

Library of Michigan

Beginning Genealogy Research

October 2007

Karen White

Reference Librarian



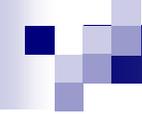
What Do You Want to Know?

- How thorough do you want to be?
 - Names and dates?
 - Places?
 - How far back?
 - Your direct line, or other family members as well?



What Do You Know?

- Start with yourself and work backward:
 - Names, birth dates and places
 - Relationships
 - Marriages
 - Parents or children
 - Siblings
 - Where did they come from? When?
 - What were their lives like?



Start at Home

- Interview relatives
- Study family documents
 - Journals or diaries
 - Letters
 - Legal records
 - Newspaper clippings
 - Memorial cards/obituaries
 - Family Bibles
 - Photo albums



Organizing What You Know

- Helpful to work your way backward from recent information or what you know.
- Find an organizational style that works for you.
 - Be consistent with date and location formats.
- Use forms to put details down on paper.

Pedigree Chart

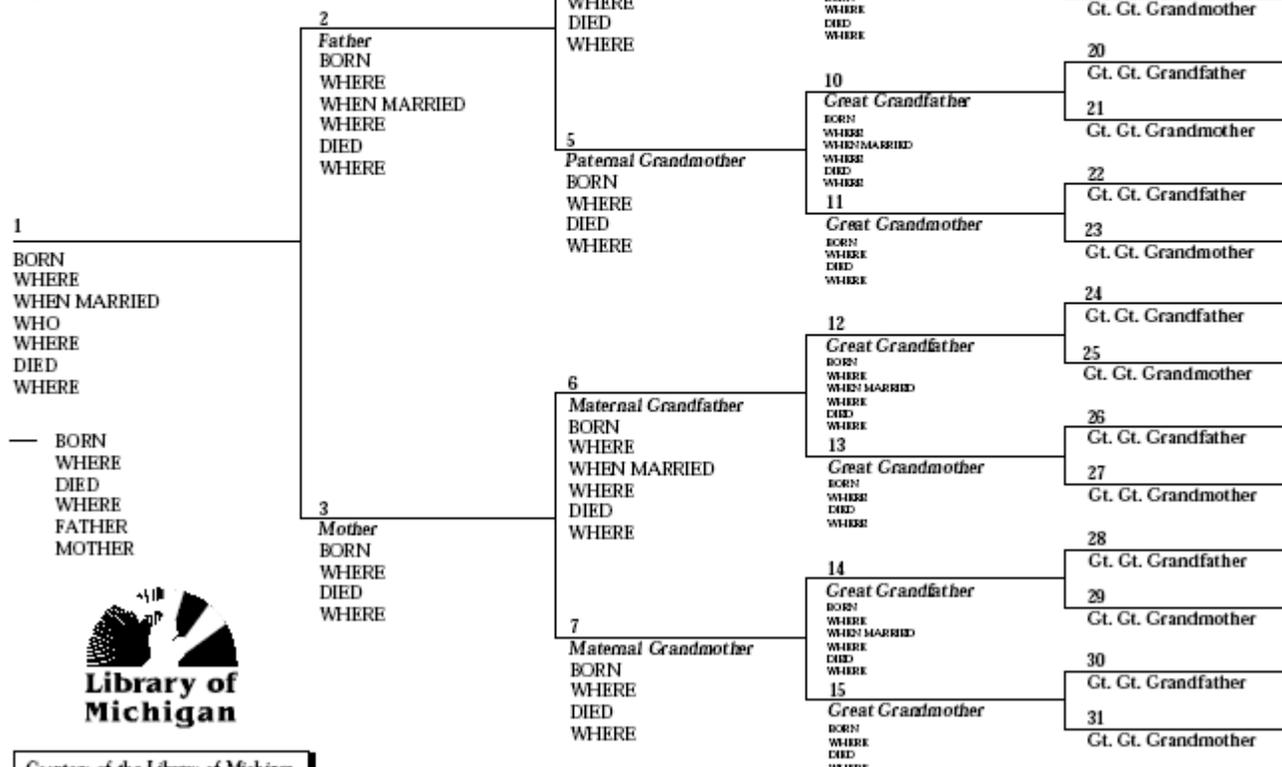
Date

Name

Street Address

City State

Library of Michigan Pedigree Chart



Family Group Chart



Library of
Michigan

Family Group Chart

Name

Street

City State Date

Sources of Information

HUSBAND'S NAME _____

Born _____ Where _____

Married _____ Where _____

Died _____ Where _____

Where Buried _____

Son of _____ and _____
(Father's Name) *(Mother's Full Maiden Name)*

Other Wives (if any) _____

WIFE'S FULL MAIDEN NAME _____

Born _____ Where _____

Died _____ Where _____

Where Buried _____

Daughter of _____ and _____
(Father's Name) *(Mother's Full Maiden Name)*

Other Husbands (if any) _____

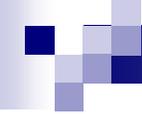
Children and Their Spouses	Born Date, Locality	Marriage Date, Locality	Died Date, Locality	Where Buried
1. _____				
2. _____				

Filling Holes

- Identify holes in your information as you compile your family tree.
- Make a list of what you want to find out.
- It's good to have a starting point in mind.
 - Budget your library time.

