

The Clarion

Bay County Genealogical Society of Michigan

Volume 56

Issue #1

January - March 2025

COZY NIGHTS OF WINTER

Dear Members,

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and Happy New Year.

We have some great speakers lined up for the next five months. I hope that you can attend in person or by zoom to hear what they have to say.

Anyone solve any mysteries in their searching? I learned that a distant relative was killed by a hitman that an ex-girlfriend hired. The man not only killed my relative but a male friend that was visiting.

Here's to another great year of learning, searching and finding more relatives,

Ruth Wilke
President

In Remembrance



Doris Spencer

January 26, 1934 - November 21, 2024

Doris Ann (Gillis) Spencer passed away peacefully at home November 21, 2024, surrounded by her loved ones. She was 90.

Doris was born January 26, 1934, in Bay City to the late Lawrence and Ann Gillis. She married Jack (John R.) Spencer on August 30, 1952. Together they raised eight children. He predeceased her on April 8, 2008.

Doris was a devout Catholic, daily Bible reader, family historian and music and bird lover. She enjoyed being in church. Her favorite song was "be

With Me, Lord" based on a favorite Bible verse, Psalms 91.

Left to cherish her memory are her brother, Larry (Maryann) Gillis, and children John Jr. (Thurza) Spencer, Tim (Pam) Spencer, Mike (Michelle Hartley) Spencer, Tom (Rena) Spencer, Dave (Mary) Spencer, Jim (Rosemarie) Spencer and Patti (Bud) Behmlander and son-in-law Bob Berg. She is also survived by 25 grandchildren and 54 great-grandchildren as well as many nieces and nephews.

Doris was also predeceased by daughter, Cindy (Berg), grandson Steven Spencer, sister Nancy (Ron) Powrozek and many in-laws.

Her passing brings great joy to all who knew Doris, so please don't cry! She would want you to be happy that you remembered her and the good times you shared with her!

The family would like to extend special gratitude to Vicky, with Seasons Change Home Health Care & Hospice.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated Saturday, November 30, 2024 at 11:00 AM, at St. Catherine of Sienna Parish. Fr. Jim Carlson will celebrate. Family and friends may gather for visitation at Squires Funeral Home, Friday, November 29, 2024 from 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM, with a Time of Sharing at 6:00 PM, and at the church before Mass from 10:00 AM until 11:00 AM. A burial of cremains will take place at Calvary Cemetery in Kawkawlin. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to St. Mary's Food Pantry or the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission.

Future Meeting Dates:

January 8th – Megan Heyl – “From the Crowd – Lot of Questions & Answers”

**February 12th – Justin Frost – Repairing, Cleaning & Researching Random
Headstones**

Mach 12th – Derek Blount – Great Midwest Fires of 1871 & 1881

April 9th – Jon Ringelberg – MI Log Mark Registrations/Log Marks

May 14th – Jeff Mason – Breaking Down Brick Walls & Revising Dead Ends

June 11th – Pot Luck & Auction



Have You Ever Tried These Resources?

By Mary McManman

Rural Directories

Did you know that the Bay City Directories from 1893 through 1911 included a separate listing for the people living in the townships? In those early years there is no street address but it does include the township, section, acres owned, value of the property and post office or rural mail route.

There are also a few rural directories in the Local History and Genealogy Room at the Alice and Jack Wirt Public Library.

**Bay County Rural Directory (1913-1915). F. E. Presler. 1915
Reference Storage 917.7447 Bay**

**Bay County Directory, 1940. Johnson Publishing Co. 1940
Reference Storage 917.7447 Bay**

**Bay County Rural Directory, 1943-44. 1944
Reference Storage 917.7447 Bay**

A Look Back at Our Last Meetings:

November 12th – Cynthia Grostick – Collateral Lines

This was an extremely helpful and intriguing program. Cynthia explained that you can open up blocked areas by researching other family members you may have thought were of no use. An example would be searching marriage records of siblings in hopes of getting the correct parents' names. Birth records, death records etc of siblings/uncles/aunts/distant relations might contain the secrets you are searching for even if those relations are not part of your research. Don't overlook them.

December 11th – Christmas Party and Auction Night!

We had a chicken dinner with lovely side dishes and desserts provided by our members. The brown bag auction brought out our members competitive spirits as usual with lots of auction paddles being waved in the air! The auction raised \$197 for the society. We had some great jokes/puns sprinkled throughout the auction provided by Charles and Diane Kocher, always a great addition to the auction fun!

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## **Message Concerning the MGC**

**by Barb Connor**

- 1. They are looking for yearbooks to complete their collections. But if you happen to have a few lying around, please check with us first and see if they could be used in the genealogy library at Wirt.**
- 2. Barbara J Brown seminar will be held May 9 and 10, 2025 at the Library of Michigan. This will be hybrid.**

# Library of Michigan Programs



## 2025 Virtual Program Schedule

The Library of Michigan's 2025 Virtual Program schedule is now available at [Michigan.gov/LMPublicPrograms](https://Michigan.gov/LMPublicPrograms). All virtual programs take place on Zoom and registration is required. The topics for the 2025 schedule include:

