

**Waterford Genealogical Society
E-Newsletter**

Kim Smith, Editor

Volume 19, Number 4, April 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.

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. A membership form may be found at the end of this newsletter. Now accepting **2023 DUES**- Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

WGS Meetings location Waterford Twp Public Library

Date: **April 29, 2023**

Time: 5:45-11:00 held at the Waterford Twp Public Library, 5168 Civic Center Dr, Waterford Twp, MI 48329

Special Event: 17th Waterford Genealogical Society Lock-In

[Preregistration is required, fees involved](#) follow the link for a [downloadable brochure and form](#)

Date: **May 3, 2023**

Topic: Using Newspapers for Genealogy

Presenter: Sandy Kinter

Date: **June 7, 2023**

Topic: Ohio's Major Land Surveys - Land development in Ohio was a hodgepodge of confusing land surveys. Both Connecticut and Virginia claimed parts of Ohio. The Symmes Purchase was a surveyor's nightmare. Come and hear the story about Ohio's early land woes.

Presenter: Sandy Kinter

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 7:00 pm - May 9th: Basic DNA

June 13: Using German databases

We do not meet July and August, we return on Tues Sept.12

Below is the ZOOM LINK

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86892019114?pwd=a3AzcnpoL2FrUjVCNmM3dkcrVWNCUT09>

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.

Questions? Research Queries? Please send them to our mail address:

waterfordgenealogicalsociety@gmail.com

Members have volunteered to help with research questions and possibly look-ups. Email us and we will try to help.

✚ NEW WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING

[Waterford Genealogical Society Website](#) <https://waterfordmigen soc.thatfamiliesdo.com/>

- ✚ **MARCH PROGRAM:** Kim Smith presented a program on “Using DNA for Genealogy.” She noted everyone has two family trees: genetic and genealogical. Kim also suggested a few websites you should be using. <https://dnainter.com>, <https://thednageek.com>, <https://www.yourdnaguide.com>, <https://thegeneticgenealogist.com>

A Note from our President

I think that I speak for everyone at the Waterford Genealogical Society that we are anxiously and excitedly awaiting our annual Lock-In with and at our partner the Waterford Public Library, on Saturday April 29, at 5:30 pm. Our members have been busy especially the board members coordinating our speakers and their requirements such as projector, screen, microphone, etc. We hope you will find this lock-in just as special as all of our others have been.

Kathy Stricher, President

Waterford Genealogical Society

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. Check it out! Paul added an Easter Egg Hunt. His goal is to see how many societies respond by letting him know they not only read the newsletter but could answer the questions. Winners will be announced in the next newsletter. Let's see how many WGS submissions we can get! 🥚🥚🥚🥚
- This issue contains many useful links including events, history, research websites and more.



➤ The Archives of Michigan shared news with the council:

- Reminder-Images of the 1947 death certificates are now available on Michiganology.com
- Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar. [Drew Smith](#) is the featured speaker. See more information under **MEETINGS, EVENTS, CONFERENCES IN OUR AREA**
- New collections at the Archives. Eaton County probate records. Previously maintained by the Eaton County Genealogical Society, these records were recently transferred to the Archives. Thank you to the ECGS for their care of the records for all these years.
- New books in the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection: Birthplaces of German-speaking Immigrants in Hamilton County, Ohio Records, 1840-1929; New York Runaways (Joseph Boyle; 2 vols.); Sanders Funeral Home records: Port Clinton, Ohio.

- Online catalog. The Archives' online catalog is nearly ready for primetime. We are chasing down a few minor details with OCLC, but we hope to showcase the new catalog at the Delegate meeting next month.
- Steady progress forward continues with the DAR project (World War I bonus cards) and FamilySearch imaging (Wayne County probate).

➤ **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.

Of Waterford Interest- Waterford Township Section Biographies by Sandy Kinter

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.

Section 5

Miscellaneous Families, Part 1

The following families are found in the 1870 census on page 690. They resided south of the village of Waterford on what was then known as Depot Street, now known as Airport Road, between Andersonville and Williams Lake Roads. Some of these families owned their property, some did not, and some spent a few short years in Waterford Township and then moved on. These first three families did not own land in Waterford Township, and they eventually moved on to other places.

