

Twig Talk

This issue:

Page 2

President's Message

New Books at HPL-Torrent

House

Last Meeting Highlights

Next Meeting Reminders

Travel Opportunities with

MCGS

Page 3

Meet your Officers

Brick Wall Questions/Tips

Page 4

Webinar Learning

Opportunities

Page 5

Technology Merges with

Genealogy

This Day in History

Page 6

Monthly Quote

Dive Into Muskegon

Page 7

DNA News

Page 8

MCGS General Information

Upcoming Programs:

APRIL:

ORGANIZING YOUR PAPER GENEALOGY FILES

Jennifer Lamkin, MCGS Treasurer
Karen Frazier, MCGS President

Genealogy is fun when you can find things, but it can be frustrating when you cannot. Therefore, you need a simple system for organizing genealogical data so you can quickly find them again.



The goal of this program is to give you different types of styles for organizing all that paper. The filing systems that will be reviewed: File Cabinets with File Folders, Binders, Family Line Color Coding Filing System and Organizing photos.

Next Member Meeting

April 15, 2023

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

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

President's Message

Hello!

This is the time of year for Spring break, and northerners traveling south for sun and warmth. Although Michigan has a bit to go to get to Spring weather, the southern U.S. is well on its way with everything bloomed, and the pollen at its worst.

The March MCGS Board Meeting was held on Friday, March 3. At the meeting our Twig Talk editor announced his intent to resign from the position. Tom Porritt held the Twig Talk editor position for 5 years! We appreciate his service and hard work over the years and wish him luck in his next endeavor. Jennifer Lamkin, our Treasurer, has agreed to be the new Twig Talk Editor. Please continue to submit any articles or information for publication in Twig Talk directly to the Twig Talk email:

TwigTalk1972@gmail.com.

We held our first MCGS Volunteer Opportunities meeting for a few interested members. During the meeting we reviewed as specifically as possible each area of need and talked about the expectations and tasks for each area of need. If you are interested in attending the next meeting, please contact us at 1972mcgs@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support of MCGS! We encourage all members to be comfortable contacting the Board with ideas, comments, questions, and concerns.

NEW LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY BOOKS AT HACKLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY:

Marriage Notices 1785-1794 for the Whole United States: Copies from the Massachusetts Centinel and the Columbian Centinel, by Charles Knowles Bolton.

Irving Hyrns and Irene Pierce: A Multicultural Genealogy v.1 – The Hyrns and Related Families, by Michael R. Matthews.

Irving Hyrns and Irene Pierce: A Multicultural Genealogy v.2 – The Pierce and Related Families, by Michael R. Matthews.

Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 1936, compiled by Matthew Burns

Historic Shipwrecks and Rescues on Lake Michigan, by Michael Passwater

Ukrainians in Michigan by Paul M. Hedeem and Maryna Hedeem
Lake Harbor Area Shipwrecks, by C. Mark Henricks

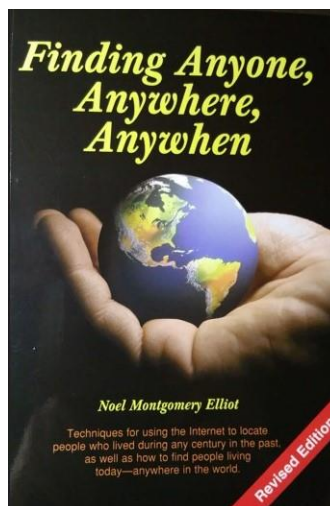


Last Meeting Highlights

March's meeting blew in like a storm with snow and wild winds that could blow you down the street. The thirteen members who attended still had a good time listening to Judge Kathy Hoogstra who answered many questions. Winner of the book draw was Jim Rose. After the meeting, Jennifer Lamkin shared her recent experience with the group. She stated that if you want to avoid probate for property but your elderly parents are reluctant to put additional names on it, the Michigan Law allows for a Lady Bird Deed. This is a deed to the property where they remain sole owners and decision makers of it, but upon their death, ownership transfers to whomever they designated.

Next Meeting Reminders

Book Draw:



This guide focuses on techniques for finding information online for your ancestors from 100+ years ago, but also gives tips on finding people still alive today. Make sure to bring some spare change with you to enter the drawing for this latest book.

Travel Opportunities with MCGS

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

April 1:
Michigan Archives
8AM – 6PM

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 officers...



Jennifer Lamkin. I am currently the Treasurer and have recently added Newsletter Creator/Editor to the resume (please let me know what you think of it!!). I believe I have been a member for nearly 20 years, and I became interested in genealogy when my daughter was born. She has no close living grandparents so there was an urging for me to learn about our family history – adding meat to the bones of our ancestors – I

like to say. My favorite finds would be anytime I can, without a doubt, identify an ancestor allowing me to go back further in time!

I believe my most unique find would be on my husband's line. His umpteenth grandfather on his dad's side lived to be 90 years old in the 18th century. After a storm one night, he was curious as to how high the river had rose, he walked to the edge of the riverbank (which gave way), and he ended up drowning.

