



Twig Talk

Newsletter of the Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

Vol. 11 No. 8

August 2011



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

mcgs1972@yahoo.com

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Vice President:

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**Thursday,
August 11, 2011
7:00 p.m.
Masonic Temple
396 W. Clay Ave.**

“Examining Handwriting for Genealogical Clues”



In this presentation and using samples of handwriting from the audience’s ancestors, Jeanne Drew will discuss the specifics of handwriting samples and give an analysis of a particular person from the provided samples. **Remember to send your samples in early if you want them reviewed by Jeanne.**

Jeanne has been a practicing graphologist for over 30 years. She first became aware of graphology while researching learning disabilities. Over the years, she has studied with many doctors and colleges in reference to handwriting. Jeanne is also a certified questioned-document expert, works as a mediator for the Cook County Court system and has been featured on many TV and radio shows over the years.

Guest Are Always Welcome To Come!

GENEALOGY FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOPS
Local History & Genealogy Department, Hackley Public Library,
316 W. Webster Ave., Muskegon, MI
Please use the alley entrance for handicap access.



Literacy in 1900s

The rate of literacy increased astoundingly during the 19th century. In America, millions of children learned with _____, classic textbooks published through out the 1800s.

See page 3 for the answer.

Workshops are offered on Saturdays 10:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m., starting in September 10, continuing October 8 and November 12. Our workshops are to help the beginners, intermediate and the advanced. If you have some information about your family such as names, dates and places then bring these for starters. Our society has dedicated volunteers that are on hand to help. There is no cost for the workshops. Available to buy at the time is our helpful “Blue Packet” with charts, forms and so much for a small donation of \$5 ea. and 12 & 15 Generation Charts for \$3 ea. We are a non-profit organization with 39 years’ experience for anyone interested in the pursuit of their Family History. For more information mcgs1972@yahoo.com or (231) 740-3698



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.



Our June meeting was at Muskegon Community College. We hosted Shirley Hodges who gave an excellent presentation on locating female ancestors. Dona Davis was the door prize winner. Those stellar members reading the newsletter thoroughly were: Connie Fales, Phyllis and John Slater, and Joanne Blakkan. 50 hoorays for you!! Do you suppose some will attend the meeting with their Civil War ancestor's signature and/or photo?

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Hospitality
Jane Walker Weber
Paula Halloran
Connie Fales

NEW BOOKS

- **The Hidden Half of the Family: A Sourcebook for Women's Genealogy**, by Christina Kassabian Schaefer
- **West Tennessee's Forgotten Children Apprentices from 1821 to 1889**, by Alan N. Miller
- **Eastern Cherokee Census Cherokee, North Carolina 1915-1922** Taken by Agent James E. Henderson Volume I 1915-1916, transcribed by Jeff Bowen
- **Eastern Cherokee Census Cherokee, North Carolina 1915-1922** Taken by Agent James E. Henderson Volume II 1917-1918, transcribed by Jeff Bowen
- **Cherokee Citizenship Commission Dockets Volume I 1880-1884 & 1887-1889**, by Jeff Bowen
- **Cherokee Citizenship Commission Dockets Volume II 1880-1884 & 1887-1889**, by Jeff Bowen
- **Cherokee Citizenship Commission Dockets Volume IV 1880-1884 & 1887-1889**, by Jeff Bowen
- **Chickasaw By Blood Enrollment Cards 1898-1914 Volume IV**, transcribed by Jeff Bowen
- **Cherokee Connections**, by Myra Vanderpool Gormley
- **Middle Tennessee's Forgotten Children Apprentices from 1784 to 1902**, by Alan N. Miller
- **Finding Italian Roots: The Complete Guide for Americans**, by John Philip Colletta
- **Companions of Champlain: Founding Families of Quebec, 1608-1635**, by Denise R. Larson
- **Kinship: It's All Relative**, by Jackie Smith Arnold
- **Detroit River Connections**, by Judy Jacobson
- **Hispanic Confederates**, by John O'Donnell-Rosales
- **Nineteenth Century Tennessee Adoptions, Legitimations, and Name Changes**, by Alan N. Miller
- **History for Genealogists: Using Chronological Time Lines to Find and Understand Your Ancestors**, by Judy Jacobson
- **North Carolina 1915-1922 Taken by Agent James E. Henderson Volume II 1917-1918**, transcribed by Jeff Bowen