Anson Lounsbury Elizabeth Heater

The 1870 census entry for A. Lounsbury, age 49, stone mason, born in New York, has wife Elizabeth, age 40, born in Ohio; children, Emma age 18 and Adela, age 16, both born in Indiana, William, age 12, Nettie, age 9, John, age 7, Aggie and Inez, age 2, all born in Michigan. A marriage between "Hanson Sounsbury" and Betsy Heater took place on 6 August 1848, in LaGrange County, Indiana. (1) In the 1850 census the family is residing in LaGrange County, Indiana (2) and in 1860 they are found in Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan. (3) The 1880 census will find the Lounsbury family in Clinton County, Michigan. (4) Anson Lounsbury died 25 March 1897, in Clinton County, Michigan. (5)

William Short Emma Nancy Haight

After the 1870 entry for the Lounsbury family, the census taker then visited the family of William Short. The census taker recorded William Short, age 25, farm laborer, born in Canada; Emma, age 19, born in Pennsylvania; and the baby, Thomas, age 1, born in Michigan. Neither William nor Emma were found in the 1860 census. William Short and family are still residents of Waterford Township in the 1880 census. Between 1880 and 1900 the family moved to Elba Township, Gratiot County, Michigan. (7)

William Short was born 14 December 1839, in Canada, the son of Thomas Short. (8) He died 19 February 1919, in Elba Township, Gratiot County. (8) Emma Nancy Haight was born 27 October 1853, in Pennsylvania, the daughter of Albert W. Haight and Nancy Connolly. (9) Both William and Emma are buried in the Lakeview Cemetery, Clarkston, Oakland County, Michigan. (10)

Allen G. Young Amelia R. Page

The family of Allen Young follows the entry for the Short family. The census reports, Allen Young, age 34, farm laborer, born in New York, Amelia, age 23, born in New York; and children, Willard, age 11, Cora, age 9, and Leland, age 5, all born in Wisconsin. The 1860 census finds the Young family in Hubbard Township, Dodge County, Wisconsin. (11) In 1880 the family is still residing in Waterford Township, Oakland County, Michigan. The Young family moved to Iowa sometime between 1882, when a daughter was married in Oakland County, (13) and 1888, when a son was married in Muscatine County. (14)

Allen G. Young was born about 1834-1835, in New York, the son of George W. Young. (15)(16) He served in the Civil War in Company K, 1st Regiment, Wisconsin Heavy Artillery. (17) Allen G. Young died 27 April 1913, in Muscatine County, Iowa. (16)(18) He is buried in the Iowa Veterans Home Cemetery, Marshalltown, Iowa.

Amelia R. Page was born about 1840, in New York. (20) Her maiden name is found in the marriage record of her son Leland Young. (14) She died 29 May 1931, in Des Moines, Polk County, Iowa. (21) Amelia is buried with her husband in the Iowa Veterans Home Cemetery, Marshalltown, Iowa. (19)

Sources

1. Indiana, Marriage Index, 1800-1941, Ancestry, www.ancestry.com
2. 1850 Census, page 37, the Town of Millford, LaGrange County, Indiana
3. 1860 Census, page 927, Bloomfield Township, Oakland County, Michigan
4. 1880 Census, page 479C, Ovid, Clinton County, Michigan
5. Michigan, Death Records, 1867-1952; Wayne-Wexford, 1896, Alcona-Kent 1897, Clinton County, page 211, Ancestry, www.ancestry.com
6. 1880 Census, page 431A, Waterford Township, Oakland County, Michigan
7. 1900 Census, page 63A, Elba Township, Gratiot County, Michigan
8. Death Certificate, William Short, Michigan, Death Records, 1867-1952; Gratiot-Ingham,

