Hartford Public Library Newsletter

September 2024

Hartford Public Library

12 Church St. P.O. Box 8 Hartford, MI 49057

(269)588 - 5103

Fax (269)621-3073 hartfordlib@yahoo.com www.hartfordol.michlibrary.org

Hours

Mon. & Wed. 10am-7pm

Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 10am—5pm

Sat. 10am-2pm

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Summer Reading 2024

Sixty Children completed the Summer Reading 2024 Program at the Hartford Public Library. The theme was "Adventure Begins At Your Library". We introduced a new program this summer, "Cooking with Families". This was a 6-week cooking program sponsored by Michigan University Extension program.

Children and parents were able to create healthy snacks at each session. Children learned the

basics of food hygiene, cutting and peeling different kinds of fruit and vegetables. We had such a wonderful response that we had to divide into two sessions: 1:30pm to 2:30pm



and 2:30pm to 3:30pm. Krystal Avila was our instructor. She did a wonderful job with the children and parents. All food was provided for each session. They made parfaits, no bake cookies, fruit and hummus, pancakes, fruit and vegetable skewers.

We hosted the middle school summer school students at the library for several weeks with different activities every Tuesday at noon. We had activities for children every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 2pm such as fossil making, rock painting, sea shell sculptures and more. The summer program ended with a field trip to the Potawatomi zoo.

Director's Corner

Hartford Public Library has been selected as one of 310 libraries to participate in round two of Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an American Library Association initiative that provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities. The competitive award comes with a \$10,000 grant that enabled the Hartford Public Library to install electronic door openers at the main entrance door and at the north entrance door.

We are so proud to be chosen for this amazing opportunity. This grant will allow our library to get to know our residents with disabilities better. It will help improve our services to ensure our population feels welcome and comfortable in our space. The total cost for the electronic doors is \$14,641.00. The grant is \$10,000 so the library had to fund the remaining \$4,641.00 from our general fund. We are always grateful for any donation to the library to help with the cost.



HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

12 Church P.O. Box 8 Hartford, MI 49057

Tel: 269-588-5103 Fax: 269-621-3073

E-mail: hartfordlib@yahoo.com







We're on the web:

www.hartfordpl.michlibrary.org

LOOK WHAT IS FREE AT YOUR LIBRARY!

You can access some of these free services through links on our website: www.hartfordpl.michlibrary.org

Instantly borrow free digital movies, music, eBooks and more, 24/7 with your library card.



Borrow eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, and more from your local library for free! Libby is the newer library reading app by OverDrive, loved by millions of readers worldwide!



The Inter-Library Loan is referred to as MeLCat. It is a statewide network of Michigan libraries sharing books, DVDs, music and more with each other. Patrons can submit requests at the local Library or through their own computer with "MeLCat" or mel.org.



Follow the link on our website to search the "Hartford Day Spring Newspaper" 1887-1972. Find obituaries and old news articles from the past. Enjoy a trip down memory lane or learn more about the history of our area.

All are welcome to the computer lab at Hartford Public Library. We have 16 public access computers. It is free to use the computers and they are open to the public. Children under 18 years old will need a signed parent permission slip to use our computers. All of

our computers have printing capabilities. There is a fee for printing from the computers: 20¢ for black and white and 50¢ for color. You can ask a librarian for a list of current internet policies.



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is a free program which encourages you to read 1,000 books with your child before they start kindergarten. The concept is simple, the rewards are priceless. Read a book (any book) to your newborn, infant, and/or toddler. The goal is to have read 1,000 books (yes you can repeat books) before your precious one starts kindergarten. Does it sound hard? Not really if you think about it. If you read just 1 book a night, you will have read about 365 books

in a year. That is 730 books in two years and 1,095 books in three years. If you consider that most children start kindergarten at around 5 years of age, you have more time than you think. So let's get started!

Book Club

The Hartford Book Club meets the third Wed. of the month at 2PM. The Sci/Fi/Fantasy Book Club meets the third Thurs. of the month at 5pm. If you are interested in participating in a book club, please notify the staff and the book will be supplied through Mel Cat for your use.

