



MACOMB COUNTY GENEALOGY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume II, Issue I

2005



We were very pleased to have Chacella Newton at our February 25th meeting, to tell us about her quest in finding her family history, titled: 'Uncovering My Family History: From Michigan Back to South Carolina'. With her son's help she has been able to put on film the obstacles and successes she encountered.

Chacella described her family search in a very interesting and fun way.

On March 11 we learned about the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana, from Debbie Larsen. This was a great help for those of us going on our Library's sponsored trip to the Allen County Public Library the next day.

The April 22 meeting brought us Carmella Sabaugh, Macomb County Clerk and Registrar of Deeds and her employee Ben Smith, who talked about the Macomb County Digital Records Projects. This meeting was not only informative but will be a benefit for us in future research. We were able to express some of our concerns, and offer some suggestions that were well received by Carmella.

On May 6th we will have our annual Auction which is always fun, and will bring some well needed funds to our group.

MESSAGE FROM KAREN HARRIS: I would like to say thanks to everyone who have been attending our meetings. Attendance at all of the meetings has increased and as a result we have made great headway in transcribing the Macomb County Circuit Court Books. Our Cookbook Project is well under way, the committee meets every Monday morning, sorting and reviewing recipes. It is not to late to still get those recipes in, that were a favorite in your family. Remember, you can add a small paragraph about the person whose recipe you are contributing. Remember to mark July 15th at 12:00 noon on your calendars, that's the day we are going to Wolcott Farm for our Annual Picnic. Be sure and let Ann Faulkner or myself know if you will need a ride or are willing to drive. We don't want anyone left behind because they don't have transportation. And lastly I want to acknowledge our thanks to Diane and David Sacker for the beautiful Suggestion Box we now have in the Michigan Room. Diane was kind enough to offer Dave's help and Dave was kind enough to do the work. Its there for all of us to use so check it out.

FROM THE DESK OF ANN FAULKNER: Michigan Vital Record Update. The price of a certificate has increased from \$15.00 to \$26.00. This includes a 3 year statewide search. For the time being, it will be much cheaper for you to obtain your certificates directly through the County. A copy of the Michigan

County Clerk's Directory is linked from the MCPL Genealogy Page. Prices vary from \$5 in Alcona Co. to \$17 in Wayne Co. However, be aware that the information on a County death record, will vary from the early 1900s to 1935. In Macomb County, the Death Register will list the name, date, place, cause of death, age, marital status, occupation & parents names. Full certificates with burial information, etc. are only available through local jurisdictions (if they have preserved them), or the State. But, in Mecosta County full certificates are available from the County for this period. You might want to inquire before you send for the record. The good news from the Michigan Genealogical Council is that State Registrar will work with the Council to make films of certificates of marriage, divorce and death available at the State Library. The bad news is that State Library has shortened their hours. They are now open Mon. & Thur. 1-6; Tue, Wed. & Fri. 8-6; Sat 9-5 and Sun. 1-5. The Archives are open Mon.-Fri. 10-4.

Projects. We are continuing the indexing of the Circuit Court Journals at our monthly indexing sessions. Several volumes have been completed. If you tried to work on this project in the beginning and found the old script too difficult to decipher, you might try rejoining the Group, as the books we are now working on are typed. Work on the Obituary Index continues, Herb Savage is keeping us up to date on current issues, with Audrey Morton, Karen Brewer, Sue Hiebner, and Carolyn Horton working from microfilm on back issues. Please consider helping with this valuable project. With the assistance of Gerry Carrick, indexes are also being prepared for several books, and these will soon be added to the MCPL Genealogy website.

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: ELIZABETH BORYSKO – Elizabeth was born to Fremont and Evelyn Evans and raised in St. Joseph, Berrien Co., MI. Her father's family were early Pioneers in the County, in an area that is still farmland and fairly untouched. Her mother, born in Ottawa, Canada, trained as a nurse



and moved to St. Joseph in 1928, where the two met when Fremont went in for an operation. Fremont, born in 1878, was active in politics his entire life, becoming an attorney and later serving two terms as circuit judge.

