



# Twig Talk



Newsletter of Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

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June & July



Twig Talk  
A publication of:

### Muskegon County Genealogical Society

C/O Hackley Public Library  
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Muskegon, MI 49440-1209

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Hospitality .....	Jane Weber & Karen Towne
Website.....	Shelly Nelson & Fran Harrington
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Member .....	Sandra Kelley
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FREE PROGRAM presented by: Muskegon County Genealogical Society

### COMING TO AMERICA: RESEARCH WITH SHIP PASSENGER LISTS

This session will explore the available U.S. passenger lists and indexes, the genealogical information typically found in them and strategies for finding arrival records of your immigrant ancestors.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: Kris Rzepczynski

Currently the Michigan/Genealogy Coordinator at the Library of Michigan, Kris has worked at the Library for 9 years. He holds a Masters in Library and Information Science from Wayne State University, an M.A. in History from Western Michigan University, and a B.A. in History from the University of Michigan. He has presented for genealogy societies, conferences, and seminars on a number of topics, including ships' passenger lists, Michigan genealogy research, Polish genealogy, military records, the Great Lakes states, Michigan vital records, and the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection at the Library of Michigan. In addition, he is the Immediate Past-President of the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society.

**WHEN:** Thursday, June 11, 2009

**WHERE:** Masonic Temple, 396 W. Clay Av.

**TIME:** Program starts at 7:00 p.m. sharp—doors open at 6:30 p.m.

**PRE-REGISTER by:** Saturday, June 6, 2009

Email us at: [mcgs1972@yahoo.com](mailto:mcgs1972@yahoo.com)

Put in the subject line: **COMING TO AMERICA** -OR-

Call Dawn at: 231-740-3698 – leave message if no answer



### “Genealogy-Family History Workshop” Note the time change!

Hackley Public Library, 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 12, 2009.



### Special Program in August

Got a Brick Wall you want us to break for you? Now is your chance. Our August meeting will specifically deal with brick walls submitted by our members. Important: If you would like to be the lucky recipient of brick wall busting by our experienced panel, submit your information no later than July 31. The sooner you get us your questions, the better chance you have of getting answers. We will be working on submissions on a first come-first served basis. Submit up to 6 questions about 1 surname via email, mail, or submit them at June meeting.



### “Holidays June/July”

Sunday, June 14—Flag Day  
Sunday, June 21—Summer Begins and  
Father’s Day!  
Saturday, July 4, Independence Day

Test Your “GeneKnowlegy”

Was Johnny Appleseed a real person? If so, what was his real name? What was his story?

You will find the answers somewhere in this newsletter.





**County Clerk's Office**  
Margaret Clark Sheffer

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

June 3 .....	Jane Gates
June 10 .....	Margaret Sheffer
June 17 .....	Barb Martin
June 24 .....	Dawn Kelley
July 1 .....	Jane Gates
July 8 .....	Margaret Sheffer
July 15 .....	Barb Martin
July 22 .....	Dawn Kelley
July 29 .....	Donna Welch



**Library Update**  
Barb LaBatt Martin

Hackley Public Library **NEW** hours will start on JULY 1st—Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday **10:00 a.m.** to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday **10:00 a.m.** to 5:00 p.m. Starting Sunday, September 13th the library be open at 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Check out Hackley Public Library website at [hackleylibrary.org](http://hackleylibrary.org) click on Local History.

John Chapman (Johnny Appleseed) was a real person. He traveled through the Ohio Valley planting trees. He was a well-liked nursery owner who kept moving his nurseries west to keep abreast of the receding frontier. As for the myth that he never wore shoes, it may have been true, but the fact is he could have worn shoes if he wanted to. He was so successful that by the end of his life he had accumulated more than 1200 acres of land.



Our patriotic meeting had many military items with members sharing incredible related stories. Eileen

**Hospitality**  
Jane Walker Weber  
Karen Towne

Wojewodzki complimented our theme with red, white and blue fruits served with angel food cake. She also brought chips, cheeses and taco sauce. It was scrumptious, Eileen!! Fran Harrington won the book, Sherman's March. Patriotic pencils donated by Karen Towne were won by Purple Heart, Mexican War and War of 1812 descendants Bob Nordstrand, Joanne Wood, JoAnn Osborn, Kathy DeCormier, Howard Trygstad, Barb Martin and Margaret Sheffer. And always lucky Whitey Zissler won the door prize.

