



MGC Submits More than \$20K for Veteran Bounty Land Records

The Michigan Genealogical Council was proud to recently send more than \$20,000 in donations on behalf of all of Michigan and the state's historical societies. MGC, its member societies and *their* members raised more than \$10,000, and the MGC board fulfilled its pledge to match donations up to \$10,000. Total donations for the state amounted to **\$20,450**, with more donations still trickling in.

MGC at the end of March sent in donations to that point, earning MGC recognition from both the National Genealogical Society and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

MGC would like to honor and acknowledge all of the individual and society donors who made this important fundraising effort such a success. Volunteers put their time and money behind the critical effort to fund the digitization of and access to these records.

Thanks, everyone!



List of Top Donors		5/19/2026
Raised to Date	\$	1,135,302
Goal	\$	2,500,000
Total # of Donors		79
\$100,000 +		
Carolyn Ford Bequest Family Search		Daughters of the American Revolution Rocky Woods Charitable Foundation
\$25,000 - \$49,999		
Jan Alpert		Ellen Balthazar
\$10,000 - \$24,999		
David Rencher Shannon Green W. Michigan Gen. Soc. Indiana Gen. Soc.		Hamilton County Gen. Soc. of Ohio Nathan White Michigan Gen. Council Texas Gen. Society

Above: MGC received a "Society of Preservation Patriots" pin for its fundraising efforts. Left: MGC was honored in the \$10,000-\$25,000 donor list by NGS.

Still Time to Donate

If you haven't donated to the VBLR program yet, but still want to, visit mimgc.org/veteran-bounty-land-records.

President's Message

There is much to celebrate as we move into this beautiful summer! The Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar, hosted by the Archives of Michigan and supported by the Michigan Genealogical Council, was a fun, educational and interesting two days of learning, a Lock-In, and much collaboration. Alec Ferretti was a knowledgeable and passionate presenter, educating our society leaders at the delegate council with information about advocating for legislation and how to approach elected officials locally, statewide and nationally. Ferretti's presentations during the seminar were fascinating and he provided great handouts that gave us all more homework to do!

Thank you to all of the societies and individuals who contributed for the Veteran Bounty Land Records national fundraising effort with the National Genealogical Society and other partners. Check out the photos from the delegate meeting, where societies present received certificates in honor of their donations for the America250 fundraising project (which continues!). We also honored societies with decades of service to their communities.

We are also pleased to award significant recognitions to some of the incredible volunteers who support, and provide research expertise and service to MGC. We also note those awards in this issue. Thank you to the Awards Committee for developing the new awards and the criteria for them, as well as selecting very deserving individuals for their support and service.

In our May election, we were pleased that Sue Irvine agreed to stay on as a director-at-large and her election was unanimous from the delegates. Congratulations, Sue — we are happy that you will continue to be a welcome presence at so many of our in-person events and on the board. Everyone, next year will be a key election year as all of the MGC officers are due to be replaced — per the bylaws. They have all served in key roles and helped the council to move forward, but it is time for new board members and officers. Please consider whether you'd like a role and contact the Nominating Committee with your interest. To send a message to the Nominating Committee, email info@mimgc.org and put "Nominating Committee" in the subject line.

A reminder to SAVE THE DATE for MGC's November Fall Seminar! Our keynote speaker will be Kelli Bergheimer of Mess on The Desk, with a focus on writing and organization skills, DNA and supporting genealogical education through NGS's GRIP and an online DNA special interest group. She'll offer one session at the delegate meeting on November 13, and three sessions on Saturday, November 14. Registration information for this gathering will be available in late summer but SAVE THE DATES!

I hope that you joined or perhaps attended one of the many spring conferences (like Ohio Genealogical Society, "Got Ancestors" in Grand Rapids, NGS in Allen County, Indiana, and many others!) and learned about some wonderful new tools, websites and information to propel your family stories forward! I would love to hear about it.

Thank you for your membership,

Judy Nimer Muhn, President

judynmuhn@gmail.com

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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: mimgc.org/society-contact-change-form.





Library of Michigan Updates

Matt Pacer, Reference Librarian

Library of Michigan's On the Shelf June 2026

Hello from the Library of Michigan! Soon the library atrium will be open. Work is beginning to wind down and most of the atrium windows are now replaced. You will see restoration and repair work on the exterior of the building for the rest of the summer, as well as the window replacement on the museum side of the building. Please visit our website for any updates on this project and its impact on library operations.

