



## Lucy Mary Kellogg Award

### And the Award Goes to... 2023 Lucy Mary Kellogg Award

Each year the Michigan Genealogical Council asks our member societies to submit the names of their most active and influential members, who have dedicated their lives to genealogical research and contributed to their communities through their leadership and service in the field. We honor one of these nominees each year with a ceremony, award certificate, and \$100 in their name to the Archives of Michigan, the Library of Michigan, and the genealogical or historical organization (or library) of their choice.

We were proud of our small but mighty pool of candidates in 2023. We were honored to have as judges—Patricia Snoblen, Branch Manager at Jackson District Library and Marc Boucher, Director of Library and Academic Services at Lake Superior State University Library—to help us with this process.

While they were impressed by all the candidates, they were moved by this year's Lucy Mary Kellogg honorees' genealogical record that one of her nominators summed up well noting they, "[embody] the qualities [of], leadership, and promotion of shared knowledge as demonstrated by [their] selfless research contributions to local, regional, state and international knowledge of early settlement of North America."

The Michigan Genealogical Council is honored to present the 2023 to Suzanne Sommerville of the French Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan (FCHSM)—of which she was a founding member in 1980. Sommerville has served that group in multiple positions, she has also been an authoritative speaker, researcher and author—including Volume 2 of the award winning *Le Détroit du Lac Érié – 1701-1710*. One of her supporters noted "Suzanne's historical and genealogical contributions spans decades as a French interpreter, translator, and an educator of early Detroit history and it's residents."

In recognition of these exceptional contributions to the genealogical community, the Michigan Genealogical Council is pleased to award Suzanne Sommerville with the 2023 Lucy Mary Kellogg and thank her for her service and dedication. Due to health issues Ms. Sommerville was unable to join the celebration on November 3rd, but members of her society accepted on her behalf and the award will be sent to her.

### Long Awaited Cake: Pandemic LMK Honorees in Person



The Council invited the three Lucy Mary Kellogg Honorees awarded on Zoom during the Pandemic to the November Delegates meeting to honor them in person. Leslie Strong Williams (2020), Melvin Holley (2021) and Marcia McCrary (2022) were finally able to receive in-person applause, group pictures, and a wonderful cake!

### Nominate your members for the 2024 Lucy Mary Kellogg Award!

The deadline for this year's Lucy Mary Kellogg nominations is **May 31, 2024**.

The Michigan Genealogical Council is once again seeking nominations for the Lucy Mary Kellogg Award, given annually to a member of an MGC member society. The award's namesake was the founding member of the council and the first woman and first Midwesterner to be inducted into the National Genealogical Society's Hall of Fame. First awarded in 1992, the award is given annually to an individual whose hard work and dedication has greatly benefited our genealogical community. In addition to or 2023 winner Suzanne Boivin Sommerville, recent awardees include: Marcia McCrary of the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, Melvin Holley of Lansing Area African American Genealogical Society (2021), Leslie C. Strong Williams of Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society (2020), and Judy Sheldon of the Huron Shores Genealogical Society (2019).

I know you all have exceptional and involved members. Please consider nominating one of them for this award.

Jessica Trotter, Chairperson  
Lucy Mary Kellogg Award

To be nominated for this award, a candidate must be a member in good standing of a member society of the Michigan Genealogical Council, resided in the state of Michigan for a minimum of five years, and must have met four or more of the following criteria:

- Furthered the aims and the accomplishments of the Michigan Genealogical Council.
- Served in a position of leadership in a Michigan genealogical or historical organization.
- Been involved in a major research project.
- Authored or contributed to a notable publication.
- Made a significant contribution to the genealogical or historical benefit of his/her community.
- Made a significant contribution to the Michigan community.
- Furthered the knowledge of genealogy through educational practices.

The Award consists of a certificate for the recipient and \$100.00 each in his/her name to the Archives of Michigan, Library of Michigan, and a library or genealogical society of his/her choice.

The recipient, selected by an anonymous jury, will receive the award at the annual Michigan Genealogical Council Seminar. The name of a candidate may be resubmitted; however, the award may be received by an individual only once. Current members of the Executive Committee of MGC are not eligible for nomination.

**TO NOMINATE A CANDIDATE:**

Complete all of the information in the section of this report about the candidate.

Submit a typewritten letter of 500 words or less stating the qualifications of the candidate.

Encourage individuals or groups to send letters of support for the candidate.

Mail entries together with support information to arrive by May 31 to:

Michigan Genealogical Council

Lucy Mary Kellogg Award

P.O. Box 80953

Lansing, MI. 48908-0953

Question? e-mail: [info@mimgc.org](mailto:info@mimgc.org)

All entries and materials become the property of the Michigan Genealogical Council and will not be returned.

