



# Twig Talk

Newsletter of the Muskegon County Genealogical Society



Since 1972

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## TWIG TALK

A publication of:

**Muskegon County Genealogical Society**

c/o Hackley Public Library

Torrent House

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Find us on



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**Past President:** Jane Appleton Schapka  
**Vice President:** Kathy Broughton DeCormier  
**Secretary:** Karen Page Frazier  
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## “DISCOVERING THE REAL STORY OF YOUR NEW YORK ANCESTORS”

Speaker, Jane Appleton Schapka

**Thursday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.**

**VFW Post 3195**

**corner of Grand Haven & Porter Rds.**

Many of us have ancestors who came through New York at some point. Often, there are numerous records available if you look hard enough. The questions are where do you look? What do you look for? And what is real and what is not? Let Jane show you who to decipher what is available. She specializes in finding errant ancestors and bringing them to life through original documents. As a professional genealogist for many years, Jane has served clients hunting for ancestors in West Michigan, Western Europe, and Puerto Rico. She is a frequent presenter and past president of MCGS.

## TRIP TO ALLEN COUNTY LIBRARY

Time to start planning and saving for our annual trip to Fort Wayne, Indiana coming up. We will be gone **October 1, 2, 3, & 4** (Wednesday thru Saturday). More details are coming soon. We will hotel, and parking fees.

If you can drive or would prefer to ride, would like to room with people or alone, please let us know so we can make proper arrangements. A sign-up sheet will be passed at the meetings or email Dawn at [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com)

## FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOP

**Saturday, April 12, 10:30a.m.–12:30p.m. or 2p.m.–4p.m.**

Space is limited so please pre-register either online at [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com) or call the Torrent House, Local History & Genealogy Dept. at 231-722-7276 ext. 240 to hold your spot. Remember that on the same Saturday's as our Family History Workshops members will be able to sign up also with limited space.

## How About Some Genealogical Trivia!

You know your ancestor was born in 1835 in Clinton County, New York, married and lived there, then died in Andersonville, Georgia as a prisoner of war in 1865. There is no existing death certificate. What enumeration conducted in New York State might provide the maiden name of your ancestor's mother? What type of documents might you find your records in?



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## MEMBERSHIP

**Wendy Bialik**—Muskegon, MI  
**SURNAMES:** Bialik, Fauble, Hilliard, Larabee, Mikos, Morgan, Phillips

**Carl & Sherran Esh**—Grand Haven, MI  
**SURNAMES:** Esh, Desjardin, Martin, Morin, Osier, Swarvar, Teuling, Vanleuuan

**Ingrid Porritt**—North Muskegon, MI  
**SURNAMES:** Bailey, Dahl, Holcomb, Lee, Porritt, Smith

**Virginia Skoglund**—Woodstock, IL  
**SURNAME:** Skoglund

# WELCOME

## HOSPITALITY HAPPENINGS

President Dawn Kelley presented our March program to a membership dressed in St. Patrick's green. Lots of good ideas were given for preservation of genealogy items. Special recognition was given to our 40 year member, Joanne Wood, who joined in 1947. Congratulations, Joanne! The door prize was won by Carl Esh. Nancy Bassett was the "book draw" recipient. Paula Halloran shared her story of a great grandmother immigrant who settled in Illinois. A 1695 family plate has been passed down to the family line. Phyllis Slater showed her Dad's service record. A marriage certificate with an interesting circumstance was displayed. Nancy Spoon showed her parent's marriage document. Also, she presented a land deed of her husband's parents. Joan Gawron showed her mother's report card, Marriage license & etc. She had her great grandfather's warranty deed purchased from Muskegon's great, Mr. Torrent. Nancy Bassett had a land ownership map and a naturalization paper for citizenship belonging to her great grandfathers. Ruth Skinner's paternal great grandparent's marriage certificate presented a mystery as to why they lived in Whitehall yet married in Muskegon. Judy Tierney displayed a Declaration of Intention towards citizenship for her great grandfather. He lived in England but was ethnic Scottish. Monica Smith shared her ancestor's Civil War pension papers. This soldier died 6 months after receiving the approval. The documents and stories were greatly appreciated!! Dawn Kelley brought St. Pats cupcakes whereas Jane Weber furnished the veggies for refreshments. Joan Gawron and Ruth Skinner were surprised to find a lucky shamrock in their cupcake! *Do any of you have a New Yorker who became a Michigan settler? How about a visual to go with your story! Looking forward to this!!*



## COUNTY CLERK RESEARCH

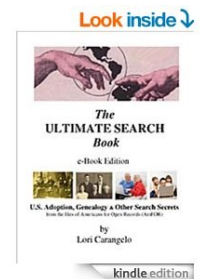
Remember, we are there on Wednesdays from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The Muskegon County Clerk is located on the first floor of the Muskegon County Building at 990 Terrace. ENTRANCE FROM APRIL 2014 TO WINTER 2015 use the front door on Terrace St. Customer & employees parking lot is on Pine St. [www.co.muskegon.mi.us/clerk](http://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/clerk)

INDEXING on the marriage & death records at the Muskegon County Clerk's office, more first names.

