



# Twig Talk



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TWIG TALK

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**Muskegon County Genealogical Society**

C/O Hackley Public Library

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**CAUTION: You have now entered the Genealogy Zone.....**



Test Your  
"GeneKnowlegy"

Which multiple Oscar winner and popular actor is related to Abraham Lincoln?

**Special Program in August**

Everyone seems to have a brick wall, right? Well this is your chance to get the help you need from some of our experienced panel.

Sometimes we can be too wrapped up in our research. When that happens we can miss important information that is staring us right in the face!

Here is one of my own brick wall experiences to show you just how easily I missed an important ancestor who was listed in vital records. My cousin and I had searched for over 10 years and it was right under our noses the whole time. Finding the information to solve my great, great grandmother brick wall was not easy, and I want to thank the Library of Michigan for having such a wonderful website [www.seekingmichigan.org](http://www.seekingmichigan.org). I would have not found the end of this brick wall if it wasn't for that site. My cousin and I had been looking for **Mary Elizabeth (Sprague) Osterhout**. She married **Joseph Freelove** prior to his death in 1869. She then married **Charles E. Osterhout** on 21 Aug 1875. We knew Charles died at the soldier home in Grand Rapids, MI. I ordered Charles' medical records from the Western Michigan Genealogical Society website, and from that information I learned that he was widower before 1920. That told us that Mary had died prior to 1920. I checked the [www.seekingmichigan.org](http://www.seekingmichigan.org) website again for Mary and I found her by entering her father's name, **John Sprague**. There were a few listings on the site but only one in Muskegon, **Rearbine Osterhout**. The only way I knew that was my great, great grandmother was that her mother's last name, **Cristler**, was on the certificate. This is where I could have easily just given up, but knowing a brick wall could be broken I pressed on. I checked to see if the listing was the same on the index as it was on the death record at clerks office. Why couldn't I find it before when I looked for so long? It was because her name on both was written **Kearline Ostuhold**. To verify that I had the right person, I pulled the obituary and could not believe what I found! The name on the obituary was **Mrs. C. E. Osterhout**. It didn't list her first name at all. I knew I had the right person because I recognized the children's last names, oh of coarse they didn't have their first names in the obituary won't know. I have been involved with genealogy for over 20 yrs and I have never seen anything like this before. It had me wondering if anyone else has run across this sort of a "name game." If you have had an interesting brick wall experience, please share it with us.

Which actor is related to Abraham Lincoln? It's multiple Oscar winner Tom Hanks. He is President Lincoln's third cousin four times removed. Of course Lincoln was the 16th President of the United States and Tom Hanks wasn't even born yet.

So, the moral of this story is: Let us help you break through your brick wall. E-mail me (Dawn) [mcgs1972@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgs1972@yahoo.com) with your information so we can help you before our August 13th meeting!

**Board Meeting**-Tuesday, Aug. 4, 6:00 p.m. at the Torrent House, across from the Hackley Library.

**"Genealogy-Family History Workshop"** Note the time change!  
Hackley Public Library, 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 12, 2009.



**County Clerk's Office**  
Margaret Clark Sheffer

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

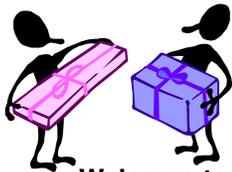
August 5 .....Jane Gates  
August 12 .....Margaret Sheffer  
August 19 .....Barb Martin  
August 26 .....Donna Welch



Our June meeting was both educational and entertaining with a presentation on "Coming to America – Port of Entry."

**Hospitality**  
Jane Walker Weber  
Karen Towne

Jo Grieve won the door prize. Her name was drawn by Barb Martin. She was delighted with the silver portrait tree donated by Paula Halloran. Everyone had a "bon vivant" experience with Margaret Sheffer's half-time treat!! She baked lemon squares with filling and provided other snacks as well. Thanks to all of our volunteers!



**Welcome to our brand new members:**

**Sheeno & Arta Blonshine**

**Surnames:** Blonshine, Herron, Staffen, Lardie, Beauchamp, Capt. Fred L. Johnson

**Carole Kolberg**

**Surnames:** Kluempel, Kolberg, Fenner, Bargert, Coston, DeWitt, Rider, Corning, Orr, Boller, Stanton, Hinson

**Happy Anniversary!**

**Greg and Kay Bosch** on their 30th wedding anniversary.

**Paul and Jane Appleton Schapka** on their 25th wedding anniversary.

**Vernon and Lois Kortering** on their 50th wedding anniversary.

**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.**

**City of Muskegon Cemetery Office Relocation**

The City Cemetery Office has been relocated because the budget cuts to the City of Muskegon Department of Public Works, 1350 E. Keating. This change took effect as of Monday, June 29, 2009. The phone number will stay the same: (231) 724-6783. As far as we know the hours will remain the same. The cemetery office serves the four city cemeteries: Evergreen, Lakeside, Oakwood and Restlawn.



