

MichiganGenealogist

Genealogy news from the Department of History, Arts and Libraries

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Another active year is winding down. The staff of the Library of Michigan would like to wish everyone happy holidays and a blessed New Year. The Library's family history section has developed into a national resource because of the support of Michigan's genealogical community. We would not be what we are without your continued support. Please know that we truly appreciate your advocacy. Michigan is faced with a challenging financial situation, but rest assured that the Library of Michigan's Abrams Foundation Historical Collection of genealogy materials will continue to grow and prosper. We are committed to providing the best service possible to our loyal researchers.

The holiday season is a time that brings families together. It is hard to imagine a better time to gather family history information. Heck, chances are you have a captive audience ... If your family is anything like mine, the holidays are a time to gather, reminisce and swap stories. Some of the stories are even true. I have not been very successful at converting my parents, siblings or any other relatives to the genealogy cause, but boy do they like to talk. The holidays always provide me with a chance to revisit roadblocks and chat with relatives that I don't get to talk to on a regular basis. Their insight is often just what I need to smash through a nagging research obstacle.

Ever since I was a small boy, I have loved to sit with the grown-ups and listen to them tell stories about growing up in the Great Depression, going off to war, marrying their sweetheart or enduring past hardships. I was happiest when Grandma would pull out the old photo albums and fill me in on all of the details concerning long-lost and greatly loved family members. That time sitting with her on her couch will always be remembered. The smell of the room, the tone of her voice and the touch of her warm hand made me feel like I belonged to something that was much greater than myself – a family. I guess I became a genealogist at seven years old without even knowing it. I'm hopeful that I have won my daughter over and convinced her how much fun doing family history research actually is. Like me, she loves to sit and listen to the grown-ups tell stories, and she peppers me with clarifications long after folks have packed things up and gone home. She laughs as she retells the humorous stories and tries to put Grandpa's tales of growing up in rural Michigan during the Depression into some kind of perspective. Like me, I think she is becoming a family historian without even knowing it.

It is cold out, and as you sit back at home and start to look over your years' worth of research, don't forget the importance of publishing something. All too often we as researchers are reluctant to share our glorious finds with anyone. Use the holidays as an excuse to start disseminating your family history to the loved ones in your life. Share the stories and take advantage of the special times you get to spend together. You will be amazed by the information you will gather based on the newfound interest of those relatives who in the past have not been able to understand your genealogy addiction. Make a short family history article or pedigree chart part of your holiday gifts this season, and don't forget to donate a copy to the Library of Michigan.

Happy holidays and happy searching.

Randy Riley
Special Collections Manager
Library of Michigan



Save the Date: Learning More at the Library of Michigan Set for April 4

By Gloriane Peck, special collections librarian

The Library of Michigan will hold its annual Learning More at the Library of Michigan genealogy workshop on Saturday, April 4.

Running from 1-4:30 p.m., the workshop will feature six classes in three time slots, giving participants a choice of programs. Library of Michigan special collections librarians will present the programs.

This free genealogy seminar is designed to introduce researchers to particular topics of interest and to highlight specific genealogy resources available at the Library of Michigan.

More information, including a complete schedule of program offerings and a registration form, will be available in early February. Registration is strongly recommended because seating is limited. Watch for updates on Learning More at www.michigan.gov/familyhistory.

Library of Michigan Staff Across the State

The Library of Michigan's Kris Rzepczynski will present genealogy programs at various venues this winter.

- Jan. 6 **Utilizing Footnote.com at the Library of Michigan and from Home**
Jackson County Genealogical Society, Jackson
- Jan. 13 **Irish Genealogy: Records and Resources**
Irish-American Club of Mid-Michigan, Lansing
- Jan. 24 **Utilizing Footnote.com at the Library of Michigan and from Home**
Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan, Detroit
- Jan. 27 **Seeking Michigan Death Records? A New Digitization Project**
Stockbridge Area Genealogical Historical Society, Stockbridge
- Feb. 3 **African-American Genealogy: Records and Resources**
Delta Township District Library, Lansing
- Feb. 10 **Coming to America: Research with Ship Passenger Lists**
Lenawee County Family Researchers, Adrian
- March 26 **Your Family's History: Recapture Your Past for the Future**
Art of Aging Conference, Wayne State University, Detroit



Family History Month 2008

By Leelyn Johnson, reference and federal documents coordinator

Family History Month 2008 was a success, with all of the programs well attended. The half-day sessions given by staff of the Library's Special Collections Services and the Archives of Michigan were popular with both beginning and experienced genealogists. Handouts from many of the sessions are now available at the library's Web site at www.michigan.gov/familyhistory.

