



# MACOMB COUNTY

## GENEALOGY GROUP

### NEWSLETTER

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#### APRIL MEETING

APRIL 23, 2004 – “Using Heritage Quest Online,” presented by  
Deborah Larsen

**TOPICS FROM MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup> MEETING:** 1) Brenda Miller will be over-seeing the genealogy room volunteers. She will be training volunteers on location of materials and what they are expected to do to be able to help patrons locate information. 2) The Group will be experimenting with a night time genealogy meeting hoping to interest working patrons in our group events. 3) Diane Buckerfield

#### MESSAGE FROM KAREN HARRIS

We have started a few new initiatives we would like to tell you about. The first is our new membership database. We are asking everyone in our group to share their address, phone number, email address and date of birth with us. This information will help us communicate with you better and faster. Another project we are under taking is the development of two databases, one is of member's interests (location/places you are researching, surnames) and the second is the materials (books, maps, magazines, etc.) that you have in your possession that you would be willing to share or do a look up for someone. Ann Faulkner is developing the databases and will update them as needed. We would like to encourage each of you to participate in this and other initiatives we are implementing, and to share any ideas you have that will help us to improve and expand our group.

#### MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: Betty Lou Morris

A charter member of the Macomb County Genealogy Group, Betty Lou



Morris has attended its meetings regularly for the past thirty years. She was born in Michigan in 1925 and has lived here most of her life, except for a few years in Indiana and Ohio. She came to Mount Clemens in 1959 with her husband, Gerald W. Morris, MD, a pediatrician, and their three sons. Since then Betty Lou has been active in a variety of civic affairs, including the League of Women Voters, the PTA, various city advisory committees, and as a member of the Mount Clemens Board of Education for four years. She was appointed as a Trustee of the Board of Directors of the Mount Clemens Public Library when it was organized ten years ago and continues to serve in that capacity. . Other interests include the Macomb County Historical Society, Grace Episcopal Church, and her weekly Memoir Group meeting.

She first became interested in genealogy in 1969 and has been researching her ancestors and those of others in the family ever since. In those 'dark ages', genealogy research was carried on chiefly by correspondence, by consulting with relatives, and in libraries and county court houses. There were no photocopy machines, microfilm or fiche and computers were unheard of. Betty Lou was a member of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research for twenty years, serving as Research Chairman and President, among other offices.

When the MCGG was organized in 1973 she became its leader and conducted meetings and answered letters of inquiry about Macomb County genealogy for the next eighteen years. She also conducted workshops and lectured on topics of genealogical interest.

Her own genealogy is entirely English, with ancestors that came to this country in the 1600s for the most part. Her grandparents' names were Bidwell, Morey, Kinney and Lamb. The all came to Michigan in the 1820-30s. She is currently researching other names --Ensign, Hutchinson, Bullock, Thompson, e.g. in New England and New York. For her husband's lines she is doing southern research; Kilgore, Bean, Dunaway, Rolison and others in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and Kentucky.

After enjoying being able to travel to do genealogy research and attend seminars for many years, Betty Lou is now limited to an annual trip to Salt Lake City. So she is pleased to have the excellent resources of the Mount Clemens Public Library so close at hand-and to discover the seemingly unlimited data on the Internet. Moreover, having collected genealogical data on innumerable ancestors over this long period of time, she says she really ought to get it all organized and properly recorded so that her children will respect and save it for her descendants!

## **GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MONROE COUNTY, MI:**

27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR-SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2004 at Monroe County Community College – 1555 S. Raisinville Road, Monroe, MI 48161. The topics for this seminar are researching Ontario, New York and Loyalists. There is a \$20 charge for this seminar and you bring a brown bag lunch.

## **NEW SITES ON THE INTERNET:**

Macomb County Civil War Soldiers, a site being developed by Bob and Cherie Allen of Romeo. <http://www.macombmicw.com/>

Arizona Vitals; births are indexed 1887-1928, and deaths 1878-1953. The Index images of the actual certificates are available online. <http://genealogy.az.gov/>

Pension files from the National Archives can now be ordered online. <http://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/start.swe?SWECmd=Start>

A site to help in finding a grave location. <http://findagrave.com>

## **TIPS ON GETTING A COPY OF SOCIAL SECURITY RECORDS FOR THE PURPOSES OF GENEALOGY.**

Excerpts are from a printout about Social Security Information by Barbara Bennett. Ms. Bennett worked at the Social Security Administration as a claims representative and as a computer systems analyst. This was sent by Ms. Bennett as a private individual and not as a representative of the Social Security Administration. The last paragraph on this article is from a note from the Social Security Administration.

1. Disclosure of information: information about a living person may not be released to a third party unless the individual has a signed a written authorization for release. The fact of an individual's death, date of death, and place of death or burial may be disclosed to anyone. Any other information, other than tax return information, in a deceased individual's record may be disclosed as long as any information in the record pertaining to other living individuals is deleted from the record prior to disclosure.
2. Request for Extracts of Prior SSN Applications: SSA originally maintained paper files of all applications for original SSN's and applications requesting a change in the record. In the 1970's, these files were converted to an electronic database. The application forms were microfilmed for retention and the paper forms destroyed. Current applications are microfilmed; the paper forms are retained in The Federal

Records Center for 5 years and then destroyed.

There are 2 types of SSN application extracts which can be furnished upon request. (1) The Numident printout is a computer printed record which contains all the information on the original application form except the address and signature of the applicant. (2) A Microprint is a print of the microfilmed application form. Either of these items may be furnished to anyone upon written request and confirmation of death where this is not detrimental to the estate and there does not appear to be an unwarranted invasion of privacy of a living person; i.e., the parents of the deceased who are listed on the application form.

The microprint will not show the SSN assigned as a result of the Application; thus, the requester will receive both a microprint and a Rudiment printout when a microprint is requested. TO REQUEST AN EXTRACT: call your local SSA office and request form SSA-L997 SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER RECORD THIRD PARTY REQUEST FOR EXTRACT OR PHOTOCOPY. The form asks for Identifying information as follows:

- 1) SSN, if known
- 2) full name of the person now used (or last used, for deceased individual)
- 3) name shown on last social security card
- 4) the individual's full name at birth
- 5) the individual's date of birth
- 6) the place of birth
- 7) sex
- 8) full maiden name of mother
- 9) full name of father

The form does not provide a place to indicate which type of extract you want, so enter the following legend on the form: "Microprint Required, Printout Not Sufficient". The form also does not include a place to indicate that you are requesting information on a deceased individual. I would annotate the form with a statement that the individual is deceased. Attach proof of death, if you can, to expedite the request. It will take from 4-8 weeks to receive a response to your request.

The Social Security Administration charges a fee for processing requests for a copy of the original application for Social Security Card (Form SS-5). A check, cashier's check, or money order payable to the Social Security Administration must be sent in with your request. The amount will be on the form, at present the cost is \$26 and the abbreviated form is \$16. The

form should be mailed to: Social Security Administration, EO FOLIA Workgroup, 300 N. Green St., P.O. Box 33022, Baltimore, MD 21290-3022. To receive the SSA-L997 form you should call the toll free telephone number 1-800-772-1213 and our representative will be happy to assist you.

**DON'T FORGET** All members please get your Ancestor Charts in for our files. You may be missing someone who is looking for you!

**THIS COULD TAKE ALL DAY!** There is a story about a businessman who traveled to Salt Lake City for a meeting and decided to visit the Family History Library during his lunch break. There he asked for help in getting started and was encouraged to take a tour of the facility. He joined up for one that was just beginning. Upon his return an hour later he remarked, "This genealogy stuff could take all day!"