



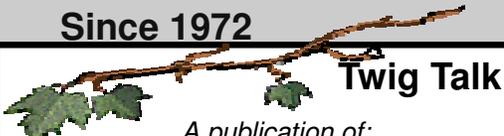
# Twig Talk

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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### 2009 Committee's

Membership .....	Susan Boos
History Book.....	Committee
Hospitality .....	Jane Weber, Karen Towne
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
Member .....	Nancy Spoon

We are still looking for members to take on one of the committees below.

### Open Committee Positions:

Family Tree Talk .....	Open
Sales.....	Open
Research .....	Open
Publicity .....	Open



Valentines Day is almost here. Remember to let those special people in your life know they are special. Record some family memories.

Meeting, February 12

“Tombstones 101”

Masonic Temple - 396 W. Clay Av.



**READ ALL ABOUT IT!**

“Genealogy Helping Hands”

We have exciting news, this year at the monthly meeting we will endeavor to assist members in their searches.



Sign—up

Fort Wayne Trip to Allen County Library



**Check it Out**

**FREE—*footnote.com* is NOW available at  
Hackley Public Library  
in the Local History and Genealogy Dept.**



Quotations

Genealogists never die, they just loose their roots.

A hay stack full of needles. It's the threads I need.





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

**Volunteer schedule  
for Wednesdays in February**

- February 4 .....Jane Gates
- February 11 .....Margaret Sheffer
- February 18 .....Paula Hoffman
- February 25 .....Harold Griswold

We are looking for volunteers to help at the County Clerk's office. It is really a great opportunity to not only help others but to get some of your own research done.

Here are the details:

On Wednesday afternoons from 1:00-4:00, a member of MCGS is available at the clerk's office to help anyone seeking marriage, death record information. We simply help them by showing them how to search through the book & card indexes, in records office. Whenever there is free time you are welcome to do your own research or help with our society research requests. Why not give it a try? Send us an email at [mcgs1972@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgs1972@yahoo.com) or contact Margaret for more information.

In 2008 we had 335 people who were researching at the County Clerks office.



**Hospitality Committee**  
Jane Walker Weber  
Karen Towne

Our snowy January meeting had an educational and entertaining program about family history preserved with quilting. At break, Kathy DeCormier drew Ruth Skinner's name for door prize. We thank Ruth for the enormous donation of genealogy magazines. Harold Griswold donated The Source Book which is a book containing all the resource contacts globally. The book will be up for offer at the drawing in February. So far Cheri Miller, Fran Harrington, Bonnie Vokits 2x's and Jane Schapka 2x's are in the running!

AncestryLibrary.com edition is also available in our Local History & Genealogy Dept. paid for by our library.

**Members Are Important To Us!**

Members present at our January meeting 20 members with 6 guest!

**Membership Committee**  
Susan Boos Gerst

**Website Committee**  
Shelly Nelson & Fran Harrington



Our website has more information and growing every month. If you have information on any of your ancestors and descendants we are looking for more obits and articles on our website. Please get a copy to us in person, by email, or by mail..



**Library Committee Update**  
Barb LaBatt Martin

**New Books for Genealogy  
at Hackley Public Library**

BIG Thank You.... to Jean Town from our Local History & Genealogy Department for typing 48,201 of the female marriage names.

**Female Marriage Index of Muskegon County 1859-1949** printed & donated by Muskegon County Genealogical Society

**Index of Vital Statistics 2008 from The Muskegon Chronicle.** donated by Matthew Burns (Thanks Matt)

BIG Thank You... to Linda Talbott for typing the Clock Funeral Index from 1894—May 1948 that has 11,378 names. The index will be available in the Genealogy Dept. soon with the 26 volume record books.

Clock Funeral index will also available on our website soon.....

HERITAGE QUEST ONLINE

**Don't Forget HeritageQuest is FREE  
from your home computer**

HeritageQuest. You might want to take advantage of this free opportunity. Use this link: [mel.org](http://mel.org) On the left column scroll down to "Genealogy" and *Click*. Next in the center column scroll down to HeritageQuest OnLine and *Click*. Go to the box requesting a Michigan Driver's License Number and Type In your Michigan Driver's License Number or State ID Number. From that point you are officially on their site.



## From Ancestry Online Newsletter

### Nineteenth Century City Life

Have you ever wondered what life was really like for your ancestors?

