

SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO START YOUR FAMILY RESEARCH

1. Start with yourself. Use a pedigree chart and a family group sheet to record your family names. If you are married make out a form for the husband's family and the wife's. Use their full names put nicknames in parentheses.
2. Be consistent in how you record names. Write every name in full. For example "John William Smith" or "SMITH, John William". All female names should be recorded by their maiden names.
3. Never use numbers when recording months. The least confusing method is day first, followed by the month abbreviated to three letters, then the year in full. Example: 25 JAN 1884. (Abbreviating dates, years etc. can lead to confusion is '88 the year 1988, 1888, etc.)

WHERE TO GET YOUR INFORMATION

1. Talk to your family. Parents, aunts, uncles, cousins etc. Other sources at home are family Bibles, scrapbooks, photo albums, letters, and newspaper clippings.
2. Go to your public library. You can get a wealth of information there. Search the census records, obituary files, military records, city directories, old phone books and last but not least the internet. Don't be afraid to ask the librarians for help.

The most important step is to have fun!

ALVAH N. BELDING MEMORIAL LIBRARY



302 E. Main Street
Belding, MI 48809
(616) 794-1450

For help, email beldinglibrary@gmail.com

Hours

Monday & Wednesday
9 am – 8 pm
Tuesday & Thursday
9 am–5 pm
Friday
9 am–5 pm
Saturday
9 am - 1 pm

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GENEALOGY GROUPS

There are several groups that meet in person in the Belding, Greenville, Ionia County area. Check on Facebook for groups, or check with the local libraries to see what they have to offer.

HELPFUL GENEALOGY WEBSITES

Check out these FREE genealogy websites to help with your research. Great for finding vital records, census, obits, and much more.

www.familysearch.org	Ancestry Library Edition (at library)
www.usgenweb.com	www.findagrave.com
www.michiganology.org	Clarke Historical Library
www.commoncorners.com	www.flatriverlibrary.org (for Montcalm County newspaper access, and more).
www.wmgs.org	www.cyndislist.com
www.stevemorse.org	www.chronoliclingamerica.loc.gov
www.nara.gov	www.mel.org
www.dar.org	www.familytreedna.com

LOCAL FAMILY HISTORIES

Discover our collection of local family history genealogies on shelf for the following surnames:

ALLEN
ANTCLIFFE
BABCOCK
BELDEN
BELDING
BENNETT
BERRY
BLAUGH/BLOUGH
BOON
BRAYMAN
BREIMAYER
BURBANK
CLARK
CHAPIN
CURRIE
DICKINSON
DORR
DUNNEBACKE
EDGERLY
EASTBROOK
GASS
GREENHOP
HARRINGTON
HEALD
HENDRICK
HOOVER
HOPPOUGH
KILBORN
LEHMAN

LOCKE
LOFTIS
MILLER
MOORE
OTIS
PALMER
PANGBOURN
PLATTE
POWELL
PURDY
RUSKO
SCHNABEL
SHEEHY
SHERWOOD
SPENCER
STULIS
THOME
TOWNSEND
VANSYOC
WINSLOW
WOOLRIDGE
WORDEN
YORK



LOCAL AREA NEWSPAPERS ONLINE

Did you know that the Belding newspapers are available online in digital format to search? Chronicling America, a newspaper project from the Library of Congress has them available here:

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn96076641/> (YEARS 1889-1918)

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn96076642/> (YEARS 1918-1923)



The **GREENVILLE INDEPENDENT** and **GREENVILLE DAILY NEWS** 1856-2010 is searchable on the Flat River Community Library website here: <http://www.flatriverlibrary.org>

AVAILABLE ON MICROFILM

Belding Newspapers 1879 to 1979 (online through Chronicling America)

Greenville Daily News

Ionia County cemetery records to 1976, Indexed

Montcalm County—Miscellaneous

Montcalm, Ionia & Kent Counties—Miscellaneous

Index to marriage records for Ionia County, 1837-1974

Index to death records for Ionia County, 1867 to early 1974.

