



Twig Talk



Newsletter of the Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

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November & December 2009



TWIG TALK
A publication of:

Muskegon County Genealogical Society
C/O Hackley Public Library
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2009 Committee Chairs

- Membership..... Susan Gerst
- History Book..... Dawn Kelley
- Hospitality..... Jane Weber & Karen Towne
- Website..... Shelly Nelson & Fran Harrington
- Pioneer Cert. Program.. Eileen Wojewodzki
- Library..... Barb Martin
- County Clerk..... Margaret Sheffer
- Historian..... Jennifer Lamkin
- By Laws..... George Brewster
- Member..... Kathy DeCormier
- Member..... Jo Grieve
- Member..... Sandra Kelley
- Member..... Monica Smith



Test Your "GeneKnowlegy"

Veterans Day is a holiday observed annually in the United States in honor of all those, living and dead, who served with the U.S. armed forces in wartime.

What was Veterans Day formerly called?

"Movie Night with Your Ancestors Pop Corn Discovering Your Heritage"

Part I

"Records at Risk"

Describes heroic efforts to preserve irreplaceable records that provide a link to your past.



Apple Cider



"Ornaments Made to Order for Genealogists"

See pg 2 for more information!

ELECTION TIME 2010

November is the time that we vote for new officers.

I will be stepping down as president

Slate for Officers are:

President

Jane Appleton Schapka

Vice President

Nancy Clark Spoon

Secretary

Dawn Westcomb Kelley

Treasurer

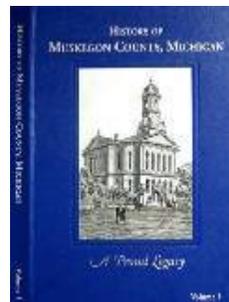
Margaret Auster Miller Brewster

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.



"Genealogy-Family History Workshop"

Hackley Public Library,
10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
on Saturday,
November 7, 2009



ORDER FORMS

are on our website

or buy at Hackley Public Library
Lower Level

DATES ARE BELOW FOR

PICK-UP or to BUY

Tues., Nov 3—Torrent House

4:30pm to 6:30pm

Sat., Nov 7—Hackley Public Library

2:00pm to 4:00pm

Tues., Nov 10—Torrent House

4:00pm to 6:00pm

Thurs., Nov 12—Masonic Temple

6:00pm to 7:00pm

Sat., Nov 14—Hackley Public Library

2:00pm to 4:00pm

Wed., Nov 18—Hackley Public Library

11:00am to 1:00pm

JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS



County Clerk's Office
Margaret Clark Sheffer

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

- November 4.....Jane Gates
- November 11.....Veterans Day
- November 18.....Barb Martin
- November 19 & 20.....Closed
- December 2.....Donna Welch
- December 9.....Jane Gates
- December 16.....Margaret Sheffer

**LOOK FOR MORE UPDATE NOTICES ON
MUSKEGON COUNTY CLERK'S VITAL RECORDS OFFICE**

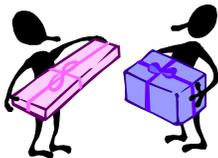
website at:
co.muskegon.mi.us/clerk



Our October meeting featured speaker, Dawn Kelley, explaining the pioneer & settlers certificate process.

Hospitality
Jane Walker Weber
Karen Towne

At break, our own Halloween goblin, Nancy Zissler, served delicious home baked cupcakes plus a variety of cookies. Another goblin, Joanne Gawron, brought trick or treat candy which was enjoyed with cider. Door prize winner was Diana Iversen. The book, "More Brickwall Solutions" was won by lucky Ruth Skinner. MCGS pencils in honor of Family History month were given by Margaret and George Brewster!

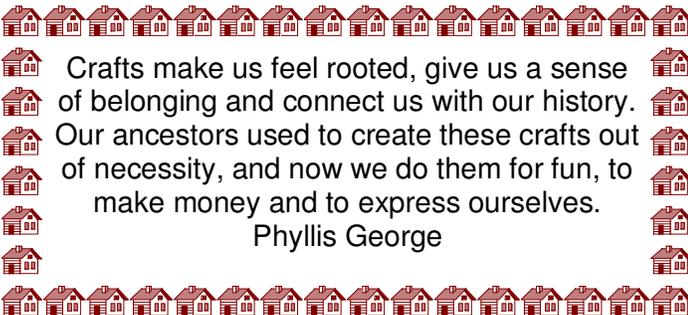


Membership
Susan Boos Gerst
tsgerst@yahoo.com
Kathy Broughton DeCormier

Welcome our newest member!
Dianna Iversen—Muskegon
Surnames—Nelson, Ritter

RENEWAL TIME IS HERE FOR 2010
Please fill out your APPLICATION form and send it in!

