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What's New at the Library of Michigan?



Over the last few weeks, I have been swamped with questions from family historians curious about the status of the Library of Michigan in light of our state's current budget situation.

In her State of the State address last month, Governor Granholm recommended that the Department of History, Arts and Libraries be eliminated. However, very few details emerged at that time about how such a move would be handled. The Legislature is currently considering her recommendations and thoroughly examining the budget numbers and impact. The recommendations thus far are just the first step in what is likely to be a long legislative process.

I realize that the decision to disband HAL and the uncertainty surrounding the eventual outcomes for the department's member agencies – including the Library of Michigan – leave many questions yet to be answered. Genealogists are understandably concerned about the many information resources and programs they have come to rely upon, especially those available through the Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan.

Until Governor Granholm issues the executive order that outlines the specifics of how HAL is to be disbanded and its agencies transferred, any thoughts on what “could” happen would truly be speculative at best.

One certainty is this: The staff of the Library of Michigan remains committed to providing the best service we possibly can. The doors are open and we continue to add materials to the collection, assist researchers and push forward new projects like digitization of the Michigan death records. The genealogical community in Michigan has always played a huge role in the growth of the Library and its prestige nationally, and your continued support of our programs and mission has been nothing short of inspiring. Now, we need that support more than we ever have ...

Happy searching!

Randy Riley
Special Collections Manager
Library of Michigan



Library of Michigan Digitizes Michigan Death Records, 1897 to 1920

The Library of Michigan recently launched a Web site featuring nearly 1 million Michigan death certificates never before available electronically. These death certificates, for the years 1897 to 1920, hold tremendous research opportunities for genealogists, historians and students – as well as anyone interested in Michigan's rich heritage.

These records are online at www.seekingmichigan.org, the Department of History, Arts and Libraries' brand-new, one-stop shop for Michigan historical records. Seeking Michigan is a partnership between the Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan, which also has digitized state records for this Web site.

“Previously people had to visit the Library of Michigan to view these records on microfilm, or order them for a fee from the state vital records office or a county clerk,” Special Collections Manager Randy Riley said. “Now anyone in the world can go online to Seeking Michigan and find the record of interest to them within minutes and at no cost.”

The Abrams Foundation, which has given the Library more than \$1 million since the 1980s, funded the death records digitization.

In addition to having the records digitized, the Library had them indexed for easy searching by name, death date, location, age and more.

For more information about Seeking Michigan, please contact the Library of Michigan at (517) 373-1300 or librarian@michigan.gov.

Learning More at the Library of Michigan: Online Genealogy Workshop Is April 4

By Gloriane Peck, special collections librarian

Learning More at the Library of Michigan: Online Genealogy is set for 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 4.

This free family history seminar is designed to introduce researchers to particular topics of interest and to highlight specific genealogy resources available at the Library of Michigan. Geared toward both beginning and experienced genealogists, the popular annual workshop offers tips and tools for research using free Web resources and subscription databases available at the Library of Michigan.

Participants may choose one program for each of the following three time slots:

1 – 1:50 p.m.

- A. **Effectively Using HeritageQuest Online**
HeritageQuest is available to Michigan residents anytime, anywhere through MeL, mel.org. Learn how to find information in this growing resource, which now offers six database collections.
- B. **Finding Free Vital Records**
Discover the latest additions to Family Search Labs' collection of vital records, as well as other resources for finding these key genealogical sources.

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2:05 – 2:55 p.m.

- C. **Ancestry Library Edition**
Featuring an ever-expanding list of databases, Ancestry Library Edition offers census records, immigration information and much more. Pick up tips for putting this subscription database to full use at the Library of Michigan.
- D. **Utilizing Footnote at the Library of Michigan and from Home**
Explore this interactive repository with millions of images of original documents, many from the National Archives, including naturalizations, city directories and Civil War records.

3:10 – 4 p.m.

- E. **Seeking Michigan Death Records? A New Digitization Project**
The Library of Michigan has digitized Michigan death records from 1897 to 1920. These certificates are available for free at www.seekingmichigan.org, a project of the Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan.
- F. **Accessing Obituaries on the Internet**
ProQuest Obituaries, Footnote.com and free Web sites make it easier to find obituaries, a source rich with genealogical information and details about an ancestor's life and times.

As seating is limited, registration is recommended. To register:

Visit the Library

Go to www.michigan.gov/familyhistory

E-mail librarian@michigan.gov

Call (517) 373-1300

Please join us for this exciting program!

