



2021 MGC Fall Family History Virtual Seminar Highlights by Rozlyn Kelly

I am pleased to share highlights from this year's seminar. It really was an excellent day, as is the tradition which we have been fortunate to uphold each year. We had attendees from around the state, including one from Arizona.

Our keynote speaker, Bernice Alexander Bennett, was outstanding. If you have not had the pleasure of hearing her speak, you've missed something special. She has a way of clearly presenting information and research methodology that it is exciting and inspiring. There are nuggets of information in her presentations that are very helpful, no matter the particular ethnic focus of your research.

Bernice demonstrated the value of getting Civil War pension files from the National Archives, and the wealth of information they contain. For example, the pensioner, or his widow, had to prove marriage, or injury, or identity if there was a name change. This required numerous witness statements, which were evaluated and given a rating by the pension examiners. In the case of injury, the file contains the medical examiner's report with details of the injury. Many widow's pension files have been digitized and are now available on Fold3, and are no longer accessible for review at the National Archives.

Bernice also demonstrated the value of getting the Homesteader's Application from the National Archives. The file contains witness statements supporting the homesteader's claims that he lived on and made improvements to the land as required. She showed how researching the witnesses can uncover their relationships with the homesteader. Bernice is currently working with the National Park Service's Black Homesteaders Project to encourage descendants to write the stories of their Black homesteading ancestors for publication on the website. We learned that our MGC board member Jessica Trotter was written her ancestor's story for the project.

Tim Gleisner and Kris Rzepczynski rounded out the day with presentations on the excellent resources available at the Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan. Both are now open to visitors, by appointment at the Archives, and Monday-Friday at the Library. Always check their websites for the latest information.

Door prizes were given at each break during the day. They included subscriptions to World Explorer Ancestry, Fold3.com, Newspapers.com and an Ancestry DNA kit, thanks to Ancestry. Also, her book "Tracing Their Steps" thanks to Bernice Alexander Bennett.

Thank you to all who attended, to our co-sponsors the Library and Archives of Michigan, to our speakers, and to our member societies for your continued support. Also, thank you to Tom Koselka for his technical expertise in making the event a smooth success.

President's Message

Greetings,

Despite our wishes to be 'back to normal', it hasn't fully happened yet. The effects of the pandemic continue to linger and caution is our best option. Thus the genealogical world continues to operate in a virtual reality, as do so many other aspects of our lives. Maybe we are in the 'new normal'. Let's be prepared to continue to adapt to the circumstances and live our lives enjoying as much as we can.

Ordinarily at this time of year we would be looking forward to our Out of Lansing meeting. We always enjoy seeing each other in a different setting and exploring another exciting community in our state. Last year the pandemic prohibited us from enjoying such an in-person meeting, and this year is no different. Sturgis was our anticipated location, but to no avail. We continue to look forward to visiting Sturgis for next year's Out of Lansing meeting. We hope to make the in-person visit there a reality.

I hope you were able to join us for our MGC Fall Family History Virtual Seminar in September. We have ordinarily hosted our Fall Family History Seminar in November. This year the timing was different and it was virtual, as it was last year. We are excited to have Bernice Alexander Bennett as our speaker.

During my commute to work prior to retirement I often enjoyed listening to her podcast "Research at the National Archives and Beyond". She interviewed a wide-range of genealogists and historians on a variety of topics, and it was interesting and informative for me as an increasingly inquisitive genealogist. I hope you enjoy her as much as I do. We are also very fortunate to have Kris Rzepczynski from the Archives of Michigan and Tim Gleisner from the Library of Michigan to make presentations on their wonderful resources, and how some of them may be accessed virtually.

MGC has continued to stay active via virtual meetings, as have most of our member genealogical societies throughout the state. MGC will continue to meet virtually at least through January of next year. This decision was based on input from delegates and board members regarding their readiness to return to in-person meetings. We will revisit this issue again before January. Our member societies are faced with the same decision. Some are returning to in-person meetings, some are continuing virtually, and some are utilizing a hybrid approach by meeting in-person and via Zoom. I encourage you to continue to support your local society.

Continuing education is always important. We will explore ideas for tutorials we can prepare and present in the coming year on topics such as the process for submitting nominees for the Lucy Mary Kellogg Award, applying for the Pioneer Certificate, and officer training. Watch for more on these ideas. I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming year. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact me at President@mimgc.org.

"See" you in November,

Rozlyn Kelly
President
Michigan Genealogical Council

Society News/Events

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. All programs here are Zoom meetings, unless otherwise indicated.

From The French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan: check www.habitantheritage.org for registration information.

Program: “French in the Great Lakes Region”
Date: Saturday, October 9, 2021
Time: 11:00 am
Speaker: José Brandão

Zoom Meeting

Program: “Old Facts and New Discoveries along a Historic French Trade Route – To and Across the Kankakee Portage from St. Joseph.”
Date: Saturday, November 13, 2021
Time: 11:00 am
Speaker: Michael McCafferty

Zoom Meeting

Program: <https://www.habitantheritage.org/>
Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2021
Time: 7:00 pm
Speaker: Loraine DiCerbo

A Zoom presentation given to the Essex County Genealogical Society by the Editor of *Michigan’s Habitant Heritage*, the Journal of the French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan. She will discuss the many features and resources that can be found on our website.

If you would like to view the presentation, please join in the following Zoom link on the date and time above:

<https://www.habitantheritage.org/cpage.php?pt=42>

From the Northville Genealogical Society

Program: “German Handwriting”
Date: Oct. 10th, 2021
Time: 3:00 pm
Speaker: Alex Tolksdorf

Alex gives a detailed presentation on how to learn and decipher the handwriting of our German ancestors.

Program: “The ABCs of DNA and Genealogy”
Date: Nov. 14th, 2021
Time: 3:00 pm
Speaker: Jessica Trotter

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, the major testing companies, and how you can use your results.

