

# The Clarion

Bay County Genealogical Society of Michigan

Volume 54

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July-September 2023

## Happy Fourth of July!



## In Remembrance



### **Ralph C. McCollum**

January 13th, 1932 - April 26th, 2023

Ralph, age 91, passed away at MyMichigan Medical Center Midland Wednesday evening, April 26, 2023. He was born on January 13, 1932 in Saginaw, Michigan to the late Lafe and Mina (Allen) McCollum. He accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior on May 22, 2022. Ralph served in the Korean War and loved his Country. He retired from Saginaw-Midland Water Supply in 1990. He enjoyed many years of hunting, fishing and traveling in the U.P.

Ralph married Sally Russell on August 11, 1956. They have been married for 66 years and have been blessed with three children, 12 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren. He leaves daughter, Diana Lynn and son, Richard Lafe and their families; brother, Lon; sisters, Joy and Gay and their families and brother-in-law, Bob. Gone before Ralph was his son, Randy; his parents; great grandson, William and siblings, Osgood, Forrest, Sis and Jill.

In honoring the wishes of Ralph, cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. at the Gephart Funeral Home. Officiating will be Pastor Stanley Dulaney. The family will be present to receive visitors on Saturday at the funeral home from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

## Heather Lynn Passariello



October 23, 1973 ~ April 30, 2023

Heather Lynn Passariello, 49, of Bay City, our helpful, friendly, and most compassionate wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, and loyal friend was born into eternal life on Sunday, April 30, 2023 at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

Heather was born in Bay City on October 23, 1973, the daughter of the former Maureen Micho and the late Gary Tewksbury. She was a 1991 graduate of All Saints High School and went on to attend Delta College. While at All Saints, Heather met Anthony Passariello. They dated, fell in love, and the high school sweethearts were united in marriage on October 25, 1997 in St. Boniface Church. Their 25 years were blessed with two sons and countless memories. Heather worked at Brookdale in Saginaw as the Life Enrichment Coordinator; a position she truly loved. Touching the lives of countless, Heather never met a stranger. In her free time, she enjoyed bird watching, was a member of the Audubon Society, and had a special affection for hummingbirds and bald eagles. She also enjoyed genealogy and was an avid contributor on Ancestry.com and FindAGrave.com. Heather and Tony enjoyed camping in their travel trailer, "Little Red," along with trips to Hawaii on their first

and 25th wedding anniversaries. Heather's humorous and nurturing ways will forever live on in the hearts of her friends and family for generations to come.

To carry on her legacy, Heather leaves her husband of 25 years, Anthony Passariello and their two sons, Michael Anthony Passariello and Matthew David Passariello; her parents, Maureen and Anthony Raymaker; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Michael and Susan Pasariello; sister, April (Chris) Greenleaf and their sons, Zachary and Nicholas; sister-in-law, Sara (Jason) Hartman and their children, Camden, Ella, and Amya; step-sister, Becky (T.J.) Spiegel and children, Scott (Amanda) and Tony (Anne); special friend, Kathy Maze; her extended Frankenlust Twp. Fire Dept. family, along with many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

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## Have You Ever Tried These Resources?

By Mary McManman

### Bay County Census Records

The 1884 and 1894 census for Bay County are available at [Michiganology.org](http://Michiganology.org). If you can't find your family there try the indexes below. The censuses are available on microfilm in the Local History and Genealogy Room at the Alice and Jack Wirt Public Library.

**1884 Census Index, Ward 1-3, Bay City, Michigan**

Compiled by Linda S. Theaker, Gen R 977.447 Census

**Index of 1884 Census of Michigan, Bay County, Bay City, Wards 4-7**

Indexed by Martha Roulund, Gen R 977.447 Census

**Index 1884 Michigan Census, West Bay City Wards & Bay County Twp**

Indexed by Martha Roulund, Gen R 977.447 Census

**1894 Census, West Bay City, Wards 1-6 Also Bangor and Beaver Twp,**

Gen R 977.447 Census

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*"An interest in Genealogy begins as a mild fever  
and ends up as an incurable disease."*

*By Lucy Mary Kellogg*

# Website-FaceBook-Plus

By Charles Kocher

## Website (baymigen soc.com)

This issue's column will give a description of what appears on the Bay County Genealogical Society (BCGS) website. The site is intended to promote the Society and to provide some genealogy related documents. There are a total of twelve pages. Nine are viewable by all site visitors and three are viewable only by current members.

### Viewable by All Site Visitors

The "Home" page is where people usually land when they first get there. Therefore, it informs the viewer about the Society, upcoming meetings, what is new on the website, and information about what was learned at the last Michigan Genealogical Council Delegate meeting. Under the "About Us" tab is the "Meetings" page and the "Membership" page. The "Meetings" page is where the monthly meetings dates are located, and how to attend the hybrid meetings. The "Membership" page provides information on how to join the Society. The "Publications" page has a list of all publications available for sale. All of them are also available at the Wirt Library in downtown Bay City, Michigan.