Name of Genealogy Award Changed to Recognize Carole Callard

The Genealogy Appreciation Award, presented annually by the Library of Michigan and the Library of Michigan Foundation, is now the Carole Callard Genealogy Appreciation Award. The award was created in 2003 as a way for the Library to recognize outstanding genealogical service and to highlight individuals that have dedicated their efforts to make the Library of Michigan one of the strongest genealogical collections in the country. Past winners of the award include Dr. Joseph Druse, Barbara Brown, Ruth Lewis, John Castle, Peggy Sawyer Williams, William Gorski and Shirley Hodges

“Carole was instrumental in expanding the Library of Michigan’s genealogy holdings and increasing its national reputation,” Special Collections Manager Randy Riley said. “Her tireless work within the genealogical community made the Library a destination for serious researchers.”

Callard – who died Dec. 10, 2005 – held many positions in her professional career. She served as a national Government Publications Office documents collection inspector, worked in Ethiopia to improve library services, served as a reference librarian at Ann Arbor District Library and the University of Michigan and spent a short time on the staff of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Ind. Nowhere was Callard’s impact felt more than at the Library of Michigan, where she served as the genealogy and government documents supervisor and Abrams chair of genealogy.

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“Carole was my mentor,” said Riley. “She forgot more about genealogy than I may ever know.”

Callard oversaw the logistics of moving the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection into the new Michigan Library and Historical Center in the late 1980s. She tirelessly worked to complete the Michigan Cemetery Atlas and Sourcebook and the indexing of the 1870 Michigan census. In her last year working at the Library, she made more than 50 presentations to libraries, genealogical and historical societies, and family historians.

In 1997 Callard was honored by being named the Abrams chair of genealogy at the Library of Michigan, one of the few endowed library positions in the country and the only chair dedicated to family history. She was awarded the prestigious Filby Award in 2003 and the Distinguished Service Award from the Wayne State University in 2005.

The Carole Callard Genealogy Appreciation Award will be presented at the Library’s Abrams Genealogy Seminar, held July 17 and 18. For more information on the award or the seminar, visit www.michigan.gov/familyhistory or call (517) 373-1300.

Mark Your Calendars! Abrams Genealogy Seminar, Featuring Stephen Morse, Set for July 17-18

By Kris Rzepczynski, Michigan/genealogy coordinator

The Library of Michigan is pleased to announce that the 2009 Abrams Genealogy Seminar will be held Friday and Saturday, July 17-18, at the Michigan Library and Historical Center in Lansing.

A signature event for the Library of Michigan, the fourth annual Abrams seminar represents a unique opportunity for researchers to spend two full days at the Library, utilizing our vast array of genealogy resources and learning about specific topics of interest. Sessions will cover a variety of topics, including cemetery research, Michigan death records, online research for the British Isles and much more.

A highlight of the seminar will be a keynote address, co-sponsored by the Eaton County Genealogical Society, featuring Stephen Morse, famous for his outstanding One-Step Web pages at <http://stephenmorse.org>. These online resources are invaluable to genealogists for topics as diverse as Ellis Island ship lists; U.S., Canadian and British census records; and even calendar conversions and language translation.

As in previous years, the Abrams Seminar will include a library and archives research track, in which facilities with extensive genealogical and historical holdings will outline their collections. Participating libraries and archives include the Library of Michigan, the Archives of Michigan, the Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Public Library, the Capital Area District Library in Lansing and the Allen County (Ind.) Public Library.

Additional information about the Abrams Genealogy Seminar, including the program schedule and registration, will be available soon; stay tuned for more details. To learn more about this event, please contact the Library at (517) 373-1300 or by e-mail at librarian@michigan.gov.

We look forward to an outstanding seminar in July!



Michigan Notable Books ‘Night for Notables’ Celebration

By Randy Riley, special collections manager

The Library of Michigan **will close** at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 18 in preparation for the Michigan Notable Books annual “Night for Notables” celebration.

Annually the Library selects 20 of the most notable books for the past year. The selections reflect Michigan’s diverse ethnic, historical, literary and cultural experience.

This year’s keynote speaker will be Christopher Paul Curtis, the first author to receive both the Newbery and Corretta Scott King Author awards. The reception begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in the atrium on the second floor of the Library. Tickets for the “Night for Notables” event are available from the Library of Michigan Foundation for \$35.

For more information on the Michigan Notable Books program and the “Night for Notables” celebration or to see a list of the 2009 Notable titles, visit www.michigan.gov/notablebooks or call (517) 373-1300.