Our virtual program list is out can be found at 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. You will notice that there are several guest speakers during 2026, including Katherine Willson in July who will present, "Pioneering Families into Wayne County, Michigan Territory (1820s-1830s)." As always, if you have suggestions of other programs, please contact us.

Each year the Library of Michigan releases the Michigan Notable Books list. (The current list [can be found here](#).) The Michigan Notable Books Program is one of our signature programs. A committee selects 20 books from varying genres by Michigan authors or about Michigan. Those books and authors are then honored at a Night for Notables reception. To learn more, visit the [Michigan Notable Books website](#).

Genealogical societies or groups interested in booking a tour of the library can contact our reference number at 517-335-1477. Outreach Librarian Adam Oster will help schedule a tour. Societies often scheduled brief tours to go along with a research trip — a great way to spend the day at the library.

We want to express our gratitude to those library supporters for helping us through donations or help with promoting our collections and services. To learn more about our other collection campaigns, please visit this site [Make A Gift](#).

Yearbooks do not represent all the donations we receive. Below is a list of several recent donations:

- *Wayne County Medical Society: A Sesquicentennial Celebration, 1849-1999*, **Michigan R 250 .W4 W39**
- *The Harley Harris Bartlett Diaries* by Kenneth Lester Jones, **Michigan QK 31 .B285 A3**
- *Annual Report: Department of Parks and Boulevards, Detroit, 1910-1918*, **Michigan SB 483 .D4 A3**

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. 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 at librarian@michigan.gov or phone at 517-335-1477.

All the best,

Library of Michigan staff



Archives of Michigan Updates

Kris Rzepczynski, Senior Archivist

From the Archives June 2026

The 2026 Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar was recently held on May 15–16, 2026, as a hybrid event. The Archives of Michigan was thrilled to host Alec Ferretti onsite here in Lansing. Thank you to all of the attendees (virtual and onsite), speakers, and the Michigan Genealogical Council for helping to make the event the success that it was. Plans are already underway for next year's event.

Archives staff recently had the opportunity to speak and exhibit at the Ohio Genealogical Society's annual conference in Sharonville, Ohio, and exhibit at the National Genealogical Society's conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana. It was exciting to see so many familiar Michigan genealogists at these national events.

As many of you know, the Archives of Michigan announced the release of the Michigan naturalization records project in Fall 2025. Archives staff have worked on this project for a number of years, it is especially gratifying to finally make these outstanding records freely available at Michiganology for the research community. We now have Alcona and Allegan counties online, and additional counties will be added in the coming weeks and months.

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

- *City of Howell Assessment Rolls, 1874-1992* / **RG 2026-8**

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

- *The Men of the Lake Erie Squadron, 1813-1825* / Eric E. Johnson / 2022 / Call number: **E 359 .J64 2022**
- *18th Century Records of the German Lutheran Church of Philadelphia: St. Michael's and Zion* [5 vols.] / Robert L. Hess & F. Edward Wright / 2004 / Call number: **F 158.25 .H47 2004**
- *A Documentary History of Yonkers, New York* [3 vols.] / Joseph P. Madden / 2016 / Call number: **F 129 .Y4 M23 2015**

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

Societies, Volunteers Honored at Barbara J. Brown Event

Barbara Curtindale, MGC Awards Committee, MGC Historian, Pioneer Certificate Committee



The MGC recognized several societies for milestone anniversaries at this year's Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar in Lansing.



MGC's Judy Nimer Muhn accepts the Distinguished Service Award on behalf of Constance Olson.

At this spring's Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar in Lansing, the Michigan Genealogical Council honored several prominent, longtime volunteers and researchers in Michigan genealogy, as well as recognized several societies on their anniversaries.

MGC awarded the group's first ever Fellow of the MGC Award to Brenda Leyndyke; it's first Award of Merit to Mary Lou Duncan; and it's first Distinguished Service Award to Constance Olson.

The MGC also recognized the following genealogical society anniversaries:

- Charlevoix Genealogical Society, 50 years
- Lenawee County Family Researchers, 50 years
- Western Wayne County Genealogical Society, 50 years
- Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, 90 years



Genealogical society honorees this spring included Charlevoix, Lenawee County, Western Wayne and Detroit.

