



# Twig Talk



Newsletter of the Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

Vol. 12 No. 1

January 2012



*TWIG TALK*  
A publication of:  
**Muskegon County Genealogical Society**  
c/o Hackley Public Library  
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Muskegon, MI 49440-1209  
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Jane Appleton Schapka

**Vice President:**

Nancy Clark Spoon

**Secretary:**

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### **LOCAL HISTORY QUIZ**



What year was the George J. Moog & Son Funeral Directors & Embalmers establish in Whitehall, Michigan?

See page 3 for the answers!



**Thursday,  
January 12, 2012  
7:00 p.m.  
Masonic Temple  
396 W. Clay Ave.**

### ***“Building a Research Toolbox” Webinar***

Learn how to build a research toolbox that is organized, easy-to-use, and can be accessed from almost anywhere. You'll learn some of the most important online resources for genealogical research and also how to organize these resources into an easy-to-access portable virtual toolbox - Google for Genealogists.

Start the New Year off by learning about the many ways to use Google to make your genealogy searches easier. "Building a Research Toolbox," will be a webinar on CD, presented by Thomas MacEntee. Mr. MacEntee is a professional genealogist specializing in the use of technology and social media to improve genealogical research.

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



2012 WE ARE CELEBRATING OUR  
40TH YEAR AS A SOCIETY

### **Website Updates**

PayPal is now available for the:  
History Book Vol. 1, Membership, Research and just how exciting is that!!!  
Project that have been indexed will be going on our website soon are:

- Family Tree Talk published articles from 1972 - 2005.
- Every name index for 1884 & 1894 Census of Muskegon County.
- Marriage records from Liber (Books) 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 & 9

### **Special Projects**

- Montague Observer Newspaper 1889 – 1981... work continues with Dawn, Barb and Connie have put in many volunteer hours to help preserve this newspaper collection and after finished, Lakeshore Documents will be able to do the digitalizing.





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

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

After an enlightening presentation at the November meeting, members enjoyed a treat of cookies from Nancy Zissler---thank you so much!

Lucky drawing members for door prize and books were Anne Carrier, Whitey Zissler and Karen Farmer. Keen readers of Twig Talk were JoAnn Blakkan, Nancy and Whitey Zissler, Nancy Bassett plus John and Phyllis Slater who all brought the Mayflower picture.

Our December party festivities began with a sing-a-long



with a member band of Jane Schapka & Ruth Skinner fingering keyboards, Dawn Kelley dinging bells, Nancy Spoon clanging symbols and Barb Martin tooting the kazoo. Door prizes were won by Barb Martin and John Slater. Jane Schapka and

Nancy Spoon won the game drawing. Everyone feasted on entrees of meats, veggies, and salads plus a few desserts.



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

**We would like to give a warm welcome to our NEWEST members.**

**Marie Payne**—Muskegon, MI  
SURNAMES: Kesteloot, Nicolai, Bisson, Fitzpatrick  
**Adde Lou Garter**—Muskegon, MI  
SURNAMES: Garter, Schott

Our Deepest Sympathy to the family of  
Mary Josephine (Jo) McCann 1944 - 2011

*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.*



**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**

- **Crash Course in Family History: An Easy Step-By-Step Illustrated Guidebook and Comprehensive Resource Directory**, by Paul Larsen
- **Leaf, Stem, Branch, and Root: Muskegon County, Michigan - Thompson Ancestry, Walker County, Texas - Baldwin Ancestry**, by Kevin Paul Thompson (In memory of Clark & Evelyn Thompson)
- **Right In Michigan's Grassroots: From the KKK to the Michigan Militia**, by JoEllen McNergney Vinyar
- **The Staples & Covell Logging Disaster of 1894**, compiled by Harriett Chalker (Gift from Harriett Chalker)
- **Civil War Genealogy**, by George K. Schweitzer, Ph.D., Sc.D.

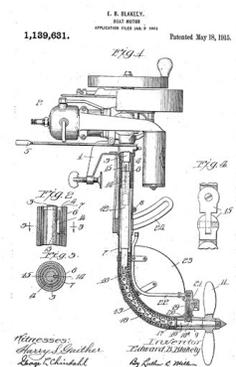
**"Proving the Identity of the Owner of the Blakely Engine Company of Muskegon."**

Jane Schapka spoke on "Proving the Identity of the Owner of the Blakely Engine Company of Muskegon" at the Wolverine Chapter Meet of the Antique Outboard Motors Club on December 3, 2011 in Muskegon.

