

Michigan Genealogical Council Newsletter

Volume 44 Issue 4 Fall 2020

Michigan Genealogical Council's Fall Family History Seminar (November 14, 2020) With Sunny Morton



The Michigan Genealogical Council in cooperation with the Archives of Michigan and the Library of Michigan is hosting the MGC 2020 Fall Family History Seminar on Saturday, November 14th. Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic we are offering our seminar virtually this year. That means that you can participate in the sessions from the comfort of your home.

Sunny Morton will be our guest speaker and will present four sessions. The Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan will each present one session.

Registration is required. Early bird registration through Oct 31st is \$20. Registration Nov 1-13th is \$25. Both includes registration for four sessions with Sunny Morton, one session with the Archives of Michigan, one session with Library of Michigan, and a syllabus as a downloadable file. All registrants will receive seminar log-in information, via email, a few days before the event. For more information, including registration, visit mimgc.org

Schedule

9:00-9:15 am: Welcome

9:15-10:15 am: Sunny Morton - Must Use U.S. Record Collections You Might Not Know About on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Findmypast and MyHeritage. Meet my favorite U.S. record collections on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Findmypast and MyHeritage! Become acquainted with powerhouse collections that are easy to ignore but tough to beat for the genealogical gems they reveal: U.S. special census schedules; newspaper gems; city directories; genealogical periodical articles and more.

10:30-11:30 am: Sunny Morton - Intro to U.S. Church Records: Why We Care Where Grandma Went to Church. U.S. church records of many denominations can reveal ancestors' vital events, family relationships, overseas birthplaces and other residences and religious lives. From the co-author of the acclaimed book [*How to Find Your Family History in U.S. Church Records*](#), learn what these records may look like, how to identify an ancestral church, locate extant records and access them.

11:30 am -12:30 pm: Kris Rzepczynski - Researching Your Family's History at Archives of Michigan. Learn what resources are available at the Archives of Michigan for family history research. Find out the policies and procedures for accessing these important Michigan documents.

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President's Message

I was hoping that we would be meeting in person by now but having a delegate meeting with only ten people allowed wouldn't work for us, so we are still holding our board and delegate meetings virtually. Many of our societies are coming back from a summer hiatus and adjusting to a new program year. Some are pros at the virtual meeting process, some are still learning, and others are saying they won't be holding meetings until they can meet in person. Wherever you are in the virtual process know that MGC is here to support societies. If there is anything we can do to help you in this process, please let us know at info@mimgc.org.

It seems like virtual programs are in our future and MGC is no different. MGC's Saturday, November 14th Fall Family History Seminar is going virtual. Sunny Morton will be our guest speaker and will present four sessions. Kris Rzepczynski from the Archives of Michigan and Matt Pacer from the Library of Michigan will present one each. Registration is available on the right side of our website: mimgc.org. The early bird fee of \$20 and the regular fee of \$25 gives you six excellent sessions and a syllabus. More information is on our website including class descriptions and speaker biographies. Invite your out of state friends to join us.

MGC societies are not alone in the virtual world. Many Michigan, state, national, and international societies and organizations are offering excellent genealogical education virtually. Some are free and some not. I attended Genealogical Research Institute in Pittsburgh this summer, virtually. More information about my experience is in this newsletter. The one thing about virtual presentations is it gives people the chance to attend that wouldn't be able to otherwise. I heard DSGR (Detroit) had someone from Belgium attend their meeting. If you are interested in seeing what virtual programs are available, check out <https://conferencekeeper.org/virtual/>

I encourage you to support your local society. I have heard some societies are struggling because they weren't able to have their summer fundraising activities. It is a hard time for many. If possible, I encourage you to join a society, or two, and if you are a member, please pay your dues. I would hate to see the genealogical society world be a victim of the pandemic we are still dealing with.

We are all in this together and I hope the next time I write a President's message I will be able to say I have attended meetings, visited libraries, visited museums and we are all back to 'normal', whatever that may be.

Stay safe, stay well.

Brenda Leyndyke
President
Michigan Genealogical Council

For more on Brenda's experiences at GRIP, see her article "**A GRIP-ing Experience**" on page 12.

For more information on future opportunities at 2021 GRIP – see page 6.

Society News

All programs listed should be verified to make sure they are still happening – all societies having these programs have given their permission to list them here.

Upcoming meeting presenters for the **Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society** (all presentations virtual):

October 3, 2020 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Presenter: Cheryl Garnett

Topic: **Black Loyalists**

This program was rescheduled from April. FHWGS Board member Cheryl Garnett was researching Black Loyalists (persons of African descent who joined the British military) in the American Revolution and discovered some of her ancestors were British soldiers.

November 7, 2020 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Presenter: Deborah Abbott, PhD

Topic: **A Case Study Proving Oral History**

This lecture will ask you to put on your "CSI" hat and utilize your "detective" skills, as well as your critical thinking abilities to prove an oral history story when very little information is known. You will learn how to identify clues, master techniques and find resources that help to solve the unknown.