- 1919, Ancestry, www.ancestry.com
 9. Death Certificate, Emma Nancy Short, Michigan, Death Records, 1867-1952; Delta-Gratiot, 1915, Ancestry, www.ancestry.com
 10. Lakeview Cemetery, Clarkston, Oakland County, Michigan, Find A Grave, www.findagrave.com
 11. 1860 Census, page 471, Town of Hubbard, Dodge County, Wisconsin
 12. 1880 Census, page 432C, Waterford Township, Oakland County, Michigan
 13. Record of Marriages, Oakland County, Michigan, Volumes 1-2, 1876-1889, Volume 1 1876-1883, page 320, Image 388, FHL #0973981, FamilySearch, www.familysearch.org
 14. Iowa, Marriage Records, 1880-1951, Madison-Pocahontas, 1888, Muscatine County, page 899, Ancestry, www.ancestry.com
 15. 1850, page 231, Geneva, Ashtabula County, Ohio
 16. Iowa, Armed Forces Grave Registrations, 1835-1998, Ancestry, www.ancestry.com
 17. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865, Ancestry, www.ancestry.com
 18. Obituary, Allen G. Young, Evening Times-Republican, Marshalltown, Iowa, Monday, 28 April 1913, page 8, Newspapers.com, www.newspapers.com
 19. Iowa Veterans Home Cemetery, Marshalltown, Iowa, Find A Grave, www.findagrave.com
 20. 1900 Census, page 235A, Sweetland Township, Muscatine County, Iowa
 21. Death Certificate, Mrs. Amelia Young, Iowa, Death Records, 1880-1904, 1920-1967, Ancestry, 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.

Marriage Records – An In-Depth Look

Anita Watts Kopetski
Marshall County Genealogist
March 7, 2023
March 21, 2023

How long has marriage been around? 6,000 years. The first marriage was performed by God. The groom was Adam and the bride was Eve. They were very closely related, Eve being formed from Adam's rib. There were no guests. There was no one else to be a guest. Genesis 3:20: "And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living."

Let's discuss different kinds of marriage records.

Banns

The most puzzling part of marriage to me – and no doubt the least documented – is the custom of marriage banns. It wasn't until I got into genealogy that I even knew such a thing existed. You see how educational genealogy is. I also couldn't read maps until I needed to do so to locate the areas where my ancestors lived.

The banns of marriage (usually referred to as the "banns" and spelled b-a-n-n-s) are the public announcement of an impending marriage, usually in a church. They are sometimes called "intentions to marry". The practice is commonly associated with the Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican and other "high church" denominations. In 1983 the Catholic Church removed the requirement for banns, though some churches still do it. Many churches still publish such notices in their bulletins. In most Catholic countries the banns are still published.

The purpose of banns is to enable anyone to raise any impediments to a marriage, to prevent marriages that would be invalid, and to ban improper marriages. These vary between jurisdictions, but normally include a pre-existing marriage that has not been dissolved or annulled, lack of consent, or the couple's being related within prohibited degrees of kinship.

The original canon law on the subject was decreed in 1215 and was intended to prevent marriages held in secrecy. Before that, the public announcement of marriages to be contracted was only made in some areas. The Council of Trent on November 11, 1563 made the provisions more precise: before any marriage could take place, the names of the contracting parties were to be announced publicly in the church by the priests of both parties on three consecutive days. Banns were traditionally read from the pulpit.

In some places, the words spoken were something like: "I publish the banns of marriage between (parish name) of (one of the parties) and (the other party) of this parish. If any of you know just cause or impediment why these persons should not be joined together in holy matrimony, you are to declare it. This is the (first, second, or third) time of asking." I have yet to attend a wedding where it was asked if anyone had any objection to the marriage or someone rushed in to stop it. I guess only in movies or books does that occur.

The worst part about the banns, genealogically speaking, is that it is hard to find any records of them. Most banns were spoken audibly. There are a few that have been put in books, but they are very rare. If you are having trouble finding a record of a marriage that you can document otherwise, this may be why. The banns were called and then they were married.

Marriage licenses were introduced in the 14th century, to allow the usual notice period under the banns to be waived on payment of a fee and a sworn declaration that there was no impediment to the marriage.

You read a lot about the groom getting a marriage license in historical romance novels. Apparently the bride did not have to be present and all the groom had to do was to pay for it. The groom also apparently did not have to get the license himself. Sometimes a man would procure a marriage license for someone else. At least in books.

The Lutheran Church and the Church of England continued the practice of requiring the publication of banns or the equivalent before marriage. Such a notice was not required in the Orthodox Christian churches, which used another method to verify eligibility to marry. There was a difference between some Protestants and the Catholic Church over what would constitute an impediment to marriage. The Church of England, for example, recognized remarriage after divorce in some circumstances. Of course it did. That's why the Church of England was founded – so Henry the Eighth could marry Anne Boleyn. In the end it did not work out well for her. He lost his head over her and she lost her head.