Under the "Research" tab are the "Queries", "Research Links", Marriage Records, and "Marriage Records Index" pages. The "Queries" page informs the viewer on how and where to get help. The "Research Links" page lists some genealogy related websites. The "Marriage Index" page is where viewers can see indexes to Bay County marriage records. The "Marriage Records" page is where the viewer can get access to transcribed Bay County marriage records that match the marriage record indexes. Currently 1912-1933. The "Genealogy Room" page provides information about the Wirt Library genealogy room, including the hours available and what is there. The "Newsletters" page is where BCGS newsletters dating from 1979 to the present can be viewed. There is also the current issue of the Michigan Genealogical Council newsletter.

### Viewable by Current Members (Password required)

Under the "BCGS Members" tab is a "Handouts" page, which contains an assortment of handouts provided by presenters. The Members only section also contains other documents.

That is what viewers can find by visiting the site. It is meant to be fluid. Meaning everything can change. Suggestions are always accepted. They may not be acted upon, but they will be considered.



# A Look Back at Our Last Four Meetings:

## April 12<sup>th</sup>: Kris Rzepczynski – Digital News (Online Newspapers)



Kris discussed the various sites available for looking at digitized newspaper articles. Some can be accessed from the Library of MI if you have a membership card. Other places to seek out news articles are national, state, & local repositories. Kris suggested “Keep an open mind – News articles could be found outside the area you are searching.”

## May 10<sup>th</sup>: Jessica M. Trotter – Cluster Research, or Discovering You’re Related to the Whole Block.

Many of our ancestors migrated with family groups, religious communities or communities reacting to changes in their environment but their relationships are not always obvious. Jessica suggests that when we research our direct lines using all the usual records (census, vital records, land records, probate, naturalization, passenger list, military records) we pay close attention and research siblings, in-laws, witnesses, friends and neighbors. Look for common birthplaces, surnames and first name patterns. Jessica showed us some great examples of how she found more relatives using this strategy!

## June 14<sup>th</sup>: Potluck & Brown Bag Auction



Elections were held with the majority voting for: Kathleen Doerr (Pres), Ruth Wilke (Vice Pres), Mary MacManman (Treasurer), & Judy Berner (Secretary). The food was delicious (as always) and the auction was very fun. We raised \$132.00!



# **MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA**

## **FORMED IN BAY CITY**

**Modern Woodmen of America is a benevolent and benefit fraternity that has been in existence since 1883 and was originally formed in Iowa. Before it was formally organized and a friend or relative died unexpectedly, many who knew the person would ‘pass the hat’ to take up a collection to help the remaining family.**

**The first chapter in the city of Bay City to organize was met with success. Messer’s A. E. Benson and C. O. Rathburn were the first organizers.<sup>1</sup>**

**There were 27 men who stated they would be willing to form a chapter and when it was finally formed there were 44 total members from the Bay City area. Those names included: McDowell, LeBaron, Doughty, Grant, Wallace, Clark, Gardner, David, Mann, Armstrong, McDonald, Huckins, Betz, Holms, Jean, Bally, Schmidt, Hewitt, Peak and Hammond.**

**The chapter was known as “Valley Camp, Modern Woodmen of America”.<sup>2</sup>**

**The first claim that was paid in Bay City was for Michael Eckinger who died from injuries sustained at GH Morill and Co’s planing mill in December of 1893. He left a wife and three children at home and the survivors were paid a total of \$4,000.00. Michael was born in Germany and he and his family are buried in Oakridge Cemetery in Bay City.<sup>3</sup>**

**The first death claim for the nationwide organization was for Willie Warner of Niles, Michigan which happened 14 June 1891.**

**Article supplied by Barb Connors**

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<sup>1</sup> The Bay City Times; 24 July 1890 page 8 col 4&5

<sup>2</sup> The Bay City Times; 10 Aug 1890 page 16 col 3

<sup>3</sup> The Bay City Times; 16 Dec 1893 page 4 col 1

# Ancestral Mathematics

In order to be born, you needed:

2 parents

4 grandparents

8 great-grandparents

16 second great-grandparents

32 third great-grandparents

64 fourth great-grandparents

128 fifth great-grandparents

256 sixth great-grandparents

512 seventh great-grandparents

1,024 eighth great-grandparents

2,048 ninth great-grandparents

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations, you needed a total of 4,094 ancestors over the last 400 years.

Think for a moment – How many struggles? How many battles? How many difficulties? How much sadness? How much happiness? How many love stories? How many expressions of hope for the future? – did your ancestors have to undergo for you to exist in this present moment...

**Source: Too many Genealogy Sites to list from FaceBook.**

## 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

## 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