



# 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
Millennium .....	Jo Grieve



## Test Your "Geneknowlogy"

*The best quill pens came from the five  
outer feathers of crow's \_\_\_\_ \_?*

Look for the answer in this newsletter.  
Family Tree Magazine—May 2010



Thursday, April 8, 2010  
7:00 p.m.  
Masonic Temple - 396 W. Clay Ave.

### "Utilizing Newspapers to Locate Obituaries"

Kris Rzepczynski  
Library of Michigan's  
Genealogy/Michigan Coordinator

Obituaries are among the most important resources in family history research, yet they often prove to be the most difficult to find. This program will explore how to identify existing print indexes for local newspapers, take advantage of online resources, and utilize other tools that can assist you in finding an ancestor's obituary.

### "Genealogy Family History Workshop"

Saturday, May 8th  
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—27 learning & searching!

Hackley Public Library is having Workshop  
**"Write Your Life"**

Sat., May 8 & 22 at 10:00 a.m.  
Where: Torrent House  
Registration is required—Call 722-7276 to register

### PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

Are you inspired join a hereditary society, like our member, Bonnie Vokits, was? (See p. 4.)



To speed up your research, create a spreadsheet containing various web sites URL address you visit regularly. When researching on the web, open your spread sheet and click on the web address you next need, and you'll go directly to it. I guarantee you'll no longer waste time trying to think of the web address.

Happy Searching!  
Jane Schapka, "Prez"



**County Clerk's Office**  
Volunteers

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

- May 5.....Jane Gates
- May 12.....Barb Martin &  
Dawn Kelley
- May 19.....Barb Martin &  
Dawn Kelley
- May 26.....Barb Martin &  
Dawn Kelley

We had a great open house at the clerk's office. There were plenty who were interested in finding their ancestors. We handed out information to help them get started.



**Hospitality Committee**

Karen Towne  
Jane Walker Weber  
Paula Halloran

Our April meeting provided great ideas for publishing our family history. At break, members and guest were treated with fruit and cookies provided by Claudia Mc Pherson and Kristi McPherson Burns. Thanks for the tasty snack!! Our effervescent door prize winner, Jo Grieve, won the cube note pad door prize that will enhance her already great organizational skills. Notebooks will continue to be on sale at the book store. Could you be a winner?? Be ready to possibly win some genealogical aids by bringing an artificial flower to the May meeting. How many will read and know about this!??!



We are now in the process of updating the cemeteries below:

- Oakwood, Evergreen, Restlawn, Lakeside and Egelston Twp cemetery records.

**Website Committee**

Shelly Nelson

**BY LAWS**

How fast time goes by when you're having fun. Once again it's time to take a look at the By - Laws 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.

[mmb66@yahoo.com](mailto:mmb66@yahoo.com) in 50 words or less to be considered. The cutoff date is Tues., June 1, 2010.

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

**WELCOME**

**Membership Committee**  
Susan Boos Gerst  
Kathy Broughton DeCormier

March meeting: 31 Members and 2 Visitors. Yea!  
Please welcome our newest members to our society!

- Jackie & **Jim** Fisher —Muskegon

- Rebecca Obenauf Hill—Texas

Surnames: Dagen, Obenauf



**Library Committee**

Barb LaBatt Martin

New Books Added to the Local History & Genealogy Department

- **Tracing Your Irish Family History**, by Anthony Adolph
- **Early Ohio Tax Records**, compiled by Esther Weygandt Powell
- **Germans to America Series 2 v.1-7, edited by Ira A. Glazier** (Donated by Laura Pallo In Honor of : Andrew Erickson Family)
- **A Grand Rapids Sampler**, by Gordon L. Olson (Gift of Mary Southwick)
- **A Huge Genealogical Library of 705 Books (CD's)**  
**The Houghton Genealogy: The Descendants of Ralph and John Houghton of Lancaster, Massachusetts History of Cherry Valley from 1740 to 1898**, by John Sawyer (Gift of Colonial Dames)
- **History of the County of Schenectady, NY from 1662 to 1886** (Gift of Colonial Dames)
- **The English Ancestry and Homes of the Pilgrim Fathers**, by Charles Edward Banks
- **The Probate Records of Essex County, MA v. 1, 2, 3** (Gift of Colonial Dames)
- **A History of The Schenectady Paten in the Dutch and English Times: Being Contributions Toward a History of the Lower Mohawk Valley**, by Jonathan Pearson (Gift of Colonial Dames)
- **Genealogical and Biographical Directory to Persons in New Netherland from 1613 to 1674 v.3** (Gift of Colonial Dames)
- **The Genealogies of the Families of Cohasset Massachusetts, by George Lyman Davenport and Elizabeth Osgood Davenport** (Gift of Colonial Dames)
- **History of Essex County, MA with Biographical Sketches of Pioneers and Prominent Men v.1 pt. 1 & 2) and v.2 (pt. 1 & 2)** (Gift of Colonial Dames)

Answer from page 1

*DID YOU KNOW IT WAS ..... the left wing*



**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.]

**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

**RECREATING PAST CENSUSES**

Instead of waiting for the census to come out in the years 1960–2010, I recently indicated what year my family lived where in those years so that future family historians don't have to guess or dig so deep to find those answers. It took a lot of time but if I knew where some relatives lived I added it in the residence field. Barbara Evans

Editor's Note: You can see what questions were asked in various censuses <http://usa.ipums.org/usa> When you get to the site look to the left and you will see Resources under that is Enumeration Forms click on that. Filling in the answers to these questions with family members can be a fun way to give your family history a boost.

