

## MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL DELEGATE MEETING

15 September 2011

Archives Education Room – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

The meeting began at 1:12 p.m.

Vice President Sue Irvine called the meeting to order and announced that flyers from the FGS Conference (Sept. 7-10) are available today for anyone who is interested. Sue also showed us the display board MGC exhibited at the FGS Conference. It displayed a map with counties and major cities in Michigan.

### MINUTES

On page 1, a correction to the July 2011 Delegate Meeting minutes was noted. Pam Eppele was incorrectly listed as helping with the Abrams Seminar.

Motion by Laurine Griffin, supported by Tom Koselka, to approve the July 2011 Minutes with the change noted. All ayes. Motion carried.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Laurine Griffin asked if any of today's attendees had ever served as treasurer for their organization, and 9 hands were raised. Laurine commented that MGC has attendees that could run for Treasurer for this year's election.

Dues received in July totaled \$267, and over \$100 was received in August.

Laurine said the \$110 donation in Council Donation/General Funds Income should actually be added to the Abrams Seminar/General Funds Income total. Also, money for the "Library of Mich" and "MI Archives" was received in July.

The July and August 2011 Treasurer's Report will be placed on file.

### PROGRAM PANEL DISCUSSION OF FGS CONFERENCE

Connie Olson reported that Michigan was well-represented at the FGS Conference. It was the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, and over 300 societies were represented at the conference. Distinguished service awards were given to 3 individuals from Michigan. Family Search and Ancestry were major FGS Conference sponsors. Connie explained that FGS, which is composed of societies, as is MGC, is basically a larger version of MGC.

Connie said the programs at the FGS Conference on Wednesday related to different aspects of running a society. David Rencher was the keynote speaker. FGS accomplishments over the last 35 years include: an online Soldiers and Sailors listing, setting up an NARA fund to collect money for National Archives digitization, helping state libraries, and the War of 1812 Pension Project fundraising campaign.

The Key Archivist of the U.S. gave an update on developments from the National Archives and Records Administration at the conference.

Sue Irvine spoke about the society seminar she attended. She reported on helpful suggestions to grow societies, such as having classes to teach about using computers (include an emphasis on genealogy), teaching in libraries, and welcoming new members by asking them about who they are researching and giving them handouts.

Tom Koselka reported on ideas for societies to attract members under 45 years old. Societies should be on Facebook, have family history “events” and sell “tickets” for them, and welcome younger researchers who want to concentrate on only one ancestor (even if that is their only initial interest).

Byron Bailey talked about networking with other societies. He encouraged us to attend conferences such as FGS and talk with speakers and seminar attendees to make connections with other societies and get ideas for personal research.

This year’s FGS Conference was the first national conference Ann Martin has attended. She learned about blogs, which can be public or private. Blogs should be updated at least every other week, preferably every week. Blogs can help connect with family, make a good place for marketing a society, and help improve writing skills. Typing in Google blog search, and then “genealogy” will help to find blogs with a primary focus on genealogy. Blog names should be unique and eye-catching. The first step is to choose a platform – Blogger is the most popular platform. Next, choose a blog template and visit a site such as “Connected Genealogist” for blog settings and ideas for creating blogs. When the blog is finished, visit the reader on Google’s website.

Dick Doherty attended a lecture on ways to drive down society costs and increase memberships. Printing costs should be reduced, since publications and newsletters can be available online. Indexes can be available online, but actual records and detailed information could be in a members-only area of a society’s website to entice people to join a society. Dick also attended a session on how to offer affordable member benefits. It was suggested that at least one board member be a member-at-large.

At a session Dick attended concerning copyrights, it was noted that photographers hold the copyright for their photographs.

Barb Curtindale reported on how to build an effective website. EasyNet sites have website software specific to genealogical interests. The website DSRG.org is a cemetery module anyone can view and contribute to. Society websites that allow research can attract new members to a society.

Barb attended 2 African-American research sessions. She learned that these researchers should be made aware that mainstream newspapers provide clues for them, and that there are also black newspapers. Free search engines such as The Defender can be accessed. Also, the website [www.ancestry.com/aahistory](http://www.ancestry.com/aahistory) has slave schedules, (former) slave narratives, information on U.S. Colored Troops, and 1871-1889 black deaths for Charleston, SC.

Also note that at least 1 in 10 African-Americans in the U.S. were not slaves in 1861 at the start of the Civil War.

