



Inroads to Ingham

Newsletter of the
Ingham County Genealogical Society



Spring 2020

Vol. 23 No. 3

Welcoming New Members Year Round!

Do You Have an Orphan Train Ancestor

By

Audrey Martini

The story of America's orphan trains, which ran between 1854 and 1929, is rooted in the history of child protection. The children were sent in groups on the trains that stopped at designated stations where the youngsters were lined up on the train platform or gathering place for prospective parents to observe and select from the group.

Some of these children were fortunate, landing with families who treated them with kindness and love. Others were treated as unpaid labor or even abused.

Inevitably, many of the western states where the children were placed began to protest that they were being used to provide homes for children. As a result these western states began to pass legislation banning or requiring large bonds for interstate placement.

Between 1854 and 1927 12,5000 orphans from the New York City and Boston area were placed in Michigan. The first Orphan Train Riders arrived in Dowagiac, Michigan in September 1854. By 1927 43 Michigan towns had received orphans from the "Baby Train" as it was sometimes called. Thirty-nine percent were girls. Only about 35% of the children were legally adopted.

The Orphan Train Heritage Society, P.O. Box 322, Concordia, Kansas (www.orphantrainriders.com)

serves as a clearinghouse for those researching their Orphan Train ancestors.

U.S. Census records can also be particularly helpful for those who suspect their ancestor might have been on the Orphan Train, or as confirmation that their Orphan Train ancestor did not fit the profile of the rest of the occupants where they were living.

For example, the answer to the Census question "Where were you born?" might open up a new field of research for you and any Orphan Train descendants living in your area. Or, if you have an ancestor born in the 1854-1929 time frame who just "appeared" in the Midwest, you might want to check into the possibility that he or she was an Orphan Train Rider.

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MISSION OF THE INGHAM COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Members of ICGS promote, encourage, make connections, and help provide information to persons interested in the research and study of family history and work to preserve our county and greater mid-Michigan genealogical heritage.

MEMBERSHIP

Single annual membership\$15

Family at a single address membership\$20

Membership includes access to our “Members Only” web page. Members are encouraged to submit an ancestral chart to the Membership Secretary for a possible match with other members.

MEETINGS

Membership meetings are held from 7-9 pm the second Thursday of each month—except January, June and July—at the Sam Corey Senior Center, 2108 Cedar Street, Holt, MI. The public is welcome.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Inroads to Ingham is published quarterly. Members and non-members are encouraged to submit materials for publication. The deadline for material is the 15th of the month immediately prior to the first month of each quarter. Content of submissions should be consistent with the purpose of the society (see above). We reserve the right to accept or reject any material submitted.

2020 ICGS Executive Board Meetings

All meetings to be held from 7 pm—9pm at the Sam Corey Senior Center, 2108 Cedar St., Holt and are open to members.

Thursday, July 23, 2020

Thursday, October 22, 2020

Officers (Jan. 1, 2020—Dec. 31, 2020)

President:	Audrey Z. Martini
Vice President:	Gary Wilkes
Treasurer:	Tammy Parsons
Recording Secretary:	Lorie Neuman
Membership Secretary:	Barbara Bridges
Librarian:	Charles Hagler
Directors:	Alice Raatz Sandra Ennes Jane Wallin

Committee Chairs

Computer:	
Web Master:	Sandra Enness
Facebook Page:	Sandra Enness
Facebook Group:	Jeff Antaya
Federation of Genealogical Societies Delegate:	Audrey Z. Martini
Historian:	Alice Raatz
Michigan Genealogical Council Delegates:	Sam Pardee Vacant
Newsletter:	Martha Marshall Sheila Truman
Program:	Gary Wilkes
Publicity:	Vacant
Social:	Vacant

Marketing/Communication: Sandra Enness

Facebook: [Facebook.com/icgsweb](https://www.facebook.com/icgsweb)
Web Page: www.icgsweb.org
Email: icgs@icgsweb.org



President's Message

BY Audrey Z. Martini
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Email: Martini@msu.edu

I hope this newsletter finds you and yours well and COVID-free. It is really important for all of us to maintain the recommended social distance and avoid large groups of people whenever possible—especially when indoors. And, as uncomfortable as they are, masks should be worn for everyone's protection. All of this to say, I do not see us coming together in a live meeting until at least the first of the year 2021 and then probably not at the Sam Corey Senior Center until later in the year 2021.

So the challenge for the ICGS organization is how to move forward, taking advantage of all the online resources available to us. By that I mean not only the online research and learning resources, but how can ICGS use all of today's technologies to grow the organization instead of continuing to just "circle the wagons".

Members of the Board took the first step in this direction when they came together virtually via ZOOM for the May Board meeting. The July 23, 2020 Board meeting will also be via ZOOM.

The next big step is going to be a full membership meeting August 13, 2020 using ZOOM. This will be in place of the usual annual August picnic. Hopefully, by then most of our members will have had some experience with the online meeting program and we will get a great turnout! Even our out-of-state members will be able to join in!

Soon ICGS is going to have to rethink what "we've always done" and consider a shift from monthly gatherings with an in-person presenter to virtual presentations (webinars) that can be viewed along with presenter interaction from anywhere there is a computer with Internet access. Participation by

long distance members would no longer be prohibitive.

Monthly business meetings may/may not be part of these virtual events. One business meeting a year to elect officers and conduct any other business not allocated to the Board may better suit the circumstances of this new "normal".

Along with the shift to online meetings is the more challenging, long term step to refocus our efforts from the care and maintenance of the hardcopy resources in the Resource Room to digitizing as many of those records as quickly as we can and making them accessible on our web page.

The full text of many of the older, out of copyright, books in the Resource Room are now available on the web either at archives.org or some similar free website. Volunteers can work from home to research links to those full text documents and add the information to the card catalog information that is already on the web. The EasyNet software has an existing field for that information.

Other records found in the Resource Room already have digital copies located on the ICGS computer. It will just be a matter of getting those digital versions copied to the webpage. Volunteers can do a lot of this from home.

Do not mistake. This is going to be a long, labor intensive process, but the out of pocket costs will be minimal because labor is volunteered. Too bad we did not have this in place before the stay at home order so we could have worked on it then.

The obituary, anniversary and birthday clippings that comprise a large majority of the Resource Room's resources are still under copyright so the images cannot be posted on our web page. However, the index information can be put on the web and researchers can then go to the various original sources, many of them accessible online, and retrieve the full document. Only members would have access

to the index, thus encouraging membership. There would still be a need for a librarian, but the role and responsibilities would change.

Another resource that can rather quickly be put online is the digitized Stockbridge newspapers. I recently re-contacted MITECH Solutions, the company that gave us a quote for digitizing the microfilmed rolls of the Stockbridge papers, last February. The company is considered an “essential” business because of its medical records clientele and is therefore immediately available to complete our project as soon as the ICGS Board and membership approve the expenditure.

Lastly, our Historian, Alice Raatz, and I have discussed digitizing our 25 years worth of Historian’s books. I hate to call them scrapbooks because the books are anything but “scrap”. They are beautifully laid out and tell our story better than anything I’ve seen in any of the other organizations/societies that I’ve belonged to. We are so fortunate to have such a talented Historian.

One of the first items I am going to request access to once we can re-enter our Resource Room, is the 25 years’ worth of Historian’s books. Alice’s printer has a scan capability; she has volunteered to begin scanning the pages, but would like additional volunteers to help with the project. If this is something you can help with, please get in touch with Alice.

Once the pages have been scanned we need to find a permanent home for these historical documents. My DAR Chapter has entrusted the Bentley Library Archives in Ann Arbor with its books. Perhaps the Library of Michigan Archives would accept ours.

An update on access to our Resource Room can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. As soon as there is any information available, I will share with the membership. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy!

MAHS Re-Opens

A resource not to be overlooked when doing Ingham County research, is the Mason Area Historical Society. Museum staff went through all its books and gave many away to various other societies/organizations. However, it still has some very Mason specific books and files.

The Museum reopened this past Saturday, July 4th from 1-3pm. It is going to be open Saturdays only. Anyone wishing to visit should call and make an appointment.

ICGS Resource Room Update

The ICGS Resource Room remains closed with no date as to when it will again be open. The CADL-Mason Library is open for curbside pickup only. Patrons call the library, request a book and get a time to come to the library. Library personnel will meet patrons at their car and place the books in the car trunk.

A brief update virtual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2020, the morning of our third quarter Board Meeting. Mason’s Head Librarian, Heather Goupil, has promised to share a list of community contacts that her committee has developed to assist us in finding a new home for our Resource Room holdings.

The events surrounding the pandemic have affected the previously developed timetable and budget so there is no firm date at this time as to when we will have to vacate the upstairs of the Mason library building. Hopefully, we will have a better idea after the July 23rd meeting. The Board will meet that evening and information will be shared with the ICGS membership shortly after that.

Be sure to check with the ICGS webpage President’s Blog for the latest information.

BARBARA J. BROWN FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR

July 10-11, 2020

The Abrams Seminar is now the Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar and it will be held, virtually through Zoom, on Friday, July 10th and Saturday, July 11th all for the low price of \$30.

Here are some of the details. For registration and speaker's bios, go to https://www.michigan.gov/mhc/0,9075,7-361-85148_98951-523785--,00.html

Each summer, the Archives of Michigan and the Michigan Genealogical Council host a seminar to promote family history and offer genealogical learning opportunities. This event is generously supported by the Abrams Foundation in loving memory of Barbara J. Brown.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are pleased to offer this flagship annual event remotely via Zoom. We appreciate our speakers' flexibility as we transition to a virtual format this year and look forward to hosting Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, "The Legal Genealogist," next year onsite at the Archives of Michigan.

Registration Details

Michigan History Center members will receive an email with a coupon for free registration. Not yet a member? Check out the website for more information. **Registration through July 7:** \$30 - includes registration for the two-day seminar.

All registrants will receive conference log-in information by email a few days before the event.

Program Schedule

Friday, July 10, 2020

9:30 - 10 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Comments: Welcome from the Michigan State Archivist and Michigan Genealogical Council President.

10 - 10:30 a.m.

Archives of Michigan Tour: Join the Archives of Michigan staff for a behind-the-scenes tour of the collections, including original manuscript records and the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection.

11 - 11:30 a.m.

Break into the Past: A Game for Genealogists: Inspired by the escape room phenomenon, this game has players solve a puzzle using a series of clues, including genealogical resources.

Noon - 1 p.m.

Empire State Roots: New York Family History Research: New York was by far the most important state in the early growth and development of Michigan and the Midwest. This session will explore New York's migration patterns and provide an overview of the fantastic genealogical resources available in print and online.

Presenter: Kris Rzepczynski, Archives of Michigan

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Annual Reports: Supplemental Documents for Genealogical Research: Governments, businesses, and other organizations produce annual reports that describe the entities' activities throughout the preceding year. Learn more about these useful documents and see examples of these published reports that can provide information for genealogical researchers investigating the greater context of their ancestor's lives.

Presenter: Adam Oster, Library of Michigan

3 - 4 p.m.

Who You Gonna Call? WIKIs in Family History: In this session, attendees will explore the FamilySearch Wiki, why it should be in your

toolbox, search techniques and how to contribute your expertise to make the Wiki a more robust tool to help genealogists. We will also look at more specialized Wikis that offer guidance with more advanced questions.

Presenter: Thomas Koselka, Michigan Genealogical Council

Saturday, July 11, 2020

9 - 10 a.m.

Seeking Michigan Becomes Michiganology: Digital collections previously on SeekingMichigan.org are now available on Michiganology.org. This session will review how best to navigate Michiganology.org, talk through known issues with the site and listen to your suggestions for how to improve this free resource.

Presenter: Jill Arnold, Archives of Michigan

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

The ABCs of DNA & Genealogy: What can DNA testing tell you? What tests should I take? What does it all mean? DNA testing can be a powerful tool to wield in your genealogy toolkit. This session offers a beginner's overview on tests, testing companies, and how you can use your results.

Presenter: Jessica Trotter, Researcher & blogger.

Noon - 1 p.m.

