

Twig Talk



Newsletter of Muskegon County Genealogical Society

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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 www.genealogymuskegon.org mcgs1972@vahoo.com

Officers for 2010

President:

Jane Appleton Schapka

Vice President:

Nancy Clark Spoon

Secretary:

Dawn Westcomb Kelley

Treasurer:

Margaret Austermiller Brewster

2010 Committees

By LawsGeorge Brewster

,	
County Clerk	. Members
Historian	Jennifer Lamkin
History Book Project	Kathy DeCormier
Hospitality	Karen Towne &
	Jane Weber
Library	Barb Martin
Membership	Susan Gerst &
-	Kathy DeCormie
Pioneer Cert. Program.	Eileen Wojewodzki
Programs & Publicity	JoAnn Osborn
Special Projects	Dawn Kelley
Website	Shelly Nelson



Test Your "GeneKnowlegy"

Another way of saying Mardi Gras is ? Look on page ___ for the answer.

Thursday, February 11th

"RECENT RESEARCH AT THE LAKESHORE MUSEUM CENTER"

Speaker: John H. McGarry III, Executive Director Information on current projects and the research being conducted by the staff of the Lakeshore Museum Center

> Masonic Temple - 396 W. Clay Av. 7:00 p.m.

Do you need background information on your ancestors? You should hear this! It will prepare you to learn about life as it was, as displayed in the newest exhibit of the museum, called "You Should See This."

"Genealogy Family History Workshop" Saturday, February 13th

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Hackley Public Library Local History & Genealogy Dept.—Lower Level

UP-COMING EVENTS IN OTHER PLACES

Saturday, February 6, 2010—1:30 p. m.

Footnote.com

Kris Rzepczynski (Ryerson Auditorium, Grand Rapids Public Library) Western Michigan Genealogical Society

Submitted below by Bonnie Vokits Saturday, February 6, 2010 4th Annual Ethnic Heritage Festival (FREE)

Public Museum 272 Pearl St. NW Grand Rapids Museum Opens 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. Performances are between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Saturday, February 6, 2010—2:00 p. m. Finnish American Society of West Central Michigan

> Presentation on Swedish History Church of the Savior (R.C.A.) 180 - 68th Ave. N. Coopersville, MI

> > More on page 3



County Clerk's Office

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

February 3	Jane Gates
February 10	Dawn Kelley
February 17	Barb Martin
February 24	Dawn Kelley

LOOK FOR MORE UPDATE NOTICES ON MUSKEGON COUNTY CLERK'S VITAL RECORDS OFFICE website at:

www,co.muskegon.mi.us/clerk

We are always looking for more members to volunteer and if you are interested in helping, please contact us at: mcgs1972@yahoo.com - in the EMAIL

SUBJECT AREA put—MARRIAGE INDEX! We are now indexing the marriages records into a data base. This will be an ongoing project. Please read more on the back page.



Hospitality Committee

Karen Towne Jane Walker Weber

We ushered in the New Year 2010 with Karen Towne as Hospitality Chair. Assisting her will be Jane Weber and Paula Halloran. Our book drawing of the "Sources Book" was won by Donna Welch. She must have been carrying a rabbit's foot because she was also the door prize winner. Three 2010 purse calendar books were won, by Nancy Zissler, Karen Carlson, and Jane Schapka. Karen Towne and Jane Weber provided cupcakes and fruit at the break. In February we will feature Mardi Gras, so wear purple, green and yellow plus any bling-bling for that celebration. Will you be a KING CAKE winner??

Answer from page 1

Mardi Gras is a French name that means "Fat Tuesday." It is the day before Ash Wednesday which is the first day before Lent, followed by Easter. Usually people give up things that are in excess. Fat Tuesday is the day before giving up something, so people party and gorge on food plus drink.

Long ago, the French had festivals that led up to Fat Tuesday. The merrymaking lasted for weeks with parties, parades and masked balls. The French brought their traditions with them when they settled in Louisiana in the late 1600s and 1700s. Today KREWES or carnival clubs continue the traditions by adopting a theme for their floats, balls and parties complete with a King and Queen. These various carnival clubs provide a great array of floats where beads and other jewelry are thrown to the onlookers.

Many towns in the South besides New Orleans celebrate Mardi Gras season.



Membership Committee

Susan Boos Gerst Kathy Broughton DeCormier

Please welcome our newest members to our society!

