



Twig Talk



Newsletter of Muskegon County Genealogical

Since 1972

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November/December 2008

Twig Talk

A publication of:

Muskegon County Genealogical Society

C/O Hackley Public Library

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Mail your History Book stories to:
MCGS Book Project
P.O. Box 567
Muskegon MI
49443-0567



Test Your "Geneknowlogy."

What tribe of Indians met with the Pilgrims for the first Thanksgiving feast?

Hello All

Before I get too far I want you all to know how grateful I am to each and every one of you who were so patient and kind to me this year. When I took the reigns in January I had no idea what this year had in store for me or my family. It seems I managed to go from one of life's tests to another. It surely cut into all of my wonderful plans I had for our society, and it put undo burden on Dawn, and the rest of our board. For that I am so sorry. Through it all you have all been the best of friends and I couldn't have made it through without you. I will be here in some capacity on the board next year and yes, I will try again to accomplish all, if not most of those plans. I hope to see you all there to help! As for our upcoming holidays, I wish you all peace and good health. Take time to make a memory for your young family members. I myself plan to make some crafts related to our family tree with my grandkids. I plan to make as many memories as I can with them. Time is precious, be blessed in what you have. Happy Holidays!!!

Kay Neibarger Bosch, your 2008 Pres.

Our November Meeting Topic Will Be:



Yes, we will have a program in November. The title of our new and exciting program is: Great and Affordable Genealogical Christmas Ideas for Your Family. You have the gift already—the gift of your family's history. Kay will show you how to turn your precious knowledge into some great gift ideas. The gifts run from no cost on up. She has something for everyone planned, men, women, children, and even the family pet! As always, you will get a handout with some of the project instructions so you can make them at home. We are also voting on the 2009 MCGS board and voting to adopt our by-laws. There are lots of fun things planned so we hope you will be there.

Our December Meeting is the Holiday Gathering:



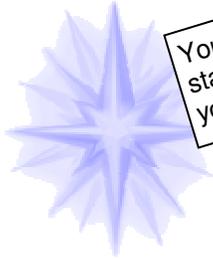
You will receive an invitation in November but you might want to start thinking of what dish to pass you would like to bring. It would be great if you could call and let us know how many are coming and what you are bringing so we can plan accordingly. We are providing sloppy-joes, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and the table service. Ideas are a Victorian recipe, or perhaps something from your ethnic heritage, or just anything you feel like making or buying and bringing! Remember, our Holiday Gathering is going to be at the Torrent House.

County Clerk Volunteers

Nov 5 – OFF
Nov 12 – Harold Griswold
Nov 19 – Jane Gates
Nov – OFF
Dec 3 – Margaret Sheffer
Dec 10 – Paula Hoffman
Dec 17 – Harold Griswold

Can you help at the Muskegon County Building? Even if you can only offer 1 day per quarter it is appreciated.

Your days at the county building would consist of helping anyone who needs assistance locating records. But there's plenty of time for your own research while there.



You're our shining stars! Thanks for all your help this year!

Check out our website for updates to our schedule and program info. There's also some great new data and photographs posted. www.genealogymuskegon.com

Victorian Era Christmas Plum Pudding Recipe

Here is the recipe for Plum Pudding taken from "The American Domestic Cook Book For 1868"

Plum Pudding - Take half a pound of flour, half a pound of raisins, stoned and chopped, and some currants washed picked and dried; use milk enough to stir easily with a spoon; add half a pound of suet chopped fine, a teaspoonful of salt, and four well beaten eggs; tie it in a floured cloth, and boil four hours. The water must boil when you put it in, and continue boiling until it is done.



