



Twig Talk

Newsletter of the Muskegon County
Genealogical Society



Since 1972

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June-July 2013



TWIG TALK

A publication of:

Muskegon County Genealogical Society

c/o Hackley Public Library
Torrent House

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CIVIL WAR - Special Presentation!

Thursday, June 13 at 7pm with
Bill and Glenna Jo Christian

NOTE: WE WILL BE AT THE MASONIC TEMPLE FOR JUNE!!

Glenna and Bill have so many original Civil War items/articles of clothing to share and so much information for us!

Glenna offers presentations and leads workshops on a variety of mid-19th century civilian topics around the US and Canada as well as periodically writing articles for such publications such as *The Citizen's Companion*, *The Watchdog*, *Civil War News* and *The Citizen's and Soldier's Digest*. Among her many ongoing research projects, she is compiling a database of detailed information on original women's garments, including fabric, measurements and construction details, etc., and a searchable, descriptive database index of all the illustrations in Godey's 1859-1865.



Bill started researching men's clothing over twenty years ago while building a civilian's wardrobe for living history and enactment events. He had participated in Civil War military enacting since 1977 and decided that portraying a civilian was more appropriate as he grew older than the typical soldier. He has done research on several Civil War regiments (Seventeenth Michigan, Fortieth Indiana, Forty-first Ohio and Twenty-third Kentucky Infantry). He is also interested in World War I US Navy battleships.

They also work with independent film companies making movies and documentaries about the Civil War.

They are coming to us all the way from Warren, Michigan; so let's give them a huge West Michigan welcome!

Note:

We are expecting a large crowd for this very special program so please arrive early. The doors will be open early. Although Clay Ave. is suppose to be finished before our meeting we do not know if it will come true so be prepared to come in from Western Avenue to 4th into the parking area if Clay is in fact closed. You may also want to park in the Museum lot.

REMEMBER-WE DO NOT MEET IN JULY. YOUR NEXT TWIG TALK WILL GIVE YOU MEETING LOCATION AND DIRECTIONS FOR AUGUST! August meeting topic is listed in this Twig Talk. Have a fun and safe time off!

Historical Trivia MCGS

Pagan spirit gatherings or festivals are common in June, when groups assemble to light a sacred fire, and stay up all night to welcome the dawn. **On what day and time is the beginning of the summer solstice this year (also marks the longest daylight)?** Find the answer in this newsletter.



HOSPITALITY HAPPENINGS

Our May meeting presented the many archive holdings with Beryl Gable as speaker. The August Bail of Muskegon was used to illustrate the various resources one may access.

Lucky Emma Ruprecht was the door prize winner. Bakery whiz, Kay Bosch, brought a variety of cookies which were appreciated. Generous John & Phyllis Slater brought the much needed WATER!

Twig Talk detectives Whitey Zissler and Phyllis Slater shared stories of their German ancestors. Fran Harrington told us about her Finish Upper Peninsula mining ancestor. Palatine Mennonite stories of Ruth Skinner's ancestors proved how interesting genealogy can be. Karen Farmer's English ancestor who was briefly associated with Lincoln and eventually moved to Hesperia is another example of exciting heritage. Dave Bush brought his wife's Dutch ancestor story of "jumping ship" among other neat events. All of these ancient grandparents had mustaches as shown in their photos!

Because of time constraints, we will not be sharing our ancestors in June. However, plan for August!

Do you have a brick wall you broke through? Come and share with us how you broke through it! Maybe you even have a picture of your brick wall person?



COUNTY CLERK RESEARCH

Need help finding Muskegon County Records? We are there on Wednesdays from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

The Muskegon County Clerk is located in the Muskegon County Building at 990 Terrace St.. They are on the first floor. All entrants need to go through the metal detector to get into the County Building, so keep that in mind.

We need help with data entry. We are indexing the marriage & death at the clerk's office. This is an ongoing project but with your help we can see it finished and online soon. It is really very easy. Won't you please volunteer just a few hours of your time to help with this project?



PIONEER CERTIFICATES

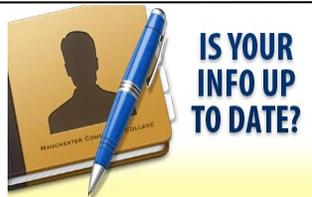


Pioneer Certificates for applicants. It is not a daily job. It is just an as applied for job. As we receive paperwork and an application for a Pioneer Certificate, we need someone to verify the papers and help in the application process.

