



# 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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Mail your History Book stories to:  
**Muskegon County Genealogical Society Book Project, P.O. Box 567, Muskegon MI 49443-0567**

## Test Your "Geneknowlogy."



Who is responsible for the commercialization of Halloween as we know it today?

You will find the answer somewhere in this newsletter and it may surprise you.



Hello MCGS Friends

It is a few days away from fall at the time of this writing and I am already looking forward to sitting down on a crisp fall evening and digging into Ancestry.com. Yes, it's the geek in me. Some of you snuggle up with a good book while I snuggle up with my computer (I have a good reason. After all, October is National Computer Learning Month.)! No matter what we snuggle up to, at least we all have one thing in common, our love of our family histories. Bearing that in mind, I will be sending a survey to you in October to ask for your opinions on how better we can serve our society and our community. My hope is that you will all return your surveys by the end of October so that we can implement some ideas prior to the year's end as well as plan for future years when the new board meets in January.

October is also Family History Month, so now is the time to finish up that family story and pre-purchase your history books. Just one more reason to celebrate the love of family of course. Take time this month to put your genealogical records in order. Call a relative and chat about family, or just spend time with the little ones in your family. It all counts as a celebration of the month. I guess it doesn't take a holiday to remind me of how precious family is, and I hope that goes for you too. So whether you celebrate National Nut Day on October 22, Moldy Cheese Day (Oct. 9) or Grouch Day (Oct. 15) at least celebrate it with family!

Kay Neibarger Bosch, your Pres.

## Our Fall Meeting Topics:



October is Family History Month so please bring your family history stories with you to our October 9 meeting, finished or not. We can help you by taking a look at what you have so far, proofing, or anything else you need. It's back to basics this year for Family History Month.

Our October program will focus on what else, cemeteries. Do you have a funny, spooky or interesting story to share about your visits to the cemetery? We want to hear it! It's an open session of fun as we show you some of our favorite tombstone captions, share valuable information on cemetery research, and give you a bit of history on cemeteries and spooky happenings in Michigan and our county. Thursday, October 9, 7:00 p.m., doors open at 6:30 .m., at the Masonic Temple, 396 Clay Ave., Muskegon. Hope to see you there!

Join us on Saturday, October 4 & 11 for our Family History Workshop at Hackley Public Library from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday  
afternoon  
volunteer  
schedule:

**County Clerk  
Research & Assistance**

Margaret Sheffer

Oct. 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Paula Hoffman  
Oct. 8 \_\_\_\_\_ Harold Griswold  
Oct. 15 \_\_\_\_\_ Jane Gates  
Oct. 22 \_\_\_\_\_ Margaret Sheffer  
Oct. 29 \_\_\_\_\_ Barb Martin

Can you help? Even if you can only offer 1 day a quarter-any help is appreciated.



**Research**  
Dawn Westcomb Kelley

A note about our research income: We receive research requests by mail and email from all over the world. This has been a reliable source of income (although not a large money-maker) for years. There has been a marked decrease in research requests over the past year or so. This is due in part to the availability of information on the internet, as well as our economic woes. We hope to have this pick up in the future.

Our Research income was year to date is: \$350.00



Our September meeting that featured the Ukrainian people was enjoyed by treats of their culture. Karen Towne baked Ukrainian honey bread and cinnamon cookies. All members and guests appreciated her tasty, culinary effort!! The door prize was drawn by Susan Boos with Jane Schapka the winner. The Ukrainian book drawing resulted in Marlene Radakovitz winning.

**Hospitality**

Karen Towne  
Jane Weber

**Favorite Brick Wall Tips:**

When you hit a brick wall in your research it is easy to get frustrated and want to throw in the towel but all is not lost. Among all the tips you have, you may have overlooked the most basic of all—start from the beginning person. That means go back to square one and take a fresh approach to your work. You may find that back when you originally were working on your history that you missed something. You know more now about how to research, records are constantly being updated, your notes may hold a key you missed before. There are a lot of good reasons to start fresh and start at your beginning person. You may even uncover a family member you missed the first time.



Here's another one: Make a big sheet of your timeline and post it up on the wall. Then mark everything. Put maps on the wall to help too. Work like a detective does. They always put clues up on a wall and as they gather information they post it. Do your work that way. Use cork board or cardboard and hang that. Tack or tape up all your clues. Now sit back and visualize that information. Sometimes just looking at it differently will help.

***Families are like fudge...  
mostly sweet with a few nuts.***

~Author Unknown



**Here are a couple of web-sites to check out this month.**

When researching, you may find it helpful to know what was going on in the world when your ancestor was alive. [www.gendisasters.com](http://www.gendisasters.com) lists major disasters and their time periods. Another great timeline-related site is: [www.shgresources.com/us/timeline/](http://www.shgresources.com/us/timeline/) This site has a great listing of events by the year. Easy to find your particular time and visualize the times.

**Order Your History Books Now!**

**History Book**

We will be keeping the early bird price of \$65(not increasing 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.

Welcome our new member:

Kathy Oostmeyer Franklin, who is from the Lansing, MI area.

