



# Gateway Family Historian

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2006 Vol. 7, Nos. 1-4

Welcome to the twenty-first issue of *Gateway Family Historian*. This issue's focus is a state that has furnished immigrants to Missouri and that we in turn have sent emigrants to—Michigan.

*Note: This issue is numbered Vol. 7, Nos. 1-4. This will allow us to match our volume numbers to the calendar year. Thank you for your patience.*

## OUR TOWN—

# Events at the St. Louis Public Library

The St. Louis Public Library Events Calendar [www.slpl.org/events/calendar.asp](http://www.slpl.org/events/calendar.asp) can provide you with an up-to-the-minute listing of what's happening at the Library!

Metered parking around Central Library is free on Saturdays, and the Scotttrade Center MetroLink stop is only four blocks away. Other free parking is available on weekdays to Library users. Call or e-mail us for details. Registration for our programs is strongly suggested. Please call 314-539-0385, or e-mail [tpearson@slpl.org](mailto:tpearson@slpl.org) to register or for further information.

The St. Louis Public Library loves being able to help so many genealogists. We are sometimes asked if there is anything patrons can do to help us. If you would like to support the Library, you might consider donating a copy of your printed family history book to us. We will gladly add it to our permanent collection. You might also want to make a Tribute donation through the St. Louis Public Library Foundation. A Tribute allows you to donate tax-deductible funds for the purchase of books or materials that will be added to the genealogy collection. You can honor a family you are researching, or an individual of your choice, with a bookplate that is added to each Tribute item. This program benefits the Library and your fellow genealogists. If you would like to consider making a Tribute gift, visit the Foundation's website at [www.slplfoundation.org](http://www.slplfoundation.org). Thanks to all of our readers for your support of the Library!

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# New Arrivals



1. Barnes, Robert W. **Maryland Marriage Evidences, 1634-1718.**

Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2005. 929.3752.

- Entries include names of bride and groom, date of marriage, some parents' names, and source for proof.

2. Miller, Alan N. **Middle Tennessee's Forgotten Children: Apprentices from 1784 to 1902.**

Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Co., 2005. 929.3768

- Book is organized by county, with apprentice's name, age, master, date of apprenticeship, and additional notes that may include parents' names, occupation, or date that the service ended.

3. Page, Jo Ann Curls. **Extract of the Rejected Applications of the Guion Miller Roll of the Eastern Cherokee.**

2 vols. Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 2003. 970.3

- A goldmine for those having trouble finding Native-American ancestors. Entries include the applicant's roll number, name, state of residence, date of birth, name of spouse, names of father and mother, names of paternal grandparents, and names of maternal grandparents.

4. Peden, Henry C., Jr. **Methodist Records of Baltimore City, MD: Vol. 1, 1799-1829.**

Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1994. 929.3752.

- Sections include marriages, births and baptisms, deaths, and removals, sometimes including location of church members' new residences. The Library also owns Volume 2, covering 1830 to 1839.

5. Rising, Marsha Hoffman. **Opening the Ozarks: First Families in Southwest Missouri, 1835-1839.**

4 vols. Derry, NH: American Society of Genealogists, 2005. 929.3778.

- An outstanding resource! Extensive information on each person, including parents, place of birth, marriage, spouse, place of death and burial, location of land, names of children, and sources of further information.

6. Stephenson, Jean. **Scotch-Irish Migration to South Carolina, 1772 (Rev. William Martin & His Five Shiploads of Settlers).**

Baltimore, MD: Clearfield, 1971, reprinted 2002. 929.3757

- Provides a history of Rev. Martin's immigration and that of those who followed him, as well as where his land was located and leads for further information.

7. Vaseska, Pat. **Monroe County, Illinois Birth Index.**

Columbia, IL: the author, 1997, 2004. 929.3773.

- Includes child's name and date of birth.

8. Vaseska, Pat & Janet Flynn. **Monroe County Almshouses.**

Waterloo, IL: Monroe County Historical Society, 2002. 929.3773.

- Entries include name, sex, age, color, occupation, marital status, birthplace, parents' names, residence, literacy, state of health, date of admission, property, authority for admission, cause of pauperism, date of discharge, and remarks.

9. Veath, Phyllis. **Monroe County Illinois Chancery Records 1852-1859.**

Evansville, IL: the author, 2006. 929.3773.

- Transcriptions of this court's records include divorces, probate, and division of land.

