

# Michigan Genealogical Council Newsletter

Volume 49 Issue 2

Spring 2025

## BARBARA J. BROWN FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR

FEATURING **KELVIN L. MEYERS**



### Interested in learning about family history?

Participate online or onsite in downtown Lansing for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar on Friday, May 9 and Saturday, May 10, 2025. This two-day program is hosted by the Archives of Michigan and the Michigan Genealogical Council to promote family history and enhance genealogy research skills. Kelvin Meyers is this year's featured speaker and joins an excellent lineup of sessions and presenters.

### Registration Fee: \$55

For more information or to register, scan the QR code or visit us online at the link below:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mhc/archives>

### SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY, MAY 9 AND  
SATURDAY, MAY 10

FREE PRE-SEMINAR  
SESSION!

FREE BREAKFAST AND  
LUNCH FOR ONSITE  
ATTENDEES!

EXTENDED RESEARCH  
HOURS AT THE ARCHIVES  
OF MICHIGAN!

SESSION RECORDINGS  
WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE  
TO ATTENDEES!



## President's Message

Happy beginning of Spring! With Spring Equinox, we welcome back the robins, Sand Hill Cranes, and more, with bees soon waking up and hummingbirds and orioles not far behind.

Thank you, and welcome to the new MGC temporary Editor, Jay R. Taylor, who is also the Editor for the Oakland County Genealogical Society and active in Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and more (do reach out and ask him – he's a great writer, genealogist and very good at crafting stories!). Jay is looking for content for the newsletter beyond society postings about their upcoming events, so please send him an email at [newsletter@mimgc.org](mailto:newsletter@mimgc.org) to ask him about your ideas. If you have an ancestral story but aren't sure how to write it or keep it short, he is a BIG help, so do ask!

Please check out the information about the upcoming Barbara J Brown Seminar (information in this issue) hosted by the Archives of Michigan! Speaker Kelvin L. Meyers is a forensic genealogist and will give us a variety of interesting talks. For those of you who attended in person last year, you will recall that we received free food, the lock-in was very well-attended, and the Forum was full of excited genealogists. Remember to share the Seminar with everyone in your society and community. This event is open to any genealogists or family historians and is a marvelous time to network with potential cousins!

The Lucy Mary Kellogg Award deadline is May 31, 2025, so please look at the criteria and submit your nomination for Jessica Trotter's judging team to review. **Application information is available at <https://mimgc.org/lucy-mary-kellogg-award/>.**

Save the dates for the MGC's Fall Seminar – November 14 and 15, 2025, at the Michigan History Center, supported by our wonderful Library and Archives of Michigan colleagues. Curt Witcher of the Allen County Public Library will be our speaker on both days, with a presentation at the Delegate Meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup> and three sessions on the 15<sup>th</sup>, so stay tuned for more information about that as we get ready to open registration for that later this summer.

Thank you to all of the societies, delegates, presidents, and leaders who are helping so many to trace their families and learn as they go. You are indispensable to our state! Encourage your members to look into the Pioneer Certificate Program information and perhaps think about offering special help sessions to get them going on their submissions. I'm hoping to finally get one of my ancestors who lived and died in Fort Pontchartrain. It's great work to find the primary records and documents and learn about their lives.

MGC is seeking a Newsletter Editor (Jay is temporary to keep us going) at least by November/December, and we also will be saying "thank you" to Judy Sheldon, who has done an incredible job of reaching out to all of you on social media and to local newspapers. She will be leaving the Publicity/Social Media role at the end of June, so please consider taking on this role – Judy isn't going anywhere but has taken on more society duties so she's leaving YEARS of service to MGC for new roles. Contact us via [info@mimgc.org](mailto:info@mimgc.org) for questions or information about either of these roles – we've posted job descriptions for your consideration.

