

**Waterford Genealogical Society  
E-Newsletter**

Kim Smith, Editor

**Volume 19, Number 1, January 15, 2023**

The Waterford Genealogical Society meets on the first Wednesday of each month, 1:00 – 3:00 pm  
in **the Waterford Twp Public Library Community Room**

*Tip: click on the blue hyperlinks for more information*

**During inclement weather, we will not meet if the library or Waterford Schools are closed.**

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Greetings from the Waterford Genealogical Society!

All **WGS** meetings are open to the Public. **Non-members** are welcome to attend. Membership in the Society is available with payment of the annual \$15 membership fee and provides voting rights. For more information contact Bette Twyman: [bettetwyman@att.net](mailto:bettetwyman@att.net). A membership form may be found at the end of this newsletter. Now accepting **2023 DUES**- Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

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### **WGS Meetings location Waterford Twp Public Library**

Date: **February 1, 2023** 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Topic: "Odds & Ends, This and That". This program will feature various odd genealogy sources found along the way. Using the Oakland County Acreage Search and the Property Gateway website will be demonstrated. Bring to the meeting your own list of odd genealogy sources and share them.

Presenter: Sandy Kinter

Date: **March 1, 2023**

Topic: Using DNA for Genealogy: we'll look at a few resources available to help interpret your DNA results, along with some tips and techniques.

Presenter: Kim Smith

**SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 29, 2023- ANNUAL LOCK-IN- DETAILS SOON**

**Tuesday Evening Zoom meetings with Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

First 30 minutes is for any Germanic questions

**Topics subject to change.**

Tuesday Feb. 14 Military Records

March 14 is Celtic Heritage: research in Great Britain-- Wales, Cornwall, Scotland, Ireland, Isle of Man

April 11 Religious Records

May and June: TBA

No meeting July & Aug.

Below is the ZOOM LINK

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86892019114?pwd=a3AzcnpoL2FrUjVCNmd3dkcrVWNCUT09>

Please register at the Waterford Public Library website. Look for Adult programs, then click on the calendar, and click on the WGS Tuesday night meeting. This will bring up the free registration form that is easy to fill out.

## WGS NEWS

WGS has a great **Facebook** page. It is being updated regularly with interesting genealogical related items.

Visit us at: <https://www.facebook.com/WaterfordGenealogicalSociety>.

Find our news and announcements in our newsletter or on FaceBook.

Email address: [waterfordgenealogicalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:waterfordgenealogicalsociety@gmail.com)

Research Questions? Please send them to: [queriesWGS@gmail.com](mailto:queriesWGS@gmail.com)

- ✚ During our January meeting president Kathy Stricher presented **Jean Hansen**, Head of Adult Services at **Waterford Township Public Library**, with the WGS annual contribution to their subscription to the Ancestry Library Edition database. This is a resource enjoyed by many and an added benefit and incentive to visit the library.



## *A Note from our President*

Our president was asked to share the following:

We are launching a new website and we are looking for pictures of past events

What we need:

- Digitized pictures of past WGS events
- Your name - we will give you full credit.
- Permission to use from you
- Just say "I give WGS permission to use the pictures on their website"
- A date and description of the event I don't want to guess.

Send your content to [coachroltsch@gmail.com](mailto:coachroltsch@gmail.com)

Thank you,

Paul Roltsch  
Webmaster/Social Media  
Waterford Genealogical Society

Kathy Stricher, President  
Waterford Genealogical Society  
[kbsfam248@yahoo.com](mailto:kbsfam248@yahoo.com)

## Michigan Genealogical Council news:

- The latest edition of the [Michigan Genealogical Council Newsletter](#) is available. WGS is especially proud to claim its editor is our member Paul Roltsch. This edition includes information about the Lucy Mary Kellogg Award winner, news from genealogical societies around the state and much more. Check it out!
- **The Archives of Michigan** shared news with the council:
  - Images of the 1947 death certificates are now available on [Michiganology.com](http://Michiganology.com)
  - They continue to receive probate records from around the state, along with court records from Wayne County-44 pallets.