Library of Michigan Now Offers Access NewspaperARCHIVE

By Gloriane Peck, special collections librarian

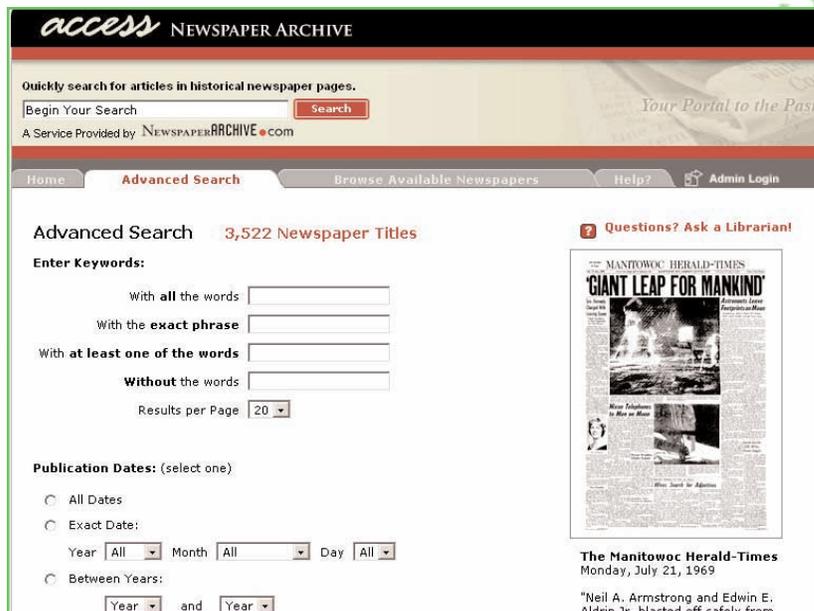
The Library of Michigan recently added a subscription to Access NewspaperARCHIVE, a database that contains tens of millions of searchable historical newspaper pages.

This site features newspapers from around the world, including papers from a number of Michigan cities: Adrian, Benton Harbor, Bessemer, Hillsdale, Holland, Ironwood, Ludington, Marshall, Saint Joseph, Sault Ste. Marie, Traverse City and Wakefield.

The Michigan newspapers in this database span a wide-ranging time period, with some as early as the 1830s and others covering the more recent past.

Access NewspaperARCHIVE offers several search functions as well as an option to browse newspapers by title or date. You may print a full page of a newspaper, or print only a specific article.

Newspapers are a great resource for finding obituaries and information about ancestors’ major life events and for learning about daily life in Michigan’s diverse communities. Be sure to check out Access NewspaperARCHIVE during your next trip to the Library of Michigan.



MeL Michigana: Buried Treasures Found!

By Kyle Kay Ripley, Library Development and Data Services

A wealth of visual images and audio files found at MeL Michigana (part of the Michigan eLibrary, www.mel.org/michigana) can be a treasure trove for genealogists. Using the excellent quality images and audio files in this free online collection enables researchers to enhance the richness of their family history, putting the activities of their ancestors in context with the social and political issues of the times of their lives. MeL Michigana includes more than 50,000 items from a broad spectrum of libraries and historical institutions in Michigan. The Archives of Michigan Digital Collection, projects from the Making of Modern Michigan and Michigan County Histories from the University of Michigan comprise the majority of the collection's content.



In 2005, the Michigan Legislature allocated \$965,000 to the Library of Michigan for projects to “digitize materials currently in the possession of libraries in the state to preserve, store and make these digitized images accessible via the Michigan eLibrary.” Ten libraries were recipients of the 2005 Digitization for Preservation and Access grants, and their resulting projects are also part of MeL Michigana.

Images of genealogical interest in the Archives of Michigan digital collection include Civil War soldiers and service records, WPA property inventories and death records. Currently these collections do not cover the entire state, but more are being added continually. The Civil War Soldiers collection has almost 1,400 photos of identified and unidentified soldiers taken during the years of the Civil War. Service records may include muster rolls, enlistment and discharge papers. More than 2,000 images from the WPA property inventories include commercial and residential properties in Oakland, Jackson, Hillsdale and Isabella counties.

The Making of Modern Michigan houses collections from 52 libraries comprising more than 4,500 subjects. Researchers will find images of newspapers as far back as the mid-1800s, indexes to newspapers, diaries, photos, oral histories, photographs, scrapbooks, funeral home obituaries and much more. Selected materials from the Detroit Public Library's Burton Historical Collection and oral histories from Monroe County residents recounting their experiences in the Great Depression and World War II are just a couple examples of highlights.

The Michigan Oral History Association's Michigan Oral History Database contains nearly 4,000 audio files, including interviews with Holocaust survivors, migrants and Vietnam veterans.

