



# Twig Talk



Newsletter of the Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

Vol. 13 No. 1

January 2013



## TWIG TALK

A publication of:

**Muskegon County Genealogical Society**

c/o Hackley Public Library

Torrent House

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Thursday, January 10, 2013 7:00 p.m.

## Repairing Damaged Photographs

with Kathy DeCormier



Join us in January for a very creative and information packed presentation by our own Kathy DeCormier about repairing and retouching old photos. For those of you who saw her beginning session in October, you know how interesting it was. She showed us how she took folds, and other damage out of photos to make them look like they were just taken while not losing the originality of the photo. This part 2 presentation will not disappoint! You do not have to have seen part one for this session to make sense. The before and after samples in October were jaw dropping to see. We will see even more in January. Do you have an old photograph(s) that need some repair, cleaning or a date in time (black and white or color)? If so, bring it or them with you to the January meeting and let us have a look.

## Welcome to MCGS 2013 Twig Talk Vol. 13 No. 1

Twig Talk is in its 13th year of publication and this is the first issue of the year so please join us for an upcoming year filled with fun, friendships and learning!

As you can see to the left on this page, our 2013 office and committee members are in place. That doesn't mean we don't need help. We can use help for many projects we have coming in 2013. If you can spare just a small bit of time we need help with promoting activities, helping with hospitality, data entry, Pioneer Certificates program, special projects, and much more. Just let us know you are willing to help and what you would like to do.

A big Thank You goes out to everyone from the 2012 MCGS Board and Committees. And thank you members of MCGS for sharing so much to help this group grow.

Remember, it is time to renew your MCGS membership. If you have not yet submitted your application and dues for 2013 please send them in soon so you won't miss anything.

### Historical Trivia MCGS

Good Luck and Happy Reading!

What was the name of Robert E. Lee's beloved horse, now memorialized at Washington and Lee Universities?



### Genealogy Family History Workshop News

If you or anyone you know needs help finding ancestry answers, please join us on the 2nd Saturday of each month for one of two sessions at 10:30 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. Important Note: We have limited seating of 6 only per workshop, so please call the genealogy department to schedule your session at 722-7276 ext. 240 or email us at [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com).

**PASSING THE TORCH!** Thank you Officers, Board, Committee Chair/Members, Volunteers, and Members for your help and loyalty to MCGS during my years as President 2010-2012. I pass the torch and extend Best Wishes to all of you. See you soon! ~Jane Appleton Schapka

## HOSPITALITY

Our November meeting was a wonderfully festive "Holiday Gathering." After the business and election of officers, our group enjoyed a potluck. Then came "BINGO" with winners Monica Smith, Nancy Bassett, John Slater, Cameron Oleniczek, Fran Harrington, Karen Farmer, Alice Kooistra, Kathy DeCormier, Nancy Spoon, Nancy and Gerald Zissler, Jane Schapka, and Janet Evertsen. Our door prize gift certificate to Staples was winner, John Slater. Perhaps a baby ancestor picture will be a feature next month!! Bring in those pictures. We love looking at them and enjoy hearing any stories you may have about them.

## Important Information You Need to Know



To our dismay we found out a few days ago that our MCGS Yahoo email account had been accessed and hacked. Because of this some of you may have received an email that looked like it was from Dawn Kelley, MCGS or another member. If you see an unusual email asking for money of any kind, please delete that email. If possible, please report the hacking to your email provider. Most likely we will never know who did this but by letting others know what happened we can all be safer online.

### **Here are some tips to stay safe online:**

- ✓ Always look at the email address of the sender. Look in that address for anything you are not familiar with or appears odd. It may be as small as seeing a space or period in the wrong spot, or as large as coming from a stranger.
- ✓ When you surf the web keep an eye on the top line where it shows you the website address. If that address is not correct you may have been hijacked to another site where hackers can get more complete access to your information.
- ✓ Try to keep your email contact's personal information off the web. You could use an offline program (like Microsoft Word) to store addresses and phone numbers and other personal information (such as address and phone numbers).
- ✓ An internet provider will never ask you via email to verify and give them information.
- ✓ Be sure you have a current and updated version of anti-virus software installed on your computers (yes, all of your computers). Anti-virus software can be either purchased or free. Be sure to have a program that can give you more protection than you could ever expect, including email scanning and information protection.

**PLEASE DO NOT USE [mcgs1972@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgs1972@yahoo.com)** email address. As a result of that hack we are closing the Yahoo email account. REMEMBER to remove the yahoo account from any of your contact lists.

**PLEASE DO USE [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com)** for all your correspondence to the Muskegon County Genealogical Society.

Our Computers 101 Workshop actually has a lot of information for online safety in the booklet I authored. Now, if we can find a location we will be all set.

## Welcome

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Join us in welcoming some new members to MCGS. Here are some of the surnames they are researching.

### NEW MEMBERS

**Lorie Harkness** (wife of Jim), Muskegon  
**SURNAMES:** Waterbury, Barnard, Morrison & Luxford

**Janet Evertson**, Muskegon  
**SURNAMES:** Pierson, Simonson, Densberger, Wagner, Schmitz



## COUNTY CLERK RESEARCH

Wednesdays from 1:00—4:00 p.m.

At the Muskegon County  
Central Services Bldg.  
2nd Floor, 141 E. Apple Ave.



## SURNAME MIGRATION DIRECTORY

Coming soon! We have a directory of our members and all of their surnames and nationalities in the works. We need you to share your information for this members only booklet. We can all help each other if we know who we are looking for! Submit your info at the next few meetings or online by April 2013.

## Recipe and Cookbook Update

Well it's beginning to look like a real live cookbook! It is just very small, so I am putting on my begging boots and will walk uphill backwards in a snowstorm if that is what I have to do to get recipes, kitchen tips & tricks family photos, and family stories. I need a lot more than the 19 pages I have now so please won't you help out the society? I am hoping to be done with it in August or September to give us an opportunity to sell them in time for Christmas 2013. I may be calling you or emailing you soon to see what you would be willing to share. It is really looking good. Send what you have to [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com).

To generate more participation we offer this: For every recipe, tip/tricks, story, and photo you submit we will put your name in a prize drawing. The prize will be different depending on what we can get our hands on. This month we have a book related to genealogy of course. So please won't you take just a few minutes to write, type, scan, mail, email, call, ANYTHING! Thank you.

## Important Dates in History for the Month of January

**1861** - Lincoln established the Emancipation Proclamation abolishing slavery.

**1752** - Betsy Ross (the seamstress of the American Flag) was born. Her real name was Elizabeth Griscom.

**1951** - The 1st jet passenger trip was made.

There was a lot of interest shown after Kathy DeCormier's October presentation on repairing damaged photos. Thank you all! Because of the interest we are dedicating extra space in this issue for you to use as a companion guide to Kathy's January presentation.

## Tips & Tricks for Dating, Documenting, Restoring and Storing Old Photos

### Taking Stock in What Ya Got!

The first thing you need to do is find all of your old family photographs and pull them out of any old boxes or photo albums that may contain acid. Most pre-1980? photo storage is bad.

Now that you have a huge pile of old pictures you should separate them into piles with a filing system that makes sense to you. You could place all the photos of people you do not know in one file. Those photos can be researched later. You might sort them into good photos and bad photos. Maybe sort them by surnames. You could even sort by year when you determine a time period.

Important! Never write on the back of your old photographs with a regular pen, pencil or marker. Only use a product that is safe for the photo. You can find them online, in any store that has scrapbook supplies or any photo shop. The same holds true for storage boxes and photo albums. 99% of what you will find now are safe. Just make sure that it states this on the package.

Next, scan each photo into your computer. As you are scanning them, put them into folders you have set up for photos. Be sure to name them as something that makes sense to you.

Once the photos have been scanned in you can store your originals in safe boxes or albums. Keep those originals handy because you will want to refer to them as you repair the digital version.

### Time to Date!

No, not that kind of dating--I mean determining the time periods of the photos. It just sounds fun to say start dating.

Choose a picture and get out a magnifying glass and a very good light. The best are those daylight type lamps and bulbs. I love the Ott Lite and the Daylighter. They provide a crisp white light that will show you accurate and true colors of the photo.

As you glean information for your photos you need to record it and connect it to that specific photo. Now you can use a safe pencil and gently write information on the back of the photo. Do not press hard or it will push through the photo. Another way to link information to a photo is to assign the photo a number or filing code then use a master sheet to record all the information for that photo.

I have created a photo information sheet for us to try out. (It is in this issue of Twig Talk.) We will also have some at the January meeting and on our website. You can see samples of how I use it in January. I have done a lot of looking and have not yet seen anything like this (which really surprises me) so we all get to give it a test drive. After you have a copy and take a look at it, please email me and let me know what you think of it and what information we can add, delete or change.

## "Who, What, When, Where, and Why."

**Who** is in the photo (and who isn't) and who took the photo (photographer maybe)?

**What** took the picture? You can get a sense of when a photo was taken by the feel of the paper or medium (such as metal, glass Polaroid, Brownie) it was printed on.

**When** will get your inner detective work flowing. Look at who is in the photo, what each of them is wearing from top to bottom (don't forget hats and jewelry). Look for clues in the background, This kind of goes along with where too but look for clues in buildings, signs, houses, cars, etc.

**Where** can be easy or impossible at times. Again, look at the background. Are they in a park, city, road, etc. If you see a sign and you have an idea it may be in Muskegon for instance, look up the area with the names on the sign to try and figure out when that company was in business.

**Why** can be obvious in some photos (weddings, birthdays, vacations, etc.) and hidden in others. In the early days of photography photos were neither cheap nor easy, so you can assume that the majority of them were taken for a special event or as a family portrait.

If you have a photo that you just can't figure out you can go to The Camera Shop in Muskegon. They have done some date estimating for me before (although it was a long time ago). The key is to find a photographer who knows about this subject. There are also online photo detectives who can help, but be cautious when you work with internet based companies.

## From Hackley Public Library (HPL)

### New Books



**The South Bend Blue Sox**, by Jim Sargent and Robert M. Gorman

### Muskegon County Michigan 2012 Plat Book

The following books came from B3:  
(*They're not brand new, but new to the genealogy department.*)

**Autobiography of John Ball**, compiled by Kate Ball Powers, Flora Ball Hopkins & Lucy Ball

### Moyers' Brief History of Pulaski County 1843-1943

### Indian House Memorial Old Deerfield, Massachusetts

### Brief History of Deerfield Description of Places Open to the Public Miscellaneous Information

### Inventory of the Church Archives of Michigan Protestant Episcopal Churches Diocese of Northern Michigan

Travelle is the answer.

## Upcoming Events Dates 2013

### Regular Meetings

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

### **Masonic Temple**

396 W. Clay

January 10  
February 14  
March 14  
April 11  
May 9  
June 13

**NO MEETINGS** July & Dec

August 8  
September 12  
October 10

### **Holiday Gathering**

November 14

### Board Meetings

Meet at 5:15 p.m.  
2nd Thursday

### **Masonic Temple**

396 W. Clay

January 10  
February 14  
March 14  
April 11  
May 9  
June 13

**NO MEETINGS** 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  
Local History & Genealogy Dept.

January 12  
February 9  
March 9  
April 13  
May 11

(June, July, Aug & Dec)

### **NO WORKSHOPS**

September 14  
October 12  
November 9

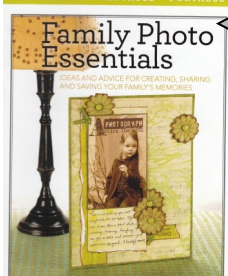


### What to Bring

**We have NEW store ITEMS!**

- **Money for the MCGS store.**
- **Any genealogy items you would like to donate for the sales table, or our upcoming fundraisers.**
- **Photos, stories, or other 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.**

SEARCHABLE • PRINTABLE • PORTABLE



Memory FamilyTree

### You Can Win This DVD!

January's prize drawing. Bring in a recipe, a list of your surnames for the directory, and/or your 4 generation chart. The more you bring, the more chances you have to win!

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR 2013

**Jan**—Family Pictures Come to Life Part 2—Kathy DeCormier - See front page.

**Feb**—DVD at the Movies by the History Detectives - We have a really educational show from the History Detectives series. You will find it helpful in many ways.

**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 later.

**Aug**—"Brick Wall Busters Solutions to Real Life Stumpers"

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

**Oct**—"Cemetery Tour" Speaker Dani LeFleur

**Nov**—Holiday Gathering/Annual/Elections