



MACOMB COUNTY

GENEALOGY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

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Editor's Note: There will be two editions of this Newsletter. The email version will have no graphics except for our logo. The website version will include photographs. Since this Newsletter will be on our website, no personal email addresses will not be used. If you wish to contact any of the Officers or Committees, you can use the group's email address: and it will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

Hopefully this Newsletter will increase your understanding of the MCGG and how it operates, both at the Meetings and behind the scenes.

Congratulations! – MCGG Volunteers!

The July issue of *Family Tree Magazine* just hit the newstand. They are honoring 50 institutions with the "Libby" Award. There were 12 categories and the Mount Clemens Public Library was one of 5 libraries to win in the category of "Super Society – Library Collaboration." The article (p.60) states "*Mount Clemens (Mich.) Public Library, which has one staff librarian, looks to volunteers from the Macomb County Genealogy Group to index local records, create online databases and provide in-depth assistance and mentoring to patrons. The group meets every other Friday in the library.*" Your many hours of work has paid off! And, a special thank you to Dianne Buckerfield, whose idea it was to submit our Library for the award, and to Deborah Larsen who filled out the long survey, while officially on vacation.

Mark your Calendar

Going Going Gone!

The MCGG will hold their Auction of used genealogy books, periodicals, etc. on Friday, May 23rd at 1:00, with Don Worrell, as auctioneer. Items to donate, can be labeled Genealogy Auction, and dropped off at the Library.

Let's Talk Genealogy

There will be one more session of the Let's Talk discussion group on June 4th at 7 pm before the summer break. The topic will be "My Summer Genealogy Plans – Where to Look."

MCGG Planning Session

June 6, 1:00 pm. This is an important meeting where we will plan our programs, including speakers for the next year. This is your Group. All suggestions will be discussed, and we welcome your critique, both good and bad.

Good Food and Conversation

Our annual potluck picnic will be held at the Library as 12 Noon on June 20th. Bring a dish to share, and a guest if you wish. All paper goods will be furnished.

Thoughts to Ponder

Do you know that genealogy is the second leading hobby in America, if not the world? More and more information can be found on the internet, a real gold mine. One area that is getting more interest and attention are records and information put on line by local history and genealogy groups, and ours in conjunction with the MCPL is one of the best. If you haven't checked it out you really should, our webmaster, Lisa Eschenburg, does a great job.

However, there is a growing concern that people are too willing to accept whatever information or facts they find on the internet, without looking for primary or other secondary records as proof the information is right or that it really is your family. We also tend to forget that the information was input by people and therefore subject to mistakes.

I recently read an article that said that genealogists are making fewer trips to court houses, cemeteries and local libraries, because the information they are looking for is so much easier to get on-line and we are much more willing to let other's look up our family records and do a lot of the grunt work for us.

I, like most, spend a lot of time on the computer looking for information and records on my families but I want to caution, that we still cannot over look the need to go to the towns and cities that house the original records, such the County Clerks office, Register of Deeds, and Probate Court and to actually walk the cemeteries and check what is chiseled on the headstones.... *Karen Harris*

What Ancestor Would You Like to Meet and Why?

Let's ignore that question and proceed to an older question often asked; if you could go back in history and have an hour or two (or dinner) with any historical figure, which would you choose? Lincoln? Washington? Caesar? Jesus? Now that you have made your choice what would you say, "Boy do I have questions for you," Would often be the answer.

As we do the research of our Ancestral Tree, is it possible that we have **not** generated some of the same questions about a distant grandparent, aunt, uncle or cousin six times removed? "Why the heck did you do that?" often would be the question but we continue down the street gathering dates times and places without the thought of asking the often ignored question WHY? We know the who did it what they did. We know where and when they did it but we ignore to true puzzler WHY.

The story of why many of our ancestors came here from Europe and we willingly accept the same answer applies to all. Are we not sometimes perplexed when one of those ancestors steps out of the mold and does something totally opposite from the pattern of the previous relatives?

I have a great Uncle that could have stayed on the farm after his father died early due to infection of wounds from the Civil War. He had brothers and sisters (four brothers and two sisters) old enough to continue running the farm, but he instead went to work for a cousin in the city. From there he founded a competing cigar manufacturing business in the same town employing 300 people, including his nephews and sister... Jesse was known as a dandy because of his very stylish dress and his very fancy horses which he paraded down the main street in the town, where he moved the rest of the family. Jesse had all his clothes tailor made right down to his shoes. He traveled throughout the south as soon as the tobacco was ripe and being cut, buying at all the prestigious tobacco auctions the whole season. Returning to the factory in the North, he loaded the cigars into his wagon and set out to sell them to retail outlets all over southeastern Michigan. He put his brother-in-law in charge of running the factory.