These are an online presentation via Zoom. For registration information, check –

- <https://www.nvgensoc.org/programs/>

From the Oakland County Genealogical Society

Program: “Researching the Old Northwest”,
Date: Oct. 5th, 2021
Time: 7:00 pm
Speaker: Laressa Northrup

Were your ancestors in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin prior to 1850? This area is commonly referred to as the Old Northwest in the early 1800s. Find out what these states have in common and what records are unique to each one.

Follow the ticket link to register in advance. Registration is required – click the following link: www.ocgsmi.org/events/

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Calling All Artists!

The Michigan Genealogical Council is developing an engaging series of activities for youth, grades K-12, that can be used by member societies in their community to promote genealogy. These activities will encourage the involvement of the next generation of family historians.

The objectives are to create practical, flexible, easy to use activities that span three learning groups: Elementary (K-4), Middle School (5-8), and High School (9-12).

The Curriculum will be one that accepts individual family differences, is multicultural and nondiscriminatory in use, encourages the use of local resources, develops an understanding of oneself, develops an understanding and respect for diversity, uses information accurately and creatively, and allows all users to participate regardless of economic status.

MGC is seeking a name for this program and artwork to be used for logos and publicity. Would you like to see your artwork on this project? If so, please send your original design to Brenda Leyndyke, MGC Past President at brae957@gmail.com. By November 1st.

All ages are encouraged to submit artwork. Crayon drawings are accepted! Get creative and let your ideas flow. More than one idea may be submitted. All submissions will become the property of MGC. Please send further questions to Brenda at the email above. I am looking forward to seeing your great ideas.

What: **43rd Annual Genealogy Seminar**
 By: **Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan**
 Date: **October 16, 2021**
 Time: **10:00 am to 4:15 pm**

Topics include 4 live webinar presentations with Q&A, syllabus and door prizes

- “Poles who served in Foreign Armies”
 - by Piotr Noszjewski, Warsaw, Poland
- “Census of the Former Prussian Partition”
 - by Michał Jan Marciniak, Warsaw, Poland
- “Our Ancestors’ Lives in the 1800’s and Early 1900’s”
 - by Piotr Nojszewski, Warsaw, Poland
- “The Why, Who, What, Where, and How to Achieve a Successful Genealogical Research Journey”
 - by Deborah Irwin and Elaine Bostwick, Michigan, USA

To register, visit:

<https://www.pgsm.org/>

– registration is \$25.00

What: **Got Ancestors 2021!**
Annual Fall Conference
 by: **Western Michigan Genealogical Society**
 Date: **16 October 2021**
 Time: **9:15 am to 3:30 pm**



Featured speaker:
Dana Palmer CG,CGL

Topics include:

- Free Online Genealogy Resources
- Effective Search Strategies on Family Search
- Tricks of the Trade – Effectively Using Genealogy Websites
- Chronicling America: A Newspaper for Everyone

For more information and to register go to:

www.gotancestors.com/

Pioneer Certificate Program

The application and complete instructions may be found on the MGC web page at www.mimgc.org/cpage.php?pt=122 on the left blue sidebar under Pioneer Certificates.

Please take the time to read through the helpful hints and instructions. Contact the committee with any questions you may have.

The Pioneer Certificate Program is a great way to recognize and honor your Michigan ancestor. Here are some more highlights of the history your pioneer might have experienced!

- 1681: Earliest known use of “Michigan” on a map
- 1712: British inspired Indian raids begin, including the siege of Fort Pontchartrain
- 1715: Fort Michilimackinac is reestablished on the southern shore of the Straits of Mackinac
- 1756: France and England begin the Seven Year’s War- AKA French and Indian War
- 1762: Pontiac, an Ottawa chief, plans a conspiracy against British, calls for a council near Detroit in the spring
- 1765: Pontiac signs a treaty with the British at Detroit, nearly a year after other tribes had made peace
- 1777: British conduct raids from Detroit into Kentucky
- 1778: Daniel Boone brought to Detroit as a prisoner
- 1779: Nearly 3,000 person living in the Detroit area
- 1783: The Treaty of Paris is signed, ending the Revolutionary War and including Michigan in the United States. The British control the Michigan area for 13 more years
- 1794: General Anthony Wayne decisively defeats Indians and allied British troops at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, near Toledo
- 1796: British withdraw their garrison from Detroit. The Stars and Stripes are raised for the first time on Michigan soil by Wayne’s advance guard
- 1805: The Territory of Michigan is created, with Detroit as the capital. Detroit is completely destroyed by fire
- 1835: Pioneers in Macomb and adjoining counties discover oil
- 1836: Congress accepts Michigan’s constitution. It agrees to admit the state upon condition that Michigan accept Ohio’s boundary in return for four-fifths of the Upper Peninsula
- 1837: Detroit’s population is almost 10,000
- Source: Chronology of Michigan History-Michigan Legislature

Kim Smith
Pioneer Certificate Chair



Digital Michigan Newspaper Portal Upgrades Complete

MT. PLEASANT, August 30, 2021 – The Clarke Historical Library is pleased to announce that the extensive upgrades to its Digital Michigan Newspaper Portal have been completed, as well as an unexpected surprise. Frank Boles, Director of the Clarke, stated, “we set out to create the single most comprehensive, publicly accessible, online tool for researchers interested in online newspapers, and that’s exactly what we’ve done. This wouldn’t have been possible without the generous grant from the Library of Michigan and funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and of course all of the institutions and volunteers that made many of these collections a reality.”

“The Portal now provides a list of 1,054 digitally accessible newspaper collections across the state, considerably higher than our previous count of 399 digital collections and well above our initial expectations.” Boles went on by saying, “We were also pleased to represent all 83 Michigan counties in the Portal through this expansion, where we previously only had collections for 64.” The Digital Michigan Newspaper Portal offers free online access to this list of digital collections, though some of the links provided require payment to access the collection within. “Our portal provides a one-stop list for digitized newspapers throughout the state,” Boles explained, “but the individual hosts of these collections are varied and have different terms of access. Thankfully, most links on the Portal direct to collections that are free to access.” The Portal does indicate whether a collection is free, requires payment to view, or is a hybrid between the two. “The remarkable thing about our Portal is its ease of accessibility to digitized collections that would otherwise take quite a bit of time to track down.”

