



# Twig Talk

Newsletter of the Muskegon County Genealogical Society



Since 1972

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## TWIG TALK

A publication of:

**Muskegon County Genealogical Society**

c/o Hackley Public Library

Torrent House

315 W. Webster Avenue

Muskegon, MI 49440-1208

[www.genealogymuskegon.org](http://www.genealogymuskegon.org)

[1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com)

[Find us on](#)



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## “Preserving Documents & Photos”

Webinar presentation from Family Tree

**Thursday, March 13, 7:00 p.m.**

**at the VFW Post 3195**

**corner of Grand Haven Rd & Porter Rd.**

Family Tree has some of the best webinars for genealogy that we have ever seen. In March we will be watching and learning more tips about preserving documents and photos.

- Preservation Basics
- Preservation strategies for paper documents, newspapers, books, bibles, photographs, scrapbooks, photo albums, jewelry, dolls, toys, clothing, quilts, needlework, and flags

*We will also be watching*

### “Organize Your Genealogy Life”

by Family Tree Magazine

1. Conquer the Chaos  
Choose the best genealogy filing system for you  
Decide what to keep and what to toss  
Keep a neat genealogy space (no matter large or small)
2. Organized Research Habits  
Organize your hard drive  
Stop losing important e-mails  
Track your online research

## FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOP

**Saturday, March 13, 10:30am – 12:30pm or 2pm – 4pm**

Space is limited so please pre-register either online at [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com) or call the Torrent House, Local History & Genealogy Dept. at 231-722-7276 ext. 240 to hold your spot.

### Historical Michigan Trivia MCGS

1. What is the correct term for the people who are from Michigan?
2. What town in Michigan was originally known as “Frenchtown?”

*Find your answers to these questions somewhere in this edition of Twig Talk!*



## MEMBERSHIP

### Pat Straley

SURNAMES: Straley,  
Nelson, Torrey, Kaber



## MCGS BOOKS VOLUME 1 & 2

We still need your stories for the Muskegon County History Book Volume 2 book. Please let us know if you need any photos scanned, stories edited, or help of any kind. Let's make this volume 2 just as great as Volume 1!

Also, We need space in our office so please help us by purchasing your copies of Volume 1 now! Start thinking Christmas, Birthdays, and any holiday or reunion coming up. It is a great book to give or donate to family, friends, or businesses.



## HOSPITALITY HAPPENINGS

Our February meeting presented by Karen Frazier was an excellent program covering the benefits of the Evernote program. Members obtained numerous ideas for organizing their genealogy materials.

The door prize was won by Jane Schapka. A free book drawing on "American Loyalists" went to Phyllis Slater. Paula Halloran shared a wedding photo of her grandfather who met his wife while studying to be a missionary in St. Louis, MO. Also, her Civil War Carmean grandfather's photo with his bride was endearing to see. Linda Welsh shared a romantic picture of her grandparents from the Netherlands & Poland marrying into mixed religions. An 1855 marriage photo of her Coles-Nelson families showed the wedding clothing styles of the time. Thanks go to both of you for providing a Valentine's theme to our night! The Slaters are thanked for the water bottles and manning the coffee pot! We will be looking for lads and lassies in green clothing plus socks, jewelry, ties & etc. A free book drawing plus a shamrock-leprechaun game is awaiting, too. \*\*\*Bring ONE ancestor document as vital, religious, land, war, pension, or an immigration record for sharing.\*\*\*



## COUNTY CLERK RESEARCH

Remember, 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.

Update on our progress of the marriage indexing, we are done with Libers 1 / 1859 thru 28 and will be uploaded on our website by March. The indexing for the marriages consists of: Groom, Bride, Maiden Name of Bride, Liber, Record No., Date of Marriage. Death records consist of: Last & First Name, Death Date, Liber, Record No. and Page No.

We really would appreciate more help on indexing the marriage & the death records.

Contact us at [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com)

## NEW BOOKS IN THE LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY DEPT. IN THE TORRENT HOUSE

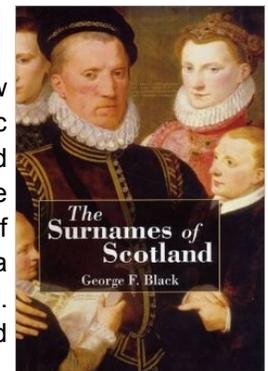
**The Once and Future Great lakes Country: An Ecological History**, by John L. Riley

**The War Below: The Story of Three Submarines That Battled Japan**, by James Scott

**The McCabe List: Early Irish in the Ottawa Valley**, by Bruce S. Elliott

## GREAT BOOKS

For over fifty years this book is now firmly established as the great classic work on the origin, meaning and history of Scottish surnames. The core of the book is the remarkable listing of over 8,000 names, each with a concise history and cross-references. It remains an accessible and indispensable tool for genealogists, historians, or indeed anyone with a general interest in Scotland. This monumental reference book is the product of over forty years' research, which was put in order shortly after the author's retirement. Despite various attempts to publish it during the late 1930s, it was published finally in 1946 by the New York public Library and has remained in print ever since.



