



Fall Family History Seminar to Feature Kelli Jo Bergheimer

Michigan Genealogical Council's Fall Family History Seminar this year, scheduled for November 14, features 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
- Move from Files and Piles to a Biographical Sketch
- And How to Organize and Pass on Your Family History

Other sessions feature archives and library staff. [Full list inside.](#)

Event co-sponsored by Archives of Michigan and the Library of Michigan.

Registration opens this month! Visit the MGC website at mimgc.org/events-calendar for more information.



Kelli Jo Bergheimer plans to present three sessions at this fall's seminar.

Still Time to Donate

MGC member societies and their members raised more than \$10,000 toward preservation of Veteran Bounty Land Records, and the MGC matched that, sending more than \$20,000 in donations. But, there's still time to donate if you haven't yet. Visit mimgc.org/veteran-bounty-land-records.



President's Message

Summer is ending and our societies are gearing up with many events happening and more to come! Check out the listings in this issue for upcoming events, wonderful celebrations of long anniversaries by many of our societies, and meeting updates from many societies.

This month we want to remind you that we are still requesting contributions for the [Veteran Bounty Land Records national fundraising effort](#). Donations can be made online or sent in by the end of this year.

The MGC Fall Seminar is coming up. The registration site will be ready soon, so reserve 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, on your calendar. This year's seminar, held at the Michigan History Center, features Kelli Jo Bergheimer. Her sessions will help you with your family research and to organize all your family tree documents. Speakers from the Archives and Library of Michigan will also present, so join us and co-sponsor Archives of Michigan at this special event. Watch for a notice that registration is open! Kelli will also offer one session at 11 a.m. Nov. 13 during the MGC's monthly delegate meeting. That presentation is free, so join us either in-person or online for her presentation and the delegate meeting (and we will also be giving out awards to some wonderful people!).

October is Family History Month. Hopefully, your society has some unique events, presentations or help sessions planned. Let us know what you are doing, and be sure to share photos of any of your events and membership gatherings. Knowing what kind of programming works could help another society with an idea for next year!

Share those photos of your society's anniversary events, parties, and celebrations with us — even if they were this past spring. Many of our societies are celebrating 50, 70 and even 100 years of existence, so we want to see what it was like!

Thank you for your membership, and please let us know if there were topics that you would like to discuss during our delegate meetings. Vice President Shaun Thomas has been bringing speakers to share about repositories and records across Michigan, but we are open to other topics or information that you'd like. Please email us at info@mimgc.org and give us your ideas!

Happy fall,

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 September 2026

Hello from the Library of Michigan! Library staff and visitors can rejoice: The library atrium is fully open after the end of work on the atrium windows. Atrium tables are back in their original positions, and library users can walk freely through the atrium between north and south wings of the library's second floor. Work continues on other exterior areas of the building. We hope our neighbors on the museum side of the building have a smooth process with their window replacements and updates.

The back-to-school period has arrived for many Michiganders, and it coincides with the second anniversary of the library's Michigan Yearbook collection project. Since the beginning of the campaign in August 2024, the Library of Michigan has received just over 6,000 volumes — all thanks to the generosity of libraries, schools, historical organizations, and hundreds of individual donors from Michigan and beyond. As more volumes are added, stories of individuals and communities across the state will be preserved at the Library of Michigan for future researchers. Visit the [Make A Gift](#) site for more information about the Michigan Yearbook project.

The Library of Michigan has multiple learning opportunities available through the autumn months and beyond. Library staff continue to offer monthly virtual learning sessions over Zoom that cover a variety of family history and local history topics. Each session is free to attend, though registration is required. The full schedule is available at michigan.gov/LMPublicPrograms. The 2027 schedule of programs is currently being compiled and will be made available as we approach winter.

In addition to monthly virtual programs, the Library of Michigan is a sponsoring organization for the upcoming [Mid-Michigan Local History Conference \(MMLHC\)](#). The event, held at the Michigan Library and Historical Center on Saturday, Oct. 3, is an opportunity for historians, librarians, archivists, students, and other local history practitioners to attend learning sessions from fellow practitioners, and engage with other organizations around the Mid-Michigan region. This event is free, but registration is required. Find details at michigan.gov/MMLHC. In addition to the Library of Michigan, the MMLHC is sponsored by the Archives of Michigan, the Historical Society of Michigan, the Ingham County Historical Commission, and the Michigan State Capitol Education & History Department. The Library of Michigan Foundation is also supporting the event.

