

Jackson County Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

Number 1

September - October 2003

NEWSLETTER

Jackson County
Genealogical Society

ESTABLISHED 1977

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<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mijac>
kso/jcgs.htm

DUES: \$15.00 per year
per member or per family
at a single address
\$20.00 International

The Jackson County Genealogical
Society is incorporated and is
registered as a non-profit
organization in the State of
Michigan with tax exempt status
under Section 501 (c) (3) of the
U.S. Internal Revenue Code

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MEETING SCHEDULE

2 September 2003
Summer Research; Q&A;
AHow to read the 1840
Census= Judy Moulton; School
Children project by Marlon
Pawlak.

This is a fun packed meeting
to welcome you back after a
summer of finding out ALL
about your ancestors!
Bring pencils, magnifying glass
to this meeting.

A-L bring one half dozen cookies
Remember to wear your name tag

7 October 2003
To be announced.
M-Z bring one half dozen cookies
Remember to wear your name tag

4 November 2003
2 December 2003
6 January 2004
3 February 2004
2 March 2004
6 April 2004
4 May 2004

BOARD MEETINGS

16 September 2003
21 October 2003
18 November 2003
16 December 2003

All our Regular Meetings take
place at the Calvary Untied
Methodist Church, 925 Bacus
St., Jackson, MI unless
otherwise announced. We

meet at 7 P.M. Guests are
always welcome.

Board Meetings are held at
the home of Doris Littebrant,
201 Stewart Ave., Jackson, MI
at 6:30 P.M. All members are
welcome and are encouraged
to attend.

DUES ARE NOW DUE

A reminder to send in your
dues. \$15 for local, \$20 for
international. Send to mailing
address on this page.

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Our annual trip to the Allen
County Public Library in Fort
Wayne will be on the eleventh
of October. Flyer is attached.
The library is still in temporary
quarters. This is an excellent
way to visit the library, no
hassle driving or parking.
Enjoy the day researching and
the restful ride home.

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GENESSEE COUNTY

For anyone doing research in Genessee County, the county clerks office has a volunteer. They are there on Friday-s from 9 to 4. This would be a good day to go. Jerry Stuber genstudar@aol.com

NEW AT STATE LIBRARY

The following are new at the Library of Michigan:

3 new reader/copiers - a donation from Abrams Springfield, Mass. Vital Records

Merchant Seaman 1930 Census (separate)

DAR Patriot Index

Ontario Vital Records, up to 1903

California Death Records

Indiana Vital Records

Michigan-s Early Military Forces@ A Roster and History of Troops Activated Prior to the American Civil War. Roster-s compiled by LeRoy Barnett, with Histories by Roger Rosentreter.

Included in the book:

1. Introduction to the Pre-Territorial Militia
2. War of 1812
3. Black Hawk War, 1832
4. Toledo War, 1835
5. Patriot War, 1838-1839
6. Mexican War, 1846-1848

FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

The Lansing Michigan Family History Center is back home@ at 431 E. Saginaw in East Lansing C about 1 2 blocks East of Abbot on the Left (North) side of the road.

Entrance at the back of the building C same as before C with the FHC on the left.

They reopened on Tuesday August 12th, 2003. The hours remain the same --Tues., Wed., & Thurs. 10am C 8pm Sat. 10am C 2pm.

Their telephone number isC (517) 332-2932

For those living closer to Jackson, our local LDS Library is located at 3019 W. Morrell (just off Robinson Rd). Hours are Tues., 6-9; Thurs., 9-8 and Sat., 9-1. (517) 784-6306

FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

In celebration of Family History Month, the Public Libraries of Saginaw presents a lecture and workshop with internationally known genealogist, author and lecturer, Tony Burroughs, author of best seller, Black Roots: A Beginner-s Guide to Tracing the African-American Family Tree=

Black Roots: Tracing your family-s history, Saturday, October 11, 2003, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Hoyt Library Auditorium, 505 Janes Ave, Saginaw, MI

The daylong workshop will help both novice and experienced genealogists improve their skills in researching African-American Heritage. The \$25 registration fee includes lunch and an autographed copy of Tony Burrough-s best seller, Black Roots=

For more information, call (989) 755-9827

Sponsored by the Maxwell K. Pribil Hoyt Library Trust.