Upcoming Books for Fall/Winter 2024

Book Club

Sept. 18th

Lessons in Chemistry By Bonnie Garmus

Oct. 16th

The Paper Palace By Miranda Cowley Heller

Nov. 20th

Then She Was Gone By Lisa Jewell

Dec. 18th

Violeta

By Isabel Allende

Sci/Fi Fantasy Book Club

September 19th

The Spear Cuts Through Water By Simon Jimenez

October 17th

On Basilisk Station By David Weber

November 21st

The Forgotten Beasts of Eld By Patricia A. McKillip

December 19th

The Stardust Grail

By Yume Kitasei

Hartford Public Library Board of Directors

The Hartford Library Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM at the Library. Board meetings are open to the public.

President - James Jonatzke Vice-President - Faith Dowd Secretary - Linda Hadley

Treasurer - Ellen Friday Trustee - Anne Blocker Trustee - Pam Bench

The Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Hartford

Public Library hold their meetings

the last Tuesday of each month,

except for January & December.

The meetings are held in the

library at 4:00PM.

Everyone is welcome to join!

For more information please visit

our website:

www.hartfordpl.michlibrary.org

DID YOU KNOW?

The library provides many services for the community.

- *Books and other materials
- *DVD Movie Club
- *12 Public Access Computers *Wi-Fi (wireless internet)
- *Children's programs
- *Book Club
- *Copies (20¢ for black and white 50¢ color)
- *Faxes (\$1.00 for first page and 50¢ for each additional page. Fifty cents per page for incoming faxes.)
- *Free music and book downloads
- *MEL: An inter-loan library service *Laptop lending
- *Hotspot lending *Tablet lending



September					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Labor Day Library Closed	3	4 Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	5	6 Lego Build 3pm- 4:30pm	7
9 FOTL Bingo @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	10 Library Board Meeting 7pm	11 Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	12 Crochet & Knitting Club 2pm-3pm	13 Lego Build 3pm- 4:30pm	14
16 FOTL Bingo @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	17	18 Book Club @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	19 Family Links Play Group @ 11am Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club @ 5pm	20 Lego Build 3pm- 4:30pm	21 VBRGS Program at 11am Genealogy and Technology
23 FOTL Bingo @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	24 Friends of the Library Meeting @ 4pm	25 Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	26 Back To School Ice Cream Sundaes & Crafts 1pm-4pm Crochet & Knitting Club 2pm-3pm	27 Lego Build 3pm- 4:30pm	28
30 FOTL Bingo @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm		He	CLA ***		

October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	3	4 Lego Build 3pm- 4:30pm	5
7 FOTL Bingo @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	8 Library Board Meeting 7pm	9 Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	10 Crochet & Knitting Club 2pm-3pm Coffee & Canvas 6pm-8pm	11 Lego Build 3pm- 4:30pm	12
14 FOTL Bingo @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	15	16 Book Club @ 2pm Halloween Crafts 2pm-3pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	17 The Great Apple Crunch 10am-4:30pm Family Links Play Group @ 11am Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club @ 5pm	18 Lego Build 3pm- 4:30pm	19 VBRGS Program @ 11am Digging Up Your Ancestors
21 FOTL Bingo @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	22	23 Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	24 Crochet & Knitting Club 2pm-3pm	25 Lego Build 3pm- 4:30pm	26 HPL Halloween Carnival 2pm-4pm
28 FOTL Bingo @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	29 Friends of the Library Meeting @ 4pm	30 Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	31	Нац Нац На	ppy Ween

