



TWIG TALK

Nov. & Dec. 2012 Volume 12 Issue 11 & 12



Since 1972

TWIG TALK IS A PUBLICATION OF
THE MUSKEGON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Hackley Public Library
316 W. Webster
Local History Genealogy Dept. at the
Torrent House
Muskegon, MI 49440-1209
Website: www.genealogymuskegon.org

Email: mcgs1972@yahoo.com
New! Facebook

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NOVEMBER IS OUR HOLIDAY GATHERING POT LUCK DINNER

Join us on Thursday, **November 8th** at the Masonic Temple at **6:00 p.m.** for our Holiday Gathering, Pot Luck Dinner and Annual Meeting. We have some fun things planned and lots of good food is anticipated. Jane Weber has something special cooking up her shelves that you don't want miss, sharing holiday ancestral stories and much more. If you have any holiday photos, stories or traditions please bring them and share them with us. Maybe we can share them with our families. We passed around a sign-up sheet for dishes to pass at the October meeting. The society will be providing

meats, punch, and water; along with the table service. If you have special dietary needs please bring something you can eat or drink. If you have a special dish in mind, please don't hesitate to call Jane Weber at 231-744-8641. President Jane Schapka will give year end report. We will have elections for our new offices for 2013. The slated nominations to date are: President, Dawn Kelley - Vice President, Connie Fales - Secretary, Nancy Spoon and Treasurer, Ruth Skinner. If you would like to run for any office, please let us know.

Breaking news! GENLIAS WILL CLOSE SOON

Thank you to Dave Bush for this important information

For many years Genlias, the Dutch BMD database, was *the* place to go to start your Dutch research. I have often talked about or recommended Genlias, **here on Trace your Dutch roots** (a search for Genlias on this website gives over 300 results). However, the technology behind Genlias is outdated and not maintained anymore. On 2 July a new website opened its doors: wiewaswie.nl. This website is the successor of Genlias. Now that Genlias has a successor, it makes sense that it will retire, eventually. The Dutch archives, who pay for both (expensive) websites, decided that wiewaswie.nl will be good enough to replace Genlias by the end of this month, and Genlias will close its doors on 1 November. On the English version of their website there is only a terse note about it in the marquee website opened its doors: wiewaswie.nl. This website is the successor of Genlias. Now that Genlias has a successor, it makes sense that it will retire, eventually. The Dutch archives, who pay for both (expensive) websites, decided that wiewaswie.nl will be good enough to replace Genlias by the end of this month, and Genlias will close its doors on 1 November. On the English version of their website there is only a terse note about it in the marquee: "On July 2 this year, a beta version of the website WieWasWie went live. Genlias will be available as usual until November 1, 2012." As I write this, wiewaswie.nl is still in beta, and it does not have an English interface yet. I do not know when that will change. It does have some extras that Genlias does not have, like the ability to view and download scans (at the moment only for a small part of the records). **This will be a paid feature, but is free until the end of the year.** Last week I wrote about the upcoming closure of Genlias. Genlias was going to shut down on 1 November. Before that time all Genlias data should have been transferred to WieWasWie. Apparently the data transfer is behind schedule and the Dutch archives have decided to keep Genlias running for another two months, until 1 January. Read the full story, in Dutch, on the WieWasWie blog or on the Genlias website

Late Breaking News!!!

Mark Harvey, State Archivist has announced that the Archives of Michigan will offer researchers Saturday hours as of Saturday, January 5, 2013. The Archives of Michigan will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Saturday, excluding state holidays. Materials in the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection and original primary source documents and manuscripts in the Archives collection will be available to re-searchers six days a week. There is no charge for parking on Saturdays. For additional information visit seekingmichigan.org/about/visit-us/archives



RECIPES FROM THE PAST

DINNER ROLLS

This recipe came from Carl Barber's grandmother, Elizabeth Barber, who came from Paris, France. Donated from Helen (Snook) (Barber) Stoerman.

2 pkgs. Yeast 2 cups water
Dissolve yeast in ½ cup of the warm water.
2 eggs ½ cup sugar

1 ½ teaspoons salt

Beat eggs, add sugar and salt. Beat until creamy. Add yeast mixture and the rest of the water.

7 cups flour (sifted) 5 tablespoons melted shortening
Knead well. Cover with damp cloth. Let rise till double.
Roll out 1 inch thick. Cut with cutter. Bake 425 degrees,
10 – 12 minutes.



BUTTERLESS EGGLESS CAKE

1 cup sugar ½ cup molasses
¾ cup milk ¼ cup coffee
1 ½ cup White flour 4 tsp Baking Powder
½ tsp salt 1 tsp cinnamon
¼ tsp each: allspice, cloves, mace and nutmeg
1 lb of raisins cut into smaller pieces (I did not do this)
Combine, mix and bake at 350 degrees for 40-50
minutes. Depending on size of pan. (I used 2 8X8 pans
greased and baked 35 minutes.)