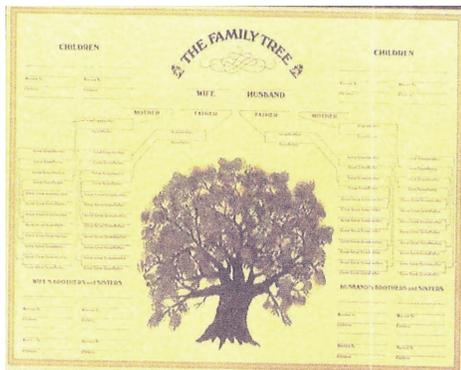
Membership
Susan Boos Gerst
tsgerst@yahoo.com
Kathy Broughton DeCormier

Welcome our newest member

Janice (Jan) Griffiths – Muskegon, MI

SURNAMES: Bogie, Brott, Bushaw, Hartman, Joslin, Kellesher, Lalonde, Marsden, Morton, Murphy, Reed, Whelpley

The Family Tree Charts are printed in beautiful autumn colors on parchment paper. The chart is 18" x 24" and fits into a standard size frame. Well organized, easy to follow and space for six generations and they rolled into their own protective tube. They will be on sale at each meeting or buy them at in the Local History & Gen. Dept. at HPL \$7 ea. plus \$3.00 for each tube being shipped. This would make a wonderful gift.



ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION ON PAGE 1

McGuffey's Eclectic Readers. The Readers were destined to educate five generations of Americans, spanning the 1830s to the 1920s, generations that would know their author as "the schoolmaster of the nation." Interestingly, with nearly 130 million copies published since the first edition appeared in 1836, McGuffey's Readers are still in print (150 thousand copies printed in 1985), and are still being used in some of the schools of Ohio and America today. Source: William Holmes McGuffey Museum, <http://www.units.muohio.edu/mcuffeymuseum>.



Genealogy News & Tips

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

FAMILY HISTORY TRIP TIP

I bought a printer/scanner combo that does not have to be attached to a computer. It can be taken and used to scan photos, letters, and such without a computer attached; it just needs a memory stick or you can attach a portable hard drive or a laptop if you have one. I've found it works great when visiting distant relatives who may not want to part with a cherished photo long enough to get a copy. You can make a copy in minutes on the spot or save to the external memory stick or hard drive. Mine is an Epson but I'm sure there are others now. Denise Norris

NAMING PATTERNS

Even though my Italian grandfather lived with us when I was a child, I never knew the names of his parents. When I started researching family history, I remembered the custom of Italians naming their first son and daughter after the husband's parents, and the second son and daughter after the wife's parents.

Since my mother, Lucia, was the oldest daughter and her brother, Vincent, was the oldest son, I searched for a couple with the names of Vincent and Lucia and lo and behold, I found them! It also worked for some of my other relatives. Joan Walsh, Baton Rouge, LA

"PASS IT ON"

I constantly remind my family that as we live each day we are making history and that we should share our related experiences and events with other friends and family members. To record that history I keep a journal and often I write entries (stories, thoughts, memories) as a mass e-mail message to my family and friends. I then save those messages to a special computer folder. This memoir/record/diary will be one of my contributions, and perhaps will be beneficial, to those generations to come. As we enter a new decade this year let us remind each other to "pass it on." Ruth (Hopkins) Lopes

