



# Twig Talk



Newsletter of the Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

Vol. 9, No. 10

October 2009



## TWIG TALK

A publication of:

### Muskegon County Genealogical Society

C/O Hackley Public Library  
316 W. Webster Avenue  
Muskegon, MI 49440-1209

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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"

Your ancestor was born in 1885 and you are trying to determine the names of his parents. Which census would be the best one with which to start?

## CONGRADULATIONS

### George P. Brewster

1895 Settler—Hilaire  
Avilla Vallee  
1920 Settler—Charles  
Warren Brewster  
**Tammi DeRochey**  
1927 Settler—Corrine  
Florence Langston

future descendants!

## COME JOIN US!

### "Learning the Pioneer Certificate Process"

Do you have an early Muskegon County person(s)? They may qualify as a **pioneer**—up to and (also includes 1889) or **settler**—1890 to 1929. Our program will explain the requirements for making your Muskegon County ancestors eligible. Learn how to fill out the forms with correct information. Make your ancestor's life here significant for your

Date & Time on pg 4

### Muskegon County History

book is finally finished and just in time for the holiday's.

Very High Quality Archival Paper  
(from Sappi Paper Company)

Book Size—9" X 12"

Over 500 Pictures

Pages—336 w / index

### "PLACE YOUR ORDER TODAY"

#### ORDER FORMS

are on our website

and Hackley Public Library

Lower Level

#### PICK-UP

#### ORDERS OR TO BUY

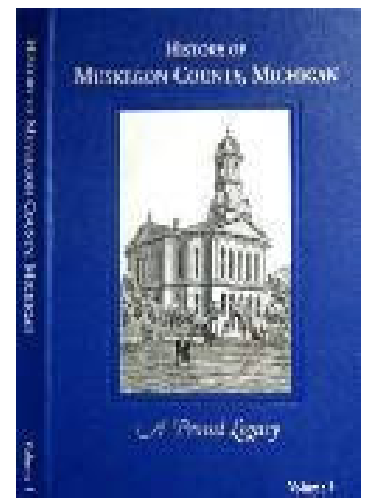
October 6      Torrent House  
4:30 to 6:30 P.M.

October 7      Torrent House  
3:00 to 6:00 P.M.

October 8      Masonic Temple  
6:00 to 7:00 P.M.

October 10     Torrent House  
2:00 to 4:00 P.M.

October 17     Torrent House  
12:00 to 3:00 P.M.



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



### "Genealogy-Family History Workshop"

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



**County Clerk's Office**  
Margaret Clark Sheffer

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

October 7.....Jane Gates  
October 14.....Margaret Sheffer  
October 21.....Barb Martin  
October 28 .....Donna Welch

**UPDATE NOTICE FOR  
MUSKEGON COUNTY CLERK'S VITAL RECORDS OFFICE**

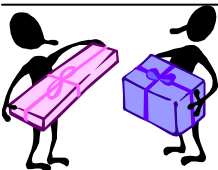
Go to Muskegon County Clerks office  
website for their updates at:  
[co.muskegon.mi.us/clerk](http://co.muskegon.mi.us/clerk)



The September meeting provided information on integrating the data from the censuses, city directories, and phone books. Door prizes were won by Jane Schapka and Nancy Zissler. Fresh fruit and ice cream were enjoyed at break time. Be sure to bring or email family recipes plus genealogy poetry and tags. Our future projects of an ancestral recipe book and MCGS Handbook will depend on your input!!

**Hospitality**

Jane Walker Weber  
Karen Towne



**Membership**

Susan Boos Gerst  
[tsqerst@yahoo.com](mailto:tsqerst@yahoo.com)  
Kathy Broughton DeCormier

*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.*

**BYLAWS**—I would like to take this time to thank all the committee members for a job well done and thank all members for sending in their ideas. The committee has decided to make no changes in the By-laws. We are doing our best to keep the By-laws as short as possible and easy for all to read.  
Thank you all, *George P Brewster Sr.*

I saw behind me those who had gone, and  
before me those who are to come. I looked  
back and saw my father, and his father, and  
all our fathers, and in front to see my son,  
and his son, and the sons upon sons beyond.

And their eyes were my eyes.

Richard Llewellyn



HPL Mon, Tues, Wed 10  
a.m. to 8 p.m, Thurs, Fri,  
Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sun. 1 to 4:30 p.m.