- Plans are underway for next summer's Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar. [Drew Smith](#) is the featured speaker. See SAVE THE DATE below, additional details to be released soon.

- **The Library of Michigan** reminds researchers to take advantage of the digital resources they offer through remote access. You must have a Library of Michigan library card, easily obtained by applying online at [www.Michigan.gov/LibraryCard](http://www.Michigan.gov/LibraryCard). The library also offers Zoom [Programs for the Public](#) throughout the year. This link takes you to their schedule and registration page. Upcoming topics include Ancestry.com Library Edition, African American Digital Resources, Annual Reports-Supplemental Documents for Family History Research, Library of Congress Digital Collections for Michigan Researchers. This is only through April-the list includes all of 2023 with topics vital to improving our research. Can't wait? Previous zoom sessions are available on the [Video Tutorials](#) section of our [Family History](#) page. [Downloadable/Printable 2023 Program Schedule PDF](#)

## Of Waterford Interest- Waterford Township Section Biographies by Sandy Kinter

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### Section 5



On the 1872 plat map of Waterford Township, Section 5 is all farmland. The northeastern corner was the boundary with the village of Waterford. The Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad cut across the section. The railroad tracks are still there, and trains do occasionally make their way along the rails. In 1872 the eastern side of the section was Depot Road, which, at some point in time, became the northern extension of Airport Road. Now the area is mostly residential with businesses along Airport Road and the railroad tracks.

Phineas Huntoon owned most of the southeastern corner of the section. He was included with the Huntoon Family biographies included in Section 8. John Windiate was a resident of Section 12, and he will be included with those biographies. In the northeastern corner is the 40 acre property of J.G. Owens. John G. Owen resided in the village of

Waterford and his biography is found there. And finally, at the top of section 5, on Andersonville Road, is the residence of J. Lawrence. Joseph Lawrence purchased ½ acre in March 1864 (Volume 81, page 67, Image 40) and he was a resident of Independence Township.

## Jane (Allen) Soule

Jane Soule and her family are recorded in the 1870 census on page 596, Waterford Township, Oakland County, Michigan. In the household are Jane Soule, age 36, born in New York, and her sons, Merrill, age 19; Archibald, age 15; and Edward, age 13, all born in New York. Also recorded is Osias Mitchell, age 24, farm laborer, born in Canada. The Soule farm was 120 acres in the southwest corner of Section 5.

Jane Allen was born in 1831, in Genesee County, New York. (1) She was the daughter of Libbeus Allen and Esther Wright. (1)(2)(3) Jane married Joseph D. Soule about 1849, in Genesee County. (1) In the 1850 census, Jane and Joseph Soule are residing with her parents in the town of Batavia, Genesee County, New York. (4) Jane Solis and her three sons are residing, in 1860, Pembroke, Genesee County, New York. (5) On 13 October 1867, Libeus (sic) Allen, of Batavia, Genesee County, New York, is purchasing 120 acres of land in Section 5 from Horace Huntoon. (6) Libbeus Allen, of Batavia, Genesee County, New York, sells this same property to Jane A. Sole, of Waterford Township, Oakland County, Michigan, on 26 November 1867. (7) The farm is sold by Jane A. Soule to Sarah Stevens on 10 September 1873.

Jane Soles is a resident of Waterford Township for the 1880 census. (9) She is still a resident of Waterford Township when she marries secondly, George Patrick, 17 June 1892, in Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska. (10) Mrs. Jane Patrick died 4 June 1899 in Albion, Boone County, Nebraska. (1) It could not be determined why Jane (Allen) Soule came to Waterford Township, Oakland County, Michigan. Did she have other Allen or Soule relatives living in Waterford? Why was Libbeus Allen purchasing a farm in Waterford Township, Oakland County, Michigan?