Lucy Mary Kellogg information and nomination form can be found at <https://mimgc.org/lucy-mary-kellogg-award/>

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**Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar**  
**Friday, May 10 – Saturday, May 11, 2024**  
**Featuring Ari Wilkins**

Every year the Archives of Michigan and the Michigan Genealogical Council host a seminar to promote family history awareness and teach genealogy research skills. The event is generously supported by the Abrams Foundation in loving memory of Barbara J. Brown. We are delighted to be hosting Ari Wilkins, who will be joining us onsite in Lansing and via Zoom.

The Archives of Michigan is pleased to continue offering this flagship annual gathering as a hybrid event. In addition, the Archives of Michigan will offer the following additions to this year's seminar:

- A free pre-seminar session on probate records on Friday, May 10 at 10 a.m.
- A continental breakfast for onsite attendees on both Friday and Saturday at no additional charge.
- Lunch for onsite attendees on both Friday and Saturday at no additional charge.
- Extended research hours in the Archives of Michigan reading room.
- Recordings of seminar sessions available to registrants for 30 days following the event.

**Featured Speaker - Ari Wilkins**

The Archives of Michigan is excited to welcome **Ari Wilkins** as this year's featured speaker! Ari is a genealogist who has been actively researching family history for over twenty-five years.

As a lecturer, Ms. Wilkins has spoken nationally at the National Genealogical Society, the Texas Institute of Genealogical Research, the Institute of Genealogical



and Historical Research, the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh, RootsTech, and a multitude of state and local societies. She is also the coordinator of the African American course for the Texas Institute of Genealogical Research.

In 2023, Ari was awarded the Lloyd Bockstruck Distinguished Service Award by the Dallas Genealogical Society for her outstanding contributions to the genealogical community on a national level. Ms. Wilkins is also a fellow of the Texas State Genealogical Society. Ari speaks on a variety of genealogical subjects and specializes in African American research.

### **Registration Details**

Registration Fee: \$55

### **Program Schedule**

#### **Friday, May 10, 2024**

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

#### **Extended open hours at the Archives of Michigan (onsite only)**

The Archives of Michigan's reading room will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dive into research before and after the seminar!

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

#### **Pre-seminar Session: Introduction to Probate Records (separate registration, hybrid)**

*Rachel Clark, Archives of Michigan*

Interested in learning more about probate records at the Archives of Michigan? Join us for this pre-seminar offering. This presentation will be open to the public as well as seminar attendees.

12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.

#### **Seminar Registration**

1:00 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.

#### **Session 1. Welcome and Remarks (hybrid)**

*Mark Harvey, State Archivist and Judy Nimer Muhn, Michigan Genealogical Council*

1:40 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.

#### **Session 2: No Dead Ends: Finding Your Way Through Family Roadblocks (hybrid)**

*Judy Nimer Muhn, Michigan Genealogical Council*

No genealogist works their way through their family history without coming across the challenges of what looks like a dead end: no records, no obvious next step, unidentified parents and more. Learn about the tools, techniques, and ways of thinking of professional genealogists to find ways to get around those roadblocks and continue your ancestral journey.

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### **Session 3. Up North: Tracking African American Migration Patterns to Northern Industrial Cities (hybrid)**

*Ari Wilkins, featured speaker*

During the Great Migration, many African American families left the South for the promise of a better life in the North. Learn about the motives for migration, patterns, and methods for tracking your ancestor.

4:20 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Session 4. Behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives of Michigan (hybrid)**

Are you curious about where records are kept in the archives? Join staff at the Archives of Michigan for a behind-the-scenes look of the archives and its holdings.

6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

**Research Lock In (separate registration, onsite only)**

The Archives of Michigan and Library of Michigan will both be open from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Pizza and refreshments, provided by the Archives of Michigan, will be available for registrants from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. A registration link is provided to those who register for the seminar.

**Saturday, May 11, 2024**

8:50 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

**Session 5. Becoming American: Research with Naturalization Records (hybrid)**

*Kris Rzepczynski, Archives of Michigan*

This program will explore naturalization records, the many tools available to assist you in your research, and successful strategies to locate citizenship records, utilizing both online and print resources.

