



Twig Talk

Newsletter of Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

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TWIG TALK

A publication of:

Muskegon County Genealogical Society

C/O Hackley Public Library
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Website.....	Shelly Nelson, Fran Harrington
Pioneer Certificate.....	Eileen Wojewodzki
Library.....	Barb Martin
County Clerk	Margaret Sheffer
Historian.....	Jennifer Lamkin
Member	Kathy DeCormier
Member	Jo Grieve
Member	Sandra Kelley
Member	Monica Smith

"April Dates to Remember"

Tues., 7th—Board Meeting—6pm T.H.
Thurs., 9th—MCGS Meeting
Masonic Temple—7p.m.
Fri., 10th—Good Friday
Sat., 11th—Genealogy Workshop
9:30—11:30 a.m. at HPL
Sun. 12th—Easter

Meeting, April 9

Masonic Temple - 396 W. Clay Av.

"Organization of Your Genealogical Needs"

Organizing research records, photos, etc.



"Genealogy Helping Hands"

Saturday, April 11

9:30—11:30 a.m.

Hackley Public Library

at the Local History & Genealogy Room

MUSKEGON COUNTY

WILL TURN

150 YEARS OLD

ON JULY 18, 2009

SO LET'S CELEBRATE

IN MAY TWIG TALK WE WILL HAVE MORE DETAILS



BREAKING NEWS!!!!

The Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan has launched Seeking Michigan, www.seekingmichigan.org, the brand-new, one-stop shop for Michigan historical records never before available electronically. Michigan death records, 1897 to 1920, and Civil War service records are two highlights of the digitals collections available on this **FREE** Web site.



Seeking Michigan's first major project is the digitization of roughly 1 million death records covering 1897 through 1920. These records - never before available electronically - are indexed for easy searching by name, death date, location and age, and hold tremendous research opportunities for genealogists, historians and students.

I have found 6 death record for my ancestors on seekingmichigan.org
It is a wonderful site.



County Clerk's Office
Margaret Clark Sheffer

Schedule for the Volunteers
1:00—4:00 p.m.

April 1Jane Gates
April 15Margaret Sheffer
April 22Paula Hoffman
April 29Barb Martin



Hospitality
Jane Walker Weber
Karen Towne

Our March meeting had Nancy Zissler as door prize winner. Leprechaun book mark prizes went to Ruth Skinner, Barb Martin and Eileen Wojewodzki. Eileen also was the Friday 13th lucky shamrock recipient. Marty Kubanek drew the much anticipated Redbook for Joan Gawron. Thanks go to Bonnie Vokits for her donation to the MCGS Sales effort!!

Website
Shelly Nelson & Fran Harrington



Do forget to check out
Our Web Site at!
www.genealogymuskegon.com

- Databases—Check this out
- Genealogy Connect
- How You Can Help
- Internet Links
- Pioneer Certificate
- Research Services
- Research Tips & Tricks
- Shop the MCGS Store



**Research Trip to
Allen County Library
Fort Wayne, IN**



We had to change date !

There is a sign-up sheet at our regular MCGS meetings for a fall trip to Fort Wayne. It looks like it will be the end of September or the first part October. So this is the time to get your research organized and your self for the fall trip!!! LOOK in the next few issues of your Twig Talk for more details about the trip.

**Members Are
Important To Us!**

Membership
Susan Boos Gerst

Please check out our website
www.genealogymuskegon.com for your surnames
Make sure yours are correct. Send corrections or
additions to Susan Gerst at tsgerst@yahoo.com



Library Update
Barb LaBatt Martin

New Books for Genealogy
Hackley Public Library

at

Scrapbooks: An American History, by Jessica Helfand

Wreck of the Carl D.: A True Story of Loss, Survival,
and Rescue at Sea, by Michael Schumacher

“Congratulations” to Marilyn Gannon’s on her retirement
from HPL - Local History & Genealogy Dept .
We wish her the very best!

Hackley Public Library—Genealogy room has
footnote.com

PROQUEST

OBITUARY DATABASE is now available at the
LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN—Genealogy Room



History of Muskegon County A Proud Legacy

We are now finishing up the last of the stories. The paper
from Sappi has been shipped to Walsworth in MO. There
are still more finishing touches to be made yet in next
few months. The book cover has been decided on and
will be release soon for everyone to see what it look like.

ORDER YOUR BOOK TODAY!

Make check or money order for \$65.00 and send to
MCGS - HBP
C/O Hackley Public Library, 316 W. Webster Av.,
Muskegon, MI 49440-1209

Energy and persistence conquer all things."



~
Benjamin Franklin
1706-1790



Genealogy Tips from Ancestry Online Newsletter

Finding Family in Pre-1850 Censuses

by Juliana Smith

While the U.S. Censuses for 1850-1930 are among the most popular resources for family historians, the pre-1850 enumerations are among the most overlooked. While they may not provide the same detail as later enumerations, they can still help place your ancestors in a particular location during the census year. The tough part is determining which family is yours.

I was recently searching for my Kelly family in New York in pre-1850 censuses and to help figure out where I need to look, I employed the use of a few charts.

First I created a chart that projected how old each person in the family would be for a particular census year. I used a spreadsheet, but this could easily be done on a sheet of paper by hand with a grid.

Across the top I listed each family members name and the estimated year they were born. Along the side of the grid were all of the census years. Beginning on the line for the first census year that they were alive for, I listed how old I thought they would be in that year. Then I just added ten years to each of these and filled out all the years in which they were alive. Now I had a handy chart to work with for my second step.