Edward B. Blakely, born in 1878 in New York, was known by two names in New York and Muskegon in 1914. Because he did not remain long in Muskegon, to prove his identity, he had to be tracked through New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Florida, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

He studied mechanical engineering at Harvard College, was a famous Daytona Beach race car driver and designer, won speed boat races, taught Latin, Greek, and mechanical mathematics, founded a boys' boarding school in Connecticut, and gave his photography collection of antique motor cars to the Smithsonian Institute.

The meeting featured the gearless outboard motors invented and produced in about 1914 by the Blakely Engine Company of Muskegon, soon absorbed by another company, with the engines later sold under the name Gray. Four rare engines designed by Blakely were brought in from various parts of the country by members of the association, and one almost 100-year-old engine was run in the water. It was an exciting meeting!



(Image courtesy of <http://www.caille.8m.com/rowboat/Blakely/Blakely-index.html>)



### **Genealogy News & Tips**

Western Michigan Genealogical Society  
(WMGS) Winter 2011/2012 Newsletter  
Copyright 2011  
(P.S. If you see typos, we can't  
change it because it is copyrighted.)

#### **FamilySearch.org**

FamilySearch adds new databases and microfilm images to their website every week. It pays to check their lists of record collections often. This fall, Michigan Marriages was added. These are images of county marriage records (the county records are different than the state level marriage ledgers.) The collection contains images of marriage records from 50 counties in Michigan. The index hasn't been completed, but you can still find the record by browsing through the images.

The United States Census for 1900, 1910, 1920 and 1930 have been indexed. Only the images for the 1900 census can be viewed directly from FamilySearch. FamilySearch does show the person's name, birthplace, relationship to head of household, city, county, state of residence, marital status, race, sex, parents' birthplace, family number, page number and all members of the household. The search engine at FamilySearch is excellent for easily retrieving variation on given names and surnames. If you can't find someone with Ancestry, try searching with FamilySearch.

Several searchable collectible collections with records for veterans were added this fall. The titles for these records start with United States and be found in the USA, Canada and Mexico link on the main search page.

#### **SeekingMichigan.org**

You may have had trouble finding death certificates for people at SeekingMichigan.org simply because some of the certificates had not been added to the website. Certificate issued in Alcona, Alger, Allegan, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Baraga, Barry, Bay, Benzie, and Berrien counties in 1908 and issued in Ionia, Iosco, Iron, and Isabella counties in 1909 have been added. Missing certificates from Detroit and Wayne county in 1911 have also been added.

If you have a correction for this website, please send the information that currently appears in the Metadata section below the image of the death certificate and the corrected information to The Library of Michigan at:

[libarian@michigan.gov](mailto:libarian@michigan.gov)

The digitization and indexing of the Michigan state censuses had been completed. Ancestry.com is busy creating the database. The completed database should be available for searching soon and will be free.

#### **Ancestry.com**

Ancestry has updated its Civil War Draft Registration Records, 1863-1865. The records list the residence, name, age, race, profession, and marital status, place of birth and former military service of men between the ages of 20 and 45 who registered.

*Continues in the next column*

#### **Fold3.com**

What's Fold3.com? It's the new name for Footnote.com. Fold3's future efforts will focus on military records from the National Archives. One current project is the War of 1812 Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications which can be viewed for free. Surnames starting with letter A are complete. Surnames starting with the letter B are beginning to appear. The federation of Genealogical Societies continues to raise funds for this project. If you would like to make a donation, visit [www.fgs.org/1812](http://www.fgs.org/1812). A \$25.00 donation will pay for the digitization of 50 images.

#### **Social Security Death Index**

A major change was made to the SSDI on November 1, 2011. The Social Security Administration changed its policy on records used to create the Public Death Master File. State death records will no longer be used to create new entries. The worst news for genealogists is that approximately 4.2 million entries based solely on state death records have been removed from the SSDI. You will still be able to order a copy of an Application for a Social Security Application Card (SS-5) even if it does appear in the SSDI by using form SSA-711. Request for Deceased Individual's Social Security Record. The cost is \$27 if you know the SSN and \$29 if you do not know the SSN.

#### **1940 U.S. Federal Census**

Mark your calendar for 9 a.m., April 12, 2012. That's when the 1940 U.S. Census will be available for viewing on Archives.com. Researchers will be able to browse, view and download images for free. You will not be able to search for names until an index has been created. To effectively browse the images you will need to know the Enumeration District number. If you know the street address within a city or the name of the township your family live in you can identify their Enumeration District number by going to [stevenmorse.org/census/quiz.php](http://stevenmorse.org/census/quiz.php) to take a quiz. The quiz will lead you through his website step-by-step to find the ED in 1940.

FamilySearch is seeking volunteers who are willing to help create that index once the images have been posted on April 2. Go to [familysearch.org/1940Census](http://familysearch.org/1940Census) to sign up.

The movie focuses on the role of the enumerators (census takers) but explains who was counted and also provides many details about the 1940 census. You can watch the video on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/OwZk6rASC8k>.



#### **ANSWER TO PAGE 1 LOCAL HISTORY QUIZ**

George J. Moog & Son Funeral Directors & Embalmers  
establish in Whitehall, Michigan **in 1869.**



## ANCESTRY.COM TIPS

Copyright 2012  
(P.S. If you see typos, we can't change it because it is copyrighted.)

### Labeling Cemetery Photographs

Venturing out in the nice weather to do a little cemetery sleuthing? Bring a small white board and dry erase markers and write the name of the cemetery and grave location on it. Put it in front of the headstone and photograph it with the stone. Voila! All your pictures will be labeled with the location. No muss, no fuss!

### Family History Trip Tip

I bought a printer/scanner combo that does not have to be attached to a computer. It can be taken and used to scan photos, letters, and such without a computer attached; it just needs a memory stick or you can attach a portable hard drive or a laptop if you have one. I've found it works great when visiting distant relatives who may not want to part with a cherished photo long enough to get a copy. You can make a copy in minutes on the spot or save to the external memory stick or hard drive. Mine is an Epson but I'm sure there are others now. *Denise Norris*

### Sharing Family Photographs

After working on my tree for years, I visited my home state of Wisconsin to visit family and gather more data. I took along a laptop and a scanner and rifled through all of my old darlings' pictures, asking questions while I scanned them. At the end of the visit I hosted a "coffee" at a local restaurant for anyone in the small town of Westby who was related. Some of the relatives showed up with pictures that we had gone through, passing them on to the kin of the people in the pictures. One had a confirmation picture of another's mother and wedding pictures mailed decades before. Everyone was so pleased to receive pictures they didn't know existed. Ironically it is often the most distant relatives who have the best pictures, sent to them because they weren't close enough to visit.

Having scanned the pictures, they are now available to all the relatives, not just scattered here and there, unlabeled or forgotten in a box sold at an estate sale. My tree is on Ancestry.com with over 300 pictures for anyone to save or print. Preserving the past is best done by sharing the past, not leaving it in the hands of a few. Ancestry.com makes that possible. *Lisa Butler*



If you saw the movie **War Horse**, you might be interested to know that in the *Montague Observer* of April 19, 1917, there appeared an article that said "Cavalry Horses Wanted" by the War Board of Michigan. Size, age and weight were specified. Any color was acceptable but gray. Does anyone know why?

## NEW OFFICER FOR 2012

### President

Jane Appleton Schapka

### Vice President

Nancy Clark Spoon

### Secretary

Dawn Westcomb Kelley

### Treasurer

Ruth Dillabaugh Skinner



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Mark your Calendars!

Board Meetings start at 5pm

Regular Meetings will start at

7pm

2nd Thursday of Every Month (Except July)

January 12

February 9

Mar 8

Apr 12

May 10

Jun 14

July  
NO MEETING

Aug 9

Sep 13

Oct 11

Nov 8

Dec 13  
Holiday Gathering

## Genealogy Family History Workshops

2nd Saturdays of Every Month (Except Summer)

January 14

February 11

March 10

April 14

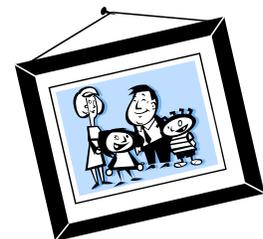
May 12

OFF June, July, August

September 8

October 13

November 10



## Elizabeth Shown Mills New Website

Elizabeth Shown Mills is one of the most respected genealogy authors, teachers, and lecturers of today. Now she has created a new web site that links to many of the articles she has written over the years. This should provide a treasure chest of high-quality "how to" information. Her website can be visited at: <http://historicpathways.com>.

Elizabeth is the author, editor, and translator of 13 books and over 500 articles in the fields of genealogy, history, literature, and sociology. She has delivered over 1,000 lectures internationally, has appeared on radio and TV talk shows on three continents, and was featured on BBC's 20th and 30th anniversary specials on the novel Roots.

Quoting from the site:

For a lifetime, I have pursued those whom history has forgotten. Many have teased me through trails of burned-out courthouses and decades in which no census takers found their cabins. Most have challenged me to separate their identities from hordes of other same-name people. Many have rewarded me. Some of their stories I have told already—as tales, as essays in scholarly journals, or in books of various ilk. At this site, as time allows, I hope to share their stories with those of you who might care to follow them down the pathways these men and women quietly blazed through our nation's past.

Information provided courtesy of Dick Eastman's Blog at [http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2011/12/elizabeth-shown-mills-new-website.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2011/12/elizabeth-shown-mills-new-website.html)

## "Who Do You Think You Are?"

NBC's mid-season 2012 schedule has the show debuting Feb. 3 from 8 to 9 p.m. ET. We've heard that actors Marisa Tomei, Martin Sheen and Blair Underwood are among the celebs who'll appear.

## Ancestorhunt.com

Ancestorhunt.com is a free genealogy search website that provides a search feature in each of its many categories. You can search by state and across multiple resources. Unique to the site is its Obituary Search Portal, Surname Search Portal, and Genealogical Prison Records. The Census Finder page provides links to census records of the U.S. and Internationally. The site offers a host of related links within each category, allowing you to continue your research even further. It's definitely a site worth browsing. Ancestor hunt.com is rated #10 on the Progenealogist, "50 Most Popular Genealogy Websites for 2011."



Information provided by Weekly Buzz, 22/Nov/2011

## Certificate of Irish Heritage



The Certificate of Irish Heritage is an Irish Government program which provides official recognition to people of Irish ancestry across the world. The Certificate honors those Irish ancestors who sacrificed so much by leaving Ireland and who created opportunities for later generations.

Irish emigration has made an enormous contribution to societies and communities across the globe. Descendants of those emigrants continue to make that contribution, not just in their home countries but also to Ireland in many ways including Irish culture and economic development. In a global and inter-connected world, the connections that bind us together are more valuable and relevant than ever.

For an overview of the program and the eligibility criteria, visit <http://www.heritagecertificate.ie/about-the-certificate> for application and guidelines.

Information provided by <http://www.heritagecertificate.ie/about-the-certificate>.

## Flip-Pal Scanner

Ever wanted to scan family photos, but they won't let you take them with you to be scanned at the local store? The Flip-Pal scanner may be just the ticket for you!

The Flip-Pal scanner runs on AA batteries of any type including rechargables, though they do not recommend mixing battery types. There is a 1.7 inch screen showing what has been scanned. Everything is saved on an SD card, which is easily transferred to your computer via an SD slot. If your computer doesn't have an SD slot, the Flip-Pal ships with a small USB adapter. The SD card that comes with your Flip-Pal has a "stitching" program that permits scanning segments of larger documents.

The Flip-Pal website explains *"The software is on the SD card, but the actual stitching is done on the computer. You can copy any of the Flip-Pal™ Toolbox software programs to your computer. That way you can use them without the SD card attached. The amount of computer space used is quite small by today's standards."*

To see it in action, visit Dear Myrtle's Blog at <http://blog.dearmyrtle.com/2010/12/flip-pal-video.html> or the Flip-Pal website at <http://flip-pal.com>

Information provided courtesy of <http://blog.dearmyrtle.com/2010/12/flip-pal-video.html>.

## 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  
March 8  
April 12  
May 10  
June 14

**NO MEETING** July

August 9  
September 13  
October 11  
November 8

**NO MEETING** Dec

### Regular Meetings

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

### **Masonic Temple**

396 W. Clay

January 12  
February 9  
March 8  
April 12  
May 10  
June 14

**NO MEETING** July

August 9  
September 13  
October 11  
November 8

**Holiday Gathering—Dec 13**

### Genealogy Family History Workshops

2nd Saturdays  
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

### **Hackley Public Library**

316 W. Webster

Local History & Genealogy Dept.

Lower Level  
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 the 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.

### **Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK)**

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness begun in March 1999 by Bridgett and Doc Schneider from Nebraska, is one of the best genealogical grassroots organizations out there, connecting over 4,000 volunteers in 40+ countries with genealogists who need someone "local" to help retrieve a record from the courthouse, look up a newspaper obituary, or take a photo of their ancestor's tombstone. The news that RAOGK was temporarily shutting down last month due to computer issues and the health of one of its administrators had kind words and offers of help pouring in from throughout the genealogical community.

Sadly, the genealogical community learned today just how dire that health issue was. Bridgett Schneider passed away November 12, 2011. The world has lost a very kind and generous woman. Bridgett's husband Doc has assured the RAOGK volunteers that RAOGK will be back online in the future - a promise he has made to Bridgett. For now, some people are helping individuals through the RAOGK Facebook page. Bridgett has brightened the lives of countless people and will be dearly missed.

Information provided courtesy of Kimberly Powell, About.com Guide, <http://genealogy.about.com/b/2011/11/12/rip-bridgett-schneider-random-acts-of-genealogical-kindness.htm>