VBLR Recognition

19 societies received a special certificate for participating in the Veteran Bounty Land Records fundraising efforts. Those not present will receive them in the mail.

Cass River Genealogical Society	French Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan	Kalamazoo County Genealogical Society
Calhoun County Genealogical Society	Genealogical Society of Monroe County	Livingston County Genealogical Society
Detroit Society for Genealogical Research	Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County	Oakland County Genealogical Society
Downriver Genealogical Society	Gladwin County Genealogical Society Inc.	Roscommon County Genealogical Society
Eaton County Genealogical Society	Ingham County Genealogical Society	Waterford Genealogy Society
Farmington Genealogical Society	Ionia County Genealogical Society	Western Michigan Genealogical Society
		Western Wayne County Genealogical Society.

A total of \$20,450 was sent to NGS to be forwarded to NARA for this program. This total included the \$10,000 matching funds from MGC.

Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Upcoming Honors: Society Anniversaries to Celebrate this Fall

At the Nov. 13 delegate meeting and Fall Family History Seminar, we plan anniversary certificates are for the Tri-State Genealogical Society, 50 years, and the Lansing African American Society, 25 years.

To plan ahead in 2027, we will present certificates to the following MGC members:

- Genealogical Society of Monroe County, 50 years
- Jackson County Genealogical Society, 50 years
- Dickinson County Genealogical Society, 50 years
- Oakland Count Genealogical Society, 50 years
- Wexford County Genealogical Society, 25 years

Please let us know if you want your society certificate presented in spring or fall, depending on the society's anniversary month date and ability to attend. Send a message to info@mimgc.org.

If we missed a group, please contact us with the year of formation so we can present certificates to you as well. We don't have formation dates for all societies and we want to honor each and every one of you.

Michigan Pioneer Certificate Program Update

Kim Smith, Pre-Statehood and First Family

To date, we have completed 175 Pre-Statehood and 200 First Family applications. These submissions represent families from 19 states and 47 counties or historic territories across Michigan — a wonderful reminder of how far-reaching our pioneer stories truly are.

The Barbara J. Brown seminar included our MGC display and the Pioneer Certificate program brochures, with committee members on hand to answer questions and encourage participation.

The committee is available to attend your genealogy meeting via Zoom to answer application questions. Hosting a workshop is a great way to help members and the public learn how to participate and honor their pioneer ancestors.

Tip: Be sure to complete the first page of the application fully. This ensures we know exactly how you want your name — and your pioneer's name — to appear on the final certificate.

If you have any questions, contact the committee at certificates@mimgc.org.

Advocacy for Genealogy

8 Simple Rules for
Fighting the Government

Alec Ferretti, The Ancestor Archivist



Last Chance: 'Advocacy for Genealogy,' a Talk with Alec Ferretti of Reclaim the Records

Genealogists need records, but access is constantly under threat. Whether it's new privacy laws or underfunded archives, the obstacles are real. This session is a call to action: Learn what's already being done to protect and expand access, and how you can get involved. From grassroots petitions to courtroom battles, genealogists are stepping up, and it's making a difference. This recording was the presentation at the May 15, 2026, MGC delegate meeting. It will be available until July 1, 2026. [Click here or navigate to the "Continuing Education" tab on the MGC website.](#)

Midwest Deep-Dive: Pinning Your Ancestors to a Map

By Jeremy Verduco, Editor, MGC Quarterly

Do you have lines that you know *just must be true*, even though you can't prove them? This edition focuses on the same Lynch family I discussed in the spring issue, but we go back a little further in time.

William Lynch fought in WWI and died of consumption in a Washington, D.C., hospital in the 1920s. His parents were James Lynch and Jane Freeman, at Carrollton, Saginaw County by about 1880. I believe James' father was also named William, and I've tried to prove that link for years.

I think I even know *which* William Lynch is James' father. He was enumerated in the 1870 census at Columbus Township, St. Clair, Michigan. Jane's obituary said she and James married in Memphis, Michigan, which just happened to be the town nearest to that 1870 farm. But, while I *think* the James enumerated here in 1870 in Columbus Township is the same person Jane married, I'm not 100% sure. James Lynch and William Lynch are common names.