Liz, as she is called by her friends, grew up in a large house, surrounded by fields. At one end was the old city cemetery, which she often explored, and soon began asking questions about who these people were. This was the beginning of life long interest in family history and origins.

She graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1950, and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Eastern Michigan, intending at first to become a teacher, but later decided to become a librarian as she felt it better suited her wide-ranging interests. She received her Masters in Library Science in 1955 from the University of Michigan. In 1954, she married John Borysko who was employed in metallurgical research at the GM Tech Center.

Liz worked in the Detroit Public Library, as a young adult librarian, four years before coming to Mount Clemens, where she was Head of the Children's Department for the next twenty-eight years. She initiated a number of programs, and had a special interest in story telling. Now retired, she holds a seat

on the Mount Clemens Library Board.

At one time, Liz had wanted to teach history, and she has always been interested in both world and family history. It was while working at the Mount Clemens Library that she frequently overheard meetings of the Macomb County Genealogy Group being conducted in the adjoining room, while she was having her lunch. She found the group so interesting, she decided to join after retirement.

Liz is a great fan of the arts, especially music, both playing and listening to it. She has also traveled extensively for the past 50 years, finally joining the Nomads flying group in 1983. In 1955, the couple purchased a cottage on Strawberry Island in the delta of Lake St. Clair; another region with a fascinating history. She figures genealogy and family history will provide her with enough to do for the rest of her life.

WHAT'S NEW ON THE NET: NEW JERSEY VITAL STATISTICS: Proposed Fee increase and rule changes. There is legislation in place to change the rules for obtaining birth and death certificates in NJ. "As part of their "re-adoption" and "new rules", the Bureau of Vital Statistics is proposing to increase the search fee from \$4 to \$25. This increase would make NJ one of the most expensive states for vital records." To keep up to date consult their website <http://www.state.nj.us/health/vital/vital.shtml>

WHAT GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH RESOURCES CAN BE FOUND AT THE MOUNT CLEMENS LIBRARY?: If you go to the Mount Clemens Library and want to look for your ancestors, one of the things you should know is: how to access the computer and what you can find there. There are two computers in the Michigan Room, one is hooked to the internet, and the other has some data bases, but is not internet accessible. The computer that is internet accessible has some very good sites that could be purchased at home, but would be quite expensive. There are also several sites available to us for free and should certainly be checked for pertinent data. Below are the sites you can access with one of the icons; starting at the top left icon:

INTERNET EXPLORER: Gets you to the internet to browse. Remember this computer is only to be used for genealogical research. If you want to search other subjects, please use the computers in the library proper. Internet Explorer opens on the MCPL homepage, and under Genealogy you will find links to many of the most useful sites on the internet.

AMERICA'S OBITUARIES & DEATH NOTICES: Like every other resource not every obituary is in this program, but you might find your relative's obituary has been included in this data. You double click on the icon and put the name of the deceased in the box, and then in the limit by date box you put one of the suggested dates, and the text. These are explained under each box. Next you check the states that are included in the database and check the state that the person would probably have their obituary, even if they didn't live in that state when they died. Sometimes, people that lived in an area for some time, and then move to another area will have an obituary in the place of long residence, put in by a relative or other person. This is a full text search so you can enter any data.

When you click on the icon for this site you will see a map of the US, simply click on the state you are interested in and the next screen will tell you what newspapers are available. As an example, the following is the list from Michigan:

- Battle Creek Enquirer (MI) – (5/4/2002-Current)
- Detroit Free Press (MI) – (3/5/1982-Current)
- Detroit News, The (MI) – (1/1/1999-Current)
- Flint Journal, The (MI) – (10/3/1995-Current)
- Grand Rapids Press, The (MI) – (8/6/2000-Current)
- Lansing State Journal (MI) – (1/14/1999-Current)
- Saginaw News (MI) – (1/14/1999-Current)
- Times Herald (Port Huron, MI) – (1/9/1999-Current)

As you can see, the dates of the newspapers included are fairly recent, so this won't help if you are looking for an obituary from 1900. However, if you need a recent obituary and it is in one of these papers, you are in luck. We understand that additional newspapers will be added to this site continually.

