



# Twig Talk



Newsletter of the Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

Vol. 12 No. 4

April 2012



## TWIG TALK

A publication of:

**Muskegon County Genealogical Society**

c/o Hackley Public Library

316 W. Webster Avenue

Muskegon, MI 49440-1209

[www.genealogymuskegon.org](http://www.genealogymuskegon.org)

[mcgs1972@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgs1972@yahoo.com)

### Officers

**President:**

Jane Appleton Schapka

**Vice President:**

Nancy Clark Spoon

**Secretary:**

Dawn Westcomb Kelley

**Treasurer:**

Ruth Dillabaugh Skinner

### Committees

County Clerk.....	Jane Gates
	Dawn Kelley
	Barb Martin
Historian .....	Jennifer Lamkin
History Book Project.....	Kathy DeCormier
Hospitality .....	Jane Weber &
	Paula Halloran
	Connie Fales
Library.....	Barb Martin
Membership.....	Susan Gerst
Newsletter.....	Kristi Burns
	Dawn Kelley
Pioneer Cert. Program.	Eileen Wojewodzki
Programs & Publicity ....	JoAnn Osborn
Special Projects .....	Dawn Kelley
Website.....	Shelly Nelson

### **COME TO YOUR CENSUS QUIZ**



Which census was the first census to use a tabulating machine?

See page 2 for the answers!



**Thursday,  
April 12, 2012  
7:00 p.m.  
Masonic Temple  
396 W. Clay Ave.**

## **“Crack the Case with Deeds”**

The Who, What, Where, When, and Why of Deeds, and How to Use them to Solve Genealogical Problems  
by Jane Appleton Schapka

Whenever there is a blockage in the research road, Jane turns to land records and other non-vital documents. Come and see how you might solve your ancestral puzzles using deeds.

Jane Appleton Schapka combines her passion for "cracking the case," educational background, intelligence research analyst experience, and modern genealogical research standards to solve her own ancestral mysteries, as well as those of her clients. She developed the Pioneer Certificate program for the Muskegon County Genealogical Society and has served as its President since 2010.

### ***Bring a Guest***

***They Are Always Welcome To Come!***

### **Muskegon County Genealogical Society Joins the 1940 U.S. Census Community Project!!**

See page 3 for more information!



### **Are you Ready for the 1940 U.S. Census Images?**

April 2, 2012 will be a busy day for genealogists in the U.S. as the images for the 1940 United States census are released to the public. Learn the strategies needed to find the images you want, especially during the first few weeks before the images are indexed. Besides tips and tricks, you'll also learn what information was collected during the 1940 U.S. Census and how it can help your genealogy research.



### County Clerk's Office

Jane Gates,  
Dawn Kelley  
Barb Martin

Wednesday's 1:00—4:00 p.m.  
141 E. Apple Ave.  
2nd Floor



**Library**  
Barb LaBatt Martin

### Hackley Public Library

Mon, Tues, Wed 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Thurs, Fri, Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### NEW BOOKS

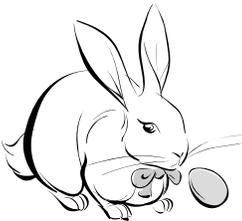
- **The Woodland Indians of the Western Great Lakes**, by Robert E. Ritzenthaler & Pat Ritzenthaler
- **The Saga of Iron Mining in Michigan's Upper Peninsula**, by Burton H. Boyum
- **With This Inheritance: Holland, Michigan - the Early Years**, by Sara Michel
- **Heads of Families At The First Census of the United States Taken In The Year 1790: Massachusetts**
- **Heads of Families At The First Census of the United States Taken In The Year 1790: Maine**
- **My New Home in Northern Michigan, And Other Tales**, by Charles W. Jay
- **Shipwrecks of the Lakes Told in Story and Picture**, by Dana Thomas Bowen
- **Men of Michigan: A Collection of the portraits of**
- **Men Prominent in Business and Profession Life in Michigan**
- **Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant June 12, 13, 14, 1997**

Our March meeting educated us about retouching & saving old photos with digital images. Our electronic, capable Dawn Kelley explained how to accomplish this with scanning methods. Our Twig Talk detectives who gave "shillelagh" were: Nancy Bassett, Linda Welsh, John and Phyllis Slater, Nancy Spoon and Nancy Zissler. A genealogical prize was donated to them by generous Joan Gawron. Emma Ruprecht was the door prize winner getting a bucket of genealogical goodies. The Slater's and Kay Bosch were top bidders in our auction conducted by Jane Schapka. Appreciation goes to Jim Haley for his donation of delicious meats and cheese for

#### Hospitality

Jane Walker Weber  
Paula Halloran  
Connie Fales

snacks. The project of digitalizing the Montague Observer was enabled by our volunteers, Dawn Kelley, Barb Martin & Connie Fales put in long hours on this endeavor. Kay Bosch provided the St. Pats delicious cookies! Will there be an actual lucky rabbit's foot next month?!?



