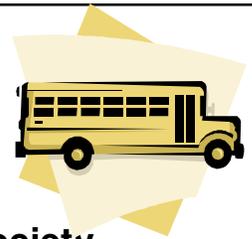




# Twig Talk



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  
Muskegon, MI 49440-1209

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#### 2009 Committee Chairs

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Hospitality .....	Jane Weber & Karen Towne
Website.....	Shelly Nelson & Fran Harrington
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County Clerk .....	Margaret Sheffer
Historian.....	Jennifer Lamkin
By Laws .....	George Brewster
Member .....	Kathy DeCormier
Member .....	Jo Grieve
Member .....	Sandra Kelley
Member .....	Monica Smith

### “City Directories, Phone Books with the Census are the Keys to Success”

Clues enable you to determine if your ancestor is transient, working poor, or just arrived as examples of their status. Following them year by year.



A new feature starting next month (September) is the start of two fundraisers. First is the **MCGS Cookbook**. We need your favorite recipes. If it was a family favorite of an ancestor/relative; then provide a photo if one is available. These books will make great keepsakes as future gifts to family and friends. This is another way to pass on genealogy memories!! **SAMPLE** on page 4

The other project is a book of **Genealogical Poems** and **Sayings**. These entries will be part of the MCGS Almanac. You have only to look in this book to find helpful aides for researching and printing your family history. **SAMPLE** on page 4

All contributions must have either the author's name, author unknown or your name if you write one. Please give your name for each entry. Let's do some searching and writing for these two neat projects!!

You can send by mail our address or email at [mcgs1972@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgs1972@yahoo.com)



**Board Meeting**—Tuesday, Sept 1, 6:30 p.m.  
at the Torrent House,



### “Genealogy-Family History Workshop”

*Note the time change!*

Hackley Public Library, 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.  
on Saturday, September 12, 2009.



### Test Your “GeneKnowlegy”

1. When was the earliest City Directory in Muskegon County?
2. The earliest telephone book for that we have HPL for Muskegon County?
3. States Census for Muskegon County, what two years do we have?  
Find the answers in this newsletter

*When you know all the answers,  
you haven't ask the right questions!*



**County Clerk's Office**  
Margaret Clark Sheffer

Schedule for Volunteers  
1:00—4:00 p.m.

September 2.....Jane Gates  
September 9.....Dawn Kelley  
September 16.....Margaret Sheffer  
September 23 .....Dawn Kelley  
September 30.....Donna Welch

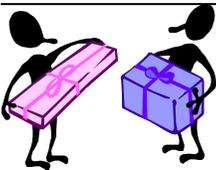
**NOTICE**  
**MUSKEGON COUNTY CLERK'S VITAL RECORDS OFFICE**  
THEY WILL BE CLOSED  
**THURSDAY OCTOBER 1 AND FRIDAY OCTOBER 2**  
YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCESS YOUR RECORDS ON  
THE 2ND FLOOR SO PLEASE PLAN AHEAD.



Our August meeting gave many tips for brick-walls. At break, we enjoyed low-sugar chocolate cup cakes home baked by Karen

**Hospitality**  
Jane Walker Weber  
Karen Towne

Towne.  
The perennial plant sale was a success. We'll possibly try again in June 2010. Door prize winner drawn by Sue Gerst was Nancy Spoon. She received flowered pencils in a glass vase filled with crystals handcrafted by Paula Halloran. Nancy will enjoy the prize so handy and beautiful.



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

We give a warm welcome to our NEW member.

Donna Cole of Middleville, Michigan  
**Surnames:** Olmstead, Minnich/Minick, Simpson, Wyllys/Willis, Johnson, Faug, Wilder, Haines, Ochs, Schornberg, Fuller, Lemieux, Bessett

**Members are important to us so please keep in touch. Share your news with us. Let's celebrate together! And don't forget to keep your phone, address, and email information up-to-date.**

CONGRATULATIONS  
PIONEER CERTIFICATE APPLICATES  
George P. Brewster  
1895 Settler—Hilaire Avilla Vallee  
1920 Settler—Charles Warren Brewster  
Tammi DeRochey  
1927 Settler—Corrine Florence Langston



**Library Update**  
Barb LaBatt Martin

**Just Reminder**

New hours for HPL Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Beginning on Sunday, September 13th, they be opened from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Muskegon High School Alumni Directory 2009**

