



# Twig Talk



Newsletter of the Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

Vol. 11 No. 10

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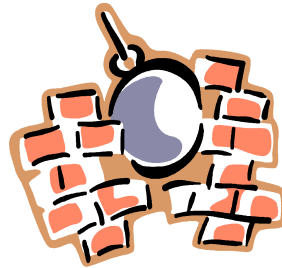
**TWIG TALK**  
A publication of:  
**Muskegon County Genealogical Society**  
c/o Hackley Public Library  
316 W. Webster Avenue  
Muskegon, MI 49440-1209  
[www.genealogymuskegon.org](http://www.genealogymuskegon.org)  
[mcgs1972@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgs1972@yahoo.com)

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**Thursday,  
October 13, 2011  
7:00 p.m.  
Masonic Temple  
396 W. Clay Ave.**

## **"DIGGING UP YOUR ANCESTORS"** *Solutions, Tips and Tricks*

Presented by:  
Barb LaBatt Martin  
Dawn Westcomb Kelley  
Jane Appleton Schapka

**PART I** - If you submitted a "brick wall" problem, come receive answers from our researchers with 60+ years of experience.

**PART II** - Jane Schapka will give a PowerPoint presentation showing how to solve your research puzzles. Handouts complete the program.

Barb Martin has a B.S. in education and library science and was for 18 years the chief archivist at the Lakeshore Museum (formerly called the Muskegon County Museum). Dawn Kelley is a genealogy sleuth who tracks her own missing ancestors and is the head researcher for our society. Jane Schapka holds a M.A. in teaching, served as an intelligence researcher for the government, and specializes in unsolved mysteries in her private research service.

***Bring a Guest—They Are Always Welcome To Come!***

### **DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**



The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded when and who were the four founders?

See page 3 for the answers!

### **JUST A REMINDER**

**OCTOBER IS FAMILY HISTORY  
MONTH!!!**

**Genealogy Family History Workshop**  
Saturday, October 8  
Hackley Public Library—10:30 a.m.—12:30





### County Clerk's Office

Jane Gates,  
Dawn Kelley  
Barb Martin

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



### Library

Barb LaBatt Martin

### Hackley Public Library

Mon, Tues, Wed 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Thurs, Fri, Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### NEW BOOKS

- **Atlas of the Transatlantic Slave Trade**, by David Eltis and David Richardson
- **From Home to Trench: The Civil War Letters of Mack and Nan Ewing 1856-1865**, by Wallace K. Ewing
- **The Three Spurgat Families from Wylkowitzki**, by Cynthia Spurgat Jacobson
- **The Wolf-Stanislawski Family from West Prussia to Big Rapids, MI**, by Cynthia Spurgat Jacobson
- **Ancestry's Red Book**
- **The Little Shadow Catcher** by Thomas M. Heski
- **Heads of Families 1790 Fed. Census Massachusetts**
- **Heads of Families 1790 Fed. Census Maine**
- **American Marriage Records Before 1699** by Clemens
- **Connecticut Nutmeggers Who Migrated** by Knox & Ferris
- **The Loyalists Of Massachusetts and The Other Side of The American Revolution** by Stark
- **Vitals Records From Maine Newspapers, 1785 – 1820 Vol 1 & Vol 2**
- **The Civil War Discovery Trail Official Guidebook**
- **The Official Guide To The Civil War Discovery Trail**

### CELEBRATE FAMILY HISTORY MONTH!! Medical Genealogy

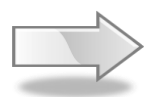
A family medical history or medical family tree is a record of important medical information about your relatives, including illnesses and diseases, along with the relationships among the members of your family. This tree can provide very important links to genetic risk. More information provided by Kimberly Powell at [http://genealogy.about.com/od/health\\_history/a/medical.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/health_history/a/medical.htm). Other useful websites for getting started include:

**Just for the Health of It** by Danette Nelson Anderson, RN, BSN. This article can be found at [http://www.genealogy.com/6\\_hdh1th.html?Welcome=1011983597](http://www.genealogy.com/6_hdh1th.html?Welcome=1011983597).

**AMA Family Medical History Forms:** <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/medical-science/genetics-molecular-medicine/family-history.page>.

