

Seeking Michigan Death Records? A New Digitization Project

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Library of Michigan

4 April 2009
Library of Michigan Genealogy Seminar

What to Expect from Today

- Accessing the death records
 - Before & after
- Project overview & current status
- Searching
- Seeking Michigan web site
 - Seek
 - Discover
 - Look

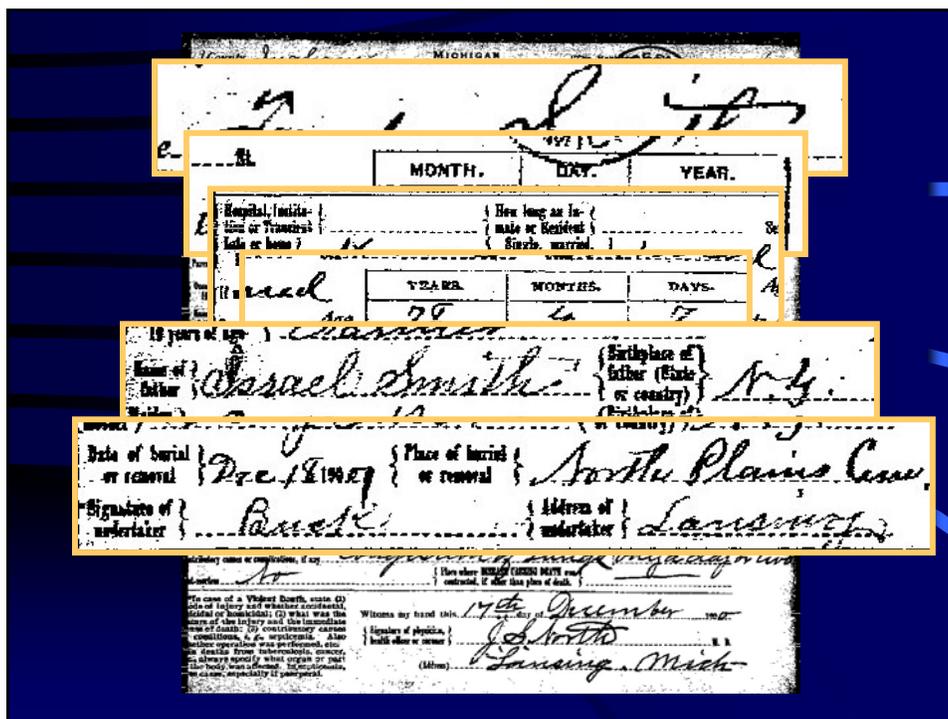
Michigan Deaths, 1897-1920

- 302 rolls of microfilm
- Nearly 1,000,000 records
- Indexes for 1897-1914
 - No index for 1915-1920



Michigan Deaths, 1897-1920

- Name
- Date of death
- Marital status
- Age
- Place of death
- Cause of death
- Occupation
- Father's name
- Mother's name
- Age at first marriage
- Parent of how many children
- How many still living
- Birthplace
- Place and date of burial
- Informant
- Undertaker



Project Overview

- Abrams Foundation
- The Generations Network (Ancestry)
 - Scanning and indexing
 - Library retains publishing rights
- CONTENTdm
- Ongoing deaths...
- **FREE!**

Searching

- County
- City / Village / Twp.
- Last Name
- First Name
- Age
- Birth Year
- Death Year
- Death Month
- Death Day
- Father's Last Name
- Father's First Name

