Statehood certification applies to those who arrived before January 26, 1837. The First Families certification is for ancestors who arrived between January 26, 1837 and December 31, **1880**. In Pnacek's case, she was able to trace her great-grandfather Charles Thornton, who was born in Clinton County in 1868.

"The interesting thing about this family is that everyone told me my great-grandfather was born in New York state. However, this had been a brick wall for me along that family line because I never found any documentation of him being born there, though I was able to place his parents in New York. Thanks to volunteer efforts to digitize Michigan birth records, I was able to find a record for him born in

Cert. con't:

Bengal Township. I never knew they lived that far south and would never have looked in Michigan."

"I am so proud to have been awarded this certification and to know my family has been part of Michigan's rich history. I am now working on First Families certification for my Mom's side of the family."

For more information visit: <https://mimgc.org> or email certificates@mimgc.org

Article used with permission from the Midland Daily News

Old Handwriting - Do This Now to Help You
Read Those Records Later

You're at the library or on the computer, and you finally get to that old record you've been wanting – only to inwardly (or even outwardly – it's OK) groan at the impossible-looking handwriting. Don't panic. Taking a few measures now can help later, when it's time to sit down and digest that record.

If possible, get a digital copy so that later on, you can adjust the settings and zoom in. Don't alter the original version; instead, save a new working copy.

Make both light and dark copies in case the record is light in some areas and dark in others.

Print both positive (black on white) and negative (white on black) copies.

Save copies of pages beyond those with your ancestor's record, so you'll have an additional source of the same writing.

If the record has written page numbers, copy pages one through 10 to use as reference samples for reading dates.

Farmington Genealogical Society newsletter

Diligent Cemetery Workers: Jen and Joe Brodzik

The Northville Genealogical Society and members Jen and Joe Brodzik were featured in the First Quarter 2020 issue of Northville Today magazine. For those members who live outside of Northville and do not receive this publication, it can now be viewed online:

<http://mymediaflip.com/publication/?i=656920>

Jen Brodzik has been a Northville resident all her life while her husband Joe moved into the area in 1998. As members of the Northville Genealogical Society they wanted to do their part for the area. They volunteered to help update the Rural Hill and Oakwood Cemetery transcriptions. Thinking it would take a summer for each cemetery they started working. It took them from 2012-2016 to finish Oakwood!



Jen

They started working on Rural Hill in 2015 with a transcription of the stones. Recognizing the availability of new information online, they chose

to add more extensive information to each person. They also realized that many of the people in the old transcription were misidentified; while others had their names engraved but now are buried in a different cemetery. Some women had their maiden names on stones in the family plot but died after they were married and on it goes.

Rural Hill was established in 1886 and is still an active cemetery. The majority of burials in Oakland are from mid-late 1880s with a very late burial in 1990.



Joe

'I think it is amazing, and to see a couple do this on their own time is incredible,' said Ann Wizinsky, the vice president of the Northville Genealogical Society.

Excerpted from Northville Today

Records con't

The research team also found three small photographs showing emaciated concentration camp inmates and corpses thrown into a mass grave.

The archive will remain closed at least until this summer, which Wolf considers a catastrophe for his research project. **"There are enough questions to keep the whole team busy for 10 years!"**

To read more see: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2020/04/29/vatican-pope-pius-records-holocaust/>; and <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/pius-xii-chose-not-to-tell-us-about-the-holocaust-buried-document-shows-628034>

Posted on: Wed, 22 Apr 2020

Subject: Reclaim the Records--Total Victory in Missouri

It was November 2016 that the IAJGS Records Access Alert reported on Reclaim the Records suing the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for birth (1920-2015) and death indexes (1968-2015). It took until now--April 15, 2020, for Reclaim the Records to win their case on the long-running Missouri Sunshine Law for free public access of the state death and birth indexes. The indexes are basic finding aids to vital records, not actual certificates. The information contained include: the given name, surname, and date of birth or death. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services tried to charge \$1.5 million for the public records request, and then decided to **ignore the state's sunshine law.**