For more information – their website is:

<https://fhwgs.org/>

Information provided from the Newsletter of the Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society by Shaun Thomas, Society President

From the May 2020 Issue of the Waterford Genealogical Society E-Newsletter

A Homemade Copy Stand by Thomas Steven Smith

Look at how Thomas builds a Copy Stand in the WGS Issue at:

https://sites.rootsweb.com/~miwatgs/GenieNotes/GenieNotesV16/V16%20NUM%205_MAY_2020.pdf

Programs from the Northville Genealogical Society

October 20, 2020 – 7:00 pm

Northville District Library

“Women’s Long Battle for the Vote: Surprises on the Road to the Nineteenth Amendment”

Join author Ellen Carol DuBois via Zoom, as she discusses 75 years of the U.S. woman suffrage movement with an emphasis on things you might not already know, including; how so many women were able to vote before the 19th Amendment’s ratification and how close the amendment came to not passing in 1920. **Cost: Free**

Join meeting at:

<https://northvillelibrary.org/?p=24958>

October 20, 2020 – 6:30 pm

Lyon Twp Public Library **“Mirror Trees - What They Are and How to Use Them”**

Mirror trees are a useful genetic genealogy technique for determining common ancestors that you might share with your Ancestry DNA matches. Mirror trees can be especially helpful for cases of adoption, misattributed parentage and family tree brick walls. This webinar will be presented by Mary Henderson, a professional genetic genealogist.

6:30 pm. Registration required:

<https://lyon-lib.libcal.com/event/5608029>

You will receive an email reminder one day before the program with the Zoom link and passcode to join:

Information for these two meetings above originally published in Northville Genealogical Society Newsletter, September – October 2020 Issue.

In a survey from the September Delegate meeting

- 72% of attending societies said they are still meeting - with all but two of those virtual!

From the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County

Sunday, October 25 – 1:30 pm (Virtual Meeting)

"Scotch-Irish Research"

presented by Derek Blount

Learn about the Scotch-Irish: who they were, where they came from and where they can be found. Find out what records are available and how to find online records and records still not digitized.

Sunday, October 25 – 3:15 pm (Virtual Meeting)

"Genealogy Webinars and Podcasts"

presented by GSWC members Omer Jean Windborn and Sharon Brevort

Webinars and podcasts are one of the most convenient and least expensive ways to augment your genealogy education. Discover over twenty quality sources for webinars and podcasts, including those covering African Americans and American Indians. Find out how and where to locate them. For October Flyer:

https://washtenawgenealogy.org/upload/events/files/1599686253_GSWCOct20MeetingFlyer-3.pdf

Sunday, November 22 – 1:30 pm

"Windmills and Wooden Shoes --Dutch Genealogy"

presented by Megan Heyl

Location: TBD

This presentation helps anyone doing research into Dutch heritage, learn where to locate "Holland", tips for discovering hidden resources, and finding a few windmills and wooden shoes along the way. Let's tiptoe through the tulips together!

Sunday, November 22 – 3:15 pm

"Colorizing Black and White Digital Photographs"

Presented by GSWC members Mike Christiaens and Mike Gerding

Location: TBD

For more information on these topics, go to:

<https://washtenawgenealogy.org/eventListings.php?nm=164>

From the Dearborn Genealogical Society

Thursday, October 22 - 7:00 pm Webinar

Researching in German Civil and Parish Records -

Alexander Tolksdorf

This presentation is designed to help those new to researching German record sets. The complexity of Germany's history and its effect on genealogical sources can be difficult obstacles for a family historian to overcome. The class will focus specifically on German civil records and parish records, with emphasis on how/where to locate the records and how to interpret the records. This ranges from using FamilySearch's catalog to using German repositories like Archion.de to contacting local archives. Additional attention will be provided to historical geopolitics of what is today Germany, handwriting styles, as well as useful German reference materials. Lastly, the class also covers territorial regions formerly included in the German Empire (i.e., Alsace-Lorraine and eastern Prussian provinces).

This is planned as a webinar from Dearborn Genealogical Society, for more information regarding signing in to webinar refer to:

<https://dgsmi.org/eventListings.php?nm=19>

From Farmington Genealogical Society

Tuesday, October 20: 6:30 pm - Virtual

African American Research

Presenter: Jessica Trotter

Jessica will present the topic of African American Research.

Non-members are welcome to join our on-line meetings by emailing us at info@mifarmgs.org to receive login information.

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Featured Society**Genealogical Study Group – Zeeland, Michigan**

The Genealogy Study Group was founded in 2013. The purpose for its development derived from the need of genealogical education in our community. Located along the lake shore of Lake Michigan, we serve people in Ottawa, Kent, Allegan and Muskegon Counties.

The name Genealogy Study Group was decided on because we are not a society where membership dues or fees are paid. This group is totally free to attend, and has been meeting for once a month from its conception. The reason for this is due to a personal situation that I encountered as a single parent who found it difficult to find educational enrichment activities for not only my children but myself. We decided that if anyone ever needed to choose between purchasing an essential item or taking a class, we would make the class available to all at all times, hence calling this a Study Group.

During our monthly meetings, quite often you will find me presenting a different topic each month. There are the times when we ask our attendees to consider presenting a program for the group. We have had some wonderful topics such as Postcards (and how they bring your genealogy research to life), Quilting (and how the old patterns come from stone carvers and religious associations), and Cooking (using old time recipes and tools). Occasionally we have special guest speakers who come to talk to my group on topics such as DNA, Cemetery Stories, Local Resources to Research, and FanCarving to name a few.