SOFT MOLASSES COOKIES

Submitted by Bonnie Vokits, granddaughter, from the collection of Evalyn Brewster Kirby (1901-1980) recipes. Makes about 8 dozen medium size cookies.

1 cup shortening 2 tsp Cinnamon
1 ½ cups Molasses 1 ½ tsp Ginger
¼ cup Sugar ¼ tsp Cloves
4 cups Sifted Flour 1 Egg
1 tsp Salt

Melt shortening in large enough pan to mix cookies. Stir in molasses and sugar. Cool. Sift dry ingredients. Add spices. Add small amount to molasses mixture. Beat in egg then add remaining dry ingredients. Beat until smooth. Chill dough 2 hours. Shape into balls. Place on ungreased cookie sheet 2 inches apart. Bake 350 for 8-15 minutes.

A special thank you goes to some very hard working ladies who have shared with us very organized, detailed records and photos of the gravesites at Hubbard and Shady Rest Cemeteries. Shelly is busily working on putting all the information and photos on our website and it will be available soon. Check our site for all the details. The information is currently online at www.findagrave.com

Thank you to Peggy Smith, Barb Johnson, & Linda Brandt.

NEW BOOKS AT HPL

Thank you to the Colonial Dames, who made gifts of all the books listed here!

History of New London County, Conn. With Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men

Ye Antient Buriall Place of New London, Conn. compiled by Edward Prentis

The Settlement and Early History of Albany, by William Barnes

The Records of the Town of Cambridge Mass. 1630-1703

Centennial History of the Town of Nunda 1808-1908

The Presbyterian Historical Almanac and Annual Remembrance of the Church (vol. v. 7) Part I, by Joseph M. Wilson

The Presbyterian Historical Almanac and Annual Remembrance of the Church V. 7 Part II by Joseph M. Wilson

Middletown Upper Houses Part A, by Charles Collard Adams

Middletown Upper Houses Part B, by Charles Collard Adams

Historic Gleanings in Windham County, Conn. by Ellen D. Larned

Supplement to the Record of Conn. Men...During the War of the Revolution, 1775-1783 V. I

Supplement to the Record of Conn. Men...During the War of the Revolution, 1775-1783 V. II

Wethersfield Inscriptions A Complete Record of the Inscriptions in the Five Burial Places in the Ancient Town of Wethersfield, compiled by Edward Sweetser Tillotson

Patents and Deeds and Other Early Records of New Jersey 1664-1703

Genealogical Gleanings Abstracted from the Early Newspapers of Penn Yan, Yates County, New York 1823-1833 and 1841-1855, compiled by Dianne Stenzel

Cemetery Inscription of the Town of Barnstable Mass. and its Villages 1600-1900,with corrections/additions, by Paul J. Bunnell

Diary of Joshua Hempstead of New London, Conn.1711-1758 (Collections of the New London County Historical Society V. 1

GENEALOGY TIPS AND NEWS

From Acestry.com Quick Tips

Sharing is an important part of genealogy research, but finding and copying materials whenever a new cousin appears in my e-mail box can take time that I'd rather spend in other ways. I keep a couple of binders filled with multi-page capacity, top loading sheet protectors. Quick loading protectors work even better. Each is filled with pages related to family groups that I can quickly pull out and photocopy.

I keep copies of vital records certificates, obituaries, news articles, letters, and other scraps that I believe will be of interest to a fellow researcher. Whenever I acquire new material that fits this category, I make an extra copy and put it into the appropriate protector and binder. Then, I can quickly pull out the pages I want to copy, run them off, and insert them back into the sheet protector where information is kept in no particular order, but frequently used material migrates to the top.

Not only does this practice save time and preserve my filing system (filing once is challenging; re-filing is highly improbable in my case), but it ensures that original or delicate materials are exposed to the damaging light of a photocopier only once. I also find that I can reduce and rearrange certain materials, such as newspaper clippings, and put them all on one page--and do it only once--with this method.

For material that exists only on my computer, I can quickly copy the needed files into a folder named "print and delete," and then instruct my computer to print the contents of the folder. However, if I find myself doing this more than twice with a particular file, I print and file it in the sheet protector binder(s) since replacement of my copier toner cartridge is less expensive than cartridges for the printer unit.

Look-Alikes

In addition to the phonetic difficulties, we can also run into problems with names or letters that look alike. In one instance this error also brought a new ethnic flavor to the name where one indexer listed John Mekalski in the 1920 Census as John McKalsky.

Vowels, particularly a and o, are often mistaken for one another and many consonants can be easily mistaken for each other, particularly when penmanship clearly wasn't the record creator's strong suit!