• Julie Dratz—Muskegon

Surnames: Bomers, Brace, Dratz, Jisher, Kooi, Jolman, Nash, Rozitsky

Janet Helmer—Muskegon

Surnames: Fox, Ray

• Anne & Gary Carrier—Grand Haven

Surnames: Carrier, Lowe, Kort, Meyers, Davis, Gilmour, Hirth, Burcham

Garry & Charlotte Olson—Muskegon

Surnames: Jackson, Swanson, Olsen, McCallum, Bush, Elmquest, Bain

January meeting had 30 members and 2 visitors

Website Committee

Shelly Nelson



Shelly is the manager at St. Mary's Cemetery and is doing a wonderful job of getting the information into a data base by the help of Chuck.



Library Committee Update

Barb LaBatt Martin

The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England 1634-1635 v. 6, by Robert Charles Anderson (Gift from Colonial Dames)

Morton Allan Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals (Gift from Colonial Dames)

Angels in the Architecture: A Photographic Elegy to an American Asylum, by Heidi Johnson

You Can Write Your Family History, by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack

<u>The Pilgrim Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth Colony</u> <u>1620-1633.</u> by Robert Charles Anderson (Gift from Colonial Dames)

Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte

WHITE LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The library owns the hard copies and microfilm of the *Whitehall Forum*, *The White Laker*, and hard copies of the *White Lake Beacon*. The *White Lake Observer*, owned by the Montague Museum, is currently being put on microfilm and will be available later for digitations.

Digitization would provide full-text searchable access through the library website using the library's computers, as well as computers owned by individuals. Searching may be done by name, keyword and subject and would attract novice users as well as those accustomed to accessing information electronically. WLCL News Vol. 4 Issue 3 Sept.-Oct. 2009

If you would like to donate to this project, please contact Bette at whitelake.llcoop.org or call 231-894-9531 Director, ext. 21.

2 February 2010



From Ancestry Online Newsletter

SMART PHONE PICTURES

When I was in Salt Lake City I didn't want to take the time to take the microfilm to the printer to make a copy of just one entry on

the page. I used my smart phone to take a picture of the item and e-mailed it to myself with a note of what it was, and all the identification information (e.g., film number, the library in question, etc.). It worked great. C. Van Allen

LOCAL HISTORY CAN BOOST YOUR RESEARCH

Curious about the local history of where my ancestors lived, I went to the local library and checked out some books. One series that was especially helpful was called "Images of America" It contained old photos and a history of each town. I learned a lot and even found a photo of the land and hotel that my ancestors owned in the 1920s. I learned that my great—grandmother was a pioneer resident of Palo Alto, California and have since donated a photograph of her house to the local historical society. Fortunately, many of the homes, businesses, schools, and churches tied to my ancestors are now historic landmarks. The history books opened up a rich avenue of research.

REVISIT WEBSITES PERIODICALLY

I have been searching for my great-grandparents marriage record for many years without success. I recently rechecked a website I had used before and to my amazement, there was their marriage record in a county I hadn't checked. I did not know they had lived there. Now I can write the county for the official marriage record. Hopefully from there, I will be able to determine what church they were married in and write the church for a copy of that record as well. So, look and search again at sites you have already searched. New records and databases are being added all the time. You might be surprised. Des Allen

NAMES REVERSED

I was having a really hard time locating my great—great—grandfather, Dennis James in the 1870 census. One day as I was browsing through the pages looking for another family member it occurred to me that perhaps the names got transposed. I tried searching with his given name in the surname field and his surname in the given name field. He popped right up! Catherine James

MONTORING MESSAGE BOARD

Although I had made several major discoveries by watching the message boards, it was something that I would forget to do for long stretches. I've found a great way to make sure I'm up-to-date at all times. I've customized my home page with Message Board Favorites near the top. While at an important family message board, I click the "Add to Favorites" button. Limit these favorites to 4 or 5, or they will take up too much of your home page. On your home page,

click Customize, and the "Message Board Favorites" category will appear that you can add and arrange on your home page. Position it near the top, where you will notice it. The best part is the board with the newest message will automatically go to the head of your favorites list so you'll always be aware of activity on the board. Cheryl Parsons



UPCOMING EVENTS IN OTHER PLACES

Continued from page 1

Saturday, March 13, 2010 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. South Bend Area Genealogical Society Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library 209 Lincoln Way E. downtown Mishawaka www.indianahistory.org/ihs/genorglist.html

Saturday, March 27, 2010 - Registration 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

33rd Annual Spring Seminar

Genealogical Society of Monroe County, MI Monroe Community College www.gsmc-michigan.org

Wed. thru Sat. April 28—May 1, 2010 National Genealogical Society 2010 Family History Conference

