



# Archives of Michigan Michigan Genealogical Council Family History Month Workshop Saturday, October 29, 2011

Michigan Historical Center, Lansing



## Topic descriptions

- 1. Pray that you can find the church or better yet the records!** What church did you ancestor attend? Is there a record that will provide your ancestor's religion? How do you find the record? Suggestions on how to establish the religion will be explored.
- 2. Galusha A. Grow and the Homestead Act.** Homestead records (1862-1986) are an excellent resource for documenting residence and collecting details about the neighborhood and personal relationships. Learn the steps it took for your ancestor to acquire the land and how to order copies of the records. Historical information about the man who introduced the Act is included.
- 3. Civilian Conservation Corps.** Known as the CCC and Roosevelt's Tree Army, the Civilian Conservation Corps was part of FDR's New Deal alphabet program. Learn background and historical information, how the CCC helped the nation, about the men who joined, plus where to obtain your ancestor's enlistment papers.
- 4. New York State Genealogy.** Presentation will focus on the various records and approaches available to research our New York ancestors. Many of Michigan's families can trace their ancestry to New York State, even if earlier generations came from Europe or New England.
- 5. American Immigration Agents.** During the 1840s-1880 many states competed for immigrants and settlers. Michigan was the first state to hire agents and develop a recruitment plan. Learn how Michigan state agents, working with shipping lines, recruited future citizens both at U.S. ports and in villages and towns in Europe. The Archives of Michigan holds the agents' primary documents and lists of immigrants who answered the call.
- 6. Michigan-Ontario Migration.** There were many reasons people migrated between Michigan and Ontario in both directions, including employment and business opportunities, new transportation routes and cheap land. We will take a look at some of these reasons to help determine if our people might have been involved in this migration.
- 7. Select Detroit & Michigan Genealogical Resources at Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library.** This presentation focuses on some of the unique genealogical resources for Michigan and Detroit research found at the Burton Historical Collection including: Detroit Death index, burial transit permits, Wayne County coroner's files, Roman Catholic Church records, naturalization records from Detroit Records Court, Michigan World War II service awards index, Michigan Korean war casualties index, and more!

8, 15. **Tour of Archives.** There is another world beyond the reading room of the State Archives. See where the records and treasures of Michigan's history are catalogued, digitized, stored and preserved.

9. **Navigating Back to England.** Starting where your ancestor set down roots in the U.S. is the best place to begin your research back to England or any country. Records of U.S immigration and naturalization as well as other records to locate place or origination will be discussed. Second half will discuss English records readily available via the Internet and through local sources.

10. **Write it or Lose it.** How often have you wished your great grandparents had taken the time to write about their lives? In the past, diaries, letters and even post cards have allowed genealogists a personal look at how our near ancestors thought and lived. Today, emails, Facebook and discarded digital photos may create a gap in the information available to future generations. During the past 60 years the world has experienced almost constant change. As family historians it is our duty to tell future generations what life was *really* like and to chronicle our own lives. In this seminar, Bobbi Schirado will show us how easy it can be to relate our own and our family's story.

11. **Strategies for Searching SeekingMichigan.org.** SeekingMichigan.org grows monthly providing easy online access to records on Michigan's people, places and events. What can be found there, what is coming and how to access will be covered.

12. **Pensions of the Poor.** Was your ancestor too poor to be in records? Think again. The poor have always been controversial and a society issue. For centuries, mankind has tried to help the poor through government-run programs. The records these programs produced during the late 19th and early 20th centuries will be reviewed.

13. **Scots-Irish Migrations to Canada and the USA** (from 1700s-1800s). A brief overview of Scots-Irish History from the Plantation of Ulster in the 1600's to the migration of the Scots-Irish to both the USA and Canada with a focus on the time period 1790's-1880's. It also reviews tracing and researching your Scots-Irish ancestry utilizing the best online websites for documentation going back to the 1790's and up to the early 1900's.

14. **Utilizing Fold3 at the Library and from Home** Previously known as Footnote, Fold3 is an interactive repository of millions of images of original documents, many from the National Archives, including naturalization records, city directories, and Civil War service records. Named after a traditional flag-folding ceremony in which the third fold is made in honor and remembrance of veterans, the database now emphasizes its outstanding collection of military records and indexes.