Over the years, we have grown to average about 40 people per meeting. Some of the new attendees have

never had any instruction on how to do genealogy, and this lead to a second group called Basics and Beyond. In this group, we start at the very beginning of doing research, even if you have done genealogy many years ago, things change as rapidly as time on a clock. Keeping up to date on various ways to do research has been very rewarding and exciting for everyone. This group also meets once a month.

One of our few requirements is that we give back to the community. Each year we join forces with the Howard Miller Public Library, Zeeland Historical Society and the Dekker Huis Museum to not only put on a free program for the community, but to reach out and help the archivist at the museum with genealogical research projects. If the library and historical society can support our group, then we can support their programs in return. This year we are helping the museum locate and collect information on all the historical homes in Zeeland.

A little bit about myself: I had been a public school teacher for 20 years until I retired. A group of friends asked that I start teaching genealogy since that was my hobby for the majority of those years. I have my Masters degree in Educational Administration, and many certificates of achievement in genealogy, I speak at many facilities throughout the state, and at conferences. I own Hunting Down History, do client work, and am a Professional Genealogist.

We welcome everyone to attend our meetings. You will walk out after learning something, meeting new friends, having a good time, and often discovering a relative or ancestor!

Check out our website at:

www.genealogystudygroup.com

and our Facebook Page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/genealogystudygroup>

Article submitted by Megan Heyl,
Genealogical Study Group, Zeeland, Michigan

Upcoming National Conferences

After watching 2020 – sputter to the end we want to make sure you know what’s coming in 2021. Make your plans now!



Virginia - Deep Roots of a Nation 2021 NGS Family History Conference

The conference is scheduled to take place 19-22 May 2021 in Richmond, Virginia, at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. Information about the Conference’s program—Virginia: Deep Roots of a Nation—and the many genealogical resources in Richmond are now available online as a downloadable [brochure](#).

In light of the recent merger with FGS there will be track that encompasses an entire day entitled “Focus on Societies”.

For more info – including the brochure follow this link:

<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

Important Dates:

Hotel Reservations open September 10, 2020
Online Program registration opens December 2020
Conference Registration opens January 6, 2021

Roots Tech 2021 Connect

February 25-27, 2021

For the first time ever, the world’s largest family celebration event will be entirely virtual and completely free. Get ready to celebrate shared connections with people from around the world. Connect with friends, your family, your past, and your heritage and homelands—all from the comfort of your home and in your browser. More information in our January 2021 Newsletter – register today at rootstech.org

IGHR 2021



Where: University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel

Important Dates:

- Saturday, 24 July – FREE FamilySearch Family History and Genealogy Expo
- Sunday, 25 July 5:00 – 6:00 pm – Orientation
- Monday, 26 July to Friday, 30 July 2021 – IGHR classes start Monday at 8:30 am. and end Friday at 12:00 pm
- University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel will begin taking reservations for IGHR 2021 on 15 October 2020 at 10:00 am ET

For more information, check it out at:

<https://ighr.gagensociety.org/ighr-2020/>



GRIP 2021

GRIP 2021 plans to offer 18 different courses in two weeks next summer. June 20-25, 2021 and July 11-16, 2021 will see nine courses in each week with some popular topics returning and some new courses being offered. You can see the schedule and download a one-page flyer at:

<https://www.gripitt.org/future-courses/>

TITTABAWASSEE RIVER FLOOD

It has been eleven weeks since the worse flood in Midland County history occurred on May 19, 2020. It will be one remembered for many years to come.

Despite all the damage that has resulted there have been a significant number of positives that have occurred. Volunteers, including many local organizations from all over the country, have stepped forward to help in any way they can. One man came all the way from Florida with his heavy lifting equipment and helped Sanford Lake residents remove their boats and docks from the dry lake bed. Volunteers from other areas in Michigan have helped Sanford residents clean out flood damaged debris from local businesses, homes and roadways.

Volunteers have stepped forward and continue to provide meals for families recovering from flood damage to their homes. Local community organizations continue to collaborate with area restaurants to provide free meals to flood victims.

During reconstruction, many residents of flood damaged homes are living in tents, RV's, campers and wherever possible in rentals until they can move back into their restored homes.

Midland County History museums and Sanford Centennial Museum sustained significant water damage. Since both organizations have been long time members of the Historical Society of Michigan (HSM), Larry J. Wagenaar, HSM executive director and CEO set up a GoFundMe campaign to help with the preservation and restoration of damaged historical artifacts. This action resulted in the recent donation of checks for just over \$5000 presented to the Midland County Historical Society and the Sanford Centennial Museum by the HSM. The HSM reported "At this time, officials have estimated that the Tittabawassee River flooding caused \$175 million in damage to more than 2500 homes, businesses, and non-profit organizations."

Many residents of the City of Midland who

experienced flood damage to their homes continue to be in various stages of restoration. Some are able to remain in their homes while repairs are being done. Some are living in rentals or with friends or family. Some have had their homes declared uninhabitable and/or condemned.

