



Twig Talk



Newsletter of the Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

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TWIG TALK
A publication of:
Muskegon County Genealogical Society
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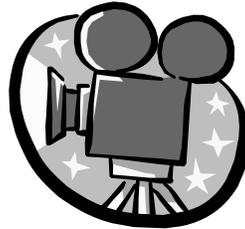
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LOCAL HISTORY QUIZ

What kind of trees did timber barons like Charles Hackley of Muskegon, Louis Sands of Manistee, and Perry Hannah of Traverse City make their fortunes?

See page 3 for the answers!



Thursday,
February 9, 2012
7:00 p.m.
Masonic Temple
396 W. Clay Ave.

MOVIE NIGHT ADVENTURE

“Chandler Tintype” History Detectives

How did a Civil War era tintype help re-ignite a fiery debate about African-Americans bearing arms for the Confederacy? Find out more when you come to our **MOVIE NIGHT ADVENTURE**, with popcorn, snacks, and refreshments will be furnished.

Join History Detectives as they team up with Antiques Roadshow to trace the story behind two people in a fascinating photograph that shows two men, one African-American and the other Caucasian, both dressed in Confederate uniforms.

**Bring a Guest
They Are Always Welcome To Come!**

History is Waiting: Join the 1940 Census Project



Upon the release of the 1940 U.S. Federal Census in April of 2012, the 1940 U.S. Census Community Project, a joint initiative between Archives.com, FamilySearch.org, findmypast.com, and other leading genealogy organizations, will coordinate efforts to provide quick access to these digital images and immediately start indexing these records to make them searchable online with free and open access.

The 1940 U.S. Census Community Project needs volunteers from genealogical societies to provide essential support in this effort. Societies and individuals can provide expert help to transcribe census records from the areas where they live or have interest, creating an accurate, searchable index while at the same time generating excitement for society and volunteer activities.

The “Greatest Generation”

The 1940 U.S. Federal Census is the largest, most comprehensive, and most recent record set available that records the names of those who were living in the United States at the time the census was taken. 132 million people were living in the 48 Continental United States in 1940.

The 1940 U.S. census will be made available as free digital images.



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

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

Our January meeting saw lucky Ruth Skinner win the door prize. Connie Fales brought nutritious, fresh fruit sticks plus tasty cookies!! Can't wait to see Cupid with bow and arrow this February's meeting.

Hospitality
Jane Walker Weber
Paula Halloran
Connie Fales



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

Welcome our newest member.
Pat Wright
SURNAMERS: Davenport, Hollister, Mallory, Wright

Reminder!!!

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.



"Who Do You Think You Are?"

When NBC's genealogy series *Who Do You Think You Are?* returns with its third season Feb. 3, a new crop of celebrities will explore their family history.

Those featured will include:

Martin Sheen	Marisa Tomei
Blair Underwood	Reba McEntire
Rob Lowe	Helen Hunt
Rita Wilson	Eddie Falco
Rashida Jones	Jerome Bettis
Jason Sudeikis	Paula Dean

Season 3 of *Who Do You Think You Are* premieres Friday, Feb. 3 at 8 p.m. on NBC.



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.

NEW BOOKS

- **Grand Traverse Lighthouse**
- **Michigan History Directory**
- **The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England 1634-1635 v.7**, by Robert Charles Anderson (Gift of Colonial Dames)
- **Southwest Michigan Road Map: West Michigan Pike v. 1**
- **Southwest Michigan Road Map: West Michigan Pike v. 2**
- **Michigan Aircraft Manufacturers**, by Robert F. Pauley
- **For Those In Peril: Shipwrecks of Ottawa County Michigan**, by Craig Rich
- **Records of the Reformed Dutch Church in New Amsterdam and New York** (Gift from Colonial Dames)

GREAT Member Tip!!

Labeling Cemetery Photographs was in January's Twig Talk under Ancestry Tips and thanks to our member Norm Dagen, we have another great tip!!

Identifying and Maintaining Photographs: Billion Graves

For those people with iPhones or Android smartphone, there is easier way to identify and maintain photographs. The app called Billion Graves is available at iTunes, Amazon and www.billiongraves.com, is a simple solution to identify and capture cemetery memorials.

The app uses the smartphone's GPS capabilities, to automatically assign the cemetery name and exact location of the grave marker. The only thing that has to manually completed is the photo and then it can be uploaded to the BillionGrave website in order to share with others. However, even the photo app can be set to automatically to upload to the website.

Each photograph taken is saved within a cemetery specific album on the smartphone. There is no longer any guess work where the photo was taken. "The specialized camera app helps contributors and easily capture photos of the headstones in any cemetery and upload them to the BillionGraves.com database. The app constantly updates the photo location data while you are moving from grave marker to another. The result is that each image includes specific location data which shows where each grave is located" per the billiongraves.com website.

By using the iPhone's location services, even when descendants are half a world away, they can see cemetery information, view the actual headstones, and know exactly where those headstones are. The app places the exact location of the headstone, within a cemetery map using Google maps. The app embeds specific GPS coordinates into the photo itself. For more information go to the iTunes store or billiongraves.com.



Genealogy News & Tips

Ancestry.com

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

OCCUPATIONAL SURNAMES

I found one of my daddy's family members when I noticed something on PBS. They were telling about the Beheaders of England. Ugh. Well, I only thought 'Ugh' until I found out that I had a distant relative named Thomas the Beheader. When he was 'outsourced' by the guillotine, he came to America. He dropped the "Be" and became Thomas Head. When looking for names today, I check for alternate spellings that come from occupations, even when the occupation is 'Ugh.' J. Head

DON'T ASSUME CIVIL WAR SERVICE

My great-great-grandfather, George W. Rains, lived in Hickory Co, Missouri with his parents, Zion and Tempy Rains. Instead of joining up with the Confederate side in Missouri, he went back to Indiana where relatives lived and signed up in Indiana to fight for the Union. So one may not always find their ancestor registered where you think they signed up. Kathy

BROWSING THE CENSUS CAN PAY OFF

I knew that my mother's parents lived in Guilford, Connecticut, where I thought she was born, but nothing ever came up in any of the searches. She was born in 1930, so on a hunch I resigned myself to looking through the 1930 census page by page for the township (literally street by street and house by house). We had visited them when we were young and I remember that they lived way out in a rural area, but I dutifully started on page one and was very surprised (and richly rewarded) to find on page six that they lived right in town in 1930. There was my mother, all of 2/12 of a year old! She was born in February of that year and the census was taken in April. It was fun to see that they were renting back then for all of \$13.00 a month. In this case, I found the birthplaces for both my grandparents and the birthplaces of all of their parents. (I am now off and running in Maine, Texas, and Scotland!) In addition I got an occupation, ages at marriage, etc. What a wealth of information! Mike Secondino, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

A DIVERSE EDUCATION IS A PLUS

Do not hesitate to sign up for specialized seminars that are not geared towards your ethnic background or interests. I spent a wonderful three hours yesterday at Redcliff Plantation (now a South Carolina state park) with an African-American group, although I don't have African-American roots. I learned a lot about my fellow curious genealogists, and also picked up several important tips about my own

Continues in the next column

searches. Redcliff had many, many slaves in its heyday and the young park ranger there, Elizabeth Laney, has been spearheading genealogy searches of the former inhabitants. Her results have inspired and informed folks from all over the country, much to their joy. One tip I picked up was collecting funeral notices or bulletins. Many libraries and museums collect them, making copies, and giving them back to the owners. They can include a wealth of information. Another tip was to check insurance records which give ages, illnesses, and deaths. Sue Markland Ellis, Aiken, South Carolina

CLIPPING TIP

When you clip an obituary to share or to save for yourself, be sure to include the banner at the top of the page so that you will have the name of the newspaper, magazine, journal, history book (in case you make a copy), so that you will have the "where" and "when" the obituary appeared. This will help to pinpoint a date of death, in case none is given, and also contributes to proof. Most local genealogy groups won't publish your information on their websites without those banners plus permission from the newspaper that printed the notice. Regards, Mellany Irby

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

As someone with family roots in England, I have frequently (and sadly) come across relatives who bravely gave their lives in the First World War. For other family history researchers who have identified military personnel from Commonwealth countries who died in both World Wars, I highly recommend the website of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission at www.cwgc.org. The commission is responsible for maintaining the military cemeteries for most Commonwealth countries (the U.K., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, etc.) in Europe and around the world. Their records list every fallen service person individually and are fully searchable, allowing researchers to identify in which cemetery a family member was laid to rest or where those whose remains were never found are commemorated. The site has extensive information about each cemetery and directions for visiting if one were able to do that, as well as other educational resources. Every November we remember those who sacrificed their lives to maintain our liberties. This site affords a further opportunity to illuminate their histories. Barry Buckler, Markham, Ontario

ANSWER TO PAGE 1 LOCAL HISTORY QUIZ

During the period from 1860 to 1900, **pine was king** in Michigan and the harvesting, sawing and marketing of lumber dominated the state's economy. Some 160 billion board feet of Michigan timber flowed to eastern manufacturers, and to western prairie farmers, and it built Chicago twice. In 1890, the peak year, Michigan cut some 4 1/4 billion board feet of lumber.



Information provided courtesy of http://ncha.ncats.net/data/When_Pine_Was_King.

Upcoming Events Dates to Remember—2012

Board Meetings

Meet at 5:00 p.m.
2nd Thursday

Masonic Temple

396 W. Clay

January 12

February 9

Mar 8

Apr 12

May 10

Jun 14

July - **NO MEETING**

Aug 9

Sep 13

Oct 11

Nov 8

Dec13

NO MEETING

Regular Meetings

Starts at 7:00 p.m.
2nd Thursday

Masonic Temple

396 W. Clay

January 12

February 9

Mar 8

Apr 12

May 10

Jun 14

July - **NO MEETING**

Aug 9

Sep 13

Oct 11

Nov 8

Dec13

Holiday Gathering

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 14

February 11

March 10

April 14

May 12

June, July, August

NO WORKSHOPS

September 8

October 13

November 10

December

NO WORKSHOP



What to Bring to Meetings

WE ALWAYS HAVE SOMETHING NEW
AT THE STORE

- 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 Family Tree"

I think that I shall never see, the finish of a family tree,
As it forever seems to grow, from roots that started long ago.
Way back in ancient history times, in foreign lands and distant climes,
From them grew trunk and branching limb, that dated back to times so dim,
One seldom knows exactly when, the parents met and married then;
Nor when the twigs began to grow, with odd named children row on row.
Though verse like this was made by me, the end's in sight as you can see.
'Tis not the same with family trees, that grow and grow through centuries.
-- Unknown Author

South Bend Society to host Michiana Genealogy Fair

The South Bend Area Genealogical Society will hold its 2012 Michiana Genealogy Fair on Saturday, March 17 at the downtown Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library (209 Lincoln Way East, Mishawaka, IN).

The featured speaker will be Mark Middleton, Information Systems Professional, who will speak at 10:30 am on "Scanning Photographs: The Standards, Best Practices and Equipment," and at 1:30 pm on "The Latest in Computer Technology for your Genealogical Research." Some 30 vendors and societies are expected to be present to assist in your genealogical research.

More information can be found at <http://www.sbags.org>.