



Inroads to Ingham

Newsletter of the
Ingham County Genealogical Society



Winter 2021

Vol. 24 No. 1

Welcoming New Members Year Round!

Using Social Media in Genealogical Research

by
Audrey Z. Martini

While staying at home during this COVID pandemic I have been working on supplemental applications to Daughters of the American Revolution—trying to recognize and honor all of my direct line ancestors who were Patriots of the Revolutionary War. Often times when I find one Patriot, I find that his father's and/or his wife's family were also Patriots.

Such is the case with my 5th great grandfather, **Lt. Cornelius Polhemus** (1755-1839) who served from the state of New Jersey. His father-in-law, **Lt. Henry Mershon** (1733/34 –1814) also served from New Jersey. Lt. Cornelius' father, **Cornelius Polhemus, Sr.** (1714-1783) is eligible as a DAR Patriot because he paid Supply Tax. His wife's paternal grandfather, **Andrew Mershon** (1706-1793), and her maternal grandfather, **Stephen Burrows** (1711/12-1792) are eligible because they took the Oath of Allegiance. Lastly, the father-in-law of Lt. Cornelius' son, John (1780-1849), **Benjamin Blackwell**, (also my 5th great grandfather) was a soldier serving from New Jersey. Six DAR eligible Patriots!

My mother had her membership accepted through Benjamin Blackwell—and I have documentation that Benjamin is the father of Uree Blackwell, wife of John Polhemus. What I don't have is documentation showing that Uree's husband, John, is the son of Lt. Cornelius Polhemus even though family records say

Lt. Cornelius is my 5th great grandfather.

After listening to an online webinar re: using social media for genealogical research, I decided to Google *Polhemus*. The NYG&B publication of "The Rev. Johannes Theodorus Polhemus and some of his Descendants" manuscript popped up. Unfortunately, the date of publication was too recent to be used for DAR documentation purposes.

I then Googled *Mershon* and discovered there was a Mershon Family Association with a website and Facebook Group. The webpage had tons of family information in various files—all accessible online—but nothing beyond Henry's will naming his daughter, Mary Ann Mershon, as the wife of Cornelius Polhemus.

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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.

2021 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, January 28, 2021

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Thursday, July 22, 2021

Thursday, October 28, 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:	Alice Raatz
Librarian:	Vacant
Directors:	Beverley Bockes Charles Hagler 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
Web Page: www.icgsweb.org
Email: icgs@icgsweb.org



President's Message

BY Audrey Z. Martini

517-719-4737

Email: Martini@msu.edu

While COVID restrictions have kept us pretty much at home and depending upon the Internet for any social connections, the Members of the Executive Board have been busy addressing issues that would be challenging in and of themselves—without the added stress of COVID.

First I would like to thank Lorie Neuman for hosting our ZOOM membership meetings. There is a free ZOOM option, but meetings would be limited to 45 minutes.

I would also like to thank Gary Wilkes for his flexibility and quick response in finding speakers who would present via ZOOM on such short notice. Including Gary's own presentation on the *Underground Railroad in Michigan* at the November meeting.

You have heard and seen much about our need to move the ICGS reference Room's collection from the second floor of the CADL-Mason library building. Thanks to Charles Hagler, Diane Bishop, and Alice Raatz, the books got packed and moved to our new temporary library location at 2224 Catholic Church Road, Bunkerhill Township.

The collection has been unpacked and shelved. A finer sorting remains to be done, but the books are sorted enough to find what you might be looking for with just a little effort. The computer and printer/copier still sit in my living room, but will be moved to the new location after the first of the year. Access will be by appointment only. Since we currently do not have a librarian, contact me to schedule or if you have any questions.



The Board had no sooner gotten settled into our new digs when another bomb was dropped. I was notified that our website vendor, EasyNetSites (ENS) was not taking any more clients and would be out of business as of June 30, 2021.

One of ENS' many clients took it upon himself to hold a town hall meeting inviting webmasters from all the ENS clients that he was aware of. Five hundred people registered to participate. Options were discussed. A brief overview of several alternative website programs was provided with the pros and cons of each.

