



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 49440-1209

www.genealogymuskegon.org

1972mcgs@gmail.com

Find us on



Officers

- President:** Dawn Westcomb Kelley
- Past President:** Jane Appleton Schapka
- Vice President:** Connie Fales
- Secretary:** Nancy Clark Spoon
- Treasurer:** Ruth Dillabaugh Skinner

Committees

- County Clerk..... Jane Gates
Dawn Kelley
Barb Martin
- Facebook..... Norman Dagen
- Family Tree Talk..... Kay Bosch
- Historian..... Board Members
- History Book Project..... Kathy DeCormier
- Hospitality..... Jane Weber
Paula Halloran
Connie Fales
- Library..... Barb Martin
- Membership..... Kathy DeCormier
Paula Halloran
Marsha Wiersema
- Newsletter..... Kay Bosch
Dawn Kelley
- Pioneer Cert. Program.. MCGS Board
- Programs & Publicity.... Connie Fales
- Special Projects..... Dawn Kelley
- Website..... Shelly Nelson

Highlights of Muskegon County Cemeteries

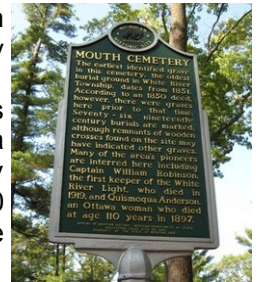
Presented by Dani LaFleur

Thursday, October 10th at 7:00 p.m.
at the VFW Post 3195 on the corner of
Grand Haven Road & Porter Road

There are some very interesting people who lived and died in Muskegon County over the years. So many stories to be told!

Since 2005, Dani LaFleur and Jackie Huss, curators at the Lakeshore Museum Center, have offered a walking tour of various Muskegon County Cemeteries. Each tour features approximately 20 individual's gravesites, their family history, and the meanings behind the symbols on their tombstones.

Historic Sites Curator Dani LaFleur will share with us a video presentation of highlights from past tours. She will also share with us the history and symbolism of some of the more interesting individuals from the cemeteries they have visited over the years. Every life lived has a story to be told. Come and learn about some of the more interesting ones.

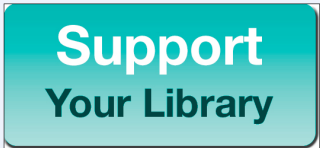


FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOPS ARE BACK!

You don't need to be a beginner to get help with your genealogy. Do you have a brickwall you need help with? Do you need a tour of the Local History & Genealogy Department at the library? Are you looking for a few friendly faces to sit and research with? Then we are here for you!

We need to use our genealogy department at the HPLibrary-Torrent House! We will be available to help on Saturday, October 12. The morning session will be 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The afternoon session will be 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Please pre-register online at 1972mcgs@gmail.com or call the Torrent House, Local History & Genealogy Dept. at 231-722-7276 ext. 240.



Historical Trivia MCGS

In what year was the Cuban Missile Crisis, the closest we ever came to nuclear war?
Find the answer somewhere in this newsletter.



MEMBERSHIP DUES CHANGES COMING FOR 2014

Dues for 2014 will be \$25, but if you pay by December 31st of 2013 take \$2 off your membership it will be \$23. Coming Soon! we will be adding some very interesting Members Only perks to our webpage, including reinstating Family Tree Talk periodical, discounts on web sites, free queries, and more.

COUNTY CLERK RESEARCH



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. Need help on your research, come on down and see us.

MEMBERSHIP

Kathy Jolman, Muskegon, MI
SURNAMES: Walicki, Maxin



HPL BOOKS



Bluffton: My Summers With Buster,

by Matt Phelan

The Lake Line: The Grand Rapids, Grand

Haven & Muskegon Railway, by Carl Bajema, Dave Kindem & Jim Budzynski

Missing Pieces: How to Find Birth Parents and Adopted Children A Search and Reunion Guidebook,

by Paul Drake & Beth Sherrill

Directory of Photographers in the United States 1888 & 1889 and Canada 1889, compiled by Diane VanSkiver Gagel

Lands of the German Empire and Before, by Wendy K. Uncapher

A Railroad Atlas of the United States in 1946 Volume 3: Indiana, Lower Michigan, and Ohio,

by Richard C. Carpenter.

COOKBOOK ORDERS



Our cookbook will be on sale at our November annual meeting/Holiday potluck. This is a fundraiser for our society. Order forms will be at our meeting in Oct. Price has not set.

HOSPITALITY HAPPENINGS

At the September meeting, Dr. Wallace (Wally) and Jane Ewing presented an unusual program of rubbing brass effigies of landed gentry, and lesser titles. Members learned how "olde" English records can be preserved as with Dawn Kelley's Durham rubbings done on rice paper. Paula Halloran's Quakers, Paula Rice's South Carolina kin, Paula & John Slaters' Canadians, Joan Gawron's variety burials, Whitey Zissler's German & Saginaw, MI folks plus Nancy Spoon's husband's English-Newton, MA line resulted in interesting burial tales.

