

**Waterford Genealogical Society
E-Newsletter**

Kim Smith, Editor

Volume 17, Number 7 –July 14, 2021

The Waterford Genealogical Society meets on the first Wednesday of each month, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

MEETINGS will be held at the library in SEPTEMBER

Tip: click on the blue hyperlinks for more information

Greetings from the [Waterford Genealogical Society](#)!

All **WGS** meetings are open to the Public and take place via Zoom for now. **Non-members** are welcome to attend. Membership in the Society is available with payment of the annual \$15 membership fee and provides voting rights. For more information contact Kelcey Evans: Kelcey100@gmail.com . A membership form may be found at the end of this newsletter. **PLEASE PAY YOUR 2021 DUES**- Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

WGS Meetings

Date: August 4, 2021 RESCHEDULED location Waterford Historical Society-Fish Hatchery Park Pavilion

Topic: "I Will and Bequeath..." Attendees are encouraged to share wills they have discovered that were odd, crazy, funny, or maybe changed the course of their family research.

Presenter: Sandy Kinter

Date: September 1, 2021 location Waterford Twp Public Library

Topic: TBA

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Membership Luncheon is scheduled for **November 3, 2021** at Heroes BBQ and Brew

Tuesday meeting Zoom meetings with Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach, 7:00 p.m.: Julia is hosting zoom meetings on the 2nd Tuesday each month thru June, and then no meetings July and August.

WGS NEWS

WGS has a great **Facebook** page. It is being updated regularly with interesting genealogical related items.

Visit us at: <https://www.facebook.com/WaterfordGenealogicalSociety>.

Our webpage: <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~miwatgs/index.htm>

Our new email address link: [Waterford Genealogical Society email](#)

Email address: waterfordgenealogicalsociety@gmail.com

- Be on the lookout for a WGS survey via email. The Executive Board would like input on how many meetings the group should have. Your participation is greatly appreciated.
- **QUERIES:** Please send any research questions to waterfordgenealogicalsociety@gmail.com, using Query as the Subject line. Two members will be monitoring and answering them. Thank you Dot LaLone and Carol George for volunteering for this.
- The Michigan Genealogical Council Fall Seminar set their date as **September 18, 2021**. SEE SAVE THE DATE: This will also be a Virtual Seminar.

- Note from the Archives of Michigan: **Re-opens to the public August 2, 2021, by appointment. Until then, we continue to provide reference services by phone and email. Email: Archives@Michigan.gov Phone: 517-335-2576 Phone Hours: M-F: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**
- A new membership brochure is in the works! Thank you Barb Frye for putting this together.
- Our annual Lock-in is scheduled for April 30, 2022- if all goes well!

Waterford Twp Public Library Notice:

Restoring Services - in process

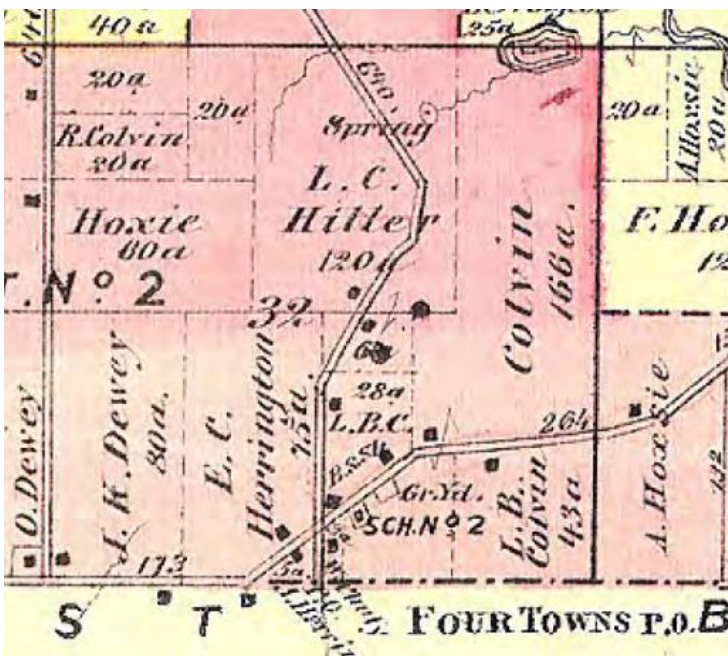
Study rooms available for booking. Study tables available on first come, first served basis.
Library collections available for browsing as well as appointments to use computers.

