



Inroads to Ingham

Newsletter of the
Ingham County Genealogical Society



Fall 2020

Vol. 23 No. 4

Welcoming New Members Year Round!

Timelines as Genealogical Research Tools

by
Audrey Z. Martini

A genealogical timeline is a written representation of events in a person's life in chronological order. It may also include relevant historical occurrences and geopolitical border changes. National, state and local historic happenings can provide meaningful context to person events by explaining the external circumstances of someone's actions. It is a useful tool for genealogists of all experience levels, and is simple but underused.

Reasons to construct a timeline include:

Organize an Ancestor's Life—Use a timeline to plot out the history of an ancestor.

Organize a Family—If you are currently working on a family unit, timelines can help put a family into perspective.

Organize Several Generations—If you are tracing several generations of a surname line, it can become quite confusing. Create a timeline to represent the history of the surname.

Gaps—When a timeline is mapped, the researcher can begin to identify gaps in the research. Missing times, events, and pieces of information all of a sudden become very clear. The timeline becomes an invaluable tool for developing a research list.

Contradictions—Timelines can help identify inconsistencies in your research.

Historical Context—When an ancestor's life is plotted on a timeline it is essential to also create a parallel outline of significant events happening at both the local, regional, and national level. Some historical context that is helpful includes county boundary changes, changes in the law (dower rights, inheritance rules, etc.).

Creating a Story—A timeline is an awesome tool for helping to flesh out the story of an ancestor. Plot an ancestor's life on a timeline to help identify the challenges of the times. Shape your story around these elements and have a much more engaging and entertaining story than if you just gave birth, death, and marriage information.

To make your timeline even more helpful footnote key resources.

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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, October 22, 2020

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Thursday, April 21, 2021

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
Historian:	Alice Raatz
Michigan Genealogical Council Delegates:	Sam Pardee Vacant
Newsletter:	Vacant
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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The October membership meeting, Thursday, October 8, 2020, 7pm will feature Heide Butler, CADL's Local History Specialist. She will be discussing the records available through CADL—Local History that can help synthesize the many resources and create a picture of what life was like at any given time in a family's history—in other words help put your ancestors' lives in historical context.

Understanding the life and times of your ancestors is more than just who they were and when they were born and died. Situating your ancestors in history, both local and national, can help clue you in to more about their daily lives and about some of the decisions they may have faced during their time. In addition, knowing about the historical context that these men and women faced can provide vital clues that can help you unearth more information about them than by just conducting random searches.

CADL-Local History houses most of the available published material relating to the history and timelines of Ingham County. This includes small press books and pamphlets held nowhere else. Many of these can be accessed online.

All are invited to join the October ICGS ZOOM membership meeting to learn more about the various collections and how to access each one.

Normally I would be sharing the slate of officers for our November election in this issue of the Newsletter. However, with the safety concerns that have forced us to meet virtually via ZOOM, I am hesitant to conduct those elections online. We have too many members who, for whatever reason, have not/cannot access ZOOM to vote; I do not want to disenfranchise those members.

I have put elections on the agenda for the October membership meeting for a discussion of options. One option is to conduct the November meeting at an outside venue so all members can attend and vote if they so desire. Several other groups have done this. Another option is to hold off on the election until we can meet in person. This would mean our current officers would continue in their positions until an election is held. A third option is to conduct the elections using ZOOM's "poll" feature.

The Stockbridge Newspaper microfilm reels have been digitized and stored on a 32 gig thumb drive. The possibility of purchasing thumb drives with the ICGS logo was discussed at the September membership meeting, but no decision was made pending some cost information. That information will be presented at the October meeting.

Everything has been packed ready for the move from the CADL-Mason Library building. The portable trailer that will soon store the ICGS



Resource Room's collection was delivered this past week. The actual move to the trailer will probably not take place until the end of October/first of November as the trailer still needs electrical service and steps.

An additional "Newspaper Clippings" database will soon be added to the ICGS webpage. The new database will be similar to the "Area Deaths Database", but will be for birth, marriage, anniversary, etc. information. The 17,000 names from the 3x5 card files will be included on this new database.



Historian's Report

By Alice Raatz, Historian

Hello Fall, where did summer go? I blinked once and alas; it was gone. I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe during these crazy times. I am being optimistic and made a 3-month reservation to spend winter in Florida. Let's hope that the current COVID issue is controlled enough to allow this to happen.