**Surnames are:** Oostmeyer, Franklin, Mierle, Majerle, Carver, Lovreneich, Lovrenchich, Reeve, Garbarek, and Rosema.



**Membership**

<b>Treasurer's Report</b>		
Margaret Brewster		
Income	\$123.59	Expenses \$68.00

**Double Bubble Toile & Trouble!  
Try this yummy Pumpkin Cheesecake**

- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin puree
- 1 1/4 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 prepared 8 inch pastry shells



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat together the cream cheese and the sugar, add the pumpkin and the spices. Beat in eggs one at a time. Add salt. Beat until creamy. Pour the batter evenly into the two pastry shells. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes or until the knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Let cool then top with whipped topping, if desired.

**Society Business Update**



Our website news, check out our newest updates.

Margaret & George Brewster has volunteered to take digital pictures of headstones at the Fruitport Cemetery. Thank you!

Digitalized pictures of the headstones in Lakeside Cemetery is part way done thanks to the volunteers Kay Bosch, Karen Towne, Margaret Sheffer, Lori Smith, Joan Gawron, Dawn Kelley, Barb Wehnes

**TAKE PART OF WHAT THE SOCIETY DOING  
AND BE A VOLUNTEER**

**QUERY**

"Does anyone have a **dated** photo taken by Radium Photo prior to 1912? If so, please contact Joanne Blakkan at 744-0241. We believe Radium was founded in 1909 but have no proof prior to 1912 and with a 100th Anniversary coming up we are seeking confirmation."

**School boards** came up with current commercialized Halloween traditions. It is sort of ironic considering today's unfavorable rulings on Halloween parties in schools. Younger people were using this night to commit pranks in the neighborhoods. As time went by, the pranks began to escalate into expensive vandalism-and in some cases, violence. The school boards, urged to "do something" by the parents, got together with the town councils to come up with a safe activity for their children. The town councils, in turn, got the businesses and locals to all co-operate in giving the children candy, to keep them out of mischief.

**Michigan Trivia**



Did you know that the small town of Colon is home to the world's largest manufacturer of magic supplies.



**Quick Tips**  
Online  
**Family Tree Magazine**  
January 2003

**BE A VOLUNTEER:**

Timothy J. McWilliams

"I have been involved in my family history research for the past 10 years and still consider myself an amateur. My tip for anyone involved in genealogy would be to volunteer at any of the numerous genealogy Web sites.

"I volunteer at Obituary Daily Times, sponsor a Web site with RootsWeb for Torrington, Connecticut, and also volunteer with Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness. I've found that by doing research for others interested in the area where I live, I do homework for myself by learning new research techniques.

"I helped a woman from Washington state track down an unknown infant in her family tree. What a shock for this woman to learn that her grandmother had another daughter who died shortly after birth. By researching for this woman, I learned how to create an enumeration district map for the 1910 and 1920 census in my area. By printing a map of the surrounding area where her grandparents lived, I was able to read the census enumeration district descriptions and highlight each area on my map. What a great tool for getting to know the area around your ancestors.

"I have since learned that this woman comes from the same area in Poland as my great-grandparents. She's now helping me locate my family homestead. What a great reward for helping someone else! I hope that with more researchers volunteering their time, everyone will reap the rewards."

**SPREADSHEETS MADE SIMPLE:**

from **Bernice Broniecki**

"Whenever I update my genealogy software program with any new information regarding my ancestors, I also make an abbreviated notation of any additions to a simple two-column spreadsheet. In the spreadsheet's first column, I input the date—year first, then month and day (1845/04/15). The second column contains a brief description of the event and those involved. Next, I check Web sites of local historical societies and others such as Marie Time

Capsule to learn what was being reported in the news on or around the same date as my listed event. I add any noteworthy headlines, along with the dates, to the spreadsheet. Finally, I sort the information beginning with the most recent date.

"Now I can look at my spreadsheet and instantly see what events were taking place on either side of the family and how the road was being paved for future interaction among the different branches. Also, I can see at a glance which world and local events were impacting the lives of my ancestors. Our city had a great fire in April 1845. Until I began this tracking method, I wasn't aware that within a week of the fire, Swiss families from my ancestors' canton arrived here and settled directly across the river from the affected area. I can only imagine what an impression such a tragic sight made upon them."

**PHOTO BALANCING ACT**

from 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!"

**DON'T OVERLOOK THE OBVIOUS**

Madolyn Hayne of Wilkes Barre, PA

"Every now and then, take a few minutes to look through your research materials. You just might see something you missed before or didn't realize was important.

"I was looking through some materials and found a postcard that my mother had written to her father in 1919, when she was about 8 years old! What a treasure to see her little handwriting and read her words. Looking back through my early research information, I discovered some wonderful new facts about my ancestors. At the time, I didn't realize what the facts meant; now it's invaluable to understanding how my ancestors got to America in the late 1800s."

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



**5 Ways your local library  
can save you money!**

A good local library is worth its weight in gold. It's a place where you can check out thousands of books for free and read them to your heart's content. Yet most libraries offer much, much more than that also for free. Here are five ways you can use your local library for valuable things without spending a dime.

