

The Clarion

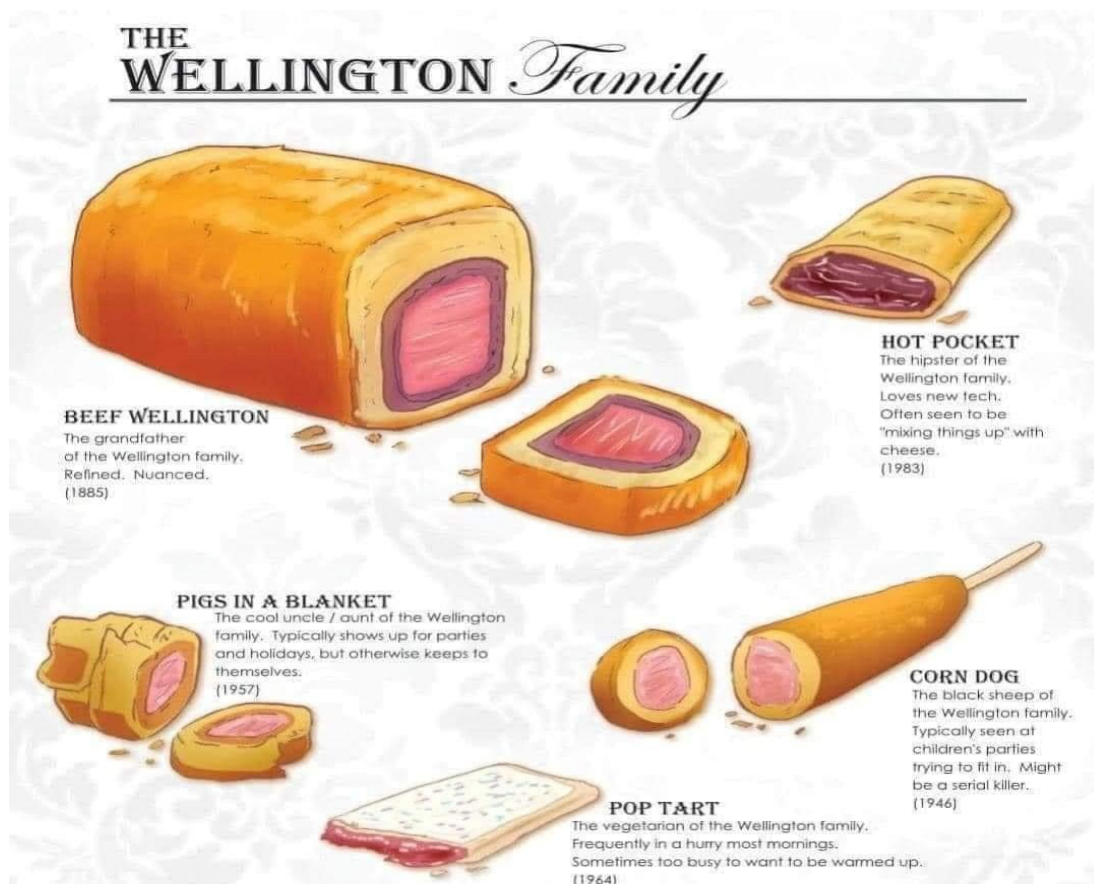
Bay County Genealogical Society of Michigan

Volume 57

Issue #1

January – March 2026

FAMILY TIES



****SOURCE TWISTED TWIGS ON GNARLED BRANCHES GENEALOGY FACEBOOK**

In Remembrance Of:

Thomas H. Kennedy, age 87, loving husband, father and grandfather, passed away on December 4, 2024 surrounded by his family. The son of the late Walter and Ada (Harris) Kennedy, he was born on July 6, 1937 in Bay City. Tom earned his Bachelors Degree in Secondary Education and a Masters Degree in Guidance and Counseling from Western Michigan University. He truly enjoyed his time at Western and was a proud "Bronco" the rest of his life. Early in Tom's career he was instrumental in establishing the Bay Arenac Skill Center and served as its project manager during the construction phase. He took pride in being an educator and moved on to the Essexville-Hampton School District where he was a Guidance Counselor at Garber High School for many years and then went into school administration and became the Assistant Principal of Cramer Junior High, retiring in 1994. Tom was known for his commitment to education and shaping the minds of young people. Whether through thoughtful advice, encouragement, or simply being a listening ear as a counselor, Tom made a lasting impression on every student he met. Outside of his career, Tom had many interests and pastimes. He lived a very active life and enjoyed sailing and motorcycling, was an avid woodworker and held a private pilot's license, flying as often as he could. Tom was a bicycling enthusiast and was a member of the Tri City Cyclist Club and the OLLI Cycling Interest Group at SVSU. He had a strong faith in God and was a member of Christ Covenant Church in Midland.