CONTACTING CEMETERIES

After many years of frustration and getting nowhere researching my grandmother's parents, I decided to look at a map and focus in on some addresses I had for family members from a business directory of Topeka, where I knew they had lived. Close to those addresses, pretty much in the center of town, was a cemetery that had a web site. The cemetery records were not online, but the address of the cemetery was provided. With a "what the heck" attitude, I decided to write to the cemetery to see if Grandma Thompson was buried there, and I inquired about her first husband and another set of great-grandparents for whom I was missing death dates. I hit the mother lode! Everybody was buried there, and the person who wrote me back included plot numbers and cause of death. The cemetery asked if I would consider making a donation, and naturally I made one by return mail. Sallie Mahan

Continues in next column



Look What's Coming For 2011

All programming is at the Masonic Temple (next to the Muskegon Chronicle) 396 W. Clay Avenue, Muskegon, MI in the Lower Level (stairs or elevator available).

Door opens at 6:30 P.M.
with the event starting at 7:00 P.M.

Thursday, August 11, 2011

Graphologist, Jeanne Drew, Muskegon, MI

"Examining Handwriting for Genealogical Clues"

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Robert Myers, Berrien Springs, MI

"Hard Tack & Coffee"

Thursday, October 13, 2011

"Family History Month"

Breaking Through Your "BRICKWALLS"

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Annual Meeting

Thursday, December 8, 2011

"HOLIDAY GATHERING"

6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Torrent House

315 W. Webster Ave.

Use side door entrance or elevator

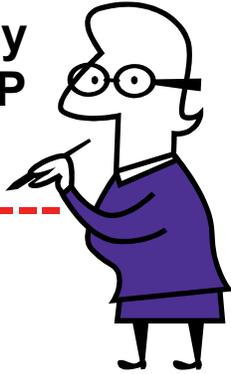
USE PHOTOGRAPHS TO JOG MEMORIES

My children want me to write a family history to go along with our family tree. I wondered how I could possibly remember my early years. I had to remember nearly sixty-four years of growing up, getting married, raising a family, and growing old. I started sorting pictures by decade, later I will resort to each year. The memories came flooding back just as I had hoped for. It is taking longer to do this task than anticipated because I am enjoying the journey through time. I am also sorting old letters and postcards which fills in histories of family members as well. I have already downloaded to file most of the documents which I have collected through my genealogical research- those will be last to sort. Besides organizing information I am getting the closets cleaned! Susan Marston

KEEP SEARCHING

Don't always believe what you think you see in a record. Searching for my great-great-grandmother, I thought I had found her but something just wasn't right. To my surprise, after hours and hours of searching, I discovered that the person I thought was my great-great-grandmother really was her niece who had the same name. The age 3 versus 30 had confused me because I was looking for 30 but found a 3 and an ink blotch that looked like a 0. Keep searching! Delores Kikuchi

What Does My MEMBERSHIP Support?



- ✓ Rental Cost of Meeting Place
- ✓ Program Speakers and Special Events
- ✓ Maintenance Costs – copy machine maintenance fee
- ✓ *Publication of History of Muskegon County, Michigan: A Proud Legacy, vol. 1*
- ✓ Publication of "Twig Talk" newsletter
- ✓ Postage
- ✓ Saturday "Family History Genealogy Workshops" at Hackley Public Library
- ✓ MCGS website
- ✓ Purchase of manuscripts, books, and photographs at Hackley Public Library
- ✓ Digitization of city directories, 1884 and 1894 Muskegon County, State of Michigan census records, newspapers, cemetery project for Hackley Public Library and MCGS website
- ✓ Equipment Donations to Hackley Public Library – microfilm reader with printer and zoom lens
- ✓ Donations to Hackley Public Library for U.S. microfilm census records, book binding
- ✓ Computer and HP laser printer for office
- ✓ Supplies – paper, notebooks, binders, etc.
- ✓ Memberships in the Michigan Genealogical Council (MGC) and the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS)

We appreciate your support to preserve Muskegon County family and local history.

NEWSPAPERS ONLINE

The website <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> is a project sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. It's goal is to digitize, index and publish American newspapers on the internet. Newspapers from Arizona, California, Washington DC, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Washington are currently available to search and view.

