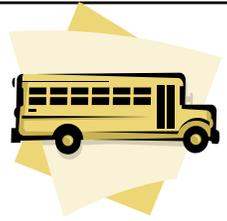




Twig Talk



Newsletter of the Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

Vol. 11 No. 9

September 2011



TWIG TALK

A publication of:

Muskegon County Genealogical Society

c/o Hackley Public Library

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**Thursday,
September 8, 2011**

7:00 p.m.

Masonic Temple
396 W. Clay Ave.

“Hard Tack & Coffee”



Speaker

Robert Myers

Berrien Springs, MI

Bob is an Actor/Author/Historian and curator of the Berrien County Historical Association in Berrien Springs, MI. He holds an MA degree in history and published several books and articles of local and state history, and has over 20 years of experience as a stage performer and director, and 25 years of curatorial experience with the Berrien County Historical Association.

Bob will portray Corporal Martin W. Stafford in "Hardtack and Coffee", a one-man show about the American Civil War. The common soldier's view of the conflict comes to life in this presentation based on the experiences of a veteran from Niles, Michigan. Stafford enlisted in the 2nd Michigan Infantry in 1861 and served from the First Battle of Bull Run through the Siege of Vicksburg to the Wilderness Campaign. Mr. Myers will come dressed in Civil War Uniform and will hold a question-and-answer session following the program.

Guest Are Always Welcome To Come!



Board Meeting—Thursday, Sept. 8, 5:30 p.m., Masonic Temple



WE ARE BACK

“Genealogy Family History Workshop”

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



THE BLUE AND GRAY

1. Companies within Regiments were given letters. Ten letters were used beginning with "A". Which letter did they skip?
2. Who were the two commanding officer at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

See page 3 for the answers.



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.



Our August meeting had graphologist, Jeanne Drew,

presenting handwriting clues for understanding our ancestors. Next month we will look for the cracked Liberty Bell likenesses. At break, Sandra Kelley and sister, Patsey A. Bell, generously provided a large variety of fruits and cheeses. Their expertise in baking was shown with chocolate chip and oatmeal-raisin cookies. Our taste buds were tickled by Ruth Skinner with her home-baked lemon cupcakes. Thanks gals!! The door prize winner was Howard Trygstad. Fran Harrington won the autograph book drawing. Vita Trygstad, Nancy Spoon and the Zislens' were the top newsletter readers!

Hospitality

Jane Walker Weber
Paula Halloran
Connie Fales

NEW BOOKS

- **Michigan Lighthouses**, by John Penrod
- **The Crockery Collection Volume II**
- **Index of Vital Statistics from The Muskegon Chronicle 1980** (Gift of Matt Burns)
- **On the Brink: The Great Lakes in the 21st Century**, by Dave Dempsey
- **Corner to Copa: The last game at Tiger Stadium and the first at Comerica Park**
- **Michigan: The Wolverines' Championship Season**
- **The Randolph Ward and Persis Sowl Legacy: A History of Their Ancestors and Descendants Volume 1 & 2** (Gift of Mary MacDonald)



Membership

Susan Boos Gerst
tsgerst@yahoo.com
Kathy Broughton DeCormier

We give a warm welcome to our NEWEST members.
We now have a 124 members

Sherri DeMuro, Muskegon, MI
SURNAMES: DeMuro, DeModugno, Hawkinson/
Hokanson, Kaminlei, Kucapski, Kruzel, Pociask, Roshak

John Robillard, Whitehall, MI
SURNAMES: Blanchette, MacFarlane, Peltier/Pelkey,
Rager, Robillard, Schiller, Woodcroft

Get Well Wishes go out to, Ken Osborn, Joanne Wood

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.

American Battle Monuments Commission

E-mail: onfo@abmc.gov

Location of overseas cemeteries, pictures of graves site Placement of flowers

Military Records Request

Website: www.archives.gov/

Medal Replacement

Website: www.medalsofamerica.com

Thank you, Phyllis Slater

CONGRATULATIONS PIONEER CERTIFICATE APPLICATES FOR 2011

There will a special recognition in October

Nancy Todd Momany & son, Randall L. Todd

1860 Pioneer— Andrew Todd

Michael David

1860 Pioneer— John Eadie

ROAD MAPS TO YOUR ROOTS—famiytreemagazine.com

How many genealogists today start researching a family line by typing a few names into a website's search box, hitting Enter and hoping for a bunch of hits?



While this 21st-century dartboard approach can net you some quick results, it may not be your best bet for solving research problems in the long haul. For what genealogists call a "brick wall" -- a research question you can't seem to answer -- you'll need a more thought-out approach. Just as you wouldn't attempt to change the oil in your car without instructions or try to prepare a baked Alaska without a recipe, you shouldn't even think about going on your ancestral journey without a good strategy.

A research plan helps you record the who, what, when, where and why of your family history quest. Think of it as a road map, or in modern terms, a GPS that provides a navigational system to your past. Try our simple five-point strategy to create a research plan and chart your own course for genealogical success. By Lisa A. Alzo—12/2010



Genealogy News & Tips

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

Changing African-American Names

I have found that some African-American ancestors changed their surnames several times after 1870. As a result I find it necessary to track each known family member carefully by given name to better follow the whereabouts of some of my ancestors. For example, Elias Tison is found in the 1870 census of Worth County, Georgia, but in the 1880 census he is Elias Washington, having shed the surname of the man who owned him while he was in bondage. Of course tracking African-American family members in the South around 1870 requires examining records other than the census, but it makes for challenging and rewarding research.

