

VAN BUREN REGIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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Nov. 2024
Vol. XXXVIII

Van Buren ECHOES

Van Buren Regional Genealogical Society Genealogy Room
at the
Arthur & Bonna Vanderlyn Community Center
Hartford Public Library
12 Church St., Hartford, Michigan 49057
269-588-5103

2022 - 2025 Board of Directors

President - Joyce Beedie
Vice-President -
Patsy Miller
Secretary - Bonnie Pardike
Treasurer - Joyce Beedie
Director - Kay Gray
Director - Lynn Martin
Director - Ron Jillson

From the President

Dear VBRGS Members and Friends,

If you are living locally or planning a visit to southwest Michigan in the coming months, I hope you find time to visit with us at the Hartford Public Library. I wish to remind you that the family and history collection focuses primarily on the counties of Allegan, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren in Michigan but has many resources for the other counties of Michigan as well as for other states and countries. Our book inventory is found online in the Library's catalog and our manuscript collection is inventoried in-house. Our online resources available in the Genealogy Room include Ancestry.com, Fold3, Newspapers.com, FamilySearch.org (Affiliate Library Member) and AmericanAncestors.org.

Our Berrien County resources grew in 2021 with the donation from the Berrien County Genealogical Society. They chose the VBRGS to house their collection and we greatly appreciate this addition. The BCGS began 50 years ago and continues to support genealogists, encourage genealogy studies and offers educational programs for genealogists. If you wish to know more visit www.bcgensoc.com.

Happy Hunting and Happy Holidays, Joyce Beedie

See page 4 for additional resources and research ideas.

UPDATE FROM THE VBRGS BOARD

In June of 2025 the society will hold elections for the board members who will lead us for the next three years. The VBRGS and the Genealogy Room exist only through the strong leadership and dedication of our Board of Directors. The next board meeting will be Monday, November 11th at the library beginning at 3 pm. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

**LIBRARY and VBRGS
GENEALOGY ROOM HOURS**
MONDAY 10-7
TUESDAY 10-5
WEDNESDAY 10-7
THURSDAY 10-5
FRIDAY 10-5
SATURDAY 10-2

The VBRGS Genealogy Room is open during all regular hours of the library and welcomes all those interested in family or local history as well as casual browsers. Our volunteers are on staff to offer assistance and look forward to sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm. Contact us by phone or email if remote assistance would be preferred.

VBRGS PROGRAM EVENTS ARE HELD AT THE HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Our Program Year has ended. The next program event will be on Saturday, March 15th. See the February 2025 issue of the ECHOES for the schedule of planned topics and presenters.

Our events are free and open to the public.
No reservation is required.

The library opens at 10am and closes at 2pm on Saturdays. You are welcome to do research or browse the genealogy collection. Volunteers are available to assist.

CHRISTMAS IN HARTFORD

Celebrate the holidays at the Hartford Public Library on Saturday, December 14th beginning at 5 pm. The library will have family activities and a visit from Santa will follow the Christmas parade which begins at 6pm. The library will be open for those staying in town to view the Red Arrow Hwy Truck Parade that should pass through Hartford that evening about 8 - 8:30.

Researching Veteran Records and Honoring Their Service

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans>

The screenshot shows the National Archives website's "Veterans' Service Records" page. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for "Blogs", "Bookmark/Share", and "Contact Us". Below the search bar is a horizontal menu with five categories: "RESEARCH OUR RECORDS", "VETERANS' SERVICE RECORDS" (highlighted in green), "EDUCATOR RESOURCES", "VISIT US", and "AMERICA'S FOUNDING DOCUMENTS". The main heading is "Veterans' Service Records" with a breadcrumb "Home > Veterans' Service Records". The page is divided into several sections:

- Request Military Service Records:** Includes a mouse icon and a list of links: "Request Service Records Online, by Mail, or by Fax", "More ways to get service records", "Request Medical and Health Records", "Check the Status of an Existing Request", "Recently separated veteran?", and "Funeral Home Director Information Page".
- Research Using Military Records:** Includes a magnifying glass icon and a list of links: "What's available online?", "Locate older (pre-WW I) military service records", "Using military records for genealogical research", "Other military and veterans records", and "Learn about military service records (e.g. DD Form 214)".
- Replace Lost Medals and Awards:** Includes an image of military medals and the text "Learn how to replace lost medals and awards".
- Browse WWII Photos:** Includes an image of a soldier and the text "View a sample of our extensive collection of photographs from World War II".
- News and Notices:** Includes a section for "Natural Disaster Requests" with detailed instructions and a "Need Help?" section with links to "Online Requests/eVetRecs Problems", "Need Immediate Assistance", "Military Personnel Records, FAQ (Includes DD 214/ Separation Documents, Personnel Records, and/or Medical Records)", "More FAQs", and "Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Information Page".