Enjoy the change of seasons, and we hope to see you soon,

Judy

Judy Nimer Muhn, President

[judynmuhn@gmail.com](mailto:judynmuhn@gmail.com)

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## **How to Make Member Society Contact Changes**

The Michigan Genealogical Council updates our email list using the information provided on your society's membership or renewal form. As this information can change between dues payments, please use the provided link to update your details as needed: <https://mimgc.org/society-contact-change-form/>



## Library of Michigan

Matt Pacer  
Reference Librarian

### On the Shelf March 2025

Hello from the Library of Michigan! Spring is almost upon us, and it will soon be time for spring cleaning. This is a great time to highlight our donation program. Particularly our current yearbook campaign. We are seeking to grow our collection of high school, vocational/technical, and college/university yearbooks. For more information on donations, please visit the following site: [Make A Gift \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/makeagift). We are also slowly adding updates to this part of the website: [Yearbooks](#). In this section, we are adding the websites that have digitized high school yearbooks. We want to thank our readers for making the yearbook donation campaign very successful.

Our virtual program list can be found here: [www.michigan.gov/lmpublicprograms](https://www.michigan.gov/lmpublicprograms). Each event lists the date, time, description, and how to register. There are many interesting virtual programs to attend. Many of these programs provide information on using several of our databases and collections that benefit family history researchers. If you have suggestions for other programs, please contact us.

The 2025 Michigan Notable Books list is out! Please view that list here: [2025 Michigan Notable Books](#). These titles include both fiction and nonfiction, and there is definitely something every Michigander can enjoy. Soon, the MNB Author Tour location and dates will be set. Please visit the following website for more information on the upcoming tour stops and the notable books program: [Michigan Notable Books](#).

To see what we have in our collections, please navigate directly to our catalog by typing the following address in a browser: [www.answercat.org](http://www.answercat.org). Making the catalog your friend as you start your research journey is important. The catalog will tell you what we have on our shelves and its location. Lastly, please sign up for our Special Collections Update eBulletin to learn more about library events and programs. You can sign up for the eBulletin here: [Library of Michigan - Sign-up for the Special Collections Update \(govdelivery.com\)](#). Please do not hesitate to contact us through email or phone: [librarian@michigan.gov](mailto:librarian@michigan.gov) or 517-335-1477.

All the best,  
Library of Michigan staff



## Archives of Michigan

Abrams Foundation

Jill Arnold

Public Services Unit Manager

The Archives of Michigan has just launched a brand-new website, and we can't wait for you to explore it!

Our new website offers:

- **Enhanced content:** Dive into a wide range of resources, including collections, research tools, and educational materials that celebrate Michigan's rich history.
- **Improved navigation:** With a fresh and user-friendly design, accessing our collections and discovering what the Archives offer is easier than ever.
- **Educational resources:** Whether you're a history lover or a researcher, our new site offers valuable insights to help you learn more about Michigan's past.

We've worked hard to create an experience that is both informative and accessible, and we invite you to visit the new website at [Michigan.gov/ArchivesofMichigan](https://Michigan.gov/ArchivesofMichigan) today!

We look forward to helping you uncover new stories and explore our archives!

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## Save the Date!

### Western Michigan Genealogical Society's Annual "GotAncestors?!" Seminar

**When:** October 18

**Where:** The Pinnacle Center, 3330 Highland Drive, Hudsonville, MI

**Speaker:** David Allen Lambert

**Topics Include** Western Migration (1783-1900), Basics of New England Research, Resources for Pennsylvania Genealogy, and Introducing American Ancestors.

Questions: send to [seminar@gotancestors.com](mailto:seminar@gotancestors.com)

## Society News & Events

All programs listed should be verified to ensure they are still scheduled to occur. All societies having these programs have given their permission to list them here.

### From Western Michigan Genealogical Society:

April 5 – "Records: An They're Not Vinyl" presented by Megan Heyl

May 3 – "Jennie Flood, A Grand Rapidian Who Murdered for Profit in 1903" with Tobin Buhk

June 14 – "Researching Your Swedish Ancestors" by Cynthia Grostick

June 26 & 27 – Western Michigan Genealogical Society's Fort Wayne Research Meet-Up

- Attendees may travel alone or carpool with friends to this event at the Allen County Genealogical Center. Parking available. Specially-priced rooms are available at the Hilton Ft. Wayne.
- Contact Sue Irvine for more details: [sjirv@yahoo.com](mailto:sjirv@yahoo.com)

