



# TWIG TALK

## Newsletter

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### TWIG TALK

A monthly publication of:  
**Muskegon County Genealogical Society**  
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### Membership Meeting

No meeting in July

Next meeting Thursday, August 9

**Starts at 6:30 p.m.**

**VFW Post 3196, 5209 Grand Haven Rd**

Program by Susan Zerlaut King, author of *Out of the Wilderness*,  
A history of Sitka, Michigan regarding her research methods



### President's Report

By Dawn Westcomb Kelley -

We have determined that we should have a newsletter for July to keep you informed, while we do not have a meeting during the month.

Have a safe 4th of July week and have fun! Enjoy family reunions and reminisce with relatives that you meet for the first time.

It is time, once again, to back up the documents on your computer and it is a good idea to have it on the same day of the month and the 1st is easy to remember. See Dick Eastman's article on page 3.

#### Special announcement.

The Houghton County Historical Society has suffered massive damages due to

the recent flooding crisis in the Western Upper Peninsula. They have a *Go Fund Me* page organized by the Historical Society of Michigan at the following URL.

<https://www.gofundme.com/gjj99r-houghton-museum-flood-relief>

Please consider helping with donations.

### COUNTY CLERK RESEARCH

County Clerk Research  
Muskegon County Building  
990 Terrace St.



MCGS volunteers are there every  
Wednesday from 1:00-4:00 p. m.

Direct phone # 231-724-7140

### GENEALOGY TIP

The genealogy tip this month comes from Richard (Dick) Eastman. It is: The word "assumed" should never be used in genealogy. See his May 8, 2014 article titled "Barking Up the Wrong Tree" or How to lose 100 ancestors or Do as I say, not as I have done at <http://www.eogn.com>

## HOSPITALITY HAPPENINGS



By Jane Weber—

The June Meeting program "Photo Renovation" was presented by Kathy DeCormier. She also gave a presentation, using her Kentucky ancestors, demonstrating how to locate information using tax and land records along with wills.

The door prize of a gas card with genealogical items went to lucky Karen Farmer. Marie Payne will try not to be spooked by her free book, "Great Lakes Ghost Stories." The other free book, "What Every American Should Know About American History" will give Judy Tierney event ideas that might relate to her ancestors. The ticket draw had Larry Rosencrans winning a Family Tree Maker thumb drive. It was from the Family History Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan where company representative, Mark Olsen, a genealogy community ambassador, provided it to the society.

Break time provided a snack variety of carrots, chocolate chip cookies, pretzels, cheese sticks and strawberries with dip. Thanks go to Maria Chmelarova for bringing these goodies! Jeanne Strevey's kitchen skills gave us homemade taco dip with chips that was very tasty! She also brought refreshing watermelon. Phyllis and John Slater had our much needed water on hand. Members enjoyed your treats!

Members sharing information and ancestral stories were Paula Halloran, Karen Beam, Gail Taggart, Bill Hansen, Judy Tierney, Ingrid Porritt, Dawn Kelley, Dan Ruck and Sandra Kelley. Sandra is our most patriotic person this month in celebrating Flag Day wearing a "Star Spangled" hat. We need to give recognition to a member who comes an hour before the meetings to help set up tables and chairs plus decorating. This special person is Barb Martin who has been volunteering for many society needs through the years. Your dedication is appreciated!!

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### FamilySearch Adds 135M New Records for Denmark, Finland, Sweden



SALT LAKE CITY (26 June 2018), FamilySearch announced today the availability of its newest record collections—135.4 million free digital historical records from Denmark, Finland, and Sweden. These new collections were digitized in partnership with MyHeritage and the National Archives of Denmark and Finland and can now be accessed at [FamilySearch](https://www.familysearch.org).