Ancestors are being acknowledged for future family generations! The door prize was won by Joan Gawron and book draw by Nancy Bassett. Nancy Waters and Joan Gawron are thanked for their generosity! At break, Paula Rice brought a chocolate lover's delight-- home-baked Cherry Chocolate Cake along with cheese n' crackers and veggies. Wow! The Slaters' furnished refreshing water on this muggy night. Will you honor ONE of your immigrants?



HISTORY BOOK TIME

Now is your chance to purchase the Muskegon County History Volume 1 for your friends and family members. Please complete the order form and send it in or bring it to the meeting for your copy just in time for Christmas. What an easy way to get all your shopping done, help out the society, and give your friends and family something to last for generations. Remember you will get a Discount for being an MCGS member!

ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN NEWS

There will be two exciting new additions to the Seeking Michigan web site.

FIRST, an index to Michigan death records from 1921-1952, with actual images from 1921-1937.

with the 75-year restriction on access to Michigan death records. Every January the Archives will add another year. The agreement with Michigan Department of Community Health made this possible. Will be available online soon!

SECOND, These documents will be also on Seeking Michigan. The Archives has reached an agreement with FamilySearch to digitize and index all of our naturalization records of Michigan. The index at FamilySearch will point to Seeking Michigan. This project will take a little bit longer, because they have to scan and index them yet.

Also the Archives has been working with several MGC member societies to add their local society publications to the Archives holdings.

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ARCHIVE ROAD TRIP

We will be going on Saturday to Michigan State Archives in Lansing. Archives is open on Saturdays from 10am to 4pm. Anyone interested in going please email us or let us know at the meeting. So gather up your notes and let's go! We have a list started.

The following change to amend the bylaws has been proposed and will be voted on in October.

MUSKEGON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BYLAWS CHANGE PROPOSED (bolded-in red)

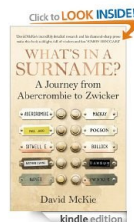
ARTICLE II — PURPOSE

The purposes of the Society shall be:

1. to gather people interested in genealogy and family history, with particular interest in Muskegon County, Michigan;
Change—to gather people interested in genealogy and family history, with **emphasis on** Muskegon County, Michigan;
2. to promote genealogy research and public access to genealogical materials;
Change—to promote **genealogical** research and public access to genealogical materials;
3. to teach members research methods, documentation standards, sources and other skills;
Change—to teach members research methods, documentation standards, (take out—**sources** and other skills;
4. to collect, compile, publish, and disseminate Muskegon County genealogical data;
Change—to collect, compile, publish, and (take out—**disseminate**) Muskegon County genealogical data;
5. to contribute genealogy materials and other aid to Hackley Public Library;
Change—to contribute genealogy materials and other aid to Hackley Public Library-**Local History & Genealogy Department**.

GREAT NEW BOOK!

What's in a Surname - A Journey from Abercrombie to Zwicker by David McKie



Surnames are much more than convenient identity tags; they are windows into our families' pasts. Some suggest ancestral trades (Butcher, Smith, Roper) or physical appearance (Long, Brown, Thynne). Some provide clues to where we come from (McDonald, Evans, Patel). And some - Rymer, Brocklebank, Stolbof - offer a hint of something just a little more exotic or esoteric. He considers whether fortune favours those whose surnames come at the beginning of the alphabet. And he celebrates the remarkable and the quirky, from the fearsome Ridley (the cry of which once struck terror in the hearts of their neighbors) to the legend-encrusted Tichborne, whose most famous holders were destined to suffer misfortune and controversy. Elegiac and amusing by turns, he offers a wonderfully entertaining wander along the footpaths of the nation's history and culture, celebrating not just the Smiths and Joneses of these islands but the Chaceporcs and Swetinbeddes, too.

POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN 35TH ANNUAL SEMINAR

Saturday, October 19, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 East Maple Road, Troy, Michigan - Join Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan for its Annual Seminar. The keynote speaker is Ceil Wendt Jensen, CG and Director of the Polonica Americana Research Institute. She will speak about planning a research trip to Poland, archival techniques for family historians and Polish and American repositories. In the afternoon, Kris Rzepczynski, one of the State Archivists, will present his talk about researching at the Archives of Michigan. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Seminar includes a continental breakfast and hearty Polish lunch. Registration is \$65 per person or \$100 per couple. Registrations should be postmarked by October 1, 2013. Please send reservations and checks or money orders made out to **PGSM** to: Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan Seminar c/o The Detroit Public Library 5201 Woodward Ave. Detroit, Michigan 48202.

Also Noted - Bonnie Votkis mentioned this at our August meeting:

Dawn Robinson, a member of the Muskegon Genealogy and Colonial Dames and Plantagenet Societies died on March 24, 2013. The Colonial Dames of the XVII Century will host a memorial and grave marking ceremony on Thursday, Oct 3, 2013 at Ashland Cemetery in Grant MI, The cemetery is located at 2019 W. 120th St. If rain we will meet in the Ashland Church adjacent to the cemetery (about 2 blocks away, really) and there will be a short reception following with coffee and tea and some light refreshments.