Lastly, the [Michigan State Librarian position](#) was recently posted on the Michigan Civil Service website. Several library staff have served in interim roles throughout the year. Although we do not have a timeline for filling the position, the posting itself represents a step toward a return to some normalcy after the loss of former Michigan State Librarian Randy Riley. More details about the position will be shared over the coming weeks and months as information becomes available.

If you have any questions pertaining to the Library of Michigan's collections and services, 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

Charlevoix County Genealogical Society: 50 Years and Going Strong

As many of our Michigan societies have been receiving recognitions for their longevity this year and in the recent past, recognizing that many started up in the 1970s and 80s, this is a call to ask all of the societies celebrating, to share pictures of events commemorating their anniversaries! The Charlevoix County Genealogical Society this year celebrates 50 years, and I was honored to attend in their events in June and August. Let's hear from others, as so many are celebrating!

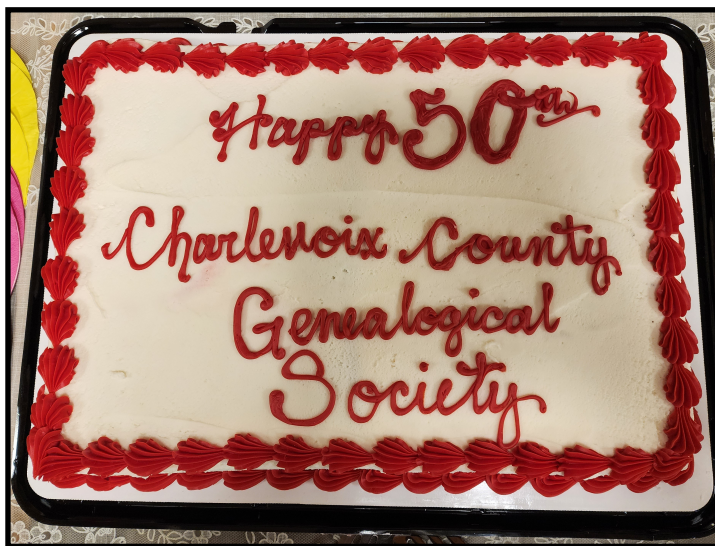
— *President Judy Nimer Muhn*



On Aug. 6, 2026, Charlevoix County Genealogical Society celebrated 50 years. Above, some of the volunteers driving the group and coordinating the celebration, including President Christine Brown.



Above: On June 17, the MGC presented the group with a certificate honoring 50 years. **At right:** Members celebrated with cake.



Waterford Genealogical Society News

The Waterford Genealogical Society participated in the Oakland County History Center's Celebrate America 250 event on July 25 and 26. More than 600 people attended on the first day, making it a wonderful opportunity to connect with the community and promote genealogy.

We had plenty of visitors stop by our table — especially since we were conveniently located right next to the free ice cream tent!

During the event, we distributed brochures about the Michigan Genealogical Council's Pioneer Certificate Program and shared information about the upcoming seminar featuring Kelli Jo Bergheimer.

It was a great weekend of celebrating history, connecting with fellow history enthusiasts, and introducing more people to the resources available through genealogy!

— *Kim Smith, President*



Waterford GS was part of Oakland County History Center's celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United State.

The Latest MGC Continuing Education Videos



Learn About Resources Available to Researchers at Clarke Historical Library

The MGC recently hosted a discussion from Bryan Whittedge, public services librarian at Central Michigan University's Clarke Historical Library. He spoke about resources available to family researchers as well as other resources freely available online that the staff in the Clarke use regularly. Video of this presentation will be available for a limited time. Visit [MGC's Continuing Education page](#).

Resources Available at the Bentley Historical Library with Meghan Courtney

Meghan Courtney shares some tips and tricks for navigating the resources available to genealogists at U of M's Bentley Historical Library, including church records, directories, land records, archival collections from families and organizations, and more. Visit [MGC's Continuing Education page](#).