10:10 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

**Session 6. Reconstructing Communities Using Sanborn Maps, Census Records, and City Directories (hybrid)**

*Ari Wilkins, featured speaker*

Recreating neighborhoods can provide rich and insightful details about an ancestor's life and surroundings. This lecture will demonstrate ways to build a map using Sanborn Fire insurance maps, census records, and city directories in Google Maps.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Session 7. Did Your Ancestors Join? Societies, Aid, and Other Community Groups (hybrid)**

*Jessica Trotter, researcher & blogger*

Explore the clubs and groups that might have drawn our ancestors—particularly in the Progressive Era (1890s-1920s)—and discover resources for genealogical research.

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Session 8. Black and White Southern Families in Southern Plantation Records (hybrid)**

*Ari Wilkins, featured speaker*

The Antebellum Southern Plantation Records can offer multifaceted views into many white and African American Southern families. This resource documents families' personal and business correspondence, conditions of plantation life (including the elusive names of slaves and descriptions of slave relationships), and much more. Learn about the genealogical value of the Southern Antebellum Plantation Records - how they are organized, how to search the collection, and apply it towards your genealogical research. The case studies will highlight the personal documents of a white Southern family and the indirect documentation of an African American family.

2:50 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.

**Session 9. Time To Hit the Books – Yearbooks, Alumni Lists, and More (hybrid)**

*Adam Oster, Library of Michigan*

Yearbooks, alumni lists, and other school related records can be rich in details about the people in your family tree. Discover the activities and clubs that ancestors participated in during their school years. Learn to uncover details about both your family members and the communities they lived in. Explore the ways of finding these valuable resources both in print and online.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Extended open hours at the Archives of Michigan (onsite only)**

The reading room will remain open until 5 p.m. on Saturday.



**President’s Message:**

Coming VERY soon is the Barbara J Brown Seminar, with Keynote Speaker, Ari Wilkins! Ari is an impressive researcher and long-time advocate for the records of the Black people and those formerly enslaved, offering lectures about not only them but storytelling, using photographs in your family history research. She has been presenting about so many topics such as Quakers, using manuscript and community records such as censuses and maps, and how to document your genealogy – we will learn A LOT from Ari!

The *Pioneer Certificate Program* encourages you to look at your Michigan families to see if there might be a way for you to apply for this special recognition. And, as always, check out what programs and offerings of societies around our state are sharing! And our colleagues at the Library and Archives of Michigan have offered information and how to reach them with questions – new resources and tools always being included.

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, it is a goal of my time as your President to find ways to include many more of our society members and delegates in roles on committees. While board members must be delegates of a member organization, volunteers can serve on our committees without being delegates. Wanting to raise more voices, get more volunteers involved in guiding the board and our programming, projects and outreach, please reach out to me ([judynmuhn@gmail.com](mailto:judynmuhn@gmail.com)) if there is something that you are interested in assisting with! It’s my opinion that there should always be a “deep bench” of those that know about the work of MGC and getting information throughout the state. You and your ideas matter – please reach out to me to discuss what you are interested in.

Thank you again for the privilege of serving you, Judy

Judy Nimer Muhn, MGC President  
March 2024

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Library of Michigan Updates

Matt Pacer  
Reference Librarian  
Library of Michigan

### On the Shelf March 2024

Hello from the Library of Michigan! Please visit our 2024 programming calendar here: [WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/LMPUBLICPROGRAMS](http://WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/LMPUBLICPROGRAMS). Each event lists the date, time, description, and how to register. There are many interesting virtual programs to attend. If you have suggestions, please contact us.

To learn more about the 2024 Michigan Notable Books, please visit the following website: [WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/NOTABLEBOOKS](http://WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/NOTABLEBOOKS). Soon library staff will record several Author Conversation videos with Michigan Notable Books authors and place them on the library's YouTube channel. The previous records can be found here: [Michigan Notable Books - YouTube](#)

We have some interesting new and new to us books 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.

One new section on our website to highlight is the Local Collections page: [MICHIGAN.GOV/MILOCALHISTORY](http://MICHIGAN.GOV/MILOCALHISTORY). Library of Michigan is here to help Michigan public libraries and other Michigan historical organizations with questions they have about their local collections. Please take a few moments to visit the page.

Through our website you can search our library catalog ([www.answercat.org](http://www.answercat.org)). 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](http://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. 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 and  
Abrams Foundation

Kris Rzepczynski,  
Senior Archivist

#### Archives of Michigan Update March 2024

With spring now upon us, there are many things going on here at the Archives of Michigan!

Registration is now live for the 2023 Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar (Friday, May 10 – Saturday, May 11, 2024)! Be sure to look elsewhere in this issue of the *MGC Newsletter* for the full program schedule and registration information (<https://www.michigan.gov/mhc/archives>). This year's event will again be in a hybrid format, and the Archives of Michigan is thrilled to be hosting Ari Wilkins onsite here in Lansing. We look forward to seeing everyone – onsite or online – in May!