Joseph D. Soule was the husband of Jane Allen, born 15 May 1826, Johnstown, Fulton County, New York, the son of Peleg Soule and Elizabeth Warren. (13) Joseph is only recorded in the 1850 census with his wife and her family. (4) He died 30 August 1857 in Batavia, Genesee County, New York. (13)(14) There are two Find A Grave entries for Joseph. One is for Joseph D. Soule and this says he is buried in the Drayton Plains Cemetery. This is incorrect, Joseph D. Soule never resided in Waterford Township. His youngest son, J. Edward Soule is buried in Drayton Plains Cemetery. (15) The second Find A Grave Entry is for Joseph Soule, Reed Cemetery, Oakfield, Genesee County, New York. The picture with the entry shows the tombstone is for Joseph D. Soule and this is the correct Joseph Soule. There are online family trees that claim Joseph D. Soule died 3 January 1914 in Boyne Falls, Charlevoix County, Michigan. This is incorrect, for his widow remarried in 1892. It was Joseph's eldest son, Merrill W. Soule who died in January 1914. (17)

Any descendant of Joseph D. Soule and Jane Allen has hit the Mayflower jackpot. From Jane's mother, Esther Wright, there are three lines of descent from Stephen Hopkins. (11) Jane is also descended from Edward Fuller, another passenger on the Mayflower. (12) Joseph D. Soule is a direct descendant of Mayflower passenger George Soule. (13)

### Sources

1. Obituary, Mrs. Jane Patrick, The Albion Argus, Albion, Nebraska, Friday, 9 June 1899, page 4, Newspapers.com, [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com)
2. New York, Wills and Probate Records, 1659-1999; Genesee County, Record of Wills, Volumes 19-20, 1885-1887, pages 55-57, Ancestry, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)
3. *Gazetteer and Biographical Record of Genesee County, New York*, F.W. Beers, J.W. Vose & Co., Syracuse, New York, 1890, page 573, Ancestry, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)
4. 1850 Census, page 216, Town of Batavia, Genesee County, New York
5. 1860 Census, page 289, Pembroke, Genesee County, New York
6. Oakland County, Michigan, Deed Records, Volumes 89-90, 1867; Volume 90, page 618, Image 656, FHL #0975449, FamilySearch, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
7. Oakland County, Michigan, Deed Records, Volumes 107-108, 1872-1874; Volume 108, 1872-1873, page 44, Image 361, FHL #0975458, FamilySearch, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
8. Oakland County, Michigan, Deed Records, Volumes 109-111, 1873-1916; Volume 111, 1873-1874, page 223, Image 636, FHL #0975459, FamilySearch, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
9. 1880 Census, page 432D, Waterford Township, Oakland County, Michigan
10. Nebraska, Select County Marriage Records, 1855-1908, Douglas County Marriage

- Applications, 1892, Ancestry, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)
11. *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations*, Volume 6, Stephen Hopkins, General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2001, pages 227 and 425, personal collection
  12. *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations*, Volume 4, Edward Fuller, General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1995, page 111, New England Historic Genealogical Society, [www.americanancestors.org](http://www.americanancestors.org)
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  14. Reed Cemetery, Oakfield, Genesee County, New York, Joseph Soule, Memorial ID #62486495, Find A Grave, [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)
  15. *Cemetery Records of Oakland County, Michigan*, Volume I, General Richardson Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1924, page 243, FHL #0927419, FamilySearch, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
  16. Drayton Plains Cemetery, Waterford Township, Oakland County, Michigan, Joseph D. Soule, Memorial ID #84038175, Find A Grave, [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)
  17. Michigan, Death Records, 1867-1952; Lenawee-Missaukee, 1914, Merrill W. Soule, Ancestry, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)
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**Guest article** submitted by a member, thank you! Thank you Anita, she is a research specialist from Marshall Co. Indiana and granted permission to include this in our newsletter.

## Free Genealogy Websites

Anita Watts Kopetski  
December 20, 2022

A score of years ago, there were many free genealogy sites. Unfortunately, most of them have been bought up and absorbed into pay sites, and now they are not free any more. What is there on the internet that you don't have to pay for that can help you with your genealogy?

Let's start with the big one. Most public libraries have a library version of ancestry. It is not quite the same as the subscription version, but it is useful for those who do not want to pay for the [ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) subscription. You do have to go to the local library to use it. I spent many years going once a week to the South Bend library to do exactly this.