Information Sources

- Pay attention to the source
 - Is it authoritative?
 - Can you trust it as proof?
- Primary source:
 - Created at the time of the event.
- Secondary source:
 - Any sources in print that do not come from a contemporary or government record.
- Note where you find information in case you need to return to that source.



Library of Michigan Collections

- Genealogy Collection
 - Southwest end of second floor
- Michigan Collection
 - Northwest end of second floor
- Michigan Documents
 - Southeast end of second floor

Genealogy Collection

- Materials come from state and local sources, as well as national and international bodies. Resources include:

- Cemetery transcriptions
- County and family histories

- Genealogy how-to guides
- Land records
- Maps and atlases
- Military service lists
- Periodicals, such as society newsletters
- Vital records



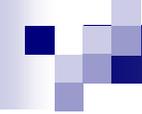
Michigan Collection

- Michigan genealogy materials are shelved with the Michigan Collection.
- The Library also collects current and historical materials related to Michigan, ranging from local government publications to history and biography, business and industry to literature and folklore.



Michigan Documents Collection

- Contains state executive and legislative publications issued since 1805.
- Of special interest:
 - Michigan Soldiers and Sailors
 - Michigan History Magazine
 - Michigan Manual



Census Records

- The U.S. Census allows you to locate your ancestors in a particular place and time.
- The census is taken every 10 years.
- The Library has census records for the entire U.S. from 1790 to 1930.
 - Most of the 1890 census was lost in a fire.
- Canadian censuses through 1911
- Questions varied from census to census.

Marquette Ward of city Second Block No. 0 POPULATION

or other _____ Unincorporated place _____ Institution _____
(Enter name of any unincorporated place having approximately 500 inhabitants or more. See instructions.) (Enter name of institution, if any, and indicate the line on which)

OF ABODE	NAME of each person whose place of abode on April 1, 1930, was in this family <small>Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Exclude every person living on April 1, 1930. Omit children born since April 1, 1930.</small>	RELATION Relationship of this person to the head of the family	HOME DATA				PERSONAL DESCRIPTION				EDUCATION			PLACE OF BIRTH				
			Married or widowed	Value of home, if owned, or rented	Rents and taxes paid	Year born	Sex	Color or race	Age at last birthday	Marital condition	Age at first marriage	Number of years attended school	Number of years in school	Number of years in school	PERSON	FATHER	MOTHER	
																		7
3291	Blount, Naomi R	daughter					F	W	13	S				Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin		
	Stanton, John	son					M	W	9	S				Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin		
7291	Leskau, Ralph	Head	0	3000	R	70	M	W	57	M	73	20	12	Wisconsin	Illinois	Norway		
	Clara O	Wife H					F	W	34	M	22	20	12	Wisconsin	Norway	Norway		
	Helen J	daughter					F	W	13	S		9	12	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin		
	Ladep L	daughter					F	W	10	S		4	12	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin		
9293	Nelson, Louis M	Head	0	3500		70	M	W	49	M	38	20	12	Missouri	Denmark	Norway		
	Maudie J	Wife H					F	W	45	M	24	20	12	Michigan	New York	New Jersey		
	Antonette	daughter					F	W	15	S		4	12	Wisconsin	Michigan	Michigan		
	Rorothy J	daughter					F	W	7	S		4	12	Wisconsin	Michigan	Michigan		
	Bunde, Mary	roomer					F	W	51	W	28	12	12	Wisconsin	Denmark	Wisconsin		
5744	Clary, Augusta	Head	11	30	R	70	F	W	72	W	19	20	12	Wisconsin	Germany	Germany		
	Olivia K	daughter					F	W	44	S		20	12	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin		
	Fluence	daughter					F	W	34	S		20	12	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin		
	Snyder, Eleanor	daughter					F	W	38	M	34	20	12	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin		
	Snyder, Mary Ann	daughter					F	W	28	S		10	12	Illinois	Ohio	Wisconsin		
5	382	Schmitt, John	Head	11	25	R	70	M	W	51	M	58	20	12	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Holland	
	Grace	Wife H					F	W	44	M	21	20	12	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin		
	Richard J	son					M	W	28	S		10	12	Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Wisconsin		
2	295	393	Berne, John J	Head	0	2000	R	70	M	W	55	M	26	20	12	Wisconsin	Germany	Germany
	Estelle A	Wife H					F	W	51	M	22	20	12	Wisconsin	Germany	Germany		
	Francis O	son					M	W	22	S		20	12	Wisconsin	Germany	Germany		
2	296	394	Byrne, Arthur	Head	0	3500	1	70	M	W	60	M	26	20	12	Canada	Canada	New York