- January 2, 2025 - [Ancestry.com Library Edition](#)
- February 6, 2025 - [Cluster Research or Discovering You're Related to the Whole Block](#)
- March 6, 2025 - [MyHeritage Library Edition](#)
- April 3, 2025 - [House Research](#)
- May 2, 2025 - [Cemetery Research with the Library of Michigan](#)
- June 5, 2025 - [Time To Hit the Books – Yearbooks, Alumni Lists, and more](#)
- July 10, 2025 - [Vital Records Research at the Library of Michigan](#)
- August 7, 2025 - [Digitizing My Family Tree: Formats, Software, and Techniques](#)
- September 4, 2025 - [Newspaper Research at the Library of Michigan](#)
- October 2, 2025 - [FamilySearch.org](#)
- November 6, 2025 - [Fold3 Library Edition](#)
- December 4, 2025 - [Michigan Pioneer Collections](#)

All programs are on the first Thursday of each month starting at 6:30PM, except for the July program (it is the following week to avoid the July 4th holiday). All questions related to the 2025 virtual programs should go to [Librarian@Michigan.gov](mailto:Librarian@Michigan.gov) or 517-335-1477.

**Just a friendly reminder that the 2025 Membership Dues are due this month. Please contact Mary if you have questions about this. Payment can be mailed to the address on the last page.**

# Website-FaceBook-Plus

By Charles Kocher

## Facebook (Bay County Genealogical Society-Michigan)

As of January 4, 2025, there are 369 members in the Society's Facebook group.

In previous columns, I have mentioned that Facebook can be dangerous. Recently, I have twice encountered malware that would have lightened my wallet. Here's what happened. I sometimes browse through the items that show up on my Facebook page and will occasionally click on them to read the whole story or to watch a video. Well, one time I clicked on a story and a popup told me my computer had been taken over by an unnamed entity and that to get it back, I would have to make a payment. A voice told me not to shut off my computer. I wasn't going to let a mysterious voice from the netherworld tell me what to do, so I shut off my computer; waited about twenty minutes and restarted it. It took a little longer than usual to come back, but it did, and worked fine.

Not always being "smarter than the average bear" it happened again a few weeks later. I again turned it off and on and vowed to only click on sites familiar to me, and it hasn't happened since.

## Website (baymigenoc.com)

Since the last issue of the "Clarion", items from the August 14, 1949, issue of the Bay City Times have been interspersed within the pages of the Society's website. Also, the indexes and marriage records have been updated to include the addition of the 1906 marriages.

During my preparation of marriage records to be added to the website, I often come upon surnames of people from earlier times that would make people of the present chuckle, if not outright guffaw.

(Before I continue, the following information came from "Merriam-Webster.com": "Dork, when used to refer to a socially awkward or inept person, is a relatively recent word: our records indicate that it first appeared in writing in the 1960s." I am not trying to be disrespectful, but sometimes my imagination causes me to chuckle at what was normal then, is funny now.

For example, there was a marriage in 1906, in which the female's surname was Dork. Back then it meant nothing, but if the marriage was in the present, I imagined her telling her friends that, after being a Dork her whole life, she is getting married and will no longer be one. Now, this young lady had no choice as to what her surname was, but her mother, on the other hand, chose to be a Dork, when she married one.

Again, it may just be me, but sometimes genealogy can be funny.



I'm not crazy, but....

I shook my  
**FAMILY TREE**  
today

and a whole  
lot of **NUTS**  
fell out

Daily Dose of Inspiration  
Quotes by Catherine

\*\*\* From Face Book.... Genealogy Tips and Links

## Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held in the Community Room  
at Wirt Library

Time: 5:30-7:30 pm

|                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| September 11 <sup>th</sup>   | March 12 <sup>th</sup> |
| October 9 <sup>th</sup>      | April 9 <sup>th</sup>  |
| November 12 <sup>th</sup> ** | May 14 <sup>th</sup>   |
| December 11 <sup>th</sup>    | June 11 <sup>th</sup>  |
| January 8 <sup>th</sup>      | July No Meeting        |
| February 12 <sup>th</sup>    | August No Meeting      |

\*\*Tuesday Meeting

If Bay City Schools are canceled due to bad  
weather, our meetings are also cancelled.

## Library Hours

### Auburn & Pinconning

|           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| Sun-Mon   | Closed    |
| Tues-Thur | 10am -8pm |
| Fri-Sat   | 9am - 5pm |

### Sage

|          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| Mon-Tue  | 9am – 5pm   |
| Wed-Thur | 12pm – 8 pm |
| Fri      | 9am – 5pm   |
| Sat-Sun  | Closed      |

### Wirt

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| Mon-Thur | 10am – 8pm      |
| Fri-Sat  | 9am – 5pm       |
| *Sun     | 1pm – 5pm       |
|          | *(Sep-May only) |

## Contact Information

Please send all questions to one of the  
following:

Facebook: Bay County Genealogical Society MI

Website: baymigenesoc.com

Email: bcgs13@yahoo.com

Snail Mail: BCGS

P.O.Box 1366

Bay City, MI, 48706

## 2024-2025 BCGS Officers

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| President      | Ruth Wilke    |
| Vice President | Barb Connor   |
| Secretary      | Judy Berner   |
| Treasurer      | Mary McManman |
| Librarian      | Heather Leser |
| Publishing     | Heather Leser |
| Clarion Editor | Heather Leser |

## Membership Dues

All membership renewals are due by the  
end of December. Yearly dues are \$20.00  
for a single person or \$25.00 per  
family/one household.

## The Wirt Genealogy Room

Our BCGS volunteers are available on  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and  
Saturday from 1pm-4pm.

There is access to Ancestry.com,  
Heritage Quest, Fold3, and  
Familysearch.org