Resident finds Pulitzer winner while studying ancestral roots

By MARY GNIEWEK
Alex Haley traced his family tree to
Alex Haley traced his family tree to
an African tribal warrior and the television dramatization of his search hypnotized millions of viewers.
Where "Roots" ended, genealogical
madness began.
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to trace their family trees can take advantage of several opnortunity.

Farmington history buffs who'd like to trace their family trees can take advantage of several opportunities. Mercy College of Detroit is offering a course which allows students to trace family lineage and gain a personal perspective on history. It's called "Research in Family Origins," devised and taught by history It's called "Research in Family Origins," devised and taught by history at Unitana Thomson. "These students are doing more than writing their genealogy," Dr. Thomson said. "They are writing their pelating it to the larger line of historical events in this country and the world.
"For example, they see how the Great Depression made it necessary for a family to move from one city to another in search of employment."
"History is made not only by king. We are looking at it from the inside out."
One of Dr. Thomson's students made

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Une of Dr. Thomson's students made a surprising discovery – that his great uncle was a Pulitzer Prize winner. John Truttt, a 21-year-old senior from Farmington Hills, found out his great uncle Charles Trutt of Baltimore won a Pulitzer for a book he wrote on the history of the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia peninsula.

Virginia peninsula.

THROUGH HIS RESEARCH, Truitt discovered Anglo-Scottish relatives

TIROUGH HIS RESEARCH, Truitt discovered Anglo-Scottish relatives rose from the group of the connections with a small area in Woodstock, Ontario. The farther back, the Some people say that in the future we will be cooking by computer: before a party you tell the machine how many people your et aving and what you upan to serve and it will tell you how much of what to buy and when and how to cook it.

We are finding that there are people wife are finding that there are people wife a relative to the group of the group in the group of th

who came to the U.S. in 1670, just 50 years after the Pilgrims arrival on the Mayflower.

Even though his classwork was completed, Truitt still is wrapped up in the project. Last week, he spent a day touring Detroit's oddest cemeteries looking for family names.

"Dr. Thomson gave us the initial push. I got wrapped up in it and went gung-ho," he said.

Like other students, he used the two methods Dr. Thomson emphasizes: documentary evidence and family interviewing.

umentary evidence and family interviewing,
"Birth, marriage, and death certificates, tax hills, wills court records—any number of forms can be helpful," Dr. Thomson said.

She said the finest records are kept at the Mormon (Utah) Genealogical Institute, but for "closer-to-home searchers public libraries and historical museums can be helpful.

The Farmington Genealogical Society is one starting point, Membership has grown from seven to 100 people in four years.

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Margaret Walker, the club's president, urges genealogy builfs to begin with a basic course in family history before joining the society. The group meets once a month from September through May at the Farmington Public Library.

"SOME FAMILY LINES date back to the 1500s," Mrs. Walker said. "Those are an inspiration to all of us.

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"We are finding that there are people

Among the bits of family lore Mrs. Raeburn hunted up: a great grandfather who fought in the Civil War and a relative who sold a 40-acre farm on the family of the family lore Mrs. Five Mile Road in Livonia for \$1,000. The family lore Mrs. Five Mile Road in Livonia for \$1,000. The family of the f



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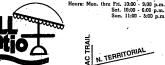
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