**Learn a foreign language** We don't have much free time, but the local library has available *enormous* selections of books on tape for learning a foreign language. All you have to do is check them out. For example, the Japanese course has six sections, each composed of 24 (!) cassette tapes. Just load them up in your tape player and listen to them on your way to work and your way home, where you are alone and can practice saying the phrases aloud. You can get through a tape in roughly two days, so you just have to renew the set a time or two and it's cool.

**Meet interesting people** The local library is a great place to organize and find special interest groups, mostly because of the diversity of information available there. Stop in and check out one of their calendars of events and get involved in something. Gee, maybe the local Genealogy group is a good place to start!

**Use the internet** Almost all libraries have internet terminals, and your local one just may have added wireless. Go find a quiet table there and you can get a lot of research done, both book and internet at the same time, and this enables you to get a lot of writing done, too. Like perhaps your family's story for the book!

**Find out what's happening in the community** Many libraries have a community bulletin board where people post all kinds of things, from houses and autos for sale to notices of auctions and concerts in the park. You can find all sorts of interesting things on the community bulletin board.

**Find a movie to watch without paying those Netflix or Blockbuster fees.** Why pay money to rent a movie when your local library has a ton of CD's that you can check out? You may discover a ton of great older films of all kinds ...

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**Book Exchanges**

Instead of buying a new book or magazine, get with your friends and have a book/magazine/video exchange. It is a lot of fun and you won't spend a penny doing it! Your friends or the people you volunteer with all have some of the same interests, so it ought to be easy to find something you like.

**History of Andover  
Massachusetts,**

by Abiel Abbot (Donated by National Society Colonial Dames Capt. Thomas Taber Chapter Muskegon, MI In Honor of Our Ancestors)



**History of the Town of Abington Massachusetts,** by Benjamin Hobart

**History of Hingham Massachusetts v. 1, 2-3**

**History of Litchfield County Connecticut**  
In Honor of Our Colonial Ancestors)

**History of Ashburnham Massachusetts,**  
by Ezra S. Stearns In Honor of Our Members)

**History of Chelmsford Massachusetts,**  
by Rev. Wilson Waters

**History of Haverhill Massachusetts**

**History of Newbury Massachusetts,**  
by John J. Currier

**History of the Town of Amherst Massachusetts**

**History of Barnstable County, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2;**  
donated by Colonial Dames

**History of Billerica, Mass;**  
donated by Colonial Dames

**History of Woburn, Mass;**  
donated by Colonial Dames

**An Illustrated History of the Muskegon Country Club  
Centennial 1908-2008,**  
by Daniel J. Yakes; donated by Dan Yakes

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**Family Tree Magazine**

**Teaming up for Free Census Records**

The two biggest players embarked on a resource-exchanging partnership that will put more records online-starting with all available. The agreement between The Generations Network <tgn.com> (owner of subscription service Ancestry.com <ancestry.com>) and FamilySearch <www.familysearch.org> makes enhances census indexes free permanently on FamilySearch and for a limited time on Ancestry.com. Digitized record images will be available by subscription on Ancestry.com for a cost. They will be free at FamilySearch's 4,500 worldwide FH Centers, as well as National Archives and Records Adm. (NARA) <archives.gov> regional facilities.

**Read more in November 2008 issue—pg 10**



## Dates to Remember

### October Events

October is Family History Month so please bring your family history stories with you to our October 9 meeting, finished or not. We can help you by taking a look at what you have so far, proofing it, giving you some pointers, or anything else you need. It's back to basics this year for Family History Month. Our October Thursday night program will focus on what else—cemeteries! Do you have a funny, spooky or interesting story to share about your visit to the cemetery? We want to hear it! It's an open session of fun as we show you some of our favorite tombstone epitaphs, share valuable information on cemetery research, and give you a bit of history on cemeteries and spooky happenings in Michigan and our county.

**Thursday, October 9, 7:00 p.m., doors open at 6:30 .m., at the Masonic Temple, 396 Clay Ave., Muskegon.** Hope to see you there!

### **Family History Workshop**

Saturday, October 4 at Hackley Library from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

### **A Look Ahead....**

November is our annual meeting. We must 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!

Start thinking about what yummy things you can make for our December Christmas party! Jane and Karen would love to hear about anything you would like to make for the party!

In December we will be hosting our annual Christmas Gathering!

### 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.
- Don't forget to purchase or layaway your History Book!



**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.**

***Remember that our yearly membership fee is coming due again very soon.***

MUSKEGON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
C/O HACKLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
316 WEST WEBSTER AVE  
MUSKEGON, MI 49440-1209

*Here's Your Latest Edition of Twig Talk!*



### **"CONGRAULATION"**

North Muskegon Postal carrier honored for delivering 40 years. **Robert (Bob) Nordstand**, who began delivering mail for the U.S. Postal Service in 1968, who celebrated 40 years of service on Friday, August 22, 2008. Bob has served the North Muskegon route for 19 years. He has no plans to retire.