If you have an eye for detail it will be easy for you. Jane Schapka has done this for years and has all of the steps laid out in easy-to-understand language. She can answer any questions you may have along the way. Our board is also available to help anyone interested. If you can help, please email us at 1972mcgs@gmail.com or get in touch with any board member.

MEMBERSHIP

Have you changed your Email Address, Phone/Cell Number, or Address in the last year? Please update us. You can email the info to 1972mcgs@gmail.com or fill it out on the sign-in sheet at any meeting. See Kathy, Marsha or Paul H. (or anyone) for help if you need it.



10 MINUTE TOPIC



Our 10 Minute Topic for June will be a project for you! We want you to get organized and complete your Pedigree Charts and Surname Directories over the summer. I have some new tips and handouts for you to organize paper, online, and web related info. You will also get a form to complete and return to us for your Pedigree Chart, as well as the Surname Directory. We have seen instances where the Surname Directory has helped our members find ancestors in common. For example: Did you know that David Bush and Kay Bosch have ancestors in common? We would have never know had it not been for David discovering Bosch in his distant family line. He discovered it! How many names in my line are related to you or in your line are related to others? How much research have they already done on your ancestors for you?

BRICK WALLS IN AUGUST

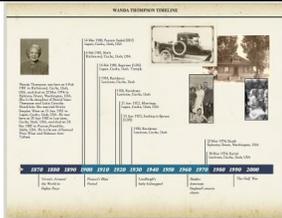
Your brick wall could be solved, and by several experienced researchers in our society. If you want us to look into your ancestral problems just get in touch with us no later than June 30 so we have time to look into your brickwall.

Email us at 1972mcgs@gmail.com (a.s.a.p.) with a description of your dilemma, pedigree chart and time lime. Make sure your name, address, etc. are on all of your sheet your turn in. Share how the finds were found at our August meeting. We have a limited number of projects we can take on so please get your information to us a.s.a.p.!!



NEW ON MOCAVO

Today, at Mocavo, we are excited to announce the launch of **Genealogy Karma**. Modeled after Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness, if you're looking for records or photos from an ancestor who lived far away, we will connect you with volunteers who can do this research for you in other cities. Likewise, if you'd like to give back and have a little time to donate, you can sign up as a volunteer.



RESEARCH TIP

Using an Ancestral Time Line. To help figure out which ancestor is yours and which is not, create a chronological timeline of what you know already starting with birth information and ending with

death information. It is easy to do. Just draw a line and put your dates on it at you go. Be sure to put that person's name on it.

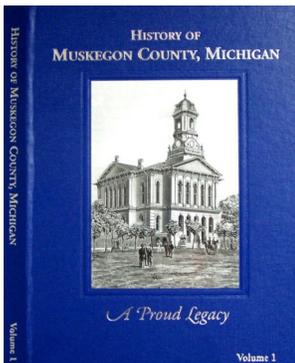
What I have always done is make a time line for each individual to compare with what I already know. This way I could compare my ancestors to the others in my line to see where and if they fit. I am working on this for my Joseph LaLone ancestor now. There are 2 of them born in Michigan around the same time; one in Charlevoix and one in Port Huron. There are some great software programs out there to make fancy time lines for you. Some will even alert you to something not fitting. I have done it both ways and they both work.

Since Joseph LaLone is my brick wall I will share my results with you at our August meeting; hopefully successful results! On our trip to Fort Wayne, I may have broken through enough to make this timeline work!

NEW MEETING LOCATION

We have a few very good possibilities available for a meeting place. Once all details are finalized we will put them in your Twig Talk for the August meeting. Stay Tuned!

MUSKEGON COUNTY HISTORY BOOK VOLUME II



It is time once again to beg for stories for the next edition of our Muskegon County History Book. We are looking for anything you can share. You don't need to write a whole book, just a paragraph or two will work! Pick a family member, anyone, past or present! How about your church history, your school's history, a building's history, a business history. You name it, we will take it. No photo? You

don't need a photo!

Do you need help creating your family story? We can send you the 10 Minute Topic about it to get you started. Just send us an email at 1972mcgs@gmail.com and we can email it to you.

Also, if you would like to be a part of the committee that is proofreading the stories and/or typing them as needed, let us know that too.

