

The Clarion

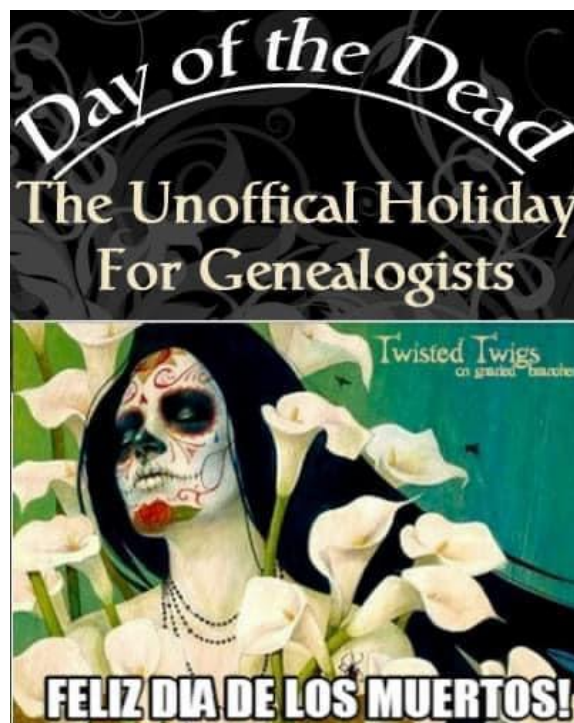
Bay County Genealogical Society of Michigan

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WINDY DAYS OF FALL



*Source: Twisted Twigs on Facebook

IN THE LIBRARY

By Barb Connors

Libraries are the world's greatest invention. They have been around since the beginning of time almost. If there is more than one book, then it is a collection. Libraries have educated us, fed our minds, increased our socialization skills and given us a safe sanctuary.

We all used our school libraries and our local town libraries growing up. And as a person of genealogy pursuits, that is my first go to whenever researching a family or an area. We can't just go next door to one in another location without a lot of cost and travel expenses, so we all utilize the internet. Each town's library has a special collection - usually pertinent to the citizens of the area. Yearbooks, directories, special history books. And if you are lucky, they have a special room or area just for those types of genealogy research items.

Billings, Montana's library has ALL the Civil War regiments and battles in book form -*Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (128 Volumes including index). All those campaigns are typed out showing how each regiment traveled, who was injured in battle, where they got into position for the next battle. A veritable gold mine if you are researching a family member from that era. My Great-Grandfather Nathaniel G Dillingham's unit is well documented leading up to and during the march on Atlanta. He was a part of Captain Alpheus M. Blakeley's Company E, 74th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

Billings, MT also has two.... TWO Family History centers and for about eight years, I traveled to both of them weekly doing research. While living in Montana, I did a trip to Salt Lake City to the main Family Search library. An amazing repository freely available to all.

Appleton, Wisconsin has a great public library. It has a Memory Page link that you can type in, for example, Houdini Museum (Harry Houdini was raised in Appleton) and there are pictures of the museum. It has a wonderful genealogy learning section with many links to other resources in the area.

Every library I have ever utilized has an 'Ask a Librarian' feature. If you need to know about special collections, books, history of the area - just ask. Need an obituary from their area and they have their newspapers available - just ask. They are a wealth of knowledge and always willing to help. Many libraries have a local genealogy society that volunteers to find the answer to your questions and the librarian will pass on your request.

I volunteer in the genealogy room of the Alice & Jack Wirt Public Library in Bay City, Michigan. From city directories, transcribed birth and marriages from Bay County to local funeral home records there is always something new and interesting if you are researching in the area. They also have the local Bay City Times newspaper online and fully searchable.

Back in 2016 I wanted to research in the Perry, Dallas County, Iowa area. The local newspapers were digitized, but not available for public pursual. They were only available in the local public library. So, I planned a research trip to Iowa. Spent five days traveling from one end of Iowa to the other, stopping at courthouses and libraries. I was lucky enough to spend a day at the library in Perry and was able to fully search their digitized newspaper archives.

Doing this missive, I decided to check their website and today they have the 1874 - 2001 newspapers fully available to search online from your home. And you don't have to be a card-carrying resident!

Lapeer, Michigan has an amazing library and genealogy room. They have many locally written family histories and county histories on their shelves. Also, yearbooks and city directories and other books are available.

Those local genealogy groups that are affiliated with the library? Many of their members are savvy in where to look, how to look, and full of knowledge of where they and their ancestors lived. Check into joining one - in person is great and most now have Zoom options for their monthly meetings. Myself? I belong to seven groups across the state of Michigan and the nation. And even a couple overseas.

As my granddaughter informed me one time - I'm just using my resources wisely.

Remember that the next time you need an answer.

Barbie

Family...a journey to forever

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## Have You Ever Tried These Resources?

By Mary McManman

### Telephone Directories

There are older telephone directories still available in the Local History and Genealogy Room at Wirt Library.

Bay City/Saginaw White/Yellow Pages. 1954-2020 MI R 917.7447 Bay

Telephone Directory for Pinconning, Michigan. 1953-1999 MI R 917.7447 Pinconning

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Website-FaceBook-Plus

By Charles Kocher

Facebook (Bay County Genealogical Society-Michigan)

Why does the Bay County Genealogical Society have a Facebook page? Because it is another tool for us to promote the Society. The Facebook algorithm that keeps track of what the over three-billion users are looking at could point some of those users to our page. While there, they can, among other things, read the Society's mission statement, see what is in the Genealogy Room, see postings for the monthly meetings, read event notices, see what's new on the Society's website, and read queries from others and responses to those queries.

If the user likes what they read, they might join the 391 other people who are members of the Bay County Genealogical Society Facebook group so that they can post a query. They might attend a meeting in-person or via Zoom.

Then, if they get a positive response to their Facebook post or like what they saw at the meeting, maybe they'll become a paying member.

Website (baymigen soc.com)

Following are statistics accumulated by WIX, the company that hosts the website and where the website is designed, from the Society's website since the last newsletter:

There were 150 "Site Sessions", defined as visits to the website. Visitors came from the United States (132), Brazil (1), Canada (15), Germany (1), and Puerto Rico (1).

The United States state, not named Michigan, with the most site sessions was Illinois (7), of which Chicago (6) had the most visits.

Within Michigan, most visitors came from Bay City (29), Midland (12), Saginaw (9), and Detroit (8).

Speakers for the 2025/2026 session were added to the website.

SAVE THE DATE

MGC FALL FAMILY HISTORY HYBRID EVENT – NOVEMBER 15, 2025 – WITH CURT WITCHER!

ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, FROM 2:00-4:00, THERE WILL BE SEVERAL INFORMATION AND HELP TABLES INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES. THERE WILL ALSO BE A LOCK-IN ON FRIDAY EVENING.

ATTEND BOTH DAYS IN PERSON AND/OR ATTEND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT [2025 MGC FALL FAMILY HISTORY EVENT FEATURING CURT WITCHER, FIGS, FUGA - MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL](#)

Future Meeting Dates:

November 5th – Jeff Mason – What You Need to Know About Wills & Estate Records

December 3rd – Potluck & Auction – Come and Have Fun!

January 14th – Tom Koselka – Exit, Enter, Commit: Emigration, Immigration, Naturalization

February 11th – Judy Nimer – French Migrations Out of Quebec

March 11th – Justin Frost – Cemetery Research

April 8th – Bryan Whitledge – Aladdin's Bay City Roots (Kit Homes)

May 13th – Jim Verney – Searching for Verney Family

June 10th – Potluck & Auction – Red, White & Blue for the 250th!

At our September meeting, it was discussed making changes to our Bi-Laws. A small group was formed to go over them and make suggestions for corrections and changes to be made. I am attaching a copy of the Bi-Laws to this newsletter so all our members can look them over.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE BAY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

ARTICLE I - NAME

This organization shall be known as the Bay County Genealogical Society of Michigan

ARTICLE II – OBJECTS AND PURPOSES

The objects and purposes of this Society shall be:

1. To assist and encourage members in their genealogical research.
2. To assist others by collecting and preserving genealogical and historical data.
3. To cooperate with other genealogical societies and to assist the area Libraries in expanding their genealogical section.

ARTICLE III – BASIS OF ORGANIZATION

1. The Bay County Genealogical Society of Michigan shall be conducted as a non-profit organization.
2. All the facilities of the Society shall be available equally to each current paid member.
3. The Society shall have a Post Office Box and a Bank Account.
4. The Society may have a library with a librarian, appointed by the Executive Board, responsible for keeping it updated.
5. The Society may distribute a newsletter. The Executive Board shall appoint the Editor.
6. The Society shall maintain membership in any organization approved by the membership. If delegates are required, the Executive Board will appoint them.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

1. Any person interested in genealogy, history, or biography, either amateur or professional, may become a member of the Society by paying the annual dues to the Treasurer.
2. Dues will be determined by the Executive Board before the September meeting as part of the budget process. Dues are due by December 31st.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

1. Officers of the Society shall be the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. Any additional Officers, as may be deemed necessary, shall be elected by majority vote at any regular business meeting.
2. Executive Board shall consist of the current Officers, Librarian, Editor, Standing Committee Chairs, and immediate Past President. A society budget shall be prepared annually by the Executive Board to be voted on at the September meeting.
3. Election of Officers
 - A. A nominating committee of three members shall be selected at the May meeting. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate candidates for the offices to be filled at the June meeting. Before the election at the June meeting, additional nominations may be made from the floor.
 - B. All Officers shall be elected annually at the June meeting, shall take office at the close of that meeting, and continue in office for one year or until successors are elected and installed.
 - C. A simple majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to constitute an election.
 - D. Only current paid members may hold offices or vote.
4. The duties of the Officers shall be such as are indicated by their respective titles.
5. All Officers upon retiring from office shall deliver to their successors all monies, accounts, records, books, papers, or other property which belongs to the Society.
6. Vacancies in Office, other than the President, shall be filled by appointment by the President to fill the unexpired term, with approval by the Executive Board. In case of the unexpired term of the President, the Vice-President shall become President to fill the unexpired term of the President.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

1. Standing Committees shall be Audit, Bylaws, Long Range Planning, Publications, Library, Publicity, and Workshop. The President shall appoint the number of members to each committee necessary to accomplish their duties.
 - A. The Audit Committee will be composed of three members, appointed by the President at the May meeting, whose duty it shall be to audit the Treasurer's accounts and report at the June meeting.
 - B. The Bylaws Committee shall update the Constitution and Bylaws to keep them current to the operation of the Society.
 - C. Long Range Planning Committee shall develop a plan for the Society's future and how to proceed to address the plans,
 - D. Publications Committee shall prepare a plan for selecting items to develop for sale and arranging for the printing, sales, and distribution of these items.
 - E. Library Committee shall develop the rules and regulations for the use of the library and develop a plan for the future.

- F. The Publicity Committee shall maintain a list of media (newspapers, radio, TV, etc.) which can be used to promote the Society and are responsible for publicizing Societal functions.
 - G. The Workshop Committee shall plan workshops, seminars, trips, and other projects for the Society.
 - H. IT Committee shall maintain the Society's website and Facebook page, arrange for meetings to be attended virtually using a suitable virtual meeting platform, and set up the audio/visual system for meetings as needed.
- 2. Special (Ad-Hoc) Committees may be appointed by the President or the Executive Board from time to time as deemed necessary to carry on the work of the Society.
 - 3. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

- 1. The regular meetings of the Society shall be monthly, from September to June, the time and place to be determined by the Executive Board.
- 2. All meetings shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order, newly Revised.

ARTICLE VIII – QUORUM

- 1. Five current members, plus at least two Officers present, shall constitute a quorum at any scheduled membership meeting.
- 2. A determination of quorum shall be announced by the Recording Secretary or another officer at the start of each meeting.

ARTICLE IX – FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall be January 1st through December 31st

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

The Constitution and Bylaws can be amended at any regular meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote, providing that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous meeting.

ARTICLE XI – DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

In the event, of the dissolution of the Society, all assets, real and personal, after payment of debts, are to be distributed to [to be determined].

Original 16 December 1986

Revised 16 November 1993

Amended 13 April and 12 June 2002

TOP TEN CENSUS PROBLEMS

1. Census takers who were taught to write by chickens.
2. Is that a 'T' or an 'F'? Maybe...surely not a 'W'?
3. 1890. *Twisted Twigs
on gnarled branches*
4. A German census taker talking to an Italian Family
About an Irish neighbor who wasn't home.
5. Phonetic spelling in seventeen languages.
6. Census takers who walked in circles.
7. Relatives who apparently wouldn't answer the door.
8. Actual tick mark or accident? Choose wisely.
9. Portions of years combined with terrible math skills.
10. 1890, again.

**Source: Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches on Facebook

Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held in the Community Room
at Wirt Library

Time: 5:30-7:30 pm

September 10 th	March 11 th
October 8 th	April 8 th
November 5 th **	May 13 th
December 3 rd **	June 10 th
January 14 th	July No Meeting
February 11 th	August No Meeting

**1st Wednesday Meeting

If Bay City Schools are canceled due to bad
weather, our meetings are also cancelled.

Library Hours

Auburn & Pinconning

Sun-Mon	Closed
Tues-Thur	10am -8pm
Fri-Sat	9am - 5pm

Sage

Mon-Tue	9am – 5pm
Wed-Thur	12pm – 8 pm
Fri	9am – 5pm
Sat-Sun	Closed

Wirt

Mon-Thur	10am – 8pm
Fri-Sat	9am – 5pm
*Sun	1pm – 5pm
	*(Sep-May only)

Contact Information

Please send all questions to one of the
following:

Facebook: Bay County Genealogical Society MI

Website: baymigenesoc.com

Email: bcgs13@yahoo.com

Snail Mail: BCGS

P.O.Box 1366

Bay City, MI, 48706

2024-2025 BCGS Officers

President	Ruth Wilke
Vice President	Barb Connor
Secretary	Judy Berner
Treasurer	Mary McManman
Librarian	Heather Leser
Publishing	Heather Leser
Clarion Editor	Heather Leser

Membership Dues

All membership renewals are due by the
end of December. Yearly dues are \$20.00
for a single person or \$25.00 per
family/one household.

The Wirt Genealogy Room

Our BCGS volunteers are available on
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and
Saturday from 1pm-4pm.

There is access to Ancestry.com,
Heritage Quest, Fold3, and
Familysearch.org