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) along with the SBA (Small Business Administration) are currently accepting applications for grants and/or loans from flood damaged homeowners and businesses. More than \$25 million in grants and loans have been approved for area residents and businesses in Arenac, Gladwin, Iosca, Midland and Saginaw counties. Almost \$11 million has been allocated for Midland County homeowners and renters. A case management system has been established to assist flood victims through the recovery and/or restoration process. Most of this work will be done by local volunteers working with local community organizations.

Two weeks after the flood, the Whirlpool Corporation contacted the United Way of Midland County to offer their assistance in the recovery efforts. The culmination of that offer through the efforts of the United Way, hosted an appliance sale on Saturday, August 1 in Midland. A variety of 400 large and small appliances were available at significantly lower prices. One Sanford resident who lost her home to the flood stated, "I can save all this money so I can invest in drywall, insulation and wiring".

Individual volunteers and groups from all over the country have offered their assistance in this recovery and it is still ongoing. It will be years (estimated to be a minimum of six years) for repairs to be made to the four dams that were damaged. Homeowners repairs and/or restorations will take less time. With careful reconstruction, recovery from the massive flood will occur.

Written by Faye A. Ebach, Delegate, Midland Genealogical Society. Information for this article from Midland Daily News, and Historical Society of Michigan, HSMICHIGAN.ORG by Faye A. Ebach

Fall Family History Event – cont. from page 1

12:30-1:00 pm: Lunch

1:00-2:00 pm: Sunny Morton - Lies, Errors and Bias —Oh, My! Consider Your Sources. If your sources aren't reliable and strong, your family history "facts" and stories won't be, either. Learn to look critically at the sources that inform your research: the "what, who, when and why." These criteria may indicate how much you can trust what individual sources say about your ancestors

2:15-3:15 pm: Sunny Morton - "They Survived the Johnstown Flood?!" How to Reconstruct Your Ancestors' Amazing Stories. A heroic rescue, a love story and a 30-foot wall of water. That is just part of my ancestors' experience in the Great Johnstown Flood of 1889. Come learn how to reconstruct fascinating experiences from your own family history by combining clues from your family's knowledge, documents from genealogy websites, good historical research, and Googling to fill in the gaps. All while learning the riveting story of one of the worst disasters in U.S. history.

3:30-4:30 pm: Matt Pacer, Library of Michigan Research Collections at the Library of Michigan. The Library of Michigan has collections for family history research use. Find out what the library has to offer family history researchers and how to use them in your research.

4:30 pm: Wrap up and Thank You

Speaker Bio's

Sunny Morton is an internationally known genealogy educator and award-winning writer and editor. She is best known globally for comparing the world's top genealogy websites, which she has done with custom content for U.S., U.K., Australian, Jewish, and African American audiences. A 2019 version given for Legacy Family Tree Webinars quickly became its 2nd most

watched webinar of all time. Her lectures are packed with try-this-now strategies and resources—and delivered with humor, humanity, and plenty of motivating examples and stories.

Sunny is a longtime Contributing Editor at Family Tree Magazine; Contributing Editor and Content Manager for YourDNAGuide.com; frequent contributor to [FamilySearch's blog](#); and Editor of Ohio Genealogy News (for the latter, she won the prestigious [National Genealogical Society Newsletter Competition in 2017](#)). Her books include [How to Find Your Family History in U.S. Church Records](#), with Harold Henderson, CG, and [Story of My Life: A Workbook for Preserving Your Legacy](#), now in its 2nd edition.

Sunny's awards and education include:

- Winner, International Society of Family History Writers & Editors Excellence in Writing
- Competition: 1st place, Articles, 2012 and 3rd place, Newsletter Editing, 2013.
- Double-major undergraduate degrees in History and Humanities, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah
- Graduate coursework, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
- Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh participant, 2013 and 2017
- Participation in professional-level memoir writing group

Personal

- Sunny lives and works in the Cleveland, Ohio area.
- She is married and has 3 children.

Kris Rzepczynski

A Senior Archivist at the Archives of Michigan, where he specializes in family history and Michigan research, Kris has worked in the genealogical community for 20 years. He is a former Vice President of Membership for the Federation of Genealogical Societies and a Past President of the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society.

Matt Pacer

The reference librarian at the Library of Michigan, where he provides reference & research service to State of Michigan employees and general public.

Matt is the Donation Coordinator for the Michigan Collection, the Co-Coordinator of the Martha W. Griffiths Michigan Rare Book Room and content editor for selected areas of the Library of Michigan website, including Michigan materials, newspapers, and family history. Matt creates, develops, and maintains the Library of Michigan subject guides on trending topics.

Registration

Registration is open. To register, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-virtual-fall-family-history-seminar-with-sunny-morton-tickets-116868746567?aff=website>

or to mimgc.org and click on "buy tickets" on right sidebar under Sunny's picture.

This event is co-sponsored with the Archives of Michigan and the Library of Michigan and we are excited to bring Sunny to you virtually.

Registration includes six sessions, a syllabus, and no bathroom lines!

FAQ for the MGC Fall Family History Event**How do I login to the seminar?**

All registrants will receive seminar log-in information via email, a few days before the event.

Will handouts or a syllabus be available?