Michigan Pioneer Certificate Program Update

Kim Smith, Pre-Statehood and First Family

To date, we have completed 176 PreStatehood and 203 First Family applications.

The [Ottawa Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution](#), based in Port Huron, recently discussed the Pioneer Certificate Program with its members. The committee provided brochures and shared links to our online resources to help members learn more about the program and the application process.

The group shared this photo along with the comment, “We had a great discussion!”

We hope this outreach will generate an influx of new applications and encourage more members to participate in the Pioneer Certificate Program.

Has your society had a workshop yet? Reach out and we will point you to our great resources to help you get started.

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



The Ottawa Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution recently discussed MGC's Pioneer Certificate Program. Has your society had a workshop yet?

Midwest Deep-Dive: Remember the *Maine* — A Michigan Soldier Story

By Jeremy Verduco, Editor, MGC Quarterly



G.F. Sterling & Co., *Michigan Volunteers of '98: A Complete Photographic Record of Michigan's Part in the Spanish American War of 1898* (Detroit: G.F. Sterling & Co., 1898), p. 51.

The story of the Spanish-American War pales compared to larger U.S. engagements like WWI and WWII. Though short, the war created many veterans, including in Midwest states like Michigan.

Charles H. Barber was one of those veterans. Research found an image of Co. E, 33rd Regiment, a group of Michigan volunteers that included Charles, who had just reached the age of 22.

The image above, and others like it, appeared in G.F. Sterling & Co.'s *Michigan Volunteers of '98: A Complete Photographic Record of Michigan's Part in the Spanish American War of 1898*, a souvenir book printed in commemoration. The photos



Destruction of the "Maine," Havana harbor, Cuba, Spanish-American War 1898, 1912, photographic print; digital image from black-and-white film copy negative, reproduction no. LC-USZ62-19254; Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C.; digital image, Library of Congress (<https://lccn.loc.gov/2013646059> : accessed 30 August 2026), Digital ID cph 3a20503.

Ensl. Michigan Rec. Mich. Born Mich.

ORIGINAL

1. NAME OF DECEASED—LAST—FIRST—MIDDLE (Print or type) BARBER, Charles H.			APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER (See attached instructions. Complete and submit original and duplicate)		
2. ENLISTMENT DATE (Month, Day, Year) 4-26-98	3. DISCHARGE DATE (Month, Day, Year) 12-22-98 <i>Hon.</i>	12. EMBLEM (Check one) ☒ CHRISTIAN (Latin Cross) ☐ HEBREW (Star of David) ☐ NONE			
4. SERVICE NO. None Spanish-Amer. War vet	5. PENSION OR VA CLAIM NO. XC 2 536 192	13. CHECK TYPE REQUIRED ☐ UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE ☐ FLAT MARBLE MARKER ☒ FLAT GRANITE MARKER ☐ FLAT BRONZE MARKER			
6. STATE Michigan	7. GRADE Wagoner	8. MEDALS None?	14. SHIP TO (Name and address of person who will transport stone or marker to cemetery) B.E. Rapin, Supv. of Cemeteries Forest Lawn Cemetery, Saginaw, Mich.		
9. BRANCH OF SERVICE, COMPANY, REGIMENT, AND DIVISION OR SHIP Army Co. "E" 33rd Regt <i>Michigan Infantry</i>			15. FREIGHT STATION Saginaw, Michigan		
10. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year) 7-27-1876 <i>Di B. not shown</i>			16. NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY (City and State) Forest Lawn Cemetery Saginaw, Michigan		
11. DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year) 5-2-56			17. I CERTIFY THE APPLICANT FOR THIS STONE OR MARKER HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME TO TRANSPORT SAME TO THE CEMETERY. SIGNATURE <i>Mrs. E. Barber</i> DATE 5-16-56		
DO NOT WRITE HERE RECEIVED MAY 22 1956 VERIFIED COLUMBUS MARBLE WORKS B/L WY 4974965 ORDERED 3 JUL 1956			18. NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (Print or type) Mrs. Blanche E. Barber, 407 Clark St., Saginaw, Mich. 19. I certify this application is submitted for a stone or marker for the unmarked grave of a deceased member or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States, soldiers of Union and Confederate Armies of the Civil War. I hereby agree to accept responsibility for properly placing the stone or marker at the grave at no expense to the Government. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT <i>Blanche E. Barber</i> DATE 5-16-56		

