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Upcoming Programs:

MAY:

ORGANIZING YOUR DIGITAL GENEALOGY FILES

Karen Frazier, MCGS President
Jennifer Lamkin, MCGS Treasurer

Maybe you dream of "going digital" with your genealogy files. But what do you do with all the paper you've accumulated? If you do much family history research, you've probably accumulated hundreds—maybe even thousands—of digital files: historical records, excerpts from books you have found online, scanned family photographs and pictures of gravestones made with a digital camera. The following topics will be covered:

- Transitioning from Paper to Digital
- Gathering Paper Files to Digitize
- Reorganize Digital Files into one system
- File Naming Templates
- Organizing Digital Folders
- Using Genealogical Software

Next Member Meeting

May 20, 2023

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

JUNE:

The ABCs of DNA & Genealogy

Jessica Trotter

What can DNA testing tell you? What tests should I take? What does it all mean? DNA testing can be a powerful tool to wield in your genealogy toolkit. This session offers a beginner's overview on tests, testing companies, and how you can use your results.

An archivist by education—but works in public libraries by day. Jessica has presented regionally for the past eight years including annually for the Archives of Michigan Barbara J. Brown /Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar, for the Genealogy Center at Allen County Public Library, at the Ohio Genealogical Society Conference and Fall Retreat in 2022, and at the NGS Conference in 2018 as well as part of their Virtual On-Demand Lectures in 2020. Her genealogy research areas include Midwest, African American, British Isles, Canadian, and Early American research. She also maintains a genealogy research related blog called Genie Road Trip at genieroadtrip.com.

President Corner

Hello!

This last week has been the best. One whole week of sun and warmth. My husband and I went right into spring cleaning mode. Now that we are done a bit earlier in the year, what do we do now? I know what I'm going to do - Genealogy! Him, not so much... I think the fish are calling him.

The April MCGS Board Meeting was held on Friday, April 14. It was a LONG meeting, about 3 hours, as there was a lot on the agenda. The Board is working hard and pushing ahead in many different areas. More to come later!

One of our top priorities is improving the Society's technology skills to be able to provide Zoom attendance, and videos of our speaker presentations (when given permission). Technology is important and will provide a much better membership experience, especially for those members who are not local to Muskegon.

We have a NEW Board Member - Pam Schaner. She agreed to be the "Database" Committee Chair for our Society. Pam is going to be reviewing each digital file and updating and formatting it for future member use. This is a huge task, and we will need additional volunteers to assist Pam. Please email us at 1972mcgs@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more. Thank you for your support of MCGS! Our Society would not exist without you. We NEED your ideas, comments, concerns and questions.



Nancy Crider, Muskegon, MI - Surnames: Dempsey, DeLoof, Ochs and Wangerin.

Amy Derby, Muskegon, MI - Surnames: Barnhardt, Derby, Kinzer, Rowe, Sheldon and Smith, St. Amour and Steel

Nannette Andrews, N. Muskegon, MI. Surnames: Anderson - Denmark, Montreal, Mich., Eagan - Ireland, New York, Wisconsin, Michigan, Johnson - Jongopong Sweden, New York, Michigan / Williams - Ind., Michigan

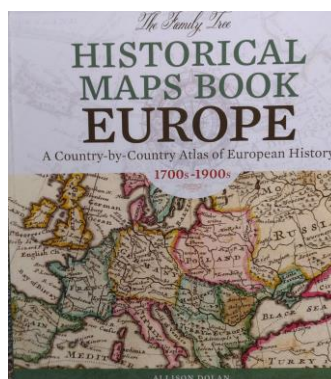
Kristi McPherson-Burns, MI Surnames: McPherson (MacPherson) - Michigan / Knight - New York Lucia - New York, Campbell - Canada, Snow - Hart / Burmeister - Benona, Hart Fontana - Michigan, Italy / Toure/Tourre/Turri - Michigan, Chicago (IL), Italy / Burns - Mich., Ohio
Karen Farmer - Surnames: Farmer New York, Michigan / Symons - Cornwall, England / Rademacher - Germany, Cranston - Ireland, New England / McGowen - Ireland, Canada, Michigan / Tozer - New York, Fuller - New York / Hopkins - New York

Last Meeting Highlights

What a change in the weather from the previous month's blizzard. April's meeting was full bloom spring. There were 20 members, and 3 guests present with all 3 becoming members. Our very own Jennifer Lamkin was the presenter of the program. She showed us how to get all that paper organized. Remember PROGRESS OVER PERFECTION!! We are thinking of hosting a follow-up workshop to help those interested in moving forward. Stay tuned for more information on this. Also, the society has many resources to help keep your genealogy in line. CONSISTANCY IS KEY! And finally, Patti Mulder was the winner of the meeting's Book Draw.