Using Maps to Break Your Brickwall

Sooner or later we all hit a brick wall. Many family history research problems can be solved with the use of maps, atlases, and gazetteers. Among other things, maps can help you find and picture where your relatives were born, resided, attended school, shopped, voted, traveled over land or water, courted, married, raised families, and were laid to rest. Maps can help you locate your ancestors' neighbors and family members, pinpoint county courthouses or town halls where records may be located, provide insight into migration patterns, and can even be used in conjunction with other genealogical records to distinguish between two individuals of the same name. Being familiar with the area in which an ancestor lived is essential to family history research. By using maps, you can learn more about the name, location, and history of the city or town in which your ancestors lived. This, in turn, can help you uncover new record sources for your ancestors. A number of different maps may be useful in your family history research, depending upon your specific research needs and goals:



Road Maps & Atlases
County, Parrish & Province Maps
Topographical Maps
Land Maps, Surveys. and Plat Books
City Directory Maps
Fire Insurance Maps

Note: There is also software available from Progeny that will map your ancestor's patterns.



Hospitality

October was Family History Month which resulted in giving MCGS pencils. For this special month, a door prize for a Staples gift card was drawn by Nancy Spoon with Jane

Schapka the winner. Nancy was the book raffle recipient drawn by Susan Boos. Being Halloween time, a ghost search had winners Mason Trygstad, Joanne Blakkan, and Eileen Wojewodzki. The MCGS bookmark winners were Cheri Miller and Ruth Skinner. Our program on cemeteries had a related trivia quiz provided by Kay Bosch. Kay also brought tasty no-bake chocolate cookies. Dawn Kelley's sugar cookies were a good treat, along with her refreshing cider.

www.archives.gov/genealogy

Archives has lots of good information for genealogists and family historians straight from the government with links to important family governmental documents, war records, census records, etc.

<http://www.ancestryprinting.com/sayings.html>

Ancestry Printing is another great new site. This one has information I had never seen before. They also offer some very useful printing services, free downloads, and nice charts.



<http://www.eogen.com:80/>

The Encyclopedia of Genealogy Website is a free content encyclopedia created by its readers. Search all things genealogy contributed by people just like you and me. You can also add to it anything you want. I like the content on this site.

Websites

Order Your History Books Now!

History Book

We will be keeping the early bird price of \$65 (we will not increase it to \$75). Remember, you can layaway your book(s) if you can't afford the full amount now. We really would like to get an idea how many books to order, so please let us know by November how many books you want. We are also lifting the "3 free stories per family" limit. There is still time to submit your story, but time is running out. Please bring your stories to the October meeting, finished or not, so that we can help you. It is also important to spread the word about this project, so please pass flyers out to everyone you know. Muskegon's 150th Anniversary is 2009, and we really want to have our book ready to go as well.



Society Business Update



We are winding down 2008 business and starting to plan 2009. So far we have our monthly programs lined up through May with many more just waiting for final confirmation. We are in desperate need of someone to be in charge of sending in our 2009 program and event info to local media. We are going to stay at Masonic Temple for our monthly meetings for now. Brian Chapman updated us on Muskegon's 150th celebration. We are hoping to have our history book completed to coincide with the celebration.

Good News!!!! Save Dollars!!! Limited Time!!!

Couldn't we all use a break during these tough economic times? Well, have we got a deal for you!



Renew your membership before December 31st of this year and receive a \$2 discount. Every dollar counts nowadays and this discount makes your membership even more valuable than ever. What do you get for your membership?

- ⇒ Free Twig Talk Newsletters 11 times per year (Nov & Dec are combined) filled with all kinds of educational tips & tricks, the latest society news, fun facts, and so much more.
- ⇒ Free Tree Talk Magazine at least one time per year filled with loaded with information from our local past, surnames, member queries, and more.
- ⇒ Free admission to MCGS sponsored events.
- ⇒ Discount of at least 10% on all MCGS published materials.
- ⇒ Free hands on—one on one help with your genealogy problems.
- ⇒ Opportunities to help with important records retrieval and archiving.
- ⇒ Group genealogy trips to various locations.
- ⇒ Free queries in Twig Talk, Tree Talk, and on the MCGS website.
- ⇒ Future perks are in the works now but you have to be a member to take advantage of them when they are made public.
- ⇒ Fun and Fellowship with others interested in genealogy.



Congratulations to our Membership Chairperson, Suzanne Boos, on her engagement to Thomas Gerst. She and Thomas are to be married on Dec 20, 2008.

