

# The Clarion

Bay County Genealogical Society of Michigan

Volume 54

Issue #1

January-March 2023

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## Happy New Year!

Greetings and Welcome to this new edition of the Clarion. We hope you all had a wonderful holiday, filled with family and friends, making new memories and traditions. Let us start this year's first edition with the Genealogist's Prayer:

Lord, help me dig into the past  
And sift the sands of time.  
That I might find the roots that made  
This family tree mine.

Lord, help me trace the ancient roads  
On which my fathers trod  
And led them through so many lands  
To find our present sod.

Lord, help me find an ancient book  
Or dusty manuscript  
That's safely hidden now away  
In some forgotten crypt.

Lord, let it bridge the gap that haunts  
My soul, when I can't find  
The missing link between some name  
That ends the same as mine.

-Anonymous

# A Look Back at Our Last Four Meetings:

**September 14<sup>th</sup>:**

**Rob Clark spoke about the history of the Michigan Sugar Company. It produces 1.3 Billion pounds of sugar annually. Its products include Big Chief & Pioneer Sugar. It is the third largest sugar company in the United States and it generates “one half billion dollars in direct economic activity” in the local areas. It is also owned and operated by local growers.**



**- Rob Clark and the BCG Society**

**October 12<sup>th</sup>:**

**Matt Pacer is the reference director of the Library of MI. He gave a brief history of the library; how long they have existed and what kind of materials you can find in their collection. Then he discussed how we can access their materials thru Michigan e-library or [www.mel.org](http://www.mel.org). You can obtain a digital library card at [www.Michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan](http://www.Michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan).**

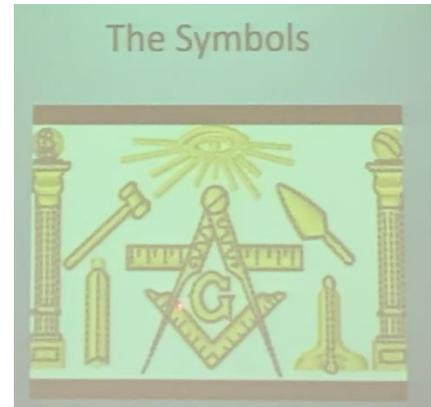
**As a side note, he said that he is always looking to add any genealogy reference book(s) to their collection. So if you are looking to downsize your collection, send him an email on what you are getting rid of. Chances are, if he doesn't have it already, he will take it off your hands.**



**- Matt Pacer**

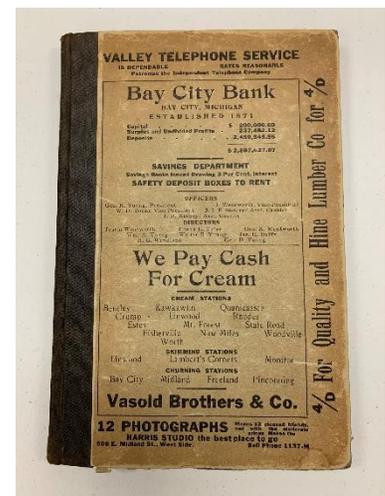
## November 9<sup>th</sup>:

Dirk Hughes, the director from the Michigan Masonic Museum and Library, gave us a great overview of the history of Masonry in Michigan. He showed us what to look for on gravestones to indicate if the person was a member. If you have any questions, you can send him an email and he will do his best to find out the answer.



## December 14<sup>th</sup>:

Charlie Kocher talked to us about our Facebook page and how it helped a couple of people connect over old family photos. Mary McManman received a book donation in the mail. The book is called "Bay County Rural Directory" and it is estimated to have been published between 1913 and 1920. It contains names and route #s for the rural areas plus possible land values of those properties. Mary suggested we donate it to the Genealogy Room in Wirt Library so more people would have access to it. Everyone voted on it and agreed this was best.



The food at the party was delicious and a good time was had by all!



## Have You Ever Tried These Resources?

By Mary McManman

### CHURCH RECORDS

The following books are transcriptions of local church records in the Local History and Genealogy Room at the Alice and Jack Wirt Public Library:

**Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Bay City, Michigan  
Confirmations, Marriages, Burials  
1938-1999**

**Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Bay City, Michigan  
Baptisms  
1938-1999**

**St. John's Lutheran of Amelith**  
**Baptisms 1853-1926**  
**Confirmations 1854-1912**  
**Marriages 1853-1926**  
**Deaths 1854-1925**

**St. John's Lutheran of Amelith**  
**Birth and Baptism 1927-1980**  
**Confirmation 1922-1980**  
**Marriage 1925-1984**  
**Death 1922-1980**

The following transcriptions of local church records are available in the Society's Private Library. Contact the Society at [bcgs13@yahoo.com](mailto:bcgs13@yahoo.com) for access.