Getting Around the Brick Wall: We all reach the end of the trail on some of our branches, but as Churchill said, "Never, never, never give up!" By trying variant spellings, little used sources, and having just a little luck, you may break through that wall. How about really analyzing the sources you already have - there may be hidden clues there, too.

Presenter: James Jackson, Professional researcher.

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

The Good, the Bad, the Deviant: Researching

Correctional Records: This program will help researchers navigate prison records held by the Archives of Michigan to uncover information about your ancestors' past misdeeds, including how to get started, and using prison records to find even more genealogy resources.

Presenter: Annakathryn Welch, Archives of Michigan

3 - 4 p.m.

You CAN Take It With You! Mobile Genealogy Tools: Utilizing the mobile tools of Ancestry.com, RootsMagic, Legacy, Evernote and more, you don't have to take your huge notebooks of family genealogy with you to the library when doing research. And what about social media? There are many tools that you can take on your computer, tablet or Smartphone!

Presenter: Judy Nimer Muhn, Professional researcher

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Oral History in the Genealogy World: No genealogy is complete without recorded stories from our family members. From oldest to the youngest, we all have stories to tell about our family memories. Please join us to learn about setting up an oral history plan, asking quality questions, and what to do after the interviews.

Presenter: James Cameron, Michigan Oral History Association



Registration is now open for the Federation of Genealogical Societies' Virtual Family History Conference that starts September 2, 2020.

Visit the website for more information:
<https://fgs.org/annual-conference/>



Historian's Report

By Alice Raatz, Historian

Hello to All!

Welcome sunshine and summer days to enjoy, but missing so many events that have been cancelled. Our ICGS meetings as well as all gatherings all over the country have been cancelled. All non-essential businesses closed and a strict stay home order was in effect for several months. Since it began in March, the COVID-19 pandemic has peaked, slowed and now showing increases in some states. Although our stay home order in Michigan has lifted and businesses have slowly begun to reopen, we continue to follow the guidelines and adhere to 6-foot social distancing, wearing a mask when out in public places, hand washing, and sanitizing.

After a long absence, our family was able to have it's first gathering on Father's Day. My 3 daughters and spouses and my granddaughter Jessica made our day so special by just enjoying a meal together and playing games. Let's all continue to be safe.

ICGS BOARD MEETING

On May 14, ICGS made history by holding its first Executive Board meeting via Zoom. Lorie Neuman, who is an experienced user of this technology, set up the meeting which most of the board attended and was a great success. We all thank you, Lorie!

ICGS MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Due to the pandemic Stay Home orders, all meetings and guest speakers since March have been cancelled. This includes our summer picnic normally held in August. Going forward we continue to see cancellations or possibly Zoom meetings until it is safe to gather again.

ICGS MARKS 25 YEARS

In 1995, the Ingham County Genealogical Society was formed thanks to our founder Edward Parker. 2020 should have been a year to celebrate our 25th

anniversary, but due to our COVID restrictions, the board members decided to postpone celebrating until 2021. Edward Parker must be so proud to look down and see that we continue the group he loved. Thanks to all who continue to support our society.

FORMER MEMBER DIES

Lynn Dale Brown, former member and Past Vice President in 1998-2000, passed away on March 29, 2020 at the age of 91. Lynn was member No. 59, joining in March 1997 and continuing through 2012.



On occasions, after dropping his membership, he returned to enjoy our potluck or just to drop in to visit with old friends. Lynn was the son of C. Ellsworth and Chloe Delle (Foltz) Brown of Mason, Michigan and was a life long resident of the Lansing area.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. He will be missed by many.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR SOUGHT

The Michigan Genealogical Council is seeking a volunteer to be MGC's Newsletter editor. The summer issue of the MGC Newsletter was the last issue that Carolyn Haines will edit. Brenda Leyndyke, President of MGC writes: "Carolyn has been a dedicated MGC volunteer for years. Carolyn has decided to let someone else have a go at editing the newsletter. If this sounds like something you would like to do, please email President@mimgc.org. If you are interested in the details of the job, please sign into you MGC account and click "Secure Download" then "Policies and Procedures (2016) for a list of duties."