A link to the downloadable syllabus will be emailed to all attendees the week before the Fall Family History Event.

Can I update my registration information?

Yes.

Will presentations be available for later viewing?

No, the event will be available live, in real-time only.

How can I contact the organizer with any questions?

You may contact the Michigan Genealogical Council with any questions via email at seminar@mimgc.org.

Is it OK if the name on my registration doesn't match the person who attends?

Please advise us before the day of the event if another person will be using your registration. Use seminar@mimgc.org to contact us with this information.

What software is required to attend this webinar?

This is a webinar using the Zoom Webinar platform. For the best experience, use the Zoom viewer app

What do I need to attend?

A computer, tablet, or smartphone is needed to attend virtually. No camera or microphone is required of attendees who will be in view and listen mode. Questions will be handled via a Q&A and chat interface built into the Zoom viewing app.

Additional information

More information is available at the Eventbrite.com website, including details about the sessions and speaker bios. Save \$5 by registering before midnight on Oct 31, 2020.



On the Shelf

This is our new featured column where we are discussing genealogical books available at state and local libraries. This issue we have contributions for the Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan.

Library of Michigan

Hello from the Library of Michigan! This is our first contribution to On the Shelf. In our later contributions we will dive into some interesting books covering many Michigan subjects or books by Michigan authors. This is a great way for us to showcase some interesting and hidden gems at the Library of Michigan. Today, though, I will talk about our digital shelf to make sure you know what the Library of Michigan has to offer.

Michigan residents can obtain a Library of Michigan library card to access some great resources to help with family and local history research. To apply for a library card, please visit the Library of Michigan website: www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan. Next, click on the *For the Public* link and then scroll down until you see the button for *Get a Library Card*. There is a form on the *Get a Library Card* link as well as information about the card. Library staff will process the Internet Only card and will send you a confirmation email. The Internet card will allow you access to some of our digital resources such as: Ancestry Library Edition, Fold3, Newspaper Archive, Detroit Free Press, and Newspapers.com World Edition (there are some Michigan newspapers within the collection). The following website has the list of databases available to those with a library card: www.michigan.gov/familyhistory. This page will also contain any updated information on library card access to databases.

For researchers looking for military records, check out Fold3. You can browse records by war or use keywords. Most of the records focus on the United States, but there are some international records too. Some examples are Australia WWI Service Records,

British Army Lists, Royal Air Force Muster Roll, and many others. Newspapers are always fun resources to search. Newspaper Archive has scattered titles from around the state, but do not forget the Free Press for coverage of stories with a statewide interest.

But wait, do not forget about the My Heritage Library Edition database available through the mel.org website. The database is found under the eResources button at the top of the mel.org page. This database has many collections of records. You can access census records, vital records, and many more. A definite must see for family history research.

Through our website you can search our library catalog. This is the best way to learn about what materials we have in our collections. As we explore our collections in On The Shelf, we will speak more about our catalog and how to navigate it. Please do not hesitate to contact us through email or phone: librarian@michigan.gov or 517-335-1477. Library staff are working from home, but we will gladly help as best we can with your questions.

All the best,
Library of Michigan staff

Archives of Michigan

Massachusetts and Maine in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians
by Kris Rzepczynski

Massachusetts and Maine in the American Revolution: A Source Guide for Genealogists and Historians, by Eric Grundset and published in 2015 by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, is an essential reference tool for any researcher with ancestors from those states during the Revolutionary period. It is now available to researchers as part of the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection at the Archives of Michigan.

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Bookmark Me Now

Welcome to our new column where we will profile free genealogical websites – our first website is

NARA - National Archives website:

<http://www.archives.gov>

There are approximately 48 centers across the United States that include National Records Centers, National Archives, and Presidential Libraries. Now imagine the task of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)—the nation’s record keeper.



Many people know the National Archives as the keeper of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. But we also hold in trust for the public the records of ordinary citizens—for example, military records of the brave men and women who have fought for our country, naturalization records of the immigrants whose dreams have shaped our nation, and even the canceled check from the purchase of Alaska.

In a democracy, records belong to the people, and for more than seven decades, NARA has preserved and provided access to the records of the United States of America. Records help us claim our rights and entitlements, hold our elected officials accountable for their actions, and document our history as a nation. In short, NARA ensures continuing access to the essential documentation of the rights of American citizens and the actions of their Government.

We offer a selection of guides, finding aids, microfilm catalogs, and special archival publications useful to anyone, especially scholars, archivists, historians, and researchers interested in genealogy.

Research using their extensive military records, census records, immigration records, pension records,

passports and passenger lists and land records to name a few. There are free databases, National Archives Catalog Guide for genealogists, Ordering records online, and an abundance of other tools for you.

National Archives office (actual locations):

- Washington, DC
- Atlanta (Morrow, GA)
- Boston (Waltham, MA)
- Chicago (Chicago, IL)
- College Park (College Park, MD)
- Denver (Broomfield, CO)
- Fort Worth (Fort Worth, TX)
- Kansas City (Kansas City, MO)
- New York City (New York, NY)
- Philadelphia (Philadelphia, PA)
- Riverside (Perris, CA)
- San Francisco (San Bruno, CA)
- Seattle (Seattle, WA)
- Saint Louis (St. Louis, MO)

For other locations and addresses, they can be found at:

<https://www.archives.gov/locations>

For details about exhibition and research hours in NARA facilities across the United States, visit our web site or call toll-free 1-86-NARA-NARA.