**Money/Time Saving Ideas from Kay**

Need a book? Want to save money? Try doing a "Google Book Search." The site address is [https://books.google.com/](https://books.google.com)



Try Page by Page books for a good read—Free! The address for the site is:

<http://www.pagebypagebooks.com/>

It's garage and yard sale season! I will be the first to admit that I don't get very excited about garage and yard sales—that is until I start thinking about the possibility of finding old photos, school year books, and other historical items. It was only recently that I started thinking about all the finds that could be just lying around being sold for next to nothing. So when you get your newspapers, or pick up a copy of the Buyers Guide, read through the yard sales. Then, map out a route so you can save gas and maximize your time. Remember, that people won't list items that they don't think are important so you may not always find items like year books listed. You will actually have to go to the sale and give it a good looking over.

**Members Are Important To Us-so please keep in touch!**

**Membership**  
Susan Boos Gerst  
[tsgerst@yahoo.com](mailto:tsgerst@yahoo.com)  
Kathy Broughton DeCormier

CONGRATULATIONS! to Margaret Sheffer, who received the Dorothy Hammer Award in April from the Lakeshore Museum Center (known as Muskegon County Museum) for volunteering at the Museum Archives.

Check through the Freebie ads in the chronicle too. Sometimes you can find old books about Muskegon or school year books there as well.



**Website**  
Shelly Nelson  
Fran Harrington

Want to help the society out when it's easy for you and from the comfort of your own home? We need volunteers for data entry for our website. The work is easy to do, it just takes a little time to type out. For more information contact Shelly Nelson through the website at [www.genealogymuskegon.com](http://www.genealogymuskegon.com).

Don't forget that ebay isn't the only online sales spot. Craig's List is fast becoming a favorite location for buying and selling. Give Craig's List a try.

If you are thinking about posting your family tree to the web, don't forget about rootsweb. They have always offered free sites to not just families, but groups. You can safely and easily post your information there with the free help they offer.

Before going to do your research, study up on what types of records are going to be available to you and what information they hold. It will save you time and money.

***What this country needs are family trees that produce more lumber and less nuts!***

## Genealogy Tips from Family Tree Magazine

F.Y.I.

### Finding Ancestors on Passenger Lists: What Can Go Awry (and How Not to Let It) Posted by Diane Hadden

I'm 90 percent sure my long search for my immigrant great-grandparents' passenger list has come to an end. A few small but significant details dragged out my search—maybe my “lessons learned” will help you.

I'd searched passenger lists on [Ancestry.com](#), the [Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild](#), [Ellis Island](#) and the [Canadian Genealogy Center](#). I tried crazy name variations, no names and 10-year arrival windows. Once, I realized I was on the 75th page of search results.

Since my ancestors toiled around the South for years, I decided they must've immigrated through Galveston and the [1900 hurricane](#) ruined their records.

Then [last week's naturalization record discovery](#) provided a port and date of arrival (New York, Oct. 15, 1900), and my great-grandfather's name in Syria: Fadlallah. But I still couldn't find the passenger list!

So I went to [Stephen Morse's enhanced one-step search for Ellis Island](#), where you can search by date (rather than just year). First I entered the search terms straight from the naturalization papers. Nothing. I tried other months in late 1900. Nope.

Then the key step: I removed the first name and searched a month at a time. *Fadlo Hadad* jumped out on a Nov. 4 list. My great-grandfather used *Fadow* on his WWI draft registration, and made it his son's middle name. Could it be a short form of Fadallah? (If anyone's in the know on this, feel free to comment.)



Beneath *Fadlo* on the record was *wife Maria*. My great-grandmother Mary also shows up in various records as *Mattie* and *Marianna*. The Ellis Island indexer kindly recorded her as *Maria Hadad* rather than *wife*. I probably came across this record early in my research and discounted it because I didn't recognize *Fadlo*.

The 10 percent uncertainty level comes from the name, their ages—17 and 21, both two years too old, according to other records—and the origin of Turkey (albeit with the last residence *Arabo*, as the ship's Neopolitan clerk recorded it). I do have another record giving Turkey as my Syrian ancestor's homeland, and I haven't found any other *Fadlos* or *Fadlows* close to my ancestor's age in US records.

