



# Twig Talk



Newsletter of Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

Vol. 10 No. 6 & 7

June & July 2010



## TWIG TALK

A publication of:

**Muskegon County Genealogical Society**

C/O Hackley Public Library

316 W. Webster Avenue

Muskegon, MI 49440-1209

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

[mcgs1972@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgs1972@yahoo.com)

Officers for 2010

**President:**

Jane Appleton Schapka

**Vice President:**

Nancy Clark Spoon

**Secretary:**

Dawn Westcomb Kelley

**Treasurer:**

Margaret Austermiller Brewster

### 2010 Committees

By Laws .....	George Brewster
County Clerk .....	Members
Historian.....	Jennifer Lamkin
History Book Project .....	Kathy DeCormier
Hospitality .....	Karen Towne, Jane Weber & Paula Halloran
Library .....	Barb Martin
Membership .....	Susan Gerst & Kathy DeCormier
Pioneer Cert. Program..	Eileen Wojewodzki
Programs & Publicity .....	JoAnn Osborn
Special Projects.....	Dawn Kelley
Website.....	Shelly Nelson
Millennium .....	Jo Grieve



Thursday, June 10, 2010

7:00 p.m.

Masonic Temple - 396 W. Clay Ave.

### “Color Your Ancestor Alive”

Speaker Karen Krugman

Karen will teach you how to bring your ancestors to life—to add more than just names & dates to your genealogy files by including physical descriptions, antidotes, historical items, and more. She will discuss what the term "color" means and will show you how to locate it for your ancestor.

Karen is from Franklin, Michigan and has spoken previously at the Mayflower Society of Michigan; Library of Michigan summer conference; Montgomery County, Ohio Genealogical Society; Troy Public Library, Troy, Michigan; Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham, Michigan, and Darke County, Ohio.



Muskegon Co. Gen. Soc. will be at the

Muskegon Summer Celebration  
at Hackley Park

Fri., July 2, Sat., July 3

10:00am to 6:00pm

Sun., July 4

11:00am to 4:00pm

If you would like to volunteer 1 to 2 hrs, E-mail us at:

[mcgs1972@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgs1972@yahoo.com)

We are handing out informational material about our society.

### PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

#### Anyone Interested in Indexing?



Our speaker of May 13th of this year, Kris Rzepczynski, the Genealogist of the State of Michigan Library, said that one of the most important things a society does to become vibrant and essential is to index, index, and index.

The next weekend, Your President (Jane) and Secretary (Dawn) went to Lansing to attend the Michigan Genealogical Council seminar, which is periodically held to offer support and ideas to the individual county genealogical societies in Michigan. Can you guess what main idea they thought was most important?

**Yup, Indexing!**

So, if you can help index, please let us know. Thanks!



## Test Your “Geneknowlogy”

Most pencils are yellow because in the 1890s, manufacturers wanted a color that indicated the graphite came from \_\_\_\_\_?

Look for the answer in this newsletter.

Family Tree Magazine—May 2010



### County Clerk's Office

Schedule for the Volunteers  
on Wednesdays 1:00—4:00 p.m.

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 .....MEMBERS

July 7, 14, 21, 28.....MEMBERS



### Hospitality Committee

Karen Towne  
Jane Walker Weber  
Paula Halloran

Our speaker, Kris Rzepczynski, saw flowers in May at the meeting—artificial ones that is. Faithful newsletter readers receiving blooming rewards were Nancy Spoon, Joan Gawron, and Jackie Fisher. The door prize recipient was President Jane Schapka, who is now wildly combining papers with a purple stand-up stapler. Who would guess the three musketeers would appear at the meeting! Joan Gawron, Joanne Blakkan and Joann Osborn, minus their cloaks and masks, brought an array of treats. Thanks for your goodies! June is for flag day. Take the hint and we'll see who holds one in hand!!



### BYLAWS

How fast time goes by when you're having fun. Once again it's time to take a look at the ByLaws to see if any members have anything new that they might like to see changed. If so, please e-mail your ideas to me at:

[georgebrewster316@hotmail.com](mailto:georgebrewster316@hotmail.com)

The cutoff date is Tues., June 1, 2010.

Thank all of you for your time *George P Brewster Sr.*



Answer from page 1

*DID YOU KNOW IT WAS ..... China*

# WELCOME

### Membership Committee

Susan Boos Gerst  
Kathy Broughton DeCormier

April meeting: 39 Members and 2 Visitors. Yea!  
Please welcome our newest members to our society!

- Fran Fisher—Muskegon
- Surnames:** Fleischer, Zodikoff, Rakoff, Loubet, Schacter
- Joann Mountcastle—Grand Haven
- Surnames:** Duff, Mountcastle, Chapman, Tompkins, Corry, Patmore, Monaghan
- Phyllis & John Slater—Whitehall
- Surnames** Coles, Stone, Rettinhouse, Corll, Slater, Slagter, Kemieck, Kort



### Library Committee

Barb LaBatt Martin

**DON'T FORGET THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED  
FRI., MAY 29th at NOON thru MON., MAY 31st**

New Books added to the Local History  
& Genealogy Department—June & July

**Tragedy and Sorrow of a Copper Mining Era**, by Wilbert B. Maki

**Google Your Family Tree: Unlock the Hidden Power of Google**, by Daniel M. Lynch

**Online Roots: How to Discover Your Family's History and Heritage with the Power of the Internet**, by Pamela Boyer Porter and Amy Johnson

**The Family Tree Guide Book to Europe: your passport to tracing your genealogy across Europe**

**Turning Memories Into Memoirs: A Handbook for Writing Lifestories**, by Denis Ledoux

**Family Tree Maker For Dummies**, by Matthew L. Helm and April Leigh Helm

**Your Life & Times: How to put a life story on tape; an oral history handbook**, by Stephen and Julia Arthur

**Genealogical Resources of the Civil War Era**, by William Dollarhide

**Index to Michigan Research found in Genealogical Periodicals**, by Maud Quigley

**Fun & Games For Family Gatherings**, by Adrienne Anderson



## **Genealogy Tips** **Ancestry.com & Daily News**

Copyright 2010, Ancestry.com,  
citing *The Weekly Discovery*

[P. S. If you see typos, we can't  
change it – this part is copyrighted.]

### **FAMILY HISTORY IN OLD CALENDARS**

I have found family history in old calendars. My grandmother and my aunt jotted down little notes on them, and I'm fortunate to have several of them. There are notes like "cards sent to Mother from...." and "first snow of the year" and "Robert Paul came home from hospital after seven days."

My grandmother and my mother also used the backs of the calendars to write recipes. They were convenient and easy to find. These calendars are priceless to me because they are full of information. Peggy Key

### **BRANCH OUT IN NEWSPAPERS**

When searching the Ancestry databases, such as Newspapers & Periodicals, look for ancestors where they worked, as well as where they lived. One of my relatives appeared not only in his home state newspapers but in other states' newspapers as well, because he spoke at churches throughout the country. Deborra Wood.

### **ABORIGINAL" SETTLERS**

Max Sutherland's description of the loose use of "widowed" and "widower" in the Canadian census brings to mind another instance of artistic license in language and the problems that it can cause. In the 1881 "History of Summers County" (West Virginia), the author says, "In June of this year Mrs. Elizabeth Cales, an aboriginal settler, died." Some researchers have taken "aboriginal" literally and concluded that she had American Indian parents.

It is far more likely that the author was being a bit flowery, a bit inaccurate, and meant "original settler". Aboriginal might have been applicable to the area, but not the mostly Scotch-Irish settlers. Ralph

### **THE VALUE OF NEWSPAPERS**

I found a very valuable resource in old newspapers. It is amazing what kind of information you can find (I found a clue that led to the grave of my great-great-grandfather in Colorado when he had spent the last 40 years in Kansas. Previous to that, I did not know when and where he had died. I was sure he had been abducted by aliens). Many old newspapers are available on microfilm through interlibrary loan.

Each state's holdings are listed differently. Some have catalogs available on-line and others required a written request to see if the ancestral town has old newspapers available. Even if you don't find that all-important clue, sometimes the smaller towns have great little tidbits of

news like "Joe 'X' fell and broke his leg while picking apples" or "Martha 'M' brought her chickens and eggs to town for sale." These old papers also give you an idea of how your ancestors were living. Jan Irwin, Thousand Oaks, California

### **REVEALING HEADSTONES**

My grandma (my dad's mom) knew how people liked to trace their family trees. She told us that when she died, she wanted us to put her children's names and the city they lived in, on the back of her tombstone. We followed her wishes and did the same for my granddad as well. We kept this tradition with my mother's parents, and I plan on keeping this as a tradition in my own family. Won't this be an interesting way to backtrack some day?

Cathy Russell, Cox's Creek, Kentucky

### **BACK UP ORIGINAL BEFORE TOUCHING UP PHOTOS**

I enlarge scanned pictures to see small details, or to make out handwritten notes on the back of pictures. As a caution, I only change pictures if I have a copy of it. I learned that the hard way. I adjusted a photo that I had copied from a cousin—one that I can't get back. I didn't have a copy or a backup and I ruined my original.

Thanks for a great newsletter. The Quick Tips are wonderful learning tools. Mary Jane Lediett



### **DO YOU HAVE THE BUG FOR FINDING YOUR ANCESTORS?**

Here a few out of 1,000 of websites that you should be researching,

- **Cindi's List**—over 270,000 links for family history
  - **Family Search** <http://pilot.familysearch.org>
- Michigan Births 1867 – 1902; Marriages 1867 – 1897; Deaths 1868 – 1925
- **Ancestry.com** paid subscription or use the **FREE**—Ancestry Library Edition, paid for by the Local History & Genealogy Dept at Hackley Public Library.
  - **Footnote.com** paid subscription or use the **FREE**—Footnote paid for by the Local History & Genealogy Dept at Hackley Public Library.
  - **NewEnglandAncestors.org** paid subscription or use the **FREE**—New England Ancestors paid for by the Local History & Genealogy Dept at Hackley Public Library.
  - **HeritageQuest Online** go to (MeL) Michigan eLibrary you need a Michigan Drivers License to access it **FREE**
  - **FREE** website:  
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~muskegoncounty/links.htm>
  - WorldVitalRecords.org
  - **GenealogyBank** - [www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com)
  - **Findmypast.co.uk** - [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)
  - **FamilyRelatives** - [familyrelatives.com](http://familyrelatives.com)
  - **Genline** - [www.genline.com](http://www.genline.com)
  - MyHeritage - [www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com) there also a myHERITAGE Family Tree Builder that you get for free online.

# Dates to Remember—2010

## Upcoming Events.....

**Board Meeting**—Torrent House  
Tuesday, June 1, 6:00 p.m.  
**Door opens at 5:30 p.m.**

**MCGS Meeting**—Thursday,  
June 10, 7:00 p.m.  
Masonic Temple, 396 W. Clay Av.  
**Doors opens at 6:30 p.m.**

**“Genealogy—Family History Workshop”** We will be back  
Sept. 11th from 10:30 a.m. to  
12:30 p.m.  
Hackley Public Library, 316 W.  
Webster—Lower Level.  
Help from the society members.

## A Look Ahead at 2010

### MCGS Meetings & Programs

June 10  
July—OFF  
August 12  
September 9

October 14  
November 11  
December—OFF

### MCGS Board Meetings

6:00 p.m. Torrent House  
**Tuesdays**  
June 1  
July & December—OFF  
August 3  
September 7  
October 5  
November 2

### **Genealogy Family History” Workshops**

OFF—June, July, Aug  
September 11  
October 9  
November 13  
OFF—December



VETERANS  
MEMORIAL DAY  
MONDAY, MAY 31



## ON SALE

- 3 D Ring Notebooks  
Excellent Condition  
Variation of colors  
Sizes 2 1/2”, 3”, 4”  
BUY 1 FOR \$4.00 AND GET  
THE 2ND ONE FOR 1/2 PRICE  
WHILE THEY LAST!



## June 10

### What to Bring...



- Paper and pencil for taking notes.
- Pocket change for the Articles for Sale at NEW store table.
- Donate books or magazines to our MCGS store table.
- We want to hear & see what you have to share! Your Show and Tell stories are appreciated.
- **Your 4-generation chart, completed as far as you can go.** It can be printed from any program or hand-written. You may also send it by mail or email to: [mcgs1972@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgs1972@yahoo.com).
- Genealogy questions for 2 minute Q&A (Questions and Answers)



*Don't forget to bring  
All your Friends!*



**FREE BRAND NEW  
PRINTER INK CARRIAGE NEVER  
OPENED - TRICOLOR HP 57**

GETTING ORGANIZED—Remember to keep yourself organized right from the start of your research and if you haven't, it's not too late to get started.



File Folders are  
used for every name!



Filing Cabinet



Pad Paper &  
Lots of pencils  
with erasers



NEED HELP? JUST ASK.



## OCTOBER RESEARCH TRIP TO

## OUR FAVORITE LIBRARY

- ★ Allen Co. Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN. Dates tentatively are set for the week of Oct. 20, 21, 22, 23. Wed. thru Sat.,
- ★ We will travel by cars. We have a SIGN UP SHEET at the MEETINGS or you can e-mail us at: [mcgs1972@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgs1972@yahoo.com)