MICHIGAN CEMETERY SOURCES DATABASE URL CHANGE

The Michigan Cemetery Sources Website has been moved to a new location as of 04-11-2011. Please update your bookmarks to reflect the new location of this resource. The new address link is <http://libraryofmichigan.state.mi.us/MichiganCemeteries/>

For those unfamiliar with the Michigan Cemetery Sources Database, it began as a printed bibliography of cemetery readings available at the Library of Michigan. As publishing an update of the book became impossibly expensive, the bibliography was converted into an online database, which is free for anyone anywhere. Users can still find a list of cemetery listings (burial lists) available at the Library of Michigan as well as links to cemetery lists online. We add links as time allows. Researchers can search for cemetery lists by county, township, location, and cemetery name. Because researchers often ask, I will point out that the Michigan Cemetery Sources Database does NOT include a name index. No universal or statewide name index (at least for Michigan) exists at this time.

Thanks, Kendel Joy Darragh, Reference Librarian Library of Michigan

GLOSSARY OF WOMEN'S WORDS

You may find women referred to in old documents using these terms.

- **Administratrix:** a woman assigned by the court to administer an estate where there is no valid will
- **Bondmaid:** a female slave or indentured servant
- **Concubine:** a woman who lives with a man to whom she is not married
- **Consort:** companion; term for when the woman predeceased her husband
- **Dowager:** a widow with a title or rank (the queen dowager) or property from her husband
- **Dower:** a legal provision for a woman's support and that of her children after her husband's death; typically one-third of the husband's property; also known as "widow's thirds"
- **Dowry:** property the bride brings to her marriage
- **Executrix:** the woman named in a will to distribute the estate
- **Goodwife:** the wife or household mistress
- **Goody:** a woman or housewife, especially an older woman
- **Grass widow:** a woman whose husband had deserted her; also used to refer to a woman who has illegitimate children or to a discarded common-law wife
- **Now wife:** in a will, refers to the current wife (implying there was a previous wife)
- **Relict:** a widow
- **Spinster:** an unmarried woman regarded as beyond the age of marriage
- **Testatrix:** a woman who leaves a valid will

Source: <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/Womens-Words-A-Glossary> <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/Womens-Words-A-Glossary> 7/28/2010

From **MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL
CONUNCIL NEWSLETTERS**

Volume 35, Issue 3 - Summer 2011



MeL (<http://mel.org>) is the statewide portal for a wealth of content Michigan residents are able to access from home on our personal computers. Heritage Quest Online is one of the most popular MeL databases used by genealogists and historians. MeL is available for home use to all Michigan residents. Even if you are visiting Florida, Arizona, or elsewhere, all you need is to enter your library card or Michigan Driver's license number for access.

SeekingMichigan.org
continues to be a fantastic resource for the lovers of

Seeking Michigan

history. This continues to be a joint project between the Archives of Michigan and the Library of Michigan. There is also a subset of SeekingMichigan.org for Civil War documents, photos, and materials; even an event calendar at <http://micivilwar.org>.

We urge you to continue to use these valuable resources in your research. The Archives of Michigan remains fully committed to serving the historical and genealogical community. The Archives are open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. More information can be found at <http://michigan.gov/archivesofmi>.

The Abrams Genealogy Collection and Michigan Collection at the Library of Michigan (LM) continues to be one of the finest historical and genealogical collections in the Midwest. LM remains open and their collections are available for researchers. The hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. <http://michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan>.

LM is committed to growing and collecting materials about Michigan for the Michigan Collection. Both the Archives and Library are closed on government holidays. If you are planning a trip to Lansing to use these collections, please check their websites for the most recent hours and holiday closings. One of the largest threats to these valuable resources is lack of use. Please continue to utilize and encourage others to use the Library and Archives of Michigan, both located at the Michigan Library and Historical Center in Lansing.