Being a genealogist, though, I couldn't resist researching this earlier William Lynch, just in case.

In 1870, this William, 40, was married to a Margaret Lynch, 39, both born in Ireland. For this article, we'll skip the other children and household members, and focus on James, who is 17 here and born in Michigan. Online trees had placed this William in Grosse Pointe Township, Michigan, but of course I had to find out myself.

The 1860 enumeration in Grosse

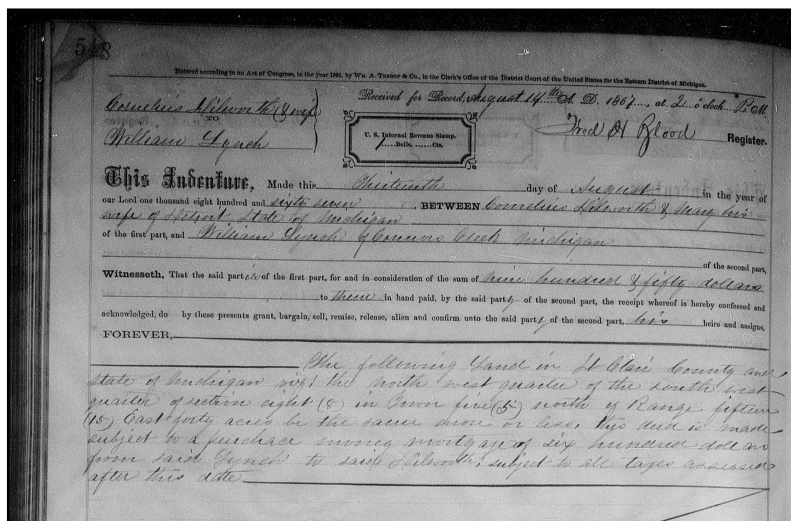
Page No. 30; Inquiries numbered 7, 14, and 17 are not to be asked in respect to infants. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are to be answered, (if at all) merely by an affirmative mark, as follows.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Township of Columbus, in the County of St. Clair, State of Michigan, enumerated by me on the 30th day of June, 1870.

Post Office: Columbus, Michigan. William H. Weston, Ass't Marshal.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Name		Sex	Age	Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	Year of first birth.	Year of present birth.	Place of birth, naming State or Territory of U. S., or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married
1	Allen	Male	68	F	Keeping House			Ireland											
2	Margaret	Female	39	F	at Home			Ireland											
3	James	Male	17	M	at Home			Michigan											
4	William	Male	40	M	Farmer	1830	1870	Ireland											
5	Margaret	Female	39	F	at Home			Ireland											
6	Michael	Male	17	M	at Home			Michigan											
7	William	Male	12	M	at Home			Michigan											
8	John	Male	7	M	at Home			Michigan											
9	John	Male	5	M	at Home			Michigan											
10	James	Male	17	M	at Home			Michigan											
11	Elizabeth	Female	12	F	at Home			Michigan											
12	William	Male	12	M	at Home			Michigan											
13	John	Male	7	M	at Home			Michigan											
14	William	Male	7	M	at Home			Michigan											
15	William	Male	7	M	at Home			Michigan											
16	William	Male	7	M	at Home			Ireland											

United States (U.S.), 1870 Census, St. Clair, Michigan, population schedule, Columbus Township, page 30 (penned), lines 4-14, dwelling 213, family 225, William Lynch household; imaged, "United States, 1870, Census," FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-D4PS-93Q : accessed 15 May 2025).



St. Clair County, Record of Deeds, Vol. 26, 1866-67, p. 548, Cornelius Dilworth and wife to William Lynch, received and recorded 14 August 1867, purchase of NW¼ of the SE¼ of Section 8, T5N R15E (about 40 acres in Columbus Township); imaged, FamilySearch (www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C37F-3S2Q-7 : accessed 29 May 2026).

Pointe Township had many parallels. The children expected to be 10 years younger were present, including a James, who was 7. Here though, the William Lynch, 30, born in Ireland, appeared with presumed wife Elizebeth, 33, born in Ireland. Importantly, he was a farmer who did not own his land. Was he the same William who also appeared in Columbus Township in 1870?