“As an added bonus,” Boles continued, “we’ve created a fun coloring book, using the wonderful images that can be found in Michigan newspapers. Historical archives often fall short in providing material that can be enjoyed by the youngest generation, but with so many digital collections now at hand, it seemed like an obvious compliment to the Portal’s upgrades.” The coloring book

will be provided free to the public in downloadable pdf format.

“Whether you’re a historian or a genealogist, a student or an educator, or just someone interested in Michigan’s rich past, the Portal now provides the most comprehensive starting point for researchers of all stripes and skill levels. The amount of information that can be found through the Portal is truly monumental and I encourage everyone to give it a visit.”

About Digital Michigan Newspaper Portal:

The Digital Michigan Newspaper Portal is a “one stop” location to find online historical newspapers printed in the state of Michigan. It exists to make users aware of online newspaper resources and take a user to the “front door” of the digital newspaper resource. The Portal includes all online Michigan papers, regardless of the terms of access. We do note, however, whether a particular newspaper is free to use or if there is payment required to pass through the newspaper’s door. Users will be able to ascertain from the Portal if the hosting site’s specific titles are free to the public, require a subscription/fee, or if it is a hybrid of the two.

About Clarke Historical Library:

The Clarke Historical Library collects, preserves, and promotes nationally recognized collections, that includes: the history of Michigan and the Old Northwest Territory, the history of Central Michigan University, and selected topics, including exemplary children’s literature, campaign biographies of United States presidential candidates, the history of angling, and historic Michigan newspapers.

As part of CMU’s goal of advancing excellence, the library serves the needs of the CMU community and in particular student success, fosters scholarly activity through its collections, exhibits, and publications, and strengthens community partnerships through an active outreach program.

For further information contact us at Clarke Historical Library ClarkeMicrofilm@cmich.edu

Follow Digital Michigan Newspaper Portal on Twitter @DigMichNews for highlights from the collection!

Bookmark Me Now!

By Megan Heyl

We would like to introduce you to a variety of sources that are available on the internet for genealogical research. While it is widely known that genealogy research by using the internet is only the tip of the iceberg, that most research is done in libraries, archives and courthouses, we will try to share some sources that you may have never heard about or used. Be sure to visit each suggested link - you never know what you may discover.

Legacy Family Tree Webinars



website: <https://www.familytreewebinars.com/>

Description:

Geoff Rasmussen is the man behind the scenes in this extremely popular venue of providing education for everyone, beginner to expert. The topics are as varied as the audience viewing each week. Some of the following details will answer many of your questions. You can sign up and view these webinars for free, or purchase a monthly or yearly subscription membership. The education you will gain from the comfort of your own home is priceless. You may watch for free on the date and time the presentation is being shown, but if you miss it, you will need to purchase a membership to view as many times as you wish and have access to the handouts if provided as long as your membership is valid.

What is a webinar?

Pronounced "web-uh-nahr", a webinar is a class that you view from your computer. You can hear the

speaker and see their computer screen just as you would in a classroom setting. You are able to type in your questions, and sometimes you can ask your questions live, as long as you have access to a microphone or telephone.

How do I register for a live webinar?

On the Upcoming webinars page click on the black "Registration" button, then click on the black "Register (Free)" button. Fill in your name, email address, and location, and click the Blue "Register" button. You will then receive an email with instructions on how to join the live webinar. Whether you have a membership or not, you must always register for the webinars you wish to view the day it is presented.

What equipment do I need to view a live webinar?

- Computer with high-speed Internet service and speakers.

A short list of current free webinars

Check them out while they are still available!

<https://www.familytreewebinars.com/>

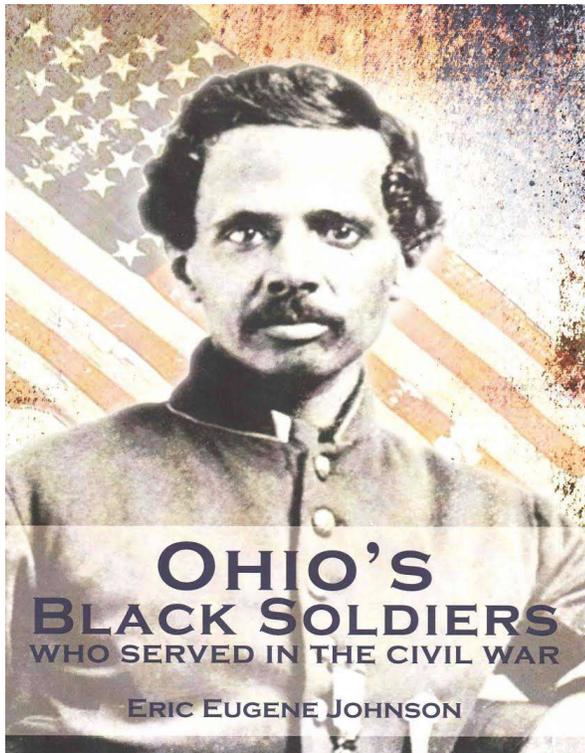
- Beginning Ukranian Genealogy
- A Cargo of .Criminals: Transportation to Australia
- Moravian Trails and Records
- Beginning Hungarian Genealogy
- An introduction to DNA Painter
- Seven Immigration Methodologies, with Case Studies Across the Centuries (a 2021 Reisinger Lecture)

On the Shelf

This is the second issue featured column where we are discussing genealogical books available at state and local libraries. This issue we have a contribution from the Archives of Michigan and the Library of Michigan.

Archives of Michigan

Ohio's Black Soldiers Who Served in the Civil War
by Kris Rzepczynski



Published in 2014 by the Ohio Genealogical Society, *Ohio's Black Soldiers Who Served in the Civil War*, by Eric Eugene Johnson, is an important compilation and roster of Ohio African-Americans that served in the Civil War.