Zoom Meetings

ICGS continues to hold monthly meetings and Board meetings via zoom with minimal members joining in. During our September membership meeting we enjoyed a video presentation on how to get the most from the various searches on Family Search.

Bylaws Change

With our dwindling membership dropping to less than 50, it was necessary to change our bylaws to reduce the number needed for a quorum from 20 to 10 in order to conduct business. Time for all members to encourage any interested friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers to join our society. ICGS NEEDS YOU!

Library Reference Room Move

Our beloved genealogy library, which has been located in a small room on the second floor of the Mason branch of Capital Area District Library for over 20 years, must be relocated by the end of the year due to a renovation of the building and their need to utilize the space.

Unfortunately, COVID restrictions have hampered our search for suitable Library space or affordable storage unit. President Martini generously offered to purchase a mobile office-classroom to serve as a temporary library with minimal expense to our

society until a permanent location can be found. Boxes, moving van and movers will be supplied by CADL.

Boxing has begun, but progress is slow when there is a limit of 2 persons in the room due to social distancing which must be enforced. Our plan is to complete the move by November to avoid snow.

TWO FORMER MEMBERS PASS

Alice Marie (Hoffman) Ward



Alice passed away at age 83 on July 8, 2020 from cancer. She was a member of both the Ingham County Genealogical Society and Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society.

Norma J. Hass

Norma passed away on August 26, 2020 at the age of 84. She joined Ingham Genealogical Society in 2001 and served as a Trustee from 2001-03. She continued her membership until 2004 when her health declined.



Charter Member John Castle Passes

John Edward Castle, age 93, passed away on September 30, 2020 in Carmel, Indiana where he has



lived in a Senior Apartment Complex with his wife Lynn for the past two years.

John was a Charter Member of ICGS from 1995 until 2017 when he moved to Indiana.

John has supported the Society by serving in

capacities, including President, Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, Chairperson of Publications and Sales Committees. He also represented our Society as a member of the Michigan Genealogical Society Council. John was involved with the Ingham County Tombstone reading project. He also submitted many articles for the ICGS Newsletter and was available as a speaker at genealogical events around the state.

As Chairperson of the ICGS Publications Committee for over 12 years, John was instrumental in locating and preserving historical township records. Some of these records dated back to 1838 and included voter registration books, tax assessment books, township minutes, school records, burial transit permits, cemetery records and vital records. John was also helped preserve copies of historical newspapers of the county which spanned the years 1869 to 1999. These papers include the Ingham County Democrat, The Ingham County News, The Williamston Enterprise, and The Stockbridge Town Crier. John successfully applied for grants that allowed ICGS to microfilm these records. Over 340 reels of microfilm were produced which are available in multiple

libraries here and as far away at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

In 2007, the Library of Michigan presented John Castle with its Genealogy Appreciation Award for his many contributions.

On February 19, 2015, ICGS presented The Edward E Parker Award to John Castle in recognition of the outstanding contributions John has made to our Society and the genealogy community.

In 2017, John took a bad fall and suffered a brain concussion and skull fracture which resulted in long lasting issues with balance and strength. No longer able to drive or walk without a walker, John and Lynn moved from their home in Mason to a Senior Apartment Complex in Carmel, Indiana which is close to family.

John was an Army Veteran and was so proud to be chosen as one of a group of 88 Veterans on Veterans Honor Flight #27 on May 26, 2018, who flew to Washington DC to visit the War Memorials. "I must have shook at least 500 hands and got something like 100 hugs from girls, school children, teenagers and family groups that thanked us for our service. Nothing like this ever happened when I was discharged in October 1946" John said when he returned.

No Memorial events are currently scheduled. According to John's wishes his ashes will be buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Mason Michigan.

Welcome Home, John.

Moving Sale

The following items have been sorted from the ICGS Resource Room's collection and are being offered for sale to members. We are asking for a donation in lieu of attaching a price to these items.