		Nover	nber		
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Happy &	Thanksgir	ring	1 Lego Build 3pm- 4:30pm	2
4 NO BINGO OR CARDIO DRUMMING	5 General Election	6 Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	7	8 Lego Build 3pm- 4:30pm	9 Holiday Bazaar @ HPS 9am-3pm Library Closed
11 FOTL Bingo @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	12 Library Board Meeting 7pm	13 Holiday Crafts 2pm- 3pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	14 Crochet & Knitting Club 2pm-3pm	15 Lego Build 3pm- 4:30pm	16
18 FOTL Bingo @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	19	20 Book Club @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	21 Family Links Play Group @ 11am Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club @ 5pm	22 Lego Build 3pm- 4:30pm	23
25 FOTL Bingo @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	26 Friends of the Library Meeting @ 4pm	27 Library Closes @ 3pm	28 Library Closed Happy Thanksgiving	29 Lego Build & Crafts 1pm-3pm	30
	MERRY CHRISTMA	Decem	ber	merce	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 FOTL Bingo @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	3	4 Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	5	6 Lego Build 3pm- 4:30pm	7
9 FOTL Bingo @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	10 Library Board Meeting 7pm	11 Gingerbread House Program 3:30pm-5pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	12 Crochet & Knitting Club 2pm-3pm	13 Lego Build 3pm- 4:30pm	14 Christmas in Hartford 5PM @ HPL Parade starts at 6pm
16 FOTL Bingo @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	17	18 Book Club @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ 6pm	19 Family Links Play Group @ 11am Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club @ 5pm	20 Lego Build 3pm- 4:30pm	21
23 FOTL Bingo @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ Spm	24 Library Closed Merry Christmas!	25 Library Closed Merry Christmas!	26 Family Storytime 10:30am Family Craft 2pm-3pm Crochet & Knitting Club 2pm-3pm	27 Family Storytime 10:30am Free Family Movie "If" at 2pm	28
80 FOTL Bingo @ 2pm Cardio Drumming @ Spm	31 Library Holiday Hours 10am-3pm	Jan. 1, 2025 Library Closed Happy New Year!	2 Family Storytime 10:30am Internet Scavenger Hunt 2pm-3pm	3 Family Storytime 10:30am Movie "Kung Fu Panda 4" at 2pm	4

VAN BUREN REGIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 234
HARTFORD, MI 49057
Phone - 269-588-5103
Email - vbrgs@yahoo.com or vbrgs@vbrgs.org
Website - www.VBRGS.ORG
Facebook - VBRGS SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN GENEALOGY



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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

VBRGS PROGRAM EVENTS ARE HELD AT THE HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Saturday, Aug 17th
"The Railway Post Office"

Saturday, Sep 21st
"Genealogy and Technology"

Saturday, Oct 19th
"Digging Up Your Ancestors:
Genealogy in the Cemetery"

See page 2 for details

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 our collection.



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

From the President

I wish to acknowledge our member Jerry Anderson and thank him for chairing our Southwest Michigan Military Collection. He is a proud US Navy veteran and for the past 10 years has been seeking the names of our area veterans and chronicling their service. He has used many sources including contacts with veteran organizations, visits to military museums and local libraries, and searching publications. He added many veteran names to our collection and gave much of his time locating those service men and women who did not make it home. Jerry has decided to step aside as chair but will continue to be a contributor to this project. Again we thank Jerry for offering his time, talent, and passion to the VBRGS.

Ron Jillson, who is also a US Navy veteran, has graciously accepted to fill the position. Ron, also a US Navy veteran, has an extensive knowledge of our collection. He and his wife Kathy have been weekly hands-on volunteers in the Genealogy Room exclusively working on the military collection for 3+ years. Ron has been instrumental in developing new collection procedures, reviewing and organizing materials, and further researching veterans whose information in our collection was limited. Much of the indepth research is credited to Kathy. Ron and Kathy have been a great addition to our volunteer staff and we thank them both for their continued support.

Currently I am seeking someone to volunteer to view the websites of southwest Michigan funeral homes and print the obituaries, including a photo if available, of our passing veterans. This would be a word document that may be added to the collection. Our Genealogy Room volunteer Wynonia Mankowski has been working on this project but we need additional help. We have so many funeral homes in southwest Michigan and need others to lighten the load. This can easily be an at-home volunteer project. Please contact me if you would like more information.

Joyce Beedie

LIBRARY and VBRGS
GENEALOGY ROOM HOURS
MONDAY 10-7
TUESDAY 10-5
WEDNESDAY 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.