We also have a big announcement with the Michigan probate records digitization project. The FamilySearch imaging team recently crossed the 1940 threshold, meaning that Wayne County is finished! This means that all the Wayne County estate files, dating as far back as 1797 and continuing on up through 1940, are freely available via FamilySearch. A big thank you to FamilySearch and our wonderful team of volunteers who have worked on this project for the last few years, we couldn't have done it without you. Work has already begun on Washtenaw County, the next county in the imaging queue, and those records should already be appearing online.

In addition to exhibiting and presenting at the Ohio Genealogical Society's annual conference in Sandusky (April 10-13, 2024), Archives staff will also have an active next few months out "on tour" offering programs to local genealogical societies and public libraries. The list includes: Daughters of the American Revolution of Michigan, Midland Genealogical Society, Genealogical Society of Monroe County, Waterford Genealogical Society, and a recording for the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference.

The Michigan World War I bonus card project with the Daughters of the American Revolution of Michigan continues to race to the finish line. Thanks to the amazing contributions from Michigan DAR members, the project is rapidly approaching completion (nearly 90% indexed!). Content is expected to be freely available at Michiganology later this year.

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

- *Marquette County Probate Court Records, 1840-1917/ RG 2024-3*
- *Tuscola County Probate Court Records, 1852-1975/ RG 2024-9*

The Archives of Michigan continues to add new published material to the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection. New additions include:



- *American Migration Routes*/ William Dollarhide / 2 vols. / 2022 / Call number: **HB 1965 .D65 2022**
- *Essential Guide to Kentucky Family Research* / Kentucky Genealogical Society / 2023 / Call number: **F 450 .K465 2023**
- *Hamilton County, Ohio Children's Records: The Children's Home, 1864-1919* / Hamilton County Genealogical Society / 2023 / Call number: **F 499 .C553 H474 2023**

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

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## 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.

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### From Michigan Germanic Genealogical Society:



Paul Roltsch died unexpectedly at home on March 2nd, 2024. Paul was the President of the Michigan Germanic Genealogical Society and the former Newsletter Editor for the Michigan

Genealogical Council. Paul was born in Salem, Massachusetts to Allan Emil Paul Roltsch and Viola Mae (Risteen) Roltsch. When Paul was 6 years old, his father, who was in the Navy, got a job at the Pentagon in Washington DC. Paul worked at Arlington National Cemetery in his teens. He graduated with his bachelor's degree in analytical chemistry at Michigan State University.

Paul married Carolyn Vogel Roltsch. They had and are survived by three boys; Allan Roltsch of Waterford, MI, Josh (Melinda White) Roltsch of Howell, MI, Chris (Michelle Polasek) Roltsch of Commerce, MI, his wife Carolyn, his most cherished grandchildren, CJ, Logan, Asher, Grace, and River. Siblings Gwen (Randy Johnson) Roltsch, Brian (Angela Suthard) Roltsch, mother-in-law Rita (Power) Vogel, in-laws Ann (Carl Stewart) Vogel, Phillip Vogel, Kevin (Nicole Coon) Vogel, Cheryl (Barber) Vogel, many nieces and nephews

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that donations be made in his honor to help with funeral costs. That information is found here: <https://everloved.com/life-of/paul-roltsch/>

### From Jackson County Genealogical Society:

Program Schedule:

*April 6* - General Membership Meeting, Meijer Library Community Room, Guest Speaker will be Jesse Yaeger

*May 18* - Annual Luncheon (Dinner) General Election to be held, Davis Banquet Center 11:00 – 3:00, Reservation needed  
Guest Speaker Richard Erwin on the Purple Gang

Please note the URL for their new website:

<https://jcgsmi.org>

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### From Van Buren Regional Genealogical Society:

Program Events at the Hartford Public Library  
12 Church St., Hartford, MI

Saturday, April 20th, 11am

Beginning Genealogy by Patsy Miller

Learn how to start your family tree and turn it into family history.

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### Genealogical Society of Monroe County:

The Genealogical Society of Monroe County was awarded the 2023 Monroe County Museum System "Spirit of Service Award – Connection award." This award honors a school, organization or municipal body that has demonstrated service to the field of local history through a commitment of time and energy that has actively engaged the wider community through heritage stewardship.

Program Schedule:

Subject to change depending on the college and library availability.

We will meet in the college cafeteria until further notice. Please use east entrance of building. Meetings begin at 1:00.

