



Twig Talk



Newsletter of the Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

Vol. 11 No. 5

May 2011



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

mcgs1972@yahoo.com

Officers

President:

Jane Appleton Schapka

Vice President:

Nancy Clark Spoon

Secretary:

Dawn Westcomb Kelley

Treasurer:

Ruth Skinner

Committees

County Clerk.....	Jane Gates
	Dawn Kelley
	Barb Martin
Historian	Jennifer Lamkin
History Book Project.....	Kathy DeCormier
Hospitality	Jane Weber &
	Paula Halloran
	Connie Fales
Library.....	Barb Martin
Membership.....	Susan Gerst
Newsletter.....	Kristi Burns
Pioneer Cert. Program.	Eileen Wojewodzki
Programs & Publicity	JoAnn Osborn
Special Projects	Dawn Kelley
Website.....	Shelly Nelson &
	Jared Perreault



**Thursday,
May 12, 2011
7:00 p.m.
Masonic Temple
396 W. Clay Avenue**

“Photography 101: Better Pictures of Gravestones”



**Speaker
Paul Petersen
Norton Shores, MI**



In this presentation, Paul Petersen will explain the use of photography in genealogy. Paul is a professional photographer, who lives in the Muskegon area and has been giving photography classes at Hackley Public Library over the past few months. As a photographer, Paul is self-taught and has developed his own unique and sensitive style. His understanding of nature, his love of people, his energy and attention to detail bring an amazing ability to capture images that show the subtle emotions and sights he sees in life and nature.

Guest Are Always Welcome To Come!

What is a GAZETTEER?

Submitted by Dawn Kelley

A gazetteer is a geographical dictionary, an important reference for information about places and place-names used in conjunction with an atlas. It typically contains information concerning the geographical makeup of a country, region or continent, the social statistics and physical features, such as mountains, waterways, or roads. Examples of information you would find include the location of places, dimensions of physical features, population, GDP, literacy rate, etc. World gazetteers usually consist of an alphabetical listing of countries, with pertinent statistics for each one, with some gazetteers listing information on individual cities, towns, villages and other settlements of varying sizes. Hackley Public Library has in the Local History and Genealogy Department the following:

- *A Complete Pronouncing Gazetteer or Geographical Dictionary of the World, printed in 1922*
- *The Columbia Lippincott Gaetteer of the World printed in 1952*
- *Michigan State Gazetteer and Business Directory 1891-92 Volume X*

Additional information can be found on Cyndi's List - Maps, Gazetteers & Geographical: www.cydislist.com/maps.htm

Memorial Question

Who started the custom of wearing red poppies?

For the answer,

see page 3.





County Clerk's Office
Jane Gates,
Dawn Kelley
Barb Martin

Wednesday's 1:00—4:00 p.m.
141 E. Apple Ave.
2nd Floor



Hospitality
Jane Walker Weber
Paula Halloran
Connie Fales

Our April meeting had author Dean Cummings discuss early Midwest life coordinated with his book "Ellie" Pioneer Girl's Journey West.

Our lucky door prize winner was Whitey Zissler. Did you thoroughly read "Twig Talk"? The following people: Connie Fales, Paula Halloran, Phyllis Slater, John Slater and VitaTrygstad were rewarded for being faithful readers and brought an egg. It makes you wonder how many bees will appear in May?! At break, everyone was anxious to sample the treats brought by Barb Martin and Paula Halloran. A tasty variety of cookies, fruits, veggies and Easter candies made a great snack!



Membership
Susan Boos Gerst
tsgerst@yahoo.com
Kathy Broughton DeCormier

Welcome our newest members.

Sherri L. Bowman, Irving, TX
SURNAMENES: **Bowman, Bentley**

Shirley Kritzer Brooks - Fremont, MI
SURNAME **Kritzer**

Dona T. David, Muskegon, MI
SURNAMENES: **David, Yurik-Turik, Schilling, Curtice, Sietsema, Percy**

Karen Farmer, Muskegon, MI
SURNAMENES: **Farmer, Cranston, McGowen, Symons, Tozer**

Elmer Bluhm, Spring Lake, MI

DON'T FORGET
No Board Meetings
No Genealogy Workshops in
June, July and August.

