



Twig Talk



Newsletter of the Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

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TWIG TALK

A publication of:

Muskegon County Genealogical Society

c/o Hackley Public Library

316 W. Webster Avenue

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COME JOIN US!

“Family History Month”

MCGS is celebrating 38 years!

Events on October 14, 2010:

Pioneer certificates, banquet,

and humorous skit of our past.

Don't miss this special occasion!!

“Pioneer Certificate”

Do you have an early Muskegon County person? They may qualify as a **Pioneer**—up to and (also includes 1889) or **Settler**—1890 to 1929

CONGRATULATIONS



PIONEER CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS FOR 2010

There is a special recognition at our October meeting for the following pioneers & settler

Joanne Cihak Blakkan

1905 Settler—Frank J Cihak

Alice Ferguson Kooistra

1878 Pioneer—Luella Olson

Jeri VanderLaan Landheer

1884 Pioneer—Luije VanderLaan

Rebecca Margaret Obenauf & Robert Dudley Hill

1860 Pioneer—John Dagen



GENEALOGY QUOTE

"Family faces are magic mirrors. Looking at people who belong to us, we see the past, present and future."

-- Gail Lumet Buckley

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

“Genealogy-Family History Workshop”

Sat., Oct. 9, Hackley Public Library, 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.



County Clerk's Office

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

We help the public find marriage and death records!



After learning
"brickwall" solutions

Hospitality

Jane Walker Weber
Paula Halloran
Connie Fales

by speaker James N. Jackson, members and guests enjoyed veggies 'n dip, fruit salad, cookies and crackers with cheese for their social break. Thanks go to our donors Eileen Wojewodzki, Paula Halloran, Connie Fales, Dawn Kelley and Jane Weber for the tasty treats. Joan Gawron provided notebook table prizes for our meeting. Winners of these notebooks were Mary Jo McCann, Claudia McPherson, Marge Brewster, Ruth Skinner, Jo Blakken, and George Brewster. Congratulations go to Mary Jo McCann who was our genealogical aids door prize winner. Don't miss a great time at our October Family History Month celebration!!



Membership

Susan Boos Gerst
tsgerst@yahoo.com
Kathy Broughton DeCormier

Juanita Joiner – Muskegon, MI
Spelling correction on the Surnames : Kight, Milton, Theobald, Wilkie, Moeller

Harold Gelderloos – Spring Lake, MI

Marge Cutlip – Muskegon, MI
Surnames: Carlson, Tufts, Stonex, Taylor, Pops, Cutlip

Shari Aspey – Muskegon, MI
Surnames: Aspey, Simila

Suzanne Brown – Muskegon, MI
Surnames: Splettstoser, Rawlinsong, Simpson, Ast

Carol Chu – Muskegon, MI
Surnames: Stonex, Carlson, Robillard, Tufts, Pops

Mary Jo McCann – Muskegon, MI
Surnames: McCann

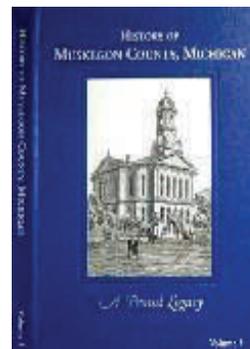
Library Barb LaBatt Martin



HPL Mon, Tues, Wed 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Thurs, Fri, Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
NOW OPEN on Sun. 1 to 4:30 p.m.

- **Index of Vital Statistics from The Muskegon Chronicle 1987** (Gift of Matt Burns)
- **Eloise: Poorhouse, Farm, Asylum, and Hospital 1839-1984**, by Patricia Ibbotson

History of Muskegon County, Michigan: A Proud Legacy



Just in time for the holidays.

ORDER FORMS

are on our website at:

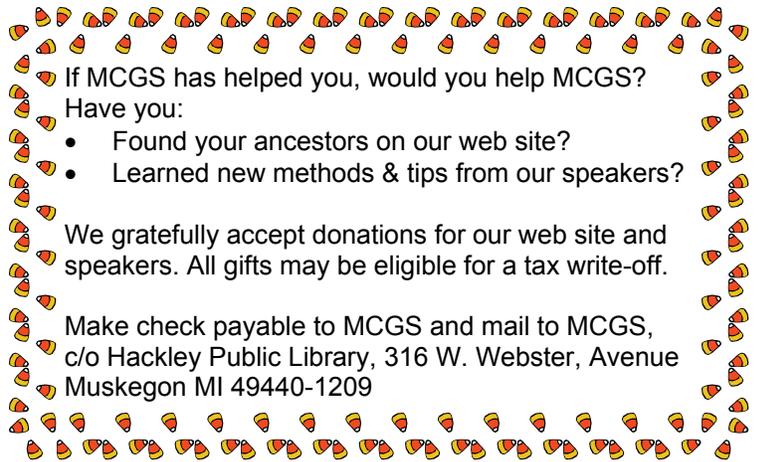
www.genealogymuskegon.org

Or buy one at

Hackley Public Library

In the Local History &

Genealogy Dept. Lower Level



If MCGS has helped you, would you help MCGS?

Have you:

- Found your ancestors on our web site?
- Learned new methods & tips from our speakers?

We gratefully accept donations for our web site and speakers. All gifts may be eligible for a tax write-off.

Make check payable to MCGS and mail to MCGS,
c/o Hackley Public Library, 316 W. Webster, Avenue
Muskegon MI 49440-1209



OHIO RESEARCH

If anyone has research in Ohio,
Kristi McPherson Burns is willing
to do some research for you.

Contact Kristi at: mcphskr@yahoo.com



Talk to Current Residents

My husband and I visited his family's hometown in Kansas and my husband wanted to take a picture of the old family farm. A man was out front picking up his mail and looking at us quite suspiciously. When my husband introduced himself, the gentleman smiled and said, "Yes, you are. You look just like your dad!" He turned out to be a distant cousin. We spent the next hour or so learning more family history than we thought we'd be able to discover. His cousin had a copy of a diary that Rich's great grandfather wrote during the last months of the civil war and he let us take it to make a copy. We're so glad we stopped to talk. Linda Guthrie

Searching for Initials

If you're having trouble locating your ancestor in the census, try searching for his or her initial. Some enumerators only wrote the first (and sometimes middle) initial(s) in place of a given name. Berta Wagner

Uninspected Connection

While traveling to Omaha, Nebraska, we thought we'd take a genealogical 'side trip' up to Homer (in Dakota County) where a great-grandfather, David Charles 'Omaha Charlie' Bristol, resided and is buried. We took a tour of a local historic site led by a couple from the historical society, only to find out that the past president was reported to have a cache of information on our family! The couple contacted him and drove us directly to his home in the next town. He shared two hours showing us his large collection of local historic newspapers and newspaper articles on the family. You never know how you may connect to unexpected, wonderful people with information that can be obtained no other way! Ro Fleury

Ask Family about Memorabilia

My maternal great-grandparents divorced in the late 1890s and my great-grandfather completely fell off the charts. No one in the family knew anything about him. At a family reunion in 2004, an uncle mentioned that he had a beautiful album full of postcards that had been passed through the family. By reading the cards I found my great-grandfather's family because my grandmother had corresponded with her cousins. Once I found them, I traced their father to his childhood and found my

great-grandfather's family. Check with all your relatives and ask what kind of memorabilia they've got. You might be as lucky as we were. Barbara

Transparent Yellow Overlay

I've transcribed thousands of birth and death archival data for the [Missouri Digital Heritage](#) site and along the way, I've had a chance to work with lots of hundred year-old handwriting - some very legible, some barely legible and some beautiful Spencerian script that was "sneaky illegible" - almost too fancy to read. Based on a tip from one of their staff, I tried a light yellow plastic overlay on the worst entries. The idea was to heighten the contrast and it does help in some cases. The overlay I used most was a plastic protective folder that will hold 10-20 copies but I also had some luck with yellow cellophane gift wrap. Good luck, Jerry Rutter

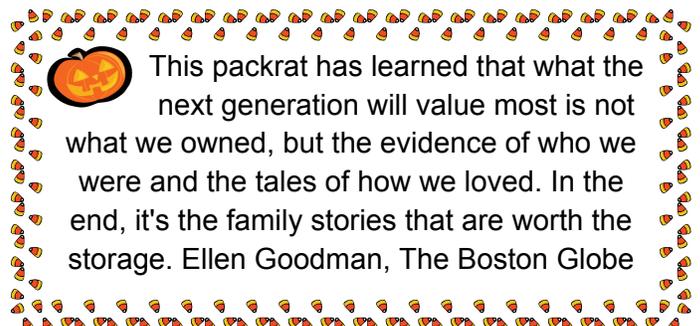
Scanning Advice

When scanning old photos, I used to store the picture as black and white, in order to save digital storage space. It is better to start with full color settings, even though it is a black and white original photo or document. In Photoshop and similar software, you can easily remove the yellowing of the picture. This may turn a faded looking picture into a fresh, crisp and vibrant picture. If all you have is black and white data, this cannot be done.