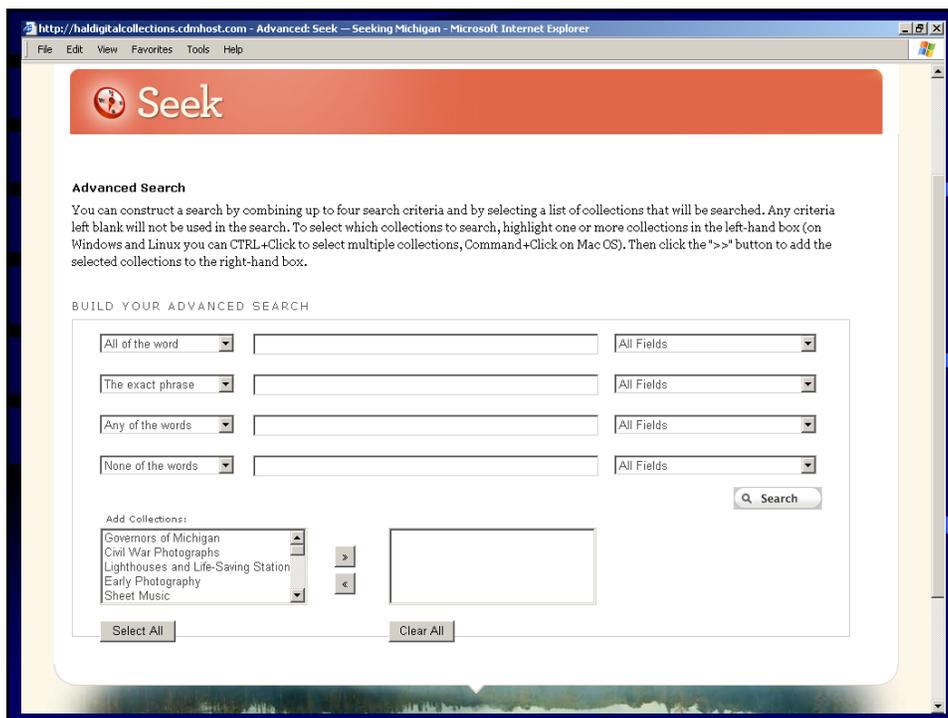
Seeking Michigan

- Online community of historical collections
 - Library of Michigan
 - Archives of Michigan
- <http://seekingmichigan.org>
- <http://michigan.gov/familyhistory>

Seeking Michigan

- Michigan Death Records, 1897-1920
- WPA Property Inventories
- Civil War Service Records
- Michigan Polish Americans
- ...

The screenshot shows the Michigan HAL website. The main content area is titled "Genealogy Research" and "Genealogy Research at the Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan". It features a photograph of two people at a computer and text describing the services offered. The right sidebar contains a "Genealogy Quick Links" section with a yellow arrow pointing to it. The left sidebar lists various services and collections. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Site Map, Contact HAL, and Online Services.



http://hdl.digitalcollections.cdmhost.com - Advanced: Seek - Seeking Michigan - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Fields specific to death records collection are at bottom of drop-down menu

Advanced Search

You can construct a search by clicking on the search criteria that will be searched. Any criteria in the left frame will not be used in the search. To select multiple collections to search, highlight one or more collections in the left-hand box (on Windows and Linux you can CTRL+Click to select multiple collections, Command+Click on Mac OS). Then click the ">>" button to add the selected collections to the right-hand box.

BUILD YOUR ADVANCED SEARCH

All of the word

The exact phrase

Any of the words

None of the words

Add Collections:

Governors of Michigan
Civil War Photographs
Lighthouses and Life-Saving Station
Early Photography
Sheet Music

Counters: > <

Select All Clear All

All Fields
Rights
Audience
First Name (Death Records)
Last Name (Death Records)
City/Village/Township (Death Records)
County (Death Records)
Death Year (Death Records)
Birth Year (Death Records)
Age (Death Records)
Father's Last Name (Death Records)
Father's Given Name (Death Records)

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Home > Seek > Advanced Search

Search

Search up to 4 different fields at once - any combination

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BUILD YOUR ADVANCED SEARCH

All of the word County (Death Records)

The exact phrase Last Name (Death Records)