**Library Update**  
Barb LaBatt Martin

**New Hours for Hackley Public Library!**

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Beginning Sunday, September 13, the library will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Check out the ever changing Hackley Public Library website at [www.hackleylibrary.org](http://www.hackleylibrary.org). Just click on Local History for genealogy information.

**City of Muskegon Downtown and Lakeshore Redevelopment Plan**

**National Archives at Kansas City Central Plains Region**, by US National Archives and Records Administration, Central Plains Region

**Research in the Land Entry Files of the General Land Office**, compiled by Kenneth Hawkins

**Using Civilian Records for Genealogical Research in the National Archives, Washington, DC Area**, by US National Archives and Records Administration

**Money/Time Saving Ideas from Kay**



There seemed to be only just so much we could find to save money and time as it relates to genealogy but all of the sudden we found the mother load of savings. This is only the beginning!

Caring for your precious photos: You know that storing photos in sticky vinyl photo albums is very bad for your photos, right? Well, the best way to store your photos is flat, not vertically standing up. The trick is not to stack too many in a pile. Stacks of about 3/4 to 1" are the best. If you stack them too high you put pressure on the photos at the bottom of the pile and limit their air circulation. That can cause the photos to absorb moisture then cause them to stick together and transfer their images. Ideally, a piece of archival tissue paper should be cut to size and placed between each photo. Of course you don't need to do that with every single photo. You'd be doing that for weeks. This might be the perfect solution for those photos that are irreplaceable and precious to you.

To clean oily fingerprints from a photo rub it gently with a piece of stale bread. It works as an oil grabber and gentle abrasive. I wouldn't use any bread with seeds in it though. Plain ole white bread is probably best.

To repair a ripped photo that is important to you, apply Japanese paper and rice or wheat starch paste (available at fine art supply stores and online).

Did you know there is a darn good reason for using a Mat when framing a photograph? That is an Acid-free Mat of course! The Mat keeps the photo from coming into contact with the glass. When a photo is in contact with glass, the image transfers to the glass. This process actually has a name: Ferrotyping.

Looking for a new photo album? If you can smell the pages in the photo album don't buy it! It is most likely made of vinyl which will eat away at the photos.

So where is the perfect place to store your flat-stacked, paper lined photos? Not the basement or the attic. They need a steady temperature with no excessive heat, humidity, cold, or really dry air. I hope this information has given you the incentive to take care of your old photos. Next issue I have some terrific information for items you wear and have in your house!

## Genealogy Tips from Family Tree Magazine & Ancestry.com



### New African-American Genealogy Database Coming This Fall

Posted by Diane

If you're researching African-American roots, look for a new database this fall from ProQuest, creator of HeritageQuest online genealogy service (available free to patrons of subscribing libraries).

ProQuest African-American Heritage will combine records with research guidance. Records will include censuses, slave and freedmen records; birth, marriage and death records; church records; court and legal records; genealogies and family histories. Other than the US census and Freedman's Savings Bank & Trust Co. records (both also are on HeritageQuest), ProQuest didn't name specific records.

Social networking tools come from **AfriGeneas**, a popular website and forum on African-American genealogy; an exclusive version of the classic guide *Black Genesis* by James M. Rose and Alice Eichholz (Genealogical Publishing Co.); and other reference books. For more information about ProQuest African-American Heritage, to watch a video and to sign up for a notification e-mail when the service is released, visit ProQuest's Web site.

### Ancestry.com Tips

#### Canadians in WWI

I was delighted to search the **1916 Canada Census** of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, but spent a long time trying to find my newly immigrated Scottish ancestor until my brain kicked in. I realized that this was WWI and he had enlisted so of course he wasn't there. It might be worth highlighting this as we tend to forget that Canada was part of the British Empire and that they entered WWI before America did. Regards, Jacqui Kirk

**Search for Neighbors** When you're unable to find an ancestor in a census, and you know he stayed in the same area as in a previous or subsequent census—possibly even on the same farm—his name may be misspelled or transcribed incorrectly. Find a neighbor with an unusual name and look for them. If the neighbor hasn't moved your ancestor should be nearby. I used this technique to find several ancestors that I knew were still living on the same farm but were not coming up in the search. Leisa B. Urbantke

#### Garage Sale Treasures

Now that garage sale season is in full swing, be on the lookout for old books and maps. I've found some great reference materials, including a local history that included a biographical sketch of my great-great-grandfather. I also scored an old dictionary that I've found useful in looking up old, obsolete terms. Sherri - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

#### Enhancing Images

When I run across a faded record that's difficult to read, I use my photo editing software to enhance the image. There have been records that were so faded I didn't realize there was writing in some spots, but when I adjusted the darkness and contrast, I was able to read the entire record. Carrie - Bonita Springs, Florida

### Donate A Bible to the DAR

Bible records are always welcome at the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Library in Washington DC. They can be copied along with the title page and given to any DAR Chapter or sent directly to the NSDAR Library. Ken Bowyer

### Great Websites—posted in Family Tree Magazine

Some sites are free to use.