I dug into St. Clair County deeds to confirm the connection. Sure enough, I found a “William Lynch of Connors Creek Michigan” buying 40 acres in Columbus Township in the summer of 1867. The seller was a name named Cornelius Dilworth. The document did not mention a wife — Elizabeth, Margaret or otherwise. A quick search for “Connors Creek” revealed that was a name once used for a northwestern area of the Grosse Pointes. We seemed to have a match, despite the change in wives from 1860 to 1870.

I wanted to confirm further, and I like to place people on a map if I can. Recall that William did not own the land he worked in 1860. Knowing that, I looked down that census sheet and found the next major landowner, a fellow named Eustachius Tremblay, who appeared to have \$4,000 in real estate. The next step was finding a contemporary map.

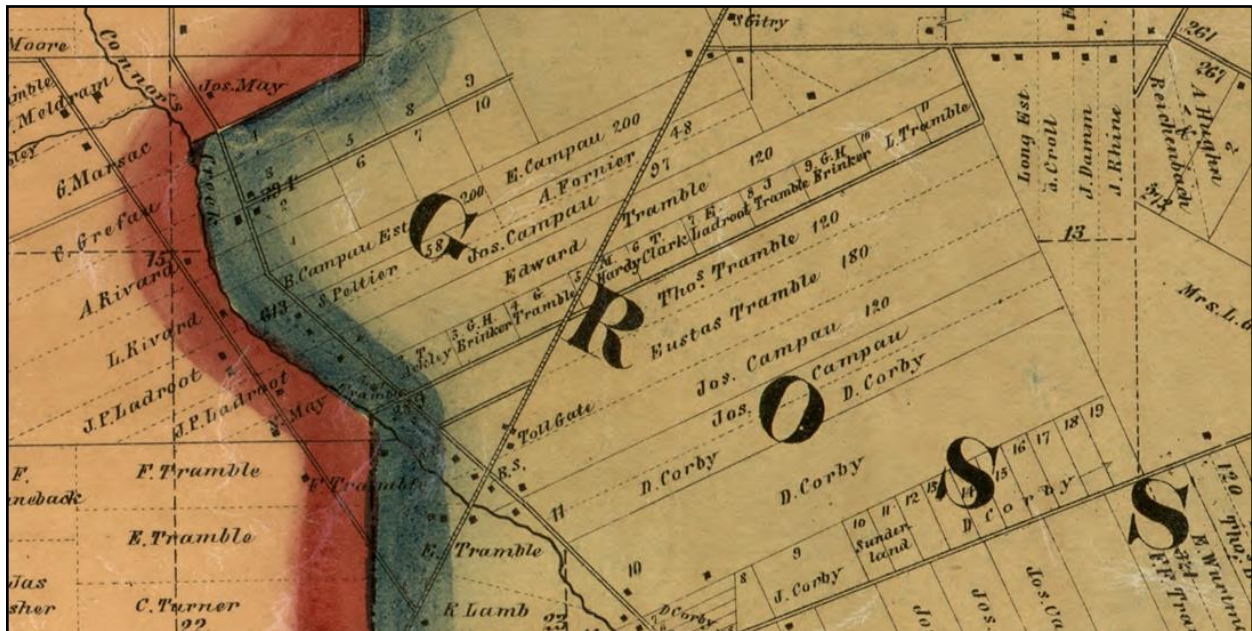
For the map, I got lucky. The Library of Congress happened to have a map of this area for this exact year, 1860. Sure enough, right by the R in Grosse, Pointe sat the farm of Eustas Tramble. I think it was probably a safe bet that the names Eustas Tramble and Eustachius Tremblay were phonetic variants of the same thing.

Keen eyes will see on the map that “E. Tremble” owns several parcels, so William could live really anywhere in this area, but we know we’re in the vicinity of where he farmed in 1860. And, to really put a proper punctuation mark at the end, if you page two sheets forward in that 1860 census, you find a man named Robert McSalter. He’s enumerated as a “toll gate keeper.” Drawn on that 1860 map, near the modern-day intersection of Gratiot and Conner, you can see the words “Toll Gate.”