Membership

Noteworthy News: (Thank you Karen Towne for finding and submitting this information!)



From the July 2008 Smithsonian article Raiders or Traders, an article about the Vikings: Researchers at the universities of Leicester and Nottingham, in England, have found that up to half of the DNA from men in northwest England matches Scandinavian genetic types.

A Genealogist Is....

- A full-time detective
- A thorough historian
- An inveterate snoop
- A confirmed diplomat
- A keen observer
- A hardened skeptic
- An apt biographer
- A qualified linguist
- A part-time lawyer
- A studious sociologist
- A accurate reporter
- A hieroglyphics expert
- And....
- A Complete Nut!

 from:
ancestryprinting.com

Wanted: 1976 Muskegon High School Yearbook.
Contact Kay @ gkbosch@hughes.net or call 231-894-2369

Treasurer's Report



October 2008.		
Income	\$	88.75
Expenses	\$	75.10

Michigan Trivia



Michigan leads the nation in Christmas tree production, with an annual harvest of approximately 3 million. We supply over 20% of the national market. The 5 counties producing the most trees are Kalkaska, Missaukee, Montcalm, Oceana, and Wexford.

Quick Tips For Your Information

Spy on Neighbors in the Census



Next time you're looking for relatives in the census, do what Forum member Ropulse does: Print the two pages before and two pages after the one listing your family. Since lots of people married neighbors before these mobile times, other relatives might show up.

This message came in from Family Tree Magazine online Thursday, October 16, 2008

Footnote Releases First Civil War Pensions

Posted by Diane

Historical records subscription site Footnote released its first digitized Civil War Widows' Pension files today.. Footnote's collection has 5,257 record images so far. They're part of a pilot project, announced about a year ago, to work with the National Archives and Records Administration (which holds the original pension records) and [FamilySearch](#) to digitize 3,150 pension files of Civil War widows. FamilySearch and Footnote plan to digitize all 1,280,000 pensions in the series. Pension records were never microfilmed, so until now, your only option to get your ancestor's pension was to travel to NARA in Washington, DC, hire a local researcher, or order copies for \$75 or more. The digitized records are part of Footnote's \$69.95 annual subscription. You can view the records free at Family History Centers and at NARA facilities. A Civil War pension index is free on the FamilySearch Record Search pilot site.

Ohio County Gets Grant to Digitize Vital Records

Posted by Diane

Ancestry.com and FamilySearch are continuing their collaboration by cosponsoring a records digitization grant just awarded to the Probate Division of the Summit County Common Pleas Court in Akron, Ohio. The grant, administered by the National Association of Government Archive and Records Administrators, is worth \$150,000—but it'll be delivered in the form of services rather than money. FamilySearch will digitize 550,000 individuals' Summit County marriage records (1840 to 1980), 46,000-plus birth records (pre-1908) and more than 22,000 death records (also pre-1908). Ancestry.com will create an index linked to the images that'll be free on the probate court's Web site, FamilySearch and Ancestry.com. The project should be completed by the end of next year.

How Good are CDs for Archival Storage?

October 14, 2008 by Sally Jacobs

Q. I had a scanning service transfer our old slides to

CD. Now my son-in-law says these photos are doomed because the discs will rot in a few years. Is that true? I thought CDs were supposed to last. A. No one can say for sure when your CDs will fail—longevity estimates range from three years to several centuries. But you face three major dangers:

- Failure: "CD rot" is an unscientific term that describes what happens when the dye layer of a CD disappears. Research has shown that inexpensive CDs are more prone to failure than quality ones.

- Damage: Scratches on either side of a disc can destroy your data. Even something as simple as pulling a CD out of a sleeve can cause nicks and scrapes.

Obsolescence: Let's imagine for a moment that your CDs actually will last for centuries and never become scratched or damaged. Do you really believe your descendants will have CD readers 100 years from now?