Each entry of more than 6,700 African-American soldiers offers a brief description of their Civil War

military service, including rank, regiment and company, age, birthplace, enlistment date and location, and how they left the service (discharged, died of disease, desertion, killed in action, etc.). A number of African-American Ohioans initially served in other state colored units, too, including Indiana, Massachusetts, and Michigan.

Constructed with information extracted from dozens of different Ohio, Civil War, and African-American sources, including *Official Roster of the Soldiers of the State of Ohio in the War of the Rebellion*, the *War of the Rebellion*, *Colored Troops* compiled service records, and many more, Johnson's alphabetical roster is an essential resource for researchers with Ohio African-American ancestors.

Ohio's Black Soldiers Who Served in the Civil War is on the shelf (call number: **E 540 .N3 J63 2014**) in the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection at the Archives of Michigan. Many other titles specific to the Civil War and the state of Ohio are also available, too. One of the larger genealogical collections in the United States, the Abrams Collection contains published family histories, immigration resources, cemetery transcriptions, directories, county and local histories, military records, getting-started handbooks, and much more. States of particular strength include those with strong historic and migratory ties to Michigan, including the New England region, New York, Pennsylvania, the Midwest, and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Library of Michigan

Hello from the Library of Michigan! Summer is winding down and its time to start thinking about your research projects. Your Library of Michigan library card provides you access to many databases. As a Michigan resident, you can get a library card from the Library of Michigan.

To see a complete list of databases that your Library of Michigan library provides access to, please view the website: www.michigan.gov/familyhistory. Scroll to the section on Family History Databases. I want to point out a few new ones that came online this summer. You can access the Grand Rapids Press Historical and Current Collection (1893-present) as well as Ann Arbor News Historical and Current. Additionally, we added the ProQuest Historical Newspapers (Toronto Globe and Mail) and the Heritage Hub which is a premier collection of U.S. obituaries and death notices from all 50 states. So, if you are a Michigan resident and do not have a card, stop by the website to apply for a digital library card at the first link above.

Below are a few fun books to read during the fall months that are in the Michigan Collection at the Library of Michigan. There are many more wonderful books available at the Library of Michigan covering Michigan History, People, and Places. If these books are not available at your local library, try using the interlibrary loan service called MeLCat. Your local public library will be able to help you request one of the books.

Hidden Hamlets and Vanished Villages by Alan Naldrett, 2018. Here is a great read about some lost history in Michigan. There are many wonderful images scattered throughout the book to capture the readers imagination.

The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy by Blaine T. Bettinger, 2016. A definite topic on many researchers' minds. This book provides basic information on genetic genealogy as well as a discussion of the different available test options. Lastly, the book offers an informative discussion on the results and how to apply them to research.

Stories of Lansing, Michigan Families edited by Rebecca Stimson and William Atkinson, 2009. This collection of stories came about from the 150th Anniversary of the incorporation of Lansing. A wonderful book filled with stories that were not previously told.

Through our website you can search our library catalog and locate the books mentioned above. If you

don't want to access the catalog through the Library of Michigan website, you can navigate there directly by typing the following address in a browser: www.answercat.org. It is important to make the catalog your friend as you start your research journey. The catalog will tell you what we have on our shelves and where it is located. Please do not hesitate to contact us through email or phone: librarian@michigan.gov or 517-335-1477. Library staff are working mostly from home, but we will gladly help as best we can with your questions.

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From the **Cornish American Heritage Society**

Program: "Recreating The President Pumping Engine of the Friedensville Mines"
Date: October 30, 2021
Time: 11am EDT (90 min)
Speakers: Mark Connor and Damian Nance
To register: www.cousinjack.org

An update on efforts since that time to preserve the ruins of The President Engine House, the only known Cornish style pumping engine house in the United States. The talk will also discuss how information gleaned from many sources was pulled together by speakers supporting the creation of a short animated movie about The President Engine by a talented engineer from Belgium - Guy Janssen, whose creation will be shown during the meeting.

Program: "Invention and Dissent"
Date: November 20, 2021
Time: 11am EDT
Speaker: Richard Hoskin
To register: www.cousinjack.org

Much of the pride in our Cornish ancestry stems from the inventiveness of our forefathers and, some of us would admit, from their willingness to stand up to authority — all right, their bloodmindedness. These qualities show up in abundance as our speaker researched Cornwall's fascinating history in the late 18th century for his historical novel, "The Miner & the Viscount. Cornwall was at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution.

The County Corner

Replacement Website for The Oakland County Genealogical Society

By Pam Warren

On December 11, 2020, Thomas MacEntee, a well-known genealogical speaker, posted on Facebook about legal issues regarding the then-owner of EasyNetSites, Thomas N. Ryder. In the ensuing months, conversations regarding the future of the over 300 organizations using EasyNetSites webware were carried out. On January 9, 2021, Rick Jagers created a private Facebook group, WordPress for Genealogy Websites. (I am a volunteer administrator of that group.) The focus of the group is to assist those interested in WordPress as a basis for a new website, either as a new venture, or as a replacement to EasyNetSites. Ongoing discussions on the Genealogical Society Webmaster's Facebook group, the Genealogical Society Leadership Forum on Facebook and in the new group focused on WordPress continue today. In the same time frame, Patrick Shaul, OCGS treasurer and a member of the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research established an email list which included interested webmasters from Southeast Michigan and beyond. Members discussed the situation with EasyNetSites and offered solutions.

In February 2021 I began working on a replacement for the OCGS EasyNetSite, using WordPress as the vehicle to create the site. I hosted the site in a subdirectory of my reseller account. For over ten years I have used Total Choice Hosting, a web host based in Troy, Michigan, and am very pleased with the service and technical support they offer. The WordPress for Genealogical Society Webmaster's group provided support, ideas and even webinars to assist. Several experienced WordPress users who are members of that group provided me support, ideas, and other assistance. Prior to beginning WordPress development, I investigated several other providers and programs and determined that there were none that could support our databases without further

programming, and none that were affordable for OCGS.

About March 1, 2021 it was announced that Blue Crab Software, owned by Paul Barkley, had purchased EasyNetSites from the Ryder family and there was a glimmer that EasyNet would continue to provide a much-needed service to genealogical and historical societies and related businesses, and perhaps update the site to allow better access for mobile phones and tablets. Indeed, some customers continue to use EasyNet with good success.