No General Meeting in July!



Hackley Public Library

Mon, Tues, Wed 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Thurs, Fri, Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sundays 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Library
Barb LaBatt



NEW BOOKS

- **St. Jean Baptiste Church 125th Anniversary 1883-2008**
- **Courthouse Indexes Illustrated**, by Christine Rose
- **Michigan Prehistory Mysteries**, by Betty Sodders (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Early Michigan Census Records** (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **The Cemeteries of Overisel Township, Allegan County, MI: Old Overisel, Oakland, Diamond Springs, New Overisel, Bentheim** (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Recordings of Old Vriesland and New Vriesland Cemeteries Zeeland Township, Ottawa County, MI**, compiled by Irene Vander Meulen Reidsma (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Recording of New Era Cemetery, Section 34, Redwood Avenue, New Era, Shelby Township, Oceana County, MI**, compiled by Irene Vander Meulen Reidsma (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Family Ties** (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Eagles Cemetery Grant Township, Oceana County, MI**, compiled by Irene Vander Meulen Reidsma (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Origins: Historical Magazine of The Archives v.17 #2 (1999), v.18 #1 & 2 (2000), v.19 #1 & 2 (2001), v.20 #1 (2002)** (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **The Great Chicago Theater Disaster**, by Marshall Everett (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Pocahontas and Her Descendants**, by Wyndham Robertson (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Our Glorious Century** (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Sources for Genealogical Searching in Pennsylvania**, by Betty L. McCay (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Les Combattants Francais De La Guerre Americaine 1778-1783** (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Parish St. John The Baptist Keeseville, New York: Baptisms and Burials, extracted by Virginia Easley DeMarce** (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Butler County, Pennsylvania Area Key** (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Legends of the Dutch: the story of a mass movement of nineteenth century pilgrims, by Adrian Van Koevering** (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Backward, Turn Backward: Recollections of a Childhood in Northern Michigan**, by Beatrice Schmitt Henshaw (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Grand River Packet** (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Michigan Ghost Towns v. 1, by Roy L. Dodge** (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Michigan Ghost Towns v. 2, by Roy L. Dodge** (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Holland, Made in Europe** (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Yesterday's Michigan**, by Frank Angelo (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Lifelines: Official Journal of the Northern New York American-Canadian Genealogical Society Spring 1989** (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)
- **Lifelines: Official Journal of the Northern New York American-Canadian Genealogical Society Fall 1989** (In Memory of Tressa LaFayette)



Ancestry Genealogy News & Tips

Copyright 2011
(P.S. If you see typos, we can't change it because it is copyrighted.)

German Pronunciations

I was tracing my father's family using names from a book that was written by his uncle about the family back in the early 50s. But I couldn't find one great-grandmother. Her name began with a V in every record I could find. It dawned on me that being German her name was pronounced as a V but might have been spelled with a W. When I searched for her name beginning with a W, I found her entire family. *Cynthia Newton*

Page Forward in Military Records

When searching military records, don't just look at the first page of information, as this may be only part of the record. Be sure to page forward to the subsequent pages to capture all of the record. Depending on the type of military record, you may be working with an actual file and not just one page. Within this file of many pages much information can be discovered, like where the person served, in what wars, and whether they were married or not. In a British military record for one of my family members who volunteered, I found a letter from an officer enquiring of the father where the son might be as he had disappeared. Attached was the reply (all handwritten) from the father stating that the son left England for Capetown due to lack of employment. Another military record showed me the date of an individual's marriage and the wife's name. Kind regards,
Rachel Azoulay

Research Marriage Witnesses

My tip is to do a little research on the "witnesses" to the marriage licenses. My ancestor and her sister both had a "witness," Mrs. Leslie Deihl. I figured she must be important in some way, but the name didn't match anyone I knew. So I did a bit of searching, turns out Mrs. Leslie Diehl was another missing sister. The sister's actual name was Louise (Nee White) Diehl, but was using the more formal context of her husband's first name (i.e., Mrs. John Smith). Had I not looked into "Leslie" it would have taken a lot more work to discover Louise's marriage. *Alicia Merlino*

Twenty Years Heirloom Ornaments

At age 62, we don't know if we will be here when our granddaughter turns 21 or when she gets married. So Hubby and I have purchased twenty sterling silver ornaments and one hinged ornament. Whether we are here or not, Ava will receive one ornament each year. The final year she'll receive from Yaya and Papa a beautiful hinged enameled teapot (symbolic of the Scottish custom of having tea), containing enough money for her own Christmas tree. Some of the ornaments are sterling silver frames with photos of her ancestors. With each ornament is a letter of its significance or a family story. *Yaya*

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.



