



# Twig Talk



Newsletter of the Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

Vol. 13 No. 2

February 2013



TWIG TALK

A publication of:

**Muskegon County Genealogical Society**

c/o Hackley Public Library  
Torrent House

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### The History Detectives Special Edition

*February Presentation and Meeting Info.*

Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.



**History Detectives** - Time to haul out the popcorn & movie goodies cause we are watching the pros at work! We have a really educational show from the History Detectives series to share with you this month. This show includes information about Clara Barton, the founder of Red Cross, and a letter to the Red Cross to honor its Civil War dead from 1864. Be sure to take lots of notes!

Also, please bring your research questions and let us try to help.

**Special 10-Minute Topic for February** Organization and preparation for your next research trip. No matter where you go or what you have to do, you should always be prepared. Don't waste your time, gas, and money by not taking a few easy steps beforehand. This month's topic/handout puts you on the right track and shows you a number of really helpful organizational hints so that you can make the most of every second you are researching, wherever you go!

### **Family History Workshop set for February 9th**

Come in and solve those research puzzles. **You must pre-register. Limited to 6 people for each workshop.** Call the Local History & Genealogy Dept. at 722-7276 ext. 240 to reserve your seat in either 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. session.

These sessions are becoming very popular! Sign-up Today!

### **Research Trip to Fort Wayne**

We are planning a Research Trip to the Allen County Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Wed thru Sat April 24 thru April 27. If you are interested please email us at

[1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com)

If you have never been there, you won't believe all of the information they have available. If you have been there, enjoy!



### Historical Trivia



What year did the Mackinac Bridge open?

### **LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN FUTURE ONE-DAY TRIP?**

We are looking into the details of what is available on which days, and hours at the **Library of Michigan** in Lansing for a future trip. It will definitely be later in the year. Watch the newsletter for more details.

**NEW HOURS** - Archives now open on Saturdays from 10am to 4pm

## HOSPITALITY

Our January meeting had a good start for 2013 with an excellent program given by Kathy DeCormier. Members and guests were totally absorbed in her presentation which demonstrated photo repair methods accompanied with entertaining stories. The door prize was won by Karen Farmer who received a Muskegon "old time" photo calendar donated by Joan Gawron. Twig Talk readers shared their ancestral baby photos. Making an interesting infant sight were: Paula Halloran, Joan Gawron, Nancy Spoon, Monica Smith, John Robillard, Karen Farmer, John & Phyllis Slater, and Judy Tierney. Eyes were scanning the meeting room for two snowmen. Prize winners were 20/20 visioned Phyllis Slater and Kathy DeCormier spotted the frosty ones. Dawn Kelley baked yummy corn casserole, Joan Gawron donated mint cookies, Phyllis & John Slater provided candy plus bottled water and the society brought cookies. Next month falls on the 14th. Will we see ancestral wedding photos?



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

If you are a renewing member, welcome back to MCGS! You have some great things to look for in 2013! If you know anyone who has not yet renewed or is thinking about joining, now is the time so they don't miss anything.

## COUNTY CLERK RESEARCH



**Muskegon County Bldg.  
990 Terrace St., 1st Floor**

Volunteers are available every Weds. from 1:00-4:00 p.m. (Moving day will be here soon when the County Clerk Office will return back to the county building). Please check their website before doing any research in February.

<http://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/clerk/pezetje@co.muskegon.mi.us>

Or call 724-6316

If you have not been up to visit us, we would encourage you to check it out. We have members who are indexing the marriage & death records. We need people to help with indexing. If you are interested in donating a little time, please let us know at [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com)

## MCGS HISTORY GOING DIGITAL

The MCGS scrapbook contains many pages of historical data about our society, photos, and so much more. We are going to be digitizing it soon.



√Like

## NEW HELP FOR FACEBOOK!

Please join us as we welcome Norman Dagen, a current member from Empire, Michigan; as our new Facebook Administrator. We are so happy to have Norman on the team. He is an active online participant and posts very interesting topics and photos quite often. Thank you, Norman, for all of your help! Note: Please recheck your links to our Facebook page because I have taken the old one off as of January 16 (takes 14 days) and we have an active new one up. Same Title. Muskegon County Genealogy. Don't forget to Like and Friend the new page.

## FEBRUARY TRIVIA

### *February is Black History Month*

Black History Month is a nationally declared month. It started as a brainstorm by Carter G. Woodson and others to recognize the achievements of Black Americans. It is celebrated not only in the U.S., but in Canada and the United Kingdom.

### *Native American Heritage Month*

If you have any native American ancestral lines, maybe you can use this month as a starting point to search it out. Here are a couple of sites to get you going.

[www.accessgenealogy.com/native/](http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/)

[www.native-languages.org/genealogy.htm](http://www.native-languages.org/genealogy.htm)

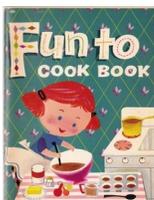
[www.mije.org/](http://www.mije.org/)

### *New Super Highway Completed*

Also, In 1967 With the completion of I-94, Michigan became the first state to have a border-to-border interstate freeway. On February 1, 1967, completion of I-94, the 275-mile highway that ran east to west across the Lower Peninsula, made Michigan the first state in the nation to have a border-to-border interstate highway.

It is also National Mother Language Month as well as National Bird Feeding Month. You can run outside and speak your mother language as you talk to and feed the birds. Watch your neighbors wonder if you are alright or loosing it! Have Fun!

## COOKBOOK RECIPES & TIPS DUE SOON



Our cookbook is on the way and we need you to submit your goodies now! It is easy, you can email them to [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com), mail or bring to a meeting.

For each and every entry you give us you will get an entry into our drawing for a terrific new Genealogy book.

We are planning to get these books done and printed in time for you to give as Christmas gifts this year. The books will be affordably priced and full of more than just recipes. You will find a few tips, tricks, photos, stories, and more. Please get your cookbook goodies in by June!

**"Tips for Working Smarter in Your Research, Part I" by George G. Morgan|"Along Those Lines..."**

We all encounter pitfalls in our research. Sometimes these are brick walls that result from lack of resources, lost or destroyed data, uncommunicative relatives, uncooperative courthouse clerks, and other obstacles. Unfortunately, though, we sometimes do it to ourselves. I'm the first to admit that I also am guilty of undermining my own research by not working as effectively as I should. However, over the years, I've learned how to 'work smarter' in conducting my own research. In this week's "Along Those Lines . . ." column, I'd like to share some ways that you can improve your work approach to genealogical and family history research.

**Getting the Big Picture**

We collect informational fragments of our ancestors' and families' lives over time, and these seldom are discovered in any particular order. It is always helpful to organize the facts of an individual's life, and the documentary evidence, in chronological sequence, and then RE-READ everything as if you've never seen it before. It's easy to just scan or browse through it because you think you 'know' it, but I'll wager that by rereading all the material in chronological order you'll see something new. And don't make the mistake of just doing this exercise once. Over time you will have collected more information on a person, his or her family members, information about the local history and geography, and a host of other pertinent information. And while the facts you have uncovered about other people's lives may not ring a bell at that time, when you reread your ancestor's records, these other facts may assert themselves and add a new insight or clarity.

Create a timeline for your ancestor, or what I prefer to call an '[Ancestor Profile](#)' which helps bring information about your ancestor, his or her family members, and a variety of other data together in outline format. At that juncture, you begin to see the person's life as a whole. Sometimes this provides the perspective you need to look for missing information.

**Mapping Your Ancestors**

Every genealogist should be using maps, both contemporary and historical, in his or her research. There are several reasons for this.

- 1) You need to know what governmental entity had jurisdiction over the area in which your ancestors lived at that particular time in order to know WHO created the records, WHY they were created, and potentially WHERE the records may now reside.
- 2) If you are a member of AAA, use your membership to obtain maps of all the areas in which you are researching. AAA can provide maps at different levels of detail - from country to state/province to county/parish to city. Then, purchase felt tip markers of different colors and establish a color code scheme for your different families or branches. Use the markers to indicate who lived where at what time.

Make notes on the map or type labels (which also are available in different colors) and affix them to the map. A favorite tactic I use is to draw the migration path of a family from Point A to Point B, using historical information about migration routes at the time. You may find that your ancestors stopped for a while along the route and there may be records in the intermediate counties.

3) Use maps to understand the locations in which your ancestors lived for purposes of evaluating land records, locating census records, determining voting precincts, determining the towns where they transacted business, and narrowing the list of possible religious institutions with which they might have been involved.

**Make a List of Research Goals**

Professional genealogical researchers, before they begin working on a project for a client, do advance work to set their goals. They gather all the information they have and organize it, usually sequentially as discussed above, and then prepare a list of their research goals. Using this methodical approach, you can conduct your research in a much more time- and cost-effective manner.

For example, let's say you are working on one family line and you know there are a number of things you want to learn. If you determine that you want to obtain proof of marriage for several family members, prepare a list of the couples' full names, the probable locations where they were married and possible dates, and then determine where those records might be located. You also might want to obtain death certificates for all your great-uncles and -aunts in a particular place. Prepare a similar list with full names, locations where they lived (and/or died), and the probable dates of death.

Next, perform some additional, preliminary research to confirm A) that the records you seek really exist, B) where those records are now stored, and C) how you can access the records or obtain copies. You can do much of this by checking websites, but always make a phone call to verify access the data. (Imagine the dismay of a researcher arriving at the county courthouse only to find that all the records she sought were in off-site storage and required several days advance notice to recall the box containing those she wanted to access.)

**Use a Research Log**

Few genealogists I know maintain research logs for the persons and lines they are tracing. As a result, they often waste time researching the same materials again and again and waste money photocopying the same book pages. Author Brent Holcomb has produced any number of books about South Carolina records. Imagine my excitement--on at least three occasions--to have found a book containing extracts from one of my Revolutionary War ancestors who lived in South Carolina, only to return home and find that I already had that material. The use of a structured log sheet detailing what resources you have accessed, where you accessed them, what you researched, and what the results were,

## **Ancestry.com Tips and Tricks continued....**

can eliminate redundant and wasteful research. It also can help you retrace your own research for materials you may once have thought useless but which you suddenly may want to locate and access again.

Ancestry.com has two forms that can provide the structure you need. The Research Calendar provides forms that you can use for a family or for an individual. The Source Summary for Family Information provides an excellent format for keeping track of resource materials of many types (books, journals, microform, etc.) you have already used. You also can produce your own forms to meet your own research need, using a word processor or spreadsheet program. The latter provides the option of entering data and the flexibility of sorting it in a variety of ways. And if you have been doing a good job entering source citations in your genealogy database program, you may want to check to see if yours will produce a report of your master source database.

### **Summary**

Next week, we'll look at another group of ideas for 'working smarter' in your research. In the meantime,

Happy hunting!  
George

### **Help Finding the Ethnicity of Your Surnames**

<http://surnames.behindthename.com/usage.php>

[http://www.izito.com/wsus/izito\\_com\\_aw1\\_c550/ethnic%20origin%20of%20surnames/](http://www.izito.com/wsus/izito_com_aw1_c550/ethnic%20origin%20of%20surnames/)

<http://www.webcrawler.com/info.wbcrwl.301/search/web?q=etymology+of+last+names&gclid=CO-5xZXf77QCFYpFMgodSAMA1w>

<http://www.houseofnames.com/xq/ASP/qx/honsurnamesearch.htm>

Be sure to check our library for some great resources to help you with your surnames.

Did you know that if you have trouble following a long link like the ones listed above you can cut it short? Simply put the beginning in and stop at the .com then search on that site for the rest of the terms listed.

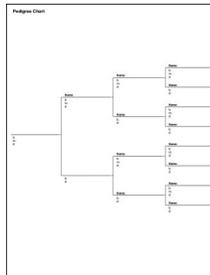


### **Do You Have A Muskegon County Pioneer in Your Family?**

Pioneer Certificate Program  
"Pioneer Resident" 1859 – 1889  
Settler Resident 1890 – 1929

The instructions & applications are  
available on our website.

## **4 GENERATION CHART/ SURNAME DIRECTORY**



We need your family information for our new Member's Surname Directory and 4-Generation Chart (Also known as you Pedigree Chart.). We have the goal of getting all member's charts in this year. Won't you help us out? We also will be putting together the Member's Surname Directory to members only so that we can all take a look at the names and maybe offer some help.

You might even find that you are related. We would like to get this done yet this spring so please either email your information or bring it to us at a meeting. You can always mail it too. Let us know your contact information and any updates too. Updated email addresses are important and often overlooked.

Here is the information we need: For the directory we need all the surnames you have found in your family lineage to date along with the country of origin and ethnicity if you know this. For the 4 generation chart we only need you to pick one up and fill in four generations back. That's Easy! When you get your information and chart to us you will be entered in a special drawing for a prize. Email the society at [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com)

### **NEWBOOKS AT HPL**



**How to Do Everything Genealogy**, by George G. Morgan

**Beyond the Basics: A Guide for Advanced**

**Users of Family Tree Maker 2011**, by Tana L. Pedersen

**Tryon County, North Carolina Minutes of the Court of**

**Pleas and Quarter Sessions 1769-1779**, by Brent H. Holcomb

**Deed Abstracts of Warren County, Kentucky 1797-1812**,

compiled and edited by Joyce Martin Murray

**The 5th (1st Middle) Tennessee Cavalry Regiment, U.S.A.**,

by F.W. Weatherbee Jr.

**The Van Voorhees Family in America: The First Six Generations**, compiled and edited by Florence A. Christoph

**The Van Voorhees Family in America: The Seventh and Eighth Generations Volume 1**, compiled and edited by Florence A. Christoph

Florence A. Christoph

**The Van Voorhees Family in America: The Seventh and Eighth Generations Volume 2**, compiled and edited by Florence A. Christoph

Florence A. Christoph

**The Eighteenth Century Zimmerman Family of the**

**Mohawk Valley**, by David Kendall Martin

**Descendants of Lieut. Henry Timmerman of Herkimer**

**County, New York**, compiled by Carolyn Timmerman

Sidenius

**Deed Abstracts of Tryon, Lincoln, & Rutherford Counties,**

**NC: 1769-1786 and Tryon County, NC Wills & Estates**

**Conflict on the Michigan Frontier: Yankee and Borderland**

**Cultures 1815-1840**, by James Z. Schwartz

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## WEBSITES WE LIKE

We have a few websites to share with you. You may have seen one or two before but perhaps not with the updated information now on the pages.

[www.genealogyintimemagazine.com](http://www.genealogyintimemagazine.com) is a great website with lots of free information. They have free tools and resources to help you in your search; and some great "how to" articles to help you. You can also subscribe to their free email newsletter.

[www.fultonhistory.com](http://www.fultonhistory.com) is a free site with some hopefully relevant newspapers for you. It is free, and that makes it worth a try!

[www.censusfinder.com](http://www.censusfinder.com) is a free site that may be able to help you decipher and find some important census records.

[www.geneamusings.com](http://www.geneamusings.com) is free and not only loaded with useful information but also with genealogy related humor. If you need to take a laugh break from your research this may be the site.

## TOUR WEST MICHIGAN

Click the link below and take a look inside their booklet to learn more about the locations, hours and unique qualities of each of the twenty-four museums of the Tri River Historical Museum Network located along the Flat, Grand and Thornapple Rivers. They all invite you to come and discover or remember the rich history and charm of the area and its people, past and present. Museum days and hours vary, but during their special "**Spring Into The Past**" weekend tour the first weekend of May (May 4 and 5 in 2013) ALL MUSEUMS will be open that Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm FREE of charge. [www.commoncorners.com/pdf/springintopast2013.pdf](http://www.commoncorners.com/pdf/springintopast2013.pdf)

**But if you prefer to stay close to home..** *Courtesy of the Michigan Tourism website:* The coastal town of Muskegon shines with history and proudly displays it for the public to see at the [Lakeshore Museum Center](#). The museum, which is completely free to the public, explores a 400 million year journey though Michigan, has an interactive exhibit to help explain to children how the body works, has a hands on science room, and explores the vast effects being surrounded by water has on Michigan. The Lakeshore Museum Center is also home to the Hackely & Hume site which preserves the homes of Muskegon's most famous lumber baron, Charles H. Hackley, and his business partner, Thomas Hume. The Site envelops the visitor in a unique living space, bringing late 19th century craftsmanship to life. Another home to see is the Scolnik Home of the Depression Era. This museum shows what living was like for two different families back in the age of the depression. While along the coast, stop in Whitehall to tour the White River Light Station. Built in 1875, the [White River Light Station](#) serves as an educational museum, that harkens back to an important chapter in history when ship captains relied upon the keepers of lights that guided them through the Great Lakes. Exciting exhibits, vast artifact collection, gift shop and view from the tower.

## HOW DOES DNA RELATE?

Our genetic ethnicity is the story of our family. It tells us more about who they were and where they were from.



Ancestry has a new test that looks at a huge amount of your DNA, over 700,000 locations, and compares it to other DNA samples from around the world. By detecting the similarities, they can trace back generations to connect us to the lands our ancestors came from.

The new AncestryDNA autosomal test uses some of the latest DNA autosomal testing technology as a more comprehensive way to find family across *all* lines in your family tree. So one test covers both sides--maternal and paternal--and is equally effective for both men and women.

Looking for just a small peek at your ancestry? You might try a Y-DNA or mtDNA test. These are specialized and specific tests to give you information about either your direct paternal or maternal lines. This means that Y-DNA and mtDNA tests limit the number of ancestors you can learn about. Also, the Y-DNA and mtDNA tests look at much smaller amounts of your DNA. For example, YDNA tests only look at about 40 locations whereas AncestryDNA comprehensively looks at the entire genome at over 700,000 locations, all with a simple saliva sample.

The catch? There is a cost for all this. The cost depends on who you decide to go with. Right now, Ancestry has the most comprehensive results, as well as extensive resources for sharing once you get the results.

Your DNA results can be a great starting point for your family history research, or a way to dig even deeper into the research you've already done.

You can learn more about the Ancestry site DNA research at <http://dnaancestry.com>.

DNA testing in genealogy is a fairly new concept and is constantly improving and changing. You can expect it only to get better and more precise with time if you have the patience to wait....

## MCGS CLASSES

Are you interested in learning some more specific

information in our classes? We are looking for a place to hold these events so if you have any ideas please email us. Also, Could you please email us with your name and topics you would like to know more about? Once we find a location, and if there is a cost involved, it won't be much. We will let you know before you actually sign up. The Norton Shores Library was mentioned as one of the locations. If you are o.k. with going there please also put that on your email. Example:

**Name**  
**Contact Me At**  
**I am Interested In**  
**Locations I Would Go**

We have several very good classes like, Photo Editing, Organizing, Computers 101, Scanning, etc.. Name your own topic and we probably have it!

[1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com) or mail in ideas too!

## Upcoming Events Dates 2013

### Board Meetings

Meet at 5:30 p.m.  
2nd Thursday

### **Masonic Temple**

396 W. Clay in Muskegon

February 14  
March 14  
April 11  
May 9  
June 13

**NO MEETING** July & Dec

August 8  
September 12  
October 10



### Regular Meetings

Starts at 7:00 p.m.  
2nd Thursday  
Doors open at 6:30 or before

### **Masonic Temple**

396 W. Clay in Muskegon

February 14  
March 14  
April 11  
May 9  
June 13

**NO MEETING** July & Dec

August 8  
September 12  
October 10

### **Holiday Gathering**

November 14

### Genealogy Family History Workshops

2nd Saturday  
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
&  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### **Torrent House**

315 W. Webster, in Muskegon  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.

February 9  
March 9  
April 13  
May 11

June, July, Aug & Dec

### **NO WORKSHOPS**

September 14  
October 12  
November 9

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR 2013

*This information will be updated in future newsletters.*

**Mar**—"Women to Remember"—Dr. Wallace Ewing - This is National Women's Month and Dr. Ewing's presentation will be one for the record books!

**Apr**—Overview of the Archives and Seeking Michigan—Kris Rzepczynski - You will want to learn about all of the changes happening at the library of Michigan. Keep up to date at this informative lecture.

**May**—Lakeshore Museum Center Archives—Beryl Gabel - This is a jam packed presentation that will open your eyes to what we have on our shore.

**Jun**—To be announced soon

**Aug**—"Brick Wall Busters Solutions to Real Life Stumpers"—Start putting your brickwall questions on paper now so you can submit them for pre-meeting help.

**Sep**—"Tombstone Rubbings" Wally & Jane Ewing

**Oct**—"Cemetery Tour" Speaker Dani LeFleur- Bring your camera!

**Nov**—Holiday Gathering/Annual/Elections- Yummy!



### What to Bring in

### February

*We have NEW store ITEMS!*

- Money for the MCGS store.
- Your ancestral wedding photos.
- Any genealogy items you would like to donate for the sales table, or our upcoming fundraisers.
- Any other photos, stories, or memorabilia to share.
- Your ideas, advice and questions. Someone may be able to help.
- Your surname list and/or 4 generation chart for the surname/migration directory.
- Cookbook recipes or tips.
- Will we see ancestral wedding photos?

We have a special door prize waiting for you! In February.