*April 6* - Derek J. Blount –  
Spanish American War Research

*April 20* - 44th Annual Spring Seminar with Kris Rzepczynski & Carl Katafiasz  
See below for more information

*May 4* - Karen Majewski—  
Polish Neighborhoods in Wayne Co.

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**From Oakland County Genealogical Society:**

Program Schedule:

*April 2* - Derek J Blount - Lumber Barons and the Shanties that Worked for Them – A historical look at the Michigan lumber industry and the men that worked for it. Available records to locate them will be discussed, and sources identified.

*May 7* - Annette Burke Lyttle - Our Quaker Ancestors: Their History and the Records They Left Quakers were among the earliest settlers in North America and as they moved west, they were often the earliest settlers in newly opened territory. Quakers were amazing record-keepers. Not only did they record births, marriages, and deaths, they kept extensive records on those who came into their local meetings and those who left. Transgressions by members of the community were publicly discussed and recorded, and as they came to believe that slavery was evil their records on Quakers who kept slaves became extensive. Learn about the history of these pioneering Americans and how to find the rich records they left behind.

*June 4* - Karen Batchelor – Finding Courage to Accept the Good, the Bad and the Unexpected in Your Family History - A case study presented by genealogist Karen Batchelor on lessons learned and wisdom gained from over 45 years of researching her unique family history with its many surprising twists and turns.

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**From Northville Genealogical Society:**

Program Schedule:

*April 14* - Online Newspapers  
Program: Polar Bear Soldiers of WWI  
Speaker: Mike Grobbel

*May 5* - Exploring a New State  
Program: Legal Notices for Genealogists  
Speaker: James Tanner (BYU webinar)

*June 9* - Roots Magic  
Program: Introduction to Heraldry  
Speaker: Derek Blount

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**From Western Michigan Genealogical Society:**

*April 6*, 1:30 p.m.

Presenter: Bruce Butgereit

Topic: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in the Civil War



Bruce is recognized for his research ability in a wide variety of subjects that include the Civil War, postCivil War patriotic and fraternal organizations, Kent County war memorials, Abraham

Lincoln, and the Lincoln Highway. This research has been shared over the past 40 years through living history presentations, written articles (magazines, newspapers, newsletters, and historical journals), and other programming. Bruce is the recipient of numerous awards and recognition for his work. Since 2000, he has led the efforts to restore over fifteen Civil War memorials in Michigan and elsewhere and helped dedicate a number of new memorials. He serves as Executive Director of History Remembered, Inc., an organization that advocates for historic preservation and restoration through educational outreach and consultation. His most recent projects include identifying veterans (known and unknown) on a memorial cross in Crystal Springs Cemetery in Benton Harbor and serving as the historian of the (1900) Grand Army of the Republic Building in Detroit. His program titled, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in the Civil War, will look at the earliest diagnosis of PTSD and the various names applied to the condition. Included will be several real-life cases involving veterans of the war living at the Michigan Soldiers' Home.

*May 4*, 1:30 p.m.

Presenter: Rozlyn Kelly

Topic: Michigan Roots: African American Migration in Michigan

Rozlyn Kelly is an attorney with over 20 years of genealogical research experience focused on African American ancestry in Michigan, Canada, Southern Illinois, Kentucky, and Washington, D.C. She is currently President of the Farmington Genealogical Society and serves on the executive board of the Michigan Genealogical Council as Past President.

The presentation discusses the migration of Blacks to Michigan in the mid-1880s, before the Great Migration from the south, with specific examples in Marquette, Midland, and Detroit.



*April 6*, mini class: Noon – 1:00 p.m. at the GRPL VanderVeen Room, 4th floor  
The Family History Guide Another online (and free) resource that you can use to help you start your research, expand your research, and share your discoveries with your family. Join us as we take a deep dive into this resource and all it has to offer.  
Instructor: Michele Hoogwind

*April 8*, 2 hour class, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the GRPL VanderVeen Room, 4th floor  
Beginning your Genealogy Journey (Follow Up form March class) Did twigs you find bend or break?  
Instructor: Sue Irvine

*May 4* - Mini Class: Comparing US Census Reports  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
In the United States the census is taken every decade, in the year ending in zero, beginning in 1790. U.S. census records from 1790-1950 are currently available to researchers, except for the 1890 census because of a fire. We will be going over the differences in the information provided with each census.  
Instructor: Linda Wells (Guth)  
Location: VanderVeen Room, 4th floor, GRPL

*May 13*, 2 hour class, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the GRPL VanderVeen Room, 4th floor

Different types of Census Records In addition to the U.S. Federal Census records, other countries have censuses as well. Plus, there are other types of US censuses, like the Agricultural Census, Economic Census, supplemental slave census, and state censuses.