I think it was the consensus of the group that the biggest advantage to the ENS software is that it does EVERYTHING—something no other software that was discussed is doing at this time—email blasts, membership management, store/sales being the three biggest items in one combination. Two options; *Weebly* and *Wix*, do not have all the add-ons that would allow us to put what we currently have on the new site. *Wordpress.org* (NOT *wordpress.com*) was the platform of choice if a society's website is as complex as ours is. The downside to Wordpress is the steep learning curve. The fourth option discussed was the up and coming *Wild Apricot*.

I have since joined the *Genealogy Society Webmasters* Facebook Group and have been tracking the ENS discussions. Just this morning I read that there are discussions with ENS to purchase the business. I have also started doing some research on both *Wild Apricot* and *Wordpress.org*. I will continue to track and advise as this moves forward. It will also be on the January Executive Board Meeting Agenda. A move to another website would incur expenses that have not been budgeted. It would also require time to set up and move all the data.

In the meantime, we can continue to add information to the website, but to be on the safe side backups of those pieces that can be backed up will be made weekly.



Historian's Report

By Alice Raatz, Historian

Happy New Year! Welcome 2021! 2020 is behind us and will be remembered for the worst pandemic in my lifetime. COVID-19 arrived early in the year and played havoc with everyone and everything. Pandemic became the word of the day as the virus spread around the world causing fear, sickness and death.

After many months, working around the clock, the pharmaceutical industry developed a vaccine which proved to be safe and effective. By mid-December, vaccines were available and shipped to hospitals and clinics. Healthcare workers were the first group to receive their vaccine and others will be given in order of priority. With this vaccine there is hope that one day, maybe in the near future, we will be free to resume our lives. Until then, please continue to wear a mask, wash hands often and adhere to social distancing. Stay Safe!

October 8, 2020 Meeting

During our zoom membership meeting, Heidi Butler from Capital Area District Library presented "Local



History Resources for Genealogy Research." City directories, photographs, Organizational collections, Stebbins real estate collection, and local high school year books along with many other

items are available online at www.cadl.org/lhonline.

November 12, 2020 Meeting

Gary Wilkes presented a very interesting talk on "The Underground Railroad in Michigan" during our November zoom meeting. Gary has spent many

years researching the underground railroad with minimal records to aid him, since the secretive nature of aiding slaves in escaping to the north meant no records were kept.



Thanks Gary!

2021 Officers Elected in November

Since bylaws changes in 2019 allows for staggering of election of officers, this year a partial slate of officers was voted on via zoom during our November membership meeting.

Thank you, Lorie Neuman, for taking on the task of a zoom election.

Results are as follows:

Vice President - Gary Wilkes

Membership Secretary - Alice Raatz

Librarian - vacant

Director No. 2 - Jane Wallin

Director No. 3 - Charles Hagler

Following the election, Alice Raatz resigned as Director No. 1 to devote her time to Membership Secretary. President Martini appointed Beverley Bockes, pending approval of the Executive Board, to fill the one year remaining in the Director No. 1 position.

Congratulations and Thank You to all who serve!

Social Media *continued from Page 1*

I requested membership to the “Mershon Association Genealogy” Facebook Group and posted an inquiry. Several responses, but not what I needed.

Cornelius moved his family from New Jersey to Sennett, Cayuga County New York about 1815 and later died and is buried there. So I requested membership in the “New York State Genealogy” Facebook Group.

I had already searched the online “New York Land Records” for Cayuga County on FamilySearch, but one of the responses from my NY Group post, advised that there was a will for a Cornelius C. Polhemus in Genesee County New York. BINGO!!

Cornelius C. Polhemus was a son of Lt. Cornelius who I lost track of after the 1830 census in Cayuga county. Again, going to FamilySearch, this time the online “New York Probate Records” I realized that the Genesee County Cornelius C. was my lost son of Lt. Cornelius. A land transaction (FamilySearch “New York Land Records”) between Lt Cornelius and Cornelius C. provided the father-son relationship when Lt. Cornelius deeded 104 acres to his son for “\$1 and of natural affection”.

