



NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Library of Michigan's Special Collections Manager Receives Prestigious William Filby Award for Genealogical Librarianship

(May 7, 2010) -- A tireless advocate for genealogists with Michigan ties, Lansing's Randy Riley has overseen the digitization and indexing of the 1870 Michigan Census, helped build the Library of Michigan's family history collection into one of the premier resources of its kind in the United States, and presented hundreds of workshops and programs for librarians, genealogists, and local historians. On April 30, 2010, Riley, Manager of Special Collections for the Library of Michigan, was recognized by the National Genealogical Society with the 2010 William Filby Award and \$1,000 for his significant contributions to the genealogical community.

"Librarians play such a crucial role for constituents at all stages of family history research," said Lynda Suffridge, Vice President and Chair of the NGS Awards Committee. "Randy's work certainly reflects the spirit of the Filby Award, which was created to honor librarians who have done the most to help us find our roots."

The Award has been sponsored by ProQuest since 2006. According to ProQuest Vice President of Publishing, Chris Cowan, "We're pleased to sponsor the Filby Award, honoring Randy Riley from the Library of Michigan. ProQuest is committed to connecting people to information and promoting the role librarians play in advancing genealogy research. Mr. Riley's accomplishments during his career exemplify excellence in librarianship in helping family history researchers."

Established in 1999, the Filby Award is named for the late P. William Filby, former director of the Maryland Historical Society and author of many core genealogical reference tools that genealogists have relied on for decades. It is presented to a librarian at a public, academic, or special library whose full-

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time primary focus is in genealogy and local history. Recipients meet the following criteria:

- Significant contributions to patron access to information, or to the preservation of historical records.
- Development of an imaginative reference tool or similar outstanding contribution of enduring consequence that fills the gaps in existing information, accuracy, scope or usefulness of genealogical and local history materials.
- Publication of a book or body of articles that have contributed significantly to the field of genealogy or local history and that are of interpretative nature.
- Other activities that have significantly advanced genealogy and local history.
- Work that has encouraged others to be innovative in the field.

Randy Riley's many accomplishments include overseeing the integration of online and paper version of the Cemetery Source Books for the State of Michigan; creation of a genealogical database on the statewide Michigan eLibrary system; and supervision of the digitization, indexing and publishing of some 1 million death certificates for the Seeking Michigan web site. He is editor of the Michigan Genealogist newsletter and serves as advisor to the Michigan Genealogical Council.

Nominations for the 2011 Filby Award are being accepted now through January 31, 2011. Please visit NGS's [guidelines page](#) for details.

Founded in 1903, the [National Genealogical Society](#) is dedicated to genealogy education, high research standards, and the preservation of genealogical records. The Arlington, VA-based nonprofit is the premier national society for everyone, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian, seeking excellence in publications, educational offerings, research guidance, and opportunities to interact with other genealogists. Please visit the [NGS Pressroom](#) for further information.

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