ABRAMS GENEALOGY

The Abrams Genealogy Sessions are held in the Forum at the Library of Michigan and will begin at 9:30 a.m. Cost is \$10.00 per session. For more information call 517-373-1300 or visit the Web site at www.michigan.gov/hal

The Library of Michigan Sessions focus on a variety of subject areas relating to Genealogy and Michigan. The sessions are free. Each session will be approximately one hour in length. For more information and times call 517-373-1300 or register online.

Abrams Genealogy Series:

Oct. 4, 2003: Genealogy and the Internet - The latest resources and research strategies for more effective use of the Internet.

Dec. 6, 2003: Polish Genealogy - The Library of Michigan-s Polish resources and strategies for locating Polish-American resources will be discussed.

Library of Mich. Sessions:

Sept. 6 & 10, 2003: Native American Resources

Sept. 20 & 24, 2003: Great Lake Lighthouses

Nov. 8 & 12, 2003 Michigan Sports

Dec. 13 & 17, 2003: Ancestry Plus

FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

The Library of Michigan will be open 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesdays in October.

Programs are as follows:

Oct. 1: Beginning Genealogy 3:00 p.m.

Oct. 4: Genealogy Appreciation Day Program 1:00 p.m. to 3:00.

Beginning Genealogy 3:30 p.m.

Oct. 7: Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 3:00 p.m.

Oct. 8: How to Organize Your Genealogy Research 3:00 p.m.

AncestryPlus 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 11: Ellis Island Resources 9:30 a.m., Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 3:00 p.m.

Oct. 12: Gene Sprouts: Genealogy for Children 2:00 p.m.

Oct. 14: Finding Mich. Land Owners Maps 3:00 p.m.

Oct. 15: Michigan Newspaper Resources 10:00 a.m.

Oct. 18: How to Organize your Gene Research 9:30 a.m.

Oct. 21: Michigan Newspaper Resources 10:00 a.m.

Oct. 22: Finding Mich. Land Owners Maps 10:00 a.m., AncestryPlus 3:00 p.m.

Oct. 25: Using Census Indexes and Soundexes 9:30 a.m., Gene Sprouts: Genealogy for Children, 2:00 p.m.

Oct. 28: Ellis Island Resources 10:00 a.m.

Oct. 29: Using Census Indexes and Soundex 3:00 p.m.

MGC will be sponsoring an all day seminar on Saturday Oct. 18, 2003. This will be part of

the events put on for Michigan History month. Seminars are free. Lunch and handout fee is \$10. You will need to register early as seating is limited. To register call: Library of Michigan at 517-373-1300.

INTERNET SCAM

Beware of Internet Scam. If you surf the net, beware that the old genealogy scam is back. www.genseekers.com This site offers a link to free genealogy on line. They don't have any content of their own.

In order to get the \$5 day free trial—you have to give them a credit card of bank account number. You have 5 days to cancel or your account gets charged. Guess What? The cancellation e-mail will bounce back. Does this surprise you? One person fell for this and had her account charged twice. Tell everyone you know about this scam.

MGC Newsletter, Spring 2003

RESEARCH ACCESS

Are you having difficulties doing research at the county level? Are you being discriminated against as a genealogist? If so please forward your name and county office that is not allowing you access to the:

Michigan Genealogical Council
Attn: Joanne Harvey
PO Box 80953
Lansing, MI 48908-0953

County clerks offices are no longer able to discriminate against genealogist.

LAND RECORDS TIP

In the lower left corner of **most** old deeds, you will find signatures of 2 to 4 witnesses.

The first one is always from the husband's side of the family, the next one is always from the wife's side C to protect her one-third dower right under the law. Nothing you will ever use will give greater clues to maiden names than witnesses to old deeds. In addition, in the 1880's and before, it was tradition when the daughter married, as part of her dowry, for the father to either cover the loan or carry the note for his son-in-law. If you know the husband's name but not the wife's maiden name, find out to whom they made their mortgage payment. About 70% of the time it will be her father.

Licking Lantern: Licking Co., OH, Vol. XXVII No. 4, 2002.

TAX LIST RESEARCH

Taxes have always existed in our country and they do provide genealogical help. They do not provide vital statistics but the early ones can give an approximate date of birth. You will find your ancestor's address that can lead you to the correct census or the correct land entry.

the dates when the ancestor appears on the tax lists also indicates when the ancestor either arrived in the area or became of age, and when the ancestor left the area, reached the age of exemption or died. (Some also include a *AR@* or *AN@* in the margin indicating *Aresident@* or *Anon-resident@*)

If a man is found on the tax list this provides a clue to search the probate records for an estate.