Men Of Illinois and E. H. Macoy

At one time thick books with long biographical sketches chronicling the lives of prominent men and expounding their vast accomplishments were written to chronicle their contributions to the area where they lived. These books usually have titles such as "Biographical Sketches and Portraits of Prominent Men...", but recently a book was discovered online, in full text, that had a different twist on that idea. This book was specifically published to offer professional portraits of prominent men, with only a small professional biography. Similar books may have been published for other states. The audience for this book would be newspapermen or magazine editors who needed a man's photo-

graph for their publication. Men of Illinois was compiled in 1902 by Halliday Witherspoon, a resident of Illinois who had a cottage in southwest Michigan between 1901 and 1908.

Portrait and entry for Eugene H. Macoy

MEN OF ILLINOIS, pg 477 **THEATRICAL** Eugene H. Macoy, Chicago Born May 4, 1857, Cambridge, Vt. Pres. of the National Printing and Engraving Co.; Prop. and Mgr. of the Alhambra, Academy and Bijou Theaters, Chgo.



Biography written by Joyce Beedie "Eugene Hartwell Macoy was president of the National Printing and Engraving Company in Chicago. In 1901 he contracted a new office and printing building for his company in Niles, MI and was speculating and purchasing farmland in Van Buren County. On one of these parcels, located on Three Mile

Lake in Paw Paw, Twp, he built a cottage where he began raising "Fighting Fowl". He also acquired a home in Niles for his wife Theresa Chambers Macoy, who he had married in 1881. He was an interesting character and very newsworthy. He attracted the attention of many of the southwestern Michigan newspapers who followed his career and later his exploits. They touted him as a great business man and a "20th Century Gentleman Farmer" who had great visions for farm production and the raising of animals. But in 1905 the newspapers turned their interest to Macoy's "double-life" and the legal drama taking place in a St. Joseph courtroom. At that time Mrs. Mary T. Hillyer Macoy was living in a hotel in St. Joseph where Macoy would do business and present Mary as his wife. Mary was unaware that he was already married. Upon learning of Macoy's double-life she separated herself from him and filed for a divorce. She claimed she was the common-law wife of Macov since 1899 and that it was an agreement made between them that helped to advance his welfare. Macoy's assets at that time were valued at over \$500,000 and his yearly income was \$50,000. Mary claimed that she had been left in enfeebled health and penniless. To defeat any effort Mary would make to force payment of alimony Macoy threatened to sell all his real and personal property. The court judge forced an injuction to tie up these assets. The final judgement is unknown. Eugene Hartwell Macoy died in Chicago on November 22, 1906 from a gastric ulcer at the age of 49 yrs. 6 mos. He is buried at Graceland Cemetery, Chicago, IL."

August, September and October Programs/Events



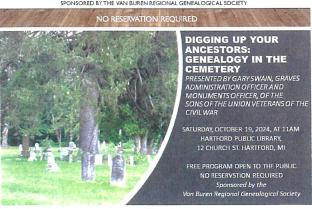
Presented by Mark Tomlonson

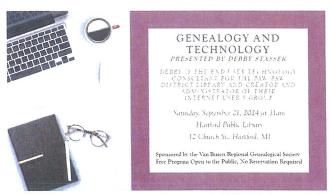
JOIN US FOR THIS FREE EVENT ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2024, ATTI AM HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY 12 CHURCH STREET, HARTFORD, MICHIGAN



The last Railway Post Office which operated between Central/Canrail made its final run on June 30, 1977.

SPONSORED BY THE VAN BUREN REGIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY





These are the last programs scheduled for 2024. The next scheduled program event will be Saturday, March 15th, 2025 at the Hartford Public Library.

Where to Begin Proving Your Native American Heritage

Recently a job fair was held at the library. Tribal members from the Four Wings Casino were in attendance and visited the Genealogy Room. During their visit we inquired as to how we can help a patron who believes they are of Native American heritage and are seeking to verify this information. We have learned that the popular DNA tests available are the first step in the process. If the results confirm one's suspicions of heritage then they have adequate documentation to approach the Tribe.

KPL's"Meader Historical Directory" Online at Internet Archive - Archive.org

The Meader Historical Directory was compiled during the 1930's and 1940's by Robert Meader. Contained within the 36 volumes are both biographical sketches and historical essays on people and organizations in Kalamazoo County. Included, are many photographs of the people and the buildings where organizations met. Within the

text, some dates have been blurred to provide privacy for those individuals still living. An unedited version of the text is available at the Kalamazoo Public Library.