On July 28, 1956 Tom was united in marriage to his true love, the former Linda K. Jacobson, and together they shared a great life and raised a wonderful family. He is survived by his wife Linda; three children, Mark (Deborah) Kennedy of Beaver Falls, PA, Susan (Gary) Katt of South Haven and Andrew Kennedy of Milford; 13 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren; a brother, Walter Kennedy of Gladwin; two sisters-in-law, Janet (William) Toporski of Bay City and Carol Jacobson of Wilmington, NC; his special friend, Jack Clark; and many nieces and nephews, Glenda (Mike) Nadeau, Cathey Kennedy, Barbara (Joe) Naugel, Nancy (John) Jerry, Matthew Jacobson and Jonathan (Kristel) Jacobson. In addition to his parents, Tom was also preceded in death by a daughter-in-law, Irene Pawley Kennedy; a brother-in-law, Douglas Jacobson; and a sister-in-law, Beatrice Kennedy.

A Memorial Service will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 21, 2024 at Christ Covenant Church, 2821 Ashman St., Midland, MI 48640, with Pastor David Sarafolean officiating. Private interment will be at Floral Gardens Cemetery. Visiting hours will be at Trahan Funeral Chapel on Friday, December 20th from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., and at the church on Saturday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. The family suggests donations in Tom's memory to LifeClinic Community Resources or the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission. For on-line sentiments, please go to: www.trahanfc.com

French Canadians are Tough

By Charles Kocher

The following two newspaper articles were about my wife's, Diane (Dufresne), great-great-grandparents. Both were born in French-Canada and migrated, when they were children, to the United States, in about 1865, according to the 1910 US census.

Both stories were in the Worcester Telegram (Worcester, Massachusetts). The first was on January 27, 1916, and the second was on December 8, 1919.

HEAD HITS ROCK.

Mrs. Louis Jarvis of Fiskdale on Icy
Sidewalk.

Special to The Telegram

STURBRIDGE, Jan. 26.—Mrs. Louis Jarvis, wife of Louis Jarvis, Fisk-hill district, sustained several large contusions to the parietal region yesterday forenoon, when she slipped on a patch of ice near her home. It is alleged Mrs. Jarvis struck the back part of her head against a rock. Dr. Horace M. Locke is in attendance. It is feared concussion of the brain may develop.

INJURED MAN IS FOUND BY WIFE

Louis Jarvis, Sturbridge, Crawls Nearly Mile After Fall

STURBRIDGE, Dec. 7.—Louis Jarvis, aged 65 years, a farmer, who lives on Fisk hill, Sturbridge, while out caring for a neighbors' cows yesterday morning, slipped and fell from a ladder, a distance of 20 feet to the barn floor causing him to be unconscious half an hour.

Mr. Jarvis, with the aid of one crutch and a cane was able to be about in his home. He said: "I had just finished getting some hay down from the hay-loft and had started to descend the ladder when I misjudged a ladder rung and fell, striking on my right side. For nearly a half hour, I should judge, I did not remember anything. When I did begin to realize what had happened and where I was, I knew I was nearly a mile from my home.

"I tried to get on my feet, but could not. I managed to crawl out of the barn and to the road, and was still crawling on my hands and knees in the road, and was within about one-quarter of a mile from my home when my wife overtook me on her way back from Sturbridge center, where she had been to take some school children to school.

"With the aid of my wife, I managed to get into the buggy and go home. She immediately went to the nearest telephone, a mile away, and called Dr. George W. Tulley, who came and gave me medical attention. He told me he was not certain whether the fall caused any broken bones, but if my condition is not changed soon, I may be obliged to go to a hospital for an X-ray examination, to determine whether there were any broken bones or internal injuries.

"I am certain of one thing that I will not be able to do much if any farm work on my farm during the rest of the winter months."

A Bible Story

by T. Maul

A friend, Tom Quinin, passed away last year and I helped clean out several of his storage units. One of the treasures that we found was a Bible. This edition of the Catholic Family Bible, having been duly examined, is hereby approved of by John Hughes, Archbishop of New York. It is the Latin Vulgate. The bible has an illustrated Catholic dictionary of the Holy Bible, several tables and an introduction to the Bible. Also, there are many colorful pictures. The book is about 12 inches by 11 inches by 4 inches. The cover is leather, which is worn, with gold embellishments and has two brass clasps to keep it closed.

The Bible was given to Emilie Quinin on December 25, 1880. She was the mother of Tom and Lou Quinin. Sadly, Lou is the only living member of his family. Even sadder, Lou does not want to keep the Family Bible because when he passes, he feels that someone would throw the Bible in the trash and not give the Bible a good home.

Here is my problem, I am a radical catholic, they call us Lutherans and I have no use for this beautiful Bible. My first thoughts were to take it to the Salvation Army or Good Will. After thinking about what to do I decided to see if anyone in our genealogy group would care to give this Bible a home. If you would like to have the Bible or can suggest a place to take it, please contact me at:

Terry Maul

989-326-2292

ter_maul45@hotmail.com

Website-FaceBook-Plus

By Charles Kocher

Facebook (Bay County Genealogical Society-Michigan)

In the last three months, thirteen people have become members of the Society's Facebook group, bringing the total to 404.

One of those people is Joseph Barney, from Maryland. He is researching the Niven family that came out of Canada in the 1860s and settled in Bay County. In particular, he is looking to make contact with any male descendants of Mars Niven and information on a daughter-in-law of his, named Catherine.