In many states the son, upon coming of age, is listed directly below the father, but only a tax on himself and perhaps a horse. Following through the years, one can find the entire male side of a family in order.

the wife normally was listed as head of family only in the first year of widowhood. Thereafter, the oldest son is listed on that plot of ground.

Early tax lists often name the waterway that the land was on. They usually identify the section of the local militia the ancestor served in. Then depending upon what was being taxed, there is a listing of horses, other animals, glass windows, fireplaces, acres of land and slaves.

Wood County Newsletter, Jan-Feb 2003

WEB SITE

from USA Today:

Genealogist's dream:

50M historical documents on Web.

WASHINGTON (AP) - Researchers, genealogists and the plain curious can now use

the Internet to check more than 50 million historical records at the National Archives, from Civil War battles to family immigration files.

<http://www.archives.gov/aad/>
(Related site: National Archives=Access to Archives Databases)

GRAND TRAVERSE AREA

Henry Z. Jones, Jr.

A Genealogical Conference for Northwest Michigan Presented by the Grand Traverse Area Genealogical Society, Inc.

September 27, 2003

Workshop Agenda:

Tracing the origins of Early 18th Century Emigrants. A lively discussion emphasizing the how-to's of pinpointing and tracing the European roots of our ancestors.

Saints, sinners & an occasional horse thief: some immigrant stories. Poignant and humorous adventures and anecdotes relating to our courageous forefathers.

When Sources are Wrong. A study of primary and secondary sources often found to be in error.

I don't chase dead Germans
C They chase me. A humorous look at the influence of serendipity and intuitive nudges in genealogy.

If postmarked before Sept. 20, the price per registrant will be \$30.00 (includes lunch).

If postmarked after Sept. 20, the price per registrant will be \$35.00 (includes lunch).

For information contact:

GTAGS

P.O. Box 2015

Traverse City, MI 49695-2015

Email::

RAHayes@chartermi.net

Website:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~migtags/gta.htm>

LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN

AncestryPlus and Heritage Quest Online: An introduction to online, subscription databases.

Genealogy information on the Internet is helping Americans research their families=history by providing access to documents and indexes like never before.

Instead of traveling across the country or to foreign lands to locate documents, online databases can bring high quality, reliable genealogy information to you locally.

Understand the value of the information provided in genealogy databases, the Library of Michigan has subscribed to AncestryPlus and Heritage Quest Online.

These online databases are collections of content rich, digitized data available via the Internet requiring a subscription fee for access.

Currently, AncestryPlus is available at any Michigan library with public Internet access including the Library of Michigan. Visitors to the Library of Michigan have access to Heritage Quest Online.

Heritage Quest Online provided Library of Michigan visitors a unique, growing collection of research materials for tracing family history and American culture.

AncestryPlus offers Michigan residents over 1 billion names in over 3,000 unique databases. New records are added each day.

Access to AncestryPlus and Heritage Quest is open to any visitor to the Library of Michigan. Time limits may be imposed if others are waiting.

Access is free; however, users must pay \$0.10 per page if they choose to print (please bring dollar bills as our printing system does not accept change).

Please contact any library before visiting regarding their Internet access policies.

Check with your local library to see if they offer this service.

MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL

The Michigan Cemetery Source Book is on the web site at the Library of Michigan.

The non-population schedules are new in the Archives. These are agricultural, manufacturing and industrial censuses.

The Polish Collection is still coming in. New things continue to arrive and are being processed.

The speaker for the day was John Castle of the Ingham County Genealogical Society.

They have been collecting and

microfilming Township Records at their own expense.

There are 1244 townships in Michigan who have collected records over a period of 170 years. These records are the grass roots of genealogy research. Ingham County GS members have approached several townships and asked to borrow their collected information. The society is computerizing this data and putting the computer printouts on microfilm. Thus far, three townships have been completed, and that file is in the Library of Michigan. Three more townships= records are scheduled for this year and three for next year. The computerized records are not yet available online, but may be at some future time.

Mr. Castle went on to relate what could be found in these townships= records.

Surprisingly, beyond histories and government, there were voter registration lists, school rosters, meetings minutes, justice of the peace diaries, old marriages and unusual ledgers of other small groups ... many mentioning names, dates and places. Some records indicate persons were deceased (Ad@) or had moved (A@).