**Thinking About Memoir, by Abigail Thomas**

**The Genealogy of the Cleveland and Cleaveland Families (CD), by Edmund J. Cleveland and Horace Gillette Cleveland** (Gift of James Cleveland)

**Genealogy Treasures: Discovering the Library of Michigan's Abrams Foundation Historical Collection (VHS)**

**History of Chautauqua County, New York & Its People**

**Michigan Guide to Cabins and Cottages**

**Michigan Guide to Hotels and Motels**

**The Paul Lukonic Family of Kot pri Damelj Slovenia, Europe, by Joseph L. Lukonic** (Gift of Joseph Lukonic)

**The Purcell Family, compiled by Carol Murphy Fleisher & Mary Lou Murphy Barrett** (Gift of Carol Murphy Fleisher & Mary Lou Murphy Barrett)

**Vital Records: Marriages Selected Counties & Years (CD)**

**Money/Time Saving Ideas for Genealogy—by Michael John Neill**



1. Before you visit a library, visit it online.
2. Print one bibliographic page for each book or source you plan to use.
3. Enter all information from each source or record at the same time.
4. File as you go to avoid hunting in the future.
5. Write it down, neatly.
6. Focus on one line or family at a time.
7. Discover what indexes and records you can use online.
8. Consider posting some of your data to a Web site.
9. Determine if others have researched your family.
10. Learn about the records you will research.
11. Have maps.
12. Make goals and work towards them.
13. Get your soundex codes in one place.
14. Photocopy title pages to ensure accuracy.
15. When copying from a file that contains many documents, assign a code to each document.

1.) 1873 2.) 1894 3.) 1884 & 1894

## Genealogy Tips from Ancestry.com

F.Y.I.

### Investigate Research Facilities

If you're going to be visiting a major repository to do research, take some time before your trip to do a little pre-planning. Visit the website of the facility and learn about their policies and any restrictions they may have. There may be limitations on what you can bring into the research area, and you'll definitely want to make sure that the collections you want to use will be available at the time of your visit. There's nothing worse than traveling a long distance to a repository, only to find that the collections have been moved into storage during a renovation or reorganization.

### Check Catalogs and Brochures

Have a research plan so that when you get to your destination, you're ready to dive right in to the collections. Check card catalogs before you go and record microfilm and call numbers for the records you want to search. That way you can spend your precious research time searching for ancestors, rather than searching the card catalog. Many libraries and archives even have online brochures that include collection overviews. Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana at [acpl.com](http://acpl.com)

### Check Online Collection Catalogs

Another timesaver is to compare the collections you are interested in with online collections. That way you won't waste on-site time searching collections that you have access to through your Ancestry.com membership and can search from home anytime. The [Card Catalog](#) is a great way to remind yourself what's available for your area of interest. If you not using the catalog, you are missing out.

### You Know More Than You Think

For those of us who aren't good with dates, anyone who asks us when Great-aunt Alice died will likely be met with a blank stare. But if we put that question in light of dates that we do remember, it's often easier to figure out than we think. Perhaps it was when your oldest child was a toddler? Or maybe it was the year you graduated and you remember having to rush back to school for finals. Or perhaps you remember your grandmother saying that her mom died when she was ten. If you know when grandma was born, you can easily figure out that death date.

Taking your estimated death date a step further, do you remember about how old Alice was when she died? Mid-eighties perhaps? Do the math to estimate her birth date too.

### Estimating Dates for Generations Past

In many cases, you'll need to estimate a date for someone further removed in your family tree and you won't have the benefit of being able to put the event in the context of your life. When this happens, you'll want to look at the data you have gathered and base your guess-timates on the facts.

Look at the ages of children. Make some generalizations. Perhaps you know the year your grandfather was born, but not his father. Try a search with the assumption that his parents were somewhere in their twenties when he was born. You can use 25 as a median age, and then add + or - 5 years. If that doesn't work, try age 30 with + or - 10 years. (Keep in mind that these flexible spans are in addition to the flexibility that is built into the lifespan filter which includes records of five years prior to the birth year that you specify and two years after the death year.)

The great thing about searching Ancestry.com is you can't break it. The worst thing that can happen is you won't find the record you need with your first search. Simply adjust your search criteria a bit and keep trying until you hit on the right combination.

### Label Your Estimations

One important thing to keep in mind when it comes to estimating dates is to always write down the rationale behind your estimate. Down the road when you're reviewing those dates, you don't want to be scratching your head and wondering, "Where the heck did I come up with that?"

