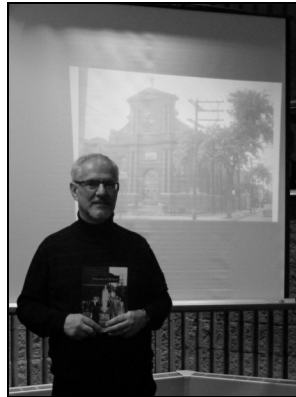




# NEWSLETTER

## Looking Back at January:

At the January meeting of the RHGS, Armando Delicato discussed the immigration of Italians to Detroit, why the Italians came, why they wanted to go back to Italy in many cases, and why the regional dialects of Italy sometimes resulted in separate neighborhoods in Detroit. Birds of passage were men who earned money here and then traveled back to Italy either to marry a woman from their old village and return to Detroit or to buy land and stay in Italy as land owners. Mr. Delicato emphasized the movement of the immigrants along Gratiot Avenue beginning in the Eastern Market area and moving northeastward to the Harper/Gratiot area and farther out after WWII. The later immigrants moved to all areas of metro Detroit. The population of Americans of Italian descent in this area is estimated to be from 250,000 to 400,000.



There are two Italian ethnic churches that remain in the area. Holy Family Church at Lafayette and the Chrysler Freeway service drive is in Detroit. San Francesco Church, originally at Rivard and Brewster streets, is now located off Metro Parkway near Gratiot Avenue in Clinton Township.

For those in the audience who did not previously know the history of Italian immigration to Detroit, it was a very informative evening.

## Program Dates

◆ *February 21st*

### *“Bloody Run Creek”*

Featuring:  
**Ron Rorah**

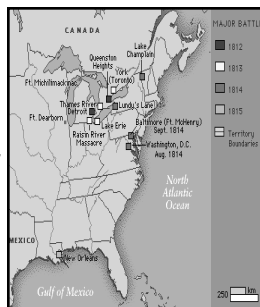
## Bloody Run Creek

The Roseville Historical and Genealogical Society will present Ron Rorah and his talk on the battle of "Bloody Run Creek." The topic is an exploration of Chief Pontiac's rebellion against the British during the War of 1812.

Mr. Rorah is a native of Roseville, MI. He has a 20 year history of involvement in the reenactment of the French and Indian War and the War of 1812.

The event takes place on Tuesday, February 21st at 6:30 pm in the Erin Auditorium.

The public is welcome and refreshments will be served.



*Programs are at 6:30 and are held in Erin Auditorium at the Roseville Public Library from September through June.*

*The library is located on Kelly one block south of Common Road, west of Gratiot and the Police Station. Programs are free and refreshments are served. For information, please call the library. 586-445-5407*

*If you have an interesting story or a memory that you would like to share, I would love to have it for an upcoming newsletter. Even if you don't write, please contact me, Phyllis Jones, so that you can tell the story and I will write it for you! Leave a note for me at the library or e-mail the RHGS at [rosevilleRHGS@gmail.com](mailto:rosevilleRHGS@gmail.com)*

## **Meet the RHGS Officers:**

### **PATRICIA CHOWNYK, PRESIDENT**

Pat Chownyk has had an interest in Roseville, since she was a wee child of two. That is when her parents and grandparents moved into Roseville, Michigan. Pat attended Sacred Heart School through the elementary grades. Sacred Heart did not have a high school at the time. She graduated from Eastland High School. Pat married Gene Chownyk at Sacred Heart Church. Gene had lived in Roseville since his family had moved into town when he was also very young. Both Pat and Gene are enthusiastic Roseville boosters and volunteers.

Pat became involved with the Roseville Historical & Genealogical Society when David Brown, the librarian/archivist, put out a call for people interested in forming an historical society. Rose Kollmorgen had suggested that such an organization be started. Pat has been busy with society activities ever since.

Some of Pat's other connections to the City of Roseville include serving on the library commission and working on elections.




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### **D. JANE MAY, VICE PRESIDENT**

Jane May became a member of the Roseville Historical & Genealogical Society because of her sister, Joanne Miller. Joanne knew Jack and Patti Knapman who were active members of RHGS.

Jane is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution by her family proving two direct blood line ancestors who fought in the American Revolution.

Jane has lived in Roseville for 55 years. In fact, her daughter and one son were born in Roseville.

Jane is an election worker for the city of Roseville. In addition to that involvement in the city, she has served on the Act 78 (police and fire) civil service commission for 23 years.