Hours of service:
10:00a-9:00p Monday through Thursday
10:00a-5:00p Saturday
Sunday 1:00p-5:00p

Coming Soon
Quiet Study space open
Meeting Room bookings

Of Waterford Interest- Waterford Township Section Biographies

Section 32



Hospital Road makes up the western boundary of Section 32, Waterford Township. The southern boundary is partly defined by Cooley Lake Road, which angles northward through the old Four Towns Post Office on it's way toward Elizabeth Lake. The rest of the boundary is shared with West Bloomfield Township. North is Section 29 and east is Section 33. Lockhaven Road wiggles it's way north from Four Towns to it's conclusion at Elizabeth Lake Road. Today the Section is mostly residential with single family homes and some apartments. There are a few businesses along Cooley Lake Road.

On the eastern side of the section is a 166 acre farm identified by surname of Colvin. This was the farm of Nathan R. Colvin. Across the section on the western side is a 20 acre property marked R. Colvin. This property also belongs to Nathan R. Colvin. To the

north and east of this property are two parcels marked 20 acres. There are no owners given for these two properties. South of R. Colvin is property just identified by the name Hoxie. The Hoxie family will be reported on in Section 33.

Lyman C. Hiller Harriet Louisa Owen

Recorded in the 1870 census, page 592, Waterford Township, Oakland County, Michigan, is the family of Lyman Hiller, age 56, farmer, born in New York; wife, Harriet L., age 51, born in New York, and Ellen, age 25, teacher, born in Michigan. The 1872 Waterford plat map shows the 120 acre farm of L.C. Hiller on both sides of Lockhaven Road, a little to the north of the Four Towns Post Office.

Lyman C. Hiller was born 26 February 1814, Parma, Monroe County, New York. (1) He moved to Waterford Township in 1840. (1)(2) In the 1840 census for Waterford Township, Lyman is a single man residing next door to his future father-in-law, Henry T. Owen. (3) Lyman Hiller married Harriet Louisa Owen, 20 June 1844, in Oakland County, Michigan. (4) The Hiller's will live the rest of their lives in Waterford Township. Lyman died 29 March 1892, in Waterford Township. (1) He is buried in the Four Towns Cemetery.(5) Lyman's entry on the Find A Grave website says his name is Lyman G. Hiller, but the picture of Lyman and Harriet's shared, very unusual headstone, clearly says he is Lyman C. Hiller and this is the name used on his obituary.

The name of Lyman's parents could not be proven with online sources, but it is highly probable that he is the son of Peter and Catherine Hiller. In May 1837, Peter Hiller of Monroe County, New York is acquiring two land patents in Waterford Township, one in Section 32 and the other in Section 33. (6) On 1 October 1839, Peter Hiller, and wife Catherine, are selling these same two pieces of land to Lyman C. Hiller of Monroe County, New York. (2) In the 1840 census, Peter Hiller is a single man, age 70-80, residing in Highland Township, Oakland County, Michigan, indicating that his wife had died between October 1839, the date of the deed, and the day the census was taken. (7) In the 1850 census, Peter Hiller, age 83, born in New Jersey, is residing with Lyman Hiller and family. (8) Peter Hiller died 22 July 1853, and is buried in the Four Towns Cemetery. (5)

Harriet Louisa Owen was born in 1819, in New York, (5)(8)(9) the daughter of Henry T. Owen and Olive Young. (9) She died 27 November 1889, in Waterford Township, (10) and is buried in the Four Towns Cemetery. (5) The parents of Harriet Louisa Owen are reported on in Section 31 biographies.

Sources

1. Obituary, Lyman C. Hiller, Pontiac Gazette, Pontiac, Michigan, Friday, 8 April 1892, page 4, Digital Michigan Newspapers, Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University, www.cmich.edu/library/clarke/Pages/Michigan-Digital-Newspaper-Portal.aspx
2. Deed Records, Oakland County, Michigan, Volumes 16-18, 1838-1840; Volume 18, 1839-1840, pages 6-7, Image 568, FHL #0975567, FamilySearch, www.familysearch.org
3. 1840 Census, page 131, Waterford Township, Oakland County, Michigan
4. Michigan, County Marriage Records, 1822-1940, Ancestry, www.ancestry.com
5. Four Towns Cemetery, Waterford Township, Oakland County, Michigan
Find A Grave, www.findagrave.com
6. Certificates #17649 and #17650, Peter Hiller, Bureau of Land Management, General Land Office Records, www.glorerecords.blm.gov
7. 1840 Census, page 18, Highland Township, Oakland County, Michigan
8. 1850 Census, page 118, Waterford Township, Oakland County, Michigan
9. *Descendants of John Owen of Windsor, Connecticut, 1622-1699*, Ralph Dornfield Owen, 1941, pages 245-246, Ancestry, www.ancestry.com
10. Oakland County, Michigan, Record of Deaths, Volumes 1-2, 1867-1902, Volume 2, 1887-1897, page 37, Image 427, FHL #0973983, FamilySearch, www.familysearch.org