Congratulations to Our Members Judy Halseth and Bob Cooley

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Region IV Area Agency on Aging the organization is honoring members of the community. Their *50 Over 60* campaign is recognizing those for their motivation and positive impact. The VBRGS is proud to announce that Judith H. Halseth and Robert Cooley, both long-standing life members of our society, were chosen for this honor. We offer them our congratulations and thank Judy and Bob for their many contributions to our organization.

"Bob Cooley is making a difference in our community and deserves high recognition. Over the years he has volunteered at the Cancer Center and volunteered his time fixing cemetery headstones and creating directories so that visitors can locate their loved ones. He has volunteered at public parks and the soup kitchen and has purchased groceries and other items to donate to the women's shelter. He also helps the Lions Club with an annual car show. After his wife passed away, he donated items and continued visiting Stately Living. He does so generously with no expectation of acknowledgement or thank you."

"Judith Halseth spent her career as a professor of social work at Western Michigan University and has continued to teach, serve and impact her community in her retirement. She has a passion for genealogy and has shared that passion with others by teaching genealogy courses. She also serves as the vice president of the Van Buren County Domestic Violence Coalition and is an active member of her church and sings in the choir."

Alexandra Newman, Generations (*The Herald-Palladium, Benton Harbor, MI*)

Double Cousins in Your Family Tree

If you thought trying to figure familial relationships wasn't complicated enough an article in the current Jackson County Genealogical Society Newsletter offered this explanation for the term Double Cousins.

"Have you ever heard of DOUBLE COUSINS? Double Cousins are cousins that share BOTH sets of grandparents, not just one as is usual for first cousins. This occurs when two sisters in one family marry brothers in another family. Or a brother and sister in one family marry a sister and brother in another family. The children of these two marriages are double cousins."

"Message Boards/Forums" Still Online

Not too many years ago "Message Boards" or "Forums" were the only online sources for genealogy queries. Surprisingly Genealogy.com., part of Ancestry.com, has old queries archived and available online. A subscription is not necessary. Searching a surname may be helpful to your research or uncover more unanswered questions. *Happy Hunting*

"VBRGS Southwest Michigan Genealogy" on Facebook

Our facebook page is a great forum for everything about family and local history. You do not have to be a VBRGS member to join with us. You are welcome to share queries, photos, events or other items of interest with genealogy friends. There are currently 399 facebook friends on our page please be our 400th facebook friend.

VBRGS COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

Membership - Bonnie Pardike
Michigan Genealogical Council Delegates - Patsy Miller and Joyce Beedie
Hospitality - Lynn Martin
Southwest Michigan Military Collection - Ron Jillson
National Genealogical Society Account Administrator - Joyce Beedie
Nominating Committee - Barb Bahm

Dear VBRGS Members and Friends

VBRGS memberships renew on June 1st and we ask for your continued support. If you are not currently a member we hope you would join us. Member dues and donations fund all the efforts of the society with our focus on enhancing the Genealogy collection, encouraging research and offering social opportunities that bring us together.

2024-2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Dues Renew on June 1st

RENEWAL _____ NEW MEMBER _____

New members joining in January thru May are members through May 31st of the next year.

Check one: Family Membership* \$20 _____ or Life Membership \$250 _____

If you wish to make an additional donation, we thank you.

Amount \$ _____ (VBRGS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization)

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact Number _____

Email Address _____ Date _____

*A family membership is considered one or two persons using the same address or an organization wishing to support our society.

Return this form and payment to the VBRGS at the Hartford Public Library
or mail to VBRGS, PO BOX 234, HARTFORD, MI 49057

From the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center, Genealogy Gems e-newsletter

---FamilySearch Digital [Library--www.familysearch.org/library/books](http://www.familysearch.org/library/books) Over 615,000 family and local history titles are available online for free use, some from the Genealogy Center.