Next Meeting Reminders

Book Draw:



Journey to the Old Country from Ireland to Italy, Portugal to Poland, Germany to Greece, and everywhere in between, explore your ancestors' European homelands through more than 200 gorgeous reproductions of 18th, 19th, and early 20th-century maps.

Travel Opportunities with MCGS

Make sure to sign up for one of our trips before they pass you by!

June 23-24

Barbara J. Brown
History Seminar
Michigan Archives
REGISTER ASAP

August 5:

Michigan Archives
8AM - 6PM

October 4-7:

Allen County Public
Library, Fort Wayne
Times TBD

Sign up online 1972mcgs@gmail.com or at a meeting. Dates are set. Times listed are departure and return. Volunteers needed as we carpool to all events and share the travel expense. Pick up locations can vary depending on where you are coming from.

All are welcome.

For the Archives - bring a sack lunch.

For ACPL - gather some friends and share the room cost. More information to come.

Meet your Board Member...



Kathy DeCormier

I have been a member for about 30 years. I'm Book Chairman for Muskegon County Genealogy Society Book 2. I helped produce Volume 1, that was published in 2009.

Over those years, I have been part of the Membership Committee, Vice President, and lead the Hands-On classes - they were a good way to help our members and community start their research or advance in looking for their Family Trees.

I always loved family history growing up.... I quilted and canned my own food. I loved listening to the family stories

told as I was growing up. I was lucky to have most of my great aunts and uncles on my mother's side alive for many years (wow, what great stories).

I really got into Genealogy about 40 years ago when my mother said she wished she could find info on her Great Grandfather G.W.S. Anson in the Civil War. My mother would always write down births, deaths, marriages on family members every moment she had (I never knew this until she saw I had an interest in the genealogy part).

I remember telling my mother, "I'm sure this info can be found somewhere out there". After talking with my mother, a couple weeks later I signed up for a genealogy class at the Hackley Library with teacher Ella Solberg. Wow, it was like opening a new hidden door of my past. Within 30 days I sent a letter to the National Archives in Washington D.C., and I received my first 10 pages. They said there wasn't too much more of interest on

sending more pages. They were so wrong. A few years later, I visited the National Archives and copied 469 pages of documents on my Gr. Gr. Grandfather G.W.S. Anson on the Civil War. (I'm in the process of writing a book on his life and his military time.)

My oldest ancestor documented is on my dad's side and goes back to 1690. I was lucky to find a book that a family member collected in the early 1900's - collecting family trees from a lot of the 'Broughton' line of families.

I have my own documented info on this line to do my DAR. In the DAR, it is documented to my grandfather in the Rev. War. I have researched and can even take it back one more generation than the DAR has. Where father and son fought together in the war. This takes me back to my 7th great grandfather.

Our Families made our trail to this point and time. It was not easy roads. Let's make them proud.

"We do not know where we are going, until we know where we have come from."



The MCGS has restarted the workshops!!!

Basic Genealogy Workshops are held the 3rd Saturday of the month 1:30 to 3:30 at the HPL-Torrent House.

Registration required as space is limited to 4 participants.

Call (231) 722-8016

To hold your spot!

This Month's Brick Wall Question and Tips



This month's brick wall question comes from Paula H. She is asking for help in finding the death date and possible cemetery of her 3rd great grandmother, Anna Barbara Burckhard Krug, born Oct. 12, 1796, in Lellendorf, Bayern, Deutschland. Anna came to America on Nov. 19, 1839, with her

husband and children on the ship Louis from Bremen Germany. She died between 1839 and 1845. Her husband, George Thomas Krug, remarried in 1845. Paula has his obituary and photos of his stone as well as his wife. They lived in Raisinville, Monroe Co., MI. Paula is not aware if Anna died before coming to Michigan. Paula does have records from Holy Ghost Church.