**St. James Catholic Church  
Bay City, Michigan**  
**Deaths and Burials 1868-1920**  
**Marriages 1868-1920**  
**Baptisms 1868-1920**

# Out of the Box Ideas

By Heather Leser

What “out of the box” ideas have you used in your genealogy research? I have read several posts on Facebook in which people have done unique things in their research quests. This is mine.

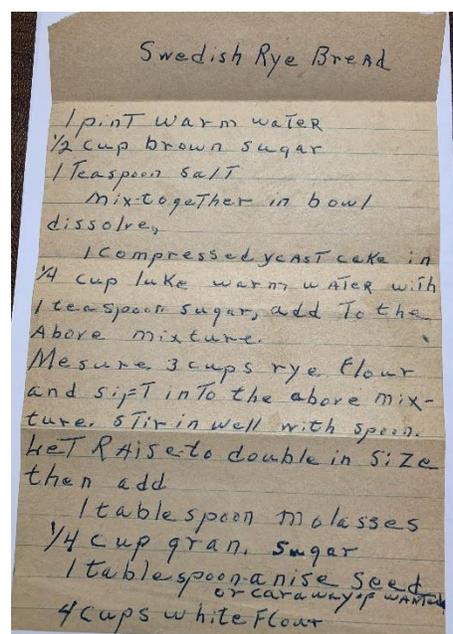
A few months ago, we moved my Grandmother into an assisted living facility. After a few mishaps at home, she decided it was for the best to do this. After all, she had just celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and felt she needed more help throughout her day than she was getting at home. After we finished moving her into her new home, we started the process of emptying out her condo. Everyone took a few mementos home and we prepared what was left for a living estate sale.

One job I took on for the family was organizing my Gramma’s recipe box and making copies of it for everyone. This had the potential of being a huge undertaking since my Gramma collected recipes from everywhere. She would bring them home from vacations she took and would write companies (this was very pre-internet) and request recipes for their product. If she ate something in a restaurant that she liked, she would ask how they made it. Let’s just say, her recipe box is bigger than a shoe box!

Anyway, after sorting the handwritten recipes from the magazine /newspaper clippings, I started to notice little notes on the cards related to the recipe: “Freddie’s Favorite” “Phil Loves this” “Went over well at family party”. One of the recipes was part of a letter my Grandma’s Mother wrote to her. It said this recipe was her famous Golden Surprise Cake and she had entered it into a contest and hoped it would win. I never knew she could cook let alone had entered cooking contests.

This led me to the idea that maybe I could learn a little bit more of my family thru these recipes. I took the box over to my Gramma and asked her to talk about where she got the recipes and what the history was behind them. Our talk lasted over two hours and covered only twenty recipes, but I got stories for each one and found a new way to research the women in my family, many of whom have very little about them in government records.

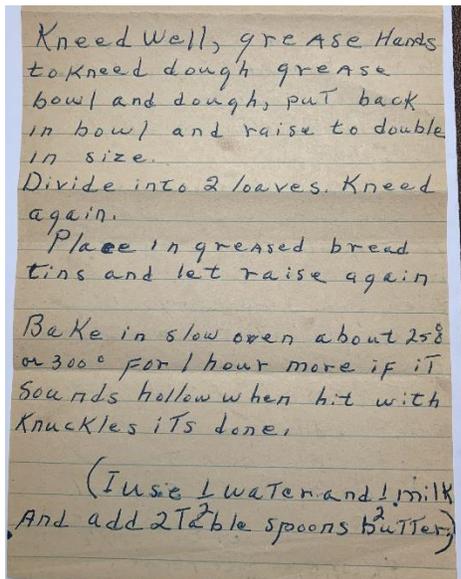
There was a recipe for Swedish Rye Bread that my Grandma absolutely loved. It belonged to my Grandfather’s Aunt who came from Sweden. Uncle Edwin and Aunt Jenny lived in Pennsylvania, and she was known for her baking.



Once she found out that my Gramma loved her bread, she always baked a loaf for her to take home after their visits. This little tidbit helped give a little insight into a woman whom I only had a few records of. Before, I only had her birth/marriage/death records and one picture. Now I can add a recipe to her bio and a note that she was a generous person who loved to bake.