Instructor: Linda Wells

Save the Date for our GotAncestors Annual Fall Conference: 19 October 2024

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### From Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society

ACPL Genealogy Center Day!

Saturday, April 13, 2024

Join us at the Allen County Public Library on Saturday, April 13, for an enjoyable day of exploration and research in ACPL's renowned Genealogy Center. Attendees are asked to drive or carpool to the library where seasoned KVGs researchers and Genealogy Center librarians will be available to assist you.

Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN.

Schedule includes:

- 9 am to 11 am – Greet other KVGs attendees in the Alan McMahan Room, located on the first floor (light refreshments provided)
- 10 am – Genealogy Center Tour
- 9 am to 6 pm – Research and explore to your heart's desire

What a perfect opportunity to invite a friend to come along!

Watch the website's RESEARCH TRIPS and EVENTS pages at [www.mikvgs.org](http://www.mikvgs.org) for developing news around this activity. For questions, riders looking for drivers, or drivers looking for riders, please contact Pam at [info@mikvgs.org](mailto:info@mikvgs.org).

*April 15* - The art of Story Telling

Meetings are held at the Portage District Library and Zoom.

*May 20* – Jim Jackson and panel, Planning a Research Vacation & Washington D.C. trip

Washington D.C. Research Trip  
September 8 – 14, 2024

Sponsored by KVGs

Save the dates and watch for developing information regarding an INDEPENDENT research trip planned in Washington, D.C., September 8-14, 2024, offering five full days of research at the National Archives, the DAR Library, and the Library of Congress. Experienced genealogists will attend and can provide advice to other researchers. To help you prepare for your trip, you'll want to attend the May 20 General meeting for an informative program and panel discussion on "Planning a Research Vacation & Washington D.C. Trip."

Watch for additional information about the trip under RESEARCH TRIPS and EVENTS at [www.mikvgs.org](http://www.mikvgs.org)

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**From Grand Traverse Area Genealogical Society**

*April 25* - Derek Blount

Traverse Area District Library, Woodmere Ave., Traverse City, MI

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**From Macomb County Genealogy Group**

*April 5* – Using Maps to Enhance Your Genealogy presented by Lisa Eschenburg

*May 3* – Preservation Basics for Genealogists and Family Historians presented by Brittany Fields

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**From Waterford Genealogical Society**

*April 20* – 1:00 – 6:00 pm

Genealogy Seminar

Waterford Public Library, 5168 Civic Center Dr. Waterford, MI

Non-Members \$30.00

Members \$25.00

[Registration Link](#)

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**From Lyon Township Genealogy Group:**

*April 16* - 6:30 PM IN PERSON

RootsTech 2024 NEWS!

Presenter: Judy Nimer Muhn

*May 21*- 6:30 PM ZOOM

Ten Things Every Eastern European Genealogist Should Know

Presenter: Lisa Alzo

*June 25* - Road Trip!

Library of Michigan/State Archives of Michigan

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**From the Library of Michigan:**

Programs for the Public

Digitizing My Family Tree: Formats, Software, and Techniques

*April 4* - 6:30PM - 7:30PM, Zoom

Explore the digital options for saving your family history research. Explore the variety of desktop and web-based applications researchers can use for organizing their data. Review best practices for both using these applications and uploading digital scans of records to the software.

Cemetery Research with the Library of Michigan

*May 2* - 6:30PM - 7:30PM, Zoom

Cemeteries and headstones contain a wealth of information about ancestors and a location's most prominent citizens, but more research is required beyond the gravesite. Dig into the types of information available at the Library of Michigan when researching cemeteries and unearth best practices for cemetery research.

Land Research and Sanborn Maps

*July 11* - 6:30PM - 7:30PM, Zoom

Land ownership is an underutilized, yet invaluable, tool for uncovering information about your family's history. Learn about the boundary system where property was divided and organized throughout Michigan's history. See examples of Sanborn Maps and how they chronicled the urban areas of our state.

MyHeritage Library Edition for Power Users

*October 3* - 6:30PM - 7:30PM, Zoom

MyHeritage Library Edition is a family history database available through the Michigan eLibrary with access to a wide range of historical documents, images, and public records. Go beyond the basics of navigating MyHeritage and learn advanced strategies for discovering records within its collections.

**Fold3 Library Edition for Power Users***November 7 - 6:30PM - 7:30PM*

Fold3 provides online access to military records, including the stories, photos, and relevant personal documents. Discover advanced strategies for using Fold3 as you uncover the accounts of men and women who served in the armed forces.