Twenty-four programs were presented in October, ranging from beginning your family history research to Polish resources to Michigan vital records research at the Library. The Library's staff also offered new programs, covering the Library of Michigan's cemetery database, Michigan city directory resources at the Library and Michigan death records digitization. Sessions averaged 35-plus participants. Thanks to everyone that participated in this year's programs. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Conference Review: 30th Annual Polish Genealogical Society of America Conference

By Kris Rzepczynski, Michigan/genealogy coordinator

The 30th annual Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA) conference, "Honoring Our Ancestors," was held in September in suburban Chicago.

Among the many highlights of the conference were a traditional Polish song and dance performance, in full-costume, and Stephen Morse receiving the Wigilia medal, awarded to those individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to Polish-American genealogy. Morse's "One-Step Web Pages" (www.stephenmorse.org) are enormously popular and invaluable tools in online family history research.

The terrific lineup of programs included looks at FamilySearch, Polish gazetteer resources and Polish research in Michigan. It was gratifying to see a Michigan presence at the conference, as Michigan historically has had one of the largest Polish populations in the United States.

There are a number of Polish resources available here at the Library of Michigan, many found in the Gorski Collection, including church jubilee/anniversary books, tombstone portraits, local histories, indexes and much more. For additional Gorski Collection resources available at the Library, be sure to check ANSWER, the Library's online catalog, at www.answercat.org; a keyword search using the phrase "william gorski collection" will yield the most number of relevant hits. The Library's collection also includes PGSA publications: *Rodziny*, the society's journal, *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* by William Hoffman and much more.

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 www.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 menu page.

Please note, many of our genealogical resources are part of the non-circulating collection and only are

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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: Bridgewater, 1641-1900. Jay Mack Holbrook. 173 microfiches. Oxford, MA: Holbrook Research Institute, 1992.

Microfiche F 74. B7 M37 1992

These are microfiche copies of the original vital records from the town of Bridgewater, Mass., that include births, marriages and deaths. We also have these records for the towns of Dedham, Fall River, Foxboro, Hanson, Kingston, Marion, Middlefield, Norwell, Pembroke, Rochester, Scituate and Wellfleet, Mass. Some of these town records go back to the 17th century.

City Directories of the United States. Toledo, OH. 20 reels. Woodbridge, CT: Primary Source Media, 2008.

Microfilm E 154.5. C583 1936

This consists of microfilm copies of city directories for Toledo, Ohio, from 1936 to 1960. We also added city directories on microfilm for Columbus, Ohio, and Indianapolis, Portland, Princeton, Rensselaer, Rochester, Rushville, Union City, Wabash and Winchester, Ind., from 1936 to 1960.

Pennington County Historical Society and Caryl J. Bugge. *Thief River Falls and Pennington County*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Pub., 2006.

Genealogy F 614. T42 T48 2006

This is just one of over 600 new titles from this publisher, covering a wide range of historical topics and locales. The Library already has purchased a set of these books for Michigan, but we added 13 additional states to our collection: Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin. The books cover everything from small towns to big cities and from ethnic groups, industries, roads and highways to movie houses, fairs, historical places and funeral rituals.

Large runs of the *Midland Daily News*, the *Ludington Daily News*, the *Grand Ledge Independent*, the *Livingston County Press*, the *Gaylord Herald Times*, the *Roscommon County Herald News* and the *Tuscola County Advertiser* on microfilm were added to our Newspapers Collection. They are shelved by place of publication, title, then. See ANSWER, our online catalog, for the years that were added for these titles.

ProQuest Obituaries Database Now Available

By *Edwina Morgan, special collections librarian*

From the creators of Ancestry Library Edition and Heritage Quest comes ProQuest Obituaries. ProQuest has tapped into its massive archive of microfilmed newspapers to provide 10 million obituaries, available online at the Library of Michigan.

Always seen as a cornerstone of genealogy, obituaries sometimes offer the only source of certain details about individuals, such as proper name, maiden name, spousal information, names of parents, siblings and children, occupation, religion and, at times, cause of death. The collections of notices that ProQuest provides are from uninterrupted historical runs of top national newspapers dating back to 1849. While more papers will be added, the initial content comes from newspapers in major centers of immigration:

- *New York Times* (1851-1994)
- *Los Angeles Times* (1881-1984)
- *Chicago Tribune* (1852-1984)

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- *Boston Globe*, (1872-1922)
- *Washington Post* (1877-1950)
- *Atlanta Constitution*, (1868-1922)
- *Chicago Defender*, (1921-1975)

This new database is available on the Library of Michigan's electronic resource machines, just behind the genealogy reference desk. Individuals can search for records by name, date and keyword. Check the Library of Michigan homepage at <http://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan> for future updates.

Books May Hold Clues to Ancestors in Medical Field

By *Gloriane Peck, Special Collections Librarian*

A handful of books at the Library of Michigan feature biographical information about Michigan residents who worked as health care providers. These books serve as a useful supplement to census records and city directories for verifying an ancestor's occupational information. While some contain only brief information, such as name, birth year and location of practice, others contain lengthy biographical information full of the details genealogists love to uncover. For more information about these books, please search ANSWER, the Library's catalog, which is online at www.answercat.org.

- Bureau of Public Health Nursing. *Public Health Nurses in Michigan*. Lansing: Michigan Department of Health, 1939-.
Michigan Documents RT .P83 1945

Covering 1939 to 1950, *Public Health Nurses in Michigan* lists, for each county, the nurses involved in public health, such as those working at the county's health department. Name and type of work are included. Two later series include public health nurses for the years 1949 to 1969 and 1970 to 1977.

- Edgar, Irving I. *A History of Early Jewish Physicians in the State of Michigan*. New York: Philosophical Library Inc., 1982.
Michigan R 251 .E33 1982

A History of Early Jewish Physicians in the State of Michigan consists of well-cited biographies of Jewish physicians in Michigan, including details such as place of birth, family life, immigration, education, military service, residence and practice information, and any special posts served or accolades received. The earliest physician listed was born in 1811, the most recent in 1902. Biographies range from two pages to as many as 20. These longer biographies include quotes from colleagues and newspaper articles, as well as photos of passports, newspapers and other sources.

- Johnson, Georgia A. Lewis. *Black Medical Graduates of the University of Michigan (1872-1960 Inclusive) and Selected Black Michigan Physicians*. East Lansing: Georgia A. Johnson Pub. Co., 1994.
Michigan R 747 .U6834 J54 1994

Using an easy-to-follow list format, *Black Medical Graduates of the University of Michigan (1872-1960 Inclusive) and Selected Black Michigan Physicians* provides biographical information on about 150 people involved in the medical field in Michigan. Extensive personal information is given for some entries, but most include just date and place of birth and death for this category. Others include parents' names, spouse's name and children. While

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not all categories are available for every entrant, information on education, military service, certification, memberships, appointments, inventions and publications flesh out the portraits of each person. Where available, photographs are included, although in a separate section of the book.

- *Physicians, Dentists and Druggists' Directory of Michigan, Comprising List of Physicians and Surgeons, Dentists and Druggists, Arranged Alphabetically by Post Offices.* Chicago: Galen Gonsier & Co., 1893.
Michigan R 712 .A2 M54

Physicians, Dentists and Druggists' Directory of Michigan, Comprising List of Physicians and Surgeons, Dentists and Druggists, Arranged Alphabetically by Post Offices features a list of physicians in alphabetical order, first by post office and then by last name. For each professional, a designation of regular, eclectic or homeopathic is given. For nearly all, the list also includes the college attended and year of graduation. This book is indexed in the well-known *Michigan Bibliography* set by F.B. Streeter (Michigan Z 1297 .M62 1921).

- Ranney, George E. *List of Regular Physicians Registered in Michigan: Under Act No. 167, Laws of 1883, Showing Names, Residence, Length of Time in Practice, Where and When Graduated.* S.l.: s.n., 1885.
Michigan R 712 .A2 M64

List of Regular Physicians Registered in Michigan: Under Act No. 167, Laws of 1883, Showing Names, Residence, Length of Time in Practice, Where and When Graduated is a table listing for each physician name, residence, years in practice, college attended and year of graduation. The list is in order by city or town of residence. Like *Physicians, Dentists and Druggists' Directory of Michigan*, this book is indexed in Streeter's *Michigan Bibliography*.

- Selmon, Bertha L. *The List of Women Physicians Who Have Practiced in Michigan.* Battle Creek, MI: B.L. Selmon, 1942.
Michigan R 692 .S4 1942

The List of Women Physicians Who Have Practiced in Michigan includes the names of more than 500 women who practiced medicine in Michigan. Organized by county, the list includes birth year and death year, where applicable, for each doctor. Histories and photographs of these physicians, where available, are housed at the University of Michigan in the Bertha Selmon papers. Selmon was the historian for the Michigan branch of the American Medical Women's Association.

The Dangers of Not Having a Will

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

If you leave this world without a valid will, you are said to die intestate. This means that your assets will be distributed according to state law, and your wishes won't matter. Instead of providing for those you would have liked to help the most, your estate will be divided among your relatives according to a rigid, unchangeable legal formula. Nothing will go to the friends, charities or issues you cherish. If you have no living blood relatives, the state will confiscate all your property for the benefit of the state.

The best way to avoid having the state decide who is to receive your property is to have a valid will. Other sig-
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nificant benefits of having a will include:

- You can appoint an executor (personal representative) who you trust and who will pay close attention to your wishes and will settle your estate promptly and economically.
- You can make special financial arrangements for family members who are minors, disabled or unfamiliar with money management.
- You can provide much-needed support for your favorite charities and organizations, such as the Library of Michigan, and gain recognition for your generosity.
- You can create an estate plan to minimize the taxes on your estate.
- You can appoint a guardian for your minor children.
- You can make sure your estate will be distributed among those individuals you care about.
- You can help avoid family misunderstandings.

To make sure your will accomplishes all you intend, seek the help of an attorney who specializes in estate planning. And please consider leaving the Library of Michigan Foundation a charitable bequest. Your future gift will make a lasting difference for the Library of Michigan and its ability to provide the highest level of service for future generations of Michigan residents.

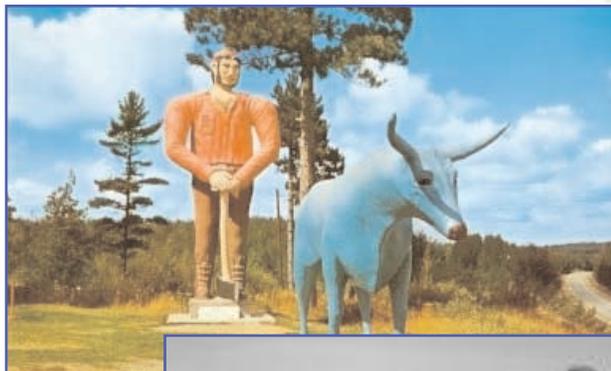
The Library of Michigan Foundation gratefully recognizes the generosity and vision of those who have chosen to leave a legacy to the Library of Michigan through estate gifts to the Library of Michigan Foundation Legacy Society. Enrollment in this honorary society is simply a matter of advising the Library of Michigan Foundation of the creation of a bequest in a will or other deferred gift. For additional information, please contact Judith Moore at (517) 373-4470 or moorej10@michigan.gov, without obligation.

Michigan's Roadside Attractions Coming to Michigan Historical Museum Jan. 10

Remember the time when you were on your way to [fill in the destination] and you pulled over to stop at [fill in the roadside attraction]? These special times fill our memories. Now, they fill a special exhibit.