Donald Sherman Beutler October 12, 1927 – July 4, 2021

My father, Donald Sherman Beutler was born on a family farm in Pembina County, North Dakota, near the Canadian border. He was delivered at home by a midwife who was a relative. He was the youngest of the 3 children of David Sylvester Beutler and Hazel Fay Hamand. He was predeceased by his parents, sister Geneva in 1970 and brother Gerald in 2009. Dad's Mother lived to be 100 and a half.

When Dad was two years old, the family moved to Michigan in a Model T Ford with side curtains. They lived in the Waterford and Pontiac area, moving many times. Before sixth grade, Dad attended Donelson, Stringham and Lambert in Waterford; Central Elementary and Webster in Pontiac. All of these schools are closed; vacant, repurposed or demolished. In 1936, due to the deepening Great Depression, Dad's father worked for the WPA, (Works Progress Administration) at the Drayton Plains Fish Hatchery as a laborer and, once it was noticed he was good with numbers, a timekeeper.

Dad attended Donelson Sunday School in Waterford and later First Baptist Church in Pontiac with his family. Vacations were rare treats. In 1933, they went to Illinois to visit his mother's cousin, Daisy Calhoun, taking a side trip to the Chicago World's Fair. One summer they went camping at Wilderness State Park near the Straits of Mackinac. Among Dad's fondest memories were visits to his father's cousin, Fred Beutler, at his farm in Gingellville in Orion Township. One winter, after an afternoon of sledding, Dad recalled falling asleep beside a pot-bellied stove.

By June of 1942, Dad's father was working in real estate part-time and as a roofing salesman for Sears. Dad sometimes went with his dad on roofing estimate trips. One day he did not and, returning from a Springfield Township job, Grandpa was instantly killed at an unmarked railroad crossing. As a minor child of 14, Dad received Social Security Payments, which his sister Geneva helped him to deposit in a savings account.

During summers after his father's death, Dad took the train and bus to Cavalier, North Dakota to his mother's sister, Fern and her husband Gail Hinkle. He helped his uncle and cousins with farm work including threshing and other chores. Aunt Fern raised turkeys. One day, Dad chose to stay home and take a nap when the family went to town. He was awakened to a loud bang, followed by gobbling. The turkey roost had collapsed! He ran out barefoot to reset the roost and calm the turkeys. At the end of the summer, Uncle Gail gave him a check to cash in town for his summer's work. Dad did not expect this but was very grateful.

Dad graduated from the original Pontiac High School in January 1946. During his school years, he worked at Harrison's Market on Voorhees Road and in the men's clothing department at Waites' Department Store in one of the earliest co-op programs. The 1946 Yearbook shows a photo of Dad with the "Usher's Group" assisting at school plays and sporting events. Driving past Wisner Stadium years later, he would comment on his ushering duties. One of Dad's classmates was Jack Kevorkian. When Dr. Kevorkian was breaking news in the 1990's, Dad characteristically understated, said "he was weird in high school."

Immediately after graduation, Dad went to work at the GM Fisher Body plant on Baldwin Avenue in Pontiac helping supply the postwar demand for new cars. This was a pay cut from the grocery store but included health benefits. He worked 25 years as a relief man on the assembly line; his final 15 years were spent driving a high lift in the materials department, unloading freight cars. He retired with over 40 years of seniority in 1986 on his 59th birthday. He was a member of the UAW.

Dad met his wife, Jane Long, in 1952, when Gerry and Ann Beutler invited them to dinner. Jane was Gerry and Ann's neighbor, living with her aunt and grandmother across the street. Shortly after their meeting, Dad was called to active duty from the Naval Reserve. This was during the Korean War. He was sent to Green Cove Springs, Florida, near St. Augustine. He served as a typist/storekeeper. Their relationship evolved through letters and visits home during leaves.

After his honorable discharge from active duty, Dad and Mom were married on June 12, 1954. They had passed their 63rd anniversary when Mom passed away in October of 2017. They purchased a new house in Waterford and moved in on Dad's 31st birthday, October 12, 1958. I was 3 and my brother Dave was 7 months old.