Ed Redmer, a first-time FGS attendee, learned that 1/3 of the societies that founded FGS are now defunct. The session he attended told about ways to promote societies, including hosting World War I tournaments, having society T-shirts, and including a society in more than one place on the web (use Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

Ed also learned additional facts about Family Search. At the bottom of the FamilySearch.org website front page, click on Forums for help in translating documents written in foreign languages. Also, the Family Search Wiki has information on every society in every county. If a society adopts their page of information, the society can have a link from that page to their main website. The society may also decide to create a new page, which is permissible.

At 2:30 p.m., Vice President Sue Irvine announced a 10-minute break.

The meeting resumed at 2:54 p.m.

### LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN UPDATE

President Cynthia Grostick asked Kris Rzepczynski to give a Library of Michigan update.

Kris announced new hours, effective 19 September 2011, for the Rare Book Room. It will be open 1-4 p.m., Monday – Friday, to everyone, and closed 12-1 p.m. daily.

However, state employees can use the Rare Book Room *by appointment* from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Monday – Friday. The public can use the Rare Book Room *by appointment* from 10-12 a.m.

Monday – Friday.

Kris said that books auctioned off on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor are from the general collection and not genealogy-related.

The Library of Michigan will accept donations designated “electronic databases” but there is no guarantee the donations will go specifically to Ancestry or Footnote.

President Cynthia Grostick read a report of her quarterly meeting with Library of Michigan Director Nancy Robertson. Purchases at the Library of Michigan will be only for maintaining current resources – no new (genealogy) purchases. The Library of Michigan will no longer accept any family histories, including Michigan society newsletters or publications.

The Library of Michigan intends to retain county histories, its newspaper collection, and city directories, because these materials are used by and are of interest to the general public. It was suggested that genealogical materials be donated to The Archives to make The Archives one of the best historical resources in the country.

### ARCHIVES UPDATE

President Cynthia Grostick said that societies should get ready to donate pledged funds to help with the move of genealogical materials to The Archives, if approved. She said that Michigan is fortunate that The Archives is willing to accept “non-Michigan” resources. The Archives needs time to review the the Library of Michigan proposal.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the FGS Conference, Cynthia heard "high praise" for Mark Harvey of The Archives of Michigan. Cynthia thanked Sue Irvine for setting up and organizing the MGC booth at the FGS Conference.

The Illinois State Genealogical Society's project "Insider's Guide to Illinois Genealogy" was for sale at the FGS Conference for \$5. Cynthia was given a book on Illinois governors, a history book of the Presbyterian Church that former President Lincoln and his family attended, and a hands-on tutorial on setting up WIKI's.

Cynthia announced the 1940 Federal Census will be available to researchers in April 2012. Family Search plans to release indexes for it. The next Abrams Seminar will feature D. Joshua Taylor of the series, "Who Do You Think You Are?" He will also speak at the 13 July 2012 MGC Delegate Meeting on those born in the twenty-first century.

### OCTOBER SEMINAR

Pam Epple will give an update on topic descriptions for the October Seminar, which will be on the MGC website. Checks can be turned in today to Sam Pardee or sent by mail for those desiring to attend the seminar. Laurine will pass out registration forms today.

Topics at the seminar include: American Immigration Agents who were based in other countries to encourage residents to immigrate, FOLD3 (formerly FOOTNOTE), and the Homestead Act, which was written by Galusha Grow.

### LUCY MARY KELLOGG AWARD

Jim Jackson told about this year's recipient, Nancy Krohn, and remarked on her many accomplishments.

Nancy received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin. She is a fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, and "her tireless efforts have raised the standards of genealogical research." In 1991, Nancy was elected to the National Genealogical Hall of Fame. Marcia McCrary, President of the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, introduced Nancy Krohn, and said Nancy is the backbone of their society, and the one they turn to for advice. She is the editor of their society's publication, which currently has been listing naturalizations. Nancy has answered research requests since 1982, and many letters received by the society remark that Nancy is responsible for individual decisions to join the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.

President Cynthia Grostick announced that MGC is pleased to present the 2011 Lucy Mary Kellogg Award to Nancy Krohn.

Nancy thanked those responsible for giving her this honor, and said that anything she has contributed "does not compare" to what she has "gained as a genealogist and member of the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County."

Cake was served to attendees.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cynthia announced the November Delegate Meeting, and future delegate meetings, will be held in the new room downstairs on The Archives side of the Michigan Historical Center. However, The Forum may be needed for the July 2012 Delegate Meeting.