If you can access YouTube, watch the video: **Family History: A Window On Your Health.**

To see a BASIC medical genogram, turn to page 3.



Our September meeting experienced the common soldier's view of the Civil War conflicts. Robert Myers enactment provided a realistic presentation.

The door prize winner was lucky Karen Farmer. Phyllis and her husband, John, were alert readers by knowing about the Liberty Bell for a prize. The Slaters' located a family Bible from Fremont, MI. Guest, Nancy Springstead from there, recognized the names in it and will locate the family. Thanks go to Phyllis and John! At break, our very generous, Anne Carrie brought a variety of yummy cookies. In October, look for a wrapped prize marked WINNER! There will be two of them for celebration of Family History month.

### Hospitality

Jane Walker Weber  
Paula Halloran  
Connie Fales



### Membership

Susan Boos Gerst  
[tsgerst@yahoo.com](mailto:tsgerst@yahoo.com)  
Kathy Broughton DeCormier

We would like to give a **warm welcome** to our NEWEST members

Marcia Wiersma, Muskegon, MI  
**SURNAMES:** Barendsen, Barr, Bos, Bruinooge, Cooper, DeYoung/DeJonge, Kruizinga, Lanser, Louwsma, Niewenhuizen, Post, Stad, Stegeman, VanderVeen, Wiersma

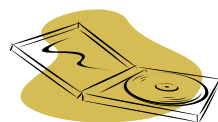
Paul Hickey, Chattanooga, TN  
**SURNAMES:** Hickey, Hogan, Dwyer, Chaddock

Sherry Pierce, Aurora, IL  
**SURNAMES:** Calder, Olin, Thornton, Thresher, Wallace, Westlake

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Kay Bosch & her family on the passing of her husband Greg.

### GENEALOGY SOFTWARE REVIEW

Want to know the best genealogy software to use? Read the latest reviews on genealogy software at <http://www.genealogy-software-review.toptenreviews.com> This site provides a side-by-side overview of each software and probably some you may have never heard of before but are on





## Genealogy News & Tips

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

### HOMESTEAD RECORDS

Be sure to check for homestead records at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) website, and then send for a copy of the package if you find a probable match. These records can be a treasure trove. For example, I found my grandfather's Declaration of Intention and Citizenship papers in his homestead record. You can use the information from the BLM site to order the full homestead package from the National Archives here. You have the option to either order online or download NATF Form 84 to order by mail. Once they locate the file and determine how many pages there are they will send you an invoice, which you can pay by check or credit card, etc. The records I ordered were usually around \$15 or \$20 to copy. With the homestead description from the BLM site (Township, Range, and Section portion) you can also look for old maps and map the property. Or you can map it on a topographic map. Robin

### 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

### 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

### FOLLOW THESE HINTS

The Hints that get attached to people in your online tree(s) can sometimes be very helpful. I have looked for my great-grandfather's middle name for years, but kept getting conflicting answers. Even my own father had it wrong. But when I clicked on a new hint that appeared last week on my online tree, it led to an image of a passport application that I had never seen before. The application showed his full name, in his own hand, finally settling the issue for me and my family's researchers. Collier Smith

## DAR Information You Should Know



After nearly a decade of scanning, indexing, and other behind-the-scenes work by DAR members and employees, the Daughters of the American Revolution is pleased to announce the availability of the **DAR Genealogical Research System** on our public website. Here are the direct links: [http://www.dar.org/library/online\\_research.cfm](http://www.dar.org/library/online_research.cfm) or [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org) (and click on the Library button at the top, then the second tab in the left-hand column).

The DAR Genealogical Research System is a combination of several databases created in recent years to organize the large quantity of information that the DAR has collected since its inception in 1890. Much of the work to create these research tools is the direct result of funding provided by the President General's Project of the administrations of Linda Tinker Watkins (2001-2004) and Presley Merritt Wagoner (2004-2007). This system of databases will continue to expand as new information is added.

Information provided courtesy of The DAR Genealogical Research System (GRS) [http://www.dar.org/library/online\\_research.cfm](http://www.dar.org/library/online_research.cfm).