Ewilda	Phoency	Orletus	Eaphemia
Luna	Petroneole	Vitaline	Minniehala
Greenup	Orgamie	Fermin	Tea
Tola	Elomina	Leople	Jemina
Friborn	Lovetta	Philonera	Saba
Any	Du Roc	Edla	

## GREAT BOOKS

THE ULTIMATE SEARCH BOOK: U.S. Adoption, Genealogy & Other Search Secrets by Lori Carangelo. March 8, 2014. How to find anyone, nationwide, dead or alive, even adoptees and "birth" parents without a known name, despite sealed records. The author, who has helped 20,000 families to reconnect without charge, reveals how it is done with little or no expense. Chapters include: 'SEARCH BASICS- 50 Search Tips for Starters,' "WITH OR WITHOUT A NEMAE- Families Separated by Adoption or Divorce," "MISSING AND RUNAWAY CHILDREN," "MISSING ADULTS," "GENEALOGY SEARCHES" "DEBTORS, DEADBEAT PARENTS," HEIRS, OLD LOVES...or ANYONE." . It is available in both print version and Kindle version from Amazon.



Available online:

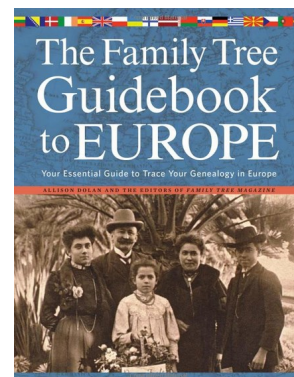


Chart your research course to find your European ancestors with the how-to instruction in this book. This one-of-a-kind collection provides invaluable information about more than 35 countries in a single source. Each of the 14 chapters is devoted to a specific country or region of Europe and includes all the essential records and resources for filling in your family tree.

## NEW ADDITIONS OF FREE ONLINE RECORDS

**South Africa** – The Genealogical Society of South Africa has been steadily adding to their online record collection. The latest additions include Cape Town Baptisms (1713 to 1742), Cape Town Marriages (1713 to 1756), Drakenstein baptism register (1694 to 1713) and indexes to civilian deaths in Cape Province (1895 to 1972). The link provides a complete list of all the records that have currently been transcribed and put online by the society. The society is also looking for volunteers to help with transcribing additional documents. Access is free. [Cape Town Genealogy Records] <http://www.eggsa.org/sarecords/>

**Ireland** – The Irish Department of Defense has launched a collection of military service pension records that span the years from 1916 to 1923. The first tranche contains some 10,000 files on members of the Irish Volunteers, Citizen Army, Hibernian Rifles, the Irish Republican Army, Cumann na mBan and the National Army. This collection is part of a wider program by the Irish Department of Defense to catalogue and eventually put online some 300,000 military service pension files. Most of the files are expected to be online by 1916. The collection is fairly diverse and includes everything from letters applying for a pension to various organizational and membership files to basic administration files. The pension files are particularly detailed and list the full name of the individual, address, date of birth, date of death, civilian occupations, military record, military awards, etc. The entire collection can be searched by keyword. The website has a detailed guide to the collection. Access is free. [Republic of Ireland Military Pension Records] <http://www.militaryarchives.ie/collections/online-collections/military-service-pensions-collection>

**US** – The New York Philharmonic Orchestra, the oldest symphony orchestra in the United States, has put online their entire historic archive going back to 1842. Normally, this type of archive is not particularly interesting to genealogists. However, this archive has millions of pages of material on every aspect of the orchestra, including some 16,000 photographs of musicians who played for the orchestra over the years. If you had an ancestor who was a professional musician, you might find a reference in this collection. Access is free. [New York Philharmonic Orchestra Archive] <http://archives.nyphil.org/>

**US** – The US GenNet Data Repository continues to grow with new record collections. Some of the latest additions include US military fatalities from the Korean and Vietnam Wars from West Virginia and US fatalities of the Korean War from Michigan. Access is free and there is no registration of signup required. Records are organized by state. [US GenNet Data Repository] <http://www.us-data.org/>