**Library Update**  
Barb LaBatt Martin

- **White Lake Public Transportation "Pilot Study,"** by 2000 Plus Transportation Committee
- **Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 1999,** by Matt Burns; given by Matt Burns
- **Clock Funeral Home: Index to Records of Muskegon Co., MI v. 1-26, Aug. 6 1894 - May 5, 1948;** given by Muskegon County Genealogical Society
- **Bertha Cummings McKenzie: Harmonicas & Parallelepipeds,** by Prentiss Ann McKenzie / Stiebler / Wendt; given by Pam Stiebler
- **Don't Die on Third, by Rosemary Stevenson;** given by Capt. Thomas Taber Chapter, DAR
- **Muskegon Telephone Exchange Directory, July 1892**
- **Muskegon County's Sesquicentennial: Celebrating Muskegon County's 150th Anniversary**
- **Central Pennsylvania Marriages 1700-1896,** compiled by Charles A. Fisher
- **Families of Coryell County, Texas,** compiled by Coryell Museum and Historical Center
- **The Heritage of Mahaska County, Iowa 2000**
- **Holy People, Holy IrReverence: A Church in Need of Reform and Renewal,** by Rev. David L. Harpe
- **A 150 Year History of North Bend, Nebraska 1856-2006**
- 1850 Census of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina (Gift of Mary Southwick)
- **Anderson County: A Pictorial History, by Hurley E. Badgers Atascosa County History,** compiled by the Atascosa History Committee
- **Grundy County Missouri and Its People v.1 & 2**
- **The Heritage of Montgomery County, NC v.3**
- **A Pictorial History of Rabun County,** by Cuba and Archie McKay
- **Reflections on a Community: Mendham Bourough--The Centennial 1906-2006**
- **Sequim: Pioneer Family Histories from 1850-1962**
- **Surname Index: Submitted by the Members of Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society 2000, edited by Diane Richter** (Gift of Mary Southwick)

**SEMINARS**

**"Got Ancestors?!"** - Schedule  
Presented by

Western Michigan Genealogical Society  
**WMGS 55th Anniversary**

Register and pay online at <http://GotAncestors.com/>  
Questions? - send eMail to [Seminar@GotAncestors.com](mailto:Seminar@GotAncestors.com)

**"Shortcuts to Somewhere"**

Presented by Stephen P. Morse  
Sponsored by:

Western Wayne County Genealogical Society

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miwwcgs](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miwwcgs)

at the Livonia Civic Center Library

## Finding Sotirios (Sam) Danigelis, Father of Christine Danigelis Encelewski

Christine: I (Karen Towne) have wanted to get my parents immigration papers for a long time. They immigrated from Greece at different times. They were not acquainted in Greece, but met in the United States through a match-maker and married. My friend Karen Towne offered to help me with her knowledge of computers and genealogy. Karen: I tried a number of times searching for Christine's father at the library using Ancestry's, Immigration, New York Passenger Lists 1820-1957. Once Christine came with me and she entered different combinations of information. Entering his name, Sotirios Danigelis, S\*, or any form of the last name did not pull up his immigration record. Entering the year he immigrated, his birthday or the country he came from did not work either. In late August, I stopped and tried again. When I entered D'anigelis, four names came up. One was Sotirios and the cousin he came with! I can see these two young boys with their thick Greek accent and the American entered their names phonically, Dangelis. The record told us their ages (15), the date they arrived in 1908, their estimated date of birth, gender, port of arrival and the name of their ship, Moraitis. We are looking for a picture of the ship.

Another record found was the June 5, 1917 War Registration Card under the name of Sam Danigelis. This gave his address in Chicago (the street is difficult to read), his date of birth, his occupation as working in a shoe shine parlor, where he was born, and his description as short, stout, brown eyes and dark hair.

The first record I found for Mr. Danigelis was the 1930 Census, Muskegon County, Norton Township, Muskegon Heights, Michigan. Sam is listed with his wife Anna, son George, daughters Afrodite and Christine. His occupation listed is a grocer. Since he had a store, he should be listed in the Muskegon city directories.

Needless to say, Christine is thrilled to have these records and has made copies for her family. Early in the year, she had written Ellis Island about her parents. They were not able to send her anything with the names and dates she gave them. Now she will write again with the name her father was recorded under, asking for a certificate that states that he arrived on Ellis Island in the year 1908.

I refused to give up and kept trying. I had to find him. We do not know what information the immigrant gave the authorities or how the authorities entered the name they heard. The librarians on duty are always helpful about answering questions and Dawn Kelly gave valuable assistance. Now we will continue to look for Christine's mother. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

"For what is the worth of human life,  
unless it is woven into the life of me  
ancestors by the records of history?"

Marcus Tullius Cicero

## Genealogy Tips from Ancestry.com

F.Y.I.

### Geographic Names Information System – 15 June 2009

The Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) tool from the U.S. Geological Survey can be a huge help in finding places that pertain to your family history. I use it to find what county a town is in (by entering the town in the feature name and the state), or what cemeteries and churches are in the area (by leaving feature name blank and entering the county and state, and selecting the feature class). Once you get results, you can click on the feature name and you get options for mapping the location. Sophie, Cleveland, Ohio

### Everyday Formal Handwriting – 22 June 2009

Many people of my Grandmother's era (born in 1875) were taught a very beautiful penmanship. However they also had an everyday handwriting. Most of her envelopes had the more formal handwriting. Her letters sent in those envelopes may not have had very fancy writing. Maybe this will help someone identify who wrote what. Carrie Walker, Indianapolis, Indiana

### Writing In Old Books – 29 June 2009

If your family has old books that have been passed down through the generations, check for writing inside the books. Often you'll find addresses of the original owners, gift dedications, or even doodles that can add a little fun to your family history. Also check between the pages for old letters and cards that may have gone unnoticed. Jon D.