But are there still free sites out there on the internet that can help you with your genealogy? Yes, there are, and below are some of the ones that we have found helpful. A lot of them are government websites. (You already pay for them.) And some are primarily for things other than genealogy but can be useful for our research. Here are some that I have used and found helpful:

NARA. The National Archives and Records Administration: <https://www.archives.gov/>

This is our national archives and it is located in Washington, D. C., with branches in various cities, including Chicago. The National Archives is the nation's record keeper. Some of the records listed on the website are available online. You can request copies of those that are not, and there is a charge for those. Being the government, it is not cheap.

Among the records of genealogical interest that NARA has are census records, court records, immigration records, land records, military records, naturalization records, passenger lists, and passport applications. They also have many different kinds of records, as well.

Another site I have used is the Soldiers and Sailors Database:

<https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>

This site is administered by the National Park Service. I don't know why. It has information about those who were in the Civil War, on both sides. Among the things you can do is enter a man's name and find out in which regiment he served. You can then click on that regiment and get its history, and where it was during the war. Using this, pension records and local newspaper accounts, you can follow your man through the war. You can also search by regiment or battle.

Unfortunately, the site is not as user friendly as it was when it first came out. You may have some difficulty locating your guy if his name was not unusual. The site is free but I have experienced frustration in using it.

National Cemetery Administration: <https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/>

The National Cemetery Administration maintains 155 national cemeteries in 42 states. They also have a listing of state veteran cemeteries, as many states have established their own state veteran cemeteries.

This is a much easier site to use, whether you are looking for the name of a veteran or the name of a cemetery. To search by name, click on "grave locator" and type in the name. My aunt and her husband are at Marion National Cemetery in Indiana. I searched by both their names, and both popped up immediately. One thing we learned when we visited that cemetery is that spouses are buried together in the same lot, which is why they both had the same lot number. One name is printed on each side of the gravestone.

Bureau of Land Management: <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/>

This is the official federal land records site. It has the initial transfer of public land from the federal government to the first individuals who bought the land. This site is for the territories that became states after we became a country. Before that, of course, the land in the colonies was granted by the king of England.

Search for your family by state and county and put in the name. You can see the patent details, and a copy of the actual patent.

Also on this site, besides the land patents, there are survey plats and field notes, land status records, control document index records, tract books and a land catalog showing the states that are covered. Most of the east coast is not covered, as well as Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas. From Ohio west the states are included in public land records.

After the initial of sale of land, the records will be kept in the county, which is where you would look for subsequent deeds.

Chronicling America: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

This website, administered by the Library of Congress, has various newspapers, It is similar to [newspapers.com](http://newspapers.com) but is free. I have used this site with some success. [CONTINUED](#)

## MEETINGS, EVENTS, CONFERENCES IN OUR AREA

*Visit these sites- each one has lots of great information and links*

- ✚ **Save the date!** 2023 Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar  
June 23 at 1:00 pm – June 24 at 5:00 pm EDT  
**Drew Smith** is the featured speaker at the 2023 Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar on **Friday, June 23, through Saturday, June 24, 2023**. The Archives of Michigan and the Michigan Genealogical Council's annual seminar promotes family history awareness and teaches research skills. This year's seminar will be offered as a hybrid event (onsite and virtual). Check back soon for more details

- ✚ [Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society \(OCPHS\)](#) 405 Cesar Chavez Ave. Pontiac, MI.

**The Carriage House (Office, Research Library and Pioneer Museum) are currently open** Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 AM to 4 PM. Their hours may vary due to the schedules of their volunteers. (248-338-6732 )



**From their page: Research Library:** If you can, please call ahead when planning a visit, especially if you have a specific research topic. Or [submit a research request ahead of time](#) and we'll go over what we find when you get here.

There is a \$5 per day fee for non-members to use the library, and a \$5.00 fee for non-members wishing to take reference photos (of book pages, etc.). All of which can be avoided simply by joining the society at your preferred level of participation. An individual membership is \$20.00.