HPL BOOKS



Alternating Currents: Childhood Between Frances and Lyman,
by Jacquelyn Thunfors

Buffalo in Our Backyard, by Jean Cummings

Family Trees: A History of Genealogy in America,
by François Weil

Michigan's Historic Railroad Stations,
by Michael H. Hodges

So Eat Already!, Temple B'nai Israel Sisterhood Hadassah

Hackley Hospital Auxiliary Cook Book

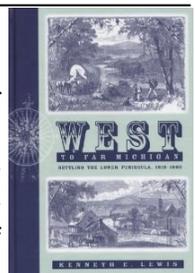
One-Room Country Schools of Newaygo County History & Recollections

Muskegon Heights Record Cook Book

Grand Times in Grand Rapids: Pieces of Furniture City History, by Gordon G. Beld

GREAT BOOK

West to Far Michigan is a study of the lower peninsula's occupation by agriculturalists, whose presence forever transformed the land and helped to create the modern state of Michigan. This is not simply a history of Michigan, but rather a work that focuses on why the state developed as it did. Although Michigan is seen today as an industrial state whose history is couched in terms of the fur trade and the international rivalry for the Great Lakes, agricultural settlement shaped its expansion. Using a model of agricultural colonization derived from comparative studies, Lewis examines the settlement process in Michigan between 1815 and 1860. This period marked the opening of Michigan to immigrants, saw the rise of commercial agriculture, and witnessed Michigan's integration into the larger national economy. Employing numerous primary sources, *West to Far Michigan* traces changes and patterns of settlement crucial to documenting the large-scale development of southern Michigan as a region. Diaries, letters, memoirs, gazetteers, and legal documents serve to transform the more abstract elements of economic and social change into more human terms. Through the experiences of the early Agriculturists process, we can gain insight into how their triumphs played out in communities within the region to produce small-scale elements that comprise the fabric of the larger cultural landscape. ***This book is available at our library!!***



WHAT IS/WAS A SUMMER VACATION?



This month millions of American kids flee classrooms all over for the beach, grandparents' homes and summer vacation and camping.

However, summer vacation hasn't always been a birthright of U.S. schoolchildren. In the decades before the Civil War, schools operated on

one of two calendars, neither of which included a summer break.

Rural schooling sessions were divided into summer and winter terms, leaving kids free to pitch in with the spring planting and fall harvest seasons.

Urban students, meanwhile, regularly endured as many as 48 weeks of study a year, with one break per quarter. Since education was not mandatory, attendance was often sparse with the average of just 30% or below percentage of children in school.

In the 1840's, however, educational reformers like Horace Mann moved to merge the two calendars out of concern that rural schooling was insufficient and invoking then current medical theory that over stimulating young minds could lead to nervous disorders or insanity.

Summer emerged as the obvious time for a break: it offered a respite for teachers, meshed with the agrarian calendar and alleviated physicians' concerns that packing students into sweltering classrooms would promote the spread of disease.

When looking through records for your ancestors consider that the children of long ago worked on the farm or even in a parent's store at a young age. Schools not as they are today. Children had one-room schoolhouses where a local school teacher taught just the basics.

SEARCH TIPS



If your deceased ancestor served in the U.S. armed forces during this century and filed a claim for benefits, you can request to view the C-File kept on the veteran by contacting your nearest Veterans Affairs Office. Include as much relevant information as possible, especially full name, Social Security Number, and C-File number, if known. If your deceased ancestor served in the U.S. armed forces during this century and filed a claim for benefits, you can request to view the C-File kept on the veteran by contacting your nearest Veterans Affairs Office. Include as much relevant information as possible, especially full name, Social Security Number, and C-File number, if known.

When looking for a birth, death, marriage or other event falling between Jan 1st and the end of March in a specific year during the 1600's or earlier, try searching the records for the year before and the one following. Be sure to check the original source to verify your findings whenever possible.

WEBSITES WE LIKE

We have some great genealogical society sites popping up all over the country. Check these out! They have more than just local information.

Illinois State Genealogical Society - This is a huge site with some great new ways to search and view surnames and more.

