



Flint Genealogical Society  
P O Box 1217  
Flint Michigan 48501-1217

Officers 2014-2016

President—Della Gamalski  
Vice-President—Gerald A. Little Jr.  
Treasurer—Pam Smith—Acting  
Recording Secretary—Chris Ekleberry  
Trustee—Sharon Kraysovic—2016  
Trustee—Christine Venturino—2016  
Trustee—Dan Pozarek—2018  
Trustee—DeTria Taylor—2018  
Immediate Past Pres.—Jim Newman

FGS Meetings are always open to the public and are held the 1st Tuesday of each month (except July, & August) starting at 7:00 p.m. The FGS meetings are held at:

Burton Senior Activity Center  
3410 South Grand Traverse  
Flint, Michigan 48529  
Phone: (810) 744-0960

The FGS Executive Committee Meetings are open to the public.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be November 25, 2014 at the Perry Archives / Buick Gallery at 1:00 pm.

Contact the Editor at :  
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# Trees & Pedigrees

Serving Flint and Genesee County.

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November 2014, VOL 37, No. 9

## Speakers Bureau



*Our next meeting will be held on*

*Tuesday*

*November 4, 2014*

## Have you hit a Brick-wall ? Have you considered the orphan train ?

Our speaker will be, FGS member, Lorene Wilson.  
She will be talking about the orphan train in Michigan.

Did you know 12,500 orphans from New York City and the Boston area were placed in Michigan from 1854 to 1927.



### NOTICE

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## *Around the State ...*

Saturday, November 8, 2014 1:30 pm

Western Michigan Genealogical Society

Becoming American: Research with Naturalization Records - Presenter: Kris Rzepczynski

[http://www.wmgs.org/meetings\\_events.htm](http://www.wmgs.org/meetings_events.htm)

Saturday, November 8, 2014 10:00 am

Lansing Area African American Genealogical Society

at the State Historical Museum and Library, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI. The meeting will focus on LAAAGS' slate of new officers. Updates on members research will be presented.

<http://www.laaags.org>

Tuesday, November 11, 2014 7:00 pm

Lenawee County Family Researchers

Voting of officers during regular meeting per by-laws at Hidden River South Club House.

White elephant sale. Bring some things to sell!

<http://lcfamilyresearchers.wix.com/lcfr#!meetings-and-agenda/cfvg>

Saturday, November 15, 2014 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan

Caroline Kennedy Library 24590 George Ave. Dearborn Heights, Michigan

Patricia Yocum will present her talk on Our Cross-Border Cousins: Finding Records of Polish-Canadians.

<http://www.pgsm.org/eventListings.php?nm=49>

Tuesday, November 18, 2014 6:30 pm

Farmington Genealogical Society

"Timelines and Chronologies" - Washtenaw County Genealogical Society member, Sharon Brevoort, gives a very good demonstration on how using timelines and chronologies can help you to find where you may be missing pertinent information in your ancestor's life.

<http://www.mifarmgs.org>

Wednesday, November 19, 2014 7:00 pm

Midland Genealogical Society

"Using Foreign Census for Research" Presented by Jo Brines, Betty Bellous and Ruth Casadonte.

Meeting at St. John's Episcopal Church, Midland.

[http://mings.org/?page\\_id=13](http://mings.org/?page_id=13)

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## Glenwood Cemetery changes management, loses superintendent known for tours and graveyard knowledge

FLINT, MI — The man closest to Flint's oldest cemetery has said goodbye to the graveyard he's called home for the last six years.

Peter Lemelin, former superintendent of Glenwood Cemetery — final resting place of historic figures such as Jacob Smith, credited with settling Flint, and Charles Stewart Mott, automotive pioneer and creator of the foundation that bears his name — submitted his resignation in September.