(also contains book A)

US census of Ionia, Kent, Montcalm and other Michigan counties

US census of Lorain County, Ohio, 1850

US census of New York, North Carolina and Pennsylvania, 1790

US census Boyd County, Kentucky 1900 & 1910

US census Boone, Bourbon & Boyd Counties, Kentucky 1920

Greenup County, Kentucky 1900 & 1910

Lawrence County, Ohio 1900 & 1910

New York ships passenger lists, 1849—1859, 1897-1920

Ionia County Poor Commission, record of inmates, poor farm residents, 1875-1943

Plat maps of Ionia County 1875, 1891, 1906, 1929, 1930

Military records of Revolutionary War (3 rolls)

LOCAL GENEALOGY RESOURCES

(Belding, Ionia County, and neighboring areas.)

- ◆ Obituary notices from local newspapers to 1879
- ◆ Over 150 city directories and phone books, back to 1872
- ◆ Plat maps of Ionia County for 1875, 1891 and 1906
- ◆ Plat maps of Kent County for 1876, 1894 and 1907
- ◆ Internet access available for genealogy research, Ancestry Library Edition
- ◆ Belding Certificates of Death 1921—1966, indexed
- ◆ Scrapbook of local papers with index
- ◆ Notebook of obituaries dating back to 1888 (Indexed in red folder)
- ◆ List of Soldiers Buried in area Michigan Cemeteries
- ◆ Service men in the Civil War—Illinois, Michigan, New York & Ohio

Belding Historical Items

LOCAL HISTORY AND PICTURE FILES

(Ask for assistance at circulation desk)

Assessor's Bond Book

Assessment Roll, 1885, Otisco Twp. (Indexed)

Atlas of the world 1892

Belding Home News June 19, 1879-Dec. 18, 1899

Belding City Charter

Belding News Nov. 1976-Feb. 1977

Descriptive Book-Grand Army of the Republic-Dan S. Root Post #126

Ernie Leach Family Photos

Clippings of poems from old newspapers (Blue Book)

Health Officer's Record of Dangerous Diseases

Grand Rapids Press Nov. 18, 1918

Letters & diary of Jake Darling. Death certificate of Alma Darling & letters to Mae Darling

Picture Album-Fortuna Lodge No. 120 Knights of Pythias 1895

School examiners & teachers notes 1891-1897

Scrapbook of Mary E. Corville

Scrapbook of Thruza Duryea, silk mills, local items, Belding history, library, stories

Scrapbook Historical Highlights of Extruded Metals 1938-end of WWII

Scrapbook Judge Laphonis 1943-1944

Teachers Daily Register March 1889-1894 (Green Book)

Teachers Daily Register (Marble School) 1895-1900

LOCAL GENEALOGY RESOURCES BY TYPE

CEMETERY

R(G)393 Cem The Cemetery Record Compendium
R(G)393 Mic Michigan Cemetery Compendium
R(G)393 Mic Michigan Cemetery Atlas
R(G)929.577453 Ind Michigan Cemetery master File Index—Montcalm County
R(G)929.577454 Ind Ionia County Michigan Cemetery Record Index
Black Binder Ionia County Cemetery Maps & Sexton
R(G)977.455 Cur The Old Belding Cemetery
R(G)977.455 DeJ If These Oaks Could Only Speak Vol. 1 & 2
(Oakwood Cemetery)
R(G)977.455 DeJ Oakwood Cemetery Third Historical Walk
NOTEBOOKS Montcalm County Cemeteries and Index
R(G)977.5 Car Your Guide to Cemetery Research
R(G)929.5 Lib Michigan Cemetery Atlas & Michigan Cemetery Source Book

