

# The Clarion

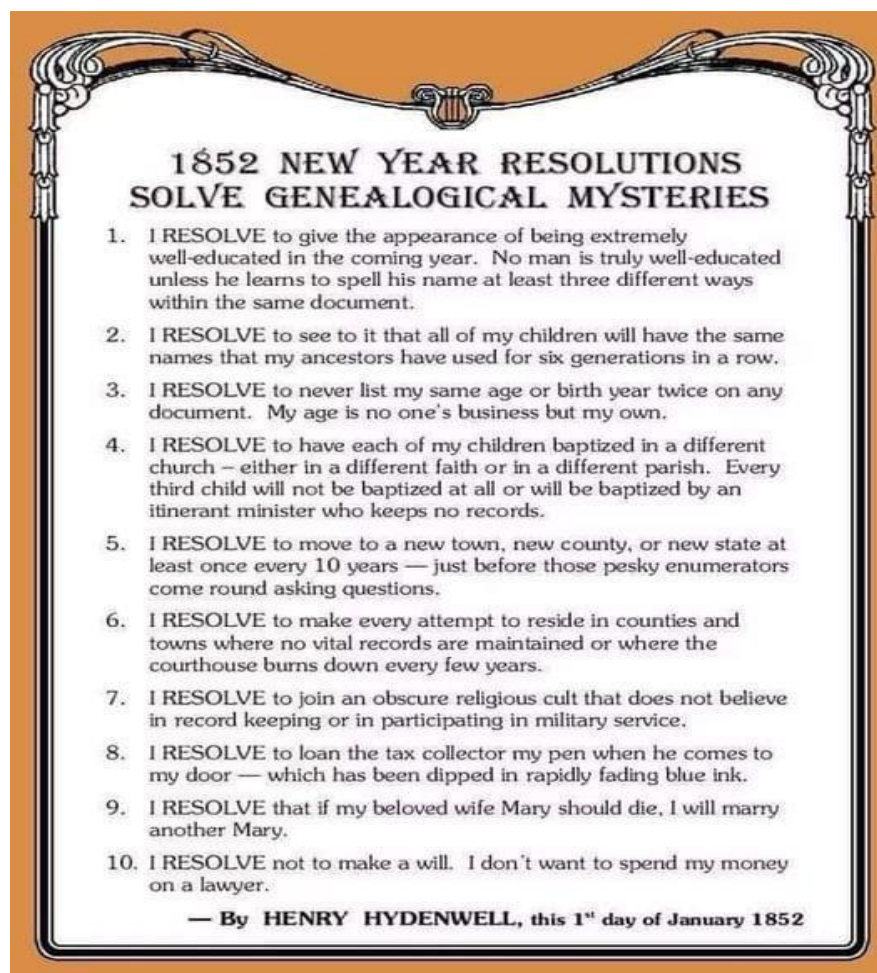
Bay County Genealogical Society of Michigan

Volume 55

Issue #1

January-March 2024

## It's a Leap Year!



\*\*Source: Picture found on FaceBook page Genealogy Squad

# LEAP YEAR DAY AND YOUR RELATIVES

Published on Familytree.com

SHARE THIS: [Facebook](#) [Pinterest](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#)



Here is that special day once every four years where an extra day is added to the calendar to keep in line with seasons and astronomical events – calendars because the earth does not orbit around the sun in precisely 365 days. Since one can not add a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a day, the four quarters will make one day, so one extra day every four years is the solution.

To keep the adjustments actuate over centuries there were and will be certain years which would have had a leap day, but do not. Some more recent years without a leap day were 1700, 1800 and 1900. Now the year 2000 did have a leap day but the next century mark not having a leap year will be 2100, followed by 2200, etc. The every four years pattern of adding a leap day would continue with; 1804, 1808, 1812, 1816, 1820, 1824, 1828, 1832, 1836, 1840, 1844, 1848, 1852, 1856, 1860, 1864 and so on.