ANCESTRY PLUS: This is a program that the library gets from the Michigan State Library. You can access all the material that Ancestry offers, such as:

CENSUS RECORDS: 1790-1930; 1890 Census Substitute, the 1890 military lists; and the Accelerated Index System (AIS), a commercial company that indexes genealogical records, especially helpful for 1850 census.

MILITARY RECORDS: Civil War Pension Index, Civil War Research Database, Revolutionary War Pension Index.

COURT, LAND & PROBATE RECORDS: Australian Convict Index, 1788-1868; Native Soil Manuscripts Index; Salem Witches and more.

IMMIGRATION RECORDS: Passengers and Immigration Lists; Great Migration Index and more.

PERIODICALS & NEWSPAPERS: Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly; Railway Gazette Worldwide and more.

BIRTH, MARRIAGE, & DEATH: Social Security Death Index (includes most people that died from 1962 to present, except those that got pensions from railroads or Government workers.) Massachusetts Town Vital Records; American marriages before 1699 and more.

FAMILY & LOCAL HISTORIES: Slave Narratives; Biography & Genealogy Master Index; American Biographical Library and more.

REFERENCE & FINDING AIDS: The Source; A guidebook; Genealogical Library Master Catalog; Map Center and more.

DIRECTORIES & MEMBERSHIPS: U.K. and U.S. Directories 1680-1830; GenPage Finder and more.

COMMUNITY: Ancestry World Tree; Ancestry.com Research Registry and more.

FAMILY SEARCH: This is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) site. You double click on the icon and the tabs on the top of the church screen are; HOME – SEARCH – SHARE – LIBRARY, then below these tabs are; Family History Library, Family History Centers, Family History Library Catalog, and Education. The HOME tab is about the Church. Most people go right to the tab that says SEARCH; you enter a name and the site checks many indexes to see what has been extracted on the person you entered. Indexes include the IGI, and every name indexes to the 1880 Census of the US, and the 1881 censuses for Great Britain and Canada. The SHARE is for people that want to send information to the Church to add to their indexes. LIBRARY is about the Library at Salt Lake, their holdings, etc.

The lower subjects are Family History Library, again more about the Church Library. Family History Centers are the locations of Centers throughout the world. Family History Library Catalog is an index of all the films, fiche, books, manuscripts, etc. that the Library holds.

HERITAGE QUEST: All *censuses* 1790-1930 are available for browsing, but several such as 1830-1850, 1880 & 1930 are not indexed. In most cases the census images on Heritage Quest are superior to those on Ancestry. If you locate a family on Ancestry, but are unable to get a good copy, go to Heritage Quest to print it out. *Book Search*, find information on people and places described in over 25,000 Family and local histories. *Persi Search*, find information about people and places from this index of over 1.6 million genealogy and local history articles. *Revolutionary War Search*, this contains images of selected records from the Revolutionary War Era Pension & Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files

MACOMB COUNTY DATA BASES: Here's where we really shine with our Macomb County Lists.

Macomb County Cemetery Master Index
Macomb County Obituary Index
1930 Census Index for Macomb County, MI
Suburban Library Cooperative online digital media archive, really great photos of Early Macomb County residents, etc.
Macomb County Military Index
Macomb News Index
World War I Draft Registration Index for Macomb County, MI
World War I Service Records for Macomb County, MI
1890 Special Veterans Census Index for Macomb Co., MI
Mount Clemens City Directory Master Index
Mount Clemens High School Yearbook Master Name Index
Pageant of Progress Index

NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (NEHGS): An amazing conglomeration of records and manuscripts primarily from the New England States, New York, England & Canada, including: vital records, probate and other court records, tax lists, military records, cemeteries, rare books, manuscripts, diaries, bible records, church records, and genealogies. These databases can be searched individually or as a whole, and include full images.

Many research articles are available to assist you in your research covering such diverse topics as Genetics & Compiling a Family Health Genealogy, Ethnic Research, Mayflower Research, as well as research in various localities. And you can submit a general question online to their genealogist.