Look What's Coming For 2011

All programming is at the Masonic Temple (next to the Muskegon Chronicle) 396 W. Clay Avenue, Muskegon, MI in the Lower Level (stairs or elevator available).

Door opens at 6:30 P.M.
with the event starting at 7:00 P.M.

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Paul Petersen, Norton Shores, MI
"Photography for Genealogist"

Thursday, June 9, 2011

Shirley Hodges, Albion, MI
**"Whither Thou Goest:
Tracing of your Female Ancestors"**

Thursday, August 11, 2011

Graphologist, Jeanne Drew, Muskegon, MI
**"Examining Handwriting for
Genealogical Clues"**

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Robert Myers, Berrien Springs, MI
"Hard Tack & Coffee"

Thursday, October 13, 2011

"Family History Month"
TBA

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Annual Meeting

Thursday, December 8, 2011

"HOLIDAY GATHERING"

6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Torrent House

315 W. Webster Ave.

Use side door entrance or elevator

ANSWER TO PAGE 1 TRIVIA QUESTION:

In 1915, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields," Moina Michael replied with her own poem.

We cherish too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.

She then came up with an idea of wearing red poppies on Memorial day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need.
Information courtesy of http://www.purpletrail.com/partytrail/featured_memorial_day/what-is-memorial-day-history-facts

Caring for Your Family Treasures

Adapted from an online brochure at the Library of Congress website

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/preserv/treasurebrochure.html>

PDF Available at : <http://www.cvmuseum.com/PreserveArchiv.pdf>

YOUR FIRST STEP: EVALUATING YOUR TREASURES



Before investing time and money to improve the condition of your documents, art, photographs, memorabilia, and books, you should first assess the importance of various items to you and your family. They may be objects of monetary value, or — like photographs of grandparents or a family Bible, Torah, or Koran — they may have intrinsic, sentimental or historical value. Identifying what you have will help you determine the best means of preservation.

Preservation measures that will protect your valuables often only require time and judgment. Inspect your valuable items a few times each year. This will enable you to keep track of their condition and be alerted to any problems.

Periodic inspection enables you to detect problems before items are ruined. If an object is damaged, refrain from treating it yourself. For example, the use of pressure-sensitive tape, while a short-term fix, is especially harmful to objects and is not recommended. Rather than undertaking repairs yourself, contact a professional conservator.

GUIDELINES FOR BOOKS, PHOTOGRAPHS, DOCUMENTS/GRAPHIC ARTS

BOOKS

- Shelve upright.
- Store large volumes flat.
- Don't pull on the headcap (top of the spine) of a book to remove it from the shelf.
- Support books with both hands when removing them from shelves and when carrying them.
- Store in acid-free, lignin-free cardboard boxes or wrap in acid-free, lignin-free paper and tie with a cotton ribbon.
- Don't press the pages of a book down to provide a flat opening if there is resistance in the spine (this will break the paper and/or the binding).

PHOTOGRAPHS

- Don't touch the surfaces of your photographs.
- Avoid use of "magnetic" albums because adhesives on the mounting pages may stain photographs.
- Use photographic housing materials that have passed the Photographic Activity Test (P.A.T.) — a national standard which assures that enclosure and mounting materials will not chemically damage photographs (information about items meeting these requirements is often contained in catalog product descriptions).
- Don't attempt to flatten photographs (contact a conservator).
- Use copies for display rather than original, valuable photographs.

DOCUMENTS AND GRAPHIC ARTS

- Fold and unfold documents as little as possible (store flat whenever possible).
- House newspapers and other highly-acidic documents separately from other items.
- Don't laminate paper materials using heat or adhesive fusion processes; encapsulate instead using Mylar™ sleeves or jackets.
- House in acid-free, lignin-free paper folders and boxes.
- Don't attempt to flatten objects.
- Consider making copies of non-printed materials for display.