- ✚ [Oakland Co. Genealogical Society](#)

- **February 7, 2023: 7:00 pm** Virtual: Seeking a Higher Source: The Records of Faith Communities. Key events in our ancestors' lives were often documented in the faith communities in which they worshiped. Exploring the records and their importance across faith communities.  
**Presenter** is OCGS President Judy Nimer Muhn

## SHARING NOTES FROM THE NET

Below are submissions, from the internet, our members thought might be of interest to other genealogists

- ✚ Many events and conference are listed on the [ConferenceKeeper.org](#) site. They advertise it as the most complete collection of Genealogy events online! [Michigan has entries](#) beginning on December 17. Events from other states and countries are also available. Many are virtual and free. This might be the place to go to get us through a Michigan winter.

- ✚ Programs from the Allen Co. Public Library Genealogy Center's January 2023: Please register in advance for each program. Recorded programs may be found on the Genealogy Center section of the [Library's YouTube channel](#).

[Reaching Local Youth by Raising the Dead](#); Tue, Jan 17, 2:30pm - 3:30pm [REGISTER](#)

[Introduction to New Hampshire Genealogy](#); Thu, Jan 19, 6:30pm - 7:30pm [REGISTER](#)

[AAGSFW Research Tools & Tips: - Deep Dive into Alabama & Mississippi](#); Sat, Jan 21, 2:00pm - 3:30pm  
[REGISTER](#)

[Introduction to West Virginia Genealogy Research](#); Tue, Jan 24, 2:30pm - 3:30pm [REGISTER](#)

[Family History Research in Arkansas: An introduction](#); Thu, Jan 26, 6:30pm - 7:30pm [REGISTER](#)

# Waterford Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 300162  
Waterford, MI 48330

This newsletter has been sent to people who asked to receive it. To unsubscribe from this mailing list, or to change your e-mail address contact the editor: Kim Smith at [mi2megen@gmail.com](mailto:mi2megen@gmail.com)

## Waterford Genealogical Society 2022/2024– Officers and Committee Chairs:

President – [Kathy Stricher](#)      Recording Secretary – [Pam Schmaltz](#)  
Vice President – Barbara Frye      Corresponding Secretary- Kim Smith  
Treasurer – [Bette Twyman](#)

Evening Meeting – [Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach](#)

E -Newsletter – [Kim Smith](#)

Programs – [Sandy Kinter](#)

German Study Group- [Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach](#)

Lock-In –

Webmaster-Chuck Dewey

Publicity –

Queries: [queriesWGS@gmail.com](mailto:queriesWGS@gmail.com)

Michigan Genealogical Council Delegates: Kim Smith, Barb Hofmann

WGS Website: <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~miwatgs/index.htm>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WaterfordGenealogicalSociety>

Email: [waterfordgenealogicalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:waterfordgenealogicalsociety@gmail.com)

Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month @ 1:00-3:00 pm in the  
Community Room of the Waterford Twp. Public Library

Evening meetings are once a month, on the second Tuesday 7:00-8:30 pm (except for July and August)  
Currently held via ZOOM. With the first half hour dedicated to the Germanic Interest Group

Waterford e-newsletter is published once a month by the Waterford Genealogical Society  
Your news and views are valued. Please send them to the [editor](#).



## Welcome to the Waterford Genealogical Society Est.2007

*The society will promote and encourage an interest in genealogy among its members and the general public.  
Working closely with the Waterford Township Public Library, the society aims to educate and enhance  
research opportunities.*

### 2023 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Based on calendar year

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you give permission to share your contact information with other members of the society. This information will not be shared with any other organization or entity.

Check if you would like to be an officer or help on a committee.

Check if you would like to receive a membership card.

Surnames, and their locations, that you are researching:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Send **\$15** check or money order payable to:

Additional Donations Accepted

Total

**Waterford Genealogical Society**

c/o Treasurer: Bette Twyman

P.O. Box 300162

Waterford, MI 48330



And I'll give you a hundred more websites: All the state libraries and all the state archives have websites. Some are better than others, of course. West Virginia has a good one. Virginia has an extensive amount of items on its website. As with NARA, some records can be printed on the website and some have to be ordered. Ordering them can be very costly, and most charge more if you live out of state, as I found out with North Carolina, who charged \$20 for each search. But the site was free.