Any of the words All Fields

None of the words All Fields

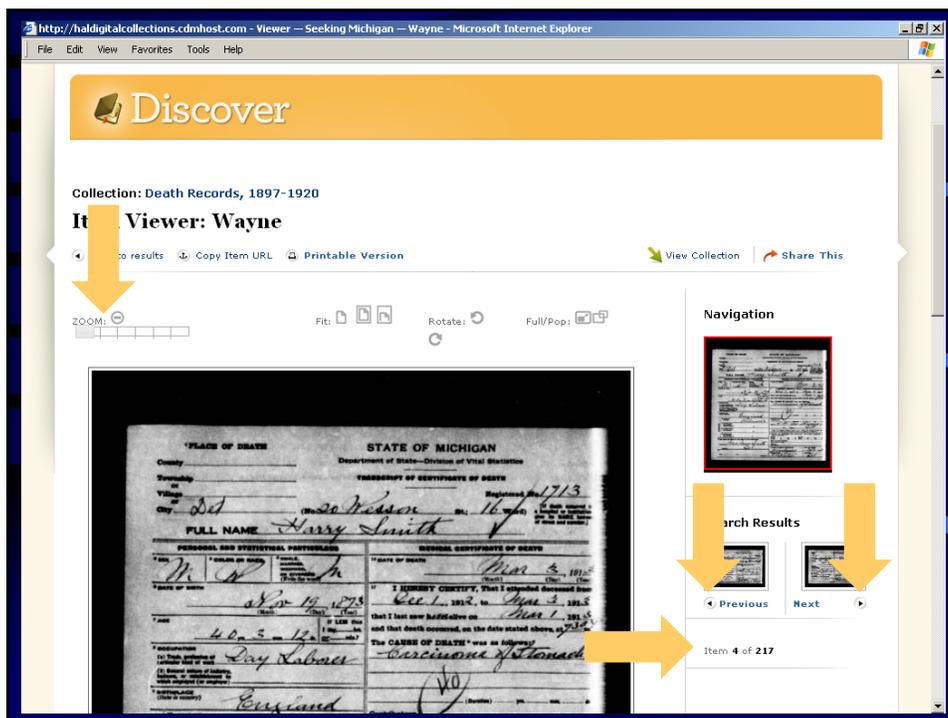
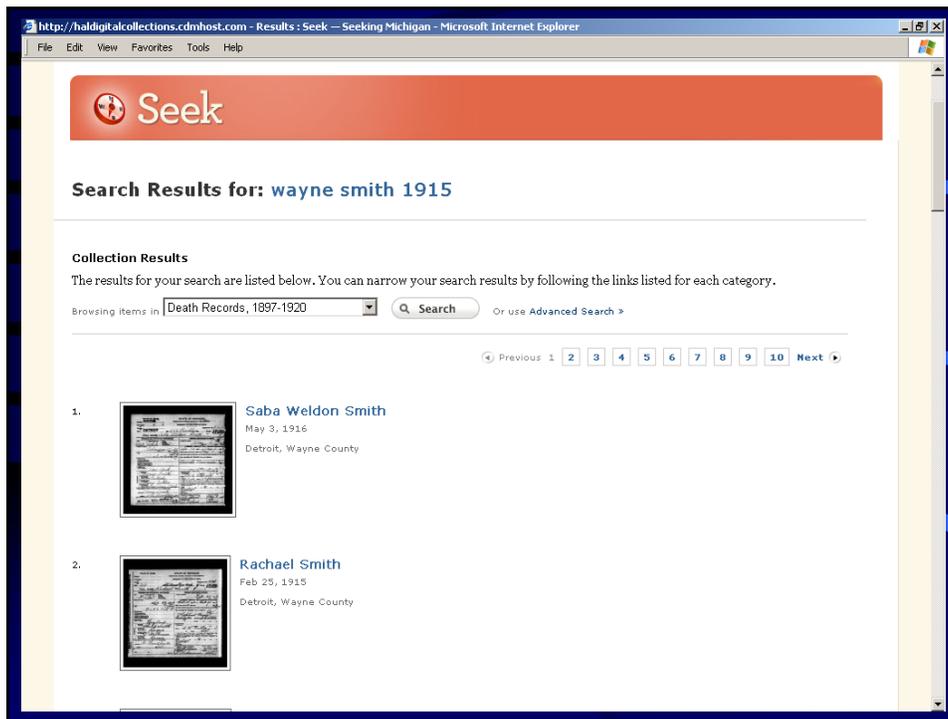
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