Next I printed out a [blank census form](#) for 1840 from Ancestry and put the initial of each family member in the appropriate age bracket based on the census chart I had created. Using my grid chart made it easy to go across the form and figure out which of the family members fell in each age category. Then I just had to tally them up.

A Few Things to Consider

- There may be children listed in the census that died young and that I'm not aware of so if there are extra young children, I shouldn't dismiss a record. There may also be more than just the one family living in the home. Additional adults may be other relatives or the spouse of one of the older children. For these reasons, I didn't rule out families who had "extras."
- Older children may have moved out. To designate, which children might not be still at home in a particular census year, I circled the tallies for children that would have been twenty

or older. I did the same for children who would have been in their upper teens. Since some families lived together even after the children were married, I didn't want to rule them out, but still want to remind myself that one or more of them may have moved out. It was also a reminder that additional adults of the opposite gender could be spouses.

- For a person whose birth bridged two categories (e.g., a fifteen-year-old might have fallen in the "ten & under fifteen" category, or in the "fifteen and under twenty" category, depending on when his birthday fell and when the census was taken.), I drew a line across the two categories to remind me that I could be flexible with that one.
- Using this template, it was much easier to compare my family to the census records as I browsed through all of the James Kellys in New York. Despite the exceptions to the template, by looking at the individuals who would have most likely have been in the house—typically parents and young children—I was able to rule out most of the James Kellys in New York. Now I will turn to other records, like directories and possibly religious records, to see if I can discern if one of the remaining Kellys is my family.

Google Earth

I open Google Earth at the same time I log on to Ancestry.com. That way, I can place push pins in the map of places in the archives, and get a feel for the terrain. Those little 360 degree photos also help you get an idea of the locale. There is a measurement device on Google Earth that will compute mileage "as the crow flies" right down to hundredths of a mile. (e.g., 35.21 miles) Patricia

Google Books

I knew my husband descended from Lewis Walker of Chester County, Pennsylvania, because of my mother-in-law's book, "Lewis Walker of Chester County and his descendents" by Priscilla Walker Streets. Then I discovered [Google Books](#). Google has scanned many out of print books and put them in PDFs. I also found "Biographical Annals of Montgomery County Pennsylvania," by Ellwood Roberts. This gave me more information on not only his ancestry, but occupations, relationships, and land ownership. Ancestry.com records and these books helped tell his family's history. They compliment each other. Gentree



Dates to Remember—2009

March Events

**Board meeting, Tuesday,
April 7,** 6:00 p. m.
Torrent House

MCGS Meeting
Thursday, April 9,
7:00 p.m.
Masonic Temple,
396 W. Clay Ave., Muskegon

Saturday, April 11,
9:30—11:30 a. m.,
“Genealogy Workshops”
at Hackley Public Library, 316
W. Webster, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Join us for hands on help with
your research from society
members. Bring your current
research info with you!

A Look Ahead...

Dates to pencil in
**Genealogy—Family
History Workshops**
9:30 am to 11:30 am at HPL
Saturday, February 7
Saturday, March 14
Saturday, April 11
Saturday, May 2
Off June, July, August
Saturday, September 12
Saturday, October 10
Saturday, November 7
Off December

MCGS Meeting & Program

All meetings start at 7:00 p. m.
at Masonic Temple
Thursday, January 8
Thursday, February 12
Thursday, March 12
Thursday, April 9
Thursday, May 14
Thursday, June 11
Off July

Thursday, August 13
Thursday, September 10
Thursday, October 8
Thursday, November 12
Thursday, December 10

MCGS Board

All meetings start at 6:00 pm
Torrent House.
Tuesday, January 6
Tuesday, February 3
Tuesday, March 3
Tuesday, April 7
Tuesday, May 5
Tuesday, June 2
Off July
Tuesday, August 4
Tuesday, September 8
Tuesday, October 6
Tuesday, November 3
Off December

**Just a Reminder—Membership is
from January 1 — December 31**



April 9 What to Bring...

- Paper and pencil for taking notes.
- Pocket change for any little books or magazines you want.
 - Any little books or magazines you want to donate to our MCGS store.
 - Your Show and Tell to share. stories are appreciated.
 - Your 4-generation chart completed, it can be printed from any program or written and you can also send it in by mail or email at:
mcgs1972@yahoo.com.
 - Your genealogy questions.
- BRING YOUR GREAT IDEAS**

*Don't forget to bring a
few of your friends!
See you there!*



WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP IN FINDING THESE ITEMS LISTED BELOW



Muskegon County ONLY

- City Directories Muskegon Co.
Missing Volumes are: 1874), 1877,) 1881), 1884), 1994.
 - Muskegon City & Co. Directories that need to be replaced are: 1895-1896), 1897-1898), 1899-1900) & 1906-1907.
 - Church & Business Directories—Old & New
 - Phone Books that we have are: 1929), 1942), (1953 thru 2009)
 - School Yearbooks—Old & New
 - Post Cards—Old & New
 - Picture's-School Houses, Churches, Centennial Farms ,etc
- Look around your house, check out e-bay, yards sales , book stores, antique malls, etc.

Contact - Muskegon Co. Gen. Soc., by Phone—231-740-3698
by e-mail mcgs1972@yahoo.com or
Hackley Public Library—Genealogy room at 231-722-7276 ext. 233