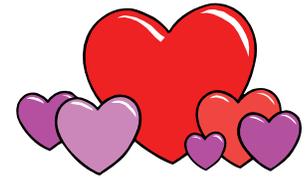




# Twig Talk



Newsletter of the Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

Vol. 11 No. 2

February 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](http://www.genealogymuskegon.org)

[mcgs1972@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgs1972@yahoo.com)

Officers for 2011

### President:

Jane Appleton Schapka

### Vice President:

Nancy Clark Spoon

### Secretary:

Dawn Westcomb Kelley

### Treasurer:

Ruth Skinner

### 2011 Committees

County Clerk..... Members

Historian ..... Jennifer Lamkin

History Book Project..... Kathy DeCormier

Hospitality ..... Jane Weber &  
Paula Halloran  
Connie Fales

Library..... Barb Martin

Membership..... Susan Gerst

Newsletter..... Kristi Burns

Pioneer Cert. Program. Eileen Wojewodzki

Programs & Publicity .... JoAnn Osborn

Special Projects ..... Dawn Kelley

Website..... Shelly Nelson &  
Jared Perreault



**Thursday,  
February 10, 2011**

7:00 p.m.

Masonic Temple

396 W. Clay Ave.

**Family History Found in Whitehall, Michigan  
Back to Early 1800 after Their Move from Ohio**



Kristen, wife of Vicar Blaine Jorg, and newly settled in Whitehall, presents historical information relevant to her husband's family and the settlement of Montague, Michigan. After living in Michigan less than one year and having no known historical ties to the area, an accidental discovery leads to finding a street in Montague named for Vicar Blaine's great-great-grandfather, James G. Blaine, who was the Governor of Maine, Speaker of the House, Secretary of State and ran for President of the United States in 1884. Research uncovered the reason behind the street named in his honor in a state he only visited one time and the relationships with people who shaped the area in the 1800's.



**Guest Are Always Welcome!**

### Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 1, 2011

6:00 p.m., Torrent House

### Genealogy Family History Workshops

Saturday, February 12, 2011

Hackley Public Library

Local History & Genealogy Dept.,

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

### The Library of Michigan

#### NEW HOURS

Monday – Friday from 10 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.  
and the Archives Monday – Friday from 1 – 5 p.m.

### A Little Cupidology



The first paper valentine is attributed to the imprisoned Charles, Duke of Orleans, who in 1415 fought his lonely confinement by writing romantic verses for his wife.

Courtesy of Kimberly Powell, *Genealogy Guide*  
<http://genealogy.about.com/cs/postcards/a/valentines.htm>





**County Clerk's Office**  
Jane Gates  
Dawn Kelley  
Barb Martin

Wednesday's 1:00—4:00 p.m.  
141 E. Apple Ave.  
2nd Floor



**Hospitality**  
Jane Walker Weber  
Paula Halloran  
Connie Fales

Member of our society, Sue Irvine presented an informative, humorous program, "Do Your Branches Bend or Break?" Sue was also the door prize winner.

At break, we enjoyed the home baked delights of Bonnie Vokits. Pumpkin-cranberry bread plus M & M, coconut and chocolate chip cookies made a delicious variety. She thoughtfully provided sugar-free cookies and carrots as well. Thanks a bunch!

How many will be using a red lead pencil this February?



**Membership**  
Susan Boos Gerst  
[tsgerst@yahoo.com](mailto:tsgerst@yahoo.com)  
Kathy Broughton DeCormier

Our deepest sympathy goes to Jane Weber & her family on pasting of her dad, John Walker who was 96. Jane has many stories and wealth of history information from her dad. He surely will be missed.

***We give a warm welcome to our newest members.***

Arvin Heilman – Holland, Michigan  
**Surnames:** Sorenson

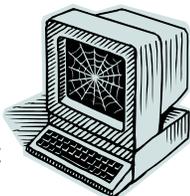
**RESEARCH COMMITTEE: SURNAMERS for 2010**

Crawford; Bultema; Diamond; Rouleau; Smith, Carrie; Folk; Faler; Watrick; Page; Ainsworth; Corder; Burgess; Swartz; Pendell; Slager; Lasser; Evans; Bloemendal; Artibee/Ardibee; Eakright; Ralph; Morrell; Johnson; English; Sheridan; Perry; Barney; Bradshaw; Egelston; Gonzalez; Wood; Cuddeback; Cole; Konkle; McCormick/McCormack; Rice; Carlston; Vanderlaan; Leafstrand; Carrier; Morton; Nash; Livingston.

***WELCOME ABOARD!***

***Jared Perreault to the website committee.***

Webmaster Shelly Nelson and Jared will be working together on updating our website. So keep an eye on the website in the next few months, they will be making changes. If you have any information to propose for our website. Please send it to [mcgs1972@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgs1972@yahoo.com)



**Website**

Shelly Nelson  
Jared Perreault



**Library**  
Barb LaBatt Martin

HPL Mon, Tues, Wed 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Thurs, Fri, Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
OPEN on Sundays 1 to 4:30 p.m.

**NEW BOOKS**

- **Ottawa and Chippewa Indians of Michigan 1870-1909**, by Raymond C. Lantz (Gift from MCGS)
- **Cradled in Sweden—updated**, by Carl Erik Johansson (Gift from MCGS)
- **Early History of Schenectady and Its First Settlers**, by John Sanders Colonial Dames
- **History of the Town of East Greenwich and Adjacent Territory, From 1677-1877**, by D.H. Greene Colonial Dames
- **The History of East Greenwich, Rhode Island 1677-1960 With Related Genealogy**, by Martha R. McPartland (Gift of Colonial Dames)
- **Old Gravestones of Dutchess County New York v. 2**, by J. Wilson Poucher and Helen Wilkinson Reynolds (Gift of Colonial Dames)
- **Commemorative Biographical Records of Ulster County, New York** (Gift of Colonial Dames)
- **History of Ulster County, New York With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of its Prominent Men and Pioneers**, by Nathaniel Bartlett Sylvester (Gift of Colonial Dames)
- **Earliest English Deeds of Ulster County, New York v. 1 & 2**, by Louise Hasbrouck Zimm (Gift of Colonial Dames)
- **Families of Ancient New Haven v. 1-3**, by Donald Lines Jacobus (Gift of Colonial Dames)
- **The History of Ulster County New York**, by Alphonso T. Clearwater (Gift of Colonial Dames)
- **Death Notices Published in the Broome County Republican a Weekly Newspaper of Binghamton, New York From 1831-1870**, by Ray C. Sawyer (Gift of Colonial Dames)
- **Marriage Announcements Published in the Broome County Republican a Weekly Newspaper of Binghamton, New York From 1831-1857**, by Ray C. Sawyer (Gift of Colonial Dames)
- **Genealogical and Biographical Directory to Persons in New Netherland from 1613 to 1674 v. 1, 2, 4 & Supp.**, by David M. Riker (Gift of Colonial Dames)
- **Old Gravestones of Ulster County, New York**, by J. Wilson Poucher and Byron J. Terwiliger (Gift of Colonial Dames)
- **Index of Vital Statistics From The Muskegon Chronicle 1984** (Gift of Matt Burns)

**Hot Off The Press**

NBC TV has just revealed the roster of celebrities for the second season of its genealogical search series, "**Who Do You Think You Are.**" Eight A-list entertainers will be featured on the reality TV show, which premieres again on Friday, February 4th (8:00 p.m. ET). The 2011 cast for "**Who Do You Think You Are**" includes Steve Buscemi, Kim Cattrall, Ashley Judd, Tim McGraw, Rosie O'Donnell, Gwyneth Paltrow, Lionel Richie and Vanessa Williams.



## **Genealogy News & Tips**

Copyright 2011

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

### **Swedish Church Records**

Ancestry.com announced in its most recent member newsletter that the Swedish church records from Genline, the Swedish genealogy website Ancestry.com purchased last summer, have now become part of Ancestry.com's online databases (they're still available on Genline).

The records, dating from 1500 to 1937, comprise nearly 18 million images scanned from microfilm and microfiche of the original church records. The collection includes births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, burials, household examinations (akin to censuses), parish books, moving-ins and moving-outs.

Information courtesy of Family Tree Blog for January 2011: <http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/insider/2011/01/12>

### **The Canada Gazette is Now Available Online**

The Canada Gazette, known as the official newspaper of the Canadian government, has been an important source for Canadian research for more than 160 years. However, bound volumes of the Canada Gazette were mainly available only in major Canadian libraries.

During the past few years, the Canada Gazette has been digitized, and as of August 2010 the project is 95% complete, including the years 1841 to 1998. Digital images of the Gazette are available online at the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) website at

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/canada-gazette/index-e.html>

### **Society of Sons & Daughters of World War II Veterans**

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation would like to announce the creation of the Society of Sons & Daughters of World War II Veterans. The organization just started accepting applications January 1, 2011.

Its goal is to preserve the stories of sacrifice and achievement of America's "greatest generation"—those who fought and won WWII. It will also enable individuals to prove family ancestry from an American veteran of World War II. Membership is open to relatives by birth, adoption, or marriage of all men and women who served in the United States military in World War II. A Memorial membership is also available for friends of a qualifying veteran who claims no relation. All memberships require proof of service of a veteran between December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946. To sign up, and for more information, visit [SonsandDaughtersofWW2Veterans.com](http://SonsandDaughtersofWW2Veterans.com)



## **Look What's Coming! Meetings/Programs In 2011**

**Masonic Temple (next to Muskegon Chronicle)  
396 W. Clay Ave., Muskegon, MI 49440  
Lower Level (stairs or elevator available).**

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

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Kristen Jorg

**"Family History Found in Whitehall, Michigan Back to Early 1800's after Their Move from Ohio"**

Thursday, March 10, 2011

Shirley De Boer CG, Grand Rapids, MI

**"Women in Countdown:  
Mothers, Daughters, Wives and Sisters"**

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Dean Cumings, Kent City, MI

**"Ellie: A Pioneer Girl's Journey West"**

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Paul Petersen, Norton Shores, MI

**"Photography 101 for Better Pictures of  
Gravestones**

Thursday, June 9, 2011

Shirley Hodges, Albion, MI

**"Whither Thou Goest:  
Tracing Your Female Ancestors"**

Thursday, August 11, 2011

Graphologist, Jeanne Drew, Muskegon, MI

**"Examining Handwriting for Genealogical Clues"**

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Robert Myers, Spring Lake, MI

**"Hard Tack & Coffee"**

**"Family History Month"**

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Surprise!—Stay tuned!

**Annual Meeting and Officer Elections**

Thursday, November 10, 2011

TBA

Thursday, December 8, 2011

**"HOLIDAY GATHERING"**

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

**Torrent House**

**315 W. Webster Ave.**

Use door entrance or elevator

**GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

## **Ten Commandments of Genealogy**

(from the Downriver Genealogical Society, December 2010, Vol. XXXII, number 2)

Submitted by Dawn Kelley, Special Projects Committee

In the course of researching articles for this newsletter, I get to see a lot of genealogy information. Most of what I see is on the Web, although some information is in books or in e-mail. Some of what I see is high-quality research. However, much of it is much less than that. Even the shoddiest genealogy work could be so much more if the compiler had simply spent a bit of time thinking about what he or she was doing.

Creating a first-class genealogy work is not difficult. In fact, it is expected. It should be the norm. Please consider the following "rules." If you follow these guidelines, you, too, can produce high-quality genealogy reports that will be useful to others:

1. Never accept someone else's opinion as "fact." Be suspicious. Always check for yourself!
2. Always verify primary sources (see Footnote #1); never accept a secondary source (see Footnote #2) as factual until you have personally verified the information.
3. Cite your sources! Every time you refer to a person's name, date and/or place of an event, always tell where you found the information. If you are not certain how to do this, get yourself a copy of "Evidence Explained" by Elizabeth Shown Mills. This excellent book shows both the correct form of source citation and the sound analysis of evidence.
4. If you use the works of others, always give credit. Never claim someone else's research as your own.
5. Assumptions and "educated guesses" are acceptable in genealogy as long as they are clearly labeled as such. Never offer your theories as facts.
6. Be open to corrections. The greatest genealogy experts of all time make occasional errors. So will you. Accept this as fact. When someone points out a possible error in your work, always thank that person for his or her assistance and then seek to re-verify your original statement(s). Again, check primary sources.
7. Respect the privacy of living individuals. Never reveal personal details about living individuals without their permission. Do not reveal their names or any dates or locations.
8. Keep "family secrets." Not everyone wants the information about a court record or a birth out of wedlock to be posted on the Internet or written in books. The family historian records "family secrets" as facts but does not publish them publicly.
9. Protect original documents. Handle all documents with care, and always return them to their rightful storage locations.
10. Be prepared to reimburse others for reasonable expenses incurred on your behalf. If someone travels to a records repository and makes photocopies for you, always offer to reimburse the expenses.

The above "commandments" apply to online data as well as to printed information. Following the above "commandments" will increase the value of your work and make it valuable to others.

Footnote #1: A primary record is one created at or immediately after the occurrence of the event cited. The record was created by someone who had personal knowledge of the event. Examples include marriage records created by the minister, census records, death certificates created within days after the death, etc. Nineteenth century and earlier source records will be in the handwriting of the person who recorded the event, such as the minister, town clerk or census taker.

Footnote #2: A secondary record is one made years after the original event, usually by someone who was not at the original event and did not have personal knowledge of the participants. Most published genealogy books are secondary sources; the authors are writing about events that occurred many years before they wrote about the event. Transcribed records are always secondary sources and may have additional errors created inadvertently by the transcriber(s). Most online databases are transcribed (secondary) sources.

For more information on evaluating primary and secondary sources, see the Board for Certification of Genealogists' Guideline for Evaluating Genealogical Resources at [www.bcgcertification.org/skillbuilders/skblid085.html](http://www.bcgcertification.org/skillbuilders/skblid085.html)

## Exploring the 1940 Census

On April 2, 2012, this census will be made available to the public after the mandatory 72 year waiting period. It will be made available electronically and not on micro-film.

Some basic facts about the US in 1940: Life expectancy for males was 58.1 years, for females 61.6 years. Average annual salary was \$1,368. Unemployment was 25%. A quart of milk was 14 cents and a loaf of bread was 9 cents. The census, which was taken in April of 1940, contains 34 questions including the areas of migration and employment/unemployment. Some of the questions asked were: Where the person lived in 1935. If foreign born, what was the name of the country of birth? What was the highest level of education?

Supplemental questions were asked of 5% of those enumerated. These are the people listed on lines 14 and 29 of each sheet. One of the questions was asked the status of the Veteran, including peacetime service. It also asked if the person has a Social Security number.

The person in the household providing the information is marked on the sheet by an X within a circle. NARA is currently in the process of scanning the census images. The census will be made available online through the NARA website WITH an index. It is suggested that it would be helpful if researchers had available the Enumeration District (ED) for the people being researched. The Steve Morse website provides aids to determine the ED based on the address found in some other resource (e.g., city directories, phone books) and the 1930 Ed numbers for that address. The ED finder is located at <http://www.stevemorse.org/census/index.html>

There are four notable changes to the 1940 census. There is a housing schedule and the information for both the main schedule and the housing schedule was collected by the same enumerator. A separate report form was available for persons unwilling to give information verbally about certain questions.

Abbreviations and markings: Persons temporarily Absent from the household are listed as "Ab". Children under 1 year of age are written as "infant" if child is not given a first name. There was also a Farm and Ranch census questionnaire.

At the website <http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/census/1940> there are a series of short films to train the 1940 Census Enumerators on their general duties and responsibilities.

So, what can you learn from the 1940 census? For the genealogist, the 1940 census reveals how the Great Depression affected one's family in regards to their employment status, income, and migration. You can download a blank 1940 population form at [http://www.census.gov/history/pdf/1940\\_population\\_questionnaire.pdf](http://www.census.gov/history/pdf/1940_population_questionnaire.pdf)



## **BOOK REVIEW** **Genealogical Standards of Evidence:** **A Guide for Family Historians** **Brenda Dougall Merriman** **Dundern Press, Toronto.**

*Genealogical Standards of Evidence* will guide you through becoming a much more careful and serious researcher, one who is able to understand and evaluate every piece of information you find.

In her introduction, Ms. Merriman explains that her book has three purposes:

- \* as an introduction to the habits of careful researchers
- \* as an inexpensive reference work for checking your own research notes
- \* as a supplement to course, workshops and seminars you attend

Ms. Merriman explains that Genealogical Evidence is the information which we evaluate and analyze in order to identify an individual, an event in an individual's life or the relationships between individuals. This book walks the reader step by step through the processes of understanding and applying Genealogical Standards of Evidence. It is clear and concise and the chapter of illustrated examples adds to the explanations provided.

After reading the book, genealogists will be more equipped to present, discuss and analyze their findings, including anomalies. Ms. Merriman tells us that this book is intended as a primer, but I recommend it for all levels of genealogists. Any genealogist, from beginner to advanced will benefit from this book. It deserves a place on your bookshelf.

*Information courtesy of Lorine McGinnis Schulze, Olive Tree Blog found at*

<http://olivetreegenealogy.blogspot.com/2011/01/review-genealogical-standards-of.html>



### **Heirs-at-law versus Legatee**

The "heirs-at-law" of a deceased individual are usually those who have an inheritance interest in the estate. Spouse and children are the typical heirs-at-law. Depending upon the family structure and what other relatives are also dead, it can include cousins, siblings, nephews, etc. State statute also plays a role. A legatee is usually someone mentioned in the will of a deceased person. A legatee can also be an heir-at-law, but doesn't have to be.

*Information courtesy of Michael John Neill from Genealogy Tip of the Day at <http://genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com/2011/01/heirs-at-law-versus-legatee.html>*

# Upcoming Events Dates to Remember—2011

## Board Meetings

1st Tuesday  
Doors open at  
at 6:00 p.m.

### **Torrent House**

315 W Webster

January 4  
February 1  
March 1  
April 5  
May 3  
June 7  
September 6  
October 4  
November 1

**OFF**

**Jul, Aug & Dec**

## Regular Meetings

2nd Thursday except July  
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.  
Starts at 7:00 p.m.

### **Masonic Temple**

396 W. Clay

January 13  
February 10  
March 10  
April 14  
May 12  
June 9

**(Off Jul)**

August 11

September 8

**October 13**

**“Family History Month”**

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

January 8  
February 12  
March 12  
April 9  
May 14

September 10

October 8

November 12

**OFF**

**Jun, Jul, Aug & Dec**



## **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

### **The Census**

Census Taker: "Good morning, madam, I'm taking the census."

Old Lady: "The what?"

Census Taker: "The c-e-n-s-u-s!"

Old Lady: "For Ians sakes! What with tramps takin' everythin' they kin lay their han's on, young folks takin' fotygrafs of ye without so much as askin', an' impudent fellows comin' roun' as wants ter take yer senses, pretty soon there won't be nothin' left ter take, I'm thinkin'."

--1890 Harper's Weekly



### **Genealogy**

Genealogy begins as an interest,  
Becomes a hobby;  
Continues as an avocation,  
Takes over as an obsession,  
And in its last stages is an incurable  
disease.  
--Author Unknown

### **WARNING QUARANTINE**

The inhabitants of this place have  
been stricken with

### **GENEALOGY FEVER**

A Deadly and Infectious Disease

*Symptoms:* Notepapers stuffed in pockets and files; heart palpitations at the sight of gravestones and old trunks filled with letters; bloodshot eyes from excessive microfilm exposure; erratic speech patterns punctuated with pilgrims and princes; cold sweat upon the arrival of the daily mail.

*Diagnosis:* **INCURABLE**

Funnies provided courtesy of <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tracers/thefunny.htm>