1	2	3	4			7	8		10	11	12	13	14
			Age	Sex	White, black, or mulatto		Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate					
314	314	Robert McSalter	34	m		Toll gate keeper		500	New York				
		Martha	29	f		Housewife			England				
		Anna	10	f					Michigan				

United States (U.S.), 1860 Census, Wayne, Michigan, population schedule, Grosse Pointe Township, page 46 (penned), lines 1-7, dwelling 314, family 314, Robert McSalter household; imaged, “United States, Census, 1860,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GBS4-857> : accessed 9 June 2026), image 44 of 53; citing National Archives and Records Administration.

With all these tidbits, we can draw a sketch of this period William’s life. He and first wife Elizabeth were in the States in Grosse Point Township, or Connor’s Creek, by sometime in the 1850s, likely fleeing the Potato Famine. They had several children, the first a boy named James, starting around 1852 in Michigan. At some point before about 1867, Elizabeth appeared to have died. William later bought land in Columbus Township, then remarried, this time to a woman named Margaret. He and second wife Margaret were enumerated in 1870 in Columbus Township. The man I strongly suspect to be my third great-grandfather, James Lynch, appeared on both census documents — I just can’t definitely say it’s him.



Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, *Map of Wayne Co., Michigan* (Philadelphia : Geil, Harley & Siverd, 1860), detail showing northwest Grosse Pointe area, call no. G4113.W3G46 1860 .G4; imaged, Library of Congress Digital Collections (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2012593159> : accessed 9 June 2026), LCCN 2012593159.

I believe my James married Jane Freeman in nearby Memphis in 1878, the year before their first child was born — my great-great-grandmother Blanche — in 1879. (Jane's obit said in Memphis 1887, but I suspect the numbers got transposed.) It all fits. But, as with any research, just because an explanation fits, that doesn't mean it isn't the only explanation that fits. The James Lynch in Columbus Township in 1870 could have beat the same wagon paths as another James Lynch with a different father I haven't yet found. I honestly don't know.

One day, however, when I can prove the connection between James and William, I'll already have a solid base of research into the man I *suspect* is my fourth great-grandfather.

Michigan Genealogical Council Membership Renewal Invitation

Cathy Cottone, MGC Membership Chair

Another year has flown by, and the Michigan Genealogical Council (MGC) is excited to share that we have an outstanding lineup of genealogy programs planned for the coming year. Details about these programs will be available on our website: <https://mimgc.org/>

The MGC invites your society to join or renew your membership in our statewide organization dedicated to connecting and supporting genealogy groups across Michigan.

Benefits of Membership:

- A Statewide Voice: Participate in collaborative advocacy efforts and represent your society in genealogical matters across Michigan.
- Networking Opportunities: Connect with other societies to exchange ideas, address challenges, and share solutions.
- Educational Programs: Access workshops and events in partnership with the Archives of Michigan and the Library of Michigan.
- Promotion and Visibility: Share your society's events and resources through MGC's communication channels.
- Special Events: Take part in the annual Michigan Genealogical Seminar and other statewide gatherings

A fillable membership application is available at: <https://mimgc.org/join-renew> and also on the following page.

For questions or more information about membership, email me at cathy.cottone.mgc@google.com.

**Michigan Genealogical Council
Year 2026-2027 Membership Form**

Name of Society	Date Founded	Annual Amount	Your Amount
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Society Membership (Family Associations / Historical Societies/ Genealogical Societies)

Membership Size: _____ members (membership numbers are used for statistical purposes only.)

1 - 50		\$20.00	
51 - 100		\$25.00	
101 - 200		\$40.00	
201 - 300		\$55.00	
301 - 400		\$70.00	
401 - 500		\$85.00	
501 +		\$95.00	

for membership year Jul 1, 2026 - Jun 30, 2027

**Grand
Total**

--

**Please fill in all requested information
Make check payable to: Michigan Genealogical Council**

Organization Information

Organization: _____ President: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip _____

Website: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____ Email: _____

Meeting Day/Time: _____

Periodical: _____ Frequency of Publication: _____

Newsletter: _____ Frequency of Publication: _____

Delegate Information

Delegate: _____ Delegate: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____ Telephone: _____

Email: _____ Email: _____

Does your organization have non-profit tax status with the IRS? yes ____ no ____ unknown ____

Return this completed form with your dues to:

**Michigan Genealogical Council
21290 Laser Lane
South Lyon, MI 48178-9259**

Date Received	
Amount Recv'd	
Check Number	

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 Detroit Society for Genealogical Research

Sept. 26 — “DSGR 90th Anniversary Family History Fair,” starting at 9 a.m., Madonna University, Livonia. Celebrate with us on our 90th birthday. This will be an all-day event. Speakers to include Katherine Willson, Rick Shaul, and Kris Rzepczynski. More details TBA. Visit dsgr.org.

