



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

316 W. Webster Avenue

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Officers for 2010

President:

Jane Appleton Schapka

Vice President:

Nancy Clark Spoon

Secretary:

Dawn Westcomb Kelley

Treasurer:

Margaret AusterMiller Brewster

2010 Committees

By Laws	George Brewster
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Historian.....	Jennifer Lamkin
History Book Project.....	Kathy DeCormier
Hospitality	Karen Towne & Jane Weber
Library.....	Barb Martin
Membership	Susan Gerst & Kathy DeCormier
Pioneer Cert. Program..	Eileen Wojewodzki
Programs & Publicity	JoAnn Osborn
Special Projects.....	Dawn Kelley
Website.....	Shelly Nelson



Test Your "GeneKnowlegy"

Another way of saying Mardi Gras is _____? Look on page _____ for the answer.

Thursday, February 11th

"RECENT RESEARCH AT THE LAKESHORE MUSEUM CENTER"

Speaker: John H. McGarry III, Executive Director
Information on current projects and the research being conducted by the staff of the Lakeshore Museum Center

Masonic Temple - 396 W. Clay Av.

7:00 p. m.

Do you need background information on your ancestors? You should hear this! It will prepare you to learn about life as it was, as displayed in the newest exhibit of the museum, called "You Should See This."



"Genealogy Family History Workshop"

Saturday, February 13th

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

Hackley Public Library

Local History & Genealogy Dept.—Lower Level

UP-COMING EVENTS IN OTHER PLACES

Saturday, February 6, 2010—1:30 p. m.

Footnote.com

Kris Rzepczynski

(Ryerson Auditorium, Grand Rapids Public Library)

Western Michigan Genealogical Society

Submitted below by Bonnie Vokits

Saturday, February 6, 2010

4th Annual Ethnic Heritage Festival (FREE)

Public Museum

272 Pearl St. NW Grand Rapids

Museum Opens 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.

Performances are between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Saturday, February 6, 2010—2:00 p. m.

Finnish American Society of West Central Michigan

Presentation on Swedish History

Church of the Savior (R.C.A.)

180 - 68th Ave. N. Coopersville, MI

More on page 3



County Clerk's Office

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

- February 3Jane Gates
- February 10Dawn Kelley
- February 17Barb Martin
- February 24Dawn Kelley

LOOK FOR MORE UPDATE NOTICES ON
MUSKEGON COUNTY CLERK'S VITAL RECORDS OFFICE
website at:
www.co.muskegon.mi.us/clerk

We are always looking for more members to volunteer and if you are interested in helping, please contact us at: mcgs1972@yahoo.com - in the EMAIL SUBJECT AREA put—MARRIAGE INDEX ! We are now indexing the marriages records into a data base. This will be an ongoing project. Please read more on the back page.



Hospitality Committee Karen Towne Jane Walker Weber

We ushered in the New Year 2010 with Karen Towne as Hospitality Chair. Assisting her will be Jane Weber and Paula Halloran. Our book drawing of the "Sources Book" was won by Donna Welch. She must have been carrying a rabbit's foot because she was also the door prize winner. Three 2010 purse calendar books were won, by Nancy Zissler, Karen Carlson, and Jane Schapka. Karen Towne and Jane Weber provided cupcakes and fruit at the break. In February we will feature Mardi Gras, so wear purple, green and yellow plus any bling-bling for that celebration. Will you be a KING CAKE winner??



Answer from page 1

Mardi Gras is a French name that means "Fat Tuesday." It is the day before Ash Wednesday which is the first day before Lent, followed by Easter. Usually people give up things that are in excess. Fat Tuesday is the day before giving up something, so people party and gorge on food plus drink. Long ago, the French had festivals that led up to Fat Tuesday. The merrymaking lasted for weeks with parties, parades and masked balls. The French brought their traditions with them when they settled in Louisiana in the late 1600s and 1700s. Today KREWES or carnival clubs continue the traditions by adopting a theme for their floats, balls and parties complete with a King and Queen. These various carnival clubs provide a great array of floats where beads and other jewelry are thrown to the onlookers. Many towns in the South besides New Orleans celebrate Mardi Gras season.



Membership Committee Susan Boos Gerst Kathy Broughton DeCormier

Please welcome our newest members to our society!
• Julie Dratz—Muskegon
Surnames: Bomers, Brace, Dratz, Jisher, Kooi, Jolman, Nash, Rozitsky
• Janet Helmer—Muskegon
Surnames: Fox, Ray
• Anne & Gary Carrier—Grand Haven
Surnames: Carrier, Lowe, Kort, Meyers, Davis, Gilmour, Hirth, Burcham
• Garry & Charlotte Olson—Muskegon
Surnames: Jackson, Swanson, Olsen, McCallum, Bush, Elmquest, Bain

January meeting had 30 members and 2 visitors

Website Committee Shelly Nelson



Shelly is the manager at St. Mary's Cemetery and is doing a wonderful job of getting the information into a data base by the help of Chuck.



Library Committee Update Barb LaBatt Martin

- The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England 1634-1635 v. 6**, by Robert Charles Anderson (Gift from Colonial Dames)
- Morton Allan Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals** (Gift from Colonial Dames)
- Angels in the Architecture: A Photographic Elegy to an American Asylum**, by Heidi Johnson
- You Can Write Your Family History**, by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack
- The Pilgrim Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth Colony 1620-1633**, by Robert Charles Anderson (Gift from Colonial Dames)
- Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte**

WHITE LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The library owns the hard copies and microfilm of the *Whitehall Forum*, *The White Laker*, and hard copies of the *White Lake Beacon*. The *White Lake Observer*, owned by the Montague Museum, is currently being put on microfilm and will be available later for digitations. Digitization would provide full-text searchable access through the library website using the library's computers, as well as computers owned by individuals. Searching may be done by name, keyword and subject and would attract novice users as well as those accustomed to accessing information electronically. WLCL News Vol. 4 Issue 3 Sept.-Oct. 2009
If you would like to donate to this project, please contact Bette at whitelake.lcoop.org or call 231-894-9531 Director, ext. 21.



From Ancestry Online Newsletter

SMART PHONE PICTURES

When I was in Salt Lake City I didn't want to take the time to take the microfilm to the printer to make a copy of just one entry on

the page. I used my smart phone to take a picture of the item and e-mailed it to myself with a note of what it was, and all the identification information (e.g., film number, the library in question, etc.). It worked great. C. Van Allen

LOCAL HISTORY CAN BOOST YOUR RESEARCH

Curious about the local history of where my ancestors lived, I went to the local library and checked out some books.

One series that was especially helpful was called "*Images of America*" It contained old photos and a history of each town. I learned a lot and even found a photo of the land and hotel that my ancestors owned in the 1920s. I learned that my great-great-grandmother was a pioneer resident of Palo Alto, California and have since donated a photograph of her house to the local historical society. Fortunately, many of the homes, businesses, schools, and churches tied to my ancestors are now historic landmarks. The history books opened up a rich avenue of research.

Des Allen

REVISIT WEBSITES PERIODICALLY

I have been searching for my great-grandparents marriage record for many years without success. I recently re-checked a website I had used before and to my amazement, there was their marriage record in a county I hadn't checked. I did not know they had lived there. Now I can write the county for the official marriage record.

Hopefully from there, I will be able to determine what church they were married in and write the church for a copy of that record as well. So, look and search again at sites you have already searched. New records and databases are being added all the time. You might be surprised.

Des Allen

NAMES REVERSED

I was having a really hard time locating my great-great-grandfather, Dennis James in the 1870 census. One day as I was browsing through the pages looking for another family member it occurred to me that perhaps the names got transposed. I tried searching with his given name in the surname field and his surname in the given name field. He popped right up! Catherine James

MONITORING MESSAGE BOARD

Although I had made several major discoveries by watching the message boards, it was something that I would forget to do for long stretches. I've found a great way to make sure I'm up-to-date at all times. I've customized my home page with Message Board Favorites near the top. While at an important family message board, I click the "Add to Favorites" button. Limit these favorites to 4 or 5, or they will take up too much of your home page. On your home page,

click Customize, and the "Message Board Favorites" category will appear that you can add and arrange on your home page. Position it near the top, where you will notice it. The best part is the board with the newest message will automatically go to the head of your favorites list so you'll always be aware of activity on the board. Cheryl Parsons



UPCOMING EVENTS IN OTHER PLACES

Continued from page 1

Saturday, March 13, 2010 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

South Bend Area Genealogical Society

Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library

209 Lincoln Way E. downtown Mishawaka

www.indianahistory.org/ihs/genorglist.html

Saturday, March 27, 2010 - Registration 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

33rd Annual Spring Seminar

Genealogical Society of Monroe County, MI

Monroe Community College

www.gsmc-michigan.org

Wed. thru Sat. April 28—May 1, 2010

National Genealogical Society

2010 Family History Conference

Salt Lake City, Utah

You need to pre-register

www.ngsgenealogy.org for MORE information



THOUGHTS ON GENEALOGY

- Genealogy: Tracing yourself back to better people.
- I trace my family history so I will know who to blame.
- Can a first cousin, once removed, return?
- Do I even WANT ancestors?
- Genealogy: Where you confuse the dead and irritate the living.
- Friends come and go, but relatives tend to accumulate.
- Genealogists never die, they just lose their roots.
- Genealogy: A haystack full of needles. It's the threads I need!
- I think my family tree is a few branches short of full bloom.
- Theory of relativity: If you go back far enough, we're all related.

Submitted by Paula Rice