The Michigan County Histories and Atlases collection includes 428 digitized titles (many that have multiple volumes) published before 1923. The collection offers keyword searching and page-by-page access to digitized reproductions of Michigan county histories and atlases as a resource for historical and genealogical research. Many of these images also are available on microfilm at various institutions within the state; the digitized images are more visually appealing and some may be printed at a size more practical for research documentation.

The Virtual Motor City collection from Wayne State University's Walter P. Reuther Library includes more than 400 video newsreels and more than 36,000 photos from the *Detroit News*.

The War of 1812 Digitization Project from the Monroe County Library provides researchers looking for first-hand experiences of soldiers with letters, memoirs and general historical accounts, with emphasis on the Battle of the River Raisin in Frenchtown.

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The Loutit District Library's Local History Interviews were produced in the 1980s and 1990s. The collection contains oral histories primarily from residents who lived in southwest Michigan during the early 1900s and later. Their accounts of experiences in the Coast Guard, the fishing industry, shipping and more provide a personal insight into life along Lake Michigan.

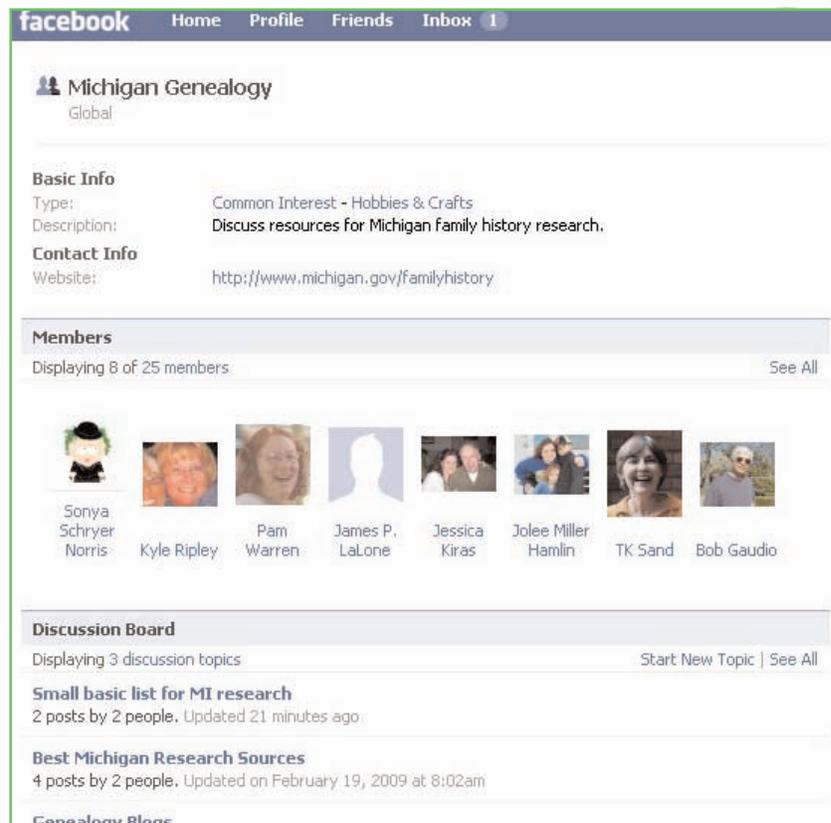
Join the Michigan Genealogy Group on Facebook

By Gloriane Peck, special collections librarian

The Library of Michigan is now on Facebook, a social networking Web site that allows users to connect with friends and family, and make new connections with people who share common interests. Facebook is online at www.facebook.com.

In creating a Michigan Genealogy group on Facebook, the Library of Michigan aims to bring together genealogists and library users for online discussions. So far group members have chatted about genealogy blogs and the best resources for Michigan genealogical research. Besides discussions, you can use the Michigan Genealogy group to find out about upcoming genealogy events, network with other researchers and more.

Join the group by setting up a Facebook account, and then searching for Michigan Genealogy in the search box at the upper-right corner of the Web site. Have any questions about Facebook? Contact the Library of Michigan at (517) 373-1300 or librarian@michigan.gov.



Wayne County and More: The Detroit Society for Genealogical Research Magazine as a Michigan Resource

By Edwina Morgan, special collections librarian

Ever seen the *Detroit Society for Genealogical Research Magazine* on the shelf and kept right on walking, thinking you have no family in Detroit? You might want to take a second look. First started as a modest little bulletin in 1937, the early editions included materials from other states such as Tennessee and Connecticut. Family groups and records from Michigan and elsewhere are also included. However, the publication's major benefit is that its contributors have included material from all over the state of Michigan, from marriage records of Saint Joseph County to Presque Isle County cemetery transcriptions.