**Annual Reports: Supplemental Documents for Family History Research***December 5 - 6:30PM - 7:30PM, Zoom*

Governments, businesses, and a variety of other organizations produce annual reports that describe the activities of the entities throughout the preceding year. These reports provide vital information for genealogical researchers when investigating the greater context of the lives of their ancestors. Learn more about these useful documents and see examples from the collections of the Library of Michigan.

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**The National Genealogical Society Family History**

Conference, Expanding Possibilities, May 16- 18, 2024, is a premier annual event for family historians, professional

genealogists, hobbyists, and history buffs. There are also special events planned for organizations: societies, libraries, archives, and museums.

Whether you are pulling together papers about your grandparents, have a basic working knowledge of family history research, or are trying to break through a brick wall to expand your family tree beyond the first hundred years, the NGS 2024 Virtual Family History Conference takes your research to the next level and expands your possibilities.

From May 16—18, NGS offers exceptional learning opportunities for

- Individuals who are just beginning to explore their families' histories
- Veteran researchers who are looking for new approaches and skills to help them discover the next generation of ancestors
- Professional genealogists who want to learn the latest in resources and artificial intelligence (AI)

Every registrant can access every lecture through August 15, 2024. Every lecture will be recorded and available for viewing whenever and wherever you wish. Learn more about the full conference program, individual topics, and expert presenters at <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

**44th ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MONROE COUNTY, MI**

SATURDAY April 20, 2024

at the Monroe County Community College

Featuring Kris Rzepczynski &amp; Carl Katafiasz

- 8:00 am – 9:00 am Registration and Welcome (coffee and donuts)
- 9:00 am – 10:00 am Coming to America: Research with Ship Passenger Lists This session will explore the available U.S. passenger lists and indexes, the genealogical information typically found in them, and strategies for finding arrival records of your immigrant ancestors.
- 10:00 am – 10:30 am Break
- 10:30 am – 11:30 am Wills, Thrills, and Chills: Digging into Probate Records This session will provide an overview of probate records, the different types of records created, including wills, inventories, and calendars, the family history content to be discovered, and where to find them online and onsite.
- 11:30 am – 1:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Introduction to Eastern European Genealogy This presentation will identify a majority of those countries that make up Eastern Europe; illustrate potential quandaries that may arise and provide a potential methodology to get one started in researching these lands.
- 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm Break
- 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Research Your Search This program will hopefully encourage individuals to look at their genealogies more in depth to potentially obtain additional more information of their ancestors.

Bring your own lunch or visit a local restaurant

Cost is \$30 if you register before April 6, 2024

\$40 for late registrations

VENDORS — RAFFLE

Register at <https://gsmcmi.org/>

### Pioneer Certificate Program

Michigan Genealogical Societies- please encourage your members, and others interested, to take advantage of the resources found on the MGC website. This is where the application may be found along with instructions, tips and resources. (see below)

One tip- Yes, you must include documentation for both parents in the lineage. It does take two....

Some exciting news came out of RootsTech this year - FamilySearch will be using AI (Artificial Intelligence) to read handwriting to search records without an index. Right now, they have only included U.S land records, Probate Records and Mexico Notary Records. Think of how this might help find that missing source to prove your Pre-Statehood or First Family Pioneer!

This committee looks forward to all of our society members sharing the program among its members and others interested in honoring their pioneer ancestors.

The brochure is available and may be printed from our website at (Note: select double sided, flip short side!):

[https://mimgc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/certificates-brochure\\_final.pdf](https://mimgc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/certificates-brochure_final.pdf)

For application instructions with sample:

[https://mimgc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Pioneer-Certificate-Appl-Instructions-with sample\\_Apr-2022.pdf](https://mimgc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Pioneer-Certificate-Appl-Instructions-with sample_Apr-2022.pdf)

For application:

[https://mimgc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/MGCPioneerCertificateApplication\\_2022\\_03.pdf](https://mimgc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/MGCPioneerCertificateApplication_2022_03.pdf)

For Frequently Asked Questions:

<https://mimgc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/MGC-Pioneer-Certificate-Program-FAQs.pdf>

Kim Smith  
Chairperson,  
Pre-Statehood and First Family Certificates



### Delegate/Board Meetings

#### Delegate Meetings

Delegate Meetings are being held in person and virtually (hybrid) 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

The next delegate meeting will be Friday, May 10 in conjunction with the Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar. The seminar speaker will give a presentation at this meeting.

