



# Twig Talk



Newsletter of the Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

Vol. 11 No. 1

January 2011



## TWIG TALK

A publication of:

**Muskegon County Genealogical Society**

c/o Hackley Public Library

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We welcome our  
New Officers for 2011

### **President:**

Jane Appleton Schapka

### **Vice President:**

Nancy Clark Spoon

### **Secretary:**

Dawn Westcomb Kelley

### **Treasurer:**

Ruth Skinner

### 2011 Committees

By Laws .....	George Brewster
County Clerk.....	Members
Historian .....	Jennifer Lamkin
History Book Project.....	Kathy DeCormier
Hospitality .....	Jane Weber & Paula Halloran Connie Fales
Library.....	Barb Martin
Membership.....	Susan Gerst
Millennium .....	Jo Grieve
Newsletter.....	Kristi Burns
Pioneer Cert. Program.	Eileen Wojewodzki
Programs & Publicity ....	JoAnn Osborn



**Thursday, January 13, 2011**

7:00 p.m.

Masonic Temple  
396 W. Clay Ave.

## “Do Your Branches Bend or Break?”

### **Speaker**

Sue Irvine, of Grand Rapids

Sue is past president of WMGS and is now serving as Manuscript Chairperson. She is currently VP of the MGC. She is a member of many local genealogical and historical groups. She attributes her passion for genealogy to learning to help with the MacNaughton 100th Reunion book in 1993. "Write down everything", she was told.

As your tree grows, do those branches bend or break? How I learned what I didn't learn while climbing the family tree, and interesting capers that had happened. Reminding people that, #1 the internet has mistakes; #2 some printed family histories are frauds, #3 your ancestors could be related to King – but not be royalty - - *words of Sue Irvine.*

**Guest Are Always Welcome!**

### **Board Meeting**

Tuesday, January 4, 2011  
6:00 p.m., Torrent House

### **Genealogy Family History Workshops Are BACK!!!!**

Hackley Public Library  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.,  
Saturday, January 8, 2011  
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



### **Test Your “GeneKnowlegy”**

Back in the day when divorce was scandalous, a person enumerated in a census as "widowed" might actually have been \_\_\_\_\_.

What?

See page \_ for the answer.



### County Clerk's Office

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

We help the public find marriage and death records!



Our **November** meeting provided a tasty break with Paula Hoffman's

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

basil cracker dip. Lyle Monette's freshly pared apples were baked into his delicious bread. Thanks to you both for the treats!! Lyle Monette was also the lucky door prize winner! Patriotic pencils donated by Karen Towne went to Phyllis Slater and Anne Carrier. Did you read the Twig Talk thoroughly? Connie Fales did and got her the reward!

Our **December** "Holiday Gathering" brought 22 celebrants who learned many research ideas from the program, "Tidbits for Success." The notebook door prize was won by Janet Helmer. Party guests shared their favorite cookies plus the recipe. Eileen Wojewodzki treated everyone with tasty sauce-dipped appetizers. Thanks go to all who made the evening a joyful success.



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

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

- Evelyn Radley Jackson — Muskegon, MI
- Linda Welsh — Muskegon, MI  
**Surnames:** Mathews, Gjestrum, Welsh
- Nancy Bassett — Grand Haven, MI  
**Surnames:** Livingston, Simonds, Hillard, Clinton, Peterson, McFarland, Brittan, Bassett, Bleasdel, Justi
- Linda Martin — Fremont, MI  
**Surnames:** Martin, Cole
- Jared Perreault — Muskegon, MI  
**Surnames:** Perreault, Teaford



### RENEWAL TIME IS HERE FOR 2011

Please fill out  
your APPLICATION  
form and send it in.

AVAILABLE ONLINE!!!



**Library**  
Barb LaBatt Martin

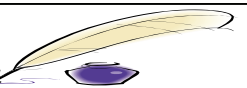
HPL Mon, Tues, Wed 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Thurs, Fri, Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
OPEN on Sundays 1 to 4:30 p.m.

### NEW BOOKS

- A Look At Early Grand Rapids, by Z.Z. Lydens**
- Reflections: An Oral History of Detroit, by Irene Rosemond**
- Logging the White: The History of Logging and Lumbering on White River and White Lake 1837-1900, by Daniel J. Yakes and Steven S. Demos**
- Handbook for Genealogical Research in Pennsylvania, by John W. Heisey**
- Laman Family History, by Marlyn J. De Waard (Gift of Marlyn J. De Waard)**
- Passenger Lists - New York Harbor (Microfilm) for:  
(Gift of Tressa LaFayette)  
March 9-April 11, 1881  
April 12-30, 1881  
May 2-18, 1881  
May 19 - June 3, 1881  
June 4-24, 1881  
June 25- July 18, 1881  
July 19-Aug. 18, 1881**
- The Crooked Tree Indian Legends of Northern Michigan, by John C. Wright**
- The Settlers of the Beekman Patent Dutchess County, New York v. 10, by Frank J. Doherty (Gift from Colonial Dames)**
- Presenting The Finney Phinney Families, by Roy J. Campbell**
- Index of Vital Statistics from The Muskegon Chronicle 1985 (Gift of Matt Burns)**
- ttawa and Chippewa Indians of Michigan 1870-1909, by Raymond C. Lantz (Gift from MCGS)**
- Potawatomi Indians of Michigan 1843-1904 Including some Ottawa and Chippewa 1843-1866 and Potawatomi of Indiana 1869 and 1885, by Raymond C. Lantz (Gift from MCGS)**

*From the President Pen*

*Jane Appleton Schapka*



Happy New Year! I hope you find some elusive ancestors this coming year! And a big Thank You to all who helped make 2010 a great year in the genealogy world.

The Board will be working on making other upgrades to our society and for our members, and I will be here all year.

Congratulations to Dawn Westcomb Kelley—at the December meeting of the West Michigan Genealogical Society, she received the AGO Award for promoting family history. See page 3 for details. Way to go, Dawn!



**Genealogy Tips**  
**Ancestry Daily News**

Copyright 2010, ancestry.com  
(P.S. If you see typos, we can't change it because it is copyrighted.)

**Citations and Dates**

A "Quick Tip" in a recent issue of the *Ancestry Daily News* made me realize that too often we don't avoid those things that drive us crazy in our own genealogical research, when done by others.

I'm thinking specifically of signing (or initialing) and dating everything that might be referenced later by anyone (including ourselves). Doing this helps with questions as to the context of the information.

For example, I began my family history research with an 8 1/2" by 11" typewritten sheet of paper that had been photocopied and passed around the family for several decades. I've wound up citing it as a source (along with other, better sources when possible) but have to refer to it as "Unsigned and undated, author unknown." That's unfortunate and could have been avoided had the author simply added a name and date. Ralph

**German Brides' Tree Ornaments**

When my daughter married, my mother and I gave her the traditional German bride's ornament collection with a twist. We assembled our own collection mostly drawn from ornaments that had been used and handed down in the family over the last hundred years. For example the bird was a nesting bird that had hung my step-grandmother's tree when she was a child in the early 1900s and the Santa was one I had hung on my grandparents' tree every year in the 1950s and 1960s. She received a special collection of family heirlooms to treasure. And imagine her surprise when the card on her shower gift was a Christmas card!! Tricia Holt

**CITY OF MUSKEGON  
4 CEMETERIES**

R.I.P.

Information you should know about the City Muskegon who runs 4 cemeteries:

- 1.) Evergreen at 391 Irwin has 10 acres date 1864;
- 2.) Oakwood at 500 E. Forrest has 44 acres date 1870;
- 3.) Lakeside at 2201 Crozier has 17 acres date 1882 and the new section opened up in 1995 with 20 more acres added;
- 4.) Restlawn at 1400 Kenneth has 13 acres date 1924; Mausoleum date 1931

"The miracle is this--the more we share, the more we have." --- Leonard Nimoy

**AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Saturday, December 4, 2010  
Western Michigan Genealogical Society  
Merit Award winners were:



**KEN GACKLER AWARD OF MERIT –**

Marlene Fabbro  
Our highest award, the Ken Gackler Award of Merit recognizes exceptional contributions of a WMGS member who significantly aided research or increased interest in genealogy over a period of years.

**SHIRLEY M. DE BOER EDUCATION AWARD –** Wanda Schottler

Given to a WMGS member who has provided outstanding service to the Society or the public in the areas of teaching, mentoring and encouraging quality genealogical research.

**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR –** Patrick Rademaker

Presented to a non-Board Member who has shown extraordinary dedication, enthusiasm and energy in the pursuit of Family History.

**COMMUNICATIONS AWARD –** Lisa Christensen

Awarded to a member who has shown excellence in promoting family history in one or more medias; the internet, print, lecture, video, podcast, etc.

**PRESIDENT'S AWARD –** Janet Jensen

This award is given to a Current Board Member who has displayed outstanding leadership and involvement in the organization. This (Key Man or Woman) award is chosen by the President.

**AGO\* AWARD for ORGANIZATIONS –** GRPL Local History and Special Collections Department

**AGO\* AWARD for INDIVIDUAL –** Dawn Kelley, Muskegon

\*Area Genealogical Organization  
Area Genealogical Organization (AGO) is an outreach initiative to our larger genealogical and family history community. This award is presented to an organization & and individual that is NOT a member of WMGS, to honor and recognize support, advancement, research, or service to the study or promotion of family history.

Photos and full details about these contributors will be included in the next Michigana quarterly now being readied for printing. A few pictures are posted on the WMGS Blog here: <http://wmgs.org/blog/2010/12/2010-awards/>

**ANSWER TO PAGE 1 NEWSLETTER QUESTION**  
Marital status as stated in some records needs to be taken with a grain of salt. Back in the day when divorce was scandalous, a person enumerated in a census as "widowed" might actually have been **divorced**. I found a divorce record for a relative as the husband left the area and the marital status of the wife simply was **widowed** from that time on. And other times I've seen husband and wife listed in the same census year in separate households, both with a "w" in the marital status column. - - Genealogy Tip of the Day - Posted by Michael John Neill - 11/23/2010

## Upcoming Events Dates to Remember—2011

### Board Meeting

1st Tuesday  
 Doors open at  
 6:00 p.m.  
 Torrent House  
 315 W Webster  
 January 11  
 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 July)**  
 August 11  
 September 8  
 Oct 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 7  
 September 10  
 October 8  
 November 12  
**NO WORKSHOP IN  
 (June, July, Aug and Dec)**

### *What to Bring on January 13*

- Pencil and notepaper or all the great information we will share.
- Bring change for the Sales Store
- If you have any genealogy items to donate for the sales table to sell please contact us.
- 12 and 15 Generation Charts \$3.00 ea.
- 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.



### One Uncle John

I started out calmly tracing my tree,  
 to find if I could, the making of me.  
 And all that I had was great  
 grandfather's name,  
 not knowing his wife or from which he  
 came.



I chased him across a long line of states,  
 and came up with pages and pages of dates.  
 When all put together, it made me forlorn,  
 I'd proved that poor grandpa had never been born!

One day I was sure the truth I had found,  
 determined to turn this whole thing upside down.  
 I looked up the record of one Uncle John,  
 but then found the old man was younger than his  
 son.

Then when my hopes were fast growing dim,  
 I came across records that must have been him.

The facts I collected made me quite sad,  
 Dear old great grandfather was never a Dad!  
 I think maybe someone is pulling my leg  
 I'm not at all sure I wasn't hatched from an egg.  
 After hundreds of dollars I've spent on my tree,  
 I can't help but wonder if I'm really me!

Anonymous

copied from "Bowen Family Connector"  
 at Ft Wayne, IN 10/22/2010

### **AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY**

Hackley Public Library  
 Julia Hackley Room—1st Floor

**Tuesday, February 8, 2010**

Time: 6:30 PM

Muskegon Co. Gen. Society Members  
 will present the program.