To help Paula with her brick wall, please email any ideas to twigtalk1972@gmail.com with BRICKWALL in the subject line. If you have a brick wall, send it in by the 15th of the month.



You can attend the seminar onsite or online this year.

The seminar begins on Friday, June 23 and continues into Saturday, June 24, 2023. Please register before **Wednesday, June 21, 2023** so that all participants can be accommodated.

If you have any questions, please contact the Archives of Michigan by email at archives@michigan.gov or by phone at 517-335-2576.

[Register here](#) for the seminar.

Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar

The Archives of Michigan and the Michigan Genealogical Council are hosting a hybrid seminar June 23-24

Check out the box on how to join in

Look for future webinars, seminars, on-line learning modules, or workshops from around the web here in future issues!

Each summer, the Archives of Michigan and the Michigan Genealogical Council host a seminar to promote family history awareness and teach genealogy research skills. The event is generously supported by the Abrams Foundation in loving memory of Barbara J. Brown.

For this year's event, we are pleased to offer this flagship annual gathering as a hybrid event. Participants can attend sessions either online or onsite. We are delighted to be hosting Drew Smith, who will be joining us onsite here in Lansing and through Zoom to our virtual attendees.



Drew is the immediate Past President of the [Florida Genealogical Society of Tampa](#), having served in that position for nine years. He served as a Director of the Federation of Genealogical Societies from 2008 to 2013, and as Secretary of the [Association of Professional Genealogists](#) from 2010 to 2011. Together with George G. Morgan, Drew has been the co-host of [The Genealogy Guys Podcast](#) since September 2005. Beginning in 2016, he hosts the Genealogy Connections Podcast, which alternates with The Genealogy Guys Podcast.

This year the Michigan Archives and the Library of Michigan are hosting a lock-in Friday night after the seminar. Pizza will be served, and the Archives and Library will both be open until 10pm. Space is limited and you must register after signing up for the seminar.

MCGS will be carpooling to the event and reserving a place to stay, so we need to know who would like to join us. Let us know ASAP by emailing 1972mcgs@gmail.com with JUNE SEMINAR in the subject line.



Technology Merges with Genealogy

Library of Congress (LOC)

One of the largest collections in the world of printed and recorded materials; outstanding source for free images; resource for all copyrighted materials in America and beyond. LOC maintains collections of nearly all city directories and county histories in the U.S.; houses a comprehensive directory of all known copyrighted newspapers by timeframe and where they can be located today, in the important U.S. Newspaper Directory and Chronicling America; and offers comprehensive historical materials of all kinds.

USGenWeb Project

Free county and state historical and genealogical resources, research resources and content projects driven by volunteers of local and state genealogical societies throughout the United States. Also see **WorldGenWeb Project** for records beyond the U.S.

Research Guides for Ship Passenger Lists and Immigration Records

Focuses on providing guidance and links to records for passenger lists from about 1820 to the early 1950s. It includes suggestions for finding records for ports of arrival and immigration records.

Check out all the free websites on the World Wide Web that can aid in your search for answers!!

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



MAY 9

On May 9, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson issues a presidential proclamation that officially establishes the first national Mother's Day holiday to celebrate American mothers. In his first Mother's Day proclamation, Wilson stated that the holiday offered a chance to "[publicly express] our love and reverence for the mothers of our country."

If you want to know more about it or other things that happen on this day visit:

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/woodrow-wilson-proclaims-the-first-mothers-day-holiday>

PSST...
Just click the links!!

Monthly Quote

I wish I had realized that family history is a perishable commodity.

It disappears with time, as memories fade,

and as loved ones pass on.

I wish I had known that the most important aspect of family history is

preserving a record of the present for the future.

*— Guy
Black*

SAMUEL RANSOM SANFORD

“The Walking Sheriff”

Continued from April Twig Talk

By Frances Harrington
Research Chair

Sophia died on July 18, 1855, after giving birth to their 3rd child. The baby died a couple days later. After that, Samuel moved his children to Muskegon, which was by then a village of about 500 people with several stores. The children were boarded with Mrs. Ellen Boyd at the north end of Terrace Street, not far from the lake. In 1856, he took the children to New York to live with his younger brother, Frank. That same year, Samuel started a shingle mill near the end of Ottawa Street, south of the Muskegon River, in an area that would come to be known as Sanford's Bayou.