**FAMILY BURIED NEARBY?**

When poking around in a cemetery, take note of the names on the stones around your center of interest. At some point you may discover a connection with the people buried near your ancestor. This is especially handy if you are not near your home.

**HOW TO ACCOUNT FOR  
Genealogical Uncertainty**

An important genealogy strategy is to use the "known" to work toward the "unknown." When you create a timeline

for an ancestor, include any information you uncover, such as birth and death, religious milestones, education, employment, military service, marriage, and land transactions. If you have questions about specifics, use qualifiers such as *likely* and *probably* to explain your uncertainty (for example, "born April 6, probably in New York"). An event can be as brief as "born somewhere in Alabama," or it can be several sentences telling a family story. Recording the place is important because you'll want to look for additional documents there. December 2004 *Family Tree Magazine*

**RETURNING WAYWARD PHOTOS**

I look for old photos that have names on them and try to repatriate them to family members. It is a hobby I started when I found a double photo (husband and wife) of a 60th wedding anniversary in an antique store in Texas. I traced the family and posted it on RootsWeb.com and found a home for the photo. The woman who adopted it said she had never seen a photo of her great-grandparents. Since then I have used Ancestry.com as well as Rootsweb.com to find homes for lost photos and I have gained a few converts to my hobby along the way! I only ask for the cost of the photo and the fee to mail in return-maybe \$3 to \$8. No one has objected. I am waiting for someone to find one of my family members! Susan St. John



**ANNOUNCEMENT**

We are planning a trip to Allen Co. Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN, in October. Sign-up at our next meeting if you wish to go. Dates tentatively are set for the week of Wed. thru Sat., Oct. 20, 21, 22, 23. We will travel by cars.

**MUSKEGON HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**  
MEMBERS get in for FREE, but for the first time,  
they will be charging for NON-MEMBERS  
visiting the Museum \$4.00 for Adults  
and \$2.00 Children 5 and under.

The Museum will open for the season Sat.,  
May 15th, 11am to 4pm. They be open on  
Fridays (Memorial Day thru Labor Day from  
11am to 4pm beginning the following week, May 21.



**VOLUNTEER OF MONTH"**

CHERI MILLER—1884 Muskegon Ward 1  
has been finished with an every name index..



# Dates to Remember—2010

## Upcoming Events.....

**Board Meeting**—Torrent House  
Tuesday, May 4, 6:00 p.m.  
**Door opens at 5:30 p.m.**

**MCGS Meeting**—Thursday,  
May 13, 7:00 p.m.  
Masonic Temple, 396 W. Clay Av.  
**Doors opens at 6:30 p.m.**

**“Genealogy—Family History Workshop”** Saturday, May 8,  
from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Hackley Public Library, 316 W.  
Webster—Lower Level.  
Help from society members.

## A Look Ahead at 2010

### MCGS Meetings & Programs

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**  
May 4  
June 1  
July & December—OFF  
August 3  
September 7  
November 2

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

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



## ON SALE

We have a few note-  
books left  
!“You don’t want to miss  
out on this great buy”

- 3 D Ring Notebooks  
Excellent Condition  
Variation of colors  
Sizes 2 1/2”, 3”, 4”  
\$4.00 each
- Acid Free Protected  
Sheets: Clear or Matted  
There is so much more!

## WE GIVE THANKS

REMEMBERING WHY WE CELE-  
BRATE MEMORIAL DAY. IT IS IMPOR-  
TANT, AND WE KNOW THAT OUR SOL-  
DIERS RISK THEIR LIVES TO SAVE OURS.



## May 13 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).
- Your genealogy questions.



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

*See you there!*



## SPOT LIGHT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY CONGRATULATIONS!

Bonnie Vokits is now a member of the Plantagenet Society.

Eligibility for membership in this Society is based upon lineal descent from one or more of the Plantagenet Kings of England. Plantagenet was the surname used by the Angevin House, which succeeded to the throne of England in A.D. 1154 in the person of Henry II, who ruled until the deposition of Richard II (1399). The houses of York and Lancaster, which succeeded, being descended from Edward III, are generally included in the Plantagenet Line. Way to go, Bonnie!

## SPECIAL PROJECTS UPDATES

- Muskegon Co. State Census 1884 & 1894 have all been digi-  
tized and will be ready for use in our Local Hist. & Gen. Dept  
The 1884 Muskegon Ward 1 now has an every name index
- In May some of the our Muskegon City Directories will be digi-  
tized because they are in very poor condition and they are not on  
the shelves for anyone to copy. They are: 1873, 1878, 1895-  
1896, 1897-1898, 1899-1900, and 1906-1907
- We received the updated cemetery records for—Oakwood,  
Evergreen, Restlawn, Lakeside and Egelston Twp.