MILITARY

R(G)355 Joh How to locate anyone who is or has been in the Military
R(G)355.37 Mic Michigan's early military forces
R(G)977.4 Rec Record of First Michigan Colored Infantry, Civil War, 1861-1865. (volume 46 of next record)
R(G)977.4 Rec Records of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 46 volumes, indexed
R(G)977.4 Sil Michigan Military Records
R(G)977.4 Sli Record of First Regiment Michigan Engineers & Mechanics
R(G)951.9042 Kor The Korean Conflict
R(G)940.3 Sch The Great War
R(G)977.453 Wor World War II History of Greenville, MI
R(G)977.4 Alp Michigan Soldiers and Sailors who served in the Civil War, indexed. (at Desk)
R(G)973.7 Rol Roll of Honor, 10 volumes indexed. (Burials of Union Soldiers who died during the Civil War)
R(G)929 Dil Canada West (Ontario) Census Index, 1848 & 1850
R(G)929 Tax York County Tax List
R(G)929.3 Mil Military Service Records
R(G)929.3774 Wor World War II honor list of dead & missing
R(G)929.37 Dil 1890 Michigan Census Index of Civil War Veterans or their Widows

VITAL RECORDS

Red Folder History of Kent County Index
Blue Binders Index to Death Records Montcalm County 2 vols.
Red Binder Index to Marriage Records Montcalm County

DIRECTORIES

R(G)282 Off Official Catholic Directory & Supplement
R(G)910.3 Gra Grand Rapids City Directory 1985
R(G)977.454 Pol Polk Directories

LOCAL HISTORIES

R(G)977.454 Bra History of Ionia County by Branch, indexed
R(G)929.2 Ion Family Histories of Ionia County, Michigan
R(G)977.454 Por History of Ionia & Montcalm Counties by Schenk, indexed
R(G)977.454 Por Portrait and Biographical album of Iona & Montcalm Counties, indexed
R(G)977.455 His History of Kent County, 1881, published by Chapman Bros., indexed
R(G)977.456 Dil History & Directory of Ionia County (Dillenbeck)
R(G)977.453 Das History of Montcalm County by Dasef. Vol. 1 indexed
R(G)977.453 Ras Pioneer life in the Big Dane Settlement
R(G)977.453 Sch Index of Persons in Montcalm County 1881 by Schenck
R(G)977.4 Ill Illustrated Historical Atlas of Ottawa & Kent Counties of Michigan
R(G)977.4 Mil Michigan Atlases & Plat Books
R(G)977.402 How HUBB (Hubbardston) Genealogy 1780-1930
R(G)977.415 Whi Whispering Sands: History of Port Sheldon
R(G)977.421 Coldwater State School
R(G)977.429 Ind Portrait and Biographical Album of Hillsdale County, 1888, indexed
R(G)977.4 Michigan Pioneer & Historical Collection, 38 vol. 1-30 indexed
R(G)912.77455 Eig Kent County Plat Map 1855

CENSUS

R(G)317.74 Eig 1830 Federal Census: Territory of Michigan
R(G)317.74 Ind Index to Federal Population Census of Michigan 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870 for Ionia & Kent Counties
R(G)317.74 Mic 1870 Michigan Census Index 10 vols.
R(G)317.74 Uni United States Census Key 1850, 1860, 1870
R(G)317.7438 Oak Index to State Population Census of Oakland County 1845
R(G)317.7453 Mon ndex to State Census—Montcalm County 1884 & 1894
R(G)317.7453 Mon ndex to Federal population census of Montcalm County 1850—1900
R(G)317.7454 Mic Index 1860 Federal Census Ionia County
R(G)317.7455 Ind Index to 1850 Federal Census Kent County
R(G)317.7455 Ken Kent County Michigan Census Index & Heads of Family in Federal Census
R(G)911.73 Map Map Guide to the US Federal Censuses, 1790-1920
R(G)929 Agll AGLL Canadian Census Listings, 1666-1891
R(G)929.1029 Szu Finding answers in US Census Records