- ♦ Marriage Records of Calhoun County, MI 1836-1890
- ♦ Cemetery Inscriptions of Saline Township Washtenaw County Michigan
- ♦ Oakwood Cemetery Potters Grounds Adrian Township, Lenawee County MI
- ♦ Atlas of Ionia County, Michigan 1875
- ♦ Marshall Marriage and Death Newspaper Notices
- ♦ Transcriptions of the Gravestones in the Rice Creek Cemetery Lee Township, Calhoun County MI
- ♦ A Genealogists Guide to Discovering Your Germanic Ancestors
- ♦ Riverdale Centennial, 1874-1974 – 1999
- ♦ U.S. Military Records: a Guide to Federal & State Sources
- ♦ The Best Job I Ever Had
- ♦ Albion's Milestones and Memories
- ♦ Central State Teachers College Alumni Directory August 1928
- ♦ When This Cruel War is Over (Civil War)
- ♦ After Glow – Autobiography of Elta Jay Martin (Newago County)
- ♦ Index to The Gratiot County Michigan Indigent Civil War Soldiers
- ♦ Gratiot County Michigan Platt Map 1923
- ♦ Down Twelve Decades, A Pictorial History of Alma Michigan
- ♦ W.K. Kellogg Foundation: The First Eleven Years

- ♦ A Genealogists Guide to Discovering Your English Ancestors

In addition to the above books the Society has an overhead projector and a two-drawer file cabinet (see photo) that are also for sale/donation.

If you would like additional information or are interested in any of the above items please contact Audrey Martini.



Historic Newspapers Search

Have you visited <https://fultonsearch.org/>, the alternative search interface for over 47,000,000 historical newspaper pages from the Old Fulton NY Post Cards website? It is so much easier to search with this new interface than it is with the www.fultonhistory.com website. The fultonsearch interface points to the files hosted and indexed on the Old Fulton NY Post Cards website.

Thanks to the Eaton County Genealogical Society, issues of The Eaton Rapids Journal can be searched at this location. This is particularly helpful when your grandma's or Aunt Mary's scrapbook includes numerous Ingham County "area" newspaper clippings with no mention of which newspaper those clippings came from. And access is FREE.

Michigan Genealogical Council Fall Family History Virtual Event

November 14, 2020—8:30am—5:00 pm

Registration is now open for the 2020 Virtual Fall Family History Seminar. Seminar partners include Archives of Michigan and Library of Michigan.

The keynote speaker will be Sunny Morton. Speaker, writer, blogger, and editor, Sunny speaks to genealogical communities throughout the world. Her work includes being a contributing editor at



Family Tree Magazine and a National Genealogical Society award-winning editor of *Ohio Genealogy News*. She is co-author of *How to Find Your*

Family History in U.S. Church Records, author of *Story of My Life: A Workbook for Preserving Your Legacy*, and the quick reference guide, *Genealogy Giants: Comparing the 4 Major Websites*. Sunny is especially known for tracing U.S. ancestors expertise; comparing the industry's largest websites, and giving presentations on how to reconstruct and tell meaningful stories from the past.

She will give four lectures live virtually:

- **Must-Use U.S. Record Collections You Might Not Know About on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Findmypast and MyHeritage.**

Become acquainted with powerhouse collections that are easy to ignore but tough to beat for the genealogical gems they reveal.

- **Intro to U.S. Church Records: Why We Care Where Grandma Went to Church.**

U.S. church records of many denominations can reveal ancestors' vital events, family

relationships, overseas birthplaces, and other residences and religious lives.

- **Lies, Errors and Bias—Oh, My! Consider Your Sources.**

Learn to look critically at the sources that inform your research: the “what, who, when and why.” These criteria may indicate how much you can trust what individual sources say about your ancestors.

- **“They Survived the Johnstown Flood?!” How to Reconstruct Your Ancestors’ Amazing Stories .**

Come learn how to reconstruct fascinating experiences from your own family history by combining clues from your family’s knowledge, documents from genealogy websites, good historical research, and Googling to fill in the gaps.

In addition to Sunny’s four lectures, Matt Pacer, will give a lecture on the **Research Collections at the Library of Michigan** and Kris Rzepczynski will give a lecture on **Researching Your Family’s History at Archives of Michigan**.

The event will be available live—in real time only. Lectures will not be available later for viewing.

A downloadable syllabus will be available a week before the event.

Cost: \$20

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-virtual-fall-family-history-seminar-with-sunny-morton-tickets-116868746567?aff=website>