



45th ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MONROE COUNTY, MI
SATURDAY May 10, 2025
at the Monroe County Community College
Featuring Adam Oster & Jeff Mason

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Registration and Welcome (coffee and donuts)

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Yearbooks, Alumni Lists, and Other School Related Records

These records can be rich in details about the people in your family tree. Discover the activities and clubs that ancestors participated in during their school years. Learn to uncover details about both your family members and the communities they lived in. Explore the ways of finding these valuable resources both in-print and online.

10:00 am – 10:30 am

Break

10:30 am – 11:30 am

Michigan County Poor Farms

Long before the advent of modern social welfare, county governments in Michigan maintained poorhouses or poor farms. Explore the early history of these facilities in their attempts to become both self-sustaining entities and refuges for a county's poor, elderly and destitute. Discover the lives and stories of those that resided at these poor farms. Learn about their transition to serving individuals with chronic illnesses and what eventually led to many of them shutting down in the later part of the 20th Century.

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Lunch (the Big Jerrowski food truck will be on-site)



1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Breaking Down Brick Walls & Reviving Dead Ends

This lecture will include lists of records and general pathways and strategies for locating hard to find ancestors. There is also a case study that utilizes these records and employs the general strategies. There will be some Q&A time for me to field questions from the audience.

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Break

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Death & Taxes - 2 Things You Cannot Afford to Miss - A Genealogical Perspective

This course focuses on records that are normally found at a county courthouse, with heavy emphasis on land records, tax records, and will and estate records. A comprehensive case study is presented, with some time allowed for questions from the audience.

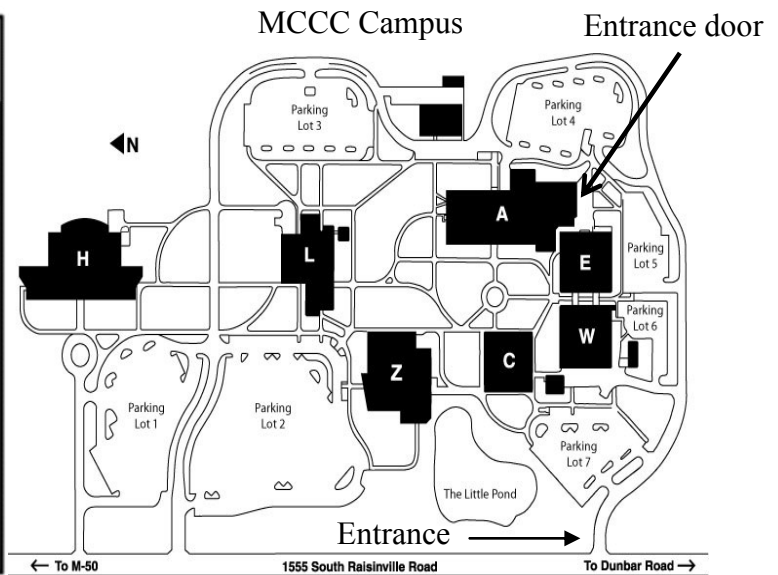
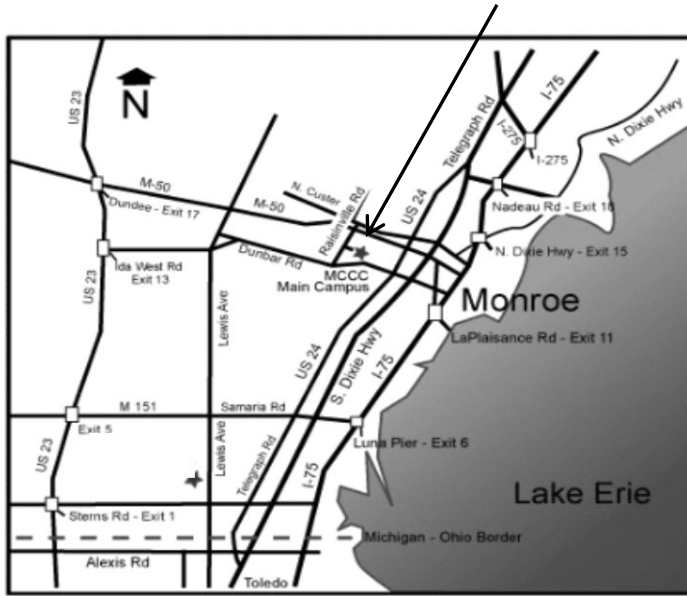
Bring your own lunch or visit the food truck/a local restaurant

Cost is \$30 if you register before April 26, 2025

\$40 for late registrations

VENDORS — DOOR PRIZES

MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
AUDREY M. WARRICK ADMINISTRATION & STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING
1555 SOUTH RAISINVILLE ROAD, MONROE, MI 48161



Mail this registration form (1 for each person attending) and registration fee (in \$US) made out to GSMC, to: Rick Grassley, 641 Godfroy Ave, Monroe, MI 48162-2731

If you have questions, please e-mail gsmcmi@gsmcmi.org.

Please print legibly:

Name _____ **Phone** (____) _____ - _____

Address _____ **E-Mail*** _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____ - _____

Registrations received by April 26th will be included in the Surname Index. Please PRINT no more than 4 surnames.

1 _____ **2** _____

3 _____ **4** _____

Do you plan to visit the food truck? ☐

Registration fee is \$30 for those registering by April 26th, \$40 for late registrations.

NO REFUNDS AFTER April 26, 2025.

Adam Oster is the Community Engagement Librarian for the Library of Michigan. Adam holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Grand Valley State University with a minor in Political Science and Secondary Education Certification. He also has a Master of Library Science degree from Indiana University. Adam's interests include genealogy and local history research.

Jeff Mason has worked as a CPA in Lansing for 32 years and presently works for the accounting firm of Maner Costerisan as a Senior Tax Manager. He has been an active genealogist for the last 49 years, doing extensive research in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. He has also performed extensive research of records in England & Wales, as his English research has taken him to the former Family History Centre in London, the Society of Genealogists in London, the Worcestershire County Records office, and visits to ancestral hometowns in rural England. Jeff is a contributor to the Find-A-Grave project, is responsible for requiring his daughter to hold membership in the DAR, is the administrator and co-founder of the Nason Family DNA project through FamilyTreeDNA.com, and for the last 14 years a frequent speaker at genealogical and historical societies throughout Michigan.

**e-mail addresses are not shared; we only use them to contact you, if needed, regarding your registration.*