Cynthia asked that Friendly Forum news and updates be emailed/mailed to Tom Koselka, who will forward the information to MGC Societies.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Submitted by Stacy Stoner, Delegate Secretary.

## MGC September 2011 Delegate Meeting Attendance

<i>Calhoun Co. Genealogical Society</i>	<i>Jim Jackson (D)</i>
<i>Cass River Genealogical Society</i>	<i>Marie McGregor (D) Dorothy Kuck (D)</i>
<i>Cheboygan Co. Genealogical Society</i>	<i>Ann Martin (D)</i>
<i>Dearborn Genealogical Society</i>	<i>Laurine Griffin (D) Tom Koselka (P), (A)</i>
<i>Detroit Soc for Gene Research</i>	<i>Dick Doherty (P), (D)</i>
<i>Downriver Genealogical Society</i>	<i>Tom Koselka (D) Reletha Moch (D)</i>
<i>Eaton Co. Genealogical Society</i>	<i>Shirley Hodges (P), (D)</i>
<i>Farmington Genealogical Society</i>	<i>Byron Bailey (D)</i>
<i>Flint Genealogical Society</i>	<i>Lorene Wilson (D) Jim Thornton (D)</i>
<i>Gladwin Co. Genealogical Society</i>	<i>Barb Curtindale (D)</i>
<i>Gratiot Co. Hist. Gen. Society</i>	<i>Barb Curtindale (D) Mary E. Strouse (D)</i>
<i>Harrison Area Gen. Society</i>	<i>Barb Curtindale (D)</i>
<i>Hodges Family Association</i>	<i>Shirley Hodges (D) Clarence Hodges (D)</i>
<i>Huron Shores Genealogical Society</i>	<i>Judy Sheldon (D)</i>
<i>Ingham Co. Genealogical Society</i>	<i>Sam Pardee (D)</i>
<i>Irish Gene Society of Michigan</i>	<i>Dick Doherty (D)</i>
<i>Isabella Co. Genealogical Society</i>	<i>Larry G. Noyes (D)</i>

## ***MGC September 2011 Delegate Meeting Attendance***

<i>Jackson Co. Genealogical Society</i>	<i>Stacy Stoner (D), (P)</i> <i>Carl Colby (D)</i>
<i>Kalamazoo Valley Gen. Society</i>	<i>Jim Jackson (D)</i> <i>Ken Baker (D)</i>
<i>Lansing Area African-American Gen. Soc.</i>	<i>Melvin Holley (D)</i>
<i>Lapeer Co. Genealogical Society</i>	<i>Al Hart (D)</i>
<i>Lenawee Co. Genealogical Society</i>	<i>Marilyn Saylor (D)</i>
<i>Livingston County Gen. Society</i>	<i>Phyllis Rennells (D)</i>
<i>Mid-Michigan Gen. Society</i>	<i>Kenneth Howe (D)</i>
<i>Mid-Michigan Gen. Society</i>	<i>Ken Howe (D)</i> <i>Joanne Harvey (D)</i>
<i>Midland Genealogical Society</i>	<i>Faye Ebach (D)</i> <i>Jo Brines (D)</i>
<i>Monroe Co. Gen. Society</i>	<i>Laurie Schultz (D)</i> <i>Florence Wilson (D)</i>
<i>Oakland Co. Gen. Society</i>	<i>Pam Epple (D)</i> <i>Dick Doherty (D)</i> <i>Grace Bonfiglio (A)</i>
<i>Polish Gen. Society of MI</i>	<i>Valerie S. Koselka (D)</i> <i>J. Wm Gorski (D)</i>
<i>Polonica (PARI)</i>	<i>Valerie Koselka (A)</i>
<i>Shiawassee County Gen. Society</i>	<i>Marilyn Baumgras (D)</i>
<i>Stockbridge Area Gen. &amp; Hist. Society</i>	<i>Cynthia Grostick (D)</i>

## **MGC September 2011 Delegate Meeting Attendance**

*Washtenaw Co. Gen. Society*

*Ed Redmer (D)*  
*Jessie Siekmeier (D)*  
*Marcia McCrary (P)*

*Western MI Gen. Society*

*Sue Irvine (D)*  
*Roger Moffat (D)*

*Council Past President*

*Ann Martin*  
*Connie Olson*  
*Joanne Harvey*

*GUEST*

*Diane Wrobleski*  
*(Livingston Co. Gen. Society)*