

The Clarion

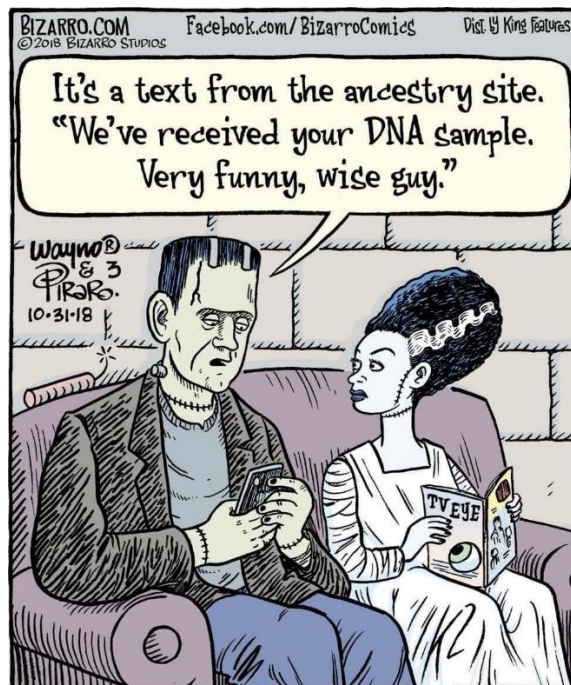
Bay County Genealogical Society of Michigan

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HAPPY SPOOKY HALLOWEEN



**Source: Picture found on Facebook page Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches Genealogy

In Remembrance



Russell S. Charbonneau

March 23rd, 1936 – September 15th, 2023

Russell passed away on Friday, September 15, 2023 at his home with his family by his side at the age of 87. The son of the late Edmond and Myrtle (Revord) Charbonneau was born March 23, 1936 in Bay City, Michigan. Russell was retired from Lake State Railroad/Detroit Mackinaw, he loved playing euchre, fishing and having coffee with his buddy's. Russell was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 2740 and the League of Catholic Men and Women. He loved his wife and cherished his family, his children are one of his greatest blessings.

Russell is survived by his wife of 65 years, Mary E. Charbonneau; six children, Maureen (Curt) Hoppe, Cheryl (James) Starkey, Mary E. (David) Heath, Russell (Joann) Charbonneau, Daniel (Sherri) Charbonneau and Timothy Charbonneau; 10 grandchildren, Brooke (Drew) Barnhill, Russell "R.J." Charbonneau Jr., Jennifer (Todd) Woloszyn, Jason Hoppe, Jarrod (Paige LaFave) Starkey, Tyler (Sydney) Starkey, Kara Charbonneau, Sarah (Montey) Wood, Morgan (David) Winters and Garrett (Alexis) Charbonneau; 11 great grandchildren, Cayden, Darian, Josh, Jace, Kylee, Bailey, Riley, Landon, Ethan, Eli and Leighton; special friend, Bud Leser. In addition to his parents he was also preceded in death by his sisters, Dorothy (Andrew) Bouza and Myrtle "Sy" Walczak; brothers, Wilford "Sonny" (Betty) Charbonneau and Kenneth "Chum" (Ruth) Charbonneau; nephew, Randy Charbonneau and great nephew, Michael Charbonneau Jr.

Funeral service will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at the Gephart Funeral Home. Officiating will be Hank Messing. Private inurnment will take place at Calvary Cemetery at a later date. Visitation will take place on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. until the time of service. In lieu of flowers the family would like you to have a special day with your family. Memorial cards for the wishes of the family will be available at the funeral home.

Notification Published by *Gephart Funeral Home*

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED THESE RESOURCES?

BY MARY MCMANMAN

VITAL RECORD INDEXES

These indexes, produced by the Bay County Clerk's Office, are available in the Local History and Genealogy Room at the Alice and Jack Wirt Public Library.

Bay County Death Index by Name 1914-2009. Volume 1-7
GEN R 977.447 Death

Bay County Marriage Index by Groom 1857-2009, 2010-2016. Volume 1-6
GEN R 977.447 Marriage

Bay County Marriage Index by Bride 1857-2009, 2010-2016. Volume 1-6
GEN R 977.447 Marriage

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## A LOOK BACK AT OUR LAST MEETING

September 13<sup>th</sup>: Christine Eckerle – Industrial Development in the Bay County Area following the Civil War

Location, Location, Location! It was the Saginaw River, access to Lake Huron and the temperate climate that fueled the growth of Bay City, Portsmouth, Hampton, Banks, Wenona and Salzburg into Bay City. Christine discussed the logs coming to the lumber mills along the river. A lot of lumber was shipped out but she pointed out that some was used for making barrels, boxes, picket fences, road planks, roofing shingles and ships right here! There was also commercial fishing in the Banks area and for some years money was made by producing salt from the brine water underground in the Valley. Chris brought it all to life for us with wonderful photographs.