If they were working class people in an American city in the nineteenth century, the book *Challenging Chicago*, by Perry Duis (University of Chicago Press, 1992) will reveal how hard the business of everyday life was for them. For example, we all know that the horse provided transportation for people and goods. The movies give us romantic images of horse-drawn carriages clip-clopping cheerfully along the street. But Duis describes what that meant in real life-- streets covered with a semi-frozen slush of manure and snow in winter, muddy manure oozing between the pavestones in spring, and stinky, smelly brown dust covering everything in summer. But people could no more do without horses than we can without the internal combustion engine. A nationwide equine flu epidemic in 1872 killed half the horses, bringing factories to a halt, leaving produce rotting in rail cars, and ushering in an economic panic that lasted two years.

As its title suggests, the book is about Chicago, but in many ways, it paints a portrait of any large city at that time. It covers topics such as housing, work, transportation and food. It describes the shopping options for an urban housewife and the enterprising people who created the "curbstone economy," buying goods wholesale and selling them to individuals on street corners or door-to-door.

Duis is more historian than popular writer, but his prose is clear and engaging, and he peppers the pages with quotes from writers of the time. I recommend this book to anyone who is curious about urban life in the "good old days." - Linda Kush - Boston, Massachusetts

### Online Obituary Guest Books

Recently I signed the online obituary "Guest Book" on the website of a hometown newspaper for a recently deceased relative. I marked it "Could be contacted," and as a result I heard from one of my mothers' cousins, and in turn was able to put him in contact with my mother's sister. Long-range plans have been made for the three of us to get together, and I'm hopeful that it will help me to add to my family tree for all the relatives. - Don

### Name Variants

It has been mentioned hundreds of times, but it bears repeating...be sure to use any and all spelling combinations you can think of. While searching land records for my mother-in-law's ancestors, circa 1850,

in one Ohio county, I was searching for the Altweis family. I found the name written as Altwies, Altwise, Altwis, Altveis, and Alweis, among others. Jenifer Herman

### Today is Tomorrow's History

Being the family historian, I am immediately thrilled when I find something written by my ancestors—a card, a letter, a note to the milkman; even a shopping list takes on added proportions, because it gives me an insight into their lives.

I have been concerned for some time now, that in the age of e-mails, computers, and e-cards, my descendants won't have the same benefits, so this year I decided to take matters into my own hands. Having five married children and sixteen young grandchildren, I asked each family if, instead of a purchased Christmas gift, they would give me a potted [condensed] history of their lives over the past year. I told them they could do it in any form they wished, it could be done by one member of the family, as a project by the grandchildren, just whatever they were comfortable with.

Christmas came and I can honestly say I have never been so thrilled with the gifts I received. Some had made scrapbook pages of special events. Some had written a month by month run down and included photos. One was excerpts from her diary, and another had included pictures drawn by each of the children. Still another had copied and laminated school awards and prizes. Every one of the projects was special and unique.

As they all read each other's projects there were lots of oohs and ahs and, "you didn't tell me that." Everyone enjoyed it so much that we've decided it's to be a regular Christmas event and this is one family historian who is a lot happier knowing that our tomorrow's history will not be lost.

Mary Rogers - Wedderburn, Australia

### Look at What You Have in Storage

Fourteen years ago I put a box of family pictures and papers in a box after my parents died. When I saw the box as I was putting away my Christmas decorations I pulled it down and found a picture of great-grandparents that I didn't know I had, newspaper items on the family, and my grandfather's original naturalization paper. What was I thinking? Ok the items had been a storage facility for five of those fourteen years but I hadn't looked even after they were retrieved. Lesson learned: Go over the items you have. You might find something you didn't even know you had. Linda Rosedah



## Dates to Remember—2009

### February Events

**Board meeting, Tuesday,  
February 3, 6:00 p. m.**  
Torrent House

MCGS Meeting  
**Thursday, February 12,**  
7:00 p.m.  
Masonic Temple,  
396 W. Clay Ave., Muskegon

**Saturday, February 7,**  
9:30—11:30 a. m.,  
Genealogy

Family History Workshop  
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 7  
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 M.T.  
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 6:30 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—December 31**



### **February 12 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. We want to hear & see what you have to share!
- Your 4-generation chart completed or not.
- Your genealogy questions.

*See you there!*



MORE FYI from pg 4

### Broken Names

As I read Jenifer's tip about looking for name variants, I had to chuckle as I recalled the most amusing altered name I have found. On a census record, my great-grandfather Bonkemeyer's surname was listed as Meyer, his given name and initial as Bonk E. It does help to be reminded often of the little tips that help make genealogical research more productive. Peggy G. Burton  
Administrator FTDNA Atwater Surname DNA Project

### 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