With the approach of the 1976 Bicentennial, Dad became interested in genealogy. Grandma Beutler gave Dad some old letters from her cousin in Illinois who had joined the DAR. He later served on a committee headed by a distant cousin in Minnesota. In 1994, they published the "Beutler Book" about descendants of Dad's Swiss Ancestors. Dad's great-grandparents, Nicklaus Beutler and Rosina Andres, arrived in Tuscarawas County, Ohio from Switzerland in the 1850's.

Descendants of Donald S. Beutler include my brother, David Beutler and me; five grandchildren: Sean Twyman, Tara Twyman, Sarah (Mike) Maniaci; Elena Beutler (Don Losee) and David I. Beutler; four great-grandchildren: William Twyman, Raquel Twyman, Nate Maniaci and Luke Beutler, two nieces, Mary McMahon and Carol Samuel and a nephew, Gerald W. Beutler, Jr.

Dad was interred with Mom at the Great Lakes National Cemetery – Holly.

UPCOMING MEETINGS, EVENTS, CONFERENCES IN OUR AREA

Visit these sites- each one has lots of great information and links

Until some restrictions are lifted, most in person Programs are on Hold, check with the societies you might be interested in for updates.

✚ [Oakland Co. Genealogical Society](#) ALL MEETINGS VIA ZOOM 7:00 p.m. NO MEETINGS JULY, AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER.

✚ [Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society \(OCPHS\)](#) 405 Cesar Chavez Ave. Pontiac, MI
Their hours may vary due to the schedules of their volunteers.
(248-338-6732)



The Summer Ice Cream Social is Saturday, July 24th and Sunday, July 25th from Noon to 4 pm each day.

Admission is free! Here is a sampling of the large and growing features at this year's Social:



Free Ice Cream & Cupcakes - Wisner Mansion Tours - All of our Historic Buildings Open for Exploration - New Interpretive Signage Unveiled - Live Musical Performances - Massive Flea Market Sale - Artists Exhibiting and Selling - Historic Vehicles - Military Reenactors - Local History Exhibits and Organizations - Pontiac Creative Arts Center Outdoor Exhibit - Jugglers - Live Demonstrations - Petting Zoo - Pony Rides - Children's Activities - Book Distribution - Artifacts Never Before Publicly Seen... and so much more!

✚ [Detroit Society for Genealogical Research](#): NO MEETINGS UNTIL SEPTEMBER: Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI. Detroit Public Library Explorer's Room. Note: Free fenced-in parking is available for all Saturday Library events on the south (Putnam Street) side of the Library. COVID-19 restrictions and Detroit Public Library Policies will determine if programs are held virtually or on-site.

- ✚ Burton Historical Collection News: Due to flooding and the required clean-up, the Main Library will remain closed until after Labor Day. The Detroit Free Press posted an article with photos on the work being done to save the collection. See [Detroit Main Library, Symphony and more see temporary closures due to storm damage](#)

SAVE THE DATES

✚ **Saturday, September 18, 2021**

MGC Fall Family History Virtual Event with Bernice Bennett

Virtual seminar

Award-winning author, genealogist, talk show host and storyteller, **Bernice Bennett** will be our speaker. Bennett is the recipient of the first Ida B. Wells Service Award from the Sons and Daughters of the U.S. Middle Passages for her dedication to broadcast the stories about enslaved and indentured ancestors of African descent. Her book, *“Tracing Their Steps”* is the winner of the 2021 New Generation Indie Book Award and the Phillis Wheatley Award. Bennett is a nationally recognized speaker, having presented at conferences such as the National Genealogical Society, Midwest African American Genealogy Institute, RootsTech, Afro-American Historical and Genealogy Society, the International Black Genealogy Summit, and more.



Join Bernice and MGC for these exciting topics.

1. ***USCT Civil War Widows Pension Records Tell the Story*** will discuss the anatomy of a Civil War Widows Pension file and several examples to illustrate the value of using these records.
2. ***Black Homesteaders at the Crossroad of Freedom*** will answer these questions: Who were the homesteaders? What is the homestead act of 1862? What are the eligibility requirements? What is the application process? and What can you find in the land entry papers?
3. ***Writing and Telling Your Story*** -Do you have a story to tell and don't know how to write or tell it? This session will explore how you can turn your genealogical research into a compelling and engaging family story.
4. ***Follow the Witnesses*** will show how following witnesses on documents can reveal the community history.

This one-day event is one you won't want to miss. More information, including registration, will be available soon.