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All of this does little good if you cannot find your family, regardless of where they lived. Happily that problem is solved twice over. The Library of Michigan holds the entire run of these journals, from 1937 to the present. There also are cumulative indexes to be scanned at will, so that individual names may be picked out no matter where they may be listed in the material.

It does, however, get even easier. The *Detroit Society for Genealogical Research Magazine* is indexed in Periodical Source Index (PERSI), the largest index for genealogical and historical periodical articles in the world. The Library of Michigan has made PERSI available to all Michigan residents from home, free to use, through Heritage Quest. To access this source, go to www.Mel.org, sign on using your driver's license or state ID number or your library card number, and then advance to Heritage Quest in the list of MeL Databases. Once you find a *Detroit Society for Genealogical Research Magazine* article you are interested in reading, it will be right here waiting for you at the Library of Michigan.

What's New at the Library of Michigan?

By Charles Hagler, reference librarian

Do you want to know what new Michigan and genealogy materials have been added to the Library of Michigan's collection? Access to ANSWER, our online catalog, is available on the Internet at <http://answercat.org>. You can search the monthly new Michigan and genealogy books by clicking on the "Check for New Books" button at the bottom of the ANSWER home page.

Please note, many of our genealogical resources are part of the non-circulating collection and are only available for on-site use at the Library. ANSWER does not provide access to periodical articles, microforms, or CD-ROM and Internet databases, but does indicate the location and call number where the item can be found in the Library of Michigan.

Here are a few notable titles that have arrived since the last issue of *Michigan Genealogist*:

Massachusetts Vital Records: Boston Marriages 1849-1890. Jay Mack Holbrook. 310 microfiches. Oxford, MA: Holbrook Research Institute, 1986.

Microfiche F 73.35 .M377 1986

These are microfiche copies of the original marriage records from the city of Boston. We have other microfiche that includes Boston births from 1849 to 1900, out-of-town marriages from 1858 to 1895 and deaths from 1849 to 1890. We have other vital records for the towns of Abington, Barnstable, Bellingham, Brighton, Brockton, Brookline, Carver, Charlestown, Chelmsford, Chatham, Chelsea and Cohasset, Mass. Some of these town records go back to the 17th century.

Smith, Charles M. *History of the Walter Family: Westbury, Somersetshire, England*. Pontiac, MI: C. M. Smith, 1911.

Genealogy CS 71 .W24995 1911

Although the Library of Michigan does not actively purchase individual family histories, our family history collection continues to grow due to the generous contributions of these types of materials to our collection. Sometimes they are donation from a late genealogist's estate, from someone seeking out and purchasing items for our collection, or from those simply downsizing their own personal collections due to relocation. Whatever the reason, the Library welcomes such gifts of family histories, which – as in the case of the one mentioned here – are sometimes a limited or one-of-a-kind item.

Busch, Ed. *Genealogy: A Guide to the Resources in the Michigan State University Archives*. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Archives, 2009.

Michigan Z 6621 .M53 B8 2009 or <http://worldcat.org/oclc/299160007/viewonline>

This is an example of new titles that come only in electronic format. If you go to ANSWER, our online catalog,

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and put this title in the search box, you should get the bibliographic record for the “book” along with a link to the electronic version. In MeL, the Michigan eLibrary, hundred of such books can be found in HeritageQuest, which Michigan residents can access from their own computers through MeL, mel.org.

Census 2010: Be a Part of History

By Leelyn Johnson, reference and documents coordinator

How often have you looked for ancestors on a federal decennial census and not found them? You found them in a city directory or an atlas, and found their neighbors in the census, but they are not listed. You become frustrated and wonder why they were not enumerated. Did they miss or avoid the census taker?

The census of 2010 will be taken next April. Besides the fact that your participation in the census is required by law, the process is as important today as it was for United States citizens during the first census in 1790. Along with its usefulness to genealogists in researching their family histories, the census data is used to determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and the amount of federal funds each state and community will receive. Local decision-makers also use the data to plan community projects.

The 2010 census questionnaire will be simple and safe to complete. Federal law protects the personal information you share. Each person in a household will be asked for name, relationship, gender, age and date of birth, race and whether the home is owned or rented.

You also have the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of previous enumerators and help take the census in 2010. The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring census takers now – see <http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/index.php> for more information.

Library of Michigan Loses a Dear Friend

By Randy Riley, special collections manager

A longtime friend and supporter of the Library of Michigan, Arlynn G. Gantz, died Tuesday, Feb. 17 at the Woodlands Hospice in Mount Pleasant. Arlynn was born in St. Louis, Mich., on March 10, 1936, the son of Lynn J. and Reika Kathleen (Wilkinson) Gantz.