---Internet Archive--archive.org
121,655 of the Genealogy Center's copyright-clear family and local history materials are part of the 3,947,410 resources from American libraries available online for free use

---Digital Public Library of America--dp.la
There are more than 50 million digital assets available on this site, a good number of them being in collections highlighting people in communities as well as digitized items from various states' digital libraries. CA, GA, MI, MN, IL, IN, NC, NY, OH, SC, TN, TX, WI, NJ/DE, CT and MD each have more than one hundred thousand assets on this platform.

---Many states have memory projects that include digitized newspapers. The majority of these newspapers are part of the aforementioned Chronicling America. However, it never hurts to compare search results between sites. Indiana's newspaper digitizing project is called Hoosier State Chronicles, with nearly 1.6 million newspaper pages from more than 186,000 issues at newspapers.library.in.gov.

Publishing Note

This electronic newsletter is published by the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center, and is intended to enlighten readers about genealogical research methods as well as inform them about the vast resources of the Allen County Public Library. We welcome the wide distribution of this newsletter and encourage readers to forward it to their friends and societies. All precautions have been made to avoid errors. However, the publisher does not assume any liability to any party for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions, no matter the cause.

To subscribe to "Genealogy Gems," simply use your browser to go to the website: www.GenealogyCenter.org. Scroll to the bottom, click on E-zine, and fill out the form. You will be notified with a confirmation email.

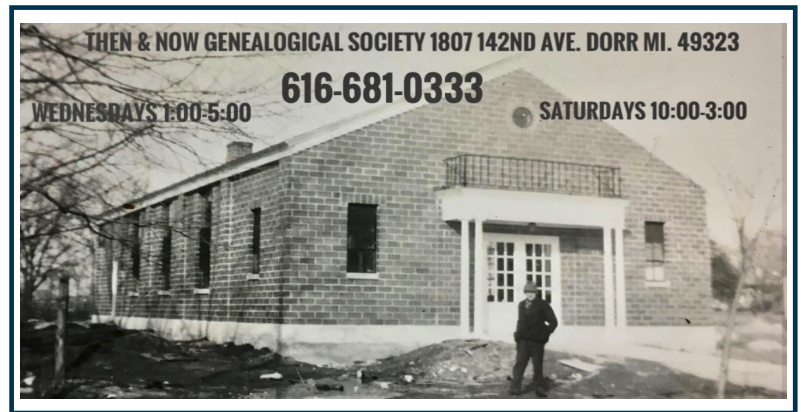
Curt B. Witcher and John D. Beatty, CG, co-editors

Best Collection for Allegan Co. Research

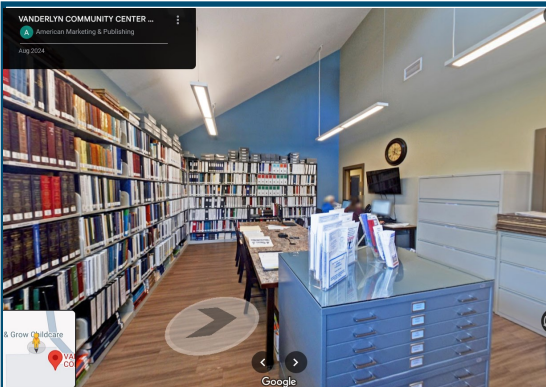


Hopkins, formerly known as Hopkins Station, Hopkins Township, Allegan Co., MI, that was named after Stephen Hopkins, who was a founding father of the United States and a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Water Street, 1888

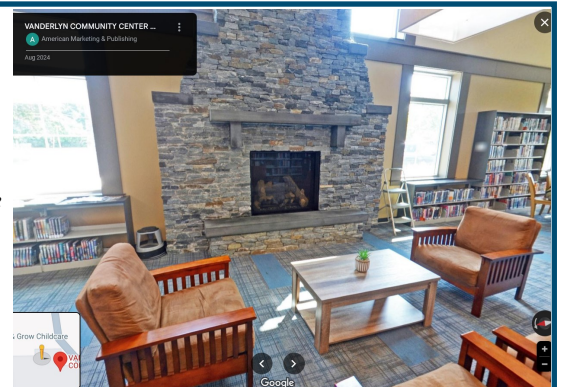


Contact the library to verify hours as winter hours may apply.



Find Us On Google

Professional photographs of the exterior and interior of the Vanderlyn Community Center are now on Google Maps and Images. They highlight the public areas of the building including the VBRGS Genealogy Room.



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