One of the more helpful members of the group, Alicia Miller, communicated to Mr. Barney that the grandson of one of Mars' sons has made himself known to all who can read the thread.

What happened after that information was provided is not known, but it was one more query made to the group's site, with a, hopefully, positive outcome.

Website (baymigen soc.com)

Following are statistics covering the period since the last issue of the Clarion, in September:

There were 164 "Site Sessions", defined as visits to the website. Visitors came from the United States (147), China (4), Germany (4), Singapore (3), Netherlands (2), Canada (2), Brazil, (1), and Belarus (1).

Visitors came from fifty-two (52) different locals, of which the most from outside of Michigan and within the United States, were from New York City (3). The most from outside of the United States came from Falkenstein, Germany (5).

According to Wikipedia, Falkenstein is located in the North Palatine Uplands west of the Donnersberg mountain. As of 2023, it had a population of 192.

MGC Meeting November 14, 2025

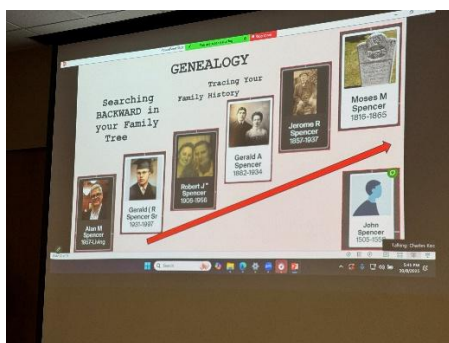
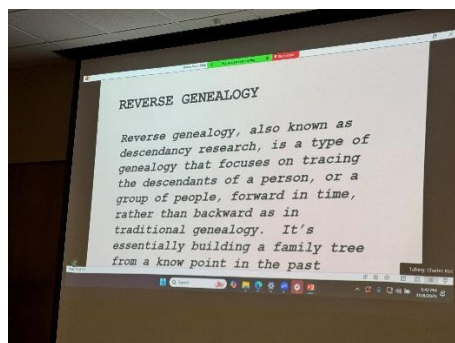
By Barb Conner

1. Barbara J Brown Family History Seminar will be held May 15 and 16, 2026 at the library of Michigan. Alec Ferretti with 'Reclaim the Records' will be the guest speaker.
2. Michiganology now has all the Naturalization records for Alcona County available and searchable.
3. Probate records for Wayne County up to 1940 are now done.

Past Meetings

October 8th — Alan Spencer: The Spencer Family Project – a Reverse Genealogy

Alan spoke on his experience researching his family tree. One effective tool he used was the idea of “reverse genealogy.” You basically start with a living person and work your way back thru family members – parent/grandparent/great-grandparent etc.



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

Our speaker Jeff Mason was extremely informative. He went through 3 case studies and even ran over on time. Showed how to look outside the box to keep going back more generations. If you find a will or probate on-line, make sure you look at least 3 records either side of yours - statistics show that often another family member showing up is a good probability. If you travel to a courthouse, make sure you visit the local library, Genealogical society library and/or museum.



Shared: 3 P's - positivity, perseverance, persistence.

Also, this website <http://www.MapofUs.org> has all the states and will do a video of how boundaries changed over a span of time.

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

We had our annual Christmas Potluck Party. We had good food, good companionship, and lots of presents to bid on.

Future Meeting Dates:

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

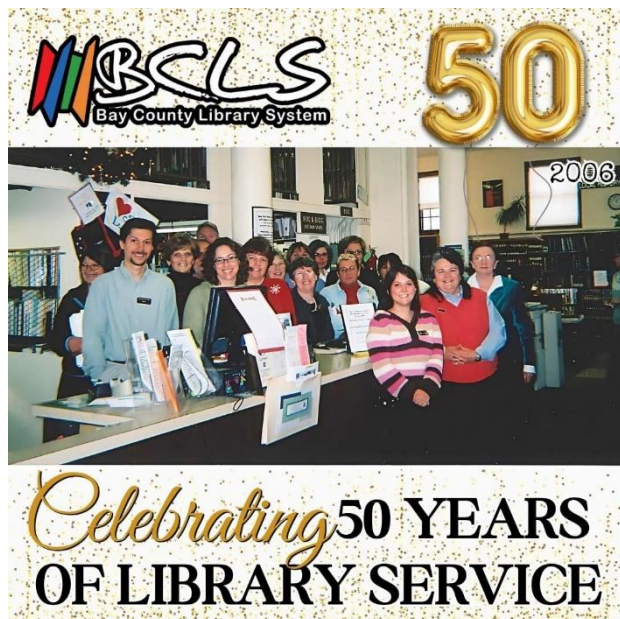
February 11th – Judy Nimer – French Migrations Out of Quebec

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!



See if you can spot one of our members

****source Wirt Library Facebook Page**



And after just 10 generations you then have

2048
4096
8192
16384
32768
65536
131072
262144
524288
1048576

One million in only twenty generations!

Merry Christmas 

****source The Genealogy Squad 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 Conner |
| 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