### Sharing Your Family History – 13 July 2009

I've made copies of all of my family history research, as well as photographs, and shared it all with my family. Not only has it gotten several other members interested in family history, I can rest easy at night knowing that there are back-ups of all my work spread throughout the family should disaster ever strike. Michelle, Lansing, Michigan

## Great Websites – posted in Family Tree Magazine

### Maine State Archives

[www.maine.gov/portal/facts\\_history/geneogy.html](http://www.maine.gov/portal/facts_history/geneogy.html)

### Massachusetts Archives

[www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcidx.htm](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcidx.htm)

### Minnesota Historical Society

[www.mnhs.org/genealogy](http://www.mnhs.org/genealogy)

### Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics \$

[www.novascotiagenalogy.com](http://www.novascotiagenalogy.com)

### South Dakota Department of Health

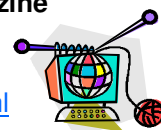
[www.apps.sd.gov/applications/PH14Over100BirthRec/index.asp](http://www.apps.sd.gov/applications/PH14Over100BirthRec/index.asp)

### Utah Death Certificate Index

[www.archives.utah.gov/research/indexes/20842.htm](http://www.archives.utah.gov/research/indexes/20842.htm)

### Western States Historical Marriage Records Index

[www.abish.byui.edu/specialcollections/westernstates/search.cfm](http://www.abish.byui.edu/specialcollections/westernstates/search.cfm)





# Dates to Remember—2009

## Upcoming Events

**MCGS Meeting**-Thursday,  
Oct 8, 7:00 p.m.  
Masonic Temple, 396 W. Clay

**Board Meeting**-Tuesday,  
Oct 6, 6:30 p.m. Torrent House

**“Genealogy—Family History Workshop”** Saturday, Oct 10,  
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Hackley  
Public Library, 316 W. Webster.  
Join us for hands-on research  
help from society members. Bring  
your current research info with  
you!

## A Look Ahead...

**Genealogy—Family History Workshops**  
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at HPL  
Saturday, November 7  
Off December

## MCGS Meetings & Programs

Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.  
(doors open at 6:30 p.m.)  
Masonic Temple, 396 W. Clay  
Thursday, October 8  
Thursday, November 12  
Thursday, December 10

## MCGS Board Meetings

Meetings start at 6:00 p.m.  
Torrent House, 315 W Webster  
Tuesday, October 6  
Tuesday, November 3  
Off December

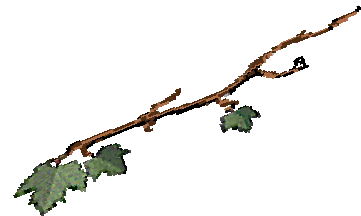
## What to Bring on October 8th



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

And of course bring a few friends.

THANK YOU.....  
Jane Schapka for your  
generous donation  
of a 2 flat-bed scanners.



**DRAWING**  
for  
“MORE BRICKWALL  
SOLUTIONS”  
By Family Chronicle



My family tree is a few branches  
short! All help appreciated.

## Who am I?

I started out calmly, tracing my tree,  
To see if I could find the makings of me.  
And all that I had was Great Grandfather's name,  
Not knowing his wife or from whence he came.  
I chased him across a long line of states,  
And came up with pages and pages of dates.  
When all put together, it made me forlorn,  
Poor old Great-Grandpa had never been born.  
One day I was sure the truth I had found,  
Determined to turn this whole thing upside down.  
I looked up the record of one Uncle John,  
But then found the old man to be younger than his son.  
Then when my hopes were fast growing dim,  
I came across records that must have been him.  
The facts I collected made me quite sad,  
Dear Old Great-Grandfather was never a Dad.  
It seems that someone is pulling my leg,  
I'm not at all sure I wasn't hatched from an egg.  
After hundreds of dollars I've spent on my tree,  
I can't help but wonder if I'm really me.  
(Author Unknown)

**Answer is 1900**—Your ancestor had not yet  
been born at the time of the 1880 Federal  
census, and, by the 1910 census, he more  
than likely no longer lived with his parents.  
With a few minor exceptions (6160 names  
out of a population of 62,979,766), most of  
the 1890 census was burned.

Census records are among the first records  
researched by most genealogists because  
they are widely available, they place your  
ancestor in a specific place at a specific  
time, and they offer a wide variety of  
information which can often lead you to other  
records. Learning what information is  
available for each census is an important  
first step for the amateur genealogist.