



## Duncan B. Gardiner

January 4, 1940 - February 15, 2026

Duncan Buchanan Gardiner Jr., 86, of Bay Village, OH passed away on February 15, 2026.

He was born on January 4, 1940 in Detroit, MI to Duncan Buchanan Gardiner Sr. and Evelyn Anna Krupitzer Gardiner. He spent his childhood in Detroit and graduated from Redford High School. Duncan continued his education at Miami University (Ohio) and earned his PhD in Slavic Linguistics from Indiana University.

Duncan taught Russian language at Lehigh University and the University of Kentucky. His fluency in more than six languages and love of research led him to a second career as a Certified and an Accredited Genealogist. He published reference books for genealogists and numerous family histories for his clients.

His research trips across Europe and personal travel took him to 51 countries and countless museums. He was intellectually curious, pursued hobbies including sailing, photography, bookbinding, woodworking and collecting books, scales and weights. He had strong long-lasting friendships, was well-read and enjoyed academic debate. He especially cherished our Lake Erie family vacations and watching the grandchildren grow up.

Duncan is preceded in death by his parents, survived by his wife Cheryl Wilke Gardiner and sons Duncan Buchanan Gardiner III (Laury Byrne), Samuel William Gardiner (Sue Bolin), and grandchildren Duncan Zachary Gardiner, Shannah Caitlyn Banion (Clay), Kate Elizabeth Gardiner and Lauren Elise Gardiner and great grandson Grady Ernest Banion, sisters Clare Hoinville (John, deceased) and Mary Ross Richards (Ken). His first wife Masuko Tsubone Gardiner is deceased.

A celebration of life service will be held on March 21, 2026, at Journey Church, Versailles, KY between 3 - 4:30PM followed by a memorial service from 4:30 - 5PM. In lieu of flowers please donate to National Public Radio (NPR) or Public Broadcasting (PBS) or your local public stations.

He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Service

MAR 21. 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (ET)

Journey Church  
320 Hope Lane  
Versailles, KY 40383

## Memorial Service

MAR 21. 4:30 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Journey Church

*320 Hope Lane Versailles, KY 40383*

# Tribute Wall

DK

“ I remember Duncan from my early years at MRI Software in the mid 80s, He was very friendly and always had some interesting stories to tell. Rest in peace.

---

**Don K** - April 27 at 02:56 PM

SO

“ Memory Eternal. Thank you for some of my first baby steps in genealogy and family history. Inspirational.

---

**Samuel Ontko** - March 24 at 03:48 PM

JE

“ On behalf of FEEFHS (the Foundation of East European Family History Studies), I would like to express our condolences to Duncan's family on his passing. Duncan made significant contributions to our organization in the early days. His contributions to the study of Central and East European Family History are significant and impacted much more than just our organization. He has left a legacy for us all to build on in our ongoing efforts to help connect people to their ancestors from that part of the world. --Joe Everett, FEEFHS Board Member

---

**Joe Everett** - March 23 at 03:10 PM

MS

“ Dear Gardiner Family,

*I was saddened to learn today that your Duncan has passed away. My sincere condolences to you all.*

*Duncan was a year behind me at Miami. We were both Russian students of Prof. André de Saint Rat, though we never were in the same class together.*

*At Miami, Duncan was much lauded for his ability in Russian and in French. He was a world traveller and very knowledgeable about all the places he had visited.*

*It was only in more recent years that he and I reconnected on the internet and carried on an online correspondence. Not many years ago, during a visit to Los Angeles, Duncan joined my wife Kazuko and me for an enjoyable lunch at our home in Brentwood. It was the only time we had met since our Miami days in 1960.*

*With best wishes and pleasant memories of Duncan.*

*Mac Stearns*

---

**Mac Stearns** - February 27 at 06:57 PM

MŠ

“ Milan Š. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Duncan B. Gardiner.

---

**Milan Š.** - February 27 at 01:58 PM

MŠ

“ *Sad days, dear friends. Dear Duncan was really a great man and friend. We spent some days in Slovakia, USA and Canada together and we miss him, surely. Anyhow, I know he is still here, in us. Thank you for everything, dear friend.*

---

**Milan Šišmiš** - February 27 at 01:55 PM

PM

“ *Duncan was heavily involved with the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI), a group founded in March of 1988 and located in St. Paul, Minnesota. Duncan contributed articles to our publications and became the editor of the CGSI's Journal, called Ročenka (Yearbook or Annual). Duncan was a speaker at eight of the CGSI's biennial conferences, giving multiple presentations at each event. Duncan served on the CGSI Board of Directors for two terms from 1992-1994, and 1995-1997. Duncan was very skilled at researching in the Czech and Slovak archives for clients and he was also fluent in multiple languages that allowed him to translate the records into English. I was last in touch with Duncan on May 29, 2025 and he was kind enough just prior to that to send me a chapter from his family genealogy on the history of Metzenseifen (now Medzev), Slovakia. On behalf of the CGSI I wish to wish my condolences for the loss to the Gardiner family. Duncan was a great contributor to the early history of our organization.*

*Paul Makousky, Editor of Naše rodina, quarterly publication of the CGSI*

---

**Paul Makousky** - February 26 at 12:08 AM