They also offer free webinars! They were voted as the top genealogical society site in the country for this year. The web address is: www.ilgensoc.org

The U.S. Government Archives is free and has everything you need about the 1940 Census on their website at: <http://1940census.archives.gov>

Access Genealogy is up a notch from the typical ancestry website. Its main page is pleasantly clean and well organized. Along the left side you'll find links to some of the most unique research sources including charts, links to old letters, military records, native american records and much more. One of the more fascinating resources here are the transcribed cemetery records. There are researchers in every State around the U.S. that walk through the oldest cemeteries and actually transcribe names along with birthdates, date of death and family members. This resource alone will hold your interest for hours. The site is at:

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

The UK also has a valuable resource for history buffs in the form of its own National Archives website. The main page of this website offers links to data such as births, marriage and deaths, census records, passenger lists and much more. European history is long, and these resources are unbelievably thorough and archived all the way back a thousand years. On this website, you'll also find valuable guides and articles on researching family and military history. The website is at:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/default.htm>



COOKBOOK RECIPES

I am making good progress with the MCGS Cookbook but I can still use any photos you can email or bring to a meeting for me to scan in. Any old photo will do, and it would be even better if they were of a person who you have submitted a recipe from or if they were taken in the kitchen or at the dinner table. It is not a necessity though. I will take a scan or copy of anything you have!

Also, I would love any tips and/or tricks you may have heard about from the old days. I am putting them in the book as well. Better yet, I would love to put your family gathering/holiday traditions in the book!

You will love how this book is going to come out and soon, we will have it available for sale. Keep watching because about September it will be ready for the pre-Christmas sales rush. Sorry to mention Christmas but we have to think ahead.



KINDRED SOULS ARE THEY



Frederick and Ashlee at the Torrent House



Bologna That's what I call my stories about the past. If she'd just bring the bread, we could make sandwiches." Frederick laughs. Ashlee, his granddaughter, returns his knowing smile. It's an old joke between them, but they enjoy it.

The volunteers from the Muskegon County Genealogical Society look forward to greeting Frederick and Ashlee Hansen at their monthly Genealogy Workshops at Hackley Library's Torrent House. They always sign up for the 10:30 AM session. Frederick arrives wearing his iconic hat. If you ask about it, he'll gladly share a work related slice of bologna. It involves his days at Clarke Floor Machine. Ashlee settles in at the computer, with Frederick sitting in a chair alongside. Ashlee handles the technical search and Frederick connects the information they find to his memories of their family from long ago.

Frederick began his search in the 80's before Ashlee was born. A friend at work told about his ancestor that fought in the Civil War. Curious, Frederick stopped by Hackley Library to find out if his family had a Civil War hero. He was hooked. On and off for the last 30+ years he has continued his quest for the stories that made the fabric of his family's history.

In the early days, he talked his wife into a trip to Lee Township in Calhoun County in search of two old graveyards. They found the Partello Cemetery but not the one at Lee's Center. They stopped at a farmhouse to ask for directions. A woman asked suspiciously about why he wanted to know. Frederick told her that his relatives were buried there. "Who?" she demanded to know. "T.P. Walker's family" he replied. She smiled and invited him and the Mrs. in to sit down. She brought out a book about the history of Calhoun County and opened it to the page with a photo of Frederick's great-great grandparents, along with lots of information about their family. She then called up her friend, who was a county historian. Mr. and Mrs. Hansen followed her directions to the friend's house and sat down there for a chat. They never got to the cemetery they were seeking, as by then it was getting dark and time to head for home. The following year, Mrs. Hansen was not enthused about returning to Calhoun County: neither were any other family members. So, Frederick went alone, to take his photos of the old graves.

Now that his granddaughter is out of high school, he's found that she shares his curiosity about genealogy. For two years, they've been coming to the workshops. The volunteers are there to listen and help guide them in their search.

Next column

After 3 hours of research, the duo heads to Wendy's for lunch and then back to Frederick's home. There they share their finds with Grandma. Ashlee types their information into the computer and duplicate copies are made for each of their files. They assemble their plans for their next genealogy day. As Ashlee works, her grandfather slices his bologna. She listens appreciatively. Kindred souls are they making new memories together.

SOFTWARE REVIEW FROM ABOUT.COM

Winner: RootsMagic © RootsMagic

This popular family tree software program designed and created by Bruce Buzbee, puts a greater focus on evidence quality and analysis than many other genealogy programs, with the ability to attach analysis to each research note (aka "working notes"), as well as either select from source citation templates based on *Evidence Explained*, or customize your own. Easy to use right out of the box, but with an extensive list of features, bells, and whistles, RootsMagic also comes in a free Essentials version for those who want to take it for a test run.