OMC FORM 646 REPLACES OCMG FORM 623, 8 FEB 48 WHICH MAY BE USED

IMPORTANT—Reverse Side Must Be Completed

16-11453-0 GPO

Not subsequent service

were likely taken while the different companies trained at Island Lake near Brighton, Michigan, northwest of Detroit, prior to

U.S. Department of the Army, Office of the Quartermaster General, "Application for Headstone or Marker," Charles H. Barber, 16 May 1956, OMC Form 646, pension or VA claim no. XC 2 536 192; family copy of an application for marker at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Saginaw, Michigan.



Photograph of Spanish-American War veteran's commemorative pin for Charles H. Barber, undated, privately held family heirloom; image supplied to genealogist Jeremy Verduco, V Squared Services LLC, 2018.

their deployment. Charles likely sat for this photo with the rest of Co. E, 33rd Regiment, potentially in May or June 1898.

The camp at which they trained later became a state-run park and recreation area.

Charles served as a wagoner. He would drive horse or mule carts of supplies to other soldiers. He enlisted 26 April 1898 and was discharged late that year on 22 December 1898.¹

Though the discharge came in December, it appeared that the Company E spent just the summer in Cuba. Charles was among a group of veterans that returned to Michigan for a heroes' welcome in

¹ "United States records," imaged, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1M-HSL2-R : accessed 30 August 2026) > image group no. 105102698, image 2922 of 7999; citing National Archives and Records Administration.

early September.²

The article headlined “Was a Grand Welcome” from the front page of *The Saginaw Evening News* on 5 September 1898 began with a description of the homecoming: “The scene at the F. & P. M. depot upon the arrival of the special train bearing Co.’s E and D, M. N. G., of this city from their recent engagement in Cuba, was one which can never be forgotten by those who witnessed it and one, too, which is past all power of description.”

The article went on: “The whistles and bells of the city were turned loose, while the thousands assembled sent up a mighty shout that could be heard blocks away. Men waved their hats and caps in the air and cheered lustily, while in the hands of maidens fluttered thousands of white handkerchiefs.”

It appeared that one of those waving handkerchiefs may have belonged to a young woman named Blanche Lynch. She and veteran Charles H. Barber married not long after, on 20 March 1900.³

While Charles’ military service lasted just a few months, it became a defining part of his life. He was active local veteran groups with his Company E compatriots and his service garnered a mention in the first line of his obituary when he passed in spring 1956.⁴

“A Spanish-American War Veteran, Charles H. Barber, 79, of 407 Clark, died today at Veterans Administration Hospital,” the obit began.

Charles’ widow Blanche even received, about a decade after Charles’ death, a letter signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson honoring her husband’s memory and his service in the Spanish-American War. It offered a noble capstone to the life this citizen-soldier.

² “Was a Grand Welcome,” *The Saginaw [Michigan] Evening News*, 5 September 1898, p. 1, col. 3; imaged, *Newspapers.com* (www.newspapers.com/image/1076678267 : accessed 30 August 2026).

³ Michigan Secretary of State, Return of Marriages in the County of Saginaw, Page 88, Record No. 9,317, Charles H. Barber/Blanche E. Lynch marriage, 20 March 1900; imaged, *FamilySearch* (www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-6SK7-WSD : accessed 23 November 2024), image 249 of 609; citing Michigan Department of Vital Records.

⁴ Charles Barber, War Vet, Dies,” *The Saginaw [Michigan] News*, 2 May 1956, p. 36, col. 5; imaged, *Newspapers.com* (www.newspapers.com/image/1108192418 : accessed 13 April 2025).

Discover the Genealogy Collection at Lyon Township Public Library

Cathy Cottone, MGC Membership Chair

If your Michigan ancestors have connections to Lyon Township, South Lyon, New Hudson, Oakland County — or even if your research takes you far beyond Michigan — the Lyon Township Public Library Genealogy Department may have something to help you make your next discovery.

One of the department's greatest strengths is its collection of local history and genealogy materials, including resources that researchers may not find online.