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## **Our Speakers**

### **Featured Speaker – Pamela J Cooper**

**Pamela J. Cooper** - Supervisor of the Archives Center & Genealogy Department for the Indian River County Main Library in Vero Beach, Florida since 1986, Pamela J Cooper is a highly regarded speaker at national and local events. Pamela has served as a Director of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, Director of the Florida State Historical Society, President of the Florida State Genealogical Society, and was Co-chair of the FGS/FSGS 2003 National Conference in Orlando. She is also recipient of the 2000 Filby Award for Genealogical Librarianship, among others.

**Mark Bowden** - is Coordinator for Special Collections at the Detroit Public Library. These collections include: the Burton Historical Collection, the Rare Book Collection, the E. Azalia Hackley Collection of African Americans in the Performing Arts, the Ernie Harwell Sports Collection, and the National Automotive History Collection. He is the immediate past President of the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research and is a member of the Michigan Archival Association and the Historical Society of Michigan. Mark serves on the planning committee for the 2011 Michigan Local History Conference.

**Shirley Hodges.** Shirley has been actively doing genealogical research since 1967. She has taught genealogy classes and seminars in the U. S. and Canada since 1994 and has been a guest lecturer for several college-level programs. Her interest in sharing her love of genealogical research and her sense of humor has delighted audiences. Shirley served as President of the Genealogical Speakers Guild from 2006-2010. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the National Genealogical Society and numerous state and local societies. She became a columnist for The Global Gazette in June 2006

**David E Irwin.** A graduate of Michigan State University, David is a Professional Genealogist, Historian, Author, Speaker and Consultant with over 30 years of genealogical experience as well as training through Boston University - Certificate Program in Genealogical Research. David assisted in contributing material for the book "Pioneering Michigan" by Eric Freedman and was featured in the Detroit News as part of Michigan's 150th Anniversary in 1987 with a story on his early Michigan Pioneer ancestor Charles Callow.

**Cecile (Ceil) Wendt Jensen** is a Certified Genealogist and owner of Michigan Polonia. Author, educator, and researcher, Cecile was born and raised in Detroit. She is past Vice-President of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan and is a representative to the Federation of Genealogical Societies. A graduate of Michigan State University, Ceil spent thirty years in K-12 education where she pioneered multimedia technology integration in the classroom. In 1998, Ceil began a transition from public education to genealogy and has become a featured international speaker. She has conducted research in Poland at libraries, civil and diocesan archives, and in local parishes. She is the Director of the Polonica Americana Research Institute (PARI) on the historic Polish-American campus of Orchard Lake, Michigan.

**William T Ruddock.** Mr. Ruddock, a native of New York State, has described Genealogy as his avocation for almost 30 years. He has written three family histories and a history of an Irish owned linen mill in Greenwich, New York. He has numerous journal articles and currently serves as contributing editor of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Register. He is currently compiling a directory of all Ruddock records found in 17th through 19th century Ireland

**Kris Rzepczynski** Currently the Michigan/Genealogy Coordinator at the Library of Michigan, Kris has worked at the Library for more than 11 years. He holds a Masters in Library and Information Science from Wayne State University, a Master of Arts in History from Western Michigan University, and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Michigan. Kris has presented at national, state, and local conferences, including the 2011 Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference, 2010 Public Library Association Annual Conference, Ohio Genealogical Society Annual Conference, Michigan Library Association Annual Conference, Historical Society of Michigan Annual Conference, and for dozens of local genealogical societies. In addition, he is a member of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, Historical Society of Michigan, Michigan Library Association, and is a Past President of the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society.

**Bobbi Schirado** Roberta "Bobbi" Schirado has served as the Editor of *Michigana*, the quarterly magazine of the Western Michigan Genealogical Society (WMGS), for 12 years and is the author of *Rockford*, the history of Rockford, Michigan. She has been an active genealogist for over 20 years, and coordinated the WMGS Writer's Group for the past seven. Bobbi has been a genealogical lecturer and taught writing classes. Preserving Twentieth Century family history is her passion. She is a graduate of Central Michigan University and a member of Federation of Genealogical Societies, the National Genealogy Society, the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Association of Photoshop Professionals, and the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors.

**Cynthia (Church) Theusch** is a native of Michigan. She was born in Alma, Michigan and later moved to Lansing where she met her husband and resided there until February 2008. Cynthia has served as vice president and president of the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society and worked with the Michigan Genealogical Council's Conference Program Committee and the Death Indexing Project. She received a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science and a Certificate in Archival Administration from Wayne State University in December 2007. During her study at Wayne State, Cynthia received a Student Writing Award on a reference project, a four-page pathfinder on the Civilian Conservation Corps.