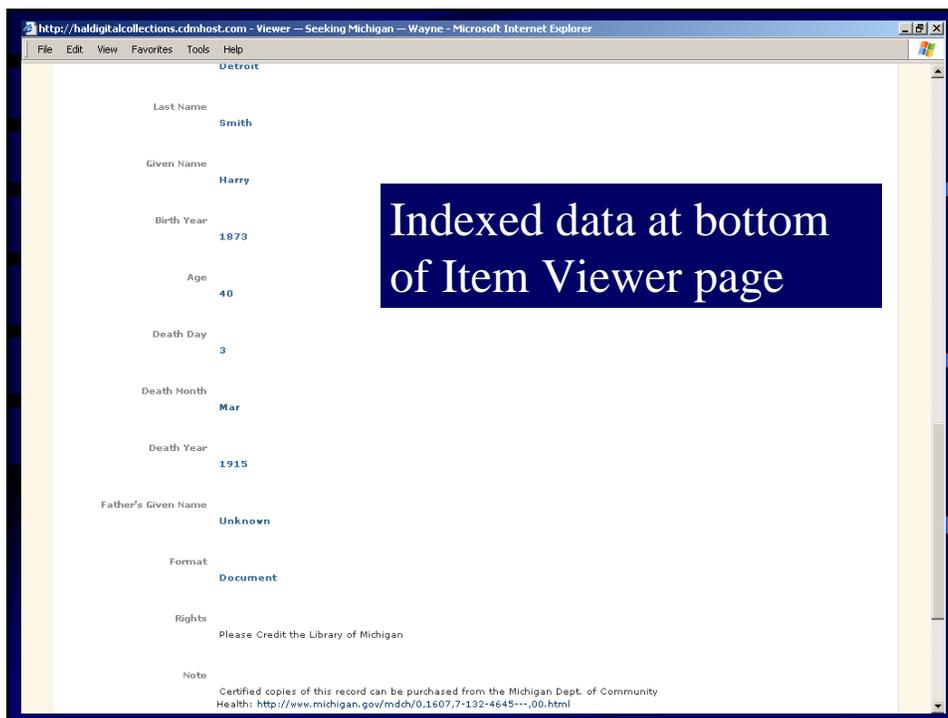
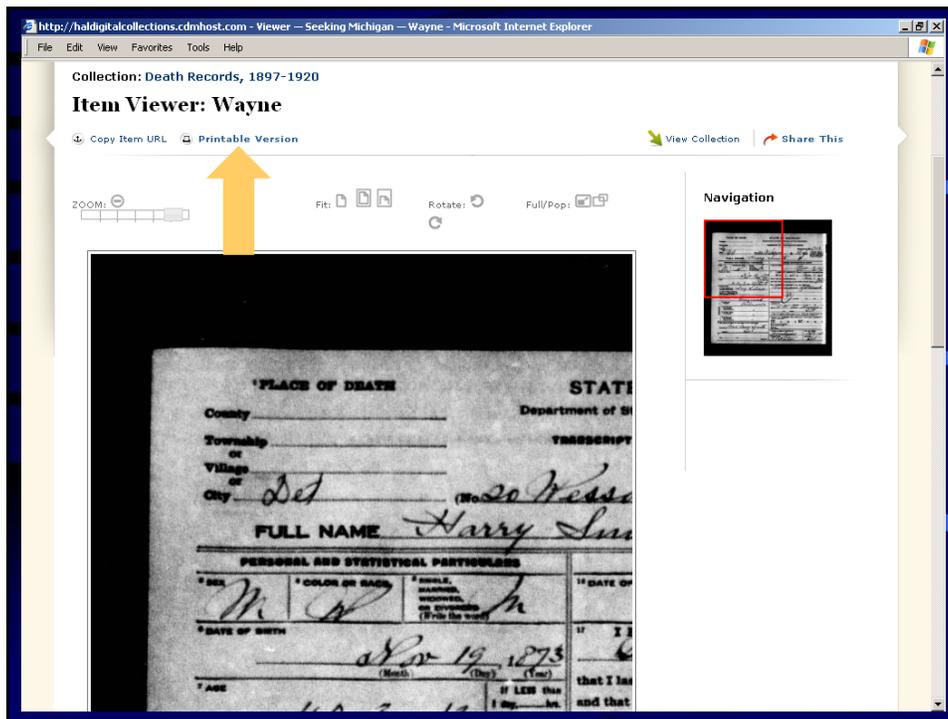
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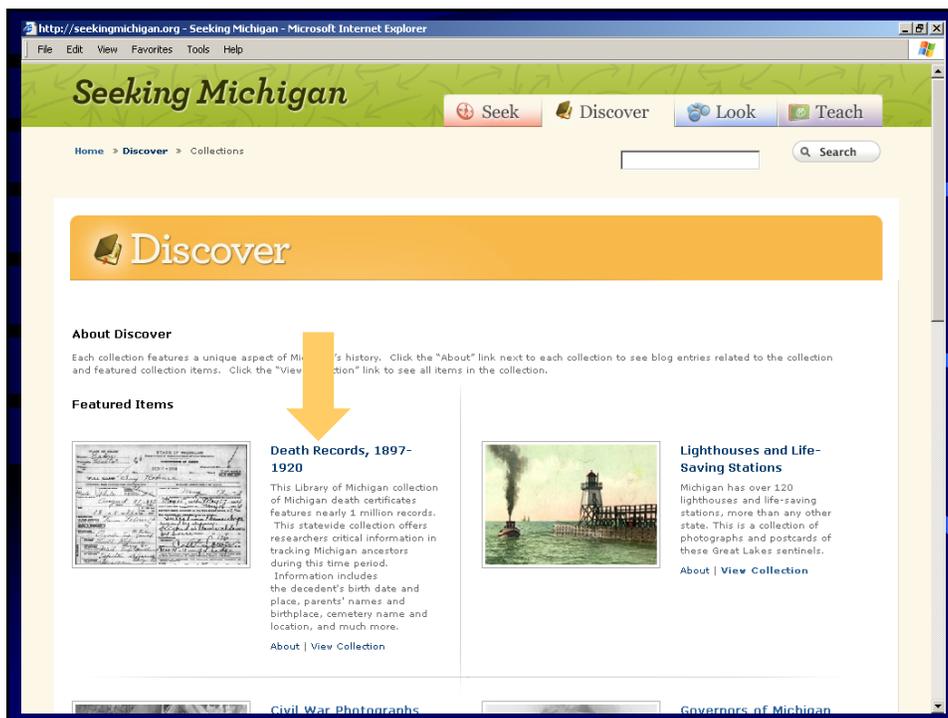
Counters: > <