Jesses' younger brother Sterling opened the first automobile dealership (Buick) in Monroe, and the first service station.

My question is ----- "How come these two guys broke the farmer mold to become entrepreneurs?" Neither of them had been past the fifth grade, and where did they learn the social skills, because both became very socially acceptable in Monroe. Is it inherited? Something in the genes perhaps? Where did they get whatever it was they had, to enable them to do what they did. Sure I know what they did, when they were born, where they lived but the questions I would like answered "Boy do I have questions for you!" Perhaps there is one in your family. Explore that interesting. enigma for someone in your family and write about them --- *Bob Bauer*

Do you have an ancestor that you would like to meet? Please consider submitting it to our email address for future publication. macombcogg@gmail.com

Let's Talk Genealogy discussion group will soon be finishing its 3rd year. Let's Talk meets the 1st Wednesday of the month, September to June, at 7:00 PM in the Mt Clemens Public Library, lower level. The members sit around a large table discussing genealogy topics.

The meeting has periods where people can share their 'break throughs' in their family history research; share new places where they have found good genealogy information; share about workshops and conferences they attended and other similar genealogy information. Members can 'put on the table' genealogy research problems they have encountered. They can listen and take notes of what other members around the table suggest to do.

The meetings do have a topic to start off with. Sometimes there is 'homework' to bring and share with others, perhaps a document the person has found and they can tell how they found the document.

This last year the group experienced an event where two members, not related and living in a different parts of Michigan had a connection. During a discussion one member put a surname out on the table, to see if anyone had this name in their family history. Another member mentioned she knew of a family in the Thumb Area with that name. A discussion started between them, as the Let's Talk group watched in awe.

Seems their great grandparents knew each other and were good friends years ago. They had lost contact with each other. A great aunt of one group member had made the wedding cake for the other member's mother, in 1937. The cake was made in the Thumb Area and brought down to East Detroit (Halfway) for the wedding. This was done on dirt roads—no freeways.

At the time of this discussion, the bride was still alive and alert. She was told what had happened. The descendant of the cake baker had pictures of the people involved. She copied them and gave them to the descendant of the bride, to show her. We understand the bride enjoyed seeing pictures of the people from her past.

The events happened in Croswell, Michigan. The descendant of the bride lives in Macomb Township, Michigan. The descendant of the baker lives in Metamora, Michigan. This wonderful story unfolded at the Mt Clemens Public Library, at the Let's Talk Genealogy meeting. Anyone who was in attendance that evening will remember this wonderful event for a long time.

Let's Talk Genealogy is an open meeting. Please show up and listen to the discussion, if you wish. If you have a suggestion or a question feel free to present it. Just being there, you will never know what you will learn. If you have any questions you may send an email to: LETSTALKGENE@AOL.COM --- *Sue Hieber.*

Macomb County & the Detroit Metropolitan Area Funeral Home Records Brenda Miller and Karen Rogers have done a fantastic job of abstracting the records of the LaCroix, Groesbeck, Wasik, DeSantis, and Kaul Funeral Homes over the past two years. There are 112 volumes of records on the shelf, with another dozen more volumes at the bindery. Many of these Funeral Homes started in Detroit, moving to Macomb County in later years. Most of these abstracts contain the information found on a death certificate, such as date & place of birth and death, cause of death, residence, names of parents and spouse, and place of burial. Brenda and Karen are now working on the Hamilton Funeral Home records from 1895. Gerry Carrick has joined their team and is working on transcribing the Bell Funeral Home located in Birmingham which date from about 1927 to 1956.

Free Bookbinding – Manuscript Exchange Service In the Syllabus from the 2008 Spring Seminar of the Genealogical Society of Monroe County was a notice about the free book binding – manuscript exchange service available through the Allen County Public Library. I contacted the ACPL to verify the information and request any guidelines. You are to send your manuscript with a letter indicating your interest in the exchange (rather than as a straight donation) to Steve Myers, Assistant Manager, The Genealogical Center, Allen County Public Library, PO Box 2270, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270, telephone: (260) 421-1200. The Library will make one copy of your manuscript for their Library and another for you. You can have either your original or your copy bound. They will return your original and copy in about 3 months. The only guideline is to leave enough room for binding on the left margin. This might be a good service to use for our readings of the Romeo, Cadillac Memorial, and St. Peters Cemeteries, once the typing has been completed. The original would of course go to the MCPL, and the extra bound copy could be provided to the Library of Michigan, and of course the ACPL would have a copy as well.