For more details or to download a "cheat sheet", visit <http://www.cvmuseum.com/PreserveArchiv.pdf>

New Digital Microfilm Reader Available at Norton Shores Branch

The Muskegon Area District Library has purchased ScanPro 2000 for the Norton Shores branch. The ScanPro 2000 utilizes cutting edge digital technologies to provide exceptional viewing of microfilm. Powerful image adjustment features and a large monitor provide ease of use to either print a document or save it to a portable device. The Norton Shores branch, located at 705 Seminole, owns microfilm of the Muskegon Chronicle from 1869 to the present. Genealogists, history buffs or anyone wanting to look at the past news of Muskegon will enjoy this easy to use equipment. Please request the microfilm at the front desk and the staff will be happy to assist with getting started.



Handwriting: Another challenge of genealogical research is reading old handwriting.

by Dae Powell
www.shoestringgenealogy.com

Handwriting varies from place to place in many ways. Certainly, the formation of characters differs depending on location and on the language being used. Remember the old English 's' which looks like an 'f' character? This was fervently supported by Benjamin Franklin over our modern 's.' Some Romance languages, such as Polish and Spanish, use additional characters to represent unique sounds that change pronunciation. The presence or absence of these characters, and the use of diacritical marks associated with some letters, may change the pronunciation or meaning of the handwritten text. Certainly these nuances can be misleading to the uninitiated and have been the source of many misinterpretations, "transcriptions" or spelling errors.

Some languages use very different symbols and require tables to perform transliteration to the Roman alphabet. Slavic languages using the Cyrillic alphabet often require translation before they can be read. You may find multiple translation tables when performing Hebrew translations. The [ALA/LC](#) table is most frequently used. Transliteration between Yiddish and Hebrew can play a factor in successfully reading your ancestor's writings, too. Asian and Native American languages and their characters pose entirely different challenges.

Reading your ancestor's writings may not be as simple and straightforward as you could hope. Primary to interpreting handwriting is to start with the correct time period and geographical location for your ancestor. You may need to become familiar with the rudimentary structure of the language or dialect used in that area at the time. Familiarize yourself with the alphabet used by your ancestor, along with any additional characters and the use of any diacritical marks. Then locate examples of cursive script from the period to use as visual references for comparison with your own ancestor's handwriting.

Determine the purpose of the document, the intended audience, and where the handwriting was done. This will help you determine the handwriting style and format and help you relate to the dialect used, the alphabet, and any unique vocabulary used. For example, if a document was written in England in the 1600s and intended for introduction in a court of law, the grammatical style, spelling and punctuation may well be influenced by the venue in which it was to be presented. A private letter, personal journal or diary, or Bible entries are less "public documents" and therefore may be less formal or stilted in style, verbiage, and spelling.

Obtain a comprehensive translation dictionary for the language you are studying. A "comprehensive" dictionary includes older definitions, vernacular, and slang. It may reveal alternate or archaic meanings that a small tourist's dictionary would not contain. When studying older English handwriting, you will encounter differences in the language that require use of larger, more detailed reference dictionaries of the language. Remember that these nuances can be important in properly understanding the content and intent of your ancestors' writings.

Partial article courtesy of Dae Powell, Handwriting: Another challenge of genealogical research is reading old handwriting, retrieved from <http://www.shoestringgenealogy.com/article/Handwrit.htm>



Jamboree Extension Series Webinars to Help You Learn from Home

The Southern California Genealogical Society is proud to announce a new program, the Jamboree Extension Series, that provides family history and genealogy educational webinar (web-based seminar) sessions for genealogists around the world. The program will offer Jamboree-style seminars for up to 1000 attendees per session, at no charge. The Jamboree Extension Series is offered as a service to the genealogical community as part of the Society's mission "to foster interest in family history and genealogy, preserve genealogical materials, and provide instruction in accepted and effective research techniques."