Death Records, 1897-1920

Search







http://seekingmichigan.org - Seeking Michigan - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Discover

Collection: Death Records, 1897-1920



This Library of Michigan collection of Michigan death certificates features nearly 1 million records. This statewide collection offers researchers critical information in tracking Michigan ancestors during this time period. Information includes the decedent's birth date and place, parents' names and birthplace, cemetery name and location, and much more.

[View Collection](#) | [Share This](#)

 [Advanced Search >](#)

Featured Items

No featured items

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Onward! The Million Record March Continues
 By Kris Rzepczynski, Library of Michigan | March 31, 2009



A significant number of Michigan death records were added this week to the Death Records, 1897-1920 collection. With this second batch of records now loaded, the project is now about 2/3 complete; currently, there are about 660,000 of the approximately 1,000,000 certificates on this site. We'll continue adding records regularly in the next few weeks, so check back often

Seeking Michigan - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Seeking Michigan

[Seek](#) [Discover](#) [Look](#) [Teach](#)

Explore Michigan's Past & Present: [Seek family histories.](#) [Discover something new.](#) [Look at Michigan's stories.](#)

Seek

Start with a Search.

Search the archives of the State of Michigan for photographs, maps, spoken histories, and documents. You can narrow your search by checking the checkboxes next to each type of media.

Photo Audio Map Document

[SEARCH ADVANCED](#)

Discover

Lighthouses and Life-Saving Stations



Michigan has over 120 lighthouses and life-saving stations, more than any other state. This is a collection of photographs and postcards of these Great Lakes sentinels.

[Read more >](#) | [View more collections >](#)

[DISCOVER MORE](#)

Look

Thank God for Michigan—The Project

by Mark Harvey, Archives of Michigan on April 1, 2009



In 2007, the Archives of Michigan was awarded a National Historical Publication and Records Commission (NHPRC) Digitizing Historical Records grant. The project, named, "Thank God for Michigan" set the ambitious task of digitizing every government-related Civil War record in the Archives collection (about 100,000 pages).

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A leisurely Look at Michigan's stories and traditions from yesterday to yesteryear.

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[No comments](#) [Share This](#)

About Look

"If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you." The Michigan state motto served as the inspiration for this blog. If you look, you will find stories, photos and more to connect you to this great state and its wonderful history.

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[13 comments](#) [Share This](#)

Featured Item

Million Record March

Introducing the Michigan Death Records Collection Welcome to Seeking Michigan! As a partner in the site, The Library of Michigan is excited to make these Michigan death certificates for the years 1897 to 1920 freely available online. The years 1915 to 1920 are particularly significant, as a readily available statewide index did not exist previously.