Information on the Census

- Some examples of what is on the 1930:
 - Names and ages of family members
 - Information about their housing
 - Education and occupation
 - Birthplace of parents
 - Immigration and naturalization overview

Michigan Vital Records

- State began collecting vital records in 1867.
- Some earlier records exist for some counties, especially marriage records.
- Start with the index.
 - This will give you numbers to use to find the record for the person.
- The record, or return, lists the information recorded on the certificate issued.

Michigan Vital Records

The following Michigan vital records and indexes are available at the Library:

■ Births

- Index 1867-1915

■ Deaths

- Index 1867-1914
- Returns 1867-1897
- Certificates 1897-1920

■ Divorces

- Index 1897-1969
- Returns 1897-1922

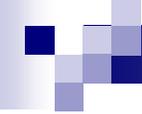
■ Marriages

- Index 1867-1921;
1950-1969
- Returns 1867-1925



Obtaining Records

- Michigan Department of Community Health
- Michigan County Clerks Directory
 - www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17449_18635_20736---,00.html



Vitals for Other States

- Check ANSWER, the Library's online catalog, to see what records are available for other states.
- Other sources:
 - Computer databases
 - State library or archives
 - County
 - Local societies
 - LDS Family History Centers

Newspapers

- The Library has an extensive collection of Michigan newspapers.
 - Some titles date to early 1800s.
- Use newspapers as sources for:
 - Announcements of life events, obituaries
 - News articles
- Most are not indexed, so it is helpful to know exact or approximate dates.



History, Arts and Libraries



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- [Michigan Newspaper Family Histories](#)
- [Newspaper Holdings](#)

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Library of Michigan Newspaper Holdings

The following is a list of the Michigan newspapers on microfilm at the Library of Michigan. The list is organized by county, and arranged alphabetically by city and title. The dates listed for each title are generalized; the Library may not own every issue for each year listed. Detailed holding information can be obtained from [ANSWER](#), the Library's online catalog.

Newspaper Holdings by County

- [Alcona](#)
- [Alger](#)
- [Allegan](#)
- [Alpena](#)
- [Antrim](#)
- [Arenac](#)
- [Baraga](#)
- [Barry](#)
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- [ANSWER Library Catalog](#)
- [HAL Press Releases](#)
- [HAL Site Subject List](#)
- [I HAVE AN IDEA](#)
- [MICASE - Michigan Creative After School Experiences](#)
- [What's Happening in Michigan?](#)



Hurricane Katrina



Immigration Records

- Passenger lists cover major U.S. ports:
 - Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia
- Lists range from 1565 to 1954.
- Most lists include:
 - Ship name, captain's name, port and date of departure and arrival, list of passengers
- Helps to know year of immigration.



Naturalization Records

- Paperwork to become a U.S. citizen
- Declarations of Intent:
 - After 1906: Residence, occupation, birth date or age, nationality, last foreign residence, name of ship, marital status
- Petition for Naturalization- “Final Papers”

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

(Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

State of Michigan }
County of Wayne } ss: In the Circuit Court
of Wayne Co Michigan

I, William Henry Fudge, aged 21 years,
occupation Laborer, do declare on oath that my personal

description is: Color White, complexion Dark, height 6 feet inches

weight 160 pounds, color of hair Brown, color of eyes Brown

other visible distinctive marks None

I was born in Surrey England

on the 5 day of June, anno Domini 1892; I now reside
at Grosecpointe Mich
(Give number, street, city or town, and State.)

I emigrated to the United States of America from Liverpool

on the vessel Empress of Ireland; my
(If the alien arrived otherwise than by vessel, the character of conveyance or name of transportation company should be given.)

foreign residence was Surrey England

It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to George V King of Great Britain And Ireland, of whom I am now a subject

I arrived at the port of Detroit,

State of Michigan, on or about the 3

of May, anno Domini 1913. I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith

to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein:

SO HELP ME GOD.

William Henry Fudge
(Original signature of declarant.)

Naturalization Records

PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

To the Honorable the Circuit Court of Wayne County Michigan: *William Henry Judge* hereby filed, respectfully sheweth:

The petition of *William Henry Judge* Detroit, Michigan.

