Genealogy Research Policy

Manistee County Library maintains a collection of local history and genealogy materials that are available for use by the public on a walk-in basis. We can provide limited research assistance to individuals who are unable to visit the library in person. Genealogy inquiries must relate to Manistee County, Michigan. We have various yearbooks from local schools, city directories, plat books, and newspapers on microfilm dating back to 1871.

To help the process run smoothly, please ensure that your requests follow these guidelines:

- Requests should be **specific** in nature and must be for information from indexed, published sources or for known page numbers from a specific title. Please include only pertinent information that will aid our search.
  - Examples of acceptable requests:
    - Please locate John ALSTON, residing in Kaleva, Manistee County, in the 1900, 1910, and 1920 census. Wife Millie; children Anna, Bertha, and Carrie. John was born about 1875.
    - Can you locate an obituary for Phillip S. SILER, who died March 8, 1941 in Onekama? (Obituary requests should contain at least an approximate date. We can only search within a two-week window.)
    - Please check for burial information for John H. MEACHUM and wife Sarah J., who both died in 1923 in Manistee County.
  - Examples of **unacceptable** requests:
    - Do you have any information on the John ALSTON family of Manistee County?
    - I am trying to make the connection between MEACHUM and SILER families. Can you find any information that would indicate a connection?
    - My grandfather died in Bear Lake in the 1950s. Can you find his obituary?

- Requests are limited to no more than three (3) events or tasks at one time. Please refrain from submitting additional requests until we have responded to your previous question(s).
- Requests should include your name, email address, postal address, and phone number.

Our Staff does not conduct general genealogy research. We will be happy to direct you to some online genealogy resources.
We are unable to copy the contents of entire publications or files. We reserve the right to refuse a copying request if there is a concern it might violate copyright law.

Local History and Genealogy collection materials are not available through interlibrary loan.

The Library reserves the right to turn down requests from individuals attempting to use our genealogy services for monetary gain, or from patrons who use this service excessively.

Requests are answered in the order in which they are received. Please allow up to two (2) weeks for a response.

There is no charge for copies. A donation to Manistee County Library is always welcome but not required.

Email requests: reserves@manisteelibrary.org

Phone requests: Call (231) 723 - 2519. You may be asked to submit your inquiry in writing to ensure the accuracy of the information.

Mail requests:
Attn: Genealogy Inquiries
Manistee County Library
95 Maple Street
Manistee, MI 49660