From Downriver Genealogical Society

June 17 — “Piracy on the Great Lakes,” presented by Christopher Gillcrist, 7:00 p.m., Copeland Center, 2306 Fourth St., Wyandotte. Visit downrivergenealogy.org for more details.

Sept. 16 — “American Revolution — 250 Years,” presented by Todd Brighton, 7:00 p.m., Copeland Center, 2306 Fourth St., Wyandotte. Visit downrivergenealogy.org for more details.

Oct. 21 — “Oakwood Cemetery,” presented by Mary-Johnna Wein, 7:00 p.m., Copeland Center, 2306 Fourth St., Wyandotte. Visit downrivergenealogy.org for more details.

Nov. 18 — “Holocaust: The Camp System, the Holocaust and the Final Solution,” presented by David Thacker and Traci Hopper, 7:00 p.m., Copeland Center, 2306 Fourth St., Wyandotte. Visit downrivergenealogy.org for more details.

From Farmington Genealogical Society

June 19 — Juneteenth Celebration, 11 a.m., Covenant Baptist Church, 5800 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Visit the FGS booth and say hello to our former President, Rozlyn Kelly. Visit mifarmgs.org for more details.

From French Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan

July 24-25 — “Rendez-vous Détroit presents Bonne Fête Détroit,” two days of events celebrating the city’s 325th birthday, Fort Pontchartrain Hotel, 2 Washington Blvd., Detroit. Registration information at rendezvousdetroit.org.

From Huron Shores Genealogical Society

July 16 — Quarterly membership meeting, 4:30 p.m., Robert J. Parks Library, 6010 N. Skeel Ave, Oscoda. Email huronshoresgs@yahoo.com for more details.

From Jackson County Genealogical Society

Sept. 12 — JCGS Annual Kick Off Dinner, 1 p.m., Davis Banquet Center, 3573 Francis St., Jackson. Visit jcgsmi.org for more details.

Sept. 19 — Living History Cemetery Tour, Spring Arbor Cemetery, Spring Arbor. Details TBA. Rain date Sept. 26. Visit jcgsmi.org for more details.

From Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society

July 1 — Informational Zoom Meeting #1 for an Independent Washington, D.C., Research Trip, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Trip planned for Sept. 13-19. Meeting will cover topics like housing, meals, and research trips at the National Archives, DAR Library and the Library of Congress. Join other genealogists for five days of research in the nation’s capital. Email info@mikvgs.org to register for the Zoom meeting.

Aug. 6 — Informational Zoom Meeting #2 for an Independent Washington, D.C., Research Trip, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Trip planned for Sept. 13-19. Meeting will cover topics like housing, meals, and research trips at the National Archives, DAR Library and the Library of Congress. Join other genealogists for five days of research in the nation's capital. Email info@mikvgs.org to register for the Zoom meeting.

Aug. 17 — KVGS Ice Cream Social, 6:30 p.m., Portage District Library, 300 Library Lane, Portage. Join KVGS for ice cream, socializing, and a little genealogy trivia. Preview upcoming programs for the 2026-27 year.

Sept. 2 — Family Tree Maker User's Group, 10 a.m. Group typically meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Email Bev Grambau at kazoobev@gmail.com for a Zoom link.

From Genealogical Society of Monroe County

June 27 — Lock-In @Ellis Library, 5-9 p.m., Ellis Library & Reference Center, 3700 S. Custer Road, Monroe. Visit gsmcmi.org for more details.

Aug. 15 — Lock-In @Ellis Library, 5-9 p.m., Ellis Library & Reference Center, 3700 S. Custer Road, Monroe. Visit gsmcmi.org for more details.

From Muskegon County Genealogical Society

June 20 — “Using Artificial Intelligence to Amplify Your Genealogical Work,” presented by Kate Penney Howard, 10 a.m., Hackley Public Library, 316 W. Webster Ave., Muskegon. Visit genealogymuskegon.org for more details.

From Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County

Sept. 27 — “America at 250,” presented by Katherine Willson, two programs, 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., in-person at Trinity Healthcare Auditorium, 5301 McCauley Dr., Ypsilanti, and via Zoom. Non-members can request to register by emailing info@washtenawgenealogy.org. Visit washtenawgenealogy.org for more details.

From Western Michigan Genealogical Society

July 21 — WMGS Writers Group, Trinity United Methodist Church, 1100 Lake Dr. SE, Grand Rapids. This month's topic: court records. Group typically meets on the third Tuesday of each month. Contact Jill Pearson Reider at JillReider1@gmail.com for details or visit wmgs.org/writersgroup.

Aug. 18 — WMGS Writers Group, Trinity United Methodist Church, 1100 Lake Dr. SE, Grand Rapids. This month's topic: idioms and phrases unique to your family. Group typically meets on the third Tuesday of each month. Contact Jill Pearson Reider at JillReider1@gmail.com for details or visit wmgs.org/writersgroup.

Sept. 12 — Cynthia Bailey of Brown's Funeral Home, 1:30 p.m., Grand Rapids Public Library - Ryerson Auditorium. Group typically meets on the first Saturday of each month, but takes June, July and August off. Visit wmgs.org for more details.

Returning Sept. 17 — DNA Interest Group (known as “DIG”) meets, two sessions, 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Grand Rapids Public Library - VanderVeen Room (4th floor). Group typically meets on the third Thursday of each month, but takes June, July and August off. Visit wmgs.org for more details.

Returning Sept. 26 — African American Genealogy Club, 1 p.m., Grand Rapids Public Library - VanderVeen Room (4th floor). Group typically meets on the fourth Saturday of each month, but takes June, July and August off. Email y.alonda.marie.yh@gmail.com or visit wmgs.org for more details.

Oct. 3 – “Witches in the Family,” presented by Jessica Riley, 1:30 p.m., Grand Rapids Public Library - Ryerson Auditorium. Group typically meets on the first Saturday of each month, but takes June, July and August off. Visit wmgs.org for more details.

Oct. 17 – “Got Ancestors? 2026, Western Michigan Genealogical Society’s Fall Conference,” 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., The Pinnacle Center, 3330 Highland Dr., Hudsonville. Watch for details and registration at gotancestors.com.

From Van Buren Regional Genealogical Society

June 18 — “Kalamazoo, Lake Shore & Chicago Railway: The History of the Fruit Belt Line,” presented by Keith Howard, 6:30 p.m., Paw Paw Public Library, 609 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw. Visit www.vbrgs.org for more details.

June 20 — “The Life and Rhymes of Poet Ben King,” presented by Robert Myers, 11 a.m., Hartford Public Library, 12 Church St. South, Hartford. Visit www.vbrgs.org for more details.

July 18 — “In Their Words: Annie Etheridge, Civil War Nurse,” presented by Bruce Butgereit, 11 a.m., Hartford Public Library, 12 Church St. South, Hartford. Visit www.vbrgs.org for more details.

Save the Date: Fall Family History Seminar

Nov. 14 — 2026 Fall Family History Seminar, featuring Kelli Jo Bergheimer, M.S.M., writer, teacher, editor, author, and international genealogical speaker. Bergheimer’s sessions will include: What are you missing for your Family Groups? A Plan for After an Archive Visit; How to Move from Files and Piles to a Biographical Sketch; and How to Organize and Pass on Your Family History. Other sessions will be added as they are finalized. Archives of Michigan, Lansing. Co-sponsored by the Archives of Michigan and the Library of Michigan. Visit mimgc.org for more information.

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

or by Phone (517) 335-2576

Website: michigan.gov/archivesofmichigan

And 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

Website: www.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 Mon-Thurs. only

View schedule of holidays for closures

Phone: (517) 335-2573

Website: www.michigan.gov/mhc/museums

About the 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.

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 on December 1; the Spring issue is due on March 1; the Summer issue is due on June 1; and the Fall issue is due on September 1. Email newsletter items to MGC Editor: newsletter@mimgc.org. Or send it to P.O. 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. For more information, please visit mimgc.org/newsletter.

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