OCGS had paid for custom programming for three databases at EasyNet. Shortly after the purchase announcement I communicated with the new owner regarding our custom databases hosted at EasyNet, sending him uploads to update the databases. The more critical update was one related to a surname index which linked to pages in our quarterly, *Acorns to Oaks*. Using the index, a member of OCGS could navigate to a page containing their name of interest with one click and review or download the article. When the upload was finally made by Mr. Barkley, the database ceased to work properly, creating 404 Page Not Found Errors on many clicks.

Patrick Shaul, who was instrumental in the original programming for the index program when it was implemented for the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, and I made various attempts to communicate with Mr. Barkley explaining the error and asking for a remedy. That remedy never came. When it became clear that OCGS would need an alternative to EasyNetSites, our board of directors reviewed the partially developed site and approved continued development of the new site and allocated funds to support that development. Because of my long-time relationship with a Total Choice Hosting, on June 6, 2021, I purchased a hosting account and domain name for a development website, moved the site from my hosting account to the new account and got to work.

The decision regarding which WordPress plugins to use, including testing, took quite a bit of time. It was essential that we had a core group of plugins that

mimicked how we used EasyNetSites databases. It was also important that OCGS could export a mailing list. The plugin selection is still evolving.

Because of the organization of files which is native to WordPress which is year, month, day, and the large number of files OCGS needed to link, I used our non-profit Google Drive account to host the files. My preference is to organize the uploaded files by the database they are connected to. I harvested the links using a code snippet I found on the internet and extracted the URLs to the images in Excel. This enabled me to use a CVS export from Excel to create a database in my chosen database plugin, WpdataTables.

My confidence in **Total Choice Hosting** was fulfilled when they not only moved the entire site but updated the URLs for the Society domain. There was one area where the updated URLs did not take effect, so it was necessary for me to edit the MySQL database on which the site was based. When I confirmed all was well and after testing by board members, we took our new site live on July 16, 2021, just beating the date when a payment to Blue Crab for our EasyNetSite would have been due. I am now engaged in an ongoing effort to document the site so other administrators can handle website duties in the future.

In summary, we were able to create a new website at the same address, <https://www.ocgsmi.org>, as a self-hosted WordPress site which is similar to EasyNetSites, but also unique to OCGS. This would not have been possible without the support of the OCGS board, particularly Patrick Shaul and our membership chair, Dea McGraw. The annualized cost of this site is \$363.59; on the front end we paid \$79.00 a one-time fee for one of my selected plugins. Anyone interested in the core group of plugins I selected, or any method I have mentioned may email me at: grannypamw@gmail.com.

Please put **WordPress Site Development** in the subject line.

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Genealogy last appeared in the MGC Newsletter in Volume 36 Issue 1

<https://www.neh.gov/>

The National Endowment for the Humanities website is one of the websites I use all the time to access archival newspapers. Not all the states have been done, as I'm sure this project is a monumental undertaking. The states that are available are not necessarily for every county or town, but what is available has a treasure trove of information. The newspapers are indexed making the search somewhat easier, keeping in mind to use different spellings of first and last names. The NEH website mentioned above contains links to the historical newspaper collection, Chronicling America, as well of lots of other information.

Ryerson Index last appeared in MGC Newsletter in Volume 39 Issue 4

<https://www.ryersonindex.org/>

The Ryerson Index is a free index to death notices appearing in Australian newspapers. The date range covered extends from the *Sydney Gazette* of 1803 up to newspapers published within the last week or so. The Index also includes many funeral notices, and some probate notices and obituaries. Because the Index was originally created by the Sydney Dead Persons Society, its strength lies in notices from NSW papers - including in excess of two million notices from the *Sydney Morning Herald* alone. As additional papers being added regularly, so that the Index can

Irish Central last appeared in MGC Newsletter in Volume 39 Issue 1

<https://www.irishcentral.com/>

The National Library of Ireland is to digitize more than 400,000 images of Catholic parish register microfilms and publish them online for free. In what is being described as the most significant ever digitization project for Irish genealogy, the microfilms will be available online for free by the summer of 2015.

Family research in The Argyll Papers at Inveraray Castle

The Argyll Papers at Inveraray Castle is the family and estate archive of the Duke of Argyll. Dating from the 13th century, the archive records 700 years of the family's participation in Scottish, British and international events, their private lives and interests and the management of their extensive estates.

The contents of the archive are wide and varied, reflecting the historically important role of the Campbell family in Scottish, British and international affairs. From the 14th century onwards the Earls and, later, Dukes of Argyll were closely allied to the Scottish crown and parliament, acquiring a host of official roles and responsibilities. Extensive personal papers, correspondence and accounts document the activities of the extended family in all of its endeavours, offering potential for many important historical themes and events to be explored.

Until the mid-20th century, the Argyll estates covered most of Argyllshire; the Lordship of Campbell which included parts of Clackmannanshire, Stirling, Perth and Fife; lands in East Lothian and properties in Stirling, Edinburgh and London. Many of their lands were acquired during the West Highland clan wars of the 16th and 17th centuries, whilst acting for the Crown, and in the 18th and 19th centuries, successive Dukes invested heavily in agricultural, industrial and urban development. The records of these endeavours provide an insight into our landscape history and built heritage. Additionally, large areas of the estate lie in some of Scotland's most marginal and fragile island environments (Tiree, Iona, Mull) which endured some of the worst periods of 19th century Highland famine, emigration and land agitation. The history of all of these places and events, and of the people within them, is documented in detail in the archive.

The oldest records in the collection are writs and titles relating largely to the transfer of land but also including marriage agreements, commissions and appointments, contracts of friendship and more, from the 13th centuries onward. There are also records of the Earls and Dukes of Argyll's official roles and responsibilities, from the 16th to the 20th centuries,

including collections of political and personal correspondence from important royal, military and noble figures with whom the Argyll Family were closely associated. These tend to be witnessed by the nobility, lawyers and churchmen so are less useful for those tracing their family history.