So if you have done any amount of research on your ancestors, you could easily have at least one and maybe more relatives who were born, married or died on that leap day of February 29th. For those individuals born on a leap day, they are typically known as 'leaper' or 'leapling.' It is up to the family or individual of whether they recognize and celebrate their birthday on the non-leap years, either on February 28th or March 1st. The individual can really only count the actual birth age when February 29th occurred, which would be once every four years. So that person would only be one-fourth their age. The laws even vary across states and countries of what is legally a leaper's birthday.

Some of the famous and notable people born on February 29th over the decades include: Ann Lee, born 1736 in Manchester England, went on begin the Shaker religion movement; John Phillip Holland, born in 1828 in Ireland, who designed and constructed the first submarine for U.S. Navy; William A. Wellman, born in 1896 in U. S. who directed the 1928 movie 'Wings'; Jimmy Dorsey, born 1904 in U. S. who became a famous saxophonist, conductor, songwriter and composer; Dinah Shore, born 1916 in U. S., a renown actress, singer and television show host; and Jack Lousma, born in 1936 in U. S. who became an astronaut serving on Skylab 3 flight in 1973 and Columbia Space Shuttle in 1982.

A rare occurrence was in the Henriksen family of Norway. Three children of the family were born on February 29th; a daughter Heidi in 1960, a son, Olav in 1964 and then a son, Leif-Martin born in 1968.

Many couples like to select that special and unique February 29th as a wedding date. That may have been the case with an ancestor or two in your family. An interesting tradition started in Europe in the 1600s and well into the 20th century of making it permissible for females to propose marriage on February 29th to a male and that he had to accept. It would be the one time every four years that a girl had a chance to snag a husband.

Dying on February 29, a relative would generally not have too much of a selection of that date. There have been numerous notorious people who died on that rare day. There was Pat Garrett, a renowned west sheriff who was killed in N. M. in 1908; Ernie Courtney, a professional baseball player, died in 1920; Tom Davies, a professional football player died in 1972 and Jerome Lawrence, a screenwriter, author and playwright who died in 2004.

I found one ancestor in my own tree who was born February 29, 1836 and another born in 1892. Then two different couples who had married February 29, one in 1880 and the other in 1888 and one ancestor who died February 29, 1880. Note, the one that died in 1880 was the father of the girl born in 1836, the same family.

So there can be some interesting finds in checking out your ancestors and Leap Year.



## **Future Meeting Dates:**

**January 17<sup>th</sup> – Megan Heyl: Operation Spring Cleaning: Organizing Your Stuff**

**February 14<sup>th</sup> – Mark Mullinax: Researching Immigration and Naturalization Records**

**March 13<sup>th</sup> – Megan Heyl: Timelines: Putting Your Life on the Line**



## **In Remembrance**



### **Mary Louise Buzzard**

Mary L. Buzzard, age 84, passed away Friday, October 20, 2023. She was born in Bay City Michigan March 24, 1939 to the late Hawley and Gladys (Penhale) Alcorn. Mary worked with Girl Scouts for 25 years, was a DNR Trail Guide at the Bay City State Park for 10 years, a member of the Sunset Astronomical Society, a Life Member of the Michigan Audubon Society, a member of the Saginaw Valley Audubon Society, the Bay County Rock & Mineral Society, the Ole Thyme Herb Society, and the Grand Squares Square Dance Club. In addition, Mary earned an LPN certification early in her life and applied those skills to help other organizations which she volunteered for. She is survived by her children, Bryan C. (Lori) Buzzard of Saginaw, Troy Darryn Buzzard of Bay City, Heidi E. Buzzard of Chicago, IL, and Heather C. Buzzard of Los Angeles, CA; 8 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; and a brother, Ivor C. (Nancy) Alcorn of Bay City. She was predeceased by her husband Lloyd; and her brother, Hawley P. (Jeannie) Alcorn of Bay City. To sign online guestbook, visit [www.hyattewald.com](http://www.hyattewald.com) Arrangements made with the Hyatt Ewald Funeral Home, 700 N. Monroe St., Bay City, Michigan



## Cathy Lynn Francke

Cathy Lynn Francke, 70, of Essexville, our fun-loving, kind, caring, and beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and cherished friend passed away peacefully on October 11, 2023 at Brian's House with her family by her side. Cathy was born on August 26, 1953, the daughter of the late John and Marion (Hoffman) Miller in Glen Ridge, New Jersey. Born and raised in the vibrant state of New Jersey, Cathy was known for her outgoing and fun-loving nature. Growing up in the heart of the Garden State, she embraced her Jersey Girl roots and carried that vibrant energy with her throughout her life.