#### Membership

Susan Boos Gerst  
[tsgerst@yahoo.com](mailto:tsgerst@yahoo.com)  
Kathy Broughton DeCormier

**We would like to give a warm welcome to our NEWEST member.**

#### Chuck Woods, N. Muskegon, MI

**SURNAMES:** Bordeaux/Bordo/Bordon, Briggs, Capara, English, Massie, Morin, Morris, Richardson, Woods

**Members are important to us so please keep in touch. Share your news with us. Let's celebrate together! And don't forget to keep your phone, address, and email information up-to-date.**

#### ANSWER TO COME TO YOUR CENSUS QUIZ:

The sixth census in 1840 counted a population of some 17 million people. It took 28 clerks to tabulate the results by hand. **The 1890 census was the first census to use a tabulating machine.** It took just six weeks to process the results (the previous 1880 census had taken 2 ½ years to process by hand).

Information courtesy of [http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/top\\_ten\\_interesting\\_facts\\_about\\_the\\_US\\_census\\_page3.html](http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/top_ten_interesting_facts_about_the_US_census_page3.html)

### New Henry Louis Gates Genealogy Show to Debut in March on PBS

Posted by Diane

The new PBS genealogy series "**Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates Jr.**" debuts Sunday, March 25 at 8 p.m. (Check your local PBS listing)

The 10-part series will explore the genealogy and genetics of famous Americans including Kevin Bacon, Robert Downey Jr., Branford Marsalis, John Legend, Martha Stewart, Barbara Walters and Rick Warren.

On the show's website, you can learn more about the research team (the New England Historic Genealogical Society staff did a lot of work for the series) and share your story. Website: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/finding-your-roots>.





## **Genealogy News & Tips**

### **Ancestry.com**

Copyright 2012  
(P.S. If you see typos, we can't change it because it is copyrighted.)

#### **Grass Widowers**

In response to the article, "Dead Among the Living" by Max Sutherland, I have found a similar case with my great-grandfather. He is listed on the 1920 census as a widower. His first wife is listed living in a nearby town with her second husband. My mother explained that men whose wives had left them or who were divorced were often called "grass widowers" at that time. I have yet to find a person classified as "divorced" on a census record, although I'm sure there must be some. Carol Anderson, Fruitland Park, Florida

#### **"Aboriginal" Settlers**

Max Sutherland's description of the loose use of "widowed" and "widower" in the Canadian census brings to mind another instance of artistic license in language and the problems that it can cause. In the 1881 "History of Summers County" (West Virginia), the author says, "In June of this year Mrs. Elizabeth Cales, an aboriginal settler, died." Some researchers have taken "aboriginal" literally and concluded that she had American Indian parents. It is far more likely that the author was being a bit flowery, a bit inaccurate, and meant "original settler". Aboriginal might have been applicable to the area, but not the mostly Scotch-Irish settlers.

Ralph

#### **The Value of Newspapers**

I found a very valuable resource in old newspapers. It is amazing what kind of information you can find (I found a clue that led to the grave of my great-great-grandfather in Colorado when he had spent the last 40 years in Kansas. Previous to that, I did not know when and where he had died. I was sure he had been abducted by aliens). Many old newspapers are available on microfilm through interlibrary loan. Check out <http://www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html> for a listing by state of what's available.