The judge ruled that we were entitled to these records for their *actual* costs, which wound up being \$2,557.30. But because of the violations by DHSS, we were awarded a total of \$12,000! This means that even though we're a non-profit, the state's behavior was so over-the-top and inexcusable in responding to our requests that *we accidentally turned a profit on our lawsuit.*

To read the judge's order see: <https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/reclaim-the-records-vs-missouri-dhss-summary-judgment-2020-04-15.pdf>

Jan Meisels Allen
Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

Derek J. Blount
MGC Records Access and Preservation

Dear HSM Members and Friends,

Following nearly five inches of rain in a 48-hour period, two dams on the Tittabawassee River failed on May 19, 2020, resulting in catastrophic flooding in Midland County that devastated large areas in Midland, Sanford, and other areas. This included devastating flooding in two of our member historical organizations in the area: the Midland County Historical Society museums and the Sanford Centennial Museum complex. Both of these entities have been longtime member organizations of the Historical Society of Michigan and are in dire need.

We are raising funds for the Midland County Historical Society and the Sanford Centennial Museum that may have been significantly affected to provide relief for the devastated portions of their historical collections and property.

The Sanford museum is a volunteer-run organization and is in desperate need of help and donations to save their collections and research facilities. Nearly a dozen of the buildings that make up the Sanford Centennial Museum complex were deeply affected and suffered major damage. The museum is very near the dam which failed in that community.

The Midland County Historical Society also suffered greatly in this disaster. **"The Doan History Center, where most of the Midland County Historical Society archives are stored, took in an estimated 24 inches of water throughout the facility,"** noted Jake Huss, the society's historical programs and exhibitions manager.

Please consider helping these entities today. Donations received through a GoFundMe campaign will go directly toward the preservation and restoration of damaged property and salvageable artifacts and collections. The Historical Society of Michigan will withdraw the funds from the campaign and convey them to the Midland County historical organizations that have been most affected by this flood. Thank you for your support.

Larry J. Wagenaar
Executive Director and CEO Historical Society of Michigan

To donate via GoFundMe go to: https://www.gofundme.com/mvc.php?route=homepage_normal/search&term=midland%20county%20history%20museums%20flood%20relief

Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar

FRIDAY, JULY 10 – SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2020

[REGISTRATION DETAILS](#) | [PROGRAM SCHEDULE](#) | [SPEAKER BIOS](#)



Each summer, the Archives of Michigan and the Michigan Genealogical Council host a seminar to promote family history and offer genealogical learning opportunities. This event is generously supported by the Abrams Foundation in loving memory of Barbara J. Brown.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are pleased to offer this flagship annual event remotely via Zoom. We appreciate our speakers' flexibility as we transition to a virtual format this year and look forward to hosting Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, "The Legal Genealogist," next year onsite at the Archives of Michigan.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

[Register Now!](#)

Registration June 16 - July 7: \$30

Includes registration for the two-day seminar.

All registrants will receive conference log in information by email a few days before the event.

Friday, July 10, 2020

9:30 - 10 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Comments

Welcome from the Michigan State Archivist and Michigan Genealogical Council President.

10 - 10:30 a.m.

Archives of Michigan Tour

Join the Archives of Michigan staff for a behind-the-scenes tour of the collections, including original manuscript records and the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection.

11 - 11:30 a.m.

Break into the Past: A Game for Genealogists

Inspired by the escape room phenomenon, this game has players solve a puzzle using a series of clues, including genealogical resources.

Noon - 1 p.m.

Empire State Roots: New York Family History Research

New York was by far the most important state in the early growth and development of Michigan and the Midwest. This session will explore New York's migration patterns and provide an overview of the fantastic genealogical resources available in print and online.

Presenter: Kris Rzepczynski, Archives of Michigan



Seminar con't:

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Annual Reports: Supplemental Documents for Genealogical Research

Governments, businesses, and other organizations produce annual reports that describe the entities' activities throughout the preceding year. Learn more about these useful documents and see examples of these published reports that can provide information for genealogical researchers investigating the greater context of their ancestor's' lives. Presenter: Adam Oster, Library of Michigan

3 - 4 p.m.