Cathy brought joy and love into the lives of all who knew her. Her departure has left a void in the hearts of many, but her vivacious spirit and zest for life will forever be remembered.

Cathy graduated from Glen Ridge High School and earned her master's degree from the University of Arizona. While living in Arizona, she caught the eye of Bradley Francke at her apartment complex; they dated, fell in love, and were united in marriage on November 20, 1982. Their love and partnership were a testament to their strong bond, and a great legacy that they will leave with their children in the years to come.

Cathy dedicated her professional life to helping others as a Registered Dietitian. With a passion for health and wellness, she guided countless individuals on their path to achieving optimal well-being. Her dedication and expertise in her field made a lasting impact on those she encountered. She worked for Mid-Michigan and then later for McLaren Bay Region. She was certified in diabetes education and a past president of the Michigan Dietetic Association. Cathy found immense joy sharing her knowledge of wellness and nutrition with her patients.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Cathy had a deep love for genealogy. She spent countless hours researching her family's history, uncovering stories from the past, and connecting with long-lost relatives. Her passion for understanding her roots highlighted her compassion and the importance she placed on family bonds.

Cathy leaves to carry on her legacy her loving husband, Bradley; children, Patrick (Tiffany) Francke, Daniel Francke, and Cheryl (Gregory) Farver; grandchildren, Madison Francke, Joseph Francke, and Armonti Farver, and brother, John (Donna) Miller. Along with her parents, Cathy was welcomed home to heaven by her siblings, Kenneth Miller and Jeanne Maurer.

Cathy's family will be present to receive visitors on Saturday, November 11, 2023 from 2:00 PM until Cathy's 5:00 PM Life Celebration at Skorupski Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 821 N. Pine Rd., between Ridge & Center. Interment will be held privately at Floral Gardens. Memorial contributions may be directed to the American Diabetes Association, Brian's House, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Expressions of sympathy may be shared with the family online at [www.skorupskis.com](http://www.skorupskis.com)

---

## Have You Ever Tried These Resources?

By Mary McManman

### Land Ownership Maps



**Plat maps showing ownership of farmland in Bay County can be found in the Local History and Genealogy Room at the Alice and Jack Wirt Public Library**