# **BCGS Member Gives New Life for Old Gravestones**

**By Jim Verney (Vernier)**

**As a member of BCGS – my genealogical exploration led me from Bay County to Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan and my 37 ancestors buried at St. Paul's on the Lake Cemetery**

**The only thing I knew about my dad's family was that my grandfather, Charles F. Verney, was born in Bay City and was a Catholic. Upon my parents' deaths in 2017 and 2018 I found a biographical publication that was a family biographical piece done on my great grandfather. Through that document a lot of genealogical answers and information was presented and research work for the future was upcoming.**

**I learned through the assistance of Mary McManman from BCGS through her research and through my grandfather's 1892 biographical piece that the family name had changed from Vernier to Verney. Our assumption it was for business reason's because an English last name was more beneficial than a French last name.**

**My ancestors, John (Jean) Baptiste (D 1834) and Catherine Billiau Vernier (D 1831) have two of the oldest gravestones in the five communities that make up Grosse Pointe. They were buried originally either on the family French ribbon farm or behind the old St. Paul's on the Lake Catholic Church.**

**In 1868 St. Paul's bought 1.86 acres from the Moross family for \$425 for a cemetery. The location of the cemetery is on Moross Road at Country Club Lane in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan.**

**The original gravestones were in tough shape. In fact, Catherine Vernier's was broken in two pieces. I called the Church to see what could be done to restore the original gravestones. The answer was good news and bad news: The parish sexton takes care of the lawn, trees, fences etc. but the families are to take care of the gravestones.**

**I asked for permission to replace the old gravestones with new slate gravestones in honor of my ancestors. With permission in hand, I went about finding a source for new gravestones. David Gillespie, a hand stone engraver from Pumpkintown, South Carolina was an answer to a prayer.**

David encouraged the purchase of slate gravestone, due to their long-term durability and readability. Examples in Ireland Scotland show examples convinced me about slate. David completes one gravestone a month and we were on a wait list.

Long story, short! The new gravestones were transported from South Carolina to Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan and installed on Monday, July 24, 2023. We will hold a Blessing and Dedication on Thursday September 28, 2023, at the Cemetery.

The original stones have become part of the new garden at the Provencal-Weir House, which is the historical home of an early Grosse Pointe family. Through our collective efforts a part of Grosse Ponte Farms and family history have been saved for future generations.

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Blessing and Dedication of the Vernier **HEADSTONES**

By Mary McManman



Kathleen Doerr and I were able to attend the blessing and dedication of the new Vernier headstones at St. Paul on the Lake Cemetery in Grosse Pointe Farms on September 28th. The evening before we attended a program on the History of the Vernier Family and St. Paul on the Lake Cemetery at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society History Center presented by Jim Verney and local author and researcher, Katie Doelle. We were very happy to see all of Jim's work come to fruition!



Website-FaceBook-Plus

By Charles Kocher

Facebook (Bay County Genealogical Society-Michigan)

Members-328

Posted on the site: "While going through my 1940 census records, I saw two in which the wife listed that her occupation was housekeeper, worked 52 weeks a year, and her wages were 0." To which a commenter wrote, "Slavery."

Website (baymigenoc.com)



At the Society meetings, the website report sometimes includes statistics gleaned from analytics of the website provided by the site host, WIX. The September meeting report covered the ninety days since the last meeting in June. It stated that there were 176 visitors from 21 States, France, and Poland. This was fun news. At least people are looking at the site, and the Society isn't wasting members' money.

The second part of the website report mentioned pages that are visited, concentrating on the "Marriage Index" and Marriage Records" pages. It was reported that there were 51 visits to the "Marriage Index" and 2 visits to the "Marriage Records." This signaled that visitors were looking at the index, but not finding an ancestor due to the years available in the "Marriage Records", 1912-1933 inclusive, with no current plans to add more years.

After further review, it was discovered that the wrong analytic report from WIX was used to compile the number of visitors to the above pages. The numbers, mentioned above, came from a Landing report that counts what page people see when they first arrive. What should have been used was WIX's Page Visits report, which lists how many times all pages are viewed. That report showed 68 "Marriage Index" page visits and 18 "Marriage Record" visits. It would have been a more uplifting and inspiring report.

Seeing that people are interested in marriage records, maybe the project should be restarted. Members of the Society have transcribed marriage records dating back to 1857. The process of getting the transcribed records onto the website is time intensive. Uploading them to the site is easy. It's the preparation that takes a long time. Some of the transcribed records are digitized but need to be put in the proper syntax. Others are only on paper and must be digitized, not by copying them, but by manually recreating them in the proper form.



FUTURE MEETING DATES:

Due to some scheduling clashes with Wirt Library, a few of our meetings will have to be held on different Wednesdays. A full meeting schedule for the year is listed below. The changes will be highlighted.

November 15th – Patricia Majher: Women Lighthouse Keepers in MI

December 13th – Christmas Potluck Party!

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

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

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

April 10th – TBD

May 8th – TBD

June 5th – End of Year Potluck Party!

July/August – Off for the Summer

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