Who You Gonna Call? WIKIs in Family History

In this session, attendees will explore the FamilySearch Wiki, why it should be in your toolbox, search techniques and how to contribute your expertise to make the Wiki a more robust tool to help genealogists. We will also look at more specialized Wikis that offer guidance with more advanced questions. Presenter: Thomas Koselka, Michigan Genealogical Council

Saturday, July 11, 2020

9 - 10 a.m.

Seeking Michigan Becomes Michiganology

Digital collections previously on SeekingMichigan.org are now available on Michiganology.org. This session will review how best to navigate Michiganology.org, talk through known issues with the site and listen to your suggestions for how to improve this free resource. Presenter: Jill Arnold, Archives of Michigan

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

The ABCs of DNA & Genealogy

What can DNA testing tell you? What tests should I take? What does it all mean? DNA testing can be a powerful tool to wield in your genealogy toolkit. This session offers a beginner's overview on tests, testing companies, and how you can use your results. Presenter: Jessica Trotter, Researcher & blogger

Noon - 1 p.m.

Getting Around the Brick Wall

We all reach the end of the trail on some of our branches, but as Churchill said, "Never, never, never give up!" By trying variant spellings, little used sources, and having just a little luck, you may break through that wall. How about really analyzing the sources you already have - there may be hidden clues there, too. Presenter: James Jackson, Professional researcher

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. The Good, the Bad, the Deviant: Researching Correctional Records

This program will help researchers navigate prison records held by the Archives of Michigan to uncover information about your ancestors' past misdeeds, including how to get started, and using prison records to find even more genealogy resources. Presenter: Annakathryn Welch, Archives of Michigan

3 - 4 p.m.

You CAN Take It With You! Mobile Genealogy Tools

Utilizing the mobile tools of Ancestry.com, RootsMagic, Legacy, Evernote and more, you don't have to take your huge notebooks of family genealogy with you to the library when doing research. And what about social media? There are many tools that you can take on your computer, tablet or Smartphone! Presenter: Judy Nimer Muhn, Professional researcher

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Oral History in the Genealogy World

No genealogy is complete without recorded stories from our family members. From oldest to the youngest, we all have stories to tell about our family memories. Please join us to learn about setting up an oral history plan, asking quality questions, and what to do after the interviews. Presenter: James Cameron, Michigan Oral History Association



LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN

Matt Pacer, Reference Librarian, Library of Michigan

Library of Michigan Update!

Greetings everyone from the Library of Michigan.

Much has changed since the last update. First, I hope you and your family are safe and healthy. Library of Michigan staff continue to work from home during the ongoing pandemic. You can contact staff through email (librarian@michigan.gov) or you can call us and leave a message at 517-335-1477. It may take us a little while longer to respond to your question, but we thank you for your patience.

One of the best changes that occurred during the last two months is the online library card application. As a Michigan resident, you can apply for a library card and access many of our databases such as Fold3 and Detroit Free Press Historical Newspapers. Please click on the following link to locate the library card application form: WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/LIBRARYCARD. To see the databases you can access please visit the following website: WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/FAMILYHISTORY.

Even though we cannot go out and make presentations at your location, we are available for virtual presentations. If your organization would like to talk about scheduling a family history program, please email us at librarian@michigan.gov.

Lastly, please routinely check our website and facebook page to find new information about the Library of Michigan and any reopening information. We hope to see you soon!

Matt



ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN & ABRAMS FOUNDATION HISTORICAL COLLECTION

Kris W. Rzepczynski, Senior Archivist, Archives of Michigan

Archives of Michigan News & Notes

Since the last issue of the MGC newsletter in March, we have all witnessed and experienced unprecedented and historic changes to our society and way of life. The Archives of Michigan and Michigan History Center continue to **explore ways to better reach and connect with our constituents, the research and genealogical community, and our state's residents.**

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the Archives of Michigan, Michigan History Museum, and historic sites in the Michigan History Museum system continue to be closed to the public until further notice. Department administration and Michigan History Center management continue to discuss and plan for reopening, but no official date has been set. The latest updates can be found at the DNR COVID-19 information page: <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr>.