While keeping the original scan for archive, I usually make copies and crop the picture for display to bring out the important features. Many times this allows me to see faces that I could not make out on the original picture. With cropping and enlargement, group pictures can be turned into a series of individual portraits, useful when no other picture exists for that person. Mike Flynn

Picture Tip

If all you have is a very small picture of a relative (like a driver's license photo) scan it with increased resolution like 1200 dpi. This will allow you to enlarge it to as much as 8x10 with very little blurring. With more pixels to work with, this will also make it easier to repair scratches, cracks and stains, pixel by pixel, when going into MS Paint or whatever photo program you use to restore your photos. Elle Campbell



Dates to Remember—2010

Upcoming Events

Board Meeting
1st Tuesday
except Jul, Aug & Dec
at 6:00 p.m.
Torrent House
315 W Webster

October 5
November 2
Off December

Regular Meetings
2nd Thursday except July
Doors at 6:30 p.m.
Starts at 7:00 p.m.
Masonic Temple
396 W. Clay

October 14
November 11
December 9

A Look Ahead...

Genealogy Family History Workshops

Join us for hands-on research help from the volunteer society members. Bring your current research info with you.
Hackley Public Library
Local History & Genealogy Dept.
Lower Level
316 W. Webster

Off June, July, & August

Next Genealogy Workshops:
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

October 9
November 6
Off December

What to Bring on October 14th



- Pencil and notepaper for all the great information we will share.

Our genealogy store will reopen up again at the November meeting.

On Track and Rolling Along

Thanks to the entire membership, we have given How-To genealogy classes, donated funds for local genealogy projects, published a history book, contributed to the Library of Michigan, helped the County Clerk office, indexed surnames online, hosted many research programs, served many treats, and grown our membership by 46%, all while having fun. Way to go!

Jane Appleton Schapka, President

DID YOU KNOW...?

That duct tape was originally Army green and commonly called "duck" tape because it repelled water. After WWII, the tape was changed to gray to match the duct work in postwar housing.

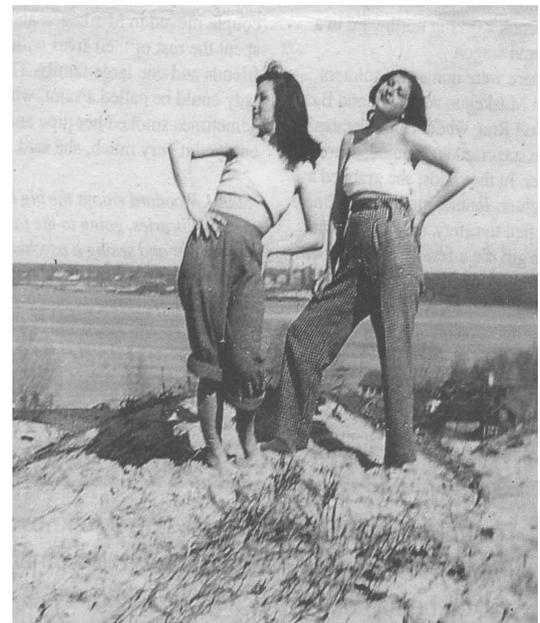


Family Tree Magazine 2010

TIP: Check your printer's manual or Help menu to see if it has a duplex mode. Printing double-sided saves paper and space in your files.

Dating Old Pictures

- Daguerreotypes 1839—1860s
- Ambrotypes 1852—early 1870
- Tintypes mid 1850—late 1800s
- Albumen Print 1850—early 1900s
- Sterographs 1854—1938
- Black & White Snapshots late 1880—pres.
- Photo Postcards 1900—present
- Autochromes 1904—late 1930s
- Color Paper Prints 1941—present
- Instant Photos 1947—today



Pigeon Hill was a gathering place for young people on sunny summer days. Left is Betty Carr and guest who is on the right one of our very own members Joan Dault Gawron. This was taken in 1947.

Used with permission, "Senior Perspectives"

Tips came from the Nov. 2010 Family Tree Magazine