In England, under Lord Hardwicke's Act of 1753, a marriage was only legally valid if the banns had been called or a marriage license had been obtained, codifying earlier practice within the Church of England. The banns were required to be read aloud on three Sundays before the wedding ceremony, in the home churches of both parties. Omission of this formality rendered the marriage void unless the bishop's license or the special license of the archbishop of Canterbury had been obtained. This statutory requirement had the effect of requiring Catholics and non-conformists who belonged to other churches to be married in the Church of England, a requirement lifted in 1836. If you were married in another church, it might affect inheritances or other property. So even if your ancestors did not belong to the state church, they may have been married in that church.

Before 1754, it was possible to be married secretly by an ordained clergyman. The Fleet Prison, a London debtors prison, had clergymen willing to perform irregular marriages. After 1754 a couple had to leave England or Wales in order to contract such a marriage. Gretna Green in Scotland was the first village over the border from England and was the usual destination. It became less popular after 1856 when Scottish law was amended to a residence requirement of 21 days. The Isle of Man was another destination but in 1757 the Island legislature passed a similar act, including the pillory (whipping post) and ear-cropping for clergymen who married couples without banns. That made them a little more reluctant to perform such marriages.

In 1656 during the Commonwealth period, the parish register of St Mary le Crypt in Gloucester recorded banns of marriage as being "published by the Bellman" – the town crier.

Banns were a common requirement during our country's colonial era. Plymouth Colony's first marriage regulation in 1636 required the banns to be read to the congregation three times or, if no congregation was in the area, to be publicly posted for a fifteen day period. Quakers announced banns in their meeting houses. Noncompliance carried a fine, which could be imposed upon the groom or the minister. The proclaiming of the banns of marriage was also a requirement in New Netherland.

French civil law requires the publication of banns of marriage in the towns where intended spouses are living. They are to be displayed in the town hall ten days before the marriage. German civil law required the publication of banns of marriage until 1998. Couples must still register for civil marriage beforehand, which has the same effect. A public proclamation or posting is not necessary any more. In the Netherlands there is a requirement for couples intending to marry to formally register that intention with officials beforehand.

By the 1800s the practice of announcing banns faded, as most religious denominations ended the practice or made it optional. Banns were superseded by the rise of civil marriage licenses.

And I think that is quite enough to say about that subject, and probably too much. Having dispensed with the banns, what kind of marriage records are there? There is more to be found than just the license.

Marriage Bonds

A marriage bond is a pledge by two bondsmen, usually the groom and a relative of his or hers. The bond would affirm that there was no moral or legal reason why the couple could not be married. Bonds were also required to prove that a man could support a wife. The bondsman acted as surety that the marriage would take place. Why would a marriage not be able to take place? If one of the parties was already married or was under age, or if the bride and the groom were too closely related, the marriage could not take place.

The bond was attested by the groom before the clerk of court. The bondsmen were security and would have to pay the sum if the marriage did not take place or would prove to be illegal. The bond gave the names of the groom, the bride and the other bondsman.

Several states continued to use marriage bonds after the colonial period. The use of marriage bonds was very common in the southern and mid-Atlantic states through the 1850s. Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee continued the use of marriage bonds for many years after statehood. If neither family could not afford a bond, they might get married, anyway, in a ceremony that was not legalized by the state. This was called "jumping the broom". The couple was married but not married in the eyes of the state. Benjamin Cruzan II and Sarah McMickel were married that way in Kentucky. Two children later, they moved to Ohio, which did not require a bond, and were legally married in Ohio.

Permission or Consent Records

If the groom or the bride was under age, a parent or guardian needed to sign giving consent.

The age at which a person needed parental consent varied from place to place. Most had a minimum age for marriage. The age that one could be married by their own consent was lower for a female than a male, usually eighteen for a female and twenty-one for a male. Usually the consent was given by the father. Delilah Hale's mother gave her consent, as her father was deceased. Consent could also be given by a stepfather or uncle. In one case the grandfather gave consent, which is how we proved to a cousin that he had the wrong Sarah Barnhill. In one the father said that he did not give his consent for his daughter to marry. Benjamin Cruzan II gave his consent for his daughter Mary Ann to be married; she was twelve years old. But the couple stayed married for the rest of their lives.