When buying recordable CDs, choose a brand that uses phthalocyanine dye, such as Mitsui Gold. Are these guaranteed to last forever? No, but you can be certain you're getting a quality product. If you're scanning a large collection of old photographs, I recommend storing them on an external hard drive. Burn one set of CDs as backup, and extras to share with relatives. Remember the acronym LOCKSS: Lots Of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe.

Photo Balancing Act by Vicki Garro

"I have many color photos and slides that have started to fade. Using several different software programs, I tried to restore the color balance on these photos and slides after scanning them. Unfortunately, the results were less than acceptable. I then found a feature available on most of the software programs that produced results I could live with. Change the images from color to black and white! The black-and-white images were better quality than my attempts at restoring the color. I no longer have a blue face on Aunt Ethel!"

Italian for Beginners by Madolyn Hayne

"Want to get your family interested in your genealogy research? Give them a gift of a 'starter notebook' with photos, information on family-related stories and, best of all, family tree charts. Even family members who don't think they're really interested in genealogy will be fascinated by all the people they're related to and how they fit into the tree. I gave my sister a family notebook for her 60th birthday bash, and everyone at the party was interested in the book. Many expressed interest in getting a copy for themselves. I may have found some genealogy nuts on our family tree after all!"



**\$\$\$ Dollar Saver Tips
Get More from Your \$\$\$**

With the holidays coming up, and the economy looking so bad, you must beware of getting ripped off while online shopping. While reputable genealogy sites are quite prevalent online, there are unfortunately several Web sites on the Internet which make fraudulent claims or take your money in return for no results. Learn how to check out a genealogy Web site before you join or put down any money so that you won't get taken in by a genealogy scam:

- ✓ Be clear on what you are getting for your money.
- ✓ Look for and check the legitimacy of contact info.
- ✓ Challenge vague search results. Redo the search.
- ✓ Look for often repeated search words on the page.
- ✓ Free isn't always free.
- ✓ Check with the BBB or consumer watchdog sites.
- ✓ Send them a question or call.
- ✓ Check how long they have been in business.
- ✓ Ask your friends for recommendations.
- ✓ Remember your charge card can dispute a charge.

Book Buying On the Cheap

You should never have to pay full price for a book you like. Amazon.com offers alternative dealers that have been checked out to be legit that offer the same books new and used at a reduced rate. Also check other online sites like ebay and Craig's List. They are all safe to shop. Locally we have a Bargain Books store at the mall. And don't forget Goodwill. Or how about your local library.

Important Dates:

November 2, Fall Time Change to Eastern Standard Time. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour.

November 4, Election Day. Don't forget to exercise your right to vote!

November 8, Family History Workshop at Hackley Library.

November 11, Veteran's Day.

November 13, Our MCGS Meeting.

November 27, Thanksgiving Day.

December 11, MCGS Holiday Gathering at the Torrent House.

December 21, Winter Begins.

Our January meeting will be on the 8th, and our Family History Help Day at the library will be on the 10th.



Hackley Public Library – New Additions

Weird Michigan: Your Travel Guide to Michigan's Local Legends and Best Kept Secrets, by Linda S. Godfrey

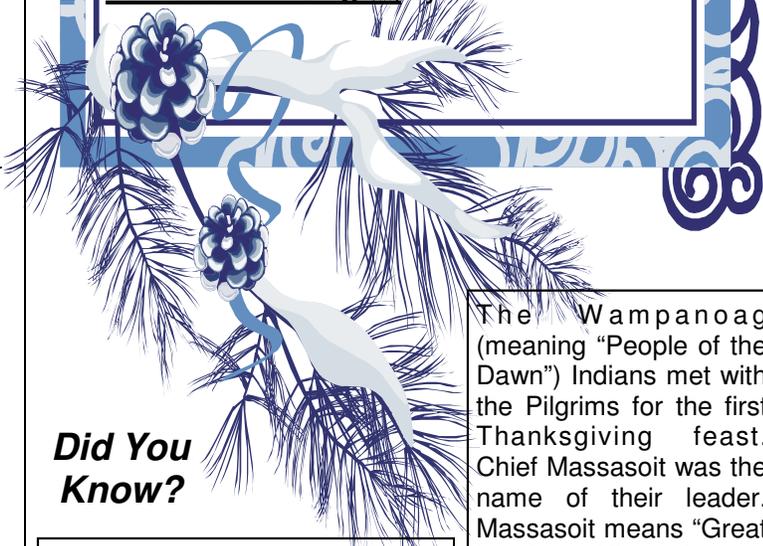
Jacob's Well: a Case for Rethinking Family History, by Joseph Amato