Giving Back Many of us, do not have Macomb County ancestors, so we may not be particularly interested in attending the Indexing Sessions, and would rather spend our time doing something else that directly benefits us. But, all of us love finding a lot of indexes and other information on websites or in the libraries, where our ancestors lived. Where did that information come from? In most cases, it came from people just like you, who wanted to help other genealogists. Those of us who volunteer in the Local History Room are very familiar with visitors who are absolutely amazed at all the resources we have gathered. The letters requesting information from the Indexes on our Website, express the same appreciation. We realize that many of you work, or for other reasons cannot or do not want to attend. But maybe there is something you might like to do. Here are some suggestions, but you might come up with other ideas.

Obituary Index There is a long way to go before we have all the obituaries indexed from the available Macomb County newspapers. This would not have to be done at Mount Clemens. The County Library on Hall Road has a large collection. The Utica Library has the Utica Sentinel. There are bound volumes of the Romeo Observer, at their Library. The Roseville Library has the Roseville Record, and the list goes on.

Church Inventory. We have talked about compiling an Inventory of all the churches in Macomb County, contacting them to find out about timespan of their various records, how to access them etc. Several persons could form a committee to work on this.

Michigan Death Records 1897-1920 The Library of Michigan has entered into an agreement with Ancestry.com to digitize all of these death records. This means that the microfilm will not be available for viewing at the Library until at least late July. BUT, after completion, we will be able to view them without going to Lansing.

MCGG Scrapbook. A person is needed to bring our Scrapbook up to date and keep it that way.

Data Entry If have Excel on your computer, there is always data entry and indexing that you can do from home. There is also straight typing.

Genealogy Room Volunteer More Volunteers are needed – morning, afternoon, or evening as well as Saturday. If you are not able to come every week, maybe you could team up with another person to do it for a few hours every other week. All you need is a basic knowledge of genealogy and some computer skills. You will be trained on the details of the Room.

In Memory of MCGG Members who recently passed away

Sally Jane (Brew) Mandel

1921 - 2008

Our long-time member Sally Mandel passed away on March 22, 2008. Until the past few years, when she was no longer able, Sally was a very supportive and active member of our Group. She also worked as a Volunteer in the Local History Room, and will always be remembered for the delicious cheesy potatoes she brought to our picnics. Because of her love of genealogy, her family requested that any memorials be given to the MCGG. At the present time \$350 has been received and several books will be ordered, which will have bookplates to her memory:

Virginia E. (Gaulden) Bond

1914 – 2008

Virginia Bond was a delightful and very intelligent lady, who was most active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Washington Township Historical Society. Until recent years she occasionally attended the MCGG, and I remember her speaking to our Group on the Requirements of joining various Lineage Societies. She was a living encyclopedia of local history. She was always willing to help, and provided the MCPL with the plat maps for Romeo Cemetery, the Washington Township Clerk's Records, and other materials. We were both interested in the Ingram family of Virginia, and shared notes. I shall miss her.

Bernadette (Bare) Palombit

1920 – 2007

Bernadette loved doing genealogy---always pursuing her “Bare”/”Bear” line. She also had a great interest in the “Orphan Trains”. She would get so excited anytime she found something. I remember the only time that she attended a conference, it was in Fort Wayne, Ind. She enjoyed everything about it. She always had a smile on her face and a friendly “Hello” for all. Long-time members, Bernadette and her sister-in-law Virginia Palmombit (1924-2006) rarely missed a MCGG meeting or any of our activities, until their health prevented it.... *Brenda Miller*

Baptismal and Marriage Certificates Returned to their Families

Last October, Peggy Williams from the Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society in Detroit gave Brenda Miller 3 framed decorative original baptismal and marriage certificates. She had gotten them from a friend who was the caregiver for an elderly gentleman, who had purchased them at an auction.

Two had Macomb County connections. One was the 1881 baptismal certificate of Augusta Bohm who from St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church in East Detroit. A copy of this certificate has been loaded into the Digital Archives, and you can see it by searching on Bohm. The other certificate was the 1902 marriage of Augusta Bohm to John Dobberowsky. This was too large to scan. Deborah Larsen was able to track down a grandson of this couple, who was very happy to get them back into his family.