While the original webcasts are available to all genealogists, SCGS members will be able to review archived sessions at any time by accessing the SCGS members-only section of this website. Archive sessions will be available approximately three days following the webinar. Jamboree Extension Series presentations will be scheduled on the first Saturday and third Wednesday of each month. Saturday sessions will be held at 10am Pacific time / 1pm Eastern time; Wednesday sessions will be scheduled at 6pm Pacific time / 9pm Eastern time. Visit them at <http://www.scsgsgenealogy.com/JamboreeExtensionSeries2011.htm>.

FREE WEBINAR WITH INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED EXPERT

Preserving Family Photographs:

1839 to the Present

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM EDT

To register for this FREE WEBINAR, go to <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/570828513>

From daguerreotypes to digital imaging dilemmas, this webinar covers everything a family photographer needs to know about caring for photographs. Topics include printing and sharing digital images, and how to safely label grandparents' pictures.

Maureen Taylor is an internationally recognized expert on the intersection of history, genealogy, and photography. She has been featured in top media outlets, including The View, Better Homes & Gardens, the Boston Globe, Martha Stewart Living, MSNBC, New Morning (Hallmark Channel), Life Magazine, DIY: Scrapbooking, PBS Ancestors, Claritin's Moment of Clarity, Creative Memories' Lasting Moments, Dear Myrtle, and Satisfaction Magazine. Maureen is the author of a number of books and magazine articles, as well as a contributing editor at Family Tree Magazine.

Upcoming Events Dates to Remember—2011

Board Meetings

1st Tuesday
Doors open at
at 6:00 p.m.
Torrent House
315 W Webster

May 3
June 7
September 6
October 4
November 1

OFF
Jul, Aug & Dec

Regular Meetings

2nd Thursday except July
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Starts at 7:00 p.m.

Masonic Temple
396 W. Clay

May 12
June 9

(Off Jul)

August 11
September 8

“Oct., Family History Month”

October 13

November 10

“Family History Holiday Gathering”

December 8

Genealogy Family History Workshops

2nd Saturdays
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Hackley Public Library
Local History & Genealogy Dept.
Lower Level
316 W. Webster

May 14
September 10
October 8
November 12

OFF
Jun, Jul, Aug & Dec



What to Bring to Meetings

- Pencil and notepaper for all the great information we will share and present.
- Bring change for the Sales Store ... folders, books, magazines, and other great surprises. (If you have any genealogy items you would like to donate for the sales table, please contact us.)
- 12 and 15 Generation Charts are on sale for \$3.00 each
- Your ideas, advice and questions - someone may be able to help!!
- If you would like to make a gift of money donation, please make checks payable to MCGS and

THE FUNNY PAGES

RULES FOR OUR ANCESTORS

(or How to confuse your descendants)



- (1)** Thou shalt name your male children: James, John, Joseph, Josiah, Abel, Richard, Thomas, William.
- (2)** Thou shalt name your female children: Elizabeth, Mary, Martha, Maria, Sarah, Ida, Virginia, May.
- (3)** Thou shalt leave NO trace of your female children.
- (4)** Thou shalt, after naming your children from the above lists, call them by strange nicknames such as: Ike, Eli, Polly, Dolly, Sukey.---making them difficult to trace.
- (5)** Thou shalt NOT use any middle names on any legal documents or census reports, and only where necessary, you may use only initials on legal documents.
- (6)** Thou shalt learn to sign all documents illegibly so that your surname can be spelled, or misspelled, in various ways: Hicks, Hix, Hixie, Hucks, Kicks.
- (7)** Thou shalt, after no more then 3 generations, make sure that all family records are lost, misplaced, burned in a court house fire, or buried so that NO future trace of them can be found.
- (8)** Thou shalt propagate misleading legends, rumors, & vague innuendo regarding your place origination.
- (9)** Thou shalt leave NO cemetery records, or headstones with legible names.
- (10)** Thou shalt leave NO family Bible with records of birth, marriages, or deaths.
- (11)** Thou shalt ALWAYS flip thy name around. If born James Albert, thou must make all the rest of thy records in the names of Albert, AJ, JA, AL, Bert, Bart, or Alfred.
- (12)** Thou must also flip thy parent's names when making reference to them, although "Unknown" or a blank line is an acceptable alternative.
- (13)** Thou shalt name at least 5 generations of males, and dozens of their cousins with identical names in order to totally confuse researchers.

Courtesy of : http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tracers/rules_for_ancestors.htm