#### DeadFred \$ <[www.deadfred.com](http://www.deadfred.com)>

This site is a longtime favorite of many and it has a great photo archive. It's free to search the archive, which houses more than 92,000 records.

#### Flickr \$ <[www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)>

Here's another site not specifically created for genealogy. Clever family historians are using this site to post photos of ancestors, gravestones and more.

#### MyHeritage \$ <[www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com)>

This site is a descendant of the old GenCircles pedigree website. My Heritage hosts more than 6.4 million family sites! It is very easy to use and laid out simply. Perfect for a beginner.

#### American Battle Monuments Commission

<[www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov)>

If you have military ancestors buried in US cemeteries abroad, this is the place to find them. The site covers 24 overseas military cemeteries with almost 125,000 American war dead, plus tablets of the missing that memorialize more than 94,000 US servicemen and women.

#### Cemetery Surveys <[www.cemeterysurveysinc.com](http://www.cemeterysurveysinc.com)>

View nearly 240,000 burial records, many with photos of the actual headstone. The site is one of the most complete for the southeastern United States.

#### Find A Grave <[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)>

More than 31 million headstone and grave transcriptions. There's also a surname index and the Social Security Death Index.

#### Mortality Schedule <[www.mortalityschedule.com](http://www.mortalityschedule.com)>

Provides free transcriptions of the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses and mortality schedules, in which enumerators recorded info on all people who perished within the 12-months preceding the census.

#### Access Genealogy <[www.accessgenealogy.com](http://www.accessgenealogy.com)>

This free site just keeps growing with recent additions ranging from early South Carolina marriages to the roster of the 1st North Dakota Volunteers and more.

#### Family Search <[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)>

Family-Search is once again where it's happening. A new record search is under development and more records are added all the time. This is still a free site brought to us by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS).

*If there is a "\$" near or in the site name there may be some sort of a charge to use that website.*

**Family Tree Magazine** is an affordable and informative magazine that is packed with everything you need to know to be a better genealogist. They have great website lists in almost every issue. Get your subscription through MCGS and save—plus we get a portion of the subscription fee! You can get to the online subscription page from our society's website at: [www.genealogymuskegon.com](http://www.genealogymuskegon.com)

## Dates to Remember—2009

### Upcoming Events

**“Genealogy—Family History Workshop”** Saturday, Sept. 12, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Hackley Public Library, 316 W. Webster. Join us for hands-on research help from society members. Bring your current research info with you!

**Board Meeting**-Tuesday, Aug. 4, 6:00 p.m. Torrent House

**MCGS Meeting**-Thursday, Aug. 13, 7:00 p.m. Masonic Temple, 396 W. Clay

### A Look Ahead...

#### Genealogy—Family History Workshops

##### **Off June, July, & August**

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at HPL  
Saturday, September 12  
Saturday, October 10  
Saturday, November 7  
Off December

#### MCGS Meetings & Programs

Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.)  
Masonic Temple, 396 W. Clay  
Thursday, June 11

#### **Off July**

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

#### MCGS Board Meetings

Meetings start at 6:00 p.m.  
Torrent House, 315 W Webster  
Tuesday, August 4  
Tuesday, September 8  
Tuesday, October 6  
Tuesday, November 3  
Off December



### What to Bring on August 13

- Your brick wall questions (for the August meeting)
- Pencil and notepaper for all the great information we will share.
- Show and tell memorabilia and/or stories. How did you break through your brick wall? If you still have a brick wall problem, tell us about it.
- And of course bring a few friends.



### DON'T FORGET!

Anyone who has email and is a member of the society can download the **Twig Talk** newsletter or read it online at our website:

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

Any questions email us at:

[mcs1972@yahoo.com](mailto:mcs1972@yahoo.com)

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***Don't Count the Days,  
Make the Days Count!***

### **A Man Lives As Long . . . . . As He Is Remembered**

Your tombstone stands among the rest,  
Neglected and alone.  
The name and date are chiseled out  
On polished, marbled stone.  
It reaches out to all who care  
It is too late to mourn  
You did not know that I exist  
You died and I was born.  
Yet each of us is cells of you  
In flesh, in blood, in bone.  
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse  
Entirely not our own.  
Dear Ancestor, the place you filled  
One hundred years ago  
Spreads out among the ones you left  
Who would have loved you so.  
I wonder if you lived and loved,  
I wonder if you knew  
That someday I would find this spot  
And come to visit you.

Author Unknown



### **Here's a few quick tips that may help you with your brick wall search:**

- Talk to friends and family to try and jog both your memory and theirs.
- Keep an open mind.
- Re-study even the smallest, most insignificant piece of information.
- Make guesses and think through scenarios.
- Take classes and get involved in your local genealogical society.
- Keep up with the latest software and information posted in libraries, local governments, and online.
- Re-read all documents you already have. Maybe you missed something.
- Study collateral Lines.
- Never give up!