### **GROWING UP IN THE MACOMB GARDENS IN ROSEVILLE**

The January/February issue of the *Michigan History* magazine (on pages 12-13) has a story by Dorothy Elam whose parents moved to Roseville and the Macomb Gardens neighborhood in the late 1920's. The author tells of exploring the fields around their house. The article includes a photo of Dorothy with her seventh grade classmates. She was one of a few black students in that grade.

*(The Roseville Public Library subscribes to the Michigan History magazine which is shelved in the Michigan Room. )*

### **CLOSE TO HOME ACTIVITIES**

The Clinton Township Historical Commission has four videos of the Historical Village. The website is [www.ctwphc.org](http://www.ctwphc.org). Video #1 shows an item that Bette Jane Wogan donated to the historical commission. The Historical Village is at 40700 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Township 48038. If you are interested in the Greater Clinton Township Society newsletter, go to [gcthsnewsletter @ yahoo.com](mailto:gcthsnewsletter@yahoo.com) to ask for it or call (586) 263-7025.

The Detroit Historical Society ([www.detroithistorical.org](http://www.detroithistorical.org)) has an online game called "Building Detroit." Their website states: "Play our first online educational game! Assume the identity of Detroiters in several time periods and challenge them to make economic decisions by evaluating risk and reward." *(The game is something to do on a wet or cold day.)*

Also on the Detroit Historical Society's website is a Detroit River Watch web cam. Go down to the bottom of the society's main page and click on web cam. There may not be a lot of freighter traffic now that the Soo Locks are closed. However, you can view Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River upstream and downstream, and the Ambassador Bridge as well other locations near Belle Isle.

If you have Belgian ancestors or if you are interested in Belgium, go to the Leon Buyse Library in the American House. The library is maintained by the Genealogical Society of Flemish Americans, 18740 13 Mile Road, Roseville 48066. There are family histories and histories of Belgian towns as well as some census records of Belgian towns. On-line search is available in the library.

The library is open: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays  
10:30am to about 2:30pm

The society's website is [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gsfa](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~gsfa).



### **RESIGNATION OF BARBARA MIGLIO**

Barbara Miglio, who has been a member of the RHGS board since 2007, has resigned from the board due to an increasing number of other commitments. Barbara has made the gift baskets which are sold as fund raisers for the society. She also helped preserve local obituaries. Barbara has said that she will continue to support the activities of RHGS.

Thank you, Barbara, for your service in the past and for your continued service to the society.

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ROSEVILLE HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
29777 GRATIOT AVE  
ROSEVILLE, MI 48066

## Now accepting 2012 RHGS Membership Applications

Get an application at the Roseville Public Library (leaflet on the RHGS table) or go to the RHGS page on the Roseville Public Library Web site at <http://www.rosevillelibrary.org> for an application form.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.ROSEVILLELIBRARY.ORG/RHGS.HTM](http://WWW.ROSEVILLELIBRARY.ORG/RHGS.HTM)

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**RENEW NOW:** This is the LAST Notice before your newsletter subscription ends.....

### Local Events

**Saturday, February 11, 1-4pm**

Selinski-Green Farmhouse Museum  
Behind the St. Clair Shores Public Library, 22500 Eleven Mile Road  
48081  
Watch the demonstration of beeswax hand-dipped candle making.  
Some candles will be available to buy. Call (586) 771-9020 for more information.

**Saturday, February 11, 1-4pm**

Provencal-Weir House  
376 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms 48236  
La Belle's Country Store will be open in the Provencal-Weir House.  
Call (313) 884-7010 or go to [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) for more information.

**Sunday, February 19, 1-4pm**

Detroit Historical Museum  
Underground Railroad Family Day. Free.  
Make a signal lantern, decode an underground railroad message, or start a family tree. Call (313) 833-7934 or go to [www.detroithistorical.org](http://www.detroithistorical.org) for more information.

**Monday, March 12, 6:30pm**

Greater Clinton Township Historical Society  
Clinton-Macomb Library  
Detroit River Disasters and Great Lakes Losses discussed by Keith M. Steffke. Mr. Steffke has a website for those who are model ship-building fans – [www.Oldshipbuilder.com](http://www.Oldshipbuilder.com).

**Friday, March 30, and Saturday, March 31, 2012**

The Historical Society of Michigan  
Michigan in Perspective: Local History Conference  
South campus of Macomb Community College  
There will be a tour and reception at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House on Lakeshore in Grosse Pointe Shores. The current Michigan History magazine issue (January/February 2012) lists the contact information as [www.hsmichigan.org](http://www.hsmichigan.org) or (800) 692-1828. By late January the online registration will be up and running.