**US** – The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Troy, New York has put online more than 100 years of student newspapers from the university. The collection spans the years from 1885 to 2001 and consists of some 41,000 pages of newspaper content. The link below also provides access to other digital content from Rensselaer, including historic alumni magazines. The collections can be searched by keyword. Access is free. [Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Historic Student Newspaper Collection] [http://digitool.rpi.edu:8881/R/A3H1H742FI1658BEFB5YJN7CAYX5B72FXBNN8HK4HACMVTPTI-00015?func=search-simple&pds\\_handle=GUEST](http://digitool.rpi.edu:8881/R/A3H1H742FI1658BEFB5YJN7CAYX5B72FXBNN8HK4HACMVTPTI-00015?func=search-simple&pds_handle=GUEST)

**India** – The 1947 Partition Archive is an oral history archive dedicated to preserving the stories of individuals who were affected by the partition of India at independence. An estimated 15 million people were thought to have been made homeless by the partition. Initially started by a former University of California postdoctoral student as a personal project, the archive has quickly grown to over 1,000 stories. The target is to gather at least an additional 3,000 more stories in 2014. The video below describes how the archive works. Access is free. [1947 Partition Archive] <http://www.1947partitionarchive.org/>

### Here are some other web sites that are specific to ethnicity:

**Polish Genealogical Society of America** - Polish ancestry online with this collection of Polish genealogy databases and indexes from Poland, the United States and other countries.

[http://genealogy.about.com/gi/o.htm?zi=1/XJ&zTi=1&sdn=genealogy&cdn=parenting&tm=6&f=11&su=p284.13.342.ip\\_p504.6.342.ip\\_&tt=3&bt=1&bts=1&zu=http%3A/www.pgasa.org/database.php](http://genealogy.about.com/gi/o.htm?zi=1/XJ&zTi=1&sdn=genealogy&cdn=parenting&tm=6&f=11&su=p284.13.342.ip_p504.6.342.ip_&tt=3&bt=1&bts=1&zu=http%3A/www.pgasa.org/database.php)

**GeneaNet French Records** - Over 2 million user-contributed civil and parish records are available online through the French site GeneaNet.org, plus subscription-based access to additional records, including civil and parish registers, digitized books and additional French genealogy sources.

[http://genealogy.about.com/gi/o.htm?zi=1/XJ&zTi=1&sdn=genealogy&cdn=parenting&tm=3&f=11&su=p284.13.342.ip\\_p504.6.342.ip\\_&tt=3&bt=1&bts=1&zu=http%3A/www.geneanet.org/](http://genealogy.about.com/gi/o.htm?zi=1/XJ&zTi=1&sdn=genealogy&cdn=parenting&tm=3&f=11&su=p284.13.342.ip_p504.6.342.ip_&tt=3&bt=1&bts=1&zu=http%3A/www.geneanet.org/)

**Yad Vashem - Shoah Names Database** - Yad Vashem and its partners have collected the names and biographical details of more than three million Jews murdered by the Nazis during World War Two. This free database includes information taken from a variety of sources, including my favorite - pages of testimony sent in by Holocaust descendants. Some of these date back to the 1950s and include parents' names and even photos.

[http://genealogy.about.com/od/jewish/tp/free\\_jewish.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/jewish/tp/free_jewish.htm)

## MORE ON NOTES ON EVERNOTE

In the genealogy area, Evernote is a popular tool because our work involves building complex databases around the research that we do.

More and more documents are being digitized and it is a challenge to figure out how to find and organize them. I have used Evernote since it came out to capture documents, images, and PDFs I find online, and later add descriptive notes to these pieces of information. Genealogists must try to keep a record of everything they find, even if it's full of questionable material. If you suspect that a document might be inaccurate, you can make a note of it. If you come across it again, you will know that you already saw and evaluated it. Using Evernote, you can add your own notes, questions, and task boxes to the images of records you find in your research.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints has the largest genealogical library in the world, a wonderful resource for genealogists. Much of what is in these archives consists of records in the public domain. The church is always in the process of digitizing these documents. I am able to capture the useful information from their website and save it to my Evernote account using Evernote Web Clipper.

Many times, I find interesting facts in .jpg, .pdf, Excel, and .tiff files, which I save to Evernote and then organize using a series of tags including "genealogy" or "surname". I also set up a list of tags for "individuals" so I can quickly search and find all documents I have related to a certain person, family, or place. Once I narrow down my notes in Evernote, I can start writing about what I've discovered.

