

# The Clarion

Bay County Genealogical Society of Michigan

Volume 56

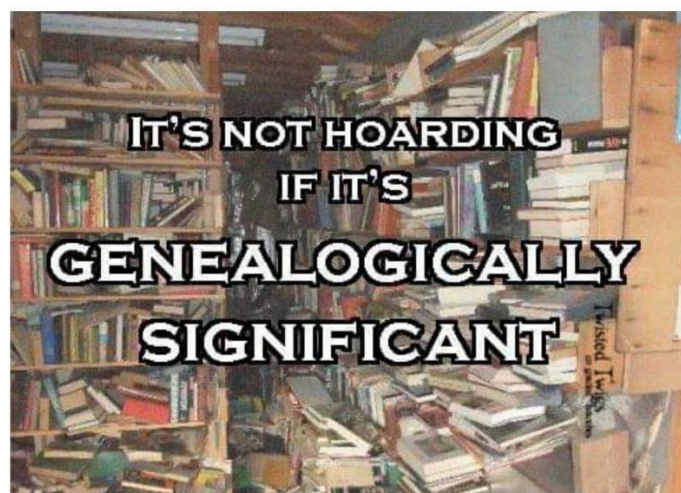
Issue #2

April - June 2025

## WARM AFTERNOONS OF SPRING



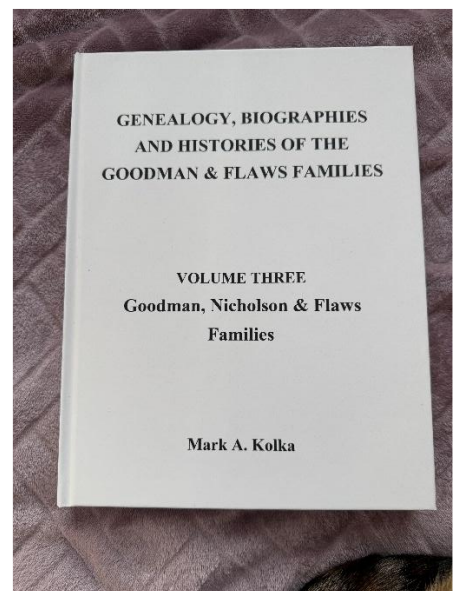
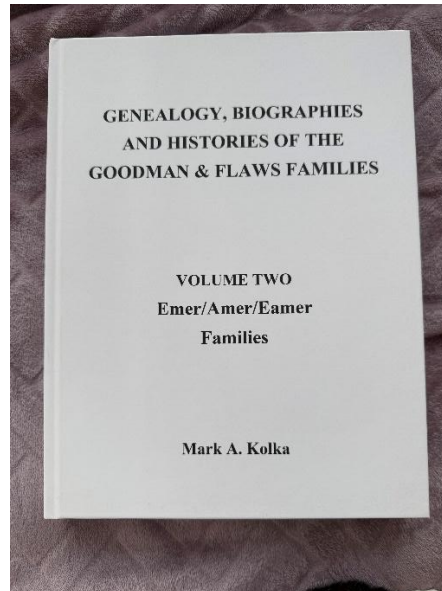
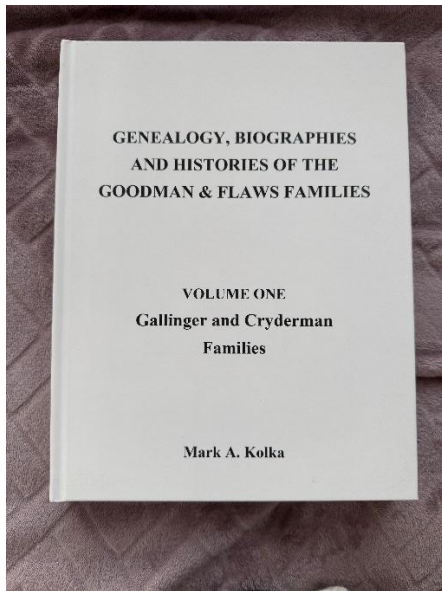
\*\*FROM FB TWISTED TWIGS PAGE