Marriage License

Perhaps the most commonly found record of a marriage, and certainly the most well known, is the marriage license. The purpose of a marriage license was to ensure that the marriage conformed to all legal requirements. After confirming there were no impediments to the marriage, a license was issued by a local public official (usually the county clerk) to the couple intending to marry. It granted permission to anyone authorized to solemnize marriages (minister, justice of the peace, etc.) to perform the ceremony.

But sometimes things slip through. Nancy Cain Boyd fled Ireland from an abusive husband and went to Canada to seek shelter with some aunts. Unwelcome there, she and her five-year-old daughter rode a horse and went to her sister in Miami County, Ohio. There, using her maiden name, Nancy Cain, she married Robert McCurdy in 1848. But – oh-oh. Boyd found out where she was. He tracked her down through the Masons. Nancy then married Mr. McCurdy again as Nancy Boyd and they stayed married until his death.

Marriage Returns

The marriage was usually performed within a few days after the granting of the license. Often both the marriage license and the marriage return are on the same form, though sometimes the records are separate.

Following the wedding, the minister or officiant completed the marriage return indicating that he had married the couple and on what date, and returned it to the clerk's office. This information is often recorded at the bottom of the marriage license itself. Alternatively, the information may be located in a marriage register or in a separate volume of minister's returns.

There can be a license without there being a marriage. "There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip." For some reason after the license was taken out, the marriage did not take place. Perhaps one of the parties changed their mind. There could have been a quarrel. A previous spouse may have shown up.

Daniel Railsback took out a marriage license in Surry County, North Carolina to marry Charity Little on July 27, 1795. Apparently that marriage never happened because shortly after that he took out a license on February 29, 1796 in the same county to marry Elizabeth Dossee. Some researchers do not understand a license does not always mean a marriage and thought he might have been married to two women. He is called the "bad Daniel" to distinguish him from his first cousin of the same name because of those licenses and because he didn't pay his debts.

Another reason that a marriage did not take place is that one or both parties could be too young. James Dunlap and Margaret Boyd – yes, Nancy’s daughter -- took out a license to be married. In the marriage record book, the left side of the page was for the marriage license and the right side of the page was for the marriage return. All marriage returns but that one were filled out. Both were under age, which may be why the marriage never took place. James filled out an affidavit saying he was over 21 and she was over 18. Both were sixteen years old. Perhaps a parent found out and stopped the marriage. Later each married someone else. In fact, he married his wife twice, in two different counties, and she used her maiden name, Adria Van Wormer, both times. They were first married in Miami County, Ohio in 1870. He married her a second time in Montgomery County, Ohio in 1892. Was there a divorce in between and then a remarriage?

Marriage Applications

Later a marriage application had to be filled out before a marriage license could be issued. My grandparents have marriage applications. The application requires more information than the marriage license, such as parents’ names and birthplaces, making it especially useful for family history research. Marriage applications may be recorded in separate books or be found with other marriage records.

Marriage Record Books

Each county keeps its records in its own way. Some counties may group everything together in a marriage record book, or keep everything separately. Look for everything you can find on marriages.

Bible Records

Nothing beats Bible records but they are rare. The Bible is where the groom and bride would record their marriage as they started their new life together. The parents of each would also record the marriage of their child in their own Bibles.

Marriage Contract or Settlement

Marriage contracts have been recorded since colonial times, though were fairly rare. We call them prenups now. They were usually used when the woman owned property in her own name or wished to ensure that property left by a former husband would go to his children and not to her new husband. A contract could also be used if the woman’s father wanted to make sure her descendants and not her husband would inherit the property his daughter received from him. Marriage contracts might be found filed among the marriage records or recorded in deed books or records of the local court. A prenuptial agreement is entered into before the marriage takes place. Paul McCartney should have had one for his second marriage. Like a marriage license, there can be a premarital contract without the marriage taking place. A postnuptial agreement is a contract the bride and groom enter into after their marriage.

Marriage Ceremony

Where can the marriage ceremony take place? These days, anywhere. Before, it was usually at a church. A smaller wedding might take place in the parsonage, or in the home of the bride’s parents, the groom’s parents, or another relative. A judge might perform marriages in his office. A justice of the peace often married a couple in his home. A clerk can marry a couple right there in the clerk’s office.

