



TWIG TALK

Newsletter

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TWIG TALK

A monthly publication of:
Muskegon County Genealogical Society
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President's Report

By Dawn Westcomb Kelley -

It is almost the end of the year and the leaves still have not fallen out of the trees, but they will, just like your ancestors.

Oh yes we are moving right into 2019 and it will be here before you know it. We had a very busy year, preparing and attending the Family History Conference in Grand Rapids. With the many projects going on at Shady Rest cemetery. More memorial headstones pictures taken by Bill Hansen, Ingrid Porritt and Paula Rice with other cemeteries.

Chris Nowak volunteering to be co-chairperson for the Membership committee. New volunteers for the Program committee, Ingrid Porritt, Tom Shepherd and Bill Hansen.

Jane Gates has retired from volunteering at the Muskegon County Clerk's office on

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MUSKEGON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
INVITES YOU TO THEIR
"ANNUAL MEETING & HOLIDAY GATHERING"

Thursday, November 8, 2018

Starts at 6:00 p.m.

VFW Post 3196,
5209 Grand Haven Rd
Muskegon, MI

Come join us for our yearly tradition
of getting together for an evening of fun-filled
stories, and some wonderful food!

Do not stay away there will be more fun than business.

- Election officers.
- Bring a favorite dish to pass.
- An entree, refreshments and tableware provided by the society. If you have a favorite recipe, please bring it to share with the others.
- There will be several drawings you don't want to miss!

A celebration for YOU and a Guest!

GENEALOGY TIP Source: Society of Genealogists - The National Family History Centre

Test Your "GeneKnowlegy"

What was Veterans Day formerly called? Veterans Day occurs on **November 11** every year in the United States. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day.

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Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 4 pm. She has helped so many researchers for many, many years. As a special volunteer, she really will missed.

I also want to mention that there were several people behind the scenes who assisted with loading information for the county cemetery viewer but not formally recognized for their contribution.

We are having a 50/50 drawing in November and in January a special drawing for 1 free membership from all applications postmarked by December 31, 2018.

I would also like to remind members of the Family History Workshop on Saturday November 3rd. Space is limited, so please pre-register, by calling the Torrent House, Local History & Genealogy Dept. at 231-722-8016 Tues thru Sat, between 10am until 12:30 p.m.

If you have the time, plan to spend **A Day with John Philip Colletta** this year! John will be giving presentations Saturday, November 3 at the Michigan Library and Historical Center in Lansing.

- **Finding the Town of Origin: U.S. Sources for Discovering an Ancestor's Native Town Overseas**
 - **Lesser Used Federal Records: Sources of Rich Detail about Ancestors' Lives**
 - **The County Courthouse: Your "Trunk in the Attic" Breaking through Brick Walls: Use your HEAD!**
- Co-sponsored by the **Michigan Genealogical Council**, the **Archives of Michigan**, and the **Library of Michigan**.

[Online registration](http://mimgc.org) is now open at <http://mimgc.org>

A mail-in registration form is available at the following link, which includes a link to the online registration:

NEW MEMBER

James Rose—Montague, MI



Awww.

Used with permission

Meeting Report – by Ingrid Porritt



In October we met at the Greater Muskegon Woman's Club. The president, Nancy Bierenga, greeted us as we arrived

and welcomed us to their club house. Karin Carlson, the club historian gave a wonderful presentation on the history of the club in Muskegon.

It was started in 1890 as the Muskegon Literary Society. At that time many of the business leaders' wives would meet in private homes. As a means to expand their knowledge of the world they would research different countries to learn about the history of the world and make reports that would be discussed by the group. Due to the fact that they were meeting in private homes, typically there would not be enough tea cups to go around, so the women would bring their own to the meeting. This gave the group the nickname of "The Tea Cup Society". The tea cup of one of the early members, Martha Keating, is still with the club embossed with her initials in gold.

The organization eventually grew state wide and nationally becoming known as the Federated Woman's Club. The woman's concerns also grew with the issues of the time. They helped to improve the healthful handling of milk which reduce the occurrence of TB. They helped to get white lines along highways to improve night driving .They replaced shared water dippers and water buckets with water fountains in public places. One of the most important programs they promoted was the baby clinics at local schools. Mothers would bring their newborns to be evaluated. Since many immigrants were coming into Muskegon, and home birth was the norm, this helped to get medical attention to infants in need. At one point a nurse was hired to staff these clinics. The well baby clinics gained attention quickly, as it lowered the infant death rate significantly. Michigan State Health Department noted in 1920 that of the 500 births in Muskegon, there was only 3 reported deaths. They wanted to know what was happening in Muskegon to change the mortality rate. The program became the beginning of the well baby checkups that are still being done today.