First. My place of residence is *409 Franklin Ave* (Give number, street, and city or town.)

Second. My occupation is *Salesman*

Third. I was born on the *5* day of *June*, anno Domini *1894*, at *Carshalton Surrey Engl.*

Fourth. I emigrated to the United States from *Liverpool*, on or about the *21* day of *February* anno Domini *1913*, and arrived in the United States, at the port of *Detroit*, on the *3* day of *March* anno Domini *1913* on the vessel *Canadian Pacific R.R.* (If the alien arrived otherwise than by sea, the character of conveyance or name of transportation company should be given.)

Fifth. I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on the *1* day of *July*, anno Domini *1913* at *Detroit* in the *Circuit* Court of *Wayne*

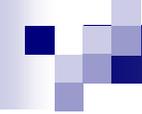
Sixth. I am *married*. My wife's name is *Christine*; she was born on the *20* day of *December*, anno Domini *1889* at *Scotland*, and now resides at *with me* (Give number, street, and city or town.)

I have *two* children, and the name, date, and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children is as follows:

<i>William Henry</i>	<i>July 1, 1917</i>	<i>Detroit</i>	<i>with me</i>
<i>John Robert</i>	<i>Sept 30, 1918</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>

Local Histories

- Almost every county in Michigan has at least one county history with biographical sketches
 - Do a “subject” search in ANSWER for:
_____ *county mich history*.
- It’s useful to browse other books in a particular county area to see what else is available for the area you are researching.



Michigan Cemetery Research

<http://michigancemeteries.libraryofmichigan.org>

- Site will provide a reference source if owned by the Library
- Name lists are being linked when found
- Note will appear if there is no transcript for the cemetery



Military Records

- Service records
- Pensions
- Unit histories
- Draft registrations



WW1 Draft Registrations

- Draft Registration Cards
 - More than 24 million men
 - Nearly 25% of total U.S. population
- Genealogical information

WW1 Draft Registrations

Form 5727 REGISTRATION CARD No. 371

1 Name of registrant Wm O'Callaghan Age 29

2 Home address 428 Blue St Flint Mich

3 Date of birth June 17 1888

4 Sex Male Race Irish Color White

5 Place born Ireland Language English

6 Place of birth England

7 Residence City of Flint

8 By what means 27 City of Flint
Fire House #4

9 How long a resident Wife and one child

10 Marital status Married Complexion White

11 What military service have you had? No.

12 Do you have any other names? No.

I declare that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

William O'Callaghan

4312 REGISTRAR'S REPORT A 21-3-6

1 Physical condition, as stated by registrant Med (Number and date of report) Med

2 Color of eyes Blue Color of hair Brown Height No

3 The present list gives the hand, foot, or back size, or is the document attached thereto?

I hereby certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read this statement, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all the statements of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

5 J. O'Callaghan

City or County Genesse

State Michigan Date June 5, 1917



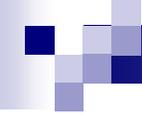
City and County Directories

2 South Next to Genealogy

- Helpful to locate individuals between census years
- Arraigned alphabetically by name of city or county
- Dates range from mid- 1800s – present
- Many more directories available on microfilm, for Michigan and other states.

Databases

- Ancestry Library Edition
 - Available at the Library of Michigan.
- HeritageQuest
 - Available at all Michigan libraries.
- Castle Garden
 - www.castlegarden.org
- Ellis Island
 - www.ellisisland.org
- Family Search
 - www.familysearch.org



Web Sites

- Cyndi's List
 - www.cyndislist.com
- Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness
 - www.raogk.org/
- Roots Web
 - www.rootsweb.com
- USGenWeb
 - www.usgenweb.com

michigan.gov/familyhistory



Genealogy - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Address http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17449_18635---,00.html Go



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For Genealogy Research, Visit the Library of Michigan and the State Archives of Michigan.
Both are open to the public at the Michigan Library and Historical Center. Please note that the [Library of Michigan](#) and the [State Archives of Michigan](#) have different operating hours. See our [map page](#) for directions and parking information.

- [Researching Mackinac History](#)
- [Abrams Genealogy Series 2005](#)

[Abrams Genealogy](#)

[Click here for:](#) The Abrams Foundation Historical Collection of genealogy materials provides a wealth of resources for family history researchers.

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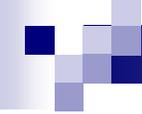
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Internet



Visiting the Library of Michigan

- Helpful to have specific goals.
- Use ANSWER, the Library's online catalog.
 - www.answercat.org
- Ask for help!
- Contact information:
 - (517) 373-1300
 - librarian@michigan.gov
 - www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan