

The Clarion

Bay County Genealogical Society of Michigan

Volume 55

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April-June 2024

DEATH & TAXES

“IN THIS WORLD NOTHING CAN BE SAID TO BE CERTAIN, EXCEPT DEATH AND TAXES” -- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, 1789.

Historical Tax Lists

As April Tax Day rolls around each year, U.S. taxpayers compile and file financial records to document their previous year's income. Property owners throughout the states must also pay taxes on land and dwellings during the year. Although paying taxes isn't the most enjoyable aspect of our lives—and our ancestors likely felt the same way—the information left behind in these records can be a veritable treasure trove for family history researchers.

For example, you may discover the type and size of dwelling your great-great-great-grandfather lived in with his family during the late 1700s in Pennsylvania.

You might learn that your family in Georgia paid tax on hickory and oak trees, a four-wheeled “pleasure carriage,” a musical instrument, or a billiard table in the early 1800s.

Or you may even uncover an economic decrease—in income or property—for your Kansas relatives between 1929 and 1939, meaning they likely suffered hardships during the [Great Depression](#) or because of the Dust Bowl.

What Are Historical Tax Records or Lists?

Historical tax records can document a variety of situations, including when a person or business paid taxes and what they were taxed on. Examples include:

- **Property Taxes:** This type of tax is calculated by a local government, as it's connected to the location of a property.

- **Excise Taxes:** These are imposed on specific goods by the federal government, notably alcohol and tobacco products.
- **Income Taxes:** The federal government has collected income tax since the Civil War.

The types of taxes paid or assessed throughout history can vary depending on many factors, and not all records across all states contain the same information.

**excerpt taken from Ancestry.com Family History Learning Hub

<https://www.ancestry.com/c/family-history-learning-hub/tax-records>

Please go to the website for the full article. It is really informative and contains links to searchable sites.

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## Future Meeting Dates:

**April 10<sup>th</sup> – Megan Heyl – Operation Spring Cleaning: Organizing Your Stuff**

**May 8<sup>th</sup> – Chris Eckerle – Patterns That Helped Build Bay City**

**June 5<sup>th</sup> – No Speaker; End of the Year Party and Brown Bag Auction**

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Have You Ever Tried These Resources?

By Mary McManman

Hyatt-Ewald Funeral Home

Copies of these funeral home records are available in the Local History and Genealogy Room at the Alice and Jack Wirt Public Library

Hyatt-Ewald Funeral Home: Burial Index 1897-2005
 Bay City, Michigan. BCGS, 2008 GEN R 977.447 Hyatt

Hyatt-Ewald Funeral Home Funeral Records 1897-2007
 Bay City, Michigan. 56 volumes GEN R 977.447 Hyatt

A Look Back at Our Last Meetings:

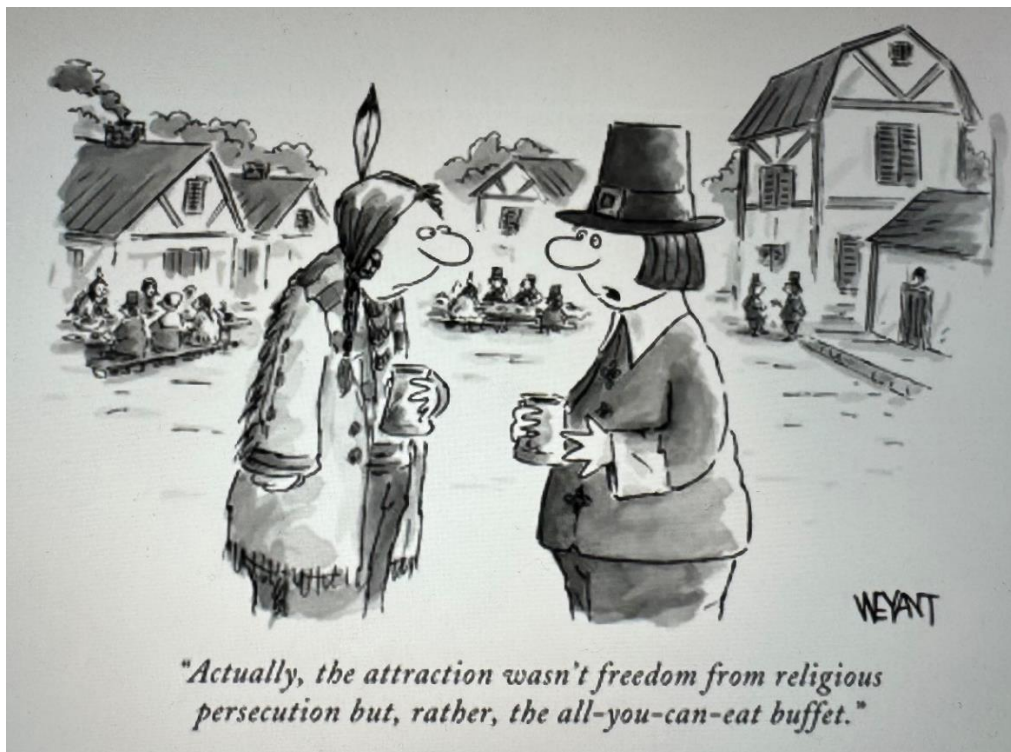
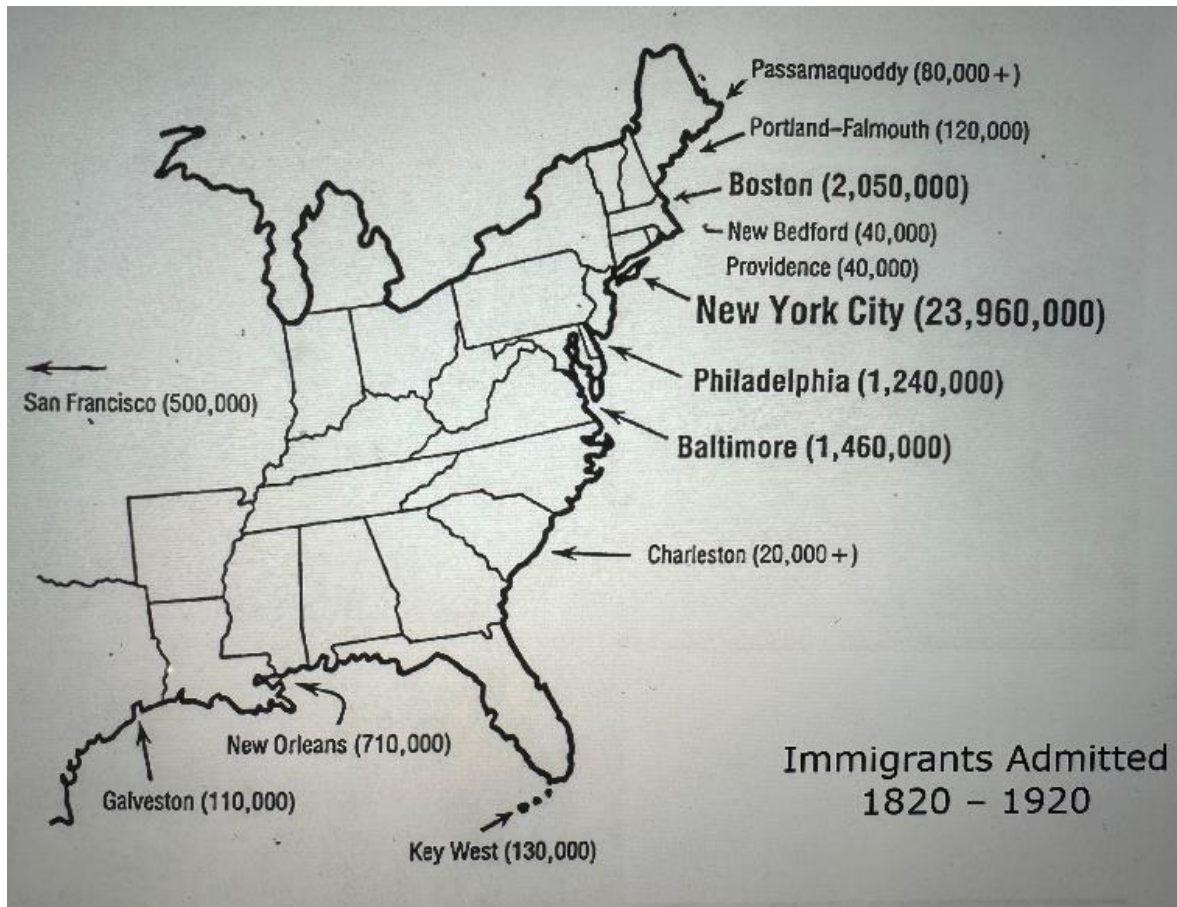
January 17th – Megan Heyl: Operation Spring Cleaning: Organizing Your Stuff

This meeting was canceled due to the weather. It was moved to April 10th.

February 14th – Mark Mullinax: Researching Immigration & Naturalization Records

Mark gave a wonderful presentation on how and where to research your relatives when they migrated over from their homelands. He recommended that you compile your ancestor's information in a spreadsheet so you can compare the results.





***pictures provided by Mark Mullinax**

March 13th – Megan Heyl: Timelines: Putting Your Life on the Line

Megan believes using timelines can help us dress up the ancestors we have that are only basic skeletons. What events were going on in their countries when our ancestors left and came to America? Did they leave political or economic upheaval, wars or natural disasters? What was going on here when they arrived? We can help ourselves investigate and understand the context of their lives if we do the same and put together a timeline of our own life. She gave us lots of examples of what events we might add and websites we can use to put it all together.

Natural Disasters, Epidemics, Famines - Reasons to Run Timeline Events That Effected Our Families Through History

Note: A natural disaster is a sudden event that always causes widespread destruction, major collateral damage or loss of life, brought about by forces other than the acts of human beings. To be classified as a disaster, it will have profound environmental effect and/or human loss and frequently causes financial loss.

In no particular order:

Earthquakes
Famines
Impact Events (meteorite)
Limnic Eruptions (lake overturn)
Wildfires / Bushfires
Avalanches / Landslides
Blizzards
Floods
Heat Waves
Pandemics / Epidemics
Tornadoes
Tropical Cyclones
Tsunamis
Volcanic Eruptions

Pandemic / Epidemic Examples:

Plague (Black Death)
Influenza A H1N1 (Spanish Flu)
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) - (HIV / AIDS)
SARS - CoV2 (Covid-19)
Bubonic Plague
Salmonella (Enteric Fever)
Smallpox
Measles
Epidemic Typhus
Great Hunger (Irish Potato Famine) - mold

Hunting Down History ©2024 Megan Heyl

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CREATING TIMELINES ONLINE

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU DEVELOP YOUR FAMILY HISTORY TIMELINE

1. TIKI-TOKI
2. SMART DRAW
3. ANCESTRY MOBILE APP
4. TIMELINE MAKER
5. CAPZLES
6. TIMERIME
7. XTIMELINE
8. TIMEGLIDER
9. DIPITY
10. TIMETOAST
11. PRECEDEN
12. TIMELINR
13. OURTIMELINES
14. READWRITETHINK
15. HSTRY.ORG
16. MEOGRAPH
17. MYHISTRO
18. OURSTORY - SLIDEPLAYER.COM
19. TIMELINEJS
20. OFFICE TIMELINE

REMEMBER TO ADD WWW. AND .COM TO THESE TITLES YOU CAN ALSO JUST PUT THESE TITLES INTO ANY BROWSER.

ALMOST ALL OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED WEBSITES OFFER A FREE TRIAL VERSION WITH OPTIONS TO PURCHASE DELUXE AND ADVANCED TOOLS. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT YOU TRY SEVERAL SITES TO FIND ONE THAT BEST SUITS YOUR NEEDS.

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Timeline Website Suggestions

Website-FaceBook-Plus

By Charles Kocher

Facebook (Bay County Genealogical Society-Michigan)

As of March 16, 2024, there are 348 members of our Facebook group.

In January and March, there were postings for a set of two one-day genealogical classes, “Discover Your Roots: Family History Research for

Beginners” and “Intro to Genealogy Databases at the Library.” Both classes take place at the Wirt Library. They were first presented in February and will be repeated in April. Both classes are presented by retired librarian and Bay County Genealogical Society member, Mary McManman.

She taught these classes, on a regular basis, before Covid, and now the library has consented to start them up again.

Website (baymigenoc.com)

1908 and 1909 transcribed Marriage Records and Indexes have been added to the website. That brings the years covered to 1905 and 1908-1933, a total of 16,548 marriages. The records may contain spouses’ names, occupations, birth locations, current residences, parents, pertinent dates, and other people who were part of the marriage.

In the last 90 days there have been 267 visitors from twenty-six states, France. San Marino, Spain, Philippines, Canada, and Taipei,

The site got eleven visits from a small town in Onondaga County, New York, called Manlius.



5 GOLDEN RULES OF GENEALOGY

- #1** Leave no stone unturned, unless it is a headstone.
- #2** Handwriting legibility is inversely proportional to a documents importance.
- #3** The further away a cemetery or library is, the more awkward the opening hours will be.
- #4** The relative you most need to talk with is the one whose funeral you are currently attending.
- #5** Wherever you find two or more siblings, there also will you find two or more surname spellings.

***Found on FaceBook’s Genealogy Squad**

Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held in the Community Room
at Wirt Library

Time: 5:30-7:30 pm

September 13 th	March 13 th
October 11 th	April 10 th
November 15 th	May 8 th
December 13 th	June 5 th
January 17 th	July No Meeting
February 14 th	August No 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

2023-2024 BCGS Officers

President	Kathleen Doerr
Vice President	Ruth Wilke
Secretary	Judy Berner
Treasurer	Mary McManman
Librarian	Heather Leser
Publishing	Terry Maul
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