**** Note **** Due to the coronavirus, all National Archives, museums and Presidential Libraries will be closed until further notice. Staff will continue to respond to emailed requests for records.

<https://www.archives.gov/coronavirus>

This article written by **Megan Heyl** of Zeeland Genealogy Study Group.

A GRIP-ing Experience

by Brenda Leyndyke

Get a GRIP! I may, or may not, have been told this a time, or two, in my life, but this time I did it and I had the best week of the summer. GRIP (Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh) Institutes are a chance for in depth genealogical study with about 35 other like-minded individuals and four quality instructors.

I have wanted to attend GRIP, usually held in Pittsburgh, Pa during the summer, but it seems like something else takes priority in my schedule each year. This year GRIP went virtual, via Zoom. I saw the announcement and thought it is now or never!

I signed up for the course, "Digging Deeper: Records, Tools, and Skills." Paula Stuart Warren was the coordinator and additional instructors were Carla Cegielski, Karen Mauer Jones, and Debbie Mieszala. Digging Deeper was an intermediate level course and it was based on U.S. research topics. The course consisted of interactive zoom sessions, homework (yes, there was homework), small group study, and a special opportunity to submit a personal research problem. I feel this was a great first course. It reviewed some things I already knew and presented new opportunities for research, but I never felt overwhelmed.

The sessions weren't just a recitation of U.S. record groups. It was a deep dive into a variety of areas: Analyzing Documents, Finding and Using Manuscripts, Benefits of Reading Professional Journals, Probate records, WPA records, Source Citation, the Law and Genealogy, Court records, Government records, Institutional records, and more. Each 75-minute session was filled with fun, education, and practical experiences.

Some of the sessions had time for breakout sessions where we practiced what we learned. For example, for source citation groups picked one resource and

wrote a complete source citation. The breakout groups were 5-6 people who worked together throughout the week. My group was awesome. We had time to work on it and reconvened to report back to the whole group.

The homework was even fun. Paula Stuart Warren chose a section of a county history and throughout the week our small groups were tasked to find out more about the person in the selection. Time was scheduled on Thursday for reporting what we found, and the various groups found a lot.

I was one of the participants who submitted a research problem. Of course, I chose my pesky, Fenn family. The suggestions I received from other participants will help me dig deeper into my research of Daniel Fenn, who married Huldah Rowley. I typed up the suggestions and I have over 25 avenues to explore. I was able to repay the favor when one of the participants wanted resources for those working on the Great Lakes.

Overall, this was an excellent opportunity to further my genealogical educational. I liked the virtual format. I never got tired, or bored, and the best thing there was no line at the bathroom. If you are looking for ways to up your research knowledge, get a GRIP and sign up for a class or two. I know I will be back whether it is virtual, or in person, next July.

For more information, <https://www.gripitt.org/> or the Salt Lake Institute (SLIG) at <https://slig.ugagenealogy.org/index.php>.

Brenda attended GRIP from July 19 thru July 25, 2020

Announced for 2021:

GRIP 2021 plans to offer 18 different courses in two weeks next summer. June 20-25, 2021 and July 11-16, 2021 will see nine courses in each week with some popular topics returning and some new courses being offered. You can see the schedule and download a one-page flyer:

<https://www.gripitt.org/future-courses/>.

Pioneer Certificate Program

This committee has been hard at work approving applications. It might be taking us a little longer to complete the process but it is still timely considering the slow down we are all experiencing.

An improved Power Point Presentation is now available for member societies (and anyone else interested) to share with their groups as a promotional tool. Look for it under Pioneer Certificate on the sidebar panel of our MIMGC webpage. I think you will enjoy it. Thank you Chelsea Johnson and Tom Koselka for your efforts in completing that project.

An update for the application is underway, just a few tweaks to make it a little clearer and easier to use. Our instructions have also been updated, a FAQ page added and a list of useful websites may now be found under the Pioneer Certificate side panel.

Committee member Barb Curtindale does a wonderful job creating our certificates, thank you. Can you tell how happy recipients are to receive one?

From Kim Smith, Pioneer Certificate Program Chair



Society Showcase 2020

The Michigan Genealogical Council has prepared a video that will maintain a virtual presence at the Federation of Genealogical Societies 2020 Society Showcase. MGC's virtual presence contains a video showcasing our society members and our Michigan Pioneer Certificates program. The video is narrated by President Brenda Leyndyke and Pioneer Certificate Committee member Chelsea Johnson.

The Virtual Expo Hall will be open and available to conference attendees from September 15 to October 15. For those not attending the 2020 Society Showcase we have provided a link on our website listed on the left hand side as Society Showcase 2020 <https://mimgc.org/cpage.php?pt=124>.



Thank you to Ken Howe for designing our new promotion board.

Continued from Society News:
Farmington Genealogical Society from page 4

Tuesday, November 17 – 6:30 pm
Into No Man's Land - Online Only
 Presenter: Irene Miller

A holocaust survivor, author, speaker, and educator will take you on a survival journey little written and known about.