The library holds Lyon Township tax records dating back to 1847, providing researchers with an opportunity to trace residents and property ownership through generations. The local collection also includes Phillips Funeral Home records, New Hudson Methodist Church records, scrapbooks, photographs, newspaper clippings, and other materials documenting the people and history of the area.

Cemetery researchers will find records for several local cemeteries, including New Hudson Cemetery, South Lyon Cemetery, Eleven Mile Cemetery, and Chubb Cemetery. These collections can be valuable for locating burials, establishing family connections, and finding clues that lead to additional records.

The library also maintains an extensive genealogy reference collection. Holdings include books and resources covering Mayflower families, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the American Revolution, the Civil War, Michigan Civil War soldiers, Canada, England, and Ireland. Researchers will also find a strong collection of Oakland County materials, resources for other Michigan counties, and assorted genealogical publications covering counties and states throughout the country.

Genealogy Databases

Digital researchers have plenty to explore as well. The library provides access to several major genealogy and historical research databases, including Ancestry Library Edition, MyHeritage Library Edition, Findmypast, Newspapers.com, NewspaperArchive, American Ancestors, and Fold3.



The Lyon Township Public Library Genealogy Department may have the resources you need to make that next family-history breakthrough.

Having multiple databases available is particularly useful to genealogists because no single website contains every record. Researchers can move between collections, compare search results, explore historical newspapers, investigate military service, and pursue ancestors in the United States and overseas.

Programs, Research Help

A collection of records is even more valuable when there is someone available to help researchers navigate it.

As the Genealogist at Lyon Township Public Library, I provide one-on-one assistance to both beginning and experienced family historians. Whether a patron is just starting a family tree, struggling with a brick wall, trying to understand an unfamiliar record, or simply wondering “Where do I look next?” I can help identify possible resources and new avenues of research.

The Genealogy Department also provides opportunities for genealogists to learn from — and enjoy the company of — other family historians through genealogy presentations, Genealogy Roundtables, a Genealogy Book Club, and other special programs throughout the year.

Preserving Local History

Perhaps most importantly, the Genealogy Department is helping preserve the history of the community itself. Tax records, funeral home records, cemetery records, church records, scrapbooks, photographs, newspaper clippings, and other local materials document the lives of the people who built their homes, raised their families, worked, worshipped, and created communities in this corner of Oakland County.

Genealogists know that sometimes the record that solves a mystery isn’t found in a major online database. It may be tucked inside a local scrapbook, recorded in an old funeral home ledger, listed in a church record, or waiting in a tax book from more than a century ago.

If your research brings you to Lyon Township, South Lyon, New Hudson, or the surrounding area, make the Lyon Township Public Library Genealogy Department one of your research stops. You never know what clue may be waiting for you.

Cathy Cottone is the Genealogist at Lyon Township Public Library and serves as Membership Chair for the Michigan Genealogical Council.

**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 dsggr.org.

From Downriver Genealogical Society

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.

Michigan Germanic Genealogical Society

Nov. 16 — “Germany’s Shifting Maps: What It Means to Your Research,” with Katherine Schober, 7:30 p.m. Have you ever wondered how Prussia, Baden, Posen, and other historical regions fit into modern Germany? Learn about key historical events that shaped Germany’s regions and your ancestors’ lives, and shifting boundaries changed record-keeping and where to search today. Visit <https://miggs.org/> for details.

May 10, 2027 — “Meyer’s Gazetter for German Researchers,” with Karynne Moses, 7:30 p.m. Meyer’s Gazetter is an invaluable resource for German genealogy that allows you to see your ancestor’s hometown on a historic map and find the local churches, synagogues, and civil registries were located during the time of the German Empire (1871-1918). This lecture will explore the ins and outs of Meyer’s Gazetter and help attendees to integrate this tool to enrich their research.

From Jackson County Genealogical Society

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

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.

Sept. 21 — “Preserving Your Family Treasures for Future Generations,” with Steve Rossio, local historian, Portage District Library, 7 p.m. Register in advance if you plan to attend the 7 p.m. business meeting and program via Zoom. Members and guests welcome. Email info@mikvgs.org.