Each state's holdings are listed differently. Some have catalogs available on-line and others required a written request to see if the ancestral town has old newspapers available. Even if you don't find that all-important clue, sometimes the smaller towns have great little tidbits of news like "Joe 'X' fell and broke his leg while picking apples" or "Martha 'M' brought her chickens and eggs to town for sale." These old papers also give you an idea of how your ancestors were living. Jan Irwin, Thousand Oaks, California

#### **Revealing Headstones**

My grammy (my dad's mom) knew how people liked to trace their family trees. She told us that when she died, she wanted us to put her children's names and the city they lived in, on the back of her tombstone. We followed her wishes and did the same for my granddad as well. We kept this tradition with my mother's parents, and I plan on keeping this as a tradition in my own family. Won't this be an interesting way to backtrack some day? Cathy Russell, Cox's Creek, Kentucky

## **Society Member Outreach 1940 Society Newsletter Article**

### **Muskegon County Genealogical Society Joins the 1940 U.S. Census Community Project!!**

Muskegon County Genealogical Society has joined forces with genealogy societies and organizations around the country as part of the 1940 U.S. Census Community Project. The initiative aims to publish a free, online searchable name index of the 1940 U.S. Federal Census after images of the census are released to the public in April 2012.

This online index will be free forever, offering family history researchers a rich genealogical data set for their ongoing use. Three leading genealogy organizations, Archives.com, FamilySearch International, and findmypast.com, launched the initiative at the end of last year, and the project is already engaging volunteers to help provide this invaluable resource to family historians around the world as soon as possible.

The index created by the project will allow the public to easily search every person found in the census and view digital images of the original census pages where he or she is listed. The highly anticipated 1940 U.S. Census is expected to be the most popular U.S. record collection released to date.

"The 1940 Census is attractive to both new and experienced researchers because most people in the United States can remember a relative that was living in 1940. It will do more to connect living memory with historical records and families than any other collection previously made available," said David Rencher, Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch.

The 1940 U.S. Census Community Project is also receiving support from leading societal organizations like the Federation of Genealogical Societies, National Genealogical Society, and Ohio Genealogical Society, as well as other societies around the United States.

Go to [www.the1940census.com/society](http://www.the1940census.com/society) and register to participate with our society. Simply select <society name> on the profile screen when creating your account. Every new person indexing with our society gets us closer to milestones that qualify us for incentives provided by the sponsors of the project, so sign up today!

## MEMORIES OF LINCOLN AND MY CIVIL WAR SERVICE

By JAMES H. HASKINS OF HOWARD CITY



JAMES H. HASKINS

We camped out on the Commons near the depot just a short distance from the Capitol. It was my first night with only Heaven's blue canopy for a covering. Next morning I thought I would buy something to eat. I bought some milk and ginger bread of an old huckster woman and that proved to be even worse than the menu provided at the government mess house. I could not eat anything, not even drink the milk as it was little better than chalk and water. We soon lined up and started to march to Marengo Hill again where the 149<sup>th</sup> was in camp. Arrived there about noon and the boys of the 149<sup>th</sup> had a good dinner ready for us consisting of boiled pork, bread and coffee and by this time I was ready to eat.

### GIVEN IMPORTANT DUTIES

At this time Lee with his army was heading for Maryland and the seasoned troops that had been in the city were being sent to McClellan, and the new troops were being placed in the city to guard the public buildings. About two o'clock in the afternoon after arriving in camp, an order was brought to our Colonel for two companies to go to the Soldiers' Home. Companies H and C were sent under the command of Captain Fay but they made a mistake in his order and went back to the Retreat where we had just left.

A little before sundown there was a request for two more companies to go to the Soldiers' Home and Companies D and K were sent.

Fearing that we might make a similar mistake in going there, the aide that brought the order went with us. He also informed us of our duties upon arrival. We reached the Soldier's Home about 8 o'clock at night. When we got in front of a cottage, we were halted and a guard detailed and placed on post around one of the cottages, also at the approaches to the grounds, and the rest of us marched over to a small pasture field where we went into camp. When morning came we were informed that our comrades had been guarding the President's residence. So it happened that we began guarding President Lincoln and family, Sept. 7, 1862.

The next day I was detailed as one of the guard and was placed on post at the south entrance to the grounds, where there used to be a gate. When I was on post between 3 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the first day, who should come driving in from the city but our honored President. His sad, serious face, as I saw it the first time, made a deep impression on me. It seemed fitting to me at that time that he should have uttered that immortal sentence, "With malice toward none, but charity for all."