Available now on Amazon.com or Google Books. \$39.97

## WEB TIPS FROM GOOGLE

### COMMON PROBLEMS USING SEARCH ENGINES FOR GENEALOGY

Have you tried to find your ancestry on any search engine? If so, you might have had thousands of results, most of which did not apply to your genealogy. This site minimizes this problem by suggesting more complex ways of looking for your ancestors that will provide you with better results.

#### Many Names are Common

One problem with using any search engine for genealogy is that many last names are common. For example, take the last name of "Hall." Using *Hall genealogy* will often result in more than 500,000 results. The first ones on the list might be best, but you run the risk of missing some results because there are so many. This site will suggest combinations or patterns of names to minimize the number of results and provide you with better results.

#### Some Words That Have Similar Meanings

Another aspect of using *Hall genealogy* is that it would miss selecting sites that use a different word that means the same thing. *Family history*, *family tree*, and *ancestry* are just a few words that have a meaning similar to *genealogy*. Finally, you need consider common misspellings, such as *geneology*. This site will automatically create searches that account for words with similar meanings to the term *genealogy*.

#### Words That Have Different Meanings

"Hall" is also used in the name of buildings (such as "Durham Hall") or in common phrases (such as "she walked down the hall"). This site will suggest combinations or patterns of names in order to minimize the likelihood of these erroneous results.

*This is all thanks to Douglas K. Barry, who is the webmaster for this area in Google. I actually have him in my Google Circle of Friends and he has been such a help to me with finding freebie sites and searches! Thank you Douglas!*

## Get the Best Genealogy Searches for Google by Using Your Family Tree

This free genealogy site helps you use Google™ for your research. It creates a series of different searches using tips or "tricks" that will likely improve your results using Google to find ancestry information on the Internet.

Go to <http://www.genealogy-search-help.com/> You should see a screen all laid out like a family tree with the info below: Complete the family tree below with as much as you know about your ancestor. Then press the "Click Here to Continue" button to generate the Google searches. Thank you Google for making searches easier and understanding that Genealogy is a huge hobby right now!

Ancestor's First Name

Ancestor's Last Name

Father's First Name

Father's Last Name

Mother's First Name

Mother's Maiden

Ancestor's Place of Birth

Ancestor's Place of Death

Spouse's First Name

Spouse's Last Name

(maiden for female spouse)

### Genealogy 10 Quick Tips for Google

I know we covered this recently in a program but it is all changing and updating so fast. I will have a complete and detailed handout available at the next meeting, in March. If you cannot make the meeting please email us at [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com) and we will send you a .pdf copy.

1. All words will count
2. Use lower case
3. Word order matters
4. Use " " quotation marks for a phrase
5. Use a - sign to exclude words
6. Use the word "or" to combine searches
7. Use " " quotation marks to search exact words
8. Use "\*" asterisk to include best matches
9. Use the Advanced Search Form they offer
10. Use Google Earth to see where your area from space or Google Maps and symbols for a street view.

## OLD PHOTO TIPS



### How to Identify People, Places, and Times in Photos

Oh this is a whole new can of worms to open but I thought what they hey! Here we go. There is much more to a photograph than what first you see. From this one, after looking online at many photos, we found that the back wall behind this group was at the New Brunswick at the National Archives of Canada. Now for more clues. They are all dressed in early 20th Century clothing and dressed well and for cold weather. We know the picture was taken in cold weather. They are sitting on clothing bags in the front. That tells us they are perhaps just arriving. Look at their shoes (I know it is hard to see here but still...), their clothing styles, their faces, hats, etc... These are all clues that you can use to diagnose your photos.



Here is a fun one. Where do you think this man is from and when? After looking up the clothing we found he is from Croatia. This was very precise clothing for many areas like Croatia. The child is warmly dressed and well dressed. This leads us to assume that the family was of somewhat good means financially. The woman is well dressed and warm. This was a very ornate coat and very popular

in the early 1900s. Her hat is called a Toque which were all the rage in the early 1900's. Also, the fact they are warmly dressed implies they are in a cold climate. The background is a professional photography background so they must have had a special reason for the picture. What do you see?