It seems there is no limit to the places where marriages can take place. I have attended weddings in parks. I have been to three weddings at Tippecanoe Place, the Studebaker mansion. One wedding was so short, if you

blinked you would have missed it. The bride asked her boss, an attorney, to perform the ceremony. His son was a judge and made his father judge for a day so he could perform the ceremony. The wedding ceremony itself was only a few sentences long, as she wanted just what was needed to make it legal. Afterward, the groom started to make a speech, and she said, "Let's eat."

A wedding can be as formal or informal as the parties wish. That was an example of an informal wedding. The most formal weddings I can imagine are the royal weddings in England. I have not received an invitation to any of those.

Marriage Certificate

A marriage certificate confirms a marriage and is signed by the person officiating at the marriage. The original marriage certificate is given to the newly married couple. I have my original marriage certificate. The original certificate may sometimes be required for certain legal things.

Marriage Register

A clerk generally recorded the marriages they performed in a marriage register or book. Marriages performed by another officiant, such as a minister or justice of the peace, were also generally recorded following receipt of the marriage return. Sometimes marriage registers incorporate information from a variety of marriage documents, so they may include the names of the couple, their ages, birthplaces, and current locations, the names of their parents, the names of witnesses, the name of the officiant, and the date of marriage.

Church Records

If a couple is married in a church, their marriage is also recorded in the church's records, which may contain additional information, such as to whether one or both were members of the church. It can include their places of residence and ages. If they were members of the church where they were married, there may be other records in the church for them.

Minister's Records

A minister might keep his own record of the marriages he performed. And occasionally those records are published. These are a good source of information and may have items not on the official records. One official marriage return gave the name of the groom but not of the bride. Joshua Davis was married in Giles County, Virginia, but the name of the bride was not recorded. My sister found the bride's name in Landon Duncan's Minister Returns, which had been published in the Virginia Genealogist Magazine. She was Sally French, and that one discovery gave us three long lines of ancestors.

Newspaper Announcements

The newspaper used to be a good source for an engagement announcement or an article about the marriage, or at least a mention of it. Not so much any more. The engagement announcement listed the names of the parents and the date of the proposed wedding. In modern times, it included where the parties graduated from and where they were employed. Again, an engagement announcement is not a guarantee that the marriage took place. An engagement may be broken off for several reasons. But it is an indication of a momentous event in the person's life, even if it did not take place. The wedding article may include a description of the gowns of the bride and her attendants (no one cares what the groom wore), the names of

the wedding party, and where they were going on their honeymoon. Older articles might list the guests and sometimes even the wedding presents.

Other Sources

Marriage information can be found in places besides in official records. County histories and genealogy quarterlies are places where you might find mentions that lead you other places.

Later Proofs of Marriage

Invitations. These would most likely be in the possession of family. They were not as common in the past. A second cousin sent us a copy of a handwritten invitation from our great-great-grandfather Victor Caillat to the wedding of his daughter Jemima to Benjamin Franklin Railsback. The invitation was to Benjamin's brother Richard.

Birth announcements. Again, these are most likely in the possession of family. The birth announcement may be from "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" who have a bundle of joy.

Milestone wedding anniversaries. Newspaper articles telling of special anniversaries usually give details of when and where the couple was married.

Deed records. A deed record required a woman to state that she gave her consent to selling land. A man could buy land without his wife, but when he sold it, the deed would say something like "Richard Corbaley and his wife Jane". There is usually a notation after the deed saying that the wife was questioned separately about whether she did give her consent.

Wills and probate files. These usually say something about a wife such as her first name. But unfortunately, it might just refer to "my wife". After all, everyone knew who she was – then.

Guardianship records. If there is a guardianship file for a child, the file might contain the date of the parents' marriage. It might give the date of a daughter's marriage and her husband's name as the guardianship was turned over to the husband.

Census records. Later census records will state that the woman is the wife of the head of household.

Legal documents, especially older ones, are fond of Latin terms. You might see the term "et ux" or "et uxor", which is Latin for "and wife".

"Relect" means "widow of", and is seen on occasion. It comes from "relecta", which is Latin for widow, a woman whose husband has passed away. "Relecta" in turn comes from the Latin word "relectus", widower, a man whose wife has passed away. There are also Latin words for widows plural and widowers plural, but that is far too much Latin for me. The two of us – Latin and I – did not get along when I was in high school, so we won't pursue it any further.