Lansing Area African American Genealogical Society

Oct. 25-25 — Join the Lansing Area African American Genealogical Society as it celebrate it’s 25th anniversary with an event featuring the return of Tony Burroughs, FUGA — our first ever seminar speaker back in the day. The event will include a presentation on Saturday and a Sunday dinner and keynote. For tickets and more information, visit the event page at <https://laaags.org/25thAnniversaryCelebration>.

Lansing FamilySearch Center

Oct. 10, 17 and 24 — In celebration of Family History Month in October, the Lansing Family Search Center, 431 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing, MI 48826, is offering classes on three Saturdays throughout the month. Email mi_lansing@familyhistorymail.org or call the director at 801-643-5747 for details.

From Genealogical Society of Monroe County

Oct. 3 — “Finding Your Family With DNA Testing,” with Richard Hill, 1 p.m. Monroe County Community College, Administration Bldg Room 173D, 1555 S Raisinville Rd. Visit <https://gsmcmi.org> for more information.

From Oakland County Genealogical Society

Nov. 7, 2026 — “Identifying Types of Historic Photographs and the People in Them” presented by Christina Clary of the Allen County Public Library, 11 a.m. Have a box of old family photos but aren’t sure when they were taken — or who’s in them? In this program, you’ll learn how to identify common 19th and early 20th century photograph types, from daguerreotypes to cabinet cards, and resources to help you along the way. We’ll also explore practical strategies for identifying the people in your images, using details like clothing, studio imprints, and family context. Zoom only; no in-person component. Joint meeting with the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research.

Dec. 1 — “Pleased To Meet You: Introduction to the Collections of the Archives of Michigan,” presented by Rachel Clark, Archives of Michigan The Archives of Michigan was created as part of the Michigan Historical Commission in 1913. The role of the archives is to collect state and local government records. The archives is the official repository of state government records. State government departments have retention schedules for their records that dictate what records are transferred and when. Learn about records that can support your research.

Jan. 5, 2027 — “Beginning Germanic Research” with Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach. Need help finding your German-speaking ancestors? We will explore ways to find the village your ancestor came from, as well as look for where civil and church records can be found. We will tackle the language and handwriting to help you find your folks, and there will be a bit of history as we track shifting national boundaries.

June 12, 2027 — Save the date for the Oakland County Genealogical Society’s 50th anniversary celebration, noon to 3 p.m., Saturday, June 12, 2027 at the Oakland History Center in Pontiac. More details to come, but you can email info@ocgsmi.org with questions or offers to help!

Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan

Oct. 17 — 48th Annual Genealogy Seminar, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Includes three presentations with Q&A and door prizes. Webinar or in-person. Visit www.pgsm.org for 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

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.

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

Oct. 17 — Genealogy Day with facilitator Patsy Miller, president, Berrien County Genealogical Society, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Hartford Public Library, 12 Church St, Hartford, MI 49057. Email vbrgs@yahoo.com for details.

Oct. 19 — “Aviation Firsts of Southeast Michigan,” with presented by Stuart Boekeloo, 11 a.m. Hartford Public Library, 12 Church St, Hartford, MI 49057. Email vbrgs@yahoo.com for 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 include.

“Basics of Library & Archive Research” with Kris Rzepczynski, senior archivist at the Archives of Michigan; and

“Beyond the Family Tree: Creative Programs and Engagement Ideas for Family History Communities,” with Adam Oster, community engagement librarian with the Library of Michigan.

This event is 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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Recording Secretary, Delegate Meetings	Tim Salatin, Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County	Nominations	Elected Directors
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Director 2029	Sue Irvine, Western Michigan Genealogical Society	Webmaster	Tom Koselka, MGC Past President
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Library of Michigan Liaison	Matt Pacer, 702 W. Kalamazoo St, Lansing, MI 48915	Projects	Roger Moffat, Western Michigan Genealogical Society
Archives of Michigan Liaison	Kris Rzepczynski, 702 W. Kalamazoo St, Lansing, MI 48915	Past President Advisor	Rozlyn Kelly, Farmington Genealogical Society
Public Records Access and Records Preservation	Open Seat	Lucy Mary Kellogg Chair	Jessica Trotter, Lansing Area African American Genealogical Society
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