County websites. Each county is different. See what the counties where your ancestors lived offer. One of the best is Miami County, Ohio, who does not charge if you order online. They will e-mail the item to you free. (Of course, they only charged a nickel a page when we were there. Too bad most other counties are not like them.)

Local libraries also have websites, and some can be quite helpful. The Fort Wayne library, of course, has a website: <https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy>

Fort Wayne has the largest genealogy collection in the country, and they will do research for you remotely for a fee. (So will we.)

There are also local or regional archives with genealogy collections. All have websites with varying amounts of information.

An example of a local archives is the St. Joseph County Archives in South Bend: <https://www.sjindiana.com/2026/Archives-Records-Center>

This site has a list of items that are held in the county archives and which ones are available. We made an appointment to go there and were able to copy many marriage and divorce records. Of course, some records are confidential and not open to the public, but almost everything that we were looking for was available and there in the archives. I did almost get into trouble for glancing into a room that was classified – well, the door was open – but I did not want to really look at anything particular that was in there. I was just enjoying seeing the records setting on the shelves. I also like to see books on shelves in libraries. It must be a genealogist thing.

Many museums also have genealogy collections, and you can check out their websites to see what is on there. I should plug my own: <https://mchistoricalociety.org/>

The genealogy library at the Marshall County Historical Society is THE place to come for Marshall County genealogy. (Note for those who do not know: This is where I can be found working a few days a week.)

Findagrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/>

The findagrave site is now free, but that could change in the future as it has been sold. The information on the site is entered by people who go out into cemeteries and take pictures and post them. Some add information on the deceased. But be careful. As with ancestry, things that are entered may not be right. Always do your own research, as some of these have been found to be totally inaccurate. Findagrave is very helpful if it has a picture of a tombstone that is located across the country and you will probably not get to actually visit that cemetery in person.

Websites can be used together to get more information. After you have located your military relative in a national cemetery, you might be able to find a picture of his tombstone on findagrave, now that you know where he is.

Dead Fred: <https://deadfred.com/>

Dead Fred specializes in matching pictures with family. We have acquired two original family pictures from this site.

Local funeral homes. I have all the Marshall County funeral homes bookmarked and check them regularly. On occasion we have seen the obituary of a family member on a funeral home website before being notified by family.

Local newspaper obituary sites. Even if you don't subscribe to an online newspaper, usually the obituary section is free online, and that is the section we want.

Universities and colleges often have special library collections and archives with genealogy information, and some are used as regional archives by states such as Ohio and Illinois.

Wright State University is an example:

<https://libraries.wright.edu/special-collections-and-archives/genealogy-resources>

This college is one of the regional archives for the State of Ohio. Among its special collections we found naturalization records for our family members.

There are some private libraries, as well, such as the Thomas Balch Library in Leesburg, Virginia, where we found one small scrap of paper that gave us the name of our ancestor's mother and moved us one generation back.

Other private libraries include church library repositories and ethnic libraries.

One is the Germanna Foundation Visitor Center library in Locust Grove, Virginia: <https://germanna.org/about/visitor-center/library/>

Germanna is a nice little museum and library where we found some family information. The main thing I remember is how hard it was to find, and that my sister was right about it being the building we passed several times. The website would have been a lot easier to work with.

Online research has changed genealogy. It is a good first step toward actually visiting the facility. For those who cannot travel to visit the actual places, it is a good substitute to actually being there. If you do have the opportunity to go, though, don't rely on the website for hours, as those are often not updated when the hours are changed. Pick up the phone and call.

There are other websites that are free but they want to know your e-mail address or want you to use a password or even supply credit card information. I have not included any of these. The last time I tried a well known site, I was flooded with ads and so will not mention it.

But, yes, there are plenty of websites out there to check out, so don't limit yourself to just the one website that everybody uses. Try one of these suggestions or a similar one. I think you will find that it can help your genealogy research.