Family Historian © Calico Pie

This genealogy software program designed and written by UK-based Calico Pie, came in a very close second with readers. The program's main focus is to provide a variety of ways for users to intuitively view and work with their data visually and graphically, without requiring extra clicks to access hidden or buried data. Customizable charts, strong publishing features, and multiple tools for managing an extensive multimedia collection are additional areas where Family Historian really shines.



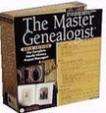
Legacy Family Tree © Millennia

Legacy Family Tree is well-acclaimed for its wealth of features, including its popular Research Guidance tool. The user interface is a bit dated and clunky, but behind the facade Legacy Family Tree is a powerful, customizable tool for recording and sharing your family tree. Purchase the add-on Legacy Charting Companion to easily create additional charts and reports from your genealogy database. Legacy Family Tree also comes in a basic Free version.



The Master Genealogist © Wholly Genes

While its user interface is dated and the program is built on the limited MS Visual FoxPro engine, The Master Genealogist has the distinction of being a genealogy software program that can grow with you as you research — feature-laden and very customizable. Active forums and a dedicated user group can generally quickly get you answers to any question you might have.



Family Tree Maker © Ancestry.com

Family Tree Maker's greatest standout features are its tight integration with Ancestry.com and the ability to keep your offline tree in sync with an online Member Tree. However, as in past versions of Family Tree Maker, the report and publishing options are fairly strong, and the user-interface is very easy to navigate and understand for even beginning genealogists.



Upcoming Events Dates 2013

Regular Meetings

Starts at 7:00 p.m.
2nd Thursday

Masonic Temple

396 W. Clay

June 13

No meetings July & Dec

Meeting place will be announced In August Twig Talk

August 8
September 12
October 10

Holiday Gathering

November 14

Board Meetings

Meet at 5:00 p.m.
2nd Thursday

Torrent House

396 W. Clay

June 14

No meetings July & Dec

Meeting place will be announced In August Twig Talk

August 8
September 12
October 10

November 14

Genealogy Family History Workshops

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
2nd Saturday

Torrent House

Local History & Genealogy Dept.
315 W. Webster

No workshops in June, July, Aug & Dec

September 14
October 12
November 9

JOURNEY THROUGH GENERATIONS - A CONFERENCE FOR THE NATION'S GENEALOGISTS

Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference Fort Wayne, Indiana August 21-24, 2013

Check out the brochure and let us know. If you have any questions at all go to www.FGS.org for details. **DEADLINE:** Registration must be postmarked or conformed online by July 1, 2013. If you plan to go, register soon. If you want to go, Kay Bosch is already going. You can save money and go with her or just ride along and go to the Ft. Wayne library while she is at the conference! Contact her at 231-747-8478 or kaysmcgswork@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Coming in your official online publication of

Family Tree Talk: (do we have your email?)

Stories of local ships and shipping.
Old advertising.
Local history.
Local Family Histories.
And Surnames!

Coming in your next issue of Twig Talk:

Photographing at the Cemetery, before summer ends!
Brick wall busters!

What to bring to the June meeting:

Paper and pencil or pen.
Camera.
Money for your copy of the Muskegon County Family History Book Volume I (will be at the meeting).
Money for your very own Family Tree Generation Chart. (will be at the meeting).

Things to do in July:

Get cookbook stories, photos, tips, traditions, and recipes to Kay.
Complete and submit your surname list and 4 generation chart (they will be at the meeting too - free).

UPCOMING PROGRAM REMINDERS FOR 2013

Jun 13—Bill & Glenna Jo Christen - Civil War re-enactors and historians of the culture of the years leading up to and during the American Civil War. As part of that research Glenna & Bill have been collecting period photographs, books and original garments for many years.

Aug 8—Brick Wall Busters Solutions to Real Life Stumpers-Will your Brick Wall be solved by our specialists? Turn in your Brick Wall details by June 30. First come First serve on these, and we are limited in what we can take in. Please consider this and get your requests in a.s.a.p.

Sep 12—Tombstone Rubbings Wally & Jane Ewing - A very interesting showing of how Wally and Jane went about rubbings overseas on ancient tombstones. They will show the tools used, how to use them, and where to get them. It is not just chalk and paper folks!

Oct 10—Cemetery Tour with Dani LeFleur - How timely is this! You will love the interesting history presented in her very well prepared program.

Nov 14—Holiday Gathering/Annual Meeting/Elections - Last chance before the holidays to buy our cookbook.