Salt Lake City, Utah
You need to pre-register
www.ngsgenealogy.org for MORE information



THOUGHTS ON GENEALOGY

- Genealogy: Tracing yourself back to better people.
- I trace my family history so I will know who to blame.
- Can a first cousin, once removed, return?
- Do I even WANT ancestors?
- Genealogy: Where you confuse the dead and irritate the living.
- Friends come and go, but relatives tend to accumulate.
- Genealogists never die, they just lose their roots.
- Genealogy: A haystack full of needles. It's the threads I need!
- I think my family tree is a few branches short of full bloom.
- Theory of relativity: If you go back far enough, we're all related.

Submitted by Paula Rice

3 February 2010

Dates to Remember—2010

Upcoming Events

MCGS Meeting—Thursday, February 11, 7:00 p.m. Masonic Temple, 396 W. Clay Av. Doors opens at 6:30 p.m.

Board Meeting—Torrent House Tuesday, February 2, 6:00 p.m. Door opens at 5:30pm

"Genealogy—Family History Workshop" Saturday, February 13, at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Hackley Public Library, 316 W. Webster—Lower Level. Help from society members.

A Look Ahead at 2010

MCGS Meetings & Programs

Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. 2nd Thursday of month Masonic Temple, 396 W. Clay

MCGS Meetings & Programs

February 11
March 11
April 8
May 13
June 10
July—OFF
August 12
September 9
October 14
November 11
December—OFF

MCGS Board Meetings

start at 6:00 p.m.
Torrent House
Tuesdays
February 2
March 2
April 6
May 4
June 1
July & December—OFF
August 3
September 7

"Genealogy Family History" Workshops

February 13
March 13
April
May 8
OFF– June, July & Aug
September 11
October 9
November 13

AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY

Where: Hackley Public Library Julia Hackley Room—1st Floor

When: Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Time: 6:30 PM

Call HPL 231-722-7276 ext 272

Contact Jocelyn

MCG Society Member

will Present the Program.



February 11 What to Bring...

Paper and pencil for taking notes.

- Pocket change for any little books or magazines you want.
- Any little books or magazines you want to donate to our MCGS store.
- Your Show and Tell to share. stories are appreciated. We want to hear & see what you have to share!
- Your 4-generation chart completed or not.
- Your genealogy questions.
- Bring your friends! See you there!

The nicest and the biggest accomplishment of our society was to finish the *History of Muskegon County: A Proud Legacy*, Volume 1. We are in the process of starting Volume 2, so send in your stories. Form on page 5

WORKING ON and UP-COMING PROJECTS

If you would like to help on one of these projects, please contact us at mcgs1972@yahoo.com The more we have help with indexing, the sooner we can use them on line or in our libraries.

- Marriage Indexing, starting from 1839. We are putting them into a data base at the County Clerk's office; we have our own computer to use.
- State Census 1884 & 1894 indexing are already being updated to an every name index. These years of the state census are very important.

A motion was made and passed to have Lakeshore Document Services microfilm the original 1884 & 1894 State Census of Muskegon County and have them digitized. The indexes will be on our website. Cheri Miller has the index and is finishing up on one of the 1884 books. Thank you Cheri

- Cont. from page 2—The White Lake Community Library is in the process of having the their newspapers copied by the same company we are having.
- Birth Index—Paul Halloran is indexing 1867 to 1875. Thank you Paula
- Cemeteries Committee—Margaret Brewster— There will be sign-up sheet at each meeting. We will bring you up-to-date on how, when, and where, SO THINK SPRING!!!!!!!!!
- Recipe Book is in the works, but need a lot more recipes.
- Newspaper Vitals—Matt Burns volunteers on his own time to do the vital information the Muskegon Chronicles. Years done are 1998 thru 2008 1988 thru 1993.

We will have SIGN-UP-SHEETS at our meetings.

Muskegon County History Book Order and Story Submission Form

Books may be purchased for \$65

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY & SIGN YOUR NAME BELOW

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Over 500 Photos
Maps and more!

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NO ABBREVIATIONS, INCLUDING STATES

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If you are submitting material, include your stories, photos on a **CD or FLOPPY DISK**. We will also except hand written or typed with all other information with the amount due

Mail to:

Muskegon County Genealogical Society HISTORY BOOK PROJECT 2 C/O Hackley Public Library 316 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon, MI 49440-1209

Contact Information

Write to the address above or E-mail: mcgs1972@yahoo.com
Website: www.genealogymuskegon.org