Genealogy was a big part of Arlynn’s life. He loved to travel, and doing family history often provided him with an excuse to hit the road. Arlynn spent countless hours transcribing cemeteries in mid-Michigan. He itemized the names of people interred in more than 170 cemeteries. Many of these cemetery readings can be found in the stacks at the Library of Michigan. His detailed readings have become irreplaceable reference tools for hundreds of researchers.

Arlynn retired, moved to Florida and suffered failing health after he moved back to Michigan. We didn’t get a chance to see him as much as we used to in the genealogy stacks during the last few years, but no one that had the pleasure to work with Arlynn could ever forget him. His quick smile, corny jokes and genuine desire to share information with other researchers were truly impressive. He loved life and cherished the opportunity to spend time with folks that shared similar interests. He will be missed.

Arlynn’s funeral was held Sunday, Feb. 22 at the Barden Funeral Home in Ithaca. He was interred at the Ithaca Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Gratiot County Historical and Genealogical Society or to the Woodland Hospice in Mount Pleasant.

Library of Michigan Foundation Talks to Noted Genealogist Joann Marie Davis

Judith K. Moore, CFRE, executive director, Library of Michigan Foundation

A family historian and longtime member of the Detroit-based Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society, Joann Marie Davis is a prolific and accomplished genealogist. Her strong sense of family pride, interest in history and deep affection for her parents and grandparents motivated Joann to research the four lines of her family – the Allen, Carter, Davis and Gwynn families of Rockingham County, N.C. She also has written many biographical profiles commemorating the personal and professional lives of African Americans in Detroit. Her contribution to the study of African-American history and culture is extensive and noteworthy. Joann grew up in Grand Rapids and in the early 1960s moved to Detroit, where she resides currently. A graduate of Wayne State University, she retired from a long and successful career with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan in 1996.



Joann Marie Davis

Library of Michigan Foundation Director Judith Moore talked with Joann recently.

What got you interested in genealogy?

My interest in family started during childhood. When I was a little girl, my maternal grandmother and one of her sisters talked a lot about their family in the South and about writing a family history. They had such a strong sense of family. They were proud of where they had come from and of their family's accomplishments, including the large piece of land the family bought, acre-by-acre, over many years. My grandmother and her sister had a rich oral history and materials – photos, birth certificates, an array of letters and family bibles – but didn't have the expertise to write a family history. And they both taught me a lot. I'll never forget when we traveled to North Carolina and visited a cemetery. The graves were segregated and, as a child, I didn't know what that meant.

Where did you do your research?

My family came from North Carolina and Virginia. I used the Burton Collection [at Detroit Public Library] for much of my research, but also traveled south to look at census records and find out how many acres my family had. Robert Carter, president of the Rockingham County Historical Society in Wentworth, N.C., helped me a great deal by sharing information I didn't know. Mr. Carter was Caucasian and his relatives had been slave-owners. He had inventories and records, and helped me make the connection with my great-grandfather, who was also a Carter. Another great discovery was the Gwynn Colored School, founded by my great-great-grandfather Robert Gwynn. There is a historical marker there now.

When did you actually start writing your family histories?

I started taking notes in the 1960s, and all along was also collecting all kinds of materials and asking lots of questions. But I really didn't know what I was doing. It wasn't until I joined the Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society and also started visiting the Library of Michigan regularly that I learned the appropriate way to do genealogy. The Library of Michigan workshops were very helpful, as was Carole Callard and the rest of the Library of Michigan genealogy staff.

Tell me about the biographies of African-American men and women you've written.

It started when I was asked to write the biographies of three women from my sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha. Then, in the early 1980s, Lucille Conyers, mother of Congressman John Conyers, encouraged me to write about Florine Hawkins, the African-American owner of an upscale dress shop, Hawkins Apparel, in the 1930s, in Detroit. I was thrilled to be able to interview Mrs. Hawkins and learn about

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her rich history. Everyone loved my publication. I followed it with Lucille Conyers' biography before she died, and later the biographies of Joann Watson and Alberta Tinsley-Williams, before they joined the Detroit City Council. All in all, I did 19 biographies entitled "Women of Commitment and Action." More recent biographies include those of Dr. Norman McRae and Margaret McCall Thomas Ward, who were the first historian and the founder of the Fred Hart Genealogical Society. And other projects include oral histories of persons who are 100 years old and older.

I'm very interested in this historical work. Since the 1980s, I've been researching and writing biographies of African-American men and women who, as teachers, politicians, policemen, community activists, etc., have contributed to their communities. I've figured if no one writes their stories, they'll be lost in time and we can't have that.