Obituaries. An obituary may mention a person's marriage, sometimes even with a date and/or place of the marriage. Then you know where to go to look. If there was more than one marriage, both, all or some of the spouses might be referred to.

City directories, while not direct proof, can mention wives.

Church baptisms for babies give the parents' names.

"Cradle roll" announcements in "low" churches also list Mr. and Mrs.

Tombstones with two names on are usually for a husband and wife, though not always. Modern ones often include the date of marriage on the stone. A double stone can be for a child or sibling instead of a spouse. In one case the wife died and the widower's name was put on the stone. He married again and was eventually buried with his second wife in another cemetery. On a later visit to his first wife's grave, we noticed that his name had been removed and that their daughter's name had been substituted.

Divorce records provide proof of marriage. They have to have been married in order to get divorced. Just ask Jerry Hall about that. When she wanted a divorce, Mick Jagger claimed they had never been really married. That marriage, which had taken place on an Indian island somewhere in the ocean, was later declared null and void by an English court. Turned out she had a putative (pyu-tuh-tuhv) marriage, a marriage in which one spouse thinks they are legally married but they are not. Divorce records can also tell the parentage of the children in the event of multiple marriages.

What might you find on a marriage record?

The groom, of course. He used to be the most important person on the record. The bride. Except once in a while her name did not make it into the record. The date of the license. The date of the marriage. Maybe the parents' names. Who performed the marriage. Witnesses. Bondsmen.

Pay attention to names. Whose names are going to be on there? Family members. Even the person performing the marriage might be a family member. Hugh Barnhill was an elder in the Church of God and performed many family marriages. Benjamin Cruzan III was a lay Methodist preacher and performed the same office for his family. Don't skip over the names on the documents. Go back and look at them again. This time you might know who they are.

And where might these records be? In the courthouse, the church, the family. And now, the church archives, the library, the state or county archives.

There are more records for marriage out there than I thought when I first began genealogy. Marriage records are a treasure trove for family research. I've learned not to neglect them.

MEETINGS, EVENTS, CONFERENCES IN OUR AREA

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

[Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar](#)

June 23 at 1:00 pm – June 24 at 5:00 pm EDT. Registration is required, the fee is \$45 with the additional option of a boxed lunch.

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) with multiple offerings from a variety of speakers.



NOTE: Drew Smith released a NEW BOOK in February. **Generation by Generation: A Modern Approach to the Basics of Genealogy**. (Maybe he'd sign your copy for you!) More about Drew on his [Genealogy Guys website](#).

Program Schedule

Friday, June 23, 2023

1:00 - 1:30 p.m.

1. Welcome and Remarks-*Mark Harvey, State Archivist and Rozlyn Kelly, Michigan Genealogical Council*

1:40 - 2:40 p.m.

2A. Now You See Them, Now You Don't: Researching Corrections Records at the Archives of Michigan- *Annakathryn Welch, Archives of Michigan*: 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.

2B. A Million Ways to Die in the Colonies: Death and Burial in Colonial America

Daniel Earl, Professional Researcher- Death was a part of life for our ancestors. This lecture will teach the different attitudes our colonial ancestors, from Newfoundland to Jamaica, had toward death, different funeral and burial practices and what records you would expect to find from this period.

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

3. Crowdsourcing Your Brick Walls- *Drew Smith, Featured Speaker*-Online genealogy forums provide an opportunity to ask others questions about brick wall problems. Learn how to find and search through relevant mailing lists, message boards, and social networking groups, and how to craft the perfect online research query.

4:20 - 5:00 p.m.

4. Tour of the Archives of Michigan and Research Workshop

Saturday, June 24, 2023

8:50 – 9:50 a.m.

5A. Empire State Roots: New York Family History Research-*Kris Rzepczynski, Archives of Michigan*. 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.

5B. Orphan Trains 1854-1929

Derek Blount, Professional Researcher-What were the social conditions that prompted the

orphan trains? What records were generated on the children and how can we find them?

10:10 - 11:10 a.m.