Karin shared more information about of their efforts: for example placing trash containers in public areas and outlawing spitting on the streets. Since women's dress length at the time was very low this was important. These were done in an effort to improve

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the quality of life in Muskegon for everyone.

The Club hosts events like the Artisan Market on the Friday after Thanksgiving. Other activities coming up include a Gingerbread event in November and an Art Auction. In March, they will have a Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast. Check the website below for the latest information about dates and times for these activities.

The Greater Muskegon Woman's Club is a volunteer group committed to community service, philanthropic work and friendship. Please check their web site www.muskegonwomansclub.org for more information.

Greater Muskegon Women's Club – GMWC Home

<http://www.muskegonwomansclub.org>

The Greater Muskegon Woman's Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and a 509(a)(2) public charity. Contributions to the Greater Muskegon Woman's Club are deductible under section 170 of the IRS tax code

We had a wonderful tour of the building that was constructed in 1902 and is a historic landmark site. The building is known for its red tile roof that, incidentally, the club is restoring. It has elegant parlors, a large ballroom with a stage, and an efficient kitchen area.

What a wonderful legacy this club has made for Muskegon. Now if the walls could only talk.

CeCe Moore Lecture on DNA Testing
October 13, 2018
Salvation Army Kroc Center, Grand Rapids, MI
By Ingrid Porritt

The following is based on information presented at a lecture attended by MCGS member "Trudy from the Torrent House" on October 13th.

DNA, Y-DNA, mt DNA - what is it all about? Are you confused too? This field is exploding so fast that it is hard to keep up with the latest events. Recently Trudy from the Torrent House ventured out to hear the famous CeCe Moore lecture about DNA. CeCe Moore, genetic genealogist, is well known for helping to solve cold case crimes. She has been on ABC's 20/20, worked with Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr, on the PBS "Finding your Roots" program, and is the founder of DNA Detectives.

She is considered an innovator in the use of Autosomal DNA research.

Her lecture was about the power of DNA. DNA can confirm, refute or add new avenues of research for genealogists. By finding cousins, it can add research information, confirm and identify specific shared ancestors and find percentages of ethnicity.

There are three main types of DNA testing:

1. Y-DNA, Y chromosome - that is inherited by males in your family. This testing is used to trace the direct paternal line, surname studies and geographic origins.
2. mt-DNA, is DNA found in the maternal (mother's) line. It is passed to sons and daughters from their mother, however only females pass it on.
3. at-DNA, Autosomal DNA, can trace back to your second or third great grandparent line. CeCe is considered an innovator in this type of research.

There are many providers of DNA testing and research. Finding out the type of testing a service provides is important whether you are researching your maternal ancestral line, paternal ancestral line, or seeking health related questions.

A sampling of these providers is:

- My Hertiage – Autosomal
- Ancestry - Autosomal
- 23 & Me - personal genome service, ancestry or ancestry and health information.
- Family Tree DNA - Four options offered from Individual to those with different levels and markers

Basically these services look for shared DNA with potential family members. For example, for full siblings a person would share 50% DNA, half siblings 25%, 1st cousins 12.5%. These matches help to confirm common ancestors or eliminate others.

After trying to absorb the synopses from the lecture, I asked our own Trudy a few questions about the program. Trudy told me CeCe knows her subject extremely well, is easy to understand and follow. She shared excellent handouts for further reading and research. Her website can be located at: <http://www.yourgeneticgenealogist.com>. When asked if the time was worthwhile Trudy said yes, and she would go to hear her speak again.

She has had part of her family done and it provided some interesting information about her own family that was a surprise.

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She plans to have more testing done in the future.

When selecting a test it is important to remember the differences outlined above and understand what you are trying to learn. And finally, keep an open mind because the results may not be what you are expecting.

Thank you Trudy for sharing.

TWIG TALK TRIVIA

Trivia Trudy at the Torrent House November 2018

In October I told you about the blue book I was reading titled Negroes In Michigan During the Civil War by Norman McRae. I am fascinated by the Underground Railroad period in Michigan.

A number of my family lines lived in the southern border counties during the 1840 -1860 time period. I wondered . . . were they involved? Were your ancestors involved? How would I find out? I went digging. Found lots of articles with names of participants. Of course, given that one could be prosecuted for helping escaped slaves, secrecy was paramount and many names were lost to history.

Below you will find a list of names from the blue book. These are names of railroad agents (coordinators) in their communities during that time.