It is a story of courage, determination, perseverance and the power of the human spirit.

For more information regarding this program, go to:

<https://mifarmgs.org/eventListings.php?nm=81>

Featured Society

Clarkston Area Genealogy Society

The Clarkston Area Genealogy Society was initiated five years ago and serves the Clarkston, Independence Township and surrounding community.

Our membership is about 20 individuals who have an interest in genealogy. Dues for the Society are \$10.00 per year.

The Society met at the Clarkston Independence District Library on Clarkston Road before COVID 19 on the third Thursday of the month at 10:15 a.m.. Currently, members are meeting on Zoom at the same time.

D.A.R. members had been giving workshops on genealogy topics in partnership with the library for about five years before they started the Society.



L to R – Jay Taylor, representative to Clarkston Area Genealogy Society delegate to the Michigan Genealogical Council and Vesta DeRiso, treasurer of Clarkston Area Genealogical Society.

Melba Taylor serves as President and has been a

family genealogist for over 50 years. Charlotte Cooper serves as Vice President and program chairperson. She is a member of the Sashabaw Plains D.A.R and the President of the Oakland County Historical Society with primarily responsibility for Pine Grove, home of Governor Moses Wisner. Treasurer is Vesta DeRiso who has a love for genealogy and is a longtime D.A.R. member.

We have joined the Michigan Genealogical Council and appreciate the information we are receiving from the organization.

In January and February, before the pandemic, we hosted two workshops on the Michigan Pioneer and Michigan First Families application process. We video taped our workshop so people could watch at their leisure.

We met in April and May on zoom and we will be hosting a zoom presentation by Kris Rzepczynski, Senior Archivist, for the Michigan History Center in Lansing on the Archives in September.

We welcome anyone interested in genealogy, beginner to advanced, to attend our meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 10:00 am. We will be having zoom meetings until the COVID pandemic is over.



For more information, contact Joette Kunse – jkhorses@comcast.net or 248 620 2984.

Continued from "On The Shelf" - Archives of Michigan page 10

Totally more than 900 pages, this exhaustive bibliography of the historical and genealogical sources available for Revolutionary War-era Massachusetts and Maine canvasses subjects as military records, local histories, taxes, lineage societies and major research centers. For example, the book identifies 12 sources on general Middlesex County history and more than 50 titles that detail Concord (located in Middlesex County) history. A researcher with an ancestor that lived in Concord during that time period now has over 60 sources to review. The *Massachusetts and Maine Guide* is No. 6 in a series that includes Connecticut, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Virginia.

(Call number: **E 263.M4 G78 2015**)

The Abrams Foundation Historical Collection, one of the larger genealogical collections in the United States, contains published family histories, immigration resources, cemetery transcriptions, directories, county and local histories, military records and getting-started handbooks. The resources emphasize states with strong historic and migratory ties to Michigan, including the New England region, New York, Pennsylvania, the Midwest states of Ohio and Indiana and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Roots Tech 2021 Connect goes Virtual

Roots Tech 2021 Connect February 25-27, 2021

For the first time ever, the world's largest family celebration event will be entirely virtual and completely free. Get ready to celebrate shared connections with people from around the world. Connect with friends, your family, your past, and your heritage and homelands—all from the comfort of your home and in your browser. More information in our January 2021 Newsletter – register today at: rootstech.org

Dr. Sharon Carlson Retiring

Dr. Sharon Carlson, head of the Zhang Legacy Collections Center for more than twenty years, retired August 31, 2020.

Dr. Carlson describes herself as an archivist, a historian, a librarian, and a researcher – but she loves research the best. Among her many recent



responsibilities was moving the Archives and Regional History collections from the old location on WMU's East Campus to a purpose-built new facility, the Zhang Legacy Collections Center.

KVGS members know Dr. Carlson from their personal research at the Archives, attending the KVGS webinars hosted by the Zhang, and from the many programs she presented for KVGS.

Dr. Carlson plans to do research and writing in her retirement, along with working on her own genealogy research. She hopes to travel in post-COVID times. Best of luck to her in her new adventures!

Article included with permission from the Kalamazoo Valley Heritage of the Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society

MGC Merchandise Corner



This issues item is this facemask! You can order it or other merchandise from our merchandise shop at <https://mimgc.org/cpage.php?pt=73!>

**Library of Michigan**

Matt Pacer
Reference Librarian
Library of Michigan

Library of Michigan Updates

Library of Michigan Update October 2020

Hello Everyone!

Just a reminder that the Library of Michigan is still closed to the public, but you can contact us through email and phone. We are working from home and are doing our best to answer researcher questions. Our contact information is listed at the bottom.

While there are no new items to speak about there are plenty of donation boxes and new items to process when we get back into the building. We will have plenty then for updates. In the meantime, please visit our website: www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan. You can search our catalog and keep up to date with information about the library. Even though the library is not open, there are some resources you can use. With a valid Library of Michigan library card, you can access several databases remotely such as Fold3 and the Detroit Free Press. Please visit WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/LIBRARYCARD for the application form and information about the card.

Have questions for us? Please email or call. librarian@michigan.gov or 517-335-1477.