Something's Brewing at the Archives

By Bob Garrett, Archives of Michigan | March 23, 2009



Why is the Archives of Michigan displaying old beer labels? These labels can found within official state records. The Archives received them from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

[3 comments](#) [Share This](#)

Recent Articles

- Thank God for Michigan--The Project

twitter

hey @govgranholm, RT: @brilliantcrank, Yesterday, a few of us put Gov. Granholm (@govgranholm) on the Cool Map. <http://bit.ly/1GnjzR>

ABOUT 20 hours ago

flickr

http://seekingmichigan.org - Seeking Michigan - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Onward! The Million Record March Continues

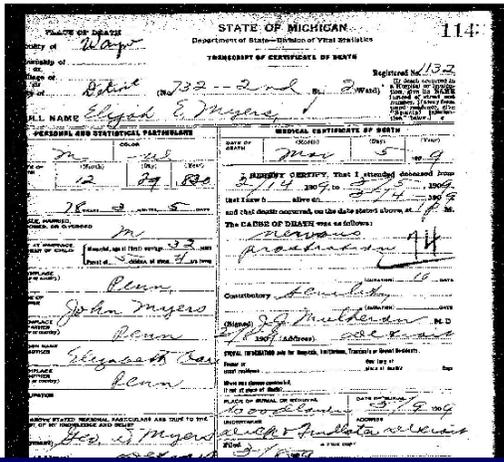
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One death record of note is of Elijah E. Myers. Do you know who he is? You wouldn't know it from his death certificate, but Myers was a leading American architect in the late 1800's, designing dozens of buildings across the United States, including many here in Michigan. Among his many achievements includes the Michigan State Capitol, the old Grand Rapids city Hall, Lansing High School, as well as the Colorado and Texas State Capitols.

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Several years are now complete for the entire state: 1902-1903, 1905-1906, 1912, 1915, and 1917; plus, several years are nearly complete: 1904, 1907, 1914, and 1918.

1901:

- Lenawee - Shiawassee [incomplete]
- Detroit [incomplete]

1902 & 1903:

- Alcona - Wexford

1904:

- Alcona - Wexford
- Detroit [incomplete]

1905 & 1906:

- Alcona - Wexford

1907:

- Alcona - Wexford
- Wayne & Detroit [incomplete]

1908:

- Berrien [incomplete] - Delta [incomplete]
- Monroe [incomplete] - Ottawa [incomplete]
- Sanilac [incomplete] - Wexford
- Wayne & Detroit [incomplete]

1909:

- Alcona - Bay [incomplete]
- Ingham - Kent [incomplete]
- Montcalm [incomplete] - Wexford

1910:

- Alcona - Houghton [incomplete]
- Jackson [incomplete] - Kent [incomplete]
- Macomb [incomplete] - Sanilac [incomplete]
- Wayne - Wexford
- Detroit [incomplete]

1911:

- Gratiot - Lenawee

Recent Articles

- Thank God for Michigan--The

Onward! The Million Record March Continues - This is great. Some of the records I was looking for are in the years 1903 and 1904 which show above

LOOK MORE

Look! Most up-to-date information about available years and counties

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Kris Rzepczynski March 31st, 2009 : 1:26 pm
Miriam -
Thanks for your comments. We look to have everything done in the coming weeks, that will certainly keep my frustration levels down!
Be sure to check back often...

Mrs. Haines March 31st, 2009 : 3:09 pm
Thank you for the new information. I have found my great-great grandmother's death and my great-great-grandmother's death certificates in Mason County, Amber Township, Scottville, Michigan.

Mike March 31st, 2009 : 3:35 pm
Great job. Is today's database addition still downloading? I cannot find a Dec. 1912 death in Calhoun Co- yet.
Thanks.

Chris Jacobsen March 31st, 2009 : 4:31 pm
THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!! What a great thing the library is doing by putting these images indexed and online and FREE.

Kris Rzepczynski March 31st, 2009 : 5:25 pm
Mike -
Yes, the records are still uploading, so not everything is quite there yet. Calhoun County 1912, apparently...
Thanks for using the site, and I encourage you to check back.

Kris Rzepczynski March 31st, 2009 : 5:27 pm
Mrs. Haines & Chris -
Thanks for your comments. I'm happy that you've had some success with the site.
Keep checking back, we're adding records regularly.

Bill March 31st, 2009 : 8:30 pm
Is the load finished yet? I'm not seeing the records for the places and years that are indicated above like Lapeer 1912.

Look! Comments and questions from users and staff

Final Thoughts

- “Michigan, My Michigan”
- FamilySearch Labs & Seeking Michigan
 - 1867-1920 all online
 - Free
- Look at Look
- Future collections?
- Stay tuned!

Questions?



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Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 373-1300

librarian@michigan.gov
<http://michigan.gov/familyhistory>