Townships, by law, cannot dispose of their records without permission from the Library archivist, and a written summary of what they want to trash must be recorded.

Persons wishing to access old township records can phone

the township clerk and make an appointment. If you want anything from the State Registrar's office, first use Library resources.

Records before 1915, use the index at Library.

Records before 1897, use the ledger books at Library.

Deaths, 1897 thru 1914, use index. (Print out a copy of that index card and give to State Registrar, along with the application.)

Liz Neef, Michigan
Genealogical Council Delegate

HELP

The Stockbridge Area Genealogical/Historical Society needs your help on a project the society is undertaking. The society is wishing to publish information on World War I veterans from their area. Their area covers parts of four counties: Ingham (Stockbridge, White Oak, and Bunker Hill Townships), as well as parts of the Villages of Dansville and Webberville), Livingston (Unadilla, Iosco and Putnam Townships), Washtenaw (Lyndon Township), and Jackson (Waterloo Township). Many small farming communities are included in the Stockbridge area: Gregory, Unadilla, Plainfield, Millville, Pickney, Parkers Corners, Waterloo, Munith, Lyndon Center, Stockbridge, Hell, Bunker Hill, Fitchburg, Dansville, White Oak and Pleasant Lake.

They are looking for pictures, letters, diaries, etc. The item(s) will be returned to the owner unless the owner wishes to donate the item(s) to the society. For further information, please visit their website at:

www.rootsweb.com/~misaghs
If you have any questions or can help in any way, please contact the society by e-mail at stockbridgeareaghs@hotmail.com or by snail mail at SAGHS, Attn: Cynthia Grostick, PO Box 966, Stockbridge, MI 49285

The society wishes to thank you in advance for any help you may be able to provide.

DEED BOOKS

Deed Books are found at your county courthouse, and are usually under the jurisdiction of the Registrar of Deeds. They contain a record of property transfers.

Deed Books contain records of several kinds of sales:

1. Deed of Sale (Indenture) - This is a simple sale of property. The property in question is typically land, but can be next spring's hogs, household property, or anything else.

2. Strawman Sale - This will be evidenced as a sale by AA to AB the AB to AC (or back to AA), often on the same day. Party AB is the strawman, or trusted intermediary in the sale.

Strawmen were used to clean the sale from legal restrictions.

For example, if husband and wife wanted to change their

ownership from Tenants by the entirety to Joint tenants they would sell it with one type of ownership and then buy it back with the other. (The legal restriction in this case is that you aren't allowed to sell your property to yourself.) Or suppose two individuals jointly owned property and one of them wanted to sell his part to the other. A strawman might be used because the law may not have allowed a simple transfer of part ownership.

3. Lease and Release - You may find deeds of sale (particularly in early Virginia) that are written as a two part transfer. The first involves party AA leasing land to AB and the second is AA releasing AB from the lease obligation. This was viewed like a strawman sale) as a cleaner way of passing legal title from one person to another.

4. Property Distribution (Gift) - Some deeds are clearly written as gifts of property. You'll find language such as For love and affection or For \$1 and other considerations. Some gifts had restrictions, for example, and William Perkins agrees to care for his father and mother during their natural lives. In all other respects the deed will read as simple sale.

5. Mortgage Sales - These deeds are tricky. They might say This deed of mortgage at the onset, so you're tipped off as to what's happening. On the other hand, they may also

appear as a simple sale, but at the end there is language such as said sale to be null and void if sd Perkind pays sd \$100 to Smith by March 1st.

What has happened here is that Perkins sold his land to Smith for \$100, but gets it back if he can repay the loan on time. This loan has the land as security (collateral). If you find Perkins selling the same piece of property several times, check the deeds carefully for this kind of language.

6. Estate settlement - When someone dies their property gets distributed according to their will (if present) or by their state's probate laws. You may find deeds of sale where some of the children sell their interest in the parent's property, either to one or more siblings, or to someone else. Such deeds contain language like theirs of William Perkins, dec'd or hereby sell their 1/9 interest in sd tract. You might find the Sheriff, under orders from the court, selling the land in question.

The proceeds of the sale went into the estate settlement.

<http://users.rcn.com/deedbook.htm>

**IF YOU AIM AT NOTHING,
YOU ARE SURE TO MAKE
YOUR GOAL.**