### Boarder or Relative

If you find your family in the census with a boarder enumerated with them, don't dismiss them immediately. I've found on two occasions that the "boarder" was actually part of the extended family. Stephen Mills

## Great Websites – posted in Family Tree Magazine

### Facebook [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

It's not for teens. Genealogy applications such as Family-Builder <[www.familybuilder.com](http://www.familybuilder.com)> and we're Related <[www.facebook.com/apps/application.php?id=5388815661](http://www.facebook.com/apps/application.php?id=5388815661)> turn your Facebook page into a powerful tool for exchanging family tree information. It's an ideal place to network with like-minded genealogist (and become a fan of *Family Tree Magazine*).



WeRelate <[www.weelate.org](http://www.weelate.org)> "Part encyclopedia, part social network," this free wiki is sponsored by the Foudation for On-Line Genealogy in partnership with the Allen Count (Ind.) Public Library <[www.acpl.lib.in.us](http://www.acpl.lib.in.us)>. In addition to pages for more than 2 million people and families.

RootsWeb <[rootsweb.ancestry.com](http://rootsweb.ancestry.com)> Still a handy free staring place, this huge volunteer site offers help files, mailing lists, message boards, the WorldConnect Project of user-contributed family tree files, and more than a million surname entries.

USGenWeb <[www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org)> This venerable (established in 1996) all-volunteer site links to helpful pages for every state plus, within these, sites for most US counties.

eHistory <[ehistory.osu.edu](http://ehistory.osu.edu)> With hundreds of fully searchable historical maps, this site is strongest on the Civil War.

# Dates to Remember—2009

## Upcoming Events

**“Genealogy—Family History Workshop”** Saturday, Sept. 12, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Hackley Public Library, 316 W. Webster. Join us for hands-on research help from society members. Bring your current research info with you!

**Board Meeting**-Tuesday, Sept 1, 6:30 p.m. Torrent House

**MCGS Meeting**-Thursday, Sept 10, 7:00 p.m. Masonic Temple, 396 W. Clay

## A Look Ahead...

### Genealogy—Family History Workshops

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at HPL  
 Saturday, September 12  
 Saturday, October 10  
 Saturday, November 7  
**Off** December

### MCGS Meetings & Programs

Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.)  
 Masonic Temple, 396 W. Clay  
 Thursday, September 10  
 Thursday, October 8  
 Thursday, November 12  
 Thursday, December 10

### MCGS Board Meetings

Meetings start at 6:00 p.m.  
 Torrent House, 315 W Webster  
 Tuesday, September 8  
 Tuesday, October 6  
 Tuesday, November 3  
**Off** December



### What to Bring on September

- Pencil and notepaper for all the great information we will share.
- Show and tell memorabilia and/or stories. How did you If you still have a brick wall problem, tell us about it.
- And of course bring a few friends.



HAVE A SAFE LABOR DAY WEEKEND

**GENEALOGY BEGINNERS CLASSES WILL START IN OCTOBER**



**Saying**

Genealogists Dig Roots!

SAMPLES

**SAMPLE OF A RECIPE ENTRY**

Cone Cupcakes make a big hit when my mom worked at a local nursing On July 8, 1986 it was put in The Muskegon Chronicle under the Chronicle Cookery.

**CONE CUPCAKES**  
 1 box ice cream cones  
 1 box favorite cake mix  
 1 box favorite frosting mix  
 Place ice cream cones in two  
 Cupcake pans. Make cake according to directions.  
 Fill cone to 3/4 full. Bake according to directions on package. Let cool. Frost cone cupcakes.  
 Makes 2 dozen. Contribute by Dawn Westcomb



Virginia Rose Ackerman Westcomb

### **A Man Lives As Long . . . . . As He Is Remembered**

Your tombstone stands among the rest,  
 Neglected and alone.  
 The name and date are chiseled out  
 On polished, marbled stone.  
 It reaches out to all who care  
 It is too late to mourn  
 You did not know that I exist  
 You died and I was born.  
 Yet each of us is cells of you  
 In flesh, in blood, in bone.  
 Our blood contracts and beats a pulse  
 Entirely not our own.  
 Dear Ancestor, the place you filled  
 One hundred years ago  
 Spreads out among the ones you left  
 Who would have loved you so.  
 I wonder if you lived and loved,  
 I wonder if you knew  
 That someday I would find this spot  
 And come to visit you.

Author Unknown