



Twig Talk



Newsletter of Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

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TWIG TALK

A publication of:

Muskegon County Genealogical Society

C/O Hackley Public Library

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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

Dates to Remember



March 14—Daylights Savings Time



March 17—St. Patrick's Day

March 20—Spring Begins



Thursday, March 11, 2010, 7-9 pm
396 Masonic Temple

“Investigate Your Family Using the State of Michigan Archives”

Mark Harvey, Senior State Archivist, will explain the resources available at the Library of Michigan Archives and show you how to use these re-sources to investigate your family history and tell your own Michigan story.

Archives of Michigan wants to help you tell your story. Home to over 120 million records, the collection is comprised of state and local government records and private manuscripts donated by individuals. The Archives goal is to facilitate access in person and online via www.seekingmichigan.org

This Program is Underwritten by: JoAnn Osborn. Thank you, JoAnn!

“Genealogy Family History Workshop”

Saturday, March 13th

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p. m.

Hackley Public Library

Local History & Genealogy Dept.—Lower Level

GREAT turn out at our last workshop—15 learning & searching!

“Who Do You Thing You Are”

Friday, March 5th at 8 p.m. on NBC.

This program will air every Friday night.



“Faces of America”

Wednesday's, February 10 thru March 3 on **PBS**

with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

8 p.m. until 9 p.m.

About the Program

What made America? What makes us? These two questions are at the heart of the new PBS series *Faces of America with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.* The Harvard scholar turns to the latest tools of genealogy and genetics to explore the family histories of 12 renowned Americans.

If you missed the first and second episodes, you can see them online at www.pbs.org and/or buy the DVD



County Clerk's Office
Volunteers

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

- March 3.....Jane Gates
- March 10.....Dawn Kelley
- March 17.....Barb Martin
- March 24.....Dawn Kelley
- March 31.....Barb Martin

Thanks to Nancy Waters, Muskegon County Clerk, our society will be in the County Directory or in the online Directory for this year.

Hospitality Committee

Karen Towne
Jane Walker Weber
Paula Halloran



Our February meeting enjoyed a grand Mardi Gras theme with Barb Martin, Joanne Blakkan, Monica Smith, and Nancy Spoon with the most outstanding party-goers. Claudia McPherson was our door prize winner. King Cake baby prize went to Bob Nordstrand. Karen Towne can be thanked for the home-baked cupcakes. Paula Halloran satisfied our "chocolate lust" with chip packed cookies. Let's go GREEN with outlandish outfits in March. Maybe you will be a secret Irish winner!!



SPECIAL PROJECTS UPDATES

We need your help on the projects below. Some of the projects can be indexed at home, at the County Clerks office, or at the Local History Department of Hackley Public Library (HPL). Email us to sign up. The sooner the indexes are completed, the sooner we can put them on our website and at HPL.

- Muskegon County State Census 1884 & 1894 original books have been re-microfilmed and will be digitized soon.
- The marriage index is moving right along.
- We are looking for more recipes to put into our new recipe book.

DID YOU KNOW.....

- That the first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in Boston, Massachusetts? The parade has been an annual tradition since 1737.
- That the shamrock, considered the official plant of Ireland, was viewed as a sacred plant in ancient Ireland? The shamrock symbolized rebirth.

Members Are Important To Us!

Members present at our February meeting 27 members

WELCOME

Please welcome our newest members to our society!

- Connie Fales—Muskegon
- Sue Wierengo—Muskegon
- Claudia McPherson—Muskegon
- Bill Moore—Muskegon

Our deepest sympathy goes to the Johnson Family on the passing of our members—Nora Johnson

Membership Committee
Susan Boos Gerst
Kathy Broughton DeCormier

Library Committee Update
Barb LaBatt Martin



Complete Great Migration Newsletter volumes 1-15,
by Robert Charles Anderson (gift of Colonial Dames)

Bath Massacre: America's First School Bombing,
by Arnie Berstein

Family Encyclopedia of American History

Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle
1994 & 2009 by Matt Burns (gift from Matt Burns)

Orlando M. Poe: Civil War General and Great Lakes Engineer, by Paul Taylor

Notes from Program Given by John H. McGarry III, Executive Director of the Lakeshore Museum Center (formerly Muskegon County Museum), and Upcoming Events!

- Muskegon County Museum is now called the **Lakeshore Museum Center.**
- They are now Regional, which attracts many people all over the State of Michigan.
- 2009 brought in 24,000 school children. The museum is a resource to the school curriculum.
- Nature History Gallery will have a public opening on Saturday, March 6 from 1 to 3 p.m., call museum at 722-0278 You will walk into the room and be underneath the ocean 400 million years ago.
- Fire Barn, Hackley and Hume Mansions have new exhibits.
- Hilts Landing Project—Whitehall & Montague Area—Educational Program Sept 10—12
- Muskegon County to have its first Civil War re-enactment.
- Muskegon-Russia Soldier's Exhibit goes to Russia!



Genealogy Tips
Ancestry.com & Daily News
(Copyright 2009, Ancestry.com)
cite *The Weekly Discovery*

Getting Organized and Choose a Filing System

If you're like most family historians, you probably have piles of carefully collected photocopies, documents, newspaper clippings, and photos piled on the floor, stuffed into boxes, or overflowing your inbox waiting to be entered into your favorite genealogy software program. Before you begin sorting these precious bits of research, visualize what type of organizational system you'd like to use. Consider all the options, such as file folders, notebook binders, or computer disk storage. Do you want to organize by surname, family group, event, or some other method? Make sure that you have all the materials you will need on hand before you start sorting - archival page protectors, folders or binders, labels, pens and pencils, acid-free photo boxes... Visualizing your completed filing system before you begin will help alleviate a lot of headaches and prevent a bigger mess.

Browse the Census

When searching for people in a certain census year and place, I try to browse at least two pages either way from my ancestors when I find them. This practice has netted me a bonanza of relatives. You just have to be aware of the surnames associated with your ancestor. Vi Winn

Researching Wilde

I have found success feeding my family tree with records from [Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) on extended family members, as well as my direct ancestors. I not only get a better picture of my direct lines, but have also connected with numerous extended—family descendants. Together we've corrected family stories that were exaggerated, and straightened out relationships that were confused. With several people checking facts, the work goes quicker. It's also been helpful to research the neighbors of my ancestors. Very frequently I found a number of families in a given area taking the same migration path as they made their way from eighteenth century North Carolina to Arkansas, then on to Texas and Oklahoma. Deena M. Herod

Finding Neighbors; Finding Dad

For a long time I tried in vain to find my dad on the 1930 Chicago census. He was about two at the time. I was about to give up, when I asked my dad who some of his neighbors were on his street when he was a child. He came up with the name of one of his childhood friends. I looked for that name and found it. Dad was on the same street, but the family name had been transcribed incorrectly. I found Dad and his family and did a happy dance! Gillin

Keepsake Boxes

I saw a segment of "Antiques Roadshow" which showed a man with a small chest that had been passed down through his family. It was full of items that various family members had put in the chest through the years. This made me think

about my grandchildren, who are under the age of ten. I have collected items such as themes from their birthday parties, reminders of special trips, etc. I thought about how special it would be to put these items in a type of chest for them to review later in life. I found two wooden chests at an antique mall and have started putting notes on these saved items to start their memory chests. My hope is that when they are older, they will enjoy looking at these reminders of their youth and that they will continue this tradition with their children. Patty

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

ACID MIGRATION - The acidic content of newsprint certainly may damage other materials. It really is possible for acidity to transfer from one source to another even if there is no physical contact. For example, a newspaper obituary clipping pasted on the same page as a photograph, even though they are not physically in contact with one another, may contaminate the photograph and cause it damage. Why? Because of the vapors emitted by the newsprint as its pH level is changing.

DYES - Papers containing dyes or color pigments may also be damaging to other materials. Their own chemical composition may contain acids, too, and that means that colored newsprint can be an even more dangerous villain than the ordinary stock.

SO WHAT CAN YOU DO? Most of us have been exposed to the terms 'acid-free,' 'lignin free' and 'archival safe,' I suspect. These really are, however, more than just buzzwords. There are steps you can take and products you can purchase to protect and preserve your materials. Let's examine some steps you can take.

DE-ACIDIFICATION OF PAPERS - Consider the newsprint AND the paper products that have already been contaminated with the acidity. Just like with a virus, both items are 'infected' and both will continue to deteriorate if left unchecked. There are products you can purchase containing a mild alkaline solution that can be applied to neutralize the acids. (Light Impressions Direct at <http://www.lightimpressionsdirect.com> sells a product called Bookkeeper for this purpose.)

PHOTOCOPIES - Unfortunately, nothing will reverse the damage already caused. You may therefore want to make copies of the damaged materials and store them in an archival safe environment, and place the originals in polypropylene sheet protectors in a separate location away from your 'archive' so as to prevent additional damage. When making copies, locate and use acid- and lignin-free photocopy paper (also available from Light Impressions Direct and other suppliers).

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Dates to Remember—2010

Upcoming Events.....

Board Meeting—Torrent House
Tuesday, March 2, 6:00 p.m.
Door opens at 5:30 p.m.

MCGS Meeting—Thursday,
March 11, 7:00 p.m.
Masonic Temple, 396 W. Clay Av.
Doors opens at 6:30 p.m.

“Genealogy—Family History Workshop” Saturday, March 13,
at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Hackley Public Library, 316 W.
Webster—Lower Level.
Help from society members.

A Look Ahead at 2010

MCGS Meetings & Programs

Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
2nd Thursday of month
Masonic Temple, 396 W. Clay
Muskegon, Michigan

MCGS Meetings & Programs

March 11
April 8
May 13
June 10
July—OFF
August 12
September 9
October 14
November 11
December—OFF

MCGS Board Meetings

6:00 p.m.
Torrent House
Tuesdays
March 2
April 6
May 4
June 1
July & December—OFF
August 3
September 7
November 2

Genealogy Family History” Workshops

March 13
April 10
May 8
OFF—June, July & Aug
September 11
October 9
November 13
OFF—December

ARE YOU REALLY READY WHEN YOU GO ON THOSE GENEALOGY TRIPS!

- Prepare at home by making a list of the research goals and objectives.
- Search the Internet and reference books to verify repositories' addresses, hours and phone numbers.
- Ask yourself, “How can I make the best use of my time?”.
- Take maps of the areas.
- Document your research findings and cite your sources.



March 11 What to Bring...

Paper and pencil for taking notes.

- Pocket change for any little books or magazines you want, etc.
- Any little books or magazines you want to donate to our MCGS store.
- Your Show and Tell stories are appreciated. We want to hear & see what you have to share!
- **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: mcs1972@yahoo.com.
- Your genealogy questions.

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

See you there!

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PHOTOCOPIES - You might want to scan already damaged photographs, use a graphics program to color-correct damaged hues, and print a 'new' image for your collection. Make sure you select archival quality Kodak or Fuji photo papers.

STORAGE BINDERS AND SHEET PROTECTORS - Store paper materials upright in archival quality binders using acid-free and lignin-free paper mountings and/or archival quality polypropylene sheet protectors. Beware! Not every binder, scrapbook or album sold is archival quality. If it is not labeled acid-free, lignin-free, and/or archival safe, keep looking.

PHOTOGRAPH STORAGE - The same rule applies for the storage of photographs. Look for archival safe albums and storage boxes. There are many stores selling attractive storage boxes, most of which are not archival safe. They may be great for storing your cancelled checks, your seashell collection, or your ex-spouse's pictures (which you may not care about). However, look specifically for storage boxes labeled acid-free, lignin-free, and/or archival safe.



We are now members of the
Muskegon County Heritage Association