I wrote down the stories in a notebook along with the names of the recipes. When I get them all sorted and ready to copy, I will include the stories so the rest of my family can enjoy learning something about the women in our family.

Now I can't wait to go back and look over more recipes with Grandma and learn a little bit more about her mother's recipe and whether or not she won her contest (the ingredients for the cake included Campbell's Tomato Soup in the cake & the frosting!).



Knead Well, grease Hands  
to knead dough grease  
bowl and dough, put back  
in bowl and raise to double  
in size.  
Divide into 2 loaves. Knead  
again.  
Place in greased bread  
tins and let raise again  
  
Bake in slow oven about 208  
or 300° for 1 hour more if it  
sounds hollow when hit with  
knuckles it's done.  
  
(Use 1 water and 1 milk  
And add 2 Table spoons butter)

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## Website-FaceBook-Plus

By Charles Kocher

This column will mostly inform the reader about the Bay County Genealogical Society of Michigan's (BCGS) website ([baymigenoc.com](http://baymigenoc.com)) and the Facebook page (Bay County Genealogical Society Michigan), and periodically there will be other items that may be of interest.

Initially, this column will inform the reader of what is currently on the website. To keep viewers coming back to a particular website, it needs to be updated occasionally. Therefore, later columns will update you on changes that were made and what changes are coming.

The Society's Facebook group has, at this writing, 295 members. That number does not include all of the members of the Society. So, again, like the website, you will be told what is provided on the group page. The Facebook page is more of a "here and now" page. Group members add items they think are of interest to the readers. So, the column will mention items of interest that were written. There may also be items about topics other than the website and Facebook, such as using Zoom, new equipment, and other websites.

I hope I can keep you informed enough to keep you coming back to the website, make the Facebook page friendly enough for you to create a Facebook account and join the group, and provide information generally to keep you reading this column

# In Remembrance: Louise Krease



Louise Marie Krease, 86 of Charleston, South Carolina, peacefully passed away on Saturday, December 31, 2022. Born on June 29, 1936, in Bay City, MI to the late Herman and Helen (Ruhnau) Voight. Louise was a devoted member of St. James Catholic Church in Bay City, MI and Our Lady of Good Counsel, Folly Beach, SC in recent years. Louise completed high school at St. James Catholic High School in 1954 and she went on to study nursing at College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati Ohio receiving her BSN in 1958. Louise went on to work in the field of nursing for the next four decades. Louise met and married Frederick Krease (deceased) in 1959 and went on to have a family of 7

children. In addition to spending time with friends and family in retirement, Louise volunteered for several organizations, enjoyed watching movies and was an avid reader. Her passions included traveling around Michigan singing with her choir/choral groups. Louise is survived by her seven children: Patrick (Cheryl) Krease, David (Deb) Krease, Marianne Krease, Jane (Robert) Hardacre, Valerie (Joseph) Alessandro, Andrew Krease and Kevin Krease. She had 5 grandchildren: Stephanie, Joseph, Nicholas, Grant, and Lily. In addition to her parents, Louise was preceded in death by her sister, Katherine (Voight) Krzewinski and numerous family and friends. Expressions of sympathy may be viewed or submitted online at [mcalister-smith.com/](http://mcalister-smith.com/). Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to McAlister-Smith Funeral & Cremation James Island, 347 Folly Rd, Charleston, SC 29412, 843-614-8494. A memorial service and private interment will take place in Bay City, Michigan in the spring.

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## Future Speakers:

**January 11<sup>th</sup>: Ginger Ogilvie – Steps to Take After DNA Testing**

**February 8<sup>th</sup>: Possibly a Presentation on the Occupations of our Ancestors from 1850-1950.**

**March 8<sup>th</sup>: Jean White – The French Loyalists in Canada**

**April 12<sup>th</sup>: Kris Rzepczynski – Digital News: Genealogy Research in Online Newspapers**

## Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held in the Community Room  
at Wirt Library

Time: 5:30-7:30 pm

September 14 <sup>th</sup>	March 8 <sup>th</sup>
October 12 <sup>th</sup>	April 12 <sup>th</sup>
November 9 <sup>th</sup>	May 10 <sup>th</sup>
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	June 14 <sup>th</sup>
January 11 <sup>th</sup>	July No Meeting
February 8 <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

## 2022-2023 BCGS Officers

President	Kathleen Doerr
Vice President	Charles Kocher
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.