10. Veath, Phyllis. **Monroe County Illinois Naturalization Index.**

Evansville, IL: the author, 199-. 929.3773.

- Entries include name, date, and place of origin.

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**New Arrivals** continued from page 2

11. Weant, Kenneth. **Audrain County, MO 4592 Deaths Reported in & Chronological Index to the Selected Articles from *The Mexico Weekly Ledger*...1 January 1913 to 30 December 1920.** Vol. 10.

Columbia, MO: State Historical Society, 2006. 929.3778.

- A new book list wouldn't be complete without a title from Kenneth Weant, the hardest-working guy in Missouri genealogy. The Library has just received Vols. 10-15 of the Audrain County deaths set.

## ...And Some Venerated Ancestors

1. Atlas of Historical County Boundaries. **Michigan.** Ed. John H. Long. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997. 911.774

- Detailed atlas of county boundary changes. Useful when working with property records.

2. **Atlas of Saginaw County, Michigan.** Saginaw, MI: Saginaw Genealogical Society, n.d. 912.77446

- Three plat maps of Saginaw County from 1876, 1896, and 1916. Fully indexed.

3. Dennisen, Rev. Fr. Christian. **Genealogy of the French Families of the Detroit River Region Revision, 1701-1936.** 1987 revision, ed. Harold Powell. Detroit: Detroit Society

for Genealogical Research, 1987. 929.3774.

- Extensive research on the French families in the Detroit area, some of whom later moved on to the Illinois Country and then into Missouri.

4. Detroit. **Governor & Judges Journal: Proceedings of the Land Board of Detroit.** Ed. by M. Agnes Burton, Comp. by Clarence M. Burton. N.P., 1915. 977.4.

- Records of land reapportionment after the Detroit fire of 1805. There is extensive genealogical information as well as land records.

5. Duncan, Mary Lou Straith. **Passage to America 1851-1869: The Records of Richard Elliott, Passenger Agent, Detroit, Michigan.** Detroit: Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, 1999. 929.3774

- This resource includes names of passengers, port of departure, destination, number of people in the party, who paid for tickets, and cost of the tickets.

6. Farmer, Silas. **The History of Detroit and Michigan, or, The Metropolis Illustrated...** 2 vols.

Detroit: Silas Farmer & Co., 1889. 977.4

- An extensive county history, including a lengthy biography volume.

7. Flagg, Charles A. **An Index of Pioneers From Massachusetts to the West Especially the State of Michigan.** Salem, MA: Salem Press, 1915. 929.3744

- Includes Massachusetts emigrants who settled primarily in Michigan, including date of arrival, where they settled, and sometimes spouse's name, as well as a citation to the source material.

8. Russell, Donna Valley, ed. **Michigan Censuses 1710-1830 Under the French, British, and Americans.** Detroit: Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, 1982. 929.3774

- Colonial and territorial censuses showing the earliest settlers.

These are just a few of the many items that the Library owns that can assist you in researching your Michigan ancestors. 

## Did You Know?

In the 1830s, an overabundance of legislation, combined with a poor understanding of the geography of the boundary between Ohio and Michigan, led to a boundary dispute known as the Toledo War. When Michigan applied for statehood in the early 1830s, it assumed that this small strip of land, 468 square miles including the town of Toledo, would belong to Michigan. However, legislators from Ohio blocked Michigan's

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# Site Seeing



## Archives of Michigan

A good place to begin researching your Michigan ancestors is the website of the Archives of Michigan ([www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17445\\_19273\\_19313---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17445_19273_19313---,00.html).) The site includes a Genealogy Sources Guide, a long list of Archives of Michigan Circulars (subject guides), Military Sources Guide, Naturalization Indexes, Genealogy of a House, and a Michigan County Clerks Directory. The Circulars are PDF files that vary in length but average 2-4 pages. Topics include African-American Genealogy, Bounties, State Censuses, and Civil War Manuscripts, to name a few. The Civil War Manuscripts Collection includes mostly materials for men who served in Michigan regiments (can include letters, diaries, and/or documents), but there is some material for men who served in regiments from Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, and in regular regiments including the U.S.C.T. There is also an extensive photographic collection that includes 330,000 photos, more than 20,000 of which are portraits.