Cornelius C. died after 25 Dec. 1841 when the will was written and before Feb. 1842 when the will was probated—all of which was while Cornelius C’s brother, John, son of Lt. Cornelius was still alive—putting, John on the list of “heirs, next of kin, and debtors” found in Cornelius C’s Estate file that I was able to request via email from the Genesee County Surrogate Court Clerk’s office.

Thanks to one Facebook Group post, I can now complete my supplemental applications for six DAR Patriots. Do not underestimate the power of social media, including Facebook Groups and pages, when doing your research.

Notes from the Internet

Below are submissions, from the internet, that might be of interest to genealogists. Thank-you to Bob Dziatczak and the MSU Genealogy Group for sharing.

- **Archive of Michigan** offer Virtual Reference Video Conference Services. Although the Archives of Michigan is closed to the public because of COVID-19, archives staff have continued to offer reference services via telephone and email. Now, there is a third way to access these valuable Archives of Michigan reference services - video conferencing.

Sign up for a one-on-one appointment with an archivist to ask research questions or to request records. Reference services are also still available by calling 517-335-2576 or by sending email to archives@michigan.gov.

- **The Library of Michigan** also offers remote services. Access Library of Michigan digital resources with your Library of Michigan Library Card. IT’S FREE Need a card? Apply online at <https://www.Michigan.gov/LibraryCard>.
- **Michiganology** is a freely available website founded by the Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan. Digital collections, including nearly 1 million Michigan death certificates (1897-1943) from the Library of Michigan's collection, state census records (1827- 1894), Civil War service records, and much more.
- **Michiganology** - Naturalization Indexes
- **Michigan Association of County Clerks** - County Clerks Directory
- **ANSWER Library Catalog**
- **Michigan Newspapers**

Continued Next Page

- **Michigan Vital Records Research** at the Library of Michigan
- **Michigan Genealogy Research Network.** Michigan genealogical societies and professional genealogists will provide genealogical research services for a fee.
- **Databases through the Library of Michigan.** The Library of Michigan offers a wide range of digital resources for family history researchers. Listed below are databases available for patrons with library cards from the Library of Michigan.
 - **African American Biographical Database** (Chadwyck-Healy). The largest Electronic Collection of Biographical Information on African Americans, spanning 1790- 1950. Includes photographs and illustrations, and covers the famous to the everyday person. Information ranges from biographical profiles to full-text sketches.
 - **Ancestry Library Edition** includes billions of records in census data, vital records, directories, photos, and more.
 - **Black Thought and Culture** (Alexander Street). A landmark digital library of approximately 100,000 pages of non- fiction writings by major American black population leaders and public figures covering 250 years of history. In addition standard works, it also includes previously inaccessible material, including letters, speeches, political leaflets, interviews, trial transcripts, and the like.
 - **Fold3 by Ancestry.** Access military records, including the stories, photos, and personal documents, of the men and women who served.
 - **Michigan History Magazine.** A popular history magazine with content useful to historians and genealogy researchers. Provided through the Michigan eLibrary.
- **MyHeritage Library Edition.** Family history/genealogy resource including more than 6 billion historical records from the United States, Europe, Latin America, and other regions. Provided through the Michigan eLibrary.
- **NewspaperArchive.** Newspapers dating from 1759 to 1977, including communities around the country.
- **Newspapers.com by Ancestry World Edition.** The largest online newspaper archive, covering 16,200+ newspapers from the 1700s–2000s, with millions of additional pages added every month.
- **ProQuest Ethnic NewsWatch.** Full-text access to newspapers, magazines, and journals of the ethnic and minority press, providing researchers access to essential, often overlooked perspectives. The database now also contains Ethnic NewsWatch: A History, which provides historical coverage of Native American, African American, and Hispanic American periodicals from 1959-1989.
- **ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Detroit Free Press, 1831-1999.** 168 years of news coverage from the Detroit Free Press.
- **ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Michigan Chronicle, 1936 - 2010.** Primary source material essential to the study of American history and African American culture, history, politics, and the arts.