6. Your Ancestor's FAN Club: Using Cluster Research to Get Past Brick Walls-*Drew Smith, Featured Speaker*

Our ancestors were each surrounded by family, associates, and neighbors. By researching them, we discover additional records pointing to our own ancestors.

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

7A. City Directories: More than Basic Facts -*Melissa Tennant Rzepczynski, Professional Researcher*. City directories provide more than just a name and address for a particular year. Discover the stories held within these volumes.

7B. Native American, First Nations, Indian: Researching Indigenous Peoples-*Judy Nimer Muhn, Professional researcher*. Family legends often tell of an ancestor who was the daughter of a chief or some other Indian relationship. Come and find out the truth, myths, facts and information about how to determine if your family descends from Native or First Nations people. This presentation will provide information about Michigan tribal peoples as well as an overview of others.

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

8. Introduction to GEDmatch-*Drew Smith, Featured Speaker*

GEDmatch is a free website that allows uploading raw DNA data from DNA testing companies so that the test data can be compared with data from tests taken at different companies. It also provides tools that may not be available at the original testing company. This presentation will focus on the basics of using GEDmatch to match relatives.

2:50 - 3:50 p.m.

9A. Yes, They Could Own Land: The Homestead Act and African American Homesteaders-*Jessica Trotter, Researcher & Blogger*. Learn about the Homestead Act of 1862, African American families who managed to take advantage of the legislation, and the possible gems in Homestead files.

9B. Digitizing My Family Tree: Formats, Software, and Techniques-*Adam Oster, Library of Michigan*. Explore the digital options for saving your family history research. Explore the variety of desktop and web-based applications researchers can use for organizing their data. Review best practices for both using these applications and uploading digital scans of records to the software.

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

The Carriage House (Office, Research Library and Pioneer Museum) is 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)

- GENEALOGIST ON BOARD Starting May 9, 2023, OCPHS Member Barb Hofmann (and WGS member), an experienced Genealogist, will be available on Campus to assist visitors to the Oakland History Center discover the history of their families. Barb has been well versed in researching family histories for DAR, Colonial Dames, and



Mayflower Families, all lineage societies that require direct line research and proofs. Barb will be available, by appointment, during regular business hours, in our Research Library to assist you to find what we can in house, and on line. Please call the office to set up an appointment. 248 335-6732

- Outdoor Spring Flea Markets Saturdays in May, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Oakland Co. Genealogical Society

- **May 2, 2023:** 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Off the Beaten Path: Small Local History Collections & Genealogy Research. Presented by Jessica Trotter

Small historical and genealogical archives and collections are often hidden gems with materials unique to their community. They can provide sources to help break down brick walls or add context and history to flesh out the stories in your research. This presentation offers strategies for finding collections as well as examples of what they might include

They hope for a hybrid meeting, but the meeting may be virtual only, depending on restrictions. Please check back a week before the meeting for information regarding location and registration for the virtual presentation

SHARING NOTES FROM THE NET

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

- ✚ Legacy Family Tree Webinars just held their free 24 marathon on April 13th and 14th. The good news is you still have an opportunity to view them for one week after they are posted on their website. After that you will need a subscription to view them. Any associated syllabus is the added benefit of having a Membership.
- ✚ Library of Michigan Programs for the Public will take place over **Zoom**. All programs **require registration** to attend.
 - **Military Resources at the Library of Michigan**
Thursday, May 4, 2023 6:30PM - 7:30PM, Zoom [Register For This Program](#)
Many Michigan residents have served our country at times of war and peace. Come explore the variety of print resources at the Library of Michigan that bring to life Michigan's participation in the Revolutionary War through to World War II.
 - **History of the Library of Michigan – Celebrating 195 Years of Service**
Thursday, June 1, 2023 6:30PM - 7:30PM, Zoom [Register For This Program](#)
The Library of Michigan has been serving the people and government of Michigan since 1828. Come learn about our “origin story” that started during Michigan's territorial era. Celebrate the key figures that shaped Michigan's state library. See the evolution of the library's services as we continuing to collect and preserve the story of our state.

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

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 – Barbara Frye

Webmaster-Paul Roltsch

Publicity –

Queries: waterfordgenealogicalsociety@gmail.com

Michigan Genealogical Council Delegates: Kim Smith, Barb Hofmann

WGS Website: <https://waterfordmigensof.thatfamiliesdo.com/>

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

Email: 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