### Upcoming Programs at Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society:

April 21 – "Emigration, Immigration, and Naturalization" with Tom Koselka

May 19 (Annual Meeting) – "WWI & WWII Military Records" featuring Cynthia Grostick

June 16 – "Full Text Search on Family Search" with John Pierce

### Hartford's Van Buren Regional Genealogical Society Programs:

April 19 – "Fred 'Killer' Burke: The Hunt for the Most Dangerous Man Alive" presented by Chriss Lyon

May 17 – "Southwest Michigan and the Polar Bear Expedition," featuring Nancy Brock

June 21 – "History of the Potawatomi People in Van Buren County" presented by Cecil Wilson

### From the Genealogical Society of Jackson County:

June 21 & 22 – Blacksmith, Soldier & Log Cabin Day at Waterloo Farm and Dewey School

July 26 – Concord Civil War Days at Hubbard House

August 23 – Rust & Dust at Hanover Horton

August 23 & 24 – Jackson Civil War Muster at Cascades

### Upcoming Programs From Northville Genealogical Society:

April 13 – "Polish Records" with speaker Therese Leszcz

May 4 – "Evaluating Genealogical Evidence" presented by Dan Fantore

June 9 – "Maximizing Research in the Arolsen Archives" with Alexander Tolksdorf

## New Records and Databases Available

### Commercial Databases

**Find My Past** added three new Australian record sets this past week. All are from the state of Queensland. There are Imperial pensions, criminal depositions, and dentist records spanning the 19th and 20th centuries.

- **Queensland, Imperial pensions 1898-1912**  
This week's most extensive new Australian set on Findmypast consists of 35,749 Queensland pension records, covering 1898 to 1912.
- **Queensland, Criminal depositions 1861-1885**  
Did your Australian ancestor run into trouble with the law between 1861 and 1885? If they lived in Queensland, their name may appear within these 3,749 new court records. These transcriptions contain information like names and the date of the deposition.
- **Queensland, Dentists 1903-1932**  
In this collection, you'll find the names of more than 400 dentists who worked in Queensland in the early 20th century.

[Ancestry](#) has added the 1921 Census for England, Wales, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man.

[Newspapers.com](#) has added two new Ontario newspapers.

- *The Herald*, Alliston, Ontario from 2011-2023
- *Almaquin News*, Burk's Falls, Ontario, covering 2011-2023

### Free Databases!

**Glasgow Valuation Rolls, 1913-1914** Learn about and search these lists of Glasgow owners and occupiers, with the value of their properties, to locate your early 20th-century relatives living in the city.

**ScotlandsPlaces** In 18th-century Scotland, if something moved (or didn't), it got taxed. Horses, carts, dogs, clocks, watches, and people, too. Household and farm servants may be listed under their employers' names. You can also trace the history of a place through time, even a relatively small place, using Ordnance Survey records as well as property and business tax ledgers. And there are plenty of maps, plans, and photos, too.

**Statistical Accounts of Scotland 1791-1845** Background information for the entire country, parish by parish, in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. These books were compiled from contemporary local accounts of their area, describing the parish's history, natural features, and industries. Excellent for learning about the times and places your ancestors lived in.



**Scots Abroad** Whether your relatives went abroad to work, live, or visit, they may appear in these databases hosted by the National Library of Scotland. These include correspondence from emigrants and guides for those planning to emigrate to different parts of the world. Get a flavor of what life would have been like for people taking the big step away from Scotland.

**Scottish Emigration Database** Search by the person's name or the ship they sailed on. Thousands of entries from 1890 to 1960 list the address from which they emigrated and their destination overseas.

**Kirk Session Records** Find out what your ancestors got up to when they were hauled before the minister and elders. There are links on this page to resources for understanding the context and social history behind these records and the sometimes tricky handwriting.

**Dictionary of the Scots Language** This online dictionary of Scots is also handy for reading older records and Burns' poetry. It is a separate language, ye ken.

**Bank of Montreal** Employee photographs from 1880-1920 are now online.  
<https://ourheritagebmo.com/collection/notman-photo-albums/>

**Find A Grave** has more than 1,200 graves of United Empire Loyalists in Canada, which are identified in the virtual cemetery Brian McConnell created on FindAGrave. The gravesites of these Loyalists are located in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and Ontario. Mr. McConnell is a retired lawyer and a member of the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada. He has written several books and many articles about the Loyalists.