Members are important to us so please keep in touch. Share your news with us. Let's celebrate together! And don't forget to keep your phone, address, and email information up-to-date with us.



Crafts make us feel rooted, give us a sense of belonging and connect us with our history. Our ancestors used to create these crafts out of necessity, and now we do them for fun, to make money and to express ourselves.

Phyllis George



Library Update
Barb LaBatt Martin

HPL Mon, Tues, Wed 10 a.m. to 8 p. m.,
Thurs, Fri, Sat., 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.
NOW OPEN ON Sunday 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Remember just how important it is to visit and use your local libraries. We are fortunate enough to have Hackley Public Library and where our Local History & Genealogy Dept. is growing, with more and more material for us to research through. With up to date equipment, computers, volunteers to help you on your research. You can't research everything from INTERNET! So please visit our library or other libraries near you and afar.

A Century of Opportunity: Centennial History of Ferris State College, by Joseph E. Deupree

Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 1998, by Matt Burns

Jonathon Walker the Man with Branded Hand, by Alvin F. Oickle

Maine Families in 1790 v.10 (Colonial Dames)

The Ancestors and Descendants of Gustav Gorisch and Mary Gebel 1791-2008, by Ann M. Wirtz

The Wirtz - Marysiak Family Genealogy 1812-2008, by Ann M. Wirtz

Grand Traverse County Rural Cemeteries CD-ROM



**Our Trip to Allen County Library,
Fort Wayne, IN**

We really had a great time at the library and it seems like everyone found something very interesting to add to their files. We hope some of you will join us next time on our trip. You don't know what your missing until you have been to Allen County Library. A new researcher to go with us was Paula Halloran.

Ornaments from page 1

Using pictures of yourself, relatives or your ancestors will last a lifetime for tree ornaments, name tags, etc.
Come see how they are made!

Census FYI

For the 2010 Census—How are census data used? In the 50 questions ask there 2 that list that you might be interested in to know. 1. Providing genealogical research 2. Researching historical subject areas.

On 1 April 2012, 1940 Census will be released from the 72 year privacy mandate.

F.Y.I.

Ancestry.com GREAT Tips

World War I Draft Registration Cards

Overall, these records include males living in the U.S. who were born between 11 September 1872 and 12 September 1900, who were not already enlisted in the military. Citizenship was not a factor in the registration requirements, so you'll find recent immigrants in the collection, regardless of naturalization status.

There were three draft registrations, and the cards that were used vary a bit for each:

First Registration (05 June 1917)

The first registration was for un-enlisted men born between 6 June 1886 and 5 June 1896 and used a card calling for name, age, address, date and place of birth, citizenship status, employer's name and address, dependent information, marital status, race, military service, and physical appearance.

Second Registration

(05 June 1918 and a supplemental registration on 24 August 1918)

The second registration was for unregistered/un-enlisted men born 6 June 1896 and 24 August 1897 and used a card calling for name, age, address, date and place of birth, father's birthplace, citizenship status, occupation, employer's name and address, dependent information, name and address of nearest relative, and physical appearance.

Third Registration (12 September 1918)

The third registration was for all unregistered/un-enlisted men born between 11 September 1872 and 12 September 1900 and used a card calling for name, address, age, date of birth, race, citizenship status, occupation, employer's name and address, name and address of nearest relative, and physical appearance.

A couple of important points:

- > Registration did not necessarily mean that your ancestor was called for service.
- > Registration did not include those already in the service.

Enhancing Images

When I run across a faded record that's difficult to read, I use my photo editing software to enhance the image. There have been records that were so faded I didn't realize there was writing in some spots, but when I adjusted the darkness and contrast, I was able to read the entire record. Carrie, Bonita Springs, Florida

Great Websites - Family Tree Magazine

HeritageQuest Online

Ask your local library if they already have this valuable site, If you have a Michigan drivers license you can access the site from the Library of Michigan website MeL.org Look on left column; click genealogy.

RootsWeb <rootsweb.ancestry.com>

Still a handy free starting place.

USGenWeb <www.usgenweb.org>

This venerable (established in 1996) all-volunteer.

eHistory <ehistory.osu.edu>

With hundreds of fully searchable historical maps.



MORE.....

\$ Genline <www.genline.com>

Swedish ancestry for its more than 17 million digitized church records.

\$ FindMyPast <www.indmypast.com>

22.4 million pre-1837 baptism, marriage and burial parish records. Wide-ranging collections of UK, it also includes censuses and so much more!

World GenWeb <www.worldgenweb.org>

Start your search beyond our shores. Regional, country and ethnic sites here you span the globe.

Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System

<www.itd.nps.gov/css> Civil War military kin, the system searches 6.3 million names, Union and Confederate alike, from 44 states and territories.

THE STORY TELLERS

We are the chosen. My feelings are that in each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that some how they know and approve.