I believe the farthest back I have achieved on MY tree would be 1700s. I would then have to start looking at the "homelands" in order to get further back. My heritage is mostly from Germany on both sides, and I have some Netherlands

from my mother's side.

Family names I am searching for include:

Sircher, Lubbers, Harges, Hoffman, Webster, Pruim, Lamkin, Capua, Hilderbrandt, Spaulding, Vanas, Kadlec, Medacco to name a few.

When I am not "doing genealogy", I love to paper craft (scrapbook and card create). I love anything that will bring me outside: camping, kayaking, walking my pups, going to the beach, riding my bike or quad. I also LOVE zumba.

I can be reached via email at TwigTalk1972@gmail.com.

Please reach out any time you wish – especially if you have comments, concerns or compliments on the new newsletter. ALL feedback is welcome and appreciated.

Thanks for allowing me to serve you in these roles!



The MCGS has restarted the workshops!!!

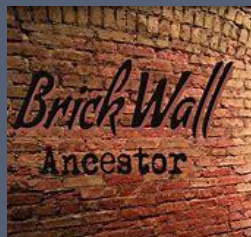
Basic Genealogy Workshops are held the 3rd Saturday of the month 1:30 to 3:30 at the HPL-Torrent House.

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



Do you have a brick wall that you would like some help with? This section of our newsletter is going to be dedicated to just that. If you would like to contribute, please send an email (by the 15th of the month) with **BRICKWALL** in the subject line to twigtalk1972@gmail.com and be specific with what you are looking for. We will choose one from the submissions to highlight in the next newsletter and ask for members to contribute their ideas on how to solve it.



You MUST Register to participate.

- Register by clicking the link below.
- Enter your name and email address and answer a few questions. You will receive confirmation of your registration by email.
- You will also receive reminders before the webinar. **The reminder email will have information on accessing the handout material.**
- On the day of the session, click the link that you received in your invitation or go to *GoToWebinar.com* to join the online session.

[Canadian Genealogy Online in 2023](#)

Many Americans have ancestors or cousins in Canada, and research north of the border can be rewarding. It is important to understand the differences between research in Canada and the United States - and to know what is new. Canada has hundreds of websites of prime value to genealogists, and the sites to use will depend on which of the 10 provinces and three territories your family called home.



Dave Obee holds an honorary Doctor of Laws degree awarded by the University of Victoria, British Columbia, in recognition of his work as a journalist, historian and genealogist. He is editor-in-chief of the Times Colonist newspaper in Victoria. He is author of *Destination Canada - Guide to Canadian Immigration Records* and *Counting Canada - Guide to Canadian Census Records*. He was a member of the services consultation committee at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa for four years. He is also a former member of the board of Canada's History Society. He has been researching his own family history since 1978.

Do you have Canadian Ancestors??

The Southern California Genealogical Society is offering a **FREE** webinar Wednesday, April 19 at 9PM

[Check out the box on how to join in](#)

Webinars offer Jamboree-style seminars for up to 500 attendees per session – at no charge. These one-hour presentations are conducted by professional genealogical speakers and expert lecturers. To view the webinar, you will need a computer with audio speakers or a headset. Those people with a fast Internet connection (either broadband or DSL) will have the most satisfactory experience.

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

Technology Merges with Genealogy

FamilySearch

A completely free genealogy database website. You can use an Advanced Search tool by surname, record type, and/or place to access millions of records. The FamilySearch Wiki is a “go to” resource to find what exists for a wide range of family history topics, even beyond FamilySearch’s extensive databases. Check out all the latest updates!

U.S. Census Bureau

Discover explanations on all federal census years and access copies of original forms and questions.

Also see Census Online for links to state censuses; tools for research; and calculators to convert year of birth.

National Archives and Records Administration

(NARA) Maintained by the U.S. Federal government, NARA houses millions of microfilmed, printed, and manuscript records. Excellent for census records; governmental and military history records; military pension files; product patents; also, passenger lists, early naturalization records, and much more.

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

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



APRIL 3

This day in 1860 was the debut of The Pony Express. It was nearly an 1,800-mile ride, between St. Joseph, Missouri and Sacramento, California, on horseback with rider relay teams carrying up to 20 pounds of mail.

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/pony-express-debuts> and click the arrow in the picture to watch the video.

PSST...
Just click the links!!

Monthly Quote

*Walking, I am
listening in a deep
way.*

*Suddenly all my
ancestors are
behind me.*

*Be still, they say.
Watch and listen.*

*You are the result
of the love of
thousands.*

~ Linda Hogan

SAMUEL RANSOM SANFORD

"The Walking Sheriff"

By Frances Harrington
Research Chair

Samuel was the fourth of nine children born to Isaac R. and Patience (Atwater) Sanford. He was born in Wayne County, New York, on August 11, 1822. His father owned a farm and was also a prominent official in the city. Samuel spent his summers working on the farm and his winters in school. At the age of fourteen, he went to work as a clerk in a country store. Later, he went to work for Sanford R. Hall who operated a drug store in Geneva, New York. For a period, he went to school at the Geneva Lyceum and then at Lima Seminary. After this schooling, he returned to the employ of Mr. Hall.