LATEST FREE ONLINE RECORDS

The Irish Genealogical Research Society's marriage database has now reached 50,000 names. This database is a good source for pre-civil registration marriages in Ireland and it is comprised of information from a variety of non-traditional sources such as chancery bills, diaries, deeds, marriage settlements, memorial inscriptions, wills, family letter and newspapers. Each record provides the exact source of the information. Access is free. http://www.igrsoc.org/members/marriages/search_index.php

The German Genealogy Group continues to add to its collection of free searchable databases. The group based on Long Island, New York is focussed on German genealogy, but it has a variety of records that would be of interested to many people. There are databases for marriages, naturalizations, cemeteries, churches, veterans and even yearbooks. One particularly nice database is the surname database that is a compilation of the German surnames submitted by members of the group that shows how to contact members for various surnames and regions of Germany. Access is free. <http://www.germangenealogygroup.com/>

MUSKEGON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ PHONE (____) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MEMBERSHIP: 2014

*A membership is from January 1 through December 31 each year * PAY BY December 31, 2013 take \$2 off*

- Per Person \$25.00 in the USA \$30.00 USD\$ Outside the USA
- New membership
- Renewal **Renewal membership cards are available on request with SASE*
- Send Twig Talk newsletter by e-mail
- Send Twig Talk newsletter by mail (additional charge)

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 or money orders payable to MCGS

Mail to:

Muskegon County Genealogical Society (MCGS)

Attn: MEMBERSHIP

Torrent House

315 W. Webster Ave.

Muskegon, MI 49440-1209

MCGS USE ONLY

Rec'd: _____

Check # _____

Cash: _____

Amt: _____

Upcoming Events Dates 2013

Regular Meetings

Starts at 7:00 p.m.
2nd Thursday
VFW Post 3195
5209 Grand Haven Road
October 10
Holiday Gathering
November 14

**No meeting
in Dec**

Board Meetings

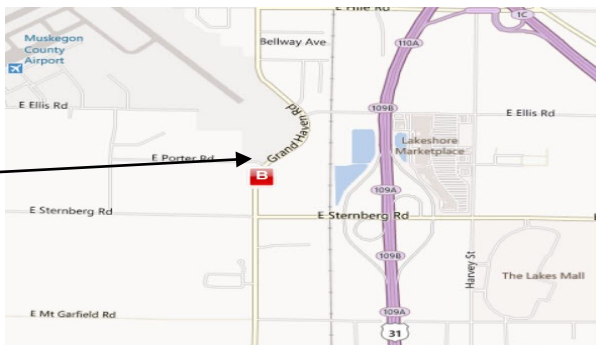
Meet at 5:30 p.m.
2nd Thursday
VFW Post 3195
5209 Grand Haven Road
October 10
November 14
No meeting in Dec

Genealogy Family History Workshops

Torrent House Local History &
Genealogy Dept., 315 W. Webster
2 sessions! Morning or Afternoon.
2nd Saturday of the month
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

You must preregister online at
1972mcgs@gmail.com or call the
Torrent House, Local History &
Genealogy Dept. at 231-722-7276
ext. 240

October 12
November 9
No workshop in Dec



REMEMBER OUR NEW MEETING LOCATION

We will be meeting at the Wilbur L. Boyer VFW Post #3195 at 5209 Grand Haven Road in Norton Shores. Directions: If your coming from North or South US 31 you take exit 109B West on to Sternberg Road to Grand Haven Rd. Turn right onto Grand Haven Rd. It is on the corner of Grand Haven Rd and Porter Rd , on the left. You can bring your own soda or buy soda at the VFW.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING TO THE NEXT MEETING

Your completed 4 Generation Chart.

Stories and photos for the History of Muskegon Volume II.

Donation for our refreshment fund.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!

Pre-order your MCGS Cookbook.
Price will be between \$10 to \$15 for members.

Order your copy of the History of Muskegon—Volume I. Give them as Christmas, Birthday, Wedding, or any type of gift!

Get a discount for members only.

COMPUTER NEWS

On April 8, 2014 you will see that Windows XP will no longer have security updates and Vista will be gone by April 11, 2017. Windows 7 is January 14, 2020.

PROGRAM REMINDERS FOR 2013/2014

Oct 10—Cemetery Tour with Dani LaFleur - How timely is this! You will love the interesting history presented in her very well prepared program.

Nov—Holiday Gathering/Annual Meeting/Elections - Last chance before the holidays to buy our cookbook.

COMING IN 2014

- ✓ Cemetery Tour with interesting facts.
- ✓ More Perks for Members only. That gives our members benefits they can only get by renewing their membership!
- ✓ Members only and public Classes and Presentations on using computers for genealogy.
- ✓ More with Bill and Glenna Jo Christian - Dating Photos Workshop.
- ✓ Member Car Pool Field Trips to Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Fort Wayne.
- ✓ New Workshops.
- ✓ Coming in 2017 - Our 45th Anniversary and some very special events to celebrate it!