In response to the protests across Michigan and around the country after the death of George Floyd, the Michigan History Center released a statement on racial and social justice. This statement can be found online at the Michigan History Center's web site: https://www.michigan.gov/mhc/0,9075,7-361-85129_85965-531474--,00.html.

The 2020 Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar is coming up in a few short weeks, July 10-11, 2020. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are pleased to offer this flagship annual event remotely via Zoom. We appreciate our speakers' flexibility as we transition to a virtual format this year and look forward to hosting Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, "The Legal Genealogist," next year onsite at the Archives of Michigan. Hosted by the Archives of Michigan and Michigan Genealogical Council, the Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar is generously supported by the Abrams Foundation. Registration information and the full program schedule can be found online at: https://www.michigan.gov/mhc/0,9075,7-361-85148_98951-523785--,00.html. We look forward to seeing everyone – virtually – next month!

A friendly reminder, too, that the Archives of Michigan continues to offer Reference services via email (archives@michigan.gov) and phone (517.335.2576). The online store at Michiganology for submitting online research requests (probate records, circuit court case files, corrections records, naturalizations, and more) will be up and running soon after staff are able to work more onsite. Reference staff are also pleased to offer virtual reference sessions with the research community; signup information for a live consultation with a Reference Archivist can be found here: <https://form.jotform.com/201495506848059>. As always, please contact us at archives@michigan.gov with any questions about the Archives and our collections, services or digitization projects, Reference staff will be happy to assist you! Stay safe out there, we look forward to seeing you all again soon!

Kris

Upcoming Delegate Meetings and Events

July 9, 2020

Board Meeting 9am—Delegate Meeting 11am (Zoom)
Michigan County Poor Farms, Adam Oster, Library of Michigan

August 13, 2020

Board Meeting 10am (Zoom)

September 10, 2020

Board Meeting 9am—Delegate Meeting 11am (Zoom)

NOTE FOR ZOOM DELEGATE MEETINGS:

You will receive an invitation for the
Delegate meetings to register before the meeting.
Registration is REQUIRED!

Michigan County Poor Houses

Adam Oster, Library of Michigan Community Engagement Librarian, will present Michigan County Poor Houses. Long before the advent of modern social welfare, county governments in Michigan maintained poor houses or poor farms.

Explore the early history of these facilities in their attempts **to care for Michigan’s poor, elderly and destitute. Discover the lives and records of the inmates that resided at our state’s poor houses.**