In 1844, Mr. Hall closed the drug store because of his health. It was around that time that Samuel decided he wanted to make a name for himself and start his own drug store somewhere in the Midwest. After checking out a few potential possibilities, he went to Grand Rapids, Michigan. It was a young town with a population of around one to two thousand people. He noticed there wasn't any really good drug stores there and decided that was

the place for him to start. He returned to New York to buy supplies for his business and had them shipped back to Grand Rapids. They were shipped from New York in late October but didn't arrive until the Spring. During his trip to New York, he married Susan "Sophia" Huggins, daughter of Zadok and Anna (Morrison) Huggins, of Wayne County, New York. She returned with him to Grand Rapids and while they waited for the supplies to arrive, they got their store ready for business. He was 22 years old when he started the drug store. The couple had two children while living in Grand Rapids, I. Ransom, and Anna M. He was also elected as Kent County Clerk, an office he held for 2 years. At some point, Samuel took on a partner, his brother-in-law, Stephen A. Wood. It turns out that Stephen didn't have much of a head for the business so the two decided to try their hands at lumbering instead. Samuel sold the drug store to one of his employees, then took his family and moved to a spot 16 miles north of what would be the City of Muskegon, on the river in Newaygo.

Dive Into Muskegon

After their mill burned down. Samuel sent his wife and children back to New York, along with Stephen Woods and his family.

By 1852-53, the family was back together in Newaygo County, Michigan. Samuel was a woodsman at the time. A woodsman was a locator of pine timber for the lumbermills. While doing this, he acquired quite a bit of different timber land for himself of beach, maple, elm, oak and basswood, but mainly pine. For a year they lived in a pretty rough log cabin in the depth of the forest. They were all relieved when, after 18 months, they moved into a real log house, not a cabin, on a hill that overlooked the Muskegon River, near Bridgeton Township. It was not far from I.D. Merrill's sawmill on Sand Creek. Samuel's wife, Sophia, especially loved the view.



TO BE CONTINUED.....



April 25 is
National
DNA day

FamilyTree Magazine's Online forum offers a great article regarding a research plan for those DNA results.

Ask relatives to test.

Their DNA may help you solve family history mysteries. A person who's not interested in testing for genealogy research may still be dying to learn his ethnicity breakdown.

[Respectfully address any privacy concerns](#)

and maintain confidentiality when relatives test. Though you may have access to their results, it's their DNA to share (or not) as they wish.

Message matches.

If you've already tested, work to learn your relationship with your

closest DNA matches by contacting them through the testing site to compare family trees. Search for common names and places of birth. Also examine your shared matches (see Diahan Southard's article on [how to analyze matches using triangulation](#)). Log what you learn in a spreadsheet or in the notes field for each match.

Use new tools.

Upload your raw DNA data to collaborative genetic genealogy websites such as [GEDmatch](#) and [DNA.Land](#) to find additional matches and use

analysis tools. Also consider uploading your DNA data to testing company websites that accept uploads (currently, they're MyHeritage DNA, Living DNA and Family Tree DNA).

Explore health insights.

Take 23andMe's Health + Ancestry test or upload your raw DNA data to an inexpensive service such as [Promethease](#) or [Livewello](#). Share the results with your doctor—remember that these tests don't have diagnostic power.

OTHER GREAT DNA RESOURCES

Need help or wondering what to do with all the DNA matches?

A: RootsTech! They have a myriad amount of video lessons from expert speakers on just that topic!

You need a FamilySearch log on (which is free) to access all the content.

Simply follow [THIS LINK](#) to take you to the Rootstech website. Make sure you log in. On the top bar choose [On Demand](#), then click [Search for a Video](#). Type in DNA in the find box and over 200 videos will appear. Scroll or page forward to find one that suits your needs.

April is a great time to order DNA tests on sale—for yourself and for relatives. Start with autosomal DNA testing, [AncestryDNA](#), [MyHeritageDNA](#) and [23andMe](#). This can identify matches on both sides of the tester's family who have a common ancestor four to six generations in the past. YDNA tests, which follow your direct paternal line (father's father's father, etc.), are useful for finding cousins with shared ancestors along your paternal line.

MCGS MEETING PLACE

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



Saturdays at 10:30am

2023 Meeting Dates

April 18

May 20

June 17

July-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

Basic Genealogy Workshop Enrollment:

3rd Saturday of month, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Please call Torrent House at 231 722-8016
Maximum of 4 participants per session



Individual research help by MCGS member:

Email us to confirm a date & time at:
1972mcgs@gmail.com

Check HPL - Torrent website for open hours:

<https://www.hackleylibrary.org/local-history-genealogy/research-sources-at-the-torrent-house/>

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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

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