But I still couldn't find *Fadlo* in Ancestry.com's immigration collection. I searched on *Maria Fadlo*, and

*Maria* showed up, indexed as *Maria Fadlo Wife*. Below her in the results was her husband, indexed with *Hadad* as the first name, *Fadlo* as the last.

Another look at the list—the ship's clerk switched from recording passengers last-name-first to recording them first-name-first. The Ancestry.com indexer transcribed exactly what was on the record; the Ellis Island indexer did some genealogical deduction.

So, my lessons learned:

- Look for evidence of different names your ancestor may have used, and repeat searches as you learn more.
- Search different databases.
- Try last-name only searches.
- Search for women on the first name *wife* (another lady on the list was recorded the same way).
- Try switching the first and last names in your search.
- If you have a rough idea of an arrival date, browse by date.

## Websites of Interest

Thank you to Dawn for finding this site. [stephenmorse.org](http://stephenmorse.org), it is really awesome



This one is a great find! It lists a ton of sites. It is well organized and full of useful information. <http://www.ancestorhunt.com/>

I might have mentioned this one before but it is just soooo full of good freebie stuff I just had to mention it now. <http://www.censusdiggins.com/freebies.html>

Build your family tree online through this page. It is new and different to use. <http://www.tribalpages.com/>

Another free site to post your tree. <http://www.ancientfaces.com/>

This is a good site for Scandinavian research. <http://www.progenealogists.com/scandinavianimmigration.htm>

You may already know about this site. Some of our members are also DAR members. It is the Daughters of the American Revolution site. <http://www.dar.org/>

This is another list of links site that gives you many sites to visit. <http://www.genealogylinks.net/>

Between the link sites we gave you and the one click sites, you should have enough to keep you on the computer for a month or so! Enjoy.

Could it be that we are running out of website ideas? It is time for you to share your favorites with us. Send us the URL to your favorite site and we will share it in a future edition of Twig Talk at: [mcs1972@yahoo.com](mailto:mcs1972@yahoo.com)

## Dates to Remember—2009

### Upcoming Events

**“Genealogy—Family History Workshop”** Saturday, Sept. 12, 10:30—12:30 a.m. Hackley Public Library, 316 W. Webster. Join us for hands-on research help from society members. Bring your current research info with you!

**Board Meeting**, Tuesday, June 2, 6:00 p.m. Torrent House

**MCGS Meeting**, Thursday, June 11, 7:00 p.m. Masonic Temple, 396 W. Clay

### A Look Ahead...

#### Genealogy—Family History Workshops

10:30 to 12:30 p.m. at HPL  
**Off June, July, & August**  
Saturday, September 12  
Saturday, October 10  
Saturday, November 7  
**Off December**

#### MCGS Meetings & Programs

Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.)  
Masonic Temple  
Thursday, June 11

#### **Off July**

Thursday, August 13  
Thursday, September 10  
Thursday, October 8  
Thursday, November 12  
Thursday, December 10

#### MCGS Board Meetings

Meetings start at 6:00 p.m.  
Torrent House.  
Tuesday, June 2  
**Off July**  
Tuesday, August 4  
Tuesday, September 8  
Tuesday, October 6  
Tuesday, November 3  
**Off December**

#### June 11th What to Bring...

- Your genealogy questions 
- Your Brick Wall Questions (for the August meeting)
- Pencil and notepad for all the great information we will share
- Show and tell

And of course a few friends.



#### FREE Curatorial Methods Workshop

Beryl Gabel, Archivist

Have you ever wondered how the Museum curators take care of all the neat things in the Museum collection? On **Saturday, June 6, at 1 p.m.** you will have the opportunity to find out at a workshop in the Auditorium of the Lakeshore Museum Center. It is approximately an hour with time for questions and answers. Space is limited SO PLEASE call 722-0278 to register

#### TWIG TALK NEWSLETTER NEWS

Starting in AUGUST, ALL society members who have an email will get their **TWIG TALK** Newsletter from our website.

You will be notified each month with a email that looks like this sample below:

July 29, 2009

The August 2009 MCGS newsletter is now available. Here is the **link** to the MCGS site:

[genealogymuskegon.com](http://genealogymuskegon.com)

Thank you!

Dawn & Kay  
Muskegon County Genealogical Society Newsletter Editors  
[mcs1972@yahoo.com](mailto:mcs1972@yahoo.com)

This will give you a chance to look at our website and to see what's there.



Happy Birthday!

150 Years

for

Muskegon County!