Lemelin, who lived with his family in a house on cemetery grounds, was known for his knowledge of Flint's history and the figures buried at Glenwood. He was known for giving tours of the cemetery, speaking from memory about the various figures buried there. A fan of the cemetery's "mysteries," he was recently profiled in *The Flint Journal* for his help in [finding a group of lost "orphans"](#) from Michigan School for the Deaf who'd been buried more than a century before in unmarked graves.

He said he decided to resign after Glenwood's board of directors turned management over to Detroit's Elmwood Cemetery, a decision he said led to his pay cut in half and him having to seek employment elsewhere.

"It's not something we wanted to leave and I really enjoyed that job, but from a business standpoint, I understand what they did. But at the same time there's also a personal aspect as well," Lemelin said, adding that he's disappointed about leaving.

Elmwood had not responded to requests for comment.

Joseph Burrough, president of Glenwood's board of directors, said that Glenwood has had financial difficulties and that they want to see the cemetery undergo a similar transformation that Elmwood has in the past two decades — from a cemetery known more for its history and in need of repair to one that can be profitable and self-sustaining.

"We are in the process of trying to do something new at Glenwood and that's market it. People think of it as a historic cemetery and that it's all used up and that's not true," he said. "We've been relying somewhat on outside help, on individuals giving the cemetery grants or trusts, but we're trying to be more self-supporting."

Lemelin said he believes that Elmwood will do a good job keeping up and managing Glenwood.

"Elmwood was very similar 15 years ago. This guy came in and was able to turn it around. The cemetery itself is amazing," he said. "It's going to benefit Glenwood a great deal. Next year, they're going to spray the grass for weeds for the first time in probably forever."

That's not much consolation for Len Thomas, a Civil War historian and author who has walked, to his knowledge, [every cemetery in Shiawassee, Genesee, and Lapeer counties](#).

"I am absolutely astounded," he said. "Peter Lemelin was one of the most caring caretakers I have ever met. Peter elevated the history of Glenwood Cemetery to an unparalleled level with his devotion to bringing the cemetery alive for all visitors. He spent hours developing historical background information on many of the noted Flint leadership burials in the cemetery, and his self-guided tour brochure was very helpful to old and new visitors to Glenwood Cemetery. Over all the years, Glenwood has never looked better, nor was more well-attended to, since Peter Lemelin came to town."

David White, president of the Genesee Historical Society, said there aren't too many cemetery caretakers like Lemelin.

"It's rare that a person in that position takes the time to learn the history of the people interred and is willing to actually give tours. People in that position, they learn who is who, but not their background," he said. "Peter's done a great job in recent years in providing the cemetery for tours and actually giving the tours himself, and has brought a lot of recognition to the cemetery for historians and genealogists."

Lemelin had never planned on working in a cemetery. He'd grown up visiting Glenwood because he has relatives buried there and was fascinated by it, but went on to a career in finance.

**Glenwood Cemetery changes management, loses superintendent known for tours and graveyard knowledge ... *continued***

One of his clients ended up being Glenwood Cemetery. In the meantime, he had continued to visit, occasionally with his wife. He remembers one occasion clearly when they talked about what it would be like to live there.

"I think both of us were able to recognize Glenwood for its beauty as opposed to a cemetery filled with dead people. It tied in a lot of elements that we could really enjoy. Working out of the home was a big deal for us with the kids. That was huge. And being able to incorporate indoor and outdoor work."

"When it came to replace the caretaker they looked for someone who knew the cemetery and that put me in a unique position," he continued. "It was interesting because I really did just come from finance into cemeteries."

Lemelin's duties included some upkeep of the cemetery, handling finances, organizing events, raising funds and writing grants, in addition to day-to-day activities such as answering the phones and being available for visitors.

He began in October 2008.

He said he started learning about the people buried there, but not as intensely as he would, until he had a conversation with a friend.

"I realized that, one day, talking to a friend of mine, what we could do at the cemetery. He said, 'It would be really cool if you could become an expert.' Literally the next day I started walking around taking notes."

