



MACOMB COUNTY

GENEALOGY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

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2007

MESSAGE FROM KAREN HARRIS: On the 15th of June the MCGG had a brainstorming session which resulted in a few changes. They are listed here in no particular order:

Our meeting schedule will be changed to reflect the following order, 1. Indexing Session, 2. Guest Speaker, 3. Help session or topic of interest. The change here is the addition of the help sessions where you can bring up for a brick wall you have to get ideas and suggestions. Or you can share things you have found or solutions that you think might benefit others. This change was one of the most requested, we are happy we can implement it.

We will have our own website. Lisa Eschenburg is developing it and from the review several of us made recently it is wonderful. It should be up and running very soon, all the particulars you will need to know to access it should be available shortly. A huge thank you to Lisa, how fortunate we are to have so many talented and generous people in our group. Don't worry though, we will still have a link in the Mt. Clemens Public Library website that is maintained by Debbie Larsen. Debbie has done a wonderful job for many years, she has linked many, many sites of interest to genealogists, we can't thank you enough Debbie.

It was voted to plan **a field trip to the Library of Michigan and State Archives** on Friday October 19th. More information will be included with the fall schedule, which will be mailed in August. As you know, we were forced to cancel our trip to the Fort Wayne Allen County Library last spring for lack of interest, so if we are unable to fill the bus this fall, we probably will not offer any field trips in the future.

The next item discussed was **how to raise money to finish some of our collections** or to purchase new material for the genealogy room. As you all know we are a nonprofit group and we do not charge for membership nor collect dues. Other than our Heritage Cookbook and a few other publications, we rely strictly on donations and the research fees, collected by Ann Faulkner, from people unable to get to our library, for look ups or answers to simple research requests. These fees go directly to the Library for the Michigan Room. It was suggested that we put a donation box in a convenient location for the people who use the material and services of our volunteers in the genealogy room. If the Library agrees, we will try this for a while and will evaluate it at our next brainstorming

session, in the meantime, if you think of something that would be a good fund raiser let us know, we are always looking for suggestions on this and other topics.

FROM THE DESK OF ANN FAULKNER: My message this month is very brief, but I wanted to thank all of you again for your acts of kindness during my illness earlier this year. I never realized I had so many friends, and people that really care. I am truly blessed. I am not quite up to full speed, but am well on the way.

ORPHANS TRAINS: In 1853, a young minister, Charles L. Brace, came to New York City to complete his seminary training. Horrified by the thousands of children he saw roaming the streets, and the conditions they lived under, he became compelled to find a way to get these children out of their surroundings, and into new homes. To this end, he founded the Children's Aid Society, to arrange the trips, raise the money, and obtain the legal permissions needed for relocation. Between 1854 and 1929, more than 100,000 orphaned or unwanted children were sent, via orphan trains, to new homes in rural America. How the children were placed varied. Local papers ran notices in advance and handbills were passed out encouraging people to come and see the needy children. Sometimes local committees would screen prospective foster parents. After the train pulled into a town, the children were taken off and displayed before the prospective parents. An agent explained the Society's rules to the crowd and brief accounts were given of each. The foster parents were asked to house, feed and educate the New York children in the same manner as their own. A copy of the agreement that was signed by prospective parents can be found at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~neadoptn/contract.html>. The children were required to agree to their placement, and dissatisfied children could leave the home. The children whom no one selected were escorted back to the train and taken to the next stop on the line.

All placements were to be on a trial basis and legal adoption was not required. The Society's goal was to visit each child once a year, but there were only a handful of agents to monitor thousands of placements. In reality, the placement results were mixed. Some children found loving homes, others were used as a source of cheap labor and still others were abused. Many children ran away or moved from farm to farm. The files of the Children's Aid Society have hundreds of letters from the children themselves, organized by years, and the record books are filled with names and dates, details of departures and arrivals, but little is said about the children's treatment, and the extent of abuse is unknown. However, it was reported that the majority of children under fourteen were leading satisfactory lives.