### ANSWER TO PAGE 1 DAR QUESTION

The DAR was founded in 1890 and they had their first meeting on October 11, 1890. The four founding members were:

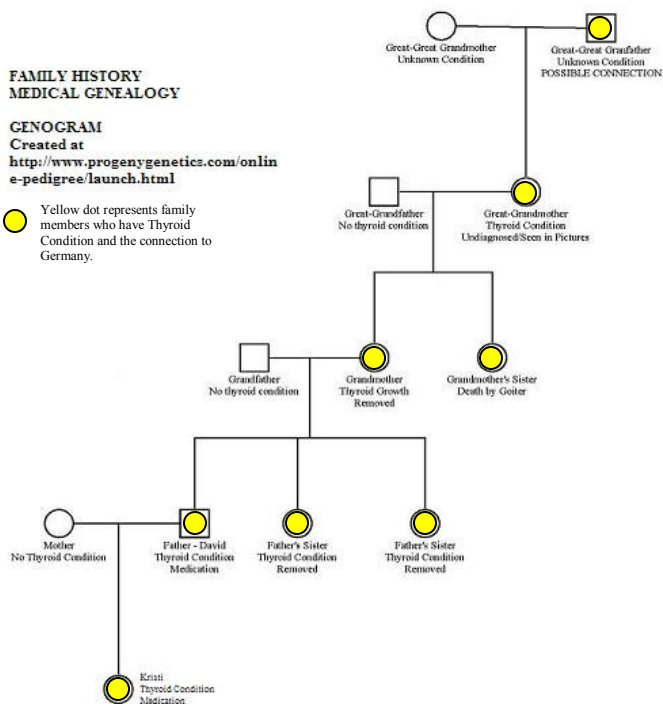
- **Mary Desha's** adventures included activism in Alaska.
- **Mary S. Lockwood** was an avid historian and writer.
- **Ellen Walworth** earned her law degree before opening her home as a boarding school.
- **Eugenia Washington** was influenced by her experience during the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg.

#### FAMILY HISTORY MEDICAL GENEALOGY

##### GENOGRAM

Created at <http://www.progenygenetics.com/online-pedigree/launch.html>

Yellow dot represents family members who have Thyroid Condition and the connection to Germany.



## Upcoming Events Dates to Remember—2011



### Board Meetings

2nd Thursday  
Meet at 5:30 p.m.  
**Masonic Temple**  
396 W. Clay

October 13  
November 10

**NO MEETING in  
December**

### Regular Meetings

2nd Thursday  
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.  
Starts at 7:00 p.m.  
**Masonic Temple**  
396 W. Clay

**“Family History Month”  
October 13**  
“Digging Up Your Ancestors”

November 10  
Program to be announced  
Annual Meeting

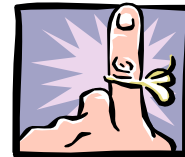
**“Family History Holiday  
Gathering”  
December 8**

### 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

October 8  
November 12

**NO WORKSHOP in  
December**



### **What to Bring to Meetings**

WE ALWAYS HAVE SOMETHING  
NEW AT THE STORE

- 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 always remember your donation is a tax deductible.

## RESEARCH ROAD TRIP!!!

Allen County Library Trip  
Fort Wayne, IN  
**NOTE: DATE CHANGE**



**LEAVE: Wednesday, November 2**  
**RETURN: Saturday, November 5**

We will be going on our annual research trip Allen County Library in **November**. We will be there for 3 nights and 4 days. Plans are to leave on Wednesday, November 2 and return on Saturday, November 5. If anyone would like to go, please contact the society to sign-up at [mcgs1972@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgs1972@yahoo.com) by Friday, October 21 or call 231-740-3698.

### ***A LITTLE WORD ON FAMILIES FROM ERMA BOMBECK***

The family. We were a strange little band of characters trudging through life sharing diseases and toothpaste, coveting one another's desserts, hiding shampoo, borrowing money, locking each other out of our rooms, inflicting pain and kissing to heal it in the same instant, loving, laughing, defending, and trying to figure out the common thread that bound us all together.  
Erma Bombeck

*Quote courtesy of <http://www.quotegarden.com/family.html>*