**County of Bay, Michigan D. A. Bullock and Co. 1896 Microfilm**

**County of Bay: State, County Township, City and Village Maps  
Monroe and Learman 1916 Microfilm**

**Plat Book of Bay County W. W. Hixson & Cp. 193? MI R 977.447 Bay**

~~~~~

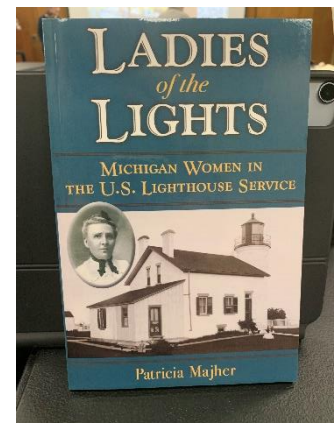
## **A Look Back at Our Last Meetings:**

**October 11<sup>th</sup> – Robyn HouseGuettler showed us many hand-made quilts that either came from her family or she stitched herself.**



**November 15<sup>th</sup> - Patricia Majher's topic on Women Lighthouse Keepers was very interesting. In fact, we recommend you read her book, pictured here:**

**Dec 11<sup>th</sup> – The party was a hit. The food was excellent, and Charlie's jokes were very funny! The auction**





# Website-FaceBook-Plus

By Charles Kocher

## Facebook (Bay County Genealogical Society-Michigan)

As of December 10, 2023, there are 334 members of our Facebook group.

A former Bay County, Michigan, resident, who now lives on the west side of the State, posted a request-for-help to get her great-great-grandmother's marriage record. As is usually the case, a member found the record she was looking for.

Her request was read by 178 people, which reminded me of how much of a resource Facebook can be. Granted there is a lot of bad stuff on the site, but there are over 16,000 groups dedicated to genealogy. Nearly every Genealogy Society has a presence. All you must do is find the group that services the area you are researching and make your query known.

I volunteer in the genealogy room of the local library. When visitors who travel long distances get ready to leave, I tell them about our Facebook group and how much help our members can provide. Some groups do not do as much as we do, but you don't know until you ask. It is more economical and you encounter some of the good Facebook people.

## Website (baymigenoc.com)

In the last column, it was inferred that no more marriage records and indexes would be added to the records already on the site. Well, that statement did not hold up very long. 1905, 1910, and 1911 have been added.

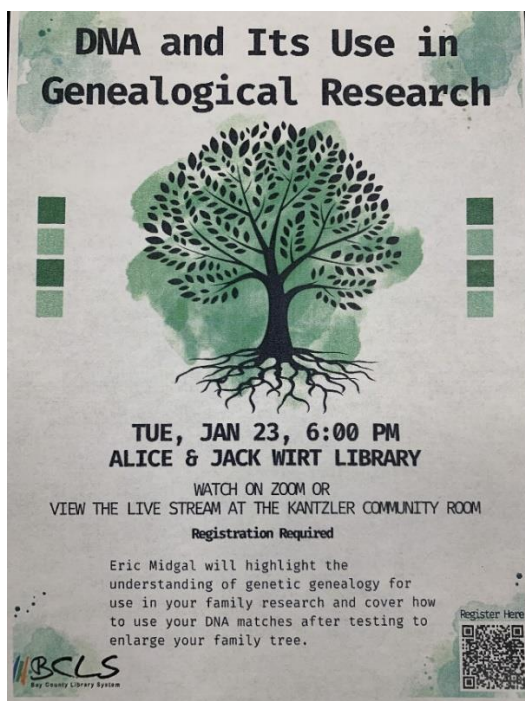
In the last 90 days there have been 126 visitors from twenty States, District of Columbia, Poland, Philippines, Netherlands, Canada, and Germany.

While tidying up the "Newsletter" page, I read an item in the March 1993, issue of the "Clarion." It pertained to a large amount of genealogy material that was donated by the Bay County Genealogical Society, several years previous, to the Bay County Library System branch library formerly located at 708 Center Avenue. That library was very

small compared to the current library. The Branch Librarian notified the Society that it was concerned by the lack of use of this material, which the membership did not even know was there.

The library had limited space and was informing the Society that if people did not use the material, it would be replaced by items that *will* be used by the community. The story mentioned that the library would help researchers find the material.

(A personal note: If I remember correctly, the material was stored on shelves in the basement, and there was a small table to work at.)



### Intro to Genealogy Databases at the Library

Saturday, February 10, 2024  
9:30 am -11:30 am  
2nd Floor Community Room  
Wirt Library

Learn how use *Ancestry Library Edition* and *MyHeritage Library Edition* in your family research

Print or save your research documents electronically

Registration begins  
Wednesday, January 10, 2024  
Ask at Reference Desk or Call 893-9566 ext. 5

Sponsored by BCLS  
and the Bay County Genealogical Society

### Discover Your Roots: Family History Research for Beginners

Saturday, February 03, 2024  
9:30 am -11:30 am  
2nd Floor Community Room  
Wirt Library

Learn how to find vital records and organize your research.

Find your family in the census using *Ancestry Library Edition*.

Registration begins  
Wednesday, January 03, 2024

Ask at Reference Desk or Call 893-9566 ext. 5

Sponsored by BCLS  
and the Bay County Genealogical Society

## Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held in the Community Room  
at Wirt Library

Time: 5:30-7:30 pm

|                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| September 13 <sup>th</sup> | March 13 <sup>th</sup> |
| October 11 <sup>th</sup>   | April 10 <sup>th</sup> |
| November 15 <sup>th</sup>  | May 8 <sup>th</sup>    |
| December 13 <sup>th</sup>  | June 5 <sup>th</sup>   |
| January 17 <sup>th</sup>   | July No Meeting        |
| February 14 <sup>th</sup>  | 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