To me, doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts, but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the storytellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called as if it was in our genes. Those who have gone before cry out to us; "tell our story". So we do.

In finding them, we somehow find ourselves. How many graves have I stood before and cried? I have lost count. How many times have I told the ancestors, "you have a wonderful family, you would be proud of us"? How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me? I cannot say. It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who am I and why I do the things I do? It goes to see a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference and saying, "I can't let this happen." The bones here are my bones of my bones and flesh of my flesh. It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish. How they contributed to what we are today.

It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giving up, their resolutions to go on and build a life for their family. It goes to deep pride that they fought to make and keep us a Nation. It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us. That we might be born who we are. That we might remember them. So we do. With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence, because we are them and they are us. So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer the call and take their place in the long line of family storytellers. That is why I do my family genealogy and that is what calls those, young and old, to step up and put flesh on the bones. (Author Unknown)

Happy  Halloween

Dates to Remember—2009

Upcoming Events

MCGS Meeting—Thursday,
November 12th, 7:00 p.m.
Masonic Temple, 396 W. Clay Av.

Board Meeting—Tuesday,
November 3, 6:30 p.m.
Torrent House

“Genealogy—Family History Workshop” Saturday, November 7 at 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Hackley Public Library, 316 W. Webster. Join us for hands-on research 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
January 14
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 6:30 p.m.
Torrent House
Tuesdays
January 12
February 2
March 2
April 6
May 4
June 1
July—OFF
August 3
September 7
October 5
November 2
December 9—Holiday Gathering

What to Bring on November 12th

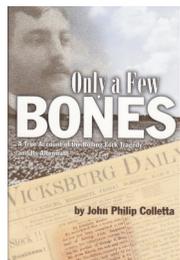


- Pencil and notepaper for all the great information we will share.
- ALWAYS remember to bring loose change, because you never know what we have on sale.

And of course bring a few friends.



BOOK DRAWING



“Only a Few BONES”

A True Account of the Rolling Fork

Tragedy and its Aftermath

By John Philip Colletta, PhD

John is one of American’s most popular genealogical lectures.



"People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors."
Edmund Burke

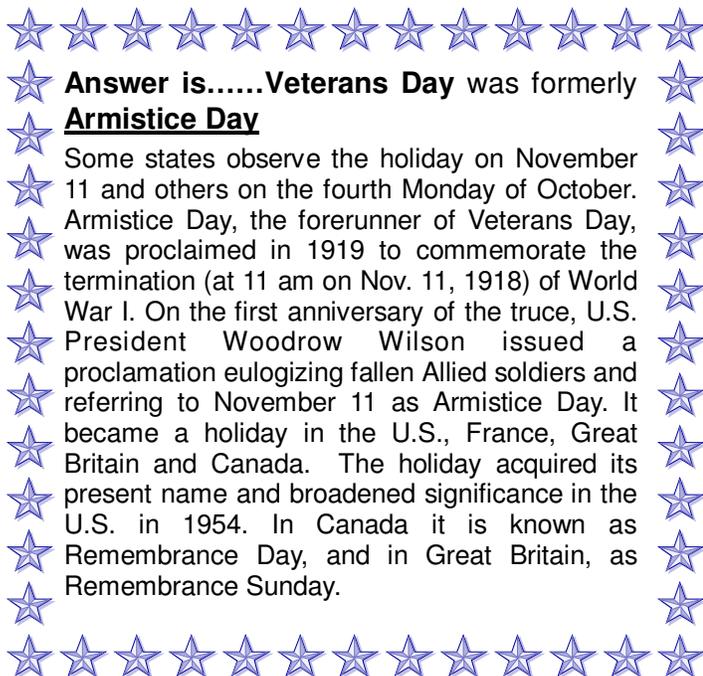
"If you could see your ancestors
All standing in a row,
Would you be proud of them,
Or don't you really know?"

Some strange discoveries are made
I'm climbing family trees,
And some of them, you know,
do not particularly please.

If you could see your ancestors
All standing in a row,
There might be some of them,
perhaps you wouldn't want to know.

But here's another question, which
Requires a different view...
If you could meet your ancestors,
Would they be proud of you?

Author Unknown,



Answer is.....Veterans Day was formerly **Armistice Day**

Some states observe the holiday on November 11 and others on the fourth Monday of October. Armistice Day, the forerunner of Veterans Day, was proclaimed in 1919 to commemorate the termination (at 11 am on Nov. 11, 1918) of World War I. On the first anniversary of the truce, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation eulogizing fallen Allied soldiers and referring to November 11 as Armistice Day. It became a holiday in the U.S., France, Great Britain and Canada. The holiday acquired its present name and broadened significance in the U.S. in 1954. In Canada it is known as Remembrance Day, and in Great Britain, as Remembrance Sunday.