Similarly other organizations such as the Catholic Sisters of Charity in New York placed another 40,000 children, and other organizations in Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago relocated thousands more as well.

Internet sites with further information include:
<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/feb07/orphan.pdf>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/orphan/>
<http://www.childrensaidsociety.org/about/train>
<http://www.orphantrainriders.com/>
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~neadoptn/register.html>
http://www.kancoll.org/articles/orphans/or_hist.htm

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: Sylvia Kozlowski- Born Sylvia Andrzejewski in Hamtramck in the early 1930's and the youngest of four and the only girl.

She lived in Dearborn Township and in early June of 1941 moved to the west side of Detroit so her mother could get a job and they could be removed from the welfare roll.

When WWII started her mother went to work for Dodge Main and retired in 1963. In 1959 she married and became a Kozlowski. She has a son, a daughter, and two grandsons. And she found herself living in Hamtramck again. In 1966 Sylvia went to work for a trucking company and after 25 years of service she was laid-off with no chance of a recall—she retired.

She became interested in genealogy after watching the TV mini-series “ROOTS”. She didn't know how or where to start and since she was working she didn't have much time to do any research. One day while she was at the Macomb County Library looking at newspapers on microfilm and talking to a girl in that department, she was told about the Library having a genealogy department with a group of people that could help her—so here she is.

She is also interested in needlepoint, reading, traveling, and genealogy. She has been in Alaska, Hawaii, the Panama Canal, Rome and Poland.

WHAT'S NEW ON THE NET: Gleaned from the “Michigan Genealogical Council Newsletter,” Spring 2007. The indexes to the Barry County and Genesee County Naturalization are now online from the Archives of Michigan, making a total of 30. There is a plan to create a master naturalization index for Michigan. Their homepage has also been revamped so it is easier to find what you want. The MGC newsletters are kept in a binder in Special Collections.

An online scrapbook of Ohio's history can be found at www.ohiomemory.org which is comprised of 26,000 primary sources from 330 archives, historical societies, libraries and museums. If you have ancestors that passed through Ohio you may find several items to help enhance your family history. This site is full of digital images of letters, diaries, photographs etc. You may not find your ancestor on a name search, but you are sure to find something of interest that can be applied to their lives.

Even if you don't have a Revolutionary War ancestor, do not overlook their bi-monthly publication “American Spirit” which can be found in our Local History Room. In the current May/June 2007 issue there is a fascinating article on the history of footwear in Early America. Did you know that a cordwainer was a shoemaker? Another interesting article described several colonial businesswomen such as with Margaret Hardenbroeck who landed at New Amsterdam in 1659, and women's rights during that period.

The Allen County Public Library at Fort Wayne, Indiana has a Photocopy Exchange Program. In essence, you mail them a copy of your genealogy. They will make a photocopy for their Historical Genealogy Department, and mail you back a bound copy of your genealogy as well as the original manuscript. What better way to preserve your heritage for future generations at virtually no cost.

RESEARCHING AT THE MOUNT CLEMENS LIBRARY: These are the new books in the genealogy room: “Unlocking Your Genetic History”, by Thomas H. Shawker, M.D.; “French-Canadian Sources, A Guide for Genealogists”; “The Meloche Legacy”, by James L. J. Meloche with Roger Meloche; and “The Handybook for Genealogists”.

UPCOMING GENEALOGY MEETINGS AT MT. CLEMENS PUBLIC LIBRARY:

MACOMB COUNTY GENEALOGY GROUP MEETINGS:

July 13, 27, August 10, 24 (all indexing work sessions.)

LET’S TALK...GENEALOGY

NO MEETINGS-JULY

August 1 – Questions and Answers

LATE BREAKING NEWS:

Lisa said that it was OK to announce our new website. www.rootsweb.com/~mimcgg/
The links are all working and if anyone has problems with the links you probably will need to adjust your popup blockers to allow access to the site. The primary problems are with aol users.

You also should know that we have a new e-mail address macombcogg@gmail.com, we would welcome your comments and suggestions using this address.

Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore.

-Andre Gide