Some of the databases available, are as follows:

- New England Historical and Genealogical Register 1847 – 1994
- The Beekman Patent Vol.1
- Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841 - 1910
- Civil War Tax List of Arlington, MA 1863
- Marriage License Bonds Diocese of Cloye (Cork) Ireland 1630 – 1800
- Will Abstracts of Onondaga County NY 1796 - 1841
- Rhode Island Vital Records 1636 - 1850
- Cemeteries: San Francisco CA 7; Connecticut 249; Massachusetts 184; New Hampshire 393; New York 214; Rhode Island 7; Vermont 22; Nova Scotia 33; Ontario 2; India 2; United Kingdom 1.

RESURRECTION CEMETERY: This is a list of interments at Resurrection Cemetery. The lists include the funeral home, date of burial, section, lot, space, cause of death, and some notes. Not every death has all of this information, but some have most of it. It also lists removals, etc. We can thank Brenda Miller for getting this database for the Library.

ROSEVILLE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER (FHC) MICROFICHE LISTS: These are fiche on indefinite loan to the Roseville FHC and include cemetery readings, vital lists (marriages and deaths for some areas for a limited time), census for some areas, etc. When you find a fiche number in Family Search, check the number against this list to see if it is available to research at Roseville. (Also see the binder on top of the vertical files for the list of microfilms on permanent loan.)

SEARCH LIBRARY CATALOG: This is the Mount Clemens Library catalog. To get the best results on this site, for an example, put in a name like *Meade* to look for Meade Cemetery. The list will include any author with the name Meade that has a book in the collection, every book with Meade in the title, and the cemetery book, listing the cemeteries with Meade Cemetery listed there. You will have to go through all the books listed to find the Cemetery book or scroll to the bottom of the page, where you will find a list of search options. Click on Location, and select Genealogy Non-holdable from the menu, and it will limit the selections to those in the Genealogy Room. However, if you want a list of the Macomb County Circuit Court Records downstairs, you would have to change the Location to “In Storage Non-holdable.”

SLC DIGITAL ARCHIVES: This site has digital historical pictures and documents from the Macomb County area. Click on the link for a copy of the photo or document, then click the icon to the left of the folder for additional information.

The above icons are excellent genealogical resources. This section of Researching at the Mount Clemens Public Library is the first of an ongoing effort to familiarize us with our resources, and update library users as to the new information being offered.

GRAVE (MARKER) PATROL REPORT

The Grave Patrol consisting of Karen Rogers, Sue Hieber, Gerry Carrick, Ann Faulkner, and Carolyn Horton (when she wasn't working) has been very active. Last spring and summer this busy group read the markers in the Romeo Cemetery, 32 Mile Road, just west of Van Dyke in Romeo Michigan. This cemetery has beautiful old, upright markers. The group met early and spent several hours out in the fresh air with the birds, and the many people who walk or run on the cemetery roads, for their daily exercise. As noon approached, the sun getting higher in the sky, and their water bottles becoming empty, they put their pencils and clip boards away and headed for a local fast food restaurant to cool off, and share their experiences. The field notes are now being typed and indexed. When it is complete, an announcement will be made.

Not wanting to be bored, after finishing the Romeo Cemetery, the Patrol moved on to the Cadillac Memorial Garden East, Garfield & Clinton River Roads in Clinton Township. This cemetery has primarily ground level markers. They read the markers recording the names, birth and death dates, relationships, complete military information and civic affiliations noted on the markers. The field notes are being typed and indexed, as we continue. The Patrol will start working at Cadillac Memorial again this spring. Would you like to join us?

Karen Rogers has also entered a lot of the data from both cemeteries to the “Find a Grave” site linked from the MCPL Genealogy Homepage, so some of the data is available now, even though the full readings aren't.

NEW DEATH CERTIFICATE INFORMATION: Brenda Miller reports that starting this year, anyone who dies with lung cancer and was a smoker, and/or pregnant is added to the death certificate information.

NEW AT MOUNT CLEMENS LIBRARY: In May, the Library is buying a new computer. This will give us two computers accessible to the Internet and one computer with the data bases in the Genealogy Room. This will be a great help to researchers and the volunteers helping new researchers.

DO YOU HAVE A RESEARCH PROBLEM? Submit it to your editor. We might be able to help.