In the summer of 1858, Samuel went back to New York for the summer. He married Ambrosia J. Peck in Gorham, Ontario County, New York. He returned to Muskegon with Ambrosia and his two small children. (Her father, Samuel B., and mother Dency (Cook) Peck followed the next year). At that time, Muskegon was still part of Ottawa County. Samuel was living in the village of Muskegon and was elected Sheriff of Ottawa County. Samuel was an avid walker. He would rather walk than ride.

During his time as Sheriff, he gained the name, “the walking sheriff” because he walked throughout the County to perform his duties. The only time he didn't walk, was if he had to transport a prisoner. He also never carried a gun. He preferred to use his wits to deal with the situations that arose in the course of his job, rather than resort to the use of a firearm. After Muskegon made its split from Ottawa County in 1859, Samuel continued to be Sheriff, while he lived in Grand Haven, his family kept a home in Muskegon until the end of his 2-year term.

There are different stories about Samuel and his preference for walking. One time, he was in Grand Rapids and was heading back to Muskegon. A couple of men in a horse drawn rig asked him if he'd like to ride with them. He politely answered no. After a few hours, he came upon the same men, who had stopped to give their horses a rest. (The roads were not flat or easy on horses, especially if they were drawing a rig.) The men

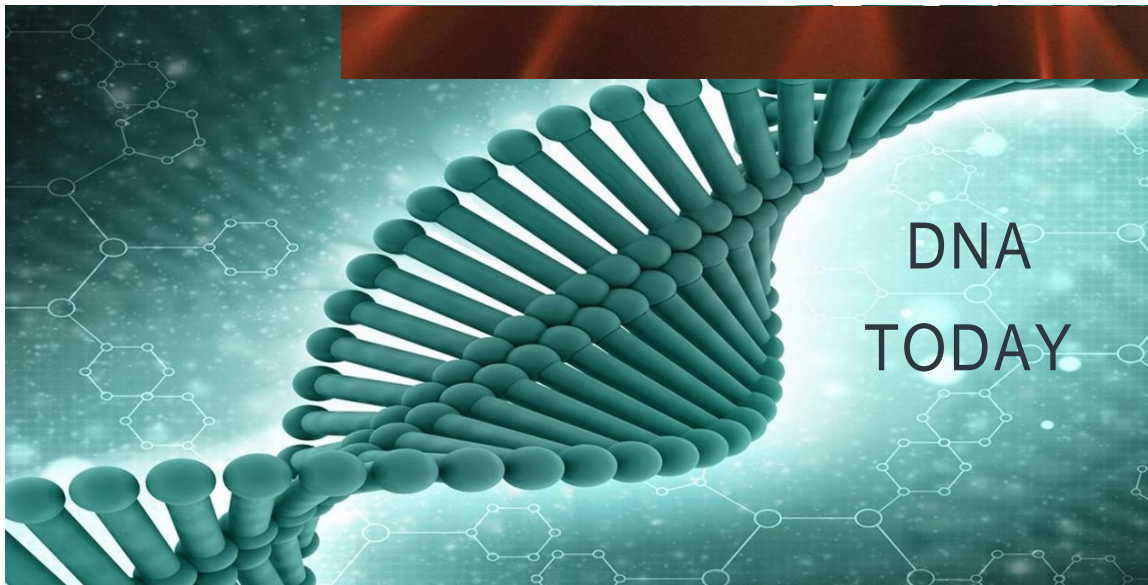
Dive Into Muskegon

asked him again if he wanted to ride with them and he again said no and continued at his normal fast pace. Samuel ended up making it back to Muskegon before the men with the rig did. It was said he could out-walk men half his age and in fact, his average speed on foot was about 5 miles per hour. They said he once walked from Muskegon to Sand Creek, (about 21 miles) in 3 hours. In 1860, he was appointed as Census Marshall and canvassed Muskegon County's first Federal Census entirely on foot.

Besides the shingle mill, Samuel became involved in real estate, and 1861 he possessed 400 acres of land at the southwestern part of what was then the village of Muskegon. He had 160 acres of it platted and called it Sanford's Addition.