## Library of Michigan

Another website likely to be of interest to genealogists researching Michigan ancestors is that of

the Library of Michigan ([www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17449\\_18635---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17449_18635---,00.html).) The URL above takes you to a special page on “Genealogy Research at the Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan.” Sections of the website include the Michigan Genealogist Newsletter, Michigan Naturalization Records Index, Michigan Cemetery Sources, Michigan Newspapers List (by county), and a Library of Michigan Subject Guides list that includes loads of genealogical topics. The site also has a section on the Abrams Genealogy Seminar, an annual two-day conference held in July at the Library of Michigan.

## Michigan e-Library Catalog

The Michigan e-Library Catalog (MeLCat) is a union catalog that allows a quick search of the collections ([www.mel.org/SPT-BrowseResourcesNewMeL.php](http://www.mel.org/SPT-BrowseResourcesNewMeL.php)) of dozens of Michigan public, academic, and school libraries. Anyone can do a catalog search, but only Michigan residents can also access various databases for free using MeLCat.

## Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Another site of likely interest is the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans

Affairs ([www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,1607,7-126-2360\\_3003\\_3009-17110---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,1607,7-126-2360_3003_3009-17110---,00.html).) It includes sections on all the wars in which Michigan men and women have participated. Each section has a printable version or can be e-mailed to persons who might be interested. There is also a links section as well as areas on Michigan forts, museums, and monuments. A Veterans' Affairs section provides details on the many benefits available to Michigan veterans.

## MI Department of Community Health Genealogical Death Indexing System

The Genealogical Death Indexing System has transcriptions of death certificates filed between 1867 and 1897 (Michigan required registration of vital records very early on). The online records include all information provided on the death certificate, including parents' names and birthplaces ([www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/gendisx/search2.htm](http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/gendisx/search2.htm).)



# ETHNIC SPOTLIGHT— Michigan's Polish- American Community

Many Poles originally came to America with the goal of saving enough money to go back home and buy land in Poland (they were known as *za chlebem*, or “bread immigrants”). In the biggest wave of Polish migration (1870-1914) eighty percent of all Polish immigrants were people from rural areas without any industrial experience. They usually obtained jobs as unskilled, low-paid workers in various branches of industry. American employers generally considered Poles well suited for strenuous manual labor in places like coal mines, slaughterhouses, and steel mills. Consequently, Polish migrants were drawn to the coal mines of Pennsylvania and Illinois, and to heavy industries like steel mills, iron foundries, slaughterhouses, and oil and sugar refineries in northern cities like Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Cleveland, Chicago, Milwaukee, and Detroit.

Although the City of Chicago has the largest Polish population outside of Poland itself (only Warsaw, Poland, has more persons of Polish origin than Chicago), the City of Detroit also has a very large Polish community. Polish immigrants to Detroit made their way to large enclaves such as Poletown and Hamtramck. Poletown was eventually cleared of its residents to make way for a General Motors assembly

plant, and Hamtramck has seen its Polish community decrease in size while its Arab and African-American communities have increased. The Polish influence, however, is still felt throughout the entire metro-Detroit area, especially the suburb of Wyandotte, and to a lesser degree, Warren and Sterling Heights. Michigan's Polish



population is currently third in the nation behind New York and Illinois, with more than 850,000 persons of Polish descent. Polish Americans constitute 8.6 percent of Michigan's total population. The northern Detroit suburb of Orchard Lake is home to the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame, which includes exhibits devoted to such Polish-American sports stars as Stan Musial and Mike Krzyzewski.

## **1. PolishAncestry.com: Home for Polish Ancestry Research in Detroit, Michigan**

This wonderful site (<http://polishancestry.com/>) was maintained by

Robert Postula until his death in March 2007. It's still on the web today (13 September 2007), however, so use it while it's still available. It includes sections on cemeteries, Polish folk costume, churches, cemeteries, the Eloise Hospital, FAQ sections on researching Michigan ancestors and Polish ancestors, a links page, and some Detroit maps.

## **2. Michigan Poliana**

Persons researching Polish-American ancestors from Michigan will find much of interest on the Michigan Poliana website (<http://mipolonia.net>). The site's creator, Ceil Jensen, has included sections on cemeteries, documents, and maps, to name a few, plus a Surname Finding Aid that provides common Anglicized versions of Polish surnames. Ms. Jensen's site provides listings for several books on researching Polish ancestors. Additionally, she lectures on the subject.

## **3. Dr. Edward Martin Collection**

Another site of some interest is the Dr. Edward Martin Collection at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Dr. Martin was an osteopath who collected materials concerning the Polish-American community in Detroit. His collection includes materials on the Polish Army Veterans Association and Polish Sea League, photos taken by various Michigan Polish-American photo studios, plus miscellaneous photographs, scrapbooks, and various printed materials in Polish. A collection guide can be found at <http://bentley.umich.edu/bhl/mhchome/reaccess/martinedw.pdf>.