Keep Searching

Don't always believe what you think you see in a record. Searching for my great-great-grandmother, I thought I had found her but something just wasn't right. To my surprise, after hours and hours of searching, I discovered that the person I thought was my great-great-grandmother really was her niece who had the same name. The age 3 versus 30 had confused me because I was looking for 30 but found a 3 and an ink blotch that looked like a 0. Keep searching! Delores Kikuchi

Check Your Photo Frames

I've been trying for years to figure out the birth dates of my great-grandmother's siblings. We've had a picture of the family house in Philadelphia on the wall since I was born, but it never seemed to be particularly relevant—until I took it down. Looking for the address, I popped the back off the frame and found my great-great-grandmother's handwriting on the back listing all the children that had been born in the house including the dates and their parents' full names, including their mothers' maiden names! Sometimes important sources are hiding in plain sight. Sandi Gammon

Occupational Clues

From census records I knew my great aunt's son, Edward "Bert" Kopenhaver (born 1882), was a precious metals prospector in Colorado and Nevada. When a 1907 Reno newspaper was posted online I found a report on a copper mine he was exploring near Tonopah, Nevada. Reno at that time was the largest city in Nevada and reported the mining news from all over the state. I now had a place and a date to further my research. I then read reports on mines in the Tonopah area in the 1900s. I found pictures of equipment he designed for mining a turquoise claim he had worked. He was very active in that area so his name came up frequently in mining reports as he now searched for turquoise. His occupation was the key to looking for mining news in Nevada. Miriam Leipold

Continues in next column

Be Opened To Possibilities

Caution to new members—don't ignore hints even if they make references to places you "know" your ancestors have never been. I am researching the family name "Kus" with very little information to start with. My grandfather told me when he was in his eighties that "he was the last of his line," since his only three sons had died in childhood, and he was the only child of his father, Matthew. Taking this to mean that all of his father's siblings were also dead, having died in Massachusetts where the family had settled, I had several times ignored an Ancestry hint referring to a family in Iowa. Only when I discovered a marriage record of a supposedly-deceased great-grand-uncle and compared ages and the wife's maiden name to the Ancestry record did I realize that they were the same people. Mary Dorion

Online Family Tree Tips

Keep Your Email Inbox in Check

This life-simplifying tip is from the Family Tree University course Time Management for Genealogists with Nancy Hendrickson.

Of online pursuits, dealing with e-mail probably takes more time than any other task. With all the e-mails you get, keeping your inbox in check can be a full-time job. These principles will help you cut down on in-box clutter:

When a new e-mail comes in, open it and then:

1. Delete it if it's not important enough to keep.
 2. Archive it if you need it for future reference.
 3. Do a quick reply, then delete or archive the original.
 4. If it requires some other action, put the action on your to-do list
- Set up folders in your in-box for filing messages that require action and messages you need to archive.
 - To keep your genealogy emails separate from other emails, set up a genealogy account in a free web-based email service. In this account, add folders that match the genealogy filing system you use on your hard drive. If your inbox is full of newsletters or ads you never read, click the unsubscribe or manage profile button at the bottom of such a message to stop receiving it. (You could set up another free account for getting newsletters and registering with websites.)
 - require action and messages you need to archive.
 - To keep your genealogy emails separate from other emails, set up a genealogy account in a free web-based email service. In this account, add folders that match the genealogy filing system you use on your hard drive. If your inbox is full of newsletters or ads you never read, click the unsubscribe or manage profile button at the bottom of such a message to stop receiving it. (You could set up another free account for getting newsletters and registering with websites.)



From front page trivia answers

1. They skipped the letter "J" because when written, it looked too much like an "S" or an "I"
2. George G. Meade and Robert E. Lee

Upcoming Events Dates to Remember—2011



Board Meetings

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

September 8
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
September 8

“Oct., Family History Month”

October 13

Breaking Through Your
“BRICKWALLS”

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

September 10

October 8

November 12

**NO WORKSHOP in
December**

HAVE A SAFE
LABOR DAY WEEKEND

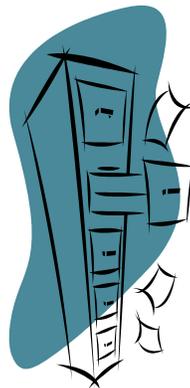


What to Bring to Meetings

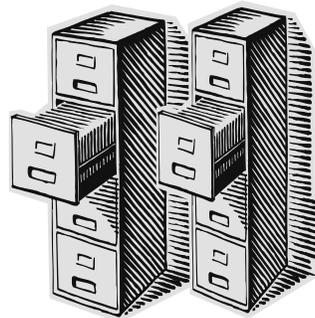
WE ALWAYS HAVE
SOMETHING NEW AT THE STORE

- 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

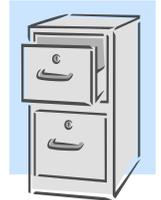
**4 SALE
5 DRAWER
\$40.00**



**4 SALE
(2)
4 DRAWER
\$35.00 EA.**



**4 SALE
\$25.00**



RESEARCH TRIP

We are going on our annual research trip to Allen County Library, Fort Wayne, IN in October. We will be there 3 nights and 4 days. We leave on Wed 26 and back on Sat. 29. If anyone would like to go, please contact the society to sign-up at mcgs1972@yahoo.com or call 231-740-3698 by Sat., Oct 1st. If you haven't been on a research trip to Allen Co. Library, you don't want to miss out going.



Footnote.com has changed to Fold3.com
Their intention to create the finest and most comprehensive collection of U.S. Military records available on the internet and changed the name of the site from Footnote to Fold3.”