You may find details of your ancestors in the Military papers, which date from the 16th to the 20th centuries and include militia lists, muster rolls, accounts and correspondence relating to military and political matters, including 16th and 17th century West Highland unrest and the Jacobite Rebellions. There are also records relating to the Argyll Militia, Territorial Army and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in the 19th and 20th centuries, and some papers relating to the First and Second World Wars. Much of the information is organisational detail and plans, but the muster rolls and militia lists include the individual names of those recruited.

It may not seem obvious to look for your ancestors in the personal papers of family members, but the large and interesting collection of family correspondence for the 8th Duke and Duchess and their extended family, and their personal diaries often include references to the people living and working on the Argyll estates. The 8th Duke and Duchess travelled around Argyll each year, meeting their tenants, relieving poverty and supporting the establishment of schools and other much needed facilities. These letters are generally not catalogued in detail, so the only way to find references to your ancestors is by reading them – a fascinating but time-consuming activity.

For those who think they can link their family to one of the main or cadet branches of the Campbells, the pedigrees in the collection may be of interest. These include genealogies of all branches of the Campbell family, mainly compiled by Herbert Campbell and the 10th Duke. To these has been added correspondence between Herbert Campbell and the 10th Duke, and we also have family history correspondence collected by Alistair Campbell of Airds from the late 20th century. Much of this material has been listed by

volunteers and the catalogue can be accessed at <https://www.argyll-papers.com>.

The potentially most rewarding part of the archive for family history research is the estate records. We have extensive estate archives for Inveraray; Rosneath; Kintyre; Campbell; Tiree; Mull, Iona and Morvern; Lismore and Scammadale Estates, between the 16th and 20th centuries. These include accounts, rentals, tacks, correspondence and other papers relating to the administration of the estates, including rural industries (kelp, salt, wool, lint, coal, quarries, woods). They also include lists of individual people, such as the Argyll Census of 1779 (recording the names and ages of every person working on the Argyll estate and frequently detailing their families too) and smaller scale censuses for Tiree (1776), and Campbeltown and Kintyre (1792).

A large collection of estate maps, plans and written surveys also forms part of the estate archive. These include plans and specifications for Inveraray Castle, for the new town of Inveraray and Rosneath Castle, but there are also plans and specifications for houses to be built in the expanding towns of Campbeltown and Oban between the 1740s and the 1900s. Potential tenants had to submit a design for the house they intended to build on their plot, and many of these individual house plans have been preserved in the archive.

Surveys of many parts of the estate were carried out in the late 18th century as part of the 5th Duke's improvements. These include William Douglas's map of Iona from 1769 - the earliest detailed map of the island which is accompanied by a written survey describing the quality of the land.

George Langland's Survey of Kintyre, carried out between 1770 and 1777 is one of the most important landscape surveys ever undertaken by a single surveyor and patron, containing detailed descriptions of 204 Kintyre farms, with recommendations for their modernisation and improvement. The process of improvement was embraced over a period of thirty years and is recorded in a very large collection of estate records recording the amalgamation and

abandonment of marginal settlements, the division of shared tenancy farms into modern farming units, and the introduction of new families, technologies and industries into the peninsula, which by the middle of the 19th century had become the industrial and agricultural heartland of Argyllshire.

James Turnbull's Survey of Tiree, 1768/9, is a large, gloriously illustrated and highly coloured map depicting Tiree before the modern crofting landscape was created in the 19th century. It shows densely packed clusters of large farming townships separated by rigs of infield and outfield cultivation, common grazing, 'old danish forts' and other antiquities. It is accompanied by a detailed 111 page written survey describing each township in detail, with minutely recorded observations on farming practices, fishing and the way of life of the island's inhabitants. There are many other 18th and 19th century surveys for and descriptions of the island.

There are also 20th century maps of the Auchindrain and Auchnagoul townships, near Inveraray, which demonstrate the rare survival of traditional shared farm tenancies long after the practice had died out elsewhere. Whilst your ancestors are unlikely to be mentioned in these surveys by name, they provide a unique perspective and understanding of life as it was lived on the Argyll estates in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Sub-collections largely relate to cadet branches of the Campbell family: Campbell of Southall, Campbell of Craignish, Campbell of Barbreck and Campbell of Glendaruel. Some of these collections will include local estate papers which may mention individual names. There is also a substantial collection of papers relating to the Callander of Ardkinglas and Craighforth family – largely correspondence, there are also accounts and rentals for the family lands in Stirlingshire.

And finally, we hold records of the Synod of Argyll from the 17th to the 19th centuries. For much of this period the Synod of Argyll covered most of the west highlands and islands of Scotland, from the Western

Isles and Skye in the North, to Arran in the South; and the collection covers this whole area. It contains many references to the building and maintenance of churches, manses and schools, to ministers and schoolmasters and the difficulty of recruiting Gaelic speaking ministers.

And please note that most people living on the Argyll estates were not Campbells: many other Highland names appear in the records for Argyll and the islands, and lowland names predominate in the records of the Lordship of Campbell in central Scotland. Additionally, as the archive is not indexed by personal name, it is important that you know who you are looking for, and where and when you expect to find them. If you have that skeleton, then we may be able to help you to add flesh to its bones! Find out more about the collection through the National Register of Archives of Scotland survey 1209 (NRAS 1209) – available online at <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk> (search for: nras1209). We are also gradually creating our own online catalogue of the collection at www.argyll-papers.com – it is still in its early days and very far from complete, but there are some records available to search.

If you are visiting Scotland and wish to undertake some research, please contact the archivist to book an appointment at the archives. You will need to provide as much information as possible so that the archivist can ensure that there are relevant documents for you to look at. We also provide group tours of the archive stores, see The Archives (<https://www.inveraray-castle.com/estate/argyll-papers>) for further information.

And if you have specific questions after reading this article, please do not hesitate to email the archivist at: archives@inveraray-castle.com



Library of Michigan

Matt Pacer
Reference Librarian
Library of Michigan

Library of Michigan Updates September 2021

Hello Everyone!