The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy, lists the following letters that are often confused:

- L and S
- T and F
- J, G, and Y
- I and J
- K and R
- O and Q
- P and R
- U and W



Database Search Problems

When consonants are confused, it will often change the Soundex code for that name, making even Soundex searches, like those available for many of the databases at Ancestry.com, pull up that dreaded "0 hits." One way to possibly overcome these problems is with wildcard searches. It's important to know though that the capabilities are limited. Most wildcard searches will only pull up a predetermined number of variants in order to preserve the stability of the servers and at Ancestry.com you are required to put in at least the first three letters before using a wildcard. Even with these limitations though, wildcard searches can be very powerful tools. Wildcards that can be used at Ancestry.com to replace unknown or possibly mistaken letters are:

- ? --- for one letter
- * --- for 0-6 letters
- ** --- for 0-7 or more letters

Another consideration is when you are searching for names like O'Donner, McKalsky, Van Winkle, etc. You may want to try omitting apostrophes, or inserting/removing a space between name prefixes and the base of the name. A suggestion that was given to me a few weeks ago when I wrote about my plight with William Dennis was to reverse the names. (If your ancestor was James Bond, I would definitely try this one. He's always giving his name backwards.)

While there are doubtless other scenarios, hopefully this has given you some new search ideas for your elusive ancestors. No matter how well they can hide under those chameleon-like names, with a little creative thinking and understanding of the problems inherent with names, we can locate them--preferably while keeping that nice rosy glow in our cheeks!

"HOLIDAY GATHERING"

NOV 8

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Masonic Temple
396 W. Clay

NO MEETINGS in Dec.

Board Meetings

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

Regular Meetings

Starts at 7:00 p.m.

Masonic Temple
396 W. Clay

Genealogy Family History Workshops

2nd Saturday
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Torrent House

315 W. Webster
corner of Webster & Third St.
Nov. 10

Also just a reminder if you have not yet registered for the Fall 2012 MGC seminar, early registration ends on October 27. For more information and to register online, please visit our website at mimgc.org/MGCseminar.

COMING IN 2013

January—Family Pictures Come to Life Part 2—Kathy DeCormier

February—History Detectives DVD at the Movies

March—Women to Remember—Dr. Wallace Ewing

April—Overview of the Archives and Seeking Michigan—Kris Rzepczynski

May—Lakeshore Museum Center Archives—Beryl Gabel

More to come.....

Websites to check: www.archives.com is a relatively new service that offers family history and genealogy enthusiasts access to some of the most developed and advanced tools available in the online genealogy market. The focus of articles in the New York Times, Forbes.com, FamilyTree.com and the Wall Street Journal. The www.originsnetwork.com is a premier collection of genealogical sites focusing on providing source material for users from the UK and Ireland. The Origins Network is in a unique position, with links with a number of genealogical organizations, such as the Society of Genealogists, the National Library of Ireland, and the Borthwick Institute for Archives allowing exclusive online access to important primary sources, abstracts and index databases.

BRING THESE ITEMS IN NOVEMBER



- **MCGS store will be closed at the November Holiday Gathering.**
- **Money for the MCGS store.**
- **Any genealogy items you would like to donate for the sales table, or our upcoming fundraiser.**
- **Photos, stories, or other memorabilia from holidays past.**
- **Your ideas, advice and questions. Someone may be able to help!!**
- **Need a last minute tax deduction? If you would like to make a monetary donation, make check payable to MCGS or use PayPal or Debit/Credit card on our website.**

COUNTY CLERK RESEARCH

Wednesdays from
1:00—4:00 p.m.
At the Muskegon County
Central Services Bldg.

2nd Floor, 141 E. Apple Ave.

Note: They will be closed on November 7 and possibly the 14th for election canvassing. Please call first.



HOSPITALITY



Our October meeting had speaker, Dr. Wallace Ewing, presenting a program, "From Home to Trench." It featured Civil War letters that provided a personal insight of the war experience. Jane Schapka was our door prize winner. The Twig Talk detectives were John & Phyllis Slater. They shared their great grandfather's military photo along with his story. There will be no sleuthing in November. Joan Gawron treated us to pumpkin sugar cookies plus chocolate chip ones as well. Thanks, Joan!

MUSKEGON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ PHONE (_____) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MEMBERSHIP: 2013

** A membership is from January 1 through December 31 each year **

- Single \$20.00
- Family (one other person in same household) \$25.00
- New membership
- Renewal **Renewal membership cards are available on request with SASE*
- Send newsletter by e-mail
- Send newsletter by mail

SURNAMES:

- Publish on the web site using my name and the societies e-mail address
- Publish on the web site using my name and my e-mail address
- Do not publish on the web site

If you and your spouse are both researching, please list the surnames for each of you below.

Please made check, money orders or PayPal payable to MCGS

Mail to:

Muskegon County Genealogical Society (MCGS)

Attn: MEMBERSHIP

C/O Hackley Public Library

Torrent House

315 W. Webster Ave.

Muskegon, MI 49440-1209

Website: www.genealogymuskegon.org

E-mail: 1972mcgs@gmail.com

MCGS USE ONLY

Rec'd: _____

Check # _____

Cash: _____

Amt: _____