Thursday, March 9, 2017

Starts at 6:30 p.m.

VFW Post 3196, 5209 Grand Haven Rd

“Muskegon Maritime and Lighthouse History”

The Muskegon lights were declared excess property by the U.S. Government in 2008, and a notice was sent out nationwide, seeking a new caretaker. In 2010, after completing a lengthy application process, the Michigan Lighthouse Conservancy (MLC), a 501c3 nonprofit organization, was awarded possession of both the Muskegon South Pierhead Light (1903) and the Muskegon South Breakwater Light (1930) through the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act. With the help of local, dedicated volunteers, the Muskegon South Pierhead Light began limited public openings in 2013, and by 2015, regularly scheduled public tours were offered. In 2017, tower tours with 50 foot panoramic Lake Michigan views resume four days a week in the height of tourist season, along with special Dan Gunderson, Volunteer Keeper openings and community events. Tours are led by trained and knowledgeable history docents, such as and MLC Shining Light Volunteer of the Year, 2016. Last year, Dan led weekly history tours and clocked over 200 hours from the top of the Muskegon South Pierhead Light, in addition to his efforts facilitating school groups and partnering towards maintenance projects with NOAA, Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers.

Dan Gunderson, Volunteer Keeper

Cindy Beth Davis-Dykema, MLC Director - See more on back page.

GENEALOGY FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 11, 2017 - 10:30am – 12:30pm or 2pm – 4pm

Space is limited, so please pre-register by calling the Local History & Genealogy Dept.

NEW PHONE # 231-722-8016 for the Local History & Gen. Dept.
HOSPITALITY HAPPENINGS

Our February meeting had speaker, Bill Hansen, presenting a history of the Hansen’s Dairy Bars. Our members were fascinated with the development of one of the largest family owned restaurant chains in Muskegon.

Our snack break had generous Barb Martin bringing healthy veggies and dip. We couldn't wait to sample her crackers and cheese. Creative Chris Nowak carried the program theme with an ice cream treat offering a variety of toppings. Nancy Spoon helped our members be their sweetest by bringing Muskegon's own Occidental Hot Fudge! The Slaters' quenched our thirsts with water.

The door prized had lucky Paula Halloran winning a $5.00 gas card and Mardi Gras necklaces. Perhaps she'll make the trip for the celebration if the gas purchase will get her beyond Grand Haven! For President’s Day month, curious Nancy Zissler won the book, "Lincoln." Being a 2x time winner with the ticket draw of “Organizing Your Genealogy” she will be very busy this month!

Get into the meeting mood this coming March by wearing the "Green" for the Irish and plaids or kilts for the Scots. Sharing will be limited to shorties due to program restraints.

GENEALOGY NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Hot Fudge Topping For Ice Cream
(Occidental Ice Cream Shop)

2 c. milk 1 tsp. salt
2 c. sugar 2 Tbsp. butter
¾ c. cocoa 2 tsp. vanilla
6 Tbsp. flour

Mix dry ingredients together. Add milk and cocoa. Cook until thick. Add butter and vanilla. Store in refrigerator in covered jar or dish. It will keep one month or longer in refrigerator. Heat a portion in microwave when serving.

From A Taste of Love from Calvin Church, Muskegon, Michigan

Submitted by Nancy Spoon

COUNTRY 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

NEW BOOKS IN THE LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY DEPT.


Genealogy of the Conant Family in England and America, Thirteen Generations, 1520-1887 (Gift from Colonial Dames)

The Humphreys Family in America, by Frederick Humphreys (Gift from Colonial Dames)

Roger Conant: A Founder of Massachusetts, by Clifford K. Shipton (Gift from Colonial Dames)

Index of Vital Statistics from The White Lake Beacon, April 13, 1983-2016, compiled by Matthew Burns

Index of Vital Statistics from The Muskegon Chronicle 1977, compiled by Matthew Burns

Hale, House and Related Families Mainly of the Connecticut River Valley, by Donald Lines Jacobus & Edgar Francis Waterman (Gift from Colonial Dames)

Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut, by Lucius Barnes Barbour (Gift from Colonial Dames)


The Genes of Abraham Parker 1612-1685 From Marlborough (England), Woburn, Chelmsford & Westford, Massachusetts Through Vermont, New York, Illinois & Missouri to California 1870-1980, compiled by Tom Lawless (Gift from Colonial Dames)
CROSS-LAKE FERRY’S ROOTS RUN PRETTY DEEP

By: Stan J. Woodard

The first cross-lake ferry service south of Ludington was started here by Edward Gifford Crosby. He had quite a life.

Crosby was born in New York State to Warren and Louisa Lincoln-Crosby, she being a cousin to the slain president. The family moved to Michigan and young Crosby joined up with Custer’s outfit and he was in battles like Antietam, Bull Run and the Wilderness. His family owned property on now South Shore Drive by the Yacht Club east to Lamos Road on and near White Lake. Crosby moved to this area in 1869 and worked as a teamster on the lakes until 1871 when he moved to Muskegon with his bride, Catherine. Crosby then became a superintendent of the fledgling Muskegon Booming Co. and they did a lot of government and private maritime work in this and other port regions on Lake Michigan.