Adam Oster

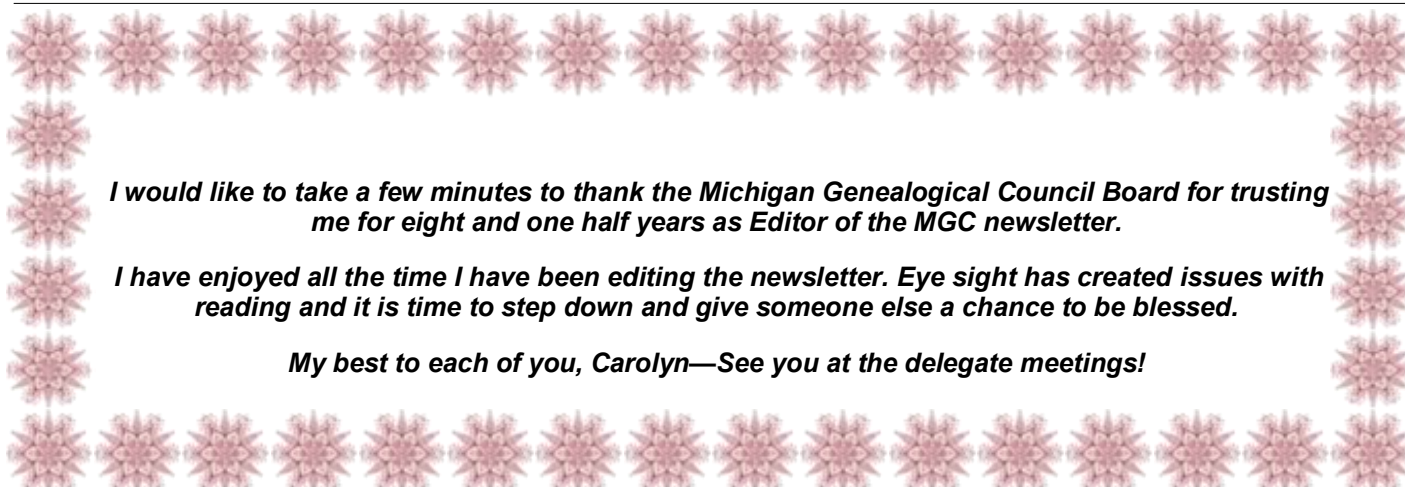


Adam Oster, Community Engagement Librarian

Adam is the Community Engagement Librarian at the Library of Michigan. His responsibilities include increasing **awareness of the library’s collections through exhibits, programs, and social media outlets.**

His love of history and genealogy research led him to receive a Bachelor of Arts in History from Grand Valley State University. He has a Master of Library Science from Indiana University.

Adam has more than 18 years of library experience in both public and academic libraries.



I would like to take a few minutes to thank the Michigan Genealogical Council Board for trusting me for eight and one half years as Editor of the MGC newsletter.

I have enjoyed all the time I have been editing the newsletter. Eye sight has created issues with reading and it is time to step down and give someone else a chance to be blessed.

My best to each of you, Carolyn—See you at the delegate meetings!

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.

Michigan Historical Center

**Closed due to Covid-19
until further notice**

Days Closed in 2020

- July 3—Independence Day
- September 7—Labor Day
- November 3—Election Day
- November 11—Veterans Day
- November 26, 27—Thanksgiving
- December 24, 25—Christmas
- Dec 31, Jan 1—New Year’s

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

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
For information call: (517) 373-1580
or email 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. Its 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.

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 309 N. Moorland Drive Battle Creek, MI 49015	Recording Secretary Board meetings	Chelsea Johnson 110 N. Grand St. Marshall, MI 49068	Director 2021	Faye Ebach 4610 Andre Midland, MI 48642–6160
Vice President	Rozlyn Kelly PO Box 3157 Farmington Hills, MI 48333	Corresponding Secretary	Patsy Miller 640-2 Lemon Creek Rd. Berrien Springs, MI 49103	Director 2022	Daniel Earl 13935 Ducharme Dr. DeWitt, MI 48820
Recording Secretary Delegate meetings	Sue Irvine 4215 Northgate Street NE Grand Rapids, MI 49525	Treasurer	Jill O'Sullivan 21290 Laser Lane South Lyon, MI 48178	Director 2023	Larry Noyes PO Box 102 Shepherd, MI 48883

Committee Chairpersons and Appointments

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

WANTED
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

To create a genealogically driven quarterly newsletter

And to join the MGC team

If interested, email
President@mimgc.org

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Events

(Please check with events in advance in case there is a change in plans and is cancelled due to the coronavirus)

10-11 Jul 2020
Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar
Lansing, MI
Virtual
Mimgc.org

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

2020 VGA Conference
13 Nov 13 -15 Nov 2020
9:00 AM Eastern to 6:00 PM Eastern
Virtual
<https://virtualgenealogy.org/annual-conference/>

25-26 Oct 2020
MyHeritage LIVE
Tel Aviv, Israel
MyHeritage

14 Nov 2020
MGC Fall Family History Event
Sunny Morton
Lansing, MI
Virtual
Mimgc.org

The Michigan Naturalizations Indexing Project is back online at Family Search. Transcribers are needed. This is a huge project and the more people who transcribe the sooner the records will be available.