Sarah Ann Eaton Tickner (1851-1942) was married to Frederick Tickner and moved to Kalamazoo County c1886. She was the last surviving member of a family of twenty-one children.

(Mr. Meader has recognized many woman within these volumes as well as military personnel.)

To view other KPL holdings at this website search Kalamazoo Public Library

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The couple mared to Dierezent, Cite, where they lived for an em years and then easel to Oristile, cite, and later to Lordan, Cite, and then to

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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

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

Property Deeds for Genealogy

Often the Genealogy Room volunteers are asked about finding land and home history. Our resources are limited but we do offer plat maps and access to old newspapers that are helpful. But they are not the best sources for our genealogy research. Plat maps were issued sporadically and do not show each consecutive owner and newspapers were only listing "Real Estate Transfers" as an entertainment and not as a legal obligation. The primary source for land ownership is found at the Register of Deeds office. This county office is the official recorder of land documents (instruments). The deed's primary purpose is to record ownership transfers of land. It is not to document the buildings on a property or the consideration paid in a transfer of ownership, although sometimes this information may be included. But just as a will can offer very interesting additional information about the deceased a land deed can offer surprising information as well. If it has been a while since you have used this resource, or you have never done so, it is worth the time to look online or to visit your county's Register of Deeds office and see how their digitizing efforts are progressing.

Researching land ownership can be a very interesting and entertaining journey. I have been spending the last six months intensely working on land ownership at Three Mile Lake, Paw Paw Twp, Van Buren County. and have visited the Van Buren County Recorder of Deeds office many times. Their records helped me follow the chain of property ownership so that I had names to look for in newspapers. Through newspapers I

have discovered Vaudevillian Actors, a "Fighting Fowl" enthusiast and breeder, the owner of the "National Printing and Engraving Company" in Niles, MI, a philanderer being sued by his girlfriend, miscellaneous court cases, family land disputes, tragic accidents, humorous happenings and much more all taking place at the lake over the past 180 years. I also found many items regarding Three Mile Lake properties for sale and advertisements for the lake's summer resorts in the newspapers well outside of southwest Michigan and those published in the surrounding states.

What I have read is sometimes better than any fiction book. Happy Ancestor Hunting, Joyce Beedie

New Acquisitions

Chicago Kiwanis Na-wa-kwa Camp (Camp Fire Girls, South Haven), postcard, "View of Ravine showing Na-wa-kwa Brook". Donated by Avon Stowers. She found this item in a treasure shop in Bonita Springs, FL.

This card has been digitized for our collection and the original has been donated to the Historical Society of South Haven. HASH is very appreciative of this donation.

The Hamiltons A Journey From Scotland to the East Coast of America and Beyond, Compiled by Joyce Ann Hamilton Damico and Fred Martin Hamilton in 2016. Donated by Fred M. Hamilton of Decatur, MI. This book is a wonderful edition to our Hamilton Collection that includes the works of John Hamilton as well as many photographs donated by our society member Judy Grime of Williamsburg, MI.



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To all to whom these Presents shall come

Lost on the Lady Elgin, 2nd Edition by Valerie van Heest. An updated edition to her previous book of the same name including additional findings and photographs. Purchased by VBRGS

Correspondence of Alta Hart and Gordon Grant of Lawrence, Michigan, Including Other Family Letters, 1920 - 1942, Compiled by David Doss. These letters were retrieved from an Antique store in Tecumseh, MI. Donated by David Doss of Allen Park, MI.

New World Immigrants, Vol. II by Tepper; Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques by Smith; The Source A Guidebook of American Genealogy by Ancestry; and The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy by Greenwood. Donated by Sue and Joe Pawlek of Portage, MI.

This Troubled Ground by Les Carroll. Carroll served in the Air Force and Air National Guard for 28 years and chronicles his years through two tours in Afghanistan and one tour at Dover Air Force Base. This adds to the many items in our collection that offer first-hand accounts of military service. Donated by Joyce Beedie, Paw Paw, MI.