**2018 Family History Discovery Day**  
Sponsored by: Grand Rapids LDS Family History Center with support from West Michigan Genealogy Society

**Celebrating Families Across Generations**

**INFORMATION & ONLINE REGISTRATION**  
Facebook: Family Discovery Day Grand Rapids 2018  
Registration: [lds.org/familyhistoryday](https://lds.org/familyhistoryday)

- NO FEE
- LUNCH PROVIDED
- 20 PLUS CLASSES

**FLASH DRIVES AVAILABLE WITH LESSONS/VIDEOS \$10**

**Key Note Speaker Daniel Earl at 9 AM**

- New Presenters & Topics
- Classes for Beginners to Experts
- Free Parking & Internet Access
- Laptops welcome
- ADA compliant facility

**Saturday September 15, 2018 9AM-4PM**  
Grand Rapids  
Family History Center  
2780 Leonard St. NE  
Grand Rapids, MI

The freely searchable collections are comprised of church records, including birth, marriage, and death records, confirmations, moving-in and moving-out records; court; tax lists; examination books; and more.

"The new collections will provide a better research experience," said Whitney Peterson, FamilySearch International collections specialist. "Uniquely identifying ancestors from these countries can be difficult due to the frequency of common names [the use of patronymics]. Before now, our vital indexes have provided broad but incomplete coverage. These new, complete collections will make it easier to find and track your ancestors."

### Denmark

55.1 million new records added  
Census records (1834-1930).  
Church records (1686-1941; record images only)  
Land records of Denmark—deeds and mortgages (record images only)  
Probate records—Denmark estate records (1436-1964; record images only); Probate indexes (1674-1851).  
Denmark civil marriages (1851-1961)

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Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter.  
<http://www.eogn.com>

Dick Eastman has been writing this newsletter for 22 years.

Here' some of his recent tips and thoughts about genealogy for genealogists.



### Always Keep Backups Of Your Online Genealogy Information

From the June 14, 2018 issue of Dick Eastman's Online Free Genealogy Newsletter

A newsletter reader asked Dick Eastman about backups of genealogy information in the event that services like *Family Tree Maker* become unavailable. Here's Dick's reply.

I replied to the question in email but thought I would also post my answer here in the newsletter in case others have the same question:

First, Family Tree Maker did not go away. The program was acquired by [Software MacKiev](#) and has been improved significantly in the past year or so. The [Software MacKiev version of Family Tree Maker](#) still exchanges data with Ancestry.com and still can function as a viable method of keeping a copy of your genealogy data in your own Macintosh or Windows computer, the same as it did before the acquisition by [Software MacKiev](#).

### HOWEVER, if it was me, I would do even more.

To be blunt, I don't trust any online service to remain in business without changes forever and ever. I don't care if we are talking about [Ancestry](#), [MyHeritage](#), [FamilySearch](#), [Findmypast](#), [GEDmatch](#), or even non-genealogy sites that accept information from users, such as [Wikipedia](#). All sorts of things can happen, even to web sites that you control, such as The Next Generation

A third problem can be a technical problem when a hardware or software malfunction or even a human error accidentally destroys data with no backups available. (We're looking at you, RootsWeb.)

In all cases, you want to be prepared in advance. The

solution is easy to say and not very difficult to execute: **Keep your own backup copies of everything that is important to you! Never trust any company or non-profit to keep your information online forever.**

Keeping a local backup in your computer or in the cloud ([Dropbox](#), [Google Drive](#), etc.) is very easy to do. In fact, I keep at least two backup copies of everything important to me saved in two different locations. Having three backup copies stored in three different locations is even better and having four backup copies... Well, you get the idea.

You can always export your genealogy data from [Ancestry](#), [MyHeritage](#), [FamilySearch](#), [The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding](#), and probably some others, in **GEDCOM format**. I would suggest you do that every few weeks, perhaps on the first day of every month, or after any time you make changes to your data. You should save the GEDCOM file on your own hard drive(s) and in other locations as well (Dropbox, Google Drive, etc.).

If something happens to Ancestry or MyHeritage or the other online services you use, you can always import that GEDCOM file that you saved previously into any modern genealogy program in your Macintosh or Windows system as well as upload it into other online genealogy services, such as [MyHeritage](#), [The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding](#), and others.

### If you keep backup copies, you will always have options.

For more information about GEDCOM files, see my earlier article, *GEDCOM Explained*, at <https://blog.eogn.com/2014/05/24/gedcom-explained>.



"I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN LOCATING WEALTHY RELATIVES."