Coming to the Michigan Historical Museum Jan. 10 through Sept. 14 *Michigan's Roadside Attractions* looks at the fun, interesting, even quirky, places that travelers visit while on their way somewhere else. If you have traveled Michigan's highways and byways, chances are you've seen Big John, the World's Largest Miner, near Iron Mountain; the Twin Towers in the Irish Hills; or any number of places – perhaps one that no longer exists – for amusement, to rest, to buy a souvenir or to have your picture taken.

Enjoy memories of over 75 attractions as you experience *Michigan's Roadside*
continued



Attractions. Admission is free of charge. Learn more at www.michigan.gov/museum.

The exhibit is sponsored by *American Road* magazine in cooperation with the Friends of Michigan History.

The Michigan Historical Museum is located inside the Michigan Library and Historical Center, across from the Library of Michigan.

Archives of Michigan Image of the Month

By Helen Taylor and Bob Garrett, archivists

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.



This cartoon provides a humorous look at a northern hunting camp. Oscar “Ozz” Warbach, an illustrator for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), drew it in 1971. Like many of his drawings, it's rich in detail. Just look at the myriad activities in which the characters are engaged!

Ozz's appealing style gained him national renown as a wildlife illustrator. A qualified biologist, he used cartoons to educate people about the habits of wildlife. *Michigan Natural Resources Magazine*, a Michigan DNR publication, regularly featured his work. The DNR still sells Ozz's book of illustrations, entitled *Mother Nature's Michigan* (for ordering information, see <http://apps.michigan.gov/MichiganeStore/public/ProductDetails.aspx?categoryId=10&productId=194>). Copies of both the original 1976 edition and the subsequent 1990 edition can also be found in many Michigan libraries. To view the MeLCat (Michigan eLibrary Catalog) records, see <http://elibrary.mel.org/search/t?mother+natures+michigan&backlink=35.9.2.51/search~S37?tmother+natures+michigan/tmother+natures+michigan/1%2C2%2C2%2CB/browse>.

Oscar “Ozz” Warbach was born on March 21, 1913, and grew up in Elizabeth, N.J. He liked to draw, but received little formal art training. Instead, he earned a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry from Rutgers University in 1935 and a bachelor's degree in zoology from Michigan State University in 1938. In 1941, the Michigan Department of Conservation hired him as a game biologist. Ozz worked at the Department's Rose Lake Wildlife Research Center until the outbreak of World War II. He then joined the First Army Evacuation Hospital, where he became a captain. During his training, he met his future wife, Laura, who was then an Army nurse. After the war, he worked for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Patuxent Research Refuge in Maryland. In 1954, the Michigan Department of Conservation created a “conservation illustrator” position, and Ozz returned to Michigan. He stayed in this position until his retirement from the DNR in 1977 (the Department of Conservation was renamed the Department of Natural Resources in 1968). Afterward, he continued to draw on a freelance basis.

By 1990, Ozz was living in Florida. Much of his original art now resided within the Archives of Michigan. Archivist Helen Taylor phoned him that year to ask about those illustrations and whether he held any copyright on them. He seemed surprised and noted that he drew them as a state of Michigan employee. “All my drawings,” he said, “belong to the people of Michigan.” The following summer, Ozz stopped by the Archives to

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introduce himself. He seemed pleased that his art was being preserved and appreciated.

Ozz Warbach passed away on March 3, 2002. To the people of Michigan, he left one lasting gift: approximately 500 of his original illustrations are permanently housed within the Archives of Michigan. They represent the legacy of one who used his talents to educate as well as entertain.

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*.

If you would like to be added to our list of e-mail subscribers, please contact HAL at librarian@michigan.gov.

Driving Directions and Parking:

Information concerning driving directions and parking can be located at the following Web sites:

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

Parking: http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17445_19274_20001--,00.html

Research:

Due to the length of time needed to conduct genealogical research, the staff of the Library of Michigan and Archives of Michigan is unable provide extensive research services. Check the Library of Michigan's and Archives of Michigan's Web pages at <http://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan> and <http://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.