## NEW FREE ONLINE RECORDS

### Norwegian Records

The national archives of Norway has posted the 1910 Norwegian census online. The collection is fully searchable by name and residence. Some of the information that can be found includes name, gender, marital status, occupation, date and place of birth, address, religion and father's ethnicity. <http://da.digitalarkivet.no/en-gb/ft/sok/1910>

### Welsh Records

Welsh Newspapers Online has added 27 new publications to their growing database of historic newspapers. The collection now consists of some 100 historic newspapers, 630,000 pages and 6.8 million articles. The newspapers span the years from 1804 to 1919. The records can be searched by news, family notices and advertisements. The collection can also be browsed by date and newspaper title. <http://welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk/en/home>

### African American Records

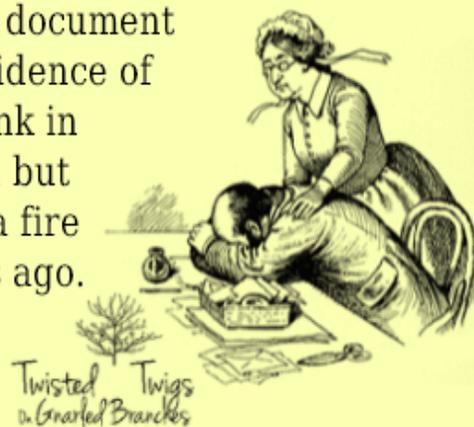
AfriGeneas is a site devoted to African American genealogy, to researching African Ancestry in the Americas in particular and to genealogical research and resources in general. It is also an African Ancestry research community featuring the AfriGeneas mail list, the AfriGeneas message boards and daily and weekly genealogy chats. [www.afriogeneas.com](http://www.afriogeneas.com)

### General Searches

Also be sure to check out Family Searcher.com where you can type in info for both free and paid sites and see what might be available. There is also a lot of information to help you with your genealogical journey on the site. You may find sites you never heard of before just by checking this page out! <http://www.familytreearcher.com/mysearch/index.html>

## Murphy's Law of Genealogy

You located a document containing evidence of the missing link in your research but it was lost in a fire several weeks ago.



1. Both Michigianians and Michigancers  
2. Monroe

## Upcoming Events Dates 2014

### Regular Meetings

7:00 p.m.

**VFW Post 3195**  
**5209 Grand Haven Road**

March 13

April 10

May 8

June 12

**No meetings in**

July & December

August 14

September 11

October 9

November 13

### Board Meetings

5:00 p.m. at the VFW

March 13

April 10

May 8

June 12

**No meeting in**

July & December

August 14

September 11

October 9

November 13

### Genealogy Family

#### History Workshops

Torrent House Local History &  
Genealogy Dept., 315 W. Webster  
2 sessions!

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please preregister online at

[1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com)

or call 231-722-7276 ext. 240

March 8

April 12

May 10

**No workshops in**

June, July, & December

August

September 13

October 11

November 8

*Happy St. Patrick's Day*

## 23rd Psalm for Genealogists

Genealogy is my Past time

I shall not stray

It maketh me to lie down

And examine half-buried tombstones

It leadeth me into still courthouses

It restoreth my Ancestral Knowledge

It leadeth me into the Paths of Census Records

And ships Passenger lists for my names sake

Yes, though I wade through the Shadows of Research Libraries  
and Microfilm Readers

I shall fear no Discouragement

For a Strong urge is with me

The curiosity and Motivation

They comfort me

It demandeth preparation of Storage Space

For the Acquisition of Countless Documents

It annointeth my Head with burning Midnight Oil

My family Group sheet runneth over

Surely birth, marriage and death dates

Shall follow me all the Days of my Life

And I shall dwell in the House of a

Family History Seeker Forever.

## What's coming to MCGS

### **April 10**

"Discovering the Real Story of Your New York  
Ancestors" by member Jane Schapka

### **May 8**

"My Search for Roots and the Secrets in DNA"  
Speaker, Richard Hill

### **June 12**

"Nineteenth-century Photographs--Identification,  
Dating and Preservation"  
Speakers, Bill & Glenna Christen

*Coming in 2017 - Our society 45th  
Anniversary and some very special events to  
celebrate it!*



Don't forget money for MCGS 12 & 15 Generation  
Charts.

Whatever Jane asked for in the hospitality section.

Pen and paper to take notes.

Donation for refreshments.

**See you on March 13th!**