Anishinaubae Thesaurus, by Basil Johnston

MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing, 3rd Edition

The Rush and Hoerle Families of Pennsylvania and Michigan, by Judith L. Benham Weinstein (gift of Judith Weinstein)

Yankees in Michigan, by Brian C. Wilson



Did You Know?

There were only four married women who survived the harsh winter of 1620-1621. They supervised the preparation for the 3-day harvest feast (a.k.a the first Thanksgiving) for 50 colonists Chief Massasoit, and 90 Indians.

The Wampanoag (meaning "People of the Dawn") Indians met with the Pilgrims for the first Thanksgiving feast. Chief Massasoit was the name of their leader. Massasoit means "Great Leader." His real name was Ousamequin or Yellow Feather. The Wampanoag Indians still live on Cape Cod, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, and inland.

Wanted:

We are looking for a laptop with Windows XP. Our society is in dire need of a portable means of recording data. The time it takes us to handwrite everything and then transcribe it to digital form is hurting all the good work we do. We could get so much more done in much less time if we had a laptop. The benefits are also there for whomever donates the laptop. They will receive documentation from the society for their generous gift. If you or someone you know can make this donation, please call Dawn Kelley 231-740-3698 or email at dogwood49@comcast.net



→ DON'T FORGET!

November December Events

November is our annual meeting. The title of our program is: Great and Affordable Genealogical Christmas Ideas for Your Family. You have the gift already—the gift of your family's history. Kay will show you how to turn your precious knowledge into some great gift ideas. The gifts run from no cost on up. She has something for everyone planned, men, women, children, and even the family pet! We must also vote to adopt our by-laws and our 2009 board. If you are interested in helping the society please consider a board or committee position. We need you! **Thursday, November 13, 7:00 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m., at the Masonic Temple, 396 Clay Ave., Muskegon.** Hope to see you there!

Family History Workshop

Saturday, November 8, at Hackley

Library from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

A Look Ahead

For December, start thinking about what yummy things you can make for our annual Holiday Gathering! We are anxious to hear about anything you want to make for the gathering! Please note that we are hosting the Holiday Gathering at the Torrent House. The atmosphere there is perfect for a good ole fashion get together.

January winds may be blowing but you will find the program we have prepared for you hot! Title: I'm Writing My Family History Not With Pen & Paper but With Needle & Thread. This is really going to be a great program!

What to Bring to the Meeting...

- Paper and pencil for taking notes.
- Money for the drawings & items at our MCGS store table.
- Your Show-and-Tell stories,

items, documents, etc.

- Your family stories for the history book.
- Your genealogy questions for our post program chat.
- Any genealogy-related books, magazines, or items for sale donation or trade.
- Don't forget to purchase or layaway your History Book!

New!

REMEMBER!!!! IF YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED WE NEED TO KNOW. SEND AN EMAIL TO US USING YOUR NEW ADDRESS WITH A NOTE OF THE DATE IT WILL CHANGE.

Our yearly membership fee is coming due again. Renew by December 31 and save \$2.00.

Whether you come by car or by sleigh—we hope to see you there!



MUSKEGON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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Here's Your Latest Edition of Twig Talk!

**\$2.00 OFF YOUR
MEMBERSHIP DUES
NOW THRU WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 31, 2008**



SPECIAL PROGRAM

Thursday, January 8, 2009

Masonic Temple

396 W. Clay Av.

"I'm Writing My Family History Not With Pen & Paper, But With Needle & Thread"

Guest Speaker, Kathy Jolman

Join me for a fun and exciting evening when I share with you my natural dyed quilt blocks I make to record my family history.