They dredged the Muskegon Channel for the first time and they built most of the docks on Muskegon Lake during the heyday of lumbering. Crosby had two children, Harriett Rebecca and Fred. Crosby then started the Crosby Line Transportation Co. running large steamers to Milwaukee from Grand Haven and Muskegon with Grand Truck rail cars and passengers on the Nyack, Naomi, Fremont and several other vessels, which often then ran from Milwaukee down to Chicago. In 1906, Edward Crosby moved from his Ransom Street home to Milwaukee, and in 1910, daughter Harriett, then 38, went to Paris on a music scholarship to study voice and piano.

After two years there and her parents having spent the winter vacationing in Europe, the three of them boarded the Titanic at Southampton for home. Meanwhile, Fred had stayed in Milwaukee to run the business.

That night, this family, on that White Star Liner, had a night to remember with direct involvement from First Officer Murdoch, Third Officer Pitman, the ship’s owner’s son, J. Bruce Ismay and lifeboat 5. It was a long way from fighting in the Civil War, high winds and gales on Lake Michigan and the sawdust streets of Muskegon, Michigan. Capt. Crosby, age 70, was calm on the North Atlantic and lost his life by choice. There had been room in lifeboat 5, the second boat lowered on the starboard side. Catherine and Harriett survived to tell about it. Catherine, age 69, gave testimony to the U.S. Senate and Harrytt, age 40 in 1912, was back on the Atlantic on Cunard Lines’ Homeric several times in the 1920’s, bound for Southampton and Paris again.

Her brother later ran the Michigan-Wisconsin Transportation Co. whose flagship is back on Muskegon Lake again in 2004 and it’s the Milwaukee Clipper. A new chapter began last week with Lake Express. It’s a tough act to follow.

WEBSITES

From family Magazine, March-April 2017

Treelines www.treelines.com

Treelines is relatively new, but the company is already making a splash with its mission of turning family trees into stories. With easy-to-use tools, you can upload photos and type text that you attach to a timeline to tell your family’s story (current or past). The result is fun and different, operating kind of like an interactive scrapbook.

Genealogy Today www.genealogytoday.com

Branch out beyond vital and census records to more unconventional ones, such as ration, railroad employee, Masonic and criminal records. This site also hosts how-to articles and tips (click Getting Started). Some content here is free; most genealogy databases are available with a subscription.

Epodunk www.epodunk.com

You could easily sit down for a quick peek at Epodunk and not glance up again for a few hours. From the main page, look up a US town where your family lived, or visit ca.epodunk.com to search for Canadian places. On the town’s home page, view population and other stats. With just a few clicks, get a map with local cemeteries marked, see the community’s ethnic makeup, discover nearby genealogical societies and libraries, or even link to databases with vital and other records.

Map Collection

David Rumsey has a series of maps that can help you Internal migration patterns that might influenced your ancestors

http://www.davidrumsey.com/
2017 Dates to REMEMBER

MCGS Meetings
2nd Thurs at 6:30 p.m.
VFW Post 3195
5209 Grand Haven Road
March 9
April 13
May 11
June 8
August 10
September 14
October 12
November 9 - Starts at 6 p.m.
NO meetings in Jul & Dec

Genealogy Family History Workshops
Torrent House Local History & Genealogy Dept.
315 W. Webster
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please pre-register by calling
NEW PHONE # 231-722-8016

March 11
April 8
May 6
September 9
October 14
November 4
NO workshops in Jun, Jul, Aug & December

WHAT TO BRING!
⇒ Any genealogy items you would like to donate for the FREE table.
⇒ Money to buy 15 Generation Charts—$3 ea.
⇒ Ticket Money

Wear your MCGS 1972-2017 pin. Bring it each time you come to the Thursday night meetings, for a special drawing.

NEW TICKET BOOK

Finding Family
Richard Hill

Must have book.
Finding Family through your DNA
By Richard Hill

Continued from program on front page for Cindy

Cindy Beth Davis-Dykema, Executive Director for the Michigan Lighthouse Conservancy, has been working to make accessible, preserve, promote and restore Michigan’s lighthouses since 2010. Prior to serving as the MLC Director, she managed four northern lights between White River Light and Big Sable Point Lighthouse, as Executive Director for Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association. During this time and following, she was part of a volunteer group that spearheaded the grassroots movement to open the Muskegon lights to the public. She feels passionately that lighthouses are the maritime castles of Michigan, and believes in empowering the communities where they reside to become actively involved in their preservation and access. Through engagement and education, local residents invest as caretakers, thereby allowing for future generations to enjoy their history and explore their structures.

2017 Programs
All year long, we will learn about Muskegon County’s History.

Muskegon South Pierhead Light

“Inside my empty bottle I was constructing a lighthouse while all the others were making ships”
Charles Simic

FREEMAN’S BUREAU
From Family Tree Magazine, March-April 2017

They’re one of the most important record sets for African-American genealogy ever. They give us the information we need to place and slaveholders name to search before 1870 and into the slavery period.