So what's next?

I want to get my own history ready to donate to the Library of Michigan. This means preparing everything in a good and useful format, labeling photos, using acid-free protective materials ... I'll have 10 full binders to bring to you soon!

You plan to donate your collection to the Library of Michigan. You are also a generous donor of the Library of Michigan Foundation. Why is this important to you?

I was impressed with the Library of Michigan since I started driving to Lansing with the members of our genealogy society. I've spent many years working on my materials and I know the library will provide a safe repository and make my materials accessible for other researchers looking for African Americans in North Carolina and Virginia. This is important to me.



Each year the Library of Michigan Foundation asks donors and library patrons to make a gift to its Annual Campaign. If you value what the Library of Michigan offers you and the people of Michigan, become a first-time donor or renew your gift today. Your gift is vital and represents an investment in quality library services, lifelong learning and important literary and cultural programs. Thank you for your support!

The Library of Michigan Foundation

P.O. Box 30159 – Lansing, MI 48909.

Phone (517) 373-4470

Yes! I/We want to make a gift to the Library of Michigan Foundation's Annual Fund in support of the continuing development of the Library of Michigan's programs and collections. \$ _____ gift enclosed.

Please print name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

The foundation is an autonomous, non-profit 501 c (3) public charity governed by an independent board of directors. Gifts to the Library of Michigan Foundation are 100 percent tax-deductible. We sincerely appreciate your support!

Archives of Michigan Acquires Civil War Letters

One of the largest existing collections of letters written during the Civil War soon will be accessible to researchers, thanks to a recent donation to the Archives of Michigan.

The collection of 291 letters – written by Henry and Nancy Ewing of Hillsdale – was donated by their great-grandson Wallace Ewing of Grand Haven. Covering the period of 1856 to 1865, including the time Henry Ewing was fighting in the Civil War, the letters are all in their original addressed and stamped envelopes. Mr. Ewing's donation also includes scrapbooks his great-grandparents kept during the war.

The letters will be available physically, and electronically, to the public beginning in the spring, Archives officials said. For more information, contact the Archives of Michigan at archives@michigan.gov or (517) 373-1408.

Archives of Michigan Image of the Month (January 2009)

By Bob Garrett, archivist

Editor's note: Each month, the Archives of Michigan features a different image from its collections – along with an account of the image's background – on its Web page at www.michigan.gov/archivesofmi. Check back each month, or check the archive of previous Images of the Month, for some fascinating glimpses of Michigan history. The following was originally posted in January 2009.

In January, we celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Here, he appears with John Swainson, Michigan governor of 1961-1962. The photo is undated but was most likely taken on Sunday, June 23, 1963. On that date, Dr. King and former Governor Swainson both participated in the Detroit "Walk to Freedom."

Dr. King was then in the midst of a tour (begun that spring) from California to New York. His Detroit stop proved the tour's biggest success. Police estimated the Freedom Walk crowd at 125,000. The day after the event, *The Detroit Free Press* labeled it "the largest civil rights demonstration in the nation's history." The walk began at Woodward and Adelaide, and continued down Woodward to Cobo Hall. It lasted about an hour and a half, as marchers carried signs and sang songs (songs included "We Shall Overcome" and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic").

The Detroit Council for Human Rights organized the walk. The council's director, Benjamin McFall, and its chairman, Rev. Clarence L. Franklin, marched in a line with King and Swainson. That line also included Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanaugh, United Auto Workers President Walter P. Reuther and State Auditor General Billie S. Farnum. (Then-current Governor George Romney, a Mormon who avoided public appearances on Sundays, did not directly participate. He did, however, proclaim the day "Freedom March Day in Michigan.")

At the walk's conclusion, King gave a speech at Cobo Hall. According to the contemporary *Detroit Free Press* report, approximately 25,000 people sat in attendance, with African Americans comprising about 95 percent of that total. They listened as King spoke of non-violence and an end to racial



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segregation. The June 24, 1963 *Free Press* report notes that King “ended his speech by telling of a dream.” According to the *Free Press*, King described his dream of whites and blacks “walking together hand in hand, free at last.”

In his book *King: A Biography*, David Levering Lewis states that King repeated the phrase “I have a dream” several times during that Cobo Hall speech. Lewis notes that when King addressed a crowd in Washington, D.C. two months later, he “kept the refrain from the Detroit speech: I have a dream.” (See Lewis’ *King: A Biography*, second edition, Urbana: University of Illinois, 1978, page 227.)