TO BE CONTINUED...
In June Twig Talk



DNA TODAY

So, you've had your DNA tested, you have the results back...What now? Well, you're probably getting a lot of "matches", and most of them are unknown. So, how do you "get to know" them?

There is one way to help you move forward in this mystery, it's the "SHARED MATCHES" tool. Every DNA website has this feature in one way or another. What this tool does is helps you to organize your DNA match

list into groups of people who are related to **each other**.

It's easy to get lost in all the names, but if you can break that mega list down into smaller lists – recognize one person on the list as a specific relative, you will then be able to label the rest in that "shared match" list as being from that same family line. A lesson from our Organizing Paper Presentation.... **COLOR CODE** the matches. And,

if possible, use the same colors you chose to represent your four grandparent's lines. This is an easy way to help identify which branch of your tree these unknown relatives are derived from. Then, in the words of Diahn Southard...

"DO GENEALOGY!!!"

That means, get online and start searching collateral lines and follow them down from that shared ancestor. Watch how fast your tree grows!

"WHY DIDN'T WE MATCH?"

Southern California Genealogical Society is offering a free webinar on May 17 at 9PM to explore the conundrum that this question poses regarding DNA matches.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

OTHER GREAT DNA RESOURCES

MORE information about understanding your DNA...

Visit [Your DNA Guide](#). Diahn Southard, founder and CEO, Genetic Genealogy Expert and Educator helps you decode your DNA and make it fun to find your family and their stories. The website has a free blog you can investigate tons of topics. Some parts

of the website are pay to participate, but Your DNA Guide also has a [YouTube channel](#) where she breaks down the three major DNA companies: Ancestry, 23andME and MyHeritage. She also has a section specifically for Y DNA. Check it out, it's like getting an individualized tutor session with an expert.

MCGS MEETING PLACE

Hackley Public Library
316 W. Webster Ave
Muskegon, MI 49440



Saturdays at 10:30am

2023 Meeting Dates

May 20

June 17

July-No Meeting

August 19

September 16

October 21

November 18

Dec – No Meeting

MCGS Meeting

Cancellation

Notice

Notification posted on the MCGS Website and Facebook page and WZZM Channel 13 Closings & Cancellation List

HPL – TORRENT HOUSE
THE LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY DEPT.

315 W. Webster Ave.
Muskegon, MI
Check [website](#) for hours



We are happy to announce our two 'big box' computers have been replaced with space-saving, brand new mini-box computers. Instead of sitting on the floor cramping foot space, each new CPU acts as a base for the curved monitor it sits beneath. Each small machine has two USB ports but does not have CD/DVD capability.

We also changed the 'Desktop' screen appearance with an updated background, and added new genealogical icon-links for Library of Michigan, Clarke Historical Library, Find-a-Grave, and The Genealogy Center. Another new addition are Matt Burns' Index of Vital statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle, 1933 - 2021, and 1869 – 1882.

Unfortunately, one of our manual Canon 400 film readers has finally bit the dust! But—in its place we now have a second computer driven ScanPro film reader. The ScanPro film readers provide better printed copies as well as the ability to use a USB drive. We do not charge for printing 1-30 photocopies. For number 31+ we charge 15 cents a page. Note: a front and a back page on one sheet of paper is counted as 2 pages.

Our public computers and scanners are now set up to automatically turn off fifteen minutes before our 5:00 PM closing time. So as not to be rude about it, Adam, our IT Guru, has provided a warning screen to let you know prior to shut down.

OFFICERS

- President Karen Page Frazier
President72@gmail.com
- Vice President Dawn Westcomb Kelley
VPmcs72@gmail.com
- Secretary Tom Shepherd
- Treasurer Jennifer Lamkin
- Past President Jane Appleton Schapka

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- Gail Taggart:
Michigan Genealogical Council
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- Website..... Shelly Nelson
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Thank you for allowing us to serve you!



Members of the MCGS are available at the County Clerk's Office on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to assist in Genealogy Record Searches.
No appointment is necessary.

TWIG TALK

A monthly publication of:
Muskegon County Genealogical Society
C/O Hackley Public Library—Torrent House
Local History & Genealogy Department
315 W. Webster Avenue
Muskegon, MI 49440-1208

1972mcs@gmail.com

genealogymuskegon.org

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