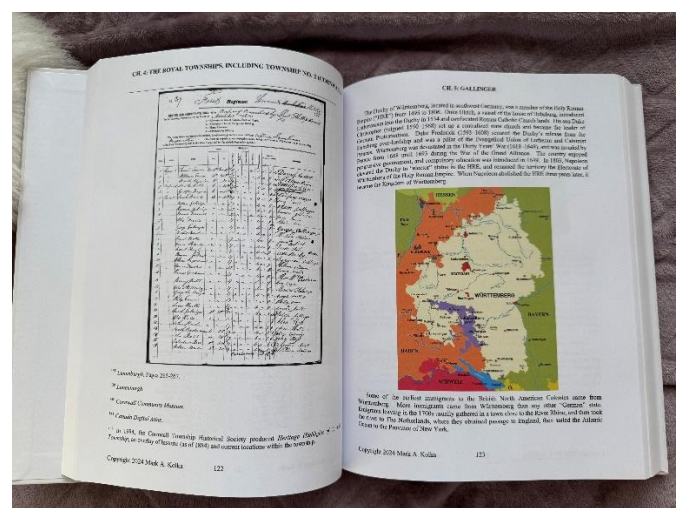
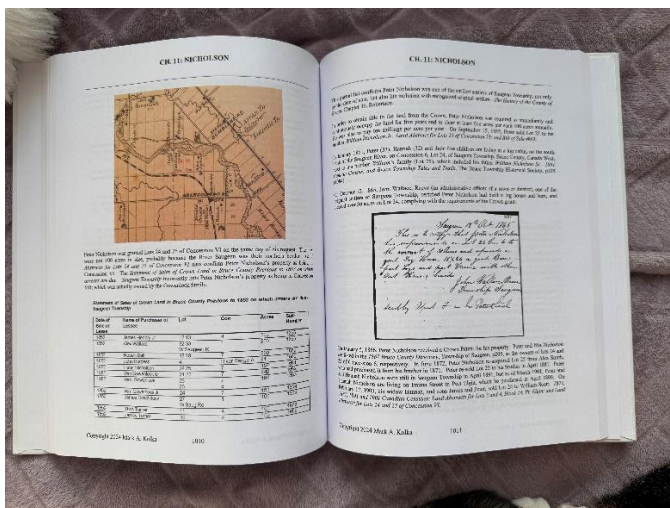
\*\*FROM FB THE ANCESTOR HUNT PAGE

# New Books in Our Library

## Donated by Mark Kolka



We received a very generous donation from Mr. Kolka. He has spent many years compiling his family genealogy and has printed it out in three volumes. If anyone would like to borrow them for research, please let me know and I will make them available to you.



# **In Remembrance:**

## **Norma J. Campbell (Sauer)**

**December 9, 1937 — February 23, 2025**

**Bay City, Michigan**

**Norma J. Campbell (Sauer) passed away on Sunday, February 23, 2025, at Toni and Trish House with her family by her side at the age of 87. Born on December 9, 1937, in Bay City, Michigan, Norma lived a life rich in love, family, and unwavering dedication to her community.**



**Norma was known for her deep family values, and her greatest joys were found in the cherished moments spent with her loved ones. She was a devoted mother to her children, Sherry Simons, Sandra Simons, Lori (Robert) Gaul, and Michelle Simons. The warmth of her nurturing spirit extended to her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, to whom she imparted wisdom and love.**

**An independent woman with an engaging personality, Norma thrived on connections with others. She enjoyed sharing stories and conversations, often bringing people together with her warm charm. Her generous heart knew no bounds, often extending her compassion as she sent monthly payments to aid the homeless, reflecting her commitment to helping those in need.**

**Norma's passions included playing bingo and engaging in crafts, hobbies that allowed her to express her creativity and connect with friends. She was a prominent figure in the community as the President of the Bay County Genealogical Society, a position that showcased her dedication to preserving family histories and community ties.**

**Norma is survived by her siblings, Patricia Hubbard, Robert (Fran) Sauer, George Sauer, Kay Nagel, Dennis (Sherry) Sauer, and Don (Edna) Sauer; along with her step-children, Keith (Sharon) Campbell, and Kevin (Cheri) Campbell. Each of these relationships contributed to the tapestry of her life and the legacy she leaves behind.**

**She is preceded in death by her husband, Earl L. Campbell; her parents, Clarence and Bertha (Schultz) Sauer; her son, Gerald Simons; her step-children, Barry Campbell and Stacey Jakobi; and her brother and sisters-in-law, William Hubbard, Marty Sauer, and Richard Nagel.**

**As we remember Norma J. Campbell, we celebrate her life as one that exemplified love, independence, and a strong commitment to both family and community, leaving behind a lasting legacy that will continue to inspire all who knew her.**

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**Norma Campbell was a member of our society for many years and served as President for 3 of them. She helped with our data collections and was very supportive of moving our collections to the Wirt Library so the public would have a place to do their research. Thank you, Norma, for your dedication to genealogy and our Society**