King’s Washington speech of Aug. 28, 1963 became famous as his “I have a dream speech.” It was a defining moment in the American civil rights movement. In one sense, however, the seeds of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream were planted in Michigan – in Detroit’s Cobo Hall.

Library of Michigan Staff Across the State

Library of Michigan staff members will be presenting the following programs at various venues this spring and early summer:

- April 4 Edwina Morgan presents “**Effectively Using HeritageQuest Online**” and “**Ancestry Library Edition**”
Library of Michigan Learning More seminar, Lansing
- April 4 Gloriane Peck presents “**Finding Free Vital Records**” and “**Accessing Obituaries on the Internet**”
Library of Michigan Learning More seminar, Lansing
- April 4 Kris Rzepczynski presents “**Utilizing Footnote at the Library of Michigan and from Home**” and “**Seeking Michigan Death Records? A New Digitization Project**”
Library of Michigan Learning More seminar, Lansing
- April 20 Kris Rzepczynski presents “**Researching Your Family’s History at the Library of Michigan**”
Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society, Portage
- April 21 Kris Rzepczynski presents “**Utilizing Footnote at the Library of Michigan and from Home**”
Lyon Township District Library, South Lyon
- May 1 Kris Rzepczynski presents “**Utilizing Footnote at the Library of Michigan and from Home**”
Fox Run Genealogical Society, Novi
- May 9 Charles Hagler presents “**Researching Your Ancestor’s Naturalization Records**”
East Lansing Family History Center seminar, East Lansing
- May 9 Kris Rzepczynski presents “**Researching Your Family’s History at the Library of Michigan**,” “**Coming to America: Research with Ship Passenger Lists**” and “**The Circle of Life: Research with Michigan Vital Records**”
East Lansing Family History Center Seminar, East Lansing
- May 14 Kris Rzepczynski presents “**Utilizing Footnote at the Library of Michigan and from Home**”

continued

- May 16 *Ingham County Genealogical Society, Mason*
Kris Rzepczynski presents **“Researching Your Family’s History at the Library of Michigan”** and **“Coming to America: Research with Ship Passenger Lists”**
Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, location TBD
- May 26
Kris Rzepczynski presents **“Utilizing Footnote at the Library of Michigan and from Home”**
Calhoun County Genealogical Society, Marshall
- June 10
Kris Rzepczynski presents **“The Circle of Life: Research with Michigan Vital Records”**
Downriver Genealogical Society, Wyandotte
- June 12
Kris Rzepczynski presents **“Digging Deeper in U.S. Census Records,” “Utilizing HeritageQuest Online from Home”** and **“Coming to America: Research with Ship Passenger Lists”**
Washtenaw Community College third annual genealogy seminar, Ann Arbor
- June 13
Kris Rzepczynski presents **“Coming to America: Research with Ship Passenger Lists”**
Ionia County Genealogical Society, Lake Odessa
- June 25
Gloriane Peck co-presents **“Surviving Death Records Digitization: The Library of Michigan’s Digital Projects, Future Prospects and Lessons Learned the Hard Way”**
Michigan Archival Association annual conference, Marshall
- June 25
Kris Rzepczynski co-presents **“Surviving Death Records Digitization: The Library of Michigan’s Digital Projects, Future Prospects and Lessons Learned the Hard Way”**
Michigan Archival Association annual conference, Marshall
- June 26
Gloriane Peck serves as a panelist for **“Searching and Using Digital Collections”**
“iTrends-define: Findability” – Michigan Library Association workshop, East Lansing



Publisher's Note:

The Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) electronically publishes *Michigan Genealogist* on a quarterly basis. It is intended to provide family history-related information to interested researchers and to inform readers about resources found in the Library of Michigan, Archives of Michigan and other HAL departments.

We encourage wide distribution of this newsletter and invite readers to share it with their friends, families and fellow researchers. We have made every effort to provide accurate information. However, the publisher does not assume any liability to any party for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions related to any of the issues of *Michigan Genealogist*.

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Driving Directions: www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160—55205,00.html

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Research:

Due to the length of time needed to conduct genealogical research, the staffs of the Library of Michigan and Archives of Michigan are unable provide extensive research services. Check the Library of Michigan and Archives of Michigan Web pages at www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan and www.michigan.gov/archivesofmi for more information on policies and procedures regarding genealogical research.

Ask a Librarian:

Genealogy queries can be sent to the Library of Michigan at librarian@michigan.gov. While staff members cannot do extensive research, they can point you in the right direction and assist you in determining if the library's collection contains the information you seek. If necessary, the library's staff will refer you to a researcher or local genealogical society that will conduct research for a fee. Questions relating to the Archives of Michigan should be sent to archives@michigan.gov.