ICGS Library Tips and Treasures

The largest file on the ICGS webpage is the custom *Ingham Database*. It can be found under the “Database Files” tab, along the left side of the page. This database is an index of four different sources.

- **Michigan Pioneer Records Index.** The actual source is 37 bound volumes found at the Library of Michigan on the second floor in the Michigan Collection.
- **Ingham County Democrat Newspaper Index.** Microfilm copies of the Newspaper are available at the Library of Michigan and the Allen County Public Library. The newspaper has also been digitized; copies of the DVD are available for purchase in the webpage’s “ICGS Store” area.
- **Burial Permits, Burial Transit Permits, Disinterment and Re-Interment Permits 1873 -2008 Index.** This is an index of 17,201 names of deceased individuals found in original source documents for various Ingham County cemeteries. The records were microfilmed and are available at the Library of Michigan and the Allen County Public Library. Permit copies can be purchased through the webpage’s “ICGS Store” area.
- **Maple Grove Cemetery Through 2001 Index.** The index record provides surname, given name, date of death and a book and page number. The information on file in the Resource Room includes a copy of the death certificate, burial transmittal permit and obituary when available. To find details on how to purchase a copy of the ICGS file on an individual found in this index, visit the “ICGS Store” area of the webpage.

A complete list of all the ICGS library’s index resources can be found on the ICGS webpage (www.icgs.org) under the “Library/Archives” tab along the left side of the page. After accessing that page, click on the “card catalog” tab. At the top of the “Card Catalog” page in the “Select” field click on the down arrow and choose “Index” from the drop down menu. All the index holdings sorted in alpha order will appear.

Some of the most notable index files in the collection include:

- Index of Persons in the book “History of Ingham and Eaton Counties Michigan” by Samuel W. Durant.
- Jewett Funeral Home Index of Burials 1939-1986.
- Index to obituary and death notices in various Ingham County Newspapers 1998—2017. This collection includes 30+ volumes of newspaper clippings collected by ICGS members and library staff over the past 20 years.

In addition to the various hardcopy index records, the ICGS webpage’s “Area Deaths Database” (under “Database Files” along the left side of the webpage) also serves as an index and in some instances includes a copy of the source obituary or funeral card. This database is where clippings from early scrapbooks donated to the ICGS Resource Room can be found. (Note: Adding these scrapbook clippings is a project in process. Check back often to see if a new clipping has been added since your last visit.)

With the exception of the Michigan Pioneer Records cited earlier, all source materials are available in the ICGS Library. Copies of the source record can be ordered through the ICGS Store, or via an email to librarian@icgsweb.org. You can also schedule an appointment to visit the ICGS library and make copies yourself by emailing martini@msu.edu. Per page copy charges will apply.



Membership Secretary's Report

by
Alice Raatz

Welcome New Members.

In the past year, six new members have joined ICGS, increasing our membership to 49 members. Welcome to **Carolyn Cooper, Deborah DeLong, Bruce Moore, Ashleigh Neuman, Robert Parsons, Sally Hayhoe Poe** and **Gene Purdum**.

For current members, your 2020 membership expired on December 31, 2020, and your 2021 dues are past due. For those who have paid, Thank You. Anyone who has not paid, please send your check as soon as possible to:

ICGS Membership Secretary
P.O. Box 85
Mason, MI 48854

Single membership is \$15 and Family memberships are \$20.

Please remember to update any new addresses, phone numbers or email using the form below. Thank you!

Although we are not meeting in person during COVID restrictions, your membership continues to give you 4 issues of our ***Inroads to Ingham*** Newsletter; 8 regular monthly zoom meetings with guest speakers, to our "Members Only" area of our website; member access privileges to resources in our storage library; and an opportunity to support the Ingham County Genealogical Society's mission to *preserve our county and greater mid-Michigan genealogical heritage*. We promise more when COVID restrictions have ended.

Ingham County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 85
Mason, MI 48854

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) _____ E-MAIL: _____

Single: \$15 Family (two or more at same address) \$20 Make check payable to: ICGS
Membership year is January 1 through December 31