# They Came From . . . *Michigan!*

**1622**

French explorer Étienne Brulé and his companion Grenoble are probably the first white men to see Lake Superior.

**1668**

Fathers Jacques Marquette and Claude Dablon establish the first mission at Sault Sainte Marie.

**1673**

Jesuit missionary Jacques Marquette, fur trader Louis Jolliet, and five voyageurs leave the recently established Indian mission at St. Ignace to explore a great river known by the Indians as the "Messissippi."

**1701**

June 24 - Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, a 43-year-old French army officer, selects a site at le détroit (the straits)—the waterway between Lakes St. Clair and Erie—and establishes a French settlement.

**1715**

The French establish Fort Michilimackinac at the Straits of Mackinac.

**1760**

The French surrender Fort Pontchartrain to the British, ending French rule in Detroit.

**1763**

During the Indian wars in the area, Pontiac leads a 135-day siege of Detroit. Indians capture all the forts in Michigan, except Detroit.

**1787**

The (Northwest) Ordinance of 1787 defines the procedure for obtaining statehood in the Northwest Territory, of which Michigan is a part.

**1792**

Under the British Parliament's Constitutional Act, the first election is held in Michigan.

**1796**

The British evacuate Detroit and abandon their posts on the Great Lakes.

**1805**

The Michigan Territory is created, with Detroit designated as the seat of government. William Hull is appointed as governor. Detroit is destroyed by fire.

**1812**

Detroit and Fort Mackinac are surrendered to the British during the War of 1812.

**1813**

Lewis Cass is appointed military and civil governor of the Michigan Territory.

**1819**

The Treaty of Saginaw cedes nearly 6 million acres of Indian lands to Michigan settlers. Michigan sends a delegate to Congress.

**1828**

The Territorial Capitol is built at Detroit for a cost of \$24,500.

**1835**

The Toledo War ensues over the Michigan-Ohio boundary. Michigan was not admitted to the Union because she would not surrender her claim to the Toledo strip. The area was finally surrendered in exchange for the western section of the Upper Peninsula.

**1837**

Michigan is admitted to the Union as the twenty-sixth state.

**1841**

The University of Michigan is moved from Detroit to Ann Arbor.

**1842**

Copper mining operations begin near Keweenaw Point.

**1844**

Iron ore is discovered in the Upper Peninsula at Negaunee.

**1847**

Underground Railroad: Francis Troutman and several others arrive at the home of the Adam Crosswhite family (Kentucky slaves who have escaped to Marshall).

**1847**

A law is passed by the State Legislature to locate the State Capital "in the township of Lansing, in the county of Ingham."

**1861-1865**

Over 90,747 Michigan men are mustered into service during the Civil War. 14,343 of them were killed or died of disease.

**1867**

Michigan Department of Community Health has birth and death records dating from this time.

**1868**

Michigan Department of Community Health has marriage records dating from this time.

**1879**

The new State Capitol is dedicated in Lansing; the structure cost \$1,510,130.

**1896**

Charles King of Detroit is the first person to test-drive a gasoline-powered automobile in Michigan. Three months later, also in Detroit, Henry Ford drives his gasoline-powered, two-cylinder quadricycle.

**1897**

Michigan Department of Community Health has divorce and annulment records dating from this time.

**1908**

The Ford Model T is first manufactured.

**1910**

First primary election in Michigan is held.

**1920**

Detroit's radio station WWJ begins commercial broadcasting of regular programs, the first such radio station in the United States.

**1930**

The Detroit-Windsor Tunnel opens to automobile traffic.

**1933**

Two hundred young men from Detroit arrive at an isolated spot in Chippewa County and set up Camp Raco, Michigan's first Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) facility.

**1935**

In the midst of the Great Depression, the United Automobile Workers of America (UAW) is organized in Detroit.

**1941**

Auto plants are converted to the production of war materials, helping Michigan become known as the "Arsenal of Democracy" on Oct 1, 1942.

**1959**

Berry Gordy, Jr. founds Motown Records in Detroit.

**1963**

The new State Constitution is ratified at the April election.

**1967**

Riots erupt in Detroit amidst racial tensions.

**1974**

Gerald R. Ford of Grand Rapids becomes the 38th President of the United States.