A third certificate was the 1905 marriage of Nora M. Balch to Clawson W. Howard which took place in Marlette, Sanilac County. The Howards had no children, but by joining the Sanilac County List, I was able to locate Allen Marshall of Lansing, a first cousin twice removed who was doing extensive research on the Balch family. Al drove to the MCPL last February and we presented him with the certificate. A photo of Al receiving the certificate appears on the last page of the on-line edition of this newsletter.

News from the Michigan Genealogical Council Newsletter Vol. 32(1) Winter 2008. The Library of Michigan has purchased a microfilm scanner to allow patrons to create digital images of microfilm and save them on a flash drive. Note: U3 flash drives are incompatible. Also published in this issue is a List of Michigan Military Camps 1860-1920 compiled by LeRoy Barnett. The only military camps in Macomb County were Camp Butler and Camp Stockton both in Mount Clemens in 1863. The MGC Newsletters are in a binder in Special Collections.

Macomb County Research Assistance

This program administered through the MCGG has a two-fold benefit. It allows researchers to obtain copies of Macomb County records very inexpensively and provides revenues for the MCPL Local History Room to purchase newspaper microfilm and other materials. Newspaper microfilm is very expensive, with costs varying between \$60 and \$135 a reel depending on who holds the copyright. **The majority of the requests are initiated from the indexes that you helped create for website.** Occasional trips are taken to a Macomb County Government Office, Cemetery, or other location to obtain the requested information. With the assistance of Carolyn Horton, and occasionally other MCGG members, the following requests were filled with all funds directly payable to the MCPL. The guidelines are posted on the Genealogy Page of the MCPL website.

The number of requests vary, as does the length of the request. One letter may take 20 minutes or 20 hours. Here is breakdown of the letters received during the past 4 months.

	Letters Answered	Revenue Received	Where the letter came from
Jan-08	14	131.00	6-MI; 2-CA; 1-FL,KS,MO,OH,TX,WI
Feb-08	28	266.99	4-CT,UT; 3-NV; 2-AZ,KY; 1-IA,IL,IN,MI,MO,NE,NH,NY,OH,OR,TN,WI,USMil
Mar-08	21	160.00	6-MI, FL-3; UT-2; 1-AZ,CA,IA,IL,MO,OH,TN,VA,VT,WI
Apr-08	15	283.00	6-MI; 2-FL; 1-AZ,CO,IN,OH,NV,VA,Can
		\$840.99	

MCGG Revenue Jan-Apr, 2008

Sale of 2 Heritage Cookbooks, 1 Montforte Letters, 1 Sterling Grove Cemetery \$63.00

MCGG Special Collections Library As most of you know, we have a large collection of books and periodicals downstairs at the Library. This collection is open any Friday afternoon, when an indexing – work session has been scheduled. Karen Rogers has volunteered to work in this room on Wednesday mornings from 9–12. Until September, this will be by appointment only, and then if there is enough interest, she will be there every Wednesday. Please give her at least 24-hour notice. Besides the books which cover the entire United States, there are a number of resources for other countries such as Canada, Ireland, and England. Also housed in this area are the supplements to the Charbeneau Collection, Macomb County Surname Files, Civil War files, and many other resources. The inventory to this collection (which is not in the MCGG on-line catalog) is in the process of being updated. Many books were added in the recent months, and the shifting of books was necessary.

New & Donated Books & Microfilms added to the MCPL Local History Room

- * **Family Maps of Michigan**, 7 volumes by Gregory Boyd Arphax Publ.: **Counties of Genesee, Livingston, Macomb, Shiawassee, Washtenaw, Lapeer, and Ionia.**
- * **Romeo, Armada, Washington Telephone Book Jan 1971**
- * **Merchants, Trademen and Manufacturers Financial Condition for Macomb County 1902**
- * **St Clement Cemetery Center Line**, Prof. Wesley Arnold.
- * **Pioneer Cemeteries of Warren Township**, Prof. Wesley Arnold.
- * **History of Warren**, Prof. Wesley Arnold.
- * **History of Center Line**, Prof. Wesley Arnold.
- * **DeSantis Funeral Home**, Brenda Miller & Karen Rogers, 11 Vols. between 1966 & 1975
- * **Wasik Funeral Home**, Brenda Miller & Karen Rogers, 2 Vol. between 1969 & 1977
- * **The History of the Michigan 22nd Infantry & the Men Who Served.** Douglas Casamer.
- * **The Allards**, 3 vol. Wilmont Kreis Jr.
- * **Naturalization Records for Oakland County Michigan 1827-1906**, Oakland Co Gen Soc..
- * **Oakland County Marriage Records** (microfilm)