**Family Search** added a new full-text search collection, called **Ireland, Properties, from 1298 to 1975**.

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## Contact the Michigan Library and Historical Center

### Archives of Michigan

Monday through Friday, 1 to 5 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Reference Desk Hours by Email [archives@michigan.gov](mailto:archives@michigan.gov)

or by Phone (517) 335-2576

Website: <https://michigan.gov/archivesofmichigan>

And <https://michiganology.org/>

### Library of Michigan

Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Phone (517) 335-1477

Email: [librarian@michigan.gov](mailto:librarian@michigan.gov)

Website: <https://michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan/>

### Michigan History Museum

Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

Field trips & group reservations are Monday to Thursday only

View the schedule of holidays for closures

Phone: (517) 335-2573

Website: <https://michigan.gov/mhc/museums>

# Michigan Genealogical Council

Founded in 1972, the Michigan Genealogical Council (MGC) is an organization comprising delegates from each of its member societies. Its objectives are to locate, preserve, publish, and deposit in suitable repositories records of value to genealogists and to initiate activities that encourage and assist those 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 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 the MGC, P.O. Box 80953, Lansing, MI, 48908-0953, Website: <https://mimgc.org>

The Newsletter is published quarterly by the Michigan Genealogical Council. Member society delegates and presidents are notified via email when a new issue becomes available online. Content for the Winter issue is due December 15, Spring March 15, Summer June 15, and Fall September 15. Email newsletter items to MGC Editor: [newsletter@mimgc.org](mailto: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 the website for additional details at <https://mimgc.org/newsletter/>.

<b>President</b>	Judy Nimer Muhn Oakland County Genealogical Society	<b>Awards</b>	Barb Curtindale Gladwin County Genealogical Society, Inc.
<b>Vice President</b>	Shaun Thomas Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society	<b>Central Mail</b>	Jessica Trotter Lansing Area African American Genealogical Society
<b>Recording Secretary Board Meetings</b>	Chelsea Johnson-Heisler Calhoun County Genealogical Society	<b>Membership</b>	Cathy Cottone South Lyon Public Library
<b>Recording Secretary Delegate Meetings</b>	Tim Salatin Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County	<b>Nominations</b>	Elected Directors
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Tom Koselka MGC Past President	<b>Historian</b>	Barb Curtindale Gladwin County Genealogical Society, Inc.
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jill O'Sullivan Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan	<b>Newsletter</b>	Jay R. Taylor Oakland County Genealogical Society
<b>Director 2025</b>	Brenda Leyndyke, MGC Past President	<b>Media Communications</b>	Judy Sheldon Huron Shores Genealogical Society
<b>Director 2026</b>	Sue Irvine Western Michigan Genealogical Society	<b>Finance/Budget</b>	Jill O'Sullivan Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan
<b>Director 2027</b>	Cathy Cottone South Lyon Public Library	<b>Continuing Education</b>	Judy Nimer Muhn Oakland County Genealogical Society
<b>Committee Chairpersons and Appointments</b>		<b>Webmaster</b>	Tom Koselka, MGC Past President
<b>Archivist</b>	Tim Salatin Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County	<b>NGS Delegate</b>	Tom Koselka, MGC Past President
<b>Library of Michigan Liaison</b>	Matt Pacer 702 W. Kalamazoo St, Lansing, MI 48915	<b>Projects</b>	Roger Moffat Western Michigan Genealogical Society
<b>Archives of Michigan Liaison</b>	Kris Rzepczynski 702 W. Kalamazoo St, Lansing, MI 48915	<b>Past President Advisor</b>	Rozlyn Kelly, Farmington Genealogical Society
<b>Public Records Access and Records Preservation</b>	Derek Blount Detroit Society of Genealogical Research	<b>Lucy Mary Kellogg Chair</b>	Jessica Trotter Lansing Area African American Genealogical Society
		<b>Pre-Statehood and First Family Certificate</b>	Kim Smith Waterford Genealogical Society