ARCHIVES Updates

From the Library of Michigan
By Mark Harvey

All state census films are back on the shelves - awaiting the digital product to come back and then it can be posted on the website. Naturalization films will be sent out in 3 batches in order to maintain some film for patrons. The digitization of Survey maps has been signed off on and additional funding incurred, land patents will go for indexing soon. Brown Books - are item searchable by name now on Seekingmichigan.org - these have been redone in the past 3 months for easier search ability.

WEBSITES ABOUT WOMEN ANCESTORS

About Women's History and About Invisible Women Ancestors

womenshistory.about.com/homework/womenshistory/mbody.htm
genealogy.about.com/od/women/a/female_ancestor.htm

About.com guides to online resources for women's history and women's genealogy

Cyndi's List—Female Ancestors

www.cyndislist.com/female.htm

Oodles of links categorized by general resource, military, foremothers,

societies and groups, and women's history resources.

Uncovering Women's History in Archival Collections

www.lib.iastate.edu/collections/eresourc/whisar.html This guide points you to online archives, libraries

and other repositories that have primary source materials by or about women.

History's Women

www.historyswomen.com

An online magazine highlighting the achievements of women throughout history.

Lost Female Ancestors

geneasearch.com/findfemale.htm

GeneaSearch's forum of queries on female ancestors.

FIVE TIPS FOR LEARNING WOMEN'S MAIDEN NAMES

Use these five strategies to help discover your female ancestors' maiden names

- 1) Research the woman indirectly, seeking records of her relatives—husband, father, siblings and children. She may be named as an heir, witness or traveling companion. A letter may mention her, too.
- 2) Marriage records are most likely to contain a woman's maiden name. If you notice from censuses most of her children were born in one county, start your marriage records search there. Look for a certificate and license application in county records. Churches many have marriage bonds or banns (see the February 2004 *Family Tree Magazine* for church-records research advice). Study historical newspapers,
- 3) Seek records on each of a woman's children, even those not in your line, including birth and baptism records, marriage records and death records. One may give a maiden name if others don't. Also note others named, especially witnesses, as they may be her relatives.
- 4) In the tombstone, look at plots near hers, since families often were buried near each other. Study the caretaker's burial records for more information about those people, and to see if anyone was buried nearby without a headstone.
- 5) Once you have a guess at a surname, start researching families in the area with that surname to see if any have children with your female ancestor's first name. Keep note of all the clues that support, as well as those that refute, the conclusion you've found your ancestor's maiden name. It's likely that a collection of clues will lead to her name, rather than a single momentous record that states, "I, Mary Smith Pearson ... " To read case studies of finding female ancestors' maiden names, see *A Genealogist's Guide to Finding Your Female Ancestors* by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack (Betterway Books).

Source: *Family Tree Magazine* <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/Five-Tips-for-Learning-Womens-Maiden-Names> 9/28/2009

Upcoming Events Dates to Remember—2011

Board Meetings

2nd Thursday
Meet at 5:30 p.m.
Masonic Temple
396 W. Clay

August 11
September 6
October 4
November 1

**NO MEETING in
December**

Regular Meetings

2nd Thursday
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Starts at 7:00 p.m.
Masonic Temple
396 W. Clay

August 11
September 8

**“Oct., Family History Month”
October 13**

November 10

**“Family History Holiday Gathering”
December 8**

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

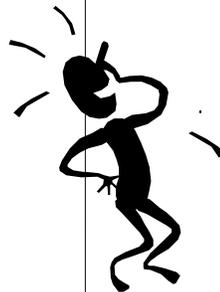
September 10
October 8
November 12

**NO WORKSHOP in
December**



What to Bring to Meetings

- 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.



THE FUNNY PAGES

Great ideas for that favorite Genealogist in your life (or for yourself)

All available through [Cafepress.com](http://www.cafepress.com)
<http://www.cafepress.com/jmkbooks/1867624>



**WHO IS
THE MASKED
GENEALOGIST?**