- * **Oakland County Death Records** (microfilm)
- * **Bird and Mott Funeral Register, Detroit, Michigan 1922-1944**, Patricia Ibbotson, DSGR
- * **Wayne County Marriage Records** (microfilm)
- * **Wayne County Death Records** (microfilm)
- * **Directory of the Ancestral Heads of New England Families 1620-1700**. Frank Holmes.
- * **Mayflower Marriages**. Susan E. Roser, 1980.
- * **Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records #47: Torrington 1740-1850, Union 1734-1850, Voluntown 1708-1850**, compiled by Marsha Wilson Carbaugh,
- * **Inhabitants of Cecil County Maryland 1649-1774**, Henry Peden.
- * **History of Somerset County New Jersey** by Snell
- * **History of Hunterdon County New Jersey** by Snell
- * **Ohio Lands: Steubenville Land Office 1800-1820**, Carol Bell.
- * **Abstract of Probate Records Washington County Ohio 1789-1855**, Bernice Graham & Elizabeth Cottle.
- * **History of Washington County Ohio 1788-1889**, excerpted from Howes 1898 History.
- * **1783 Taxlists & 1790 Federal Census for Washington County, Pennsylvania**. Katherine Zinsser & Raymond Bell.
- * **Index to Pennsylvania's Colonial Records Series**, Dr. Mary Dunn.
- * **Index to US Invalid Pension Records 1801-1815**, Murtie Clark.
- * **Pension List of 1820**, Murtie Clark
- * **Pension Lists of 1792-1795**, Murtie Clark.
- * **Muster Pay Rolls of the War of the Revolution 1775-1783**, Murtie Clark.
- * **Germans to America & Hamburg Passenger Lists: Coordinated Schedules**. Roger Minert, Kathy Boechel & Caren Winters.
- * **Map Guides to German Parish Registers** by Kevan Hansen. Vol.1 Grandduchy of Hessen, Vol.2 Grandduchy of Baden, Vol.3 Grandduchy of Schwerin & Strelitz Mecklenburg, Vol.4 Grandduchy of Oldenburg Province of Schleswig-Holstein, Vol.5 Kingdom Wurttemberg – Jagstkreis, Vol.6 Kingdom Wurttemberg – Neckarkreis & Hohanzollern Provinces, Vol.7 Kingdom Wurttemberg – Schwarzwaldkreis, Vol.8 Kingdom Wurttemberg – Donaukreis. (Note: 45 volumes are planned for this series, 19 are now in print, and more will be purchased as funds are available.)
- * **Planters & Pioneers Nova Scotia 1749-1775**, Dr. Esther Clark Wright.
- * **Sussex Coroners Inquests 1603-1688**. R F Hunnisett. (Note: several more volumes for Sussex, England are available in our SC Library)
- * **English Estates of American Settlers 1800-1858**, Peter Coldham.

Funeral Home Memorial & Prayer Cards

We are now collecting and indexing Memorial & Prayer Cards from the Detroit Metropolitan area. If you have any that you no longer wish to keep, please consider donating them to our collection. Also, if you go to a Funeral Home, you might take an extra card for the collection.

And last, but definitely not least due to the efforts of Brenda Miller, we now have database Indexes to both Mount Olivet and Mount Elliott Cemeteries in Detroit. These are located on the Database Computer in the Local History Room. The date span for both cemeteries covers from day 1 up to April 2008 with the combined total of over 402,000 burials. At present we are the only Library in the United States to have this information. On the same computer, you will find scanned images of the Mount Elliott Record Books, which Carolyn Horton spent many hours renaming the images, to make them user friendly for you.

The next page is our Photo page, to view them, please go to our website www.rootsweb/~mimcgg.

MCGG Photos



December 2007 – Christmas Party
Back Row: Karen Brewer, Don Worrell, Karen Rogers, Ann Faulkner, Debbie Larsen, Brenda Miller
Middle Row: Bob Bauer, Liz Borysko, Karen Harris, Carolyn Horton, Mary Freer, Lisa Eschenburg
Front Row: Sue Hieber, Sue Harris, Betty Lou Morris, Herb Savage, Nichole Buechly, Shirley Eschenburg.



Feb. 2008. Photo of Allen Marshall from Lansing receiving the Certificate of Marriage for Nora Balch See Story on page 5.



Guess Who?



Joan Wasilewski at Cadillac Memorial Gardens



Karen Brewer cataloging books in Special Collections at one of our work sessions