Check out our website to view new changes about our reopening. The address is: <https://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan>. Staff continue to work from home along with some in-building workdays and we are doing our best to answer researcher questions. We encourage you to submit your reference questions to us at the contact email listed at the bottom of this update.

Please remember that Michigan residents are eligible for a Library of Michigan library card. With a valid Library of Michigan library card, you can access several family history databases remotely such as Ann Arbor News Historical and Current, Grand Rapids Press Historical and Current, Sanborn Maps, Heritage Hub (Newsbank product with obituaries from many U.S. newspapers), and a few more. Please visit WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/LIBRARYCARD for the application form and information about the card.

Stay tuned to the Library of Michigan website in January to read about the 2022 Michigan Notable Books honorees. Once announced, you will find more information about the selected books and authors. To learn more about the 2020 honorees and previous years, please visit the following site: Using the library of Michigan website – search for NOTEABLEBOOKS.

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 July 2021

The Archives of Michigan is open again by appointment! Researchers can submit their appointment requests through our web site: www.michigan.gov/archivesofmi. The Archives is open Mondays through Fridays from 1 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The 2021 Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar was held in July via Zoom. It was a thrill to host Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, "The Legal Genealogist," for this year's event. Attendees logged in from across Michigan and the United States, with one dedicated family historian even joining us from Tel Aviv, Israel!

In addition to Judy's excellent programs, the Seminar also included several additional outstanding and relevant programs, including researching female ancestors, utilizing DNA in African American research, utilizing timelines, and Ontario research. Plans are already underway for next year's event, so stay tuned!

The Archives of Michigan continues to add new source material to our holdings, particularly local government records. New archival collections this year include:

- Osceola County Tax Rolls, 1986-2006 / **RG 2021-70**
- Kalkaska County Probate Records, 1874-1972 / **RG 2021-22**

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

- John Grow of Ipswich, Massachusetts and Some of his Descendants: A Middle-class Family in Social and Economic Context from the 17th Century to the Present / Michael Grow / 2020 / Call number: **CS 71 .G942 2020**
- The Veterans of Oak Hill Cemetery, Battle Creek, MI / James N. Jackson / 2020 / Call number: **F 574 .B37 J23 2020**
- Vital Records of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Ossining, New York Westchester County, 1834-1959: Baptisms 1834-1959, Marriages 1834-1921 / Arthur C.M. Kelly / 2014 / Call number: **F 129 .O6 K342 2014**
- Precious Blood, Holyoke, Massachusetts: Baptisms, April 1869 to June 1986 [2 vols.] / American-Canadian Genealogical Society / 2017 / Call number: **F 74 .H73 P73 2017**

The Archives thanks our generous donors, supporters and friends, including, of course, the Abrams Foundation and the Michigan Genealogical Council. As always, please contact us at archives@michigan.gov with any questions about the Archives and our collections, services or digitization projects.

Reference staff will be happy to assist you, we look forward to seeing you all again soon!

Thank you,

Kris Rzepczynski

Both Delegate/Board Meetings are being held virtually until further notice.

Delegate Meetings (Currently Virtual)

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 (Currently Virtual)

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 www.mimgc.org.

Michigan Library and Historical Center

Archives of Michigan

Starting Sept.7, 2021
Archives will be available by appointment
Mon-Fri from 1 to 5 pm and
Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm

Reference Desk Hours By Email or Phone
8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday
Phone: (517) 335-2576

Email archives@michigan.gov

Visit our web site at:
www.michigan.gov/archivesofmi and
<https://www.michiganology.org/>

Mask Mandate for all Lansing visitors

The State of Michigan has adopted a mask mandate for state office buildings. This includes the Michigan Library and Historical Center building, which is home to the Michigan History Museum and Archives of Michigan.

Per the policy, a face mask is defined as an N95/KN95/KN94 respirator or other multi-layered breathable fabric that completely covers the nose and mouth, fitting snugly against the sides of the face.

Library of Michigan

Effective Sept. 7 Library will be resuming regular office hours.

10 am to 5 pm Monday thru Friday
By email or phone
Email librarian@michigan.gov
Phone: (517) 335-1477
Visit our website at:
www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan

Michigan History Museum

Beginning Sept. 7, museum will be open
Mon-Thu for school field trips and tours of 10 or more
Fri/Sat from 10 am to 4 pm
Sunday from 1 pm to 5 pm
Visit our Web site at:
<https://www.michigan.gov/museum>
For more information call:
(517) 335-2573



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: <https://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 <https://www.mimgc.org/cpage.php?pt=16>

President	Rozlyn Kelly Farmington Genealogy Society	Distribution and Marketing	Sam Pardee Ingham County Genealogical Society
Vice President	Judy Nimer Muhn Oakland County Genealogical Society	Central Mail	Sam Pardee Ingham County Genealogical Society
Recording Secretary Board Meetings	Chelsea Johnson Calhoun County Genealogical Society	Membership	John Pierce Ionia County Genealogical Society
Recording Secretary Delegate Meetings	Sue Irvine Western Michigan Genealogical Society	Nominations	Elected Directors
Corresponding Secretary	Tom Koselka MGC Past President	Historian	Barb Curtindale Gladwin County Genealogical Society, Inc.
Treasurer	Jill O'Sullivan Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan	Newsletter	Paul Roltsch Waterford Genealogical Society
Director 2022	Daniel Earl French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan	Media Communications	Judy Sheldon Huron Shores Genealogical Society
Director 2023	Larry Noyes Genealogical Society of Isabella County	Finance/Budget	Jill O'Sullivan Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan
Director 2024	Melissa Kendzierski Charlevoix County Genealogical Society	Continuing Education	Daniel Earl French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan
Committee Chairpersons and Appointments		Webmaster	Tom Koselka, MGC Past President
Archivist	Connie Olson, MGC Past President	NGS Delegate	Tom Koselka, MGC Past President
Library of Michigan Liaison	Tim Gleisner 702 W. Kalamazoo St, Lansing, MI 48915	Projects	Roger Moffat Western Michigan Genealogical Society
Archives of Michigan Liaison	Kris Rzepczynski 702 W. Kalamazoo St, Lansing, MI 48915	Past President Advisor	Brenda Leyndyke, MGC Past President
Public Records Access and Records Preservation	Derek Blount Detroit Society of Genealogical Research	Lucy Mary Kellogg Chair	Jessica Trotter Lansing Area African American Genealogical Society
Awards	Barb Curtindale Gladwin County Genealogical Society, Inc.	Pre-Statehood and First Family Certificates	Kim Smith Waterford Genealogical Society

Links from Past Issues

We are revisiting links from newsletters past in an effort to review links that we may have forgotten. Hopefully in revisiting these links we can re-find hidden gems.