He would take the notes back home, plug them into Google searches and look up records and information. Then he'd write the information down and walk back out to the cemetery.

"I'd walk around with the notecards and eventually I didn't need to the notecards," he said.

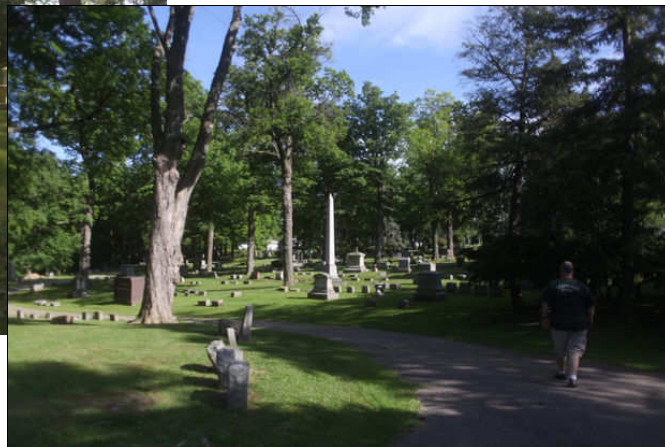
Lemelin said the one thing he wishes he could have done is start a walking prayer group.

"I am sad that what I never got started was a walking group that would basically go around and pray for the families. I think a prayer walking group would be fantastic. I think it could grow in size. I just never got around to starting it," he said.

Lemelin and his family are now living in South Branch. He's looking for work, but he said he's not in a hurry to land a job. He has no plans to go back to the finance world and sitting under florescent lights. Ideally, he said he'd like to work for a nonprofit, working again to do fundraising and organize events.

"I've got to feel passionate about what I work for," he said.

Source: [http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2014/10/glenwood\\_cemetery\\_changes\\_mana.html#incart\\_related\\_stories](http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2014/10/glenwood_cemetery_changes_mana.html#incart_related_stories)



## FLINT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, October 7, 2014, at 7:00 P.M. at the Burton Senior Center in Burton, Michigan.

President, Della Gamalski, called the meeting to order.

Member, Dan Pozarek, led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Due to the absence of the Secretary, there were no minutes from the September 2, 2014, meeting presented.

Acting Treasurer, Pam Smith, reported that for the month of September, 2014, we had income of \$200.00 and expenses of \$-72.35 leaving us with a balance of \$45,092.61 as of 9-30-2014. There were no questions, so her report was placed on file.

Member Dave Barkey reported that he and Pam Smith had attended the Health Fair that was held at the Burton Senior Center on October 1, 2014. They did not sell any of our publications but many people took a membership application form and showed an interest in the Society.

President, Della, advised that the Flint Public Library and the Flint Genealogical Society had co-sponsored a Genealogy Clinic at the library on Saturday, October 4, 2014. Only 5 persons had pre-registered but a total of 21 persons attended. It was a big success.

Della Gamalski noted that Dale Ladd had brought many items for our annual White Elephant sale along with many free items and urged members to take a look at them after the meeting if they hadn't already done so.

Della announced that the Flint Public Library will hold its Semi-Annual Book Sale October 23 - 25.

Also, Michael Madden has many copies of a publication, "Germans from Russia," at the library that he will give to interested persons.

Della introduced Linda Dagenhardt and Diane Needham who host a talk radio program called "Genealogy Gems." It is on WCXI 1160 A.M. radio every Saturday at 5:00 P.M. They answer questions from people who call in to the program and offer information and suggestions on various aspects of genealogy including Websites that they would recommend. It was very interesting and informative.

There was no further business, so the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

We had about 35 people in attendance.

We thank Nancy Provost, Barb Thornton and Gerald Little for providing delicious refreshments for our enjoyment. We, also, thank Hospitality Chair, Amy Hubbard, for making the coffee and keeping the kitchen running efficiently.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Winters,  
Acting Secretary