Stay safe and healthy!



Archives of Michigan and Abrams Foundation Historical Collection

Kris W. Rzepczynski, Senior Archivist

Archives of Michigan

Archives of Michigan News and Notes

Since the last issue of the MGC newsletter in June, the Archives of Michigan continues to explore ways amidst the pandemic to better reach and connect with our constituents, the research and genealogical community, and our state's residents.

A friendly reminder that the Archives of Michigan continues to offer Reference services via email (archives@michigan.gov) and phone (517.335.2576). The Michiganology online store for submitting research requests (probate records, circuit court case files, corrections records, naturalizations, and more) is up and running again, too! Reference staff are also pleased to offer virtual reference sessions with the research community; sign up information for a live consultation with a Reference Archivist can be found here: <https://form.jotform.com/201495506848059>.

Held virtually in July, the 2020 Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar was a big success! A big thank you to the speakers, MGC, the Abrams Foundation, and of course the attendees, as we transitioned on-the-fly this year to a virtual format. We look forward to hosting Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, "The Legal Genealogist," next year on July 9-10, 2021 onsite here at the Archives of Michigan!

The Archives of Michigan unfortunately remains 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>. We are just as anxious to be open again as you are!

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!

Delegate/Board Meetings

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

Boards Meetings

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

Any change in date and time will be posted at mimgc.org

Michigan Library and Historical Center
Currently 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
December 31, January 1 – New Year's

Archives of Michigan

Reference Desk Hours
1 pm to 5 pm Monday through Friday
10 am to 4 pm Saturday
Visit our web site at:
michiganology.org
For information call: (517) 373-1481
or email archives@michigan.gov

Editors Note - For accuracy sake:

Recently I had a reader ask why Member Societies did not show a website or least their Facebook presence (in the absence of having a website). I said that I would ask our readers to let us know if their listings were up-to-date in their listings. Even if you don't have a website but you do have a Facebook page, let us know so that we can refer people to it.

So this is me upholding my promise to you the reader to find out what I could. If you have any corrections – to your listing please let us know at info@mimgc.org.

Library of Michigan

10 am to 5 pm Monday thru Friday
10 am to 4 pm Saturday

Visit our website at:

www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan

For information call: (517) 373-1580

or email librarian@michigan.gov

Michigan Historical Museum

9 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday

10 am to 4 om Saturday

1 pm to 5 om Sunday

Visit our Web site at:

www.michigan.gov/michiganhistory

For more information call:

(517) 373-3559



Michigan Genealogical Council

Founded in 1972, the Michigan Genealogical Council (MGC) is an organization composed of 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 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, PO. Box 80953, Lansing, MI, 48908-0953, Website: www.mimgc.org

The Newsletter is published quarterly by the Michigan Genealogical Council. Member society delegates and presidents are notified by e-mail when a new issue is available online. Content for Winter issue due December 15, Spring March 15, Summer June 15, Fall September 15. Email newsletter items to MGC Editor : newsletter@mimgc.org. Or send to PO. Box 80953, Lansing, MI, 48908-0953. 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. See website for additional details at mimgc.org/cpage.php?pt=16. Make checks payable to MGC and mail to: Michigan Genealogical Council and mailed to MGC, PO. Box 80953, Lansing, MI, 48908-0953

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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 and Records Preservation	Derek Blount 905 N. Alexander Ave. Royal Oak, MI 48067
Awards	Barb Curtindale 251 E. N-61 Harrison, MI 48625	Archive 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	Paul Roltsch 3560 Karen Parkway, #303 Waterford, MI 48328	Media Communications	Judy Sheldon 5029 Timberlakes Blvd. S. Greenbush, MI 48738
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Lucy Mary Kellogg Chair	Jessica Trotter 1943 Wood St. #1 Lansing, MI 489122	Pre-Statehood and First Family Certificates	Kim Smith 1270 Porter Rd. White Lake, MI 48383		

Editor's Corner

I would like to thank the Michigan Genealogical Council for the opportunity to be your next Newsletter editor. I have been following this organization for sometime and I look forward to many years in this position.

I also want to thank the previous Editor – Carolyn Haines for the last 8 ½ years building this newsletter into something that I hope I can live up to for the foreseeable future.

I would also like to take this time to ask for something from you the reader, please send me articles, ideas, websites, and any information you would like to provide to newsletter@mimgc.org.

Thank You!

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Events

Please check with events in advance in case there is a change in plans and is canceled due to the corona virus.

2020 VGA Conference

November 13 to November 15, 2020

9:00 am Eastern to 5:00 pm Eastern

<https://virtualgenealogy.org/annual-conference/>

MGC Fall Family History Event

14 November 2020

Sunny Morton

Lansing, MI

Virtual

<https://mimgc.org/>

For more information see our website and the article published in this newsletter on pages 1, 8-9

The following conferences will have more info in January 2021 Issue:

Roots Tech Connect 2021

February 25-27, 2021

Virtual

Free

Register at <http://rootstech.org/>

National Genealogical Society Conference

Virginia - Deep Roots of a Nation

May 19-22, 2021

Richmond, Virginia

<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

For more information including important dates, see Page 6 under "Upcoming National Conferences"