#### Boards Meetings (Currently Virtual)

Board Meetings meet in the Commission Room of the Michigan Historical Center 5<sup>th</sup> 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](https://mimgc.org).

#### 2024 Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar on May 10 - 11, 2024

The 11th Annual Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar is scheduled for Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11, 2024. This two-day program is hosted by the Archives of Michigan in partnership with the Michigan Genealogical Council and is offered as a hybrid event. Plan to join us onsite in Lansing or online from home.



**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 or Phone  
8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday  
Phone: (517) 335-2576  
Email [archives@michigan.gov](mailto:archives@michigan.gov)

Visit our web site at:

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



**Library of Michigan**

Monday - Friday: 10AM - 5PM  
Saturday: 10AM - 4PM

By email or phone  
Email [librarian@michigan.gov](mailto:librarian@michigan.gov)  
Phone: (517) 335-1477  
Visit our website at:  
[www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan](http://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan)

**Michigan History Museum**

\*Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Sunday, 1 - 5 p.m.

Field trips/groups reservations Mon. - Thurs. only  
View holiday schedule for closures

\*From June 19 - Sept. 2, 2024, we will be closed on Mondays

Visit our Web site at:  
<https://www.michigan.gov/mhc/museums>

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. Its objectives are to locate, preserve, publish and deposit in suitable repositories records of value to genealogists and to initiate activities which encourage and assist those who are involved in genealogical research. Meetings are held in the Forum of the 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](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 website for additional details at <https://mimgc.org/newsletter/>.

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|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>President</b>                                              | Judy Nimer Muhn<br>Oakland County Genealogical Society         | <b>Awards</b>                                              | Barb Curtindale<br>Gladwin County Genealogical Society, Inc.          |
| <b>Vice President</b>                                         | Shaun Thomas<br>Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society        | <b>Central Mail</b>                                        | Jessica Trotter<br>Lansing Area African American Genealogical Society |
| <b>Recording Secretary<br/>Board Meetings</b>                 | Chelsea Johnson-Heisler<br>Calhoun County Genealogical Society | <b>Membership</b>                                          | Melissa Kendzierski<br>Charlevoix County Genealogical Society         |
| <b>Recording Secretary<br/>Delegate Meetings</b>              | Tim Salatin<br>Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County        | <b>Nominations</b>                                         | Elected Directors                                                     |
| <b>Corresponding<br/>Secretary</b>                            | Tom Koselka<br>MGC Past President                              | <b>Historian</b>                                           | Barb Curtindale<br>Gladwin County Genealogical Society, Inc.          |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                                              | Jill O'Sullivan<br>Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan     | <b>Newsletter</b>                                          | Mary Hojnacki<br>Michigan Italian Genealogy Society                   |
| <b>Director 2024</b>                                          | Melissa Kendzierski<br>Charlevoix County Genealogical Society  | <b>Media<br/>Communications</b>                            | Judy Sheldon<br>Huron Shores Genealogical Society                     |
| <b>Director 2025</b>                                          | Brenda Leyndyke, MGC Past President                            | <b>Finance/Budget</b>                                      | Jill O'Sullivan<br>Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan            |
| <b>Director 2026</b>                                          | Sue Irvine<br>Western Michigan Genealogical Society            | <b>Continuing<br/>Education</b>                            | Judy Nimer Muhn<br>Oakland County Genealogical Society                |
| <b>Committee Chairpersons and Appointments</b>                |                                                                | <b>Webmaster</b>                                           | Tom Koselka, MGC Past President                                       |
| <b>Archivist</b>                                              | Tim Salatin<br>Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County        | <b>NGS Delegate</b>                                        | Tom Koselka, MGC Past President                                       |
| <b>Library of Michigan<br/>Liaison</b>                        | Matt Pacer<br>702 W. Kalamazoo St, Lansing, MI 48915           | <b>Projects</b>                                            | Roger Moffat<br>Western Michigan Genealogical Society                 |
| <b>Archives of<br/>Michigan Liaison</b>                       | Kris Rzepczynski<br>702 W. Kalamazoo St, Lansing, MI 48915     | <b>Past President<br/>Advisor</b>                          | Rozlyn Kelly, Farmington Genealogical Society                         |
| <b>Public Records<br/>Access and Records<br/>Preservation</b> | Derek Blount<br>Detroit Society of Genealogical Research       | <b>Lucy Mary Kellogg<br/>Chair</b>                         | Jessica Trotter<br>Lansing Area African American Genealogical Society |
|                                                               |                                                                | <b>Pre-Statehood and<br/>First Family<br/>Certificates</b> | Kim Smith<br>Waterford Genealogical Society                           |