American Ancestors last appeared in MGC Newsletter in Volume 38 Issue 2

<https://www.americanancestors.org/>

From their About page: "American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) is America's founding genealogical organization and the most respected name in family history. Established in 1845, We are the nation's leading comprehensive resource for family history research and the largest Society of its kind in the world. We provide expert family history services through our staff, original scholarship, data-rich website, educational opportunities, and research center to help family historians of all levels explore their past and understand their families' unique place in history."

The Great Parchment Book last appeared in MGC newsletter in Volume 38 Issue 2

<http://www.greatparchmentbook.org/>

The Great Parchment Book of The Honourable The Irish Society is a major survey, compiled in 1639 by a Commission instituted under the Great Seal by Charles I, of all those estates in Derry managed by the City of London through the Irish Society and the City of London livery companies. It represents a hugely important source for the City of London's role in the Protestant colonisation and administration of Ulster. Damaged as the result of a fire at Guildhall in 1786, it has been unavailable to researchers for over 200 years. However, the manuscript has remained part of the City of London's collections London Metropolitan Archives (LMA reference CLA/049/EM/02/018.) As part of the 2013 commemorations in Derry of the 400th anniversary of the building of the city walls, it

was decided to attempt to make the Great Parchment Book available as a central point of an exhibition in Derry's Guildhall.

Kansas Memory last appeared in MGC Newsletter in Volume 39 Issue 3

<https://www.kansasmemory.org/>

Content below provided from their "About" page

Kansas Memory has been created by the Kansas State Historical Society to share its historical collections via the Internet. It supports the mission of the Society--to identify, collect, preserve, interpret, and disseminate materials and information pertaining to Kansas history in order to assist the public in understanding, appreciating, and caring for the heritage of Kansas. Kansas Memory provides a very tangible means of fulfilling the vision of the KSHS, which is to enrich people's lives by connecting them to the past.

The value of the site is in its rich content--letters, diaries, photographs, government records from the State Archives, maps, museum artifacts, and historic structures in Kansas. We will be adding additional content continually.

The site is intended for the use of anyone interested in any aspect of Kansas History. However, the primary audiences that drove decisions about the basic operations of the site and various functional requirements were middle and high school teachers and students. The browse design is based on the Flamenco project, which met the Kansas Memory project team's goal of allowing browse access to a large body of resources in multiple ways using general everyday terms. A special interface was developed for teachers to provide quick access to historical items that support the teaching of selected Kansas and U.S. history standards. The "My Memory" feature allows users to create their own subset of Kansas Memory content that may be useful to their specific needs."

continued on page 11

Links from this issue**Page 2:**

- MGC President email
 - Email: president@mimgc.org

Page 3:

- French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan
 - www.habitantheritage.org
- Northville Genealogy Society
 - <https://www.nvgensoc.org/programs/>
- Oakland County Genealogical Society Zoom Registration info
 - <https://www.oxgsmi.org/events/>

Page 4:

- Brenda Leyndyke
 - Email: brae957@gmail.com
- Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan
 - www.pgsm.org/
- Got Ancestors from WMGS Fall Conference
 - www.gotancestors.org/

Page 5/6:

- MGC Website for Pioneer Certificates
 - www.mimgc.org/cpage.php?pt=122
- Clarke Historical Library email
 - Email: ClarkeMicrofilm@cmich.edu

Page 9:

- Family History
 - <https://www.michigan.gov/familyhistory/>
- Answer Cat
 - www.answercat.org
- Library of Michigan

- EMAIL: librarian@michigan.gov
- Cornish American Heritage Society
 - www.cousinjack.org

Page 11/12/13/14:

- OCGSMI Article Email
 - Email: grannypamw@gmail.com
- National Endowment for the Humanities
 - <https://www.neh.gov/>
- Ryerson Index
 - <https://www.ryersonindex.org/>
- Irish Central
 - <https://www.irishcentral.com/>
- Argyll Papers at Inveraray Castle
 - www.argyll-papers.com
- National Register of Archives for Scotland
 - <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk>
- The Archives for Inveraray Castle
 - <https://www.inveraray-castle.com/estate/argyll-papers>

Page 15/16/17/18:

- Archives email
 - Email: archives@michigan.gov
- Michiganology
 - <https://www.michiganology.org/>
- Michigan Natural History Museum
 - <https://www.michigan.gov/museum>
- American Ancestors –
 - www.americanancestors.org
- Great Parchment Book –
 - www.greatparchmentbook.org
- Kansas Memory – www.kansasmemory.org

Thanks from the Editor!

Please feel free to email me at newsletter@mimgc.org and send me articles and story ideas, society news/events, and even zoom meeting invitations.

Thank you to all the societies who sent me articles from themselves or their societies– it is appreciated and I look forward to many more in the future.

I will always accept articles – if I get too many for one month I may have to hold it for a succeeding issue.

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Events

Got Ancestors 2021

Annual Fall Conference

Western Michigan Genealogical Society

16 October 2021

9:15 am to 3:30 pm

Featured Speaker:

Dana Palmer, CG, CGL

For more information, visit:

<https://www.gotancestors.com/>

43rd Annual Genealogy Seminar

Polish Genealogy Society of Michigan

October 16, 2021

10:00 am to 4:15 pm

For more information, visit:

<https://www.pgsm.org/>