**1980**

The Republican National Convention is held in Detroit.

**1981**

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum are dedicated in Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids, respectively.

**1987**

Michigan celebrates its sesquicentennial, 150 years of statehood.

**1989**

The Michigan Library and Historical Center is dedicated in Lansing.

**1992**

Michigan State University hosts the third and final Presidential debate. The State Capitol building is fully restored and rededicated.

**1998**

Chrysler Corporation merges with the German auto company Daimler-Benz, forming DaimlerChrysler.

**2001**

Detroit celebrates its 300th anniversary.

# Help!!

*Help!! provides an opportunity for readers to ask for assistance with genealogical queries. We invite our readers to contribute solutions to questions featured in this section. See the Contact section for e-mail and postal addresses. Put GFH-HELP!! in the subject line.*

**Q: I have the surname Wilkins, but my ancestors had a much longer Polish last name. My mother said it was probably changed at Ellis Island. How can I find the paperwork to prove that?**

**A:** There may or may not be paperwork showing your family's name change, but it won't be at Ellis Island. By the time Ellis Island opened in 1892, immigrants had to have paperwork filled out in their home country (and checked and confirmed by the shipping company) that provided names, ages, and birthplaces of each immigrant. Ellis Island had a large staff of interpreters to communicate with any immigrant and to carefully read each immigrant's identification papers if anything seemed amiss. Immigration officials had good records of who was entering the U.S., and did not need to simplify or change names. Some immigrants did have their names changed later by officials who found a name just too difficult, but many—perhaps most—changed the names themselves to make it easier to

assimilate, find employment, or just not have to spell out their name to confused Americans on a daily basis. Checking censuses and city directories should give you an idea of when the name change took place. Once you have an idea, you can check with the civil courts in that jurisdiction to see if the name was officially changed. Remember, the farther back you go, the likelier it is that there was no formal legal action to change the name.

**Q: I have looked at all the passenger lists on *Ancestry.com*, and I can't find my ancestors. I have no idea where or when they arrived; they appear on the 1860 census for Illinois. What do I do next?**

**A:** First, check the later censuses (especially the 1900 census). The later censuses asked for date of arrival, number of years in the United States, and whether naturalized and when. The answers to these questions will give you

some idea of where and when to start looking. If any of the family naturalized after 1906, you should check their naturalization records, because there should be some good clues there. Also, it's never a good idea to rely entirely on an electronic index—it is possible that the family appears in the passenger lists, but the name was hard for the indexer to read, or the indexer made a mistake. The National Archives lists are indexed on microfilm (and available at the St. Louis Public Library), so check those carefully before exploring other options. If they do not appear, you may want to consider whether they came through Canada and check Canadian passenger records. Also, remember that some passenger lists for some ports did not survive, so it is possible that no record exists. But rest assured, they didn't swim here from Europe! 

Did You Know? *continued from page 3*

statehood until the issue could be resolved in their favor. Although militias were called up on both sides, it is not certain that any shots were fired in anger, though shots appear to have been fired into the air. No one was harmed in the "battle". By 1836, Michigan, in dire need of funds, surrendered the land in return for the entire Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The discovery of valuable copper mines and huge tracts of timber meant that Michigan got the better deal, while Ohio got . . . Toledo.

To learn more about Michigan history, check out <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/micounty>. This site has full texts of nearly 400 Michigan county histories and atlases.



# Gateway Family Historian

Co-editors:  
Kathleen Smith & Thomas Pearson

A co-publication of the History & Genealogy  
and Special Collections Departments.



[www.slpl.org](http://www.slpl.org)

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## Contact!

The staff of our History & Genealogy Department can do limited genealogical research for persons making inquiries. Please be specific about who and what you are looking for. We will search our collection, and make copies of any materials that answer your questions. We charge \$.25/page for microfilm copies, and \$.15/page for photocopies. There is a postage and handling charge

of \$1.00 per inquiry per Library department (non-U.S. requests are billed actual postage costs). Materials from more than one department may be necessary to answer inquiries. Do not send payment with your order; we prefer to bill you. We cannot make refunds or keep accounts for our customers. Questions will be answered in the order in which they are received.

The St. Louis Public Library's website, with our online catalog, events calendar, special indexes for St. Louis historical and biographical materials, an index of selected *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* newspaper obituaries, death notices, and burial permits, and an archive of past issues of this newsletter is located at [www.slpl.org](http://www.slpl.org).