As I'm collecting my research, I make sure to write source citations so that myself or anyone else looking will know exactly where to find this information and will be able to see where that document came from, who created it and for what purpose.

If I'm writing the story from my family tree, I add Note Links to information that has an associated notation. That way, I can immediately find where each piece came from, and even quickly refer to related photos and documents that helped me come up with the final write-up all without leaving Evernote.

The biggest challenge for us in our family research is that we and others jump to conclusions about how history happened. We have to dig through tons of information to figure out what really happened, when, where, and why. Evernote can manage that information and help organize it.

Evernote also allows me to have a complete archive of everything I've ever done. It's organized by notebooks and tags. It's searchable. And it's accessible from any computer or mobile device.

Keep an eye on future Twig Talks. I have more information coming on using other free software to aid in your genealogical journey.

"Done! Everyone in the family tree has been found & everything is perfectly organized including the photos," said no genealogist... EVER.

someecards  
user card



## FACEBOOK AND GENEALOGY

Did you know you can use Facebook for your genealogy too? You sure can, and more than just our page, Muskegon County Genealogical Society.

I am a member of many sites. Everything from German genealogy to Genealogical Technology. I simply typed the term "genealogy" in the search area of my Facebook page. Here are some more page/search ideas on Facebook:

- Evidence Explained
- Ancestry.com
- CyndisList
- Family Tree Magazine
- Find all groups named 'genealogy'
- Fold3.com
- Genealogy
- GenealogyBank
- FamilyTree
- German Genealogy
- Technology and Genealogy
- Evertons
- New England Genealogy
- Genealogy Network
- Civil War
- Revolutionary War
- Look up your ethnicity!
- Look up your names too!

**GENEALOGY  
ON THE  
INTERNET!?**



**I CAN  
REMEMBER  
WHEN WE DID  
GENEALOGY  
RIGHT... WITH  
SHOE LEATHER,  
PAPER, PENCIL  
AND A GIANT  
ERASER...**

## USING PINTEREST FOR GENEALOGY

Pinterest is a social media website that allows you to gather (via "pinning") images from your computer and the Internet to create virtual bulletin boards on subjects that interest you. You can find boards dedicated to a variety of topics including family history. So how does a website where users virtually "pin" images about the latest movie or fashion collection help you with genealogy? As you take a look at Pinterest, think of it as a site to share family photographs and documents, to bookmark websites related to your family history, or to plan out your next genealogy research trip. Pinterest is just like a real-life bulletin board except it is virtual and can be accessed from any computer with Internet access. Best of all, you can invite other family members or researchers to pin with you via shared group boards.

### Follow Genealogy Boards like GenealogyBank

One of the benefits of using Pinterest is getting ideas and learning about new genealogy sources. Following Pinterest boards maintained by genealogists, family history-related companies, and repositories can help you. Take for instance the GenealogyBank boards. Currently GenealogyBank has 50 boards covering topics as diverse as Family Tree Wall Art & Decor, Old Newspaper Ads, American Fashion History, and Genealogy Books.

These boards provide more than just images to look at. Consider the GenealogyBank board Genealogy Powerpoints, a must for any family history researcher. Here you will find links to presentations GenealogyBank genealogist Tom Kemp has given on subjects including Genealogy Research with Marriage & Anniversary Records, Top Genealogy Websites for the 21st Century, Newspapers: Critical Resources to Document Your Family Tree, and Obituaries: Getting All the Clues. Pinterest is a great place to find resources and educational material about all facets of family history. GenealogyBank's recipe board is a shared group Pinterest board, where we welcome collaboration from those who share our common interests. To follow a page on [Pinterest](#) click on the orange "Follow" button at the top.

### Start Pinning What You Can Find

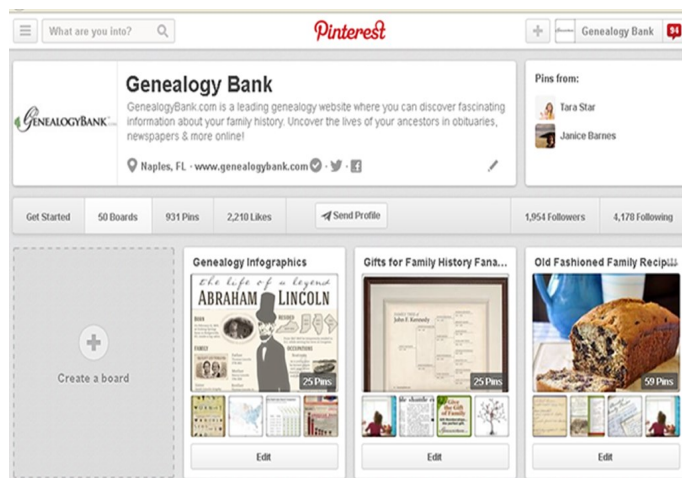
So what should you pin? You could pin images from the Internet or your own photographs that you have from your camera, smartphone, or scanner. Think of Pinterest as a place to share images that you find and those that you own. For those with mobile devices (smartphones or tablets) you can download the Pinterest app from the iTunes App Store Google Play store. Download the Pinterest button for your browser toolbar to make pinning images even easier. Make sure that when you pin an image you give credit to where it came from.