SHARING NOTES FROM THE NET

Below are submissions, from the internet, our members thought might be of interest to other genealogists

✚ [The Allen County Public Library](#)

Did you know they have their own YouTube Channel? [The Genealogy Center](#) posted, at last count, 82 videos.

The Genealogy Center continues its offerings of [virtual programs](#) throughout the month of July with Tuesday 2:30 p.m. EDT and Thursday 6:30 p.m. EDT offerings every week.

Please register in advance for each program.

✚ Useful Websites to use for research

- [ARCHIVEGRID](#) includes over 7 million records describing archival materials, bringing together information about historical documents, personal papers, family histories, and more. With over 1,400 archival institutions represented, ArchiveGrid helps researchers looking for primary source materials held in archives, libraries, museums and historical societies.
- [David Rumsey Map Collection](#) was started over 30 years ago and contains more than 150,000 maps. The collection focuses on rare 16th through 21st century maps of North and South America, as well as maps of the World, Asia, Africa, Europe, and Oceania. The collection includes atlases, wall maps, globes, school geographies, pocket maps, books of exploration, maritime charts, and a variety of cartographic materials including pocket, wall, children's, and manuscript maps. Items range in date from about 1550 to the present.
- [Digital Public Library](#) This ever-expanding website draws on the resources of some of the nation's leading repositories. Explore more than 11 million digitized items from libraries, archives and museums across the country in this online repository. Search the whole collection with a single click, or narrow your search to a place or time period for photographs, books, audio and video files, maps and more.
- [HathiTrust](#) is a not-for-profit collaborative of academic and research libraries preserving 17+ million digitized items. HathiTrust offers reading access to the fullest extent allowable by U.S. copyright law.
- Black's 1891 version of [A Dictionary of Law](#): Containing Definitions of the Terms and Phrases of American and English Jurisprudence, Ancient and Modern; Including the Principal Terms of International, Constitutional, and Commercial Law; with a Collection of Legal Maxims and Numerous Select Titles from the Civil Law and Other Foreign Systems.

- Note: an example- reading old town records a definition was needed for vendue master:

VENDUE. A sale; generally a sale at public auction; and more particularly a sale so made under authority of law, as by a constable, sheriff, tax collector, administrator, etc.

VENDUE MASTER. An auctioneer.

Waterford Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 300162
Waterford, MI 48330

This newsletter has been sent to people who asked to receive it. To unsubscribe from this mailing list, or to change your e-mail address contact the editor: Kim Smith at mi2megen@gmail.com

Waterford Genealogical Society 2020/2022– Officers and Committee Chairs:

- President – [Dot LaLone](#)
- Vice President – [Barbara Hofmann](#)
- Treasurer – [Kelcey Evans](#)
- Recording Secretary – Pam Schmaltz
- Corresponding Secretary- Linda Matola
- E -Newsletter – [Kim Smith](#)
- German Study Group- [Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach](#)
- Webmaster-Chuck Dewey
- Queries: waterfordgenealogicalsociety@gmail.com
- Evening Meeting – [Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach](#)
- Programs – [Sandy Kinter](#)
- Lock-In – Dot LaLone/Kelcey Evans
- Zoom Programs – [Tom Smith](#)
- Publicity – [Dot LaLone](#)
- Michigan Genealogical Council Delegates: Kim Smith, Barb Hofmann
- WGS Website: <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~miwatgs/index.htm>
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WaterfordGenealogicalSociety>
- Email: waterfordgenealogicalsociety@gmail.com

Meetings are the first and third Wednesday of the month @ 1:00-3:00 pm in the Community Room of the Waterford Twp. Public Library
Evening meetings are once a month, on the second Tuesday 7:00-8:30 pm (except for July and August) in the library’s Conference Room. With the first half hour dedicated to the Germanic Interest Group

Waterford e-newsletter is published once a month by the Waterford Genealogical Society
Your news and views are valued. Please send them to the [editor](#).



Welcome to the Waterford Genealogical Society Est.2007

The society will promote and encourage an interest in genealogy among its members and the general public. Working closely with the Waterford Township Public Library, the society aims to educate and enhance research opportunities.

2021 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Based on calendar year

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Check if you give permission to share your contact information with other members of the society.

This information will not be shared with any other organization or entity.

Check if you would like to be an officer or help on a committee.

Check if you would like to receive a membership card.

Surnames, and their locations, that you are researching:

Send **\$15** check or money order payable to:

_____ Donations Accepted

_____ Total

Waterford Genealogical Society
c/o Treasurer: Kelcey Evans
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Waterford, MI 48330