# Have You Ever Tried These Resources?

By Mary McManman

## HeritageHub

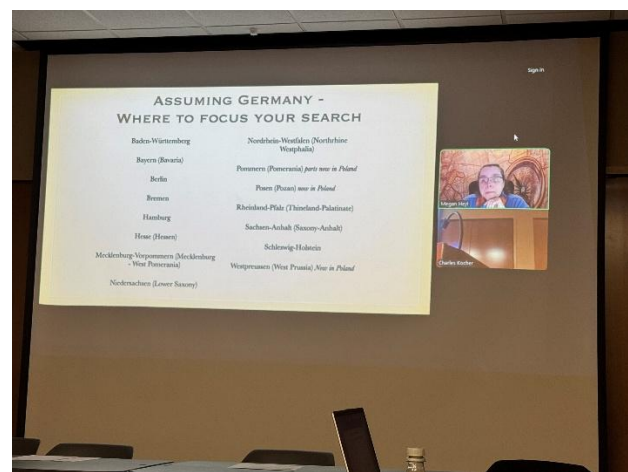
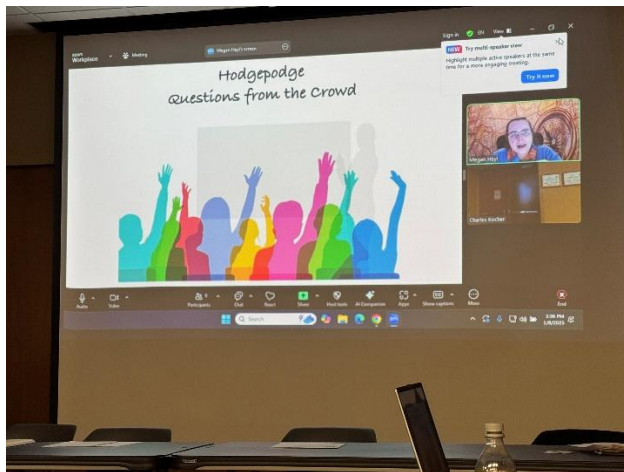
HeritageHub is a database of obituaries and death notices from newspapers from all over the United States. It is now available at the Bay County Library System both in house and remotely from the library website for Bay County residents with their library card. Give it a try!

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## A Look Back at Our Last Meetings:

### January 8<sup>th</sup> – Megan Heyl – “From the Crowd – Lot of Questions & Answers”

Megan presented her most asked questions taken from her various speaking engagements along with the answers. She covered a wide variety of stuff including: color coding, free websites, subscriptions, foreign research. She recommends double checking all research.



**February 12<sup>th</sup>** – This meeting was cancelled due to a snow storm.

### **March 12<sup>th</sup> – Derek Blount – Great Midwest Fires of 1871 & 1881**

October 8, 1871 is well known as the day of the Great Chicago Fire. But Chicago wasn't the only place that burned. Derek Blount told us about the many fires in Michigan. All were the result of a drought that Summer, dry brush left over from

lumbering and very high winds. There were fires in Holland, Manistee and Port Huron as well as the Thumb. Losses were great but difficult to document. It happened again in the Thumb ten years later on September 5, 1881. Did any of your ancestors survive these fires?

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## **Future Meeting Dates:**

**April 9<sup>th</sup> – Justin Frost – Repairing, Cleaning, & Researching Random Headstones**

**May 14<sup>th</sup> – Jeff Mason – Breaking Down Brick Walls & Revising Dead Ends**

**June 11<sup>th</sup> – Pot Luck & Auction**

**July & August – No Meetings**

**September 10<sup>th</sup> - TBD**

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## **Website-FaceBook-Plus**

**By Charles Kocher**

**Facebook (Bay County Genealogical Society-Michigan)**

**Facebook (Bay County Genealogical Society-Michigan)**

As of April 6, 2025, there are 376 members in the Society's Facebook group. As mentioned in a previous column, a person must be a group member to post something on the Facebook page, and even though all 376 members aren't posting, they do come to see what's going on.

Besides postings from people asking for help in their research, there are postings about Society activities such as genealogy classes for the public, upcoming doings at the Society meetings, what's new on the website, etc.

**Website (baymigenesoc.com)**

Since the last issue of the "Clarion", the following two additions have been placed on the website. The first are items from the July 14, 1931, issue of the Bay City Times and the second are 1904 marriage indexes and 1904 marriage records. Marriages now span from 1904 through 1933, inclusive. Unless somebody wants to continue adding them to the collection, no more will be added.

Since the beginning of the year, there have been 162 site visitors. 123 of those visitors are first timers. Here are the countries where the viewers are located, Bangladesh (5), Canada (5), China (1),

United Kingdom (1), Poland (1), and United States (149). Those from the United States came from the following states, California (2), Colorado (4), Connecticut (1), Florida (11), Georgia (1), Illinois (6), Indiana (3), Kansas (11), Kentucky (1), Michigan (85), Minnesota (4), Missouri (1), North Carolina (5), Nebraska (1), New Jersey (1), New York (1), Ohio (2), Oregon (1), Pennsylvania (1), Texas (4), Washington (1), and Wisconsin (2).

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I AM A  
FAMILY  
HISTORIAN

TWISTED TWIGS

TO SAVE TIME,  
LET'S JUST ASSUME  
THAT I AM  
NEVER WRONG

**\*\*From Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches Genealogy**

## Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held in the Community Room  
at Wirt Library

Time: 5:30-7:30 pm

|                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| September 11 <sup>th</sup>   | March 12 <sup>th</sup> |
| October 9 <sup>th</sup>      | April 9 <sup>th</sup>  |
| November 12 <sup>th</sup> ** | May 14 <sup>th</sup>   |
| December 11 <sup>th</sup>    | June 11 <sup>th</sup>  |
| January 8 <sup>th</sup>      | July No Meeting        |
| February 12 <sup>th</sup>    | August No Meeting      |

\*\*Tuesday 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:** baymigen soc.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