This, as I have said before, was my first glimpse of President Lincoln and I had never seen only one picture of him before and as I remember it now that one had made a lasting impression. It was the cartoon that the opposition party had gotten out of Mr. Lincoln sitting on a rail pen with three or four colored people looking out through the rails, and this writing 60 years after that campaign there is one of the same cartoons in the Lincoln museum in the city of Washington in the house where Mr. Lincoln breathed his last.

*Continues on page 5*



## **MEMORIES OF LINCOLN AND MY CIVIL WAR SERVICE continues**

By JAMES H. HASKINS OF HOWARD CITY

Up to a few days before there had been no guard at the President's residence but the Soldiers' Home being so close to the North line of the fortifications of the city--- only about two and one half miles --- and the city itself teeming with treason, it was deemed necessary to have a guard for the President and family. Company D was ordered back to the regiment the last of October and we remained at the Home until Nov. 11 when we were ordered to the White House as the President and family had moved back to the city.

We were camped in the park between the White House and the War and Navy departments. Now that looks like a picnic, but just wait. It began to rain that night. The ground was covered with water. We began to scrape up the wet leaves to keep us out of the water. We tried to build a fire to cook some food but all efforts to that end were unsuccessful. Those who had money sent out to the city and bought eatables but those who had no money went shy. We would crawl out of these wet leaves and blankets something like pigs out from under a wet strawstack, steaming, to have our clothes freeze soon after striking the old air. This lasted about two weeks. ( I would not mention this but some people seem to think that guard duty in the city was a snap.) I might also note here that in all of our guard duty during 34 months there were no sentry boxes for the guard as President Cleveland provided when he was President, but our boys took the weather as it came without complaining.

About the last of November our camp was moved to the south side of the White House, on the south margin of the private park, and there through the intercession of "Tad" Lincoln, the President's youngest son, we were permitted to go down on the Commons where there was a pile of old lumber that had been taken out of the Treasury Building, to get lumber, with which we floored our tents and raised our bunks out of the dampness. In a few days we were very comfortable for soldiering.

We saw the President come and go daily from the War, Navy and Treasury Departments, with his serious care-worn countenance, and it seemed almost wrong to disturb him enough to return the military salute that we were under orders to give him every time he passed us, even if it was a half dozen times a day.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of December (Christmas) we were thinking of our friends and loved ones at home. We were quite surprised when down came Mrs. Lincoln's footman, accompanied by "Tad." The footman carried a large turkey to remind the boys of our company that it was Christmas. This was the first recognition the company had received from Mrs. Lincoln but later she put us under quite a number of obligations, and we grew to appreciate her very highly. I will state here that whenever Mr. or Mrs. Lincoln, either of them, came out alone and passed a guard they always spoke besides returning the military salute.

## Upcoming Events Dates to Remember—2012

### Board Meetings

Meet at 5:00 p.m.  
2nd Thursday

**Masonic Temple**  
396 W. Clay

Jan 12  
Feb 9  
Mar 8  
Apr 12  
May 10  
Jun 14

**NO MEETING** July

Aug 9  
Sep 13  
Oct 11  
Nov 8

**NO BOARD MEETING**

Dec 13

### Regular Meetings

Starts at 7:00 p.m.  
2nd Thursday

**Masonic Temple**  
396 W. Clay

Jan 12  
Feb 9  
Mar 8  
Apr 12  
May 10  
Jun 14

**NO MEETING** July

Aug 9  
Sep 13  
Oct 11  
Nov 8

**HOLIDAY GATHERING**

Dec 13

### Genealogy Family History Workshops

2nd Saturdays  
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Hackley Public Library**  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.

Lower Level  
316 W. Webster

Jan 14

Feb 11

March 10

April 14

May 12

June, July, August

**NO WORKSHOPS**

September 8

October 13

November 10

**NO WORKSHOP**



### **What to Bring to Meetings**

WE ALWAYS HAVE SOMETHING NEW AT THE STORE

- Pencil and notepaper for all the great information we will share and present.
- Bring change for the Sales Store ... folders, books, magazines, and other great surprises. (If you have any genealogy items you would like to donate for the sales table, please contact us.)
- 12 and 15 Generation Charts are on sale for \$3.00 each
- Your ideas, advice and questions - someone may be able to help!!
- If you would like to make a gift of money donation, please make checks payable to MCGS and always remember your donation is a tax deductible.

### **GENE TOONS** by Wendell Washer



**Ancient Egyptian genealogy.**

Permission was granted by Wendell Washer