Albion – Edwin M. Johnson
Ann Arbor – Guy Beckley
Battle Creek – Erastus Hussey
Cassopolis – Zachariah Shugert
Parker Osborn
Detroit – Seymour Finney
Horace Hallock
Silas Holmes
Samuel Zug
Dexter – Samuel W. Dexter
Geddes – John Geddes
Jackson - Lonson Wilcox
Norman Allen
Marshall – Jabe S. Finch
Michigan Center – Abel F Finch
Parma – Townsend E Gidley
Schoolcraft – Dr. Nathan Thomas
Scio – Theodore Foster

African American Mysteries of Detroit (see Oct 2018 Twig Talk)

George DeBaptist – Barber
Joseph Ferguson – Physician
William Lambert – Tailor
Rev W. C. Monroe – Episcopalian Minister
John D. Richards – Barber

William Webb – Grocer

I found many sources with names but space here is limited. I will tell you more about those next month. I did order from Book Locker, a book titled Hidden In Plain Sight: The Underground Railroad in Jackson County by Linda Hass (256 pages with index). The promo write-up mentioned Concord Township. I have a Revolutionary War ancestor buried there.

Linda has another book on this subject titled Michigan's Crossroads to Freedom: The Underground Railroad in Jackson County. To read a free excerpt of these books check out <http://booklocker.com> Adobe Reader is required for your computer to be able to display these excerpts.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all! I give thanks for the generous humanity of so many of our ancestors!

Trudy

Richard Eastman

The Daily Online Genealogy News-
letter, October 30, 2018
<https://blog.eogn.com/>



The following announcement was written by the Board for Certification of Genealogists: On 21 October 2018, the Board for the Certification of Genealogists (BCG) approved five modified and seven new standards relating to the use of DNA evidence in genealogical work. BCG also updated the Genealogist's Code to address the protection of people who provide DNA samples.

The new measures are intended to assist the millions of family historians who now turn to genetic sources to establish kinships. The action followed a public comment period on proposed standards released by BCG earlier this year.

"BCG firmly believes the standards must evolve to incorporate this new type of evidence," according to BCG President Richard G. Sayre. "Associates, applicants, and the public should know BCG respects DNA evidence. It respects the complexity of the evidence and the corresponding need for professional standards. BCG does not expect use of DNA to be demonstrated in every application for certification. However, all genealogists, including applicants, need to make sound decisions about when DNA can or should be used, and any work products that incorporate it should meet the new standards and

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ethical provisions.”

“Standards for Using DNA Evidence,” a new chapter to be incorporated in *Genealogy Standards*, introduces the issues this way:

“Meeting the Genealogical Proof Standard requires using all available and relevant types of evidence. DNA evidence both differs from and shares commonalities with documentary evidence. Like other types of evidence, DNA evidence is not always available, relevant, or usable for a specific problem, is not used alone, and involves planning, analyzing, drawing conclusions, and reporting. Unlike other types of evidence, DNA evidence usually comes from people now living.”

In brief[1], the new standards address seven areas:

1. Planning DNA tests. The first genetic standard describes the qualities of an effective plan for DNA testing including types of tests, testing companies, and analytical tools. It also calls for selecting the individuals based on their DNA’s potential to answer a research question.
2. Analyzing DNA test results. The second genetic standard covers factors that might impact a genetic relationship conclusion, including analysis of pedigrees, documentary research, chromosomal segments, and mutations, markers or regions; also, composition of selected comparative test takers and genetic groups.
3. Extent of DNA evidence. The third genetic standard describes the qualities needed for sufficiently extensive DNA data.
4. Sufficient verifiable data. The fourth genetic standard addresses the verifiability of data used to support conclusions.
5. Integrating DNA and documentary evidence. The fifth genetic standard calls for a combination of DNA and documentary evidence to support a conclusion about a genetic relationship. It also calls for analysis of all types of evidence.
6. Conclusions about genetic relationships. The sixth

genetic standard defines the parameters of a genetic relationship and the need for accurate representation of genealogical conclusions.

7. Respect for privacy rights. The seventh genetic standard describes the parameters of informed consent.

The modifications made to several existing standards call for:

- Documentation of sources for each parent-child link.
- Where appropriate, distinction among adoptive, foster, genetic, step, and other kinds of familial relationships.
- Use of graphics as aids, for example: genealogical charts and diagrams to depict proved or hypothesized relationships; or lists and tables to facilitate correlation of data and demonstrate patterns or conflicts in evidence.
- Explanations of deficiencies when research is insufficient to reach a conclusion.

A new edition of *Genