



Twig Talk



Newsletter of Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

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TWIG TALK
A publication of:

Muskegon County Genealogical Society
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“Happy May Holidays”

Sunday, May 10—Mother’s Day
Saturday, May 16—Armed Forces Day
Monday, May 25—Memorial

Famous Birthday in May

Here is a timely birthday.
Irving Berlin—Writer of “God Bless America” was born on May 11, 1888.

May’s Program is:

“Military Stories and Items On Display”



May is a great time of year to start organizing your items. It is also the perfect time to put a Veteran’s page together. Let us share our excitement of documenting the memories of our beloved Veterans. We will share some terrific tips and tricks with you—enough to get your creative mind flowing!



May 14th at the Masonic Temple - 396 W. Clay Ave. at 7:00 p.m.

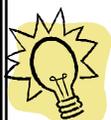
PLEASE READ BACK PAGE FOR WHAT TO BRING

It’s spring! Time to do a little spring cleaning perhaps? While you’re cleaning, take some time to go through your old photos. Are they properly protected? Make sure they are not in those old sticky sheet photo albums. Are they all labeled with names, dates, and locations (In Pencil)? Sort them in a manner that makes sense to you i.e. Event, Year, Person, Etc... Consider scanning them and saving the images to a CD or USB Stick.

“Genealogy-Family History Workshop”

Time to get the help you need with your family history brick walls. We will have several experienced members ready to help you. Hackley Public Library in the Local History & Genealogy Room. **Saturday, May 2, 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

Need help filling out a 4-generation chart? Bring it with you to the Genealogy Workshop on May 2nd. We will help you complete your chart so you can turn it in! In fact, if you are having trouble completing any genealogy forms or charts, bring them to the workshop. You will get all the help you need.



Test Your **“GeneKnowlegy”** This month is a “Did You Know”!

Hawaii in 1941 was a very different place than most Americans think of today. It had been the US Pacific Fleet’s forward base only since October and many facilities for such a large force had not been built yet. The Japanese American population was so large, they were never incarcerated because the island’s economy would collapse. It was boring duty



County Clerk's Office
Margaret Clark Sheffer

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

May 6Jane Gates
May 13Margaret Sheffer
May 20Barb Martin
May 27Harold Griswold



Hospitality
Jane Walker Weber
Karen Towne

During our April meeting we enjoyed the baking delights of Monica Smith's almond sugar and peanut butter cookies. She also baked delicious coconut bread. The door prize was won by Whitey Zissler. The Easter Bunny recipient was Eileen Wojewodzki.

For May, let's dress in patriotic red, white and blue to get in the swing for a military program. There will be a display table for any military items you would like to show. We're anxious to see what you have to share with us. The book we are drawing for this month is **March to the Sea**, by Jim Miles.



Website
Shelly Nelson
Fran Harrington

Want to help the society out when it's easy for you and from the comfort of your own home? We need volunteers for data entry for our website. The work is easy to do, it just takes a little time to type out. For more information contact Shelly Nelson through the website at **www.genealogymuskegon.com**.

Important By Laws Information

Here it is May already and time to think about the By Laws for 2010. So far we only have a couple of small things to change. I know you are all busy getting ready for the summer weather so we will make it easy again on everyone and do this like last year. If you have any thing you would like to see changed please put it in 50 words or less and hand it in at the May meeting, or send it via e-mail to my attention at **mcqs1972@yahoo.com**



The cutoff date is June 1, 2009.

Thank you for your time and see you all at our next meeting.

George P Brewster Sr.

Only a Genealogist regards a step backwards as progress.

Unknown

Members Are Important To Us!

Membership
Susan Boos Gerst
Kathy Broughton DeCormier

You are important to us, and we don't want to lose touch with you so please: If you have any change in your street address, phone number, or e-mail address contact Susan Gerst at **tsgerst@yahoo.com**



Library Update
Barb LaBatt Martin

Index of Vitals Statistics 1993 from the Muskegon Chronicle, by Matt Burns

Historic Districts of America: New England, by Ralph W. Richardson (donated by JoAnn Osborn)

Early Rhode Island: A Social History of the People 1636-1790, by William B. Weeden (donated by JoAnn Osborn)

The New Loyalist Index v. 2, by Paul J. Bunnell (donated by JoAnn Osborn)

Psychic Roots: Serendipity & Intuition in Genealogy, by Henry Z. Jones Jr. (donated by JoAnn Osborn)

Township Atlas of the United States, compiled and edited by John L. Andriot

The Civil War Chronicle, foreword: William C. Davis; consultant [and contributing writer], Richard A. Sauers et al. Gift of Dawn Kelley.

Money/Time Saving Ideas from Kay

I am back and at it again with more money saving and time saving tips for our members. Here are some new tips:



- If you need to look through a book, have you tried just searching for it online? Sometimes you can find an online readable version by simply looking around. The Google Book Search is a great way to find a book you might ordinarily travel to the library to find. Sometimes you can even read and print pages free of charge. You never know until you try!
- You may already know about this one, but with the economy problems, I have found more people are now registering with the Random Acts of Kindness site. There are people who have registered and are willing to help others by doing research in their area free of charge. In return you are asked to return the favor by registering and helping someone else if you are ever asked to do so. The site is: **www.raogk.org** and they are a great group of people.
- How about making your own family web page? It is free and very easy to do at Rootsweb. Having your own site might help you to get your family names out on search engines. You might even get an email from a long lost relative! Go to **www.genealogy-web-creations.com/** and you will find it has all the information you need to get started.
- Something else you can try is getting together with a few people to put in a group membership to Ancestry.com. It is allowed and will save you some dough!

Genealogy Tips from Ancestry Online Newsletter & Family Tree Magazine



Save Documents to Scrapbook in Your Genealogy Software

Here's a really useful technique for quick retrieval of your documents. In the scrapbook portion of my genealogy program, I not only enter photos, but scanned images of documents, census records saved from Ancestry.com, obituaries, and whatever items I have. Each one is then always at my fingertips. If your photos aren't saved in an FTM (Family Tree Maker software)-compatible format, you may need a good photo-editing program you can use to save the picture in the correct format. I also keep all of my verbal and written correspondence notes in the Notes section of FTM, including who I received it from and when.

I have a very large hard drive, and I save all of my images in the highest level of resolution in the scrapbook. No longer do I say "Where did I put that marriage certificate or census record?" If you use the book feature of FTM, all of these images are available to you for insertion. Mind you, it takes forever to do it, but then I never have to rummage through all my files to find what I want.

Take care, Jerry Wear

Just a footnote to this: Scan in any jewelry or heirloom items that belonged to that family member too. They can be cataloged just like a photo.

Photograph Your Contact Information

After inserting a fresh memory card in your camera, take a shot of a card or page with your contact information--whether name and address or just a phone number. My newspaper recently included a lost and found item where a person found a memory card in a store parking lot. This could be a really devastating loss for some of us. With the identifying information on the memory chip, the finder may be able to contact you to return it. Thank you, Sharon

The American Balloon Service in World War I

I just wanted to recommend *A Grandstand Seat: The American Balloon Service in World War I*, by Eileen F. Lebow. It discusses how the United States used balloons as an observation tool during the war. I found it very interesting and informative as I was totally unaware of this little known division of the Army. Thank you, M. Oltra

Something to Keep

I am learning the value of keeping what others throw away. When my daughter married and had children, she took pictures almost every hour of their life. She decided she didn't need to keep negatives because she had the prints! Now twenty-five years later, her color pictures are fading. I kept all of my old color negatives (back to the 1950s.) I have scanned some and the color is as vibrant as when they were new, while the original prints are just brown.

Carolyn Shimek

As a footnote to this one: You can scan your negatives into a negative scanner and reprint for family members as a gift!

The Brief History of Mother's Day

Did you know that Mother's Day can be tracked as far back as the 1600's? Early on, Christians celebrated the day to

honor Mary, the mother of Christ. Later, it was changed to honor all mothers and called "Mothering Sunday." It was celebrated then on the 4th Sunday of Lent. As Christianity spread throughout Europe the church was honored (Mother Church) and was included in the celebration. After the Pilgrims settled in America the holiday was forgotten because people were so busy just surviving day to day life. That was changed when Julia Ward Howe (who wrote the words to the Battle Hymn of the Republic) led a crusade for peace and womanhood. She began promoting the "Mother's Day for Peace" to honor womanhood, motherhood, and peace. Over the years, various celebrations took place to honor mothers. It was Ann Marie Reeves Jarvis who began the movement for Mother's Friendship Day in the 1800's. When Ann Marie died, her daughter took up the cause for Mother's Day more as we celebrate it today. Because of her efforts, on May 10, 1908, the first Mother's Day was celebrated. The Mother's Day International Association sprung into action in 1912, and on May 9, 1914 a presidential proclamation was signed to make it an official holiday. So on Mother's Day, we honor our moms and all they have done for us. Happy Mother's Day.



Websites Worth Noting

~~Since I have had some time away, I have~~ accumulated quite a few new websites and information to share with all of you. If you have any sites to share for Twig Talk please email me, Kay, at gkbosch@hughes.net. Here are just a few of my new favorites with more to come:



www.censuseddiggers.com This is a good site to find census records, Civil War records, and a whole lot more goodies. It isn't as easy as a paid site to use but there is a lot of information available free of charge. You need to search this one by State and County.

www.censusfinder.com Also has much of the same information as the censuseddiggers site.

www.census-online.com/links This site is really great! It has information on it I had not seen anywhere else. You can also go to **www.census-online.com** and get even more information. It is basically the main page.

www.censusrecords.net This site is like a back door page to the information at Ancestry.com. It isn't as easy to use as the subscription service but if you can figure it out, it's free.

www.worldvitalrecords.com/recentcontentlisting.aspx Aside from the records on the Family History site the vital records here are available free of charge for the first 10 days they are posted. Just another way of getting that important information.

www.afrigenas.com/aacensus I am sure we have featured this site. It holds some great links to online census information with clues for African American researchers and free lists of persons of color, as well as mortality and slave schedules.

Dates to Remember—2009



May Events

“Genealogy—Family History Workshop” Saturday, May 2, 9:30—11:30 a.m. Hackley Public Library, 316 W. Webster. Join us for hands-on research help from society members. Bring your current research info with you!

Board Meeting, Tuesday, May 5, 6:00 p.m. Torrent House

MCGS Meeting, Thursday, May 14, 7:00 p.m. Masonic Temple, 396 W. Clay

A Look Ahead...

Genealogy—Family History Workshops

9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at HPL

Off June, July, & August

Saturday, September 12

Saturday, October 10

Saturday, November 7

Off December

MCGS Meetings & Programs

Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.) Masonic Temple

Thursday, May 14

Thursday, June 11

Off July

Thursday, August 13

Thursday, September 10

Thursday, October 8

Thursday, November 12

Thursday, December 10

MCGS Board Meetings

Meetings start at 6:00 p.m. Torrent House.

Tuesday, May 5

Tuesday, June 2

Off July

Tuesday, August 4

Tuesday, September 8

Tuesday, October 6

Tuesday, November 3

Off December



May 14th What to Bring...

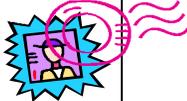
If you have any of these artifacts: Medals, Pictures, Books, Uniforms, Military Flags, Military person's pedigree chart, Maps, Diaries, Documents, Letters or any unique military items that we have not mention—Let's share them!

EXTRA TABLES WILL BE SET-UP FOR YOUR ITEMS

- Pocket change for books or magazines.
- Paper and pencil for taking notes.
- Store donations of books or magazines.
- Your genealogy questions.

A few friends.

Remember—The cost of US Postage Stamps will increase on May 11th to 44¢. Think about buying the forever stamp.



MAY Meeting we have invited:

Michigan State Senator, Gerald VanWoerkom from the 34th District

Michigan State House of Representatives 91st District, Mary Valentine

Obituary Database Now Available at Library of Michigan

by Kris Rzepczynski,
Michigan Genealogy Coordinator

The Library of Michigan recently added ProQuest Obituaries - an outstanding site for finding obituaries in some of the larger cities across the United States - to its electronic resource offerings ProQuest Obituaries is. With digital images of the obituaries themselves, researchers can search by the name of the deceased, any name that appears in the obituary, date range, specific newspaper and more.

The newspapers covered in the database are:

1. Atlanta Constitution (1868-1922)
2. Boston Globe (1872-1922)
3. Chicago Defender (1921-1975)
4. Chicago Tribune (1852-1984)
5. Los Angeles Times (1881-1984)
6. New York Times (1851-1994)
7. Washington Post (1877-1950)

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