### Using The Secret Pinterest Boards

Not sure you want to share a board of your family history images? No problem. Pinterest offers members public and secret boards. Secret boards cannot be seen by others (unless you have a group secret board and then only those you allow to pin to the board can see it). Pinterest currently allows you to have up to six secret boards. You can actually have access to additional secret boards if you are invited to pin on a secret board with another pinner. Use these boards to gather ideas for research, or even set up virtual bookmarks for websites you need to look at further for genealogy clues. Start a secret board with a family member and use it to share photos and documents you've collected in your genealogy research. Use a secret board to plan out a genealogy research trip and include pins of libraries, archives and cemeteries you want to visit. Even consider using a secret board to interest the younger generation in their family history by pinning photos you have scanned. Are you using Pinterest for your family history research? You'll find it's a great tool for sharing and storing images, and a good way to learn more about your family's story.

### Here are some ideas to get you started on Pinterest:

Start a board where you share images of material items that were commonplace during your ancestor's time. Pin images of what a kitchen was like in 1920 or what blacksmith tools your 3rd great-grandfather would have used. Share images you have taken of the tombstones of your ancestors. Start a board for a particular ancestor and then pin images of documents, photos, and other resources that help to tell the story of their life. Pin images of books that you are interested in adding to your personal library. Start a board with resources for a specific place that you research. Share your knowledge of local archives, libraries and museums that can assist other researchers.



*This article was adapted from a post Gena Philibert-Ortega wrote for the [GenealogyBank Blog](#).*

Answer: Town clerks' registers of men who served in the Civil War, 1865-1867.

# Upcoming Event Dates 2014

## Regular Meetings

7:00 p.m.

**VFW Post 3195**

**5209 Grand Haven Road**

April 10

May 8

June 12

**No meetings in**

July & December

August 14

September 11

October 9

November 13

## Board Meetings

5:30 p.m. at the VFW

April 10

May 8

June 12

**No meeting in**

July & December

August 14

September 11

October 9

November 13

## Genealogy Family History Workshops

Torrent House Local History &  
Genealogy Dept., 315 W. Webster  
2 sessions!

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please preregister online at

[1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com)

or call 231-722-7276 ext. 240

April 12

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**No workshops in**

June, July, & December

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September 13

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November 8



## BREAKING NEWS

The Library of Michigan in Lansing on March 3, 2014 announced the introduction the 'Second Saturdays' to its regularly scheduled open hours. Beginning April 12, 2014, and continuing on the second Saturday of every month, the Library of Michigan will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

State Librarian Nancy Robertson encouraged this expansion of library hours in response to popular demand, saying: "Our users have been asking for extended hours, and we are happy to be able to accommodate them in this fashion. We also look forward to welcoming new library users who are able to take this added opportunity to explore our unique collections."

## Members Get More Help at Family Workshops

Remember that members can sign up for special help with their genealogy matters. Sign up with the Local History & Genealogy Dept. just like you would for any Family Work Session; but make sure to tell them you are a member and would like specific help.



## What's coming to MCGS

May 8

**"My Search for Roots and the Secrets in DNA"**

Special Guest Speaker, Richard Hill

Richard Hill authored the award-winning book, "Finding Family: My Search for Roots and the Secrets in My DNA". A decades-long search for his biological family introduced Richard to several forms of DNA testing. Motivated to share his success secrets and tips with other adoptees, he created his web site, DNA-Testing-Adviser.com, which makes genetic genealogy understandable to all.

June 12

**"Nineteenth-century Photographs--Identification, Dating and Preservation"**

Special Speakers, Bill & Glenna Christen



- ✓ Pen/pencil and paper to take lots of notes.
- ✓ Donation for our hospitality fund and for all the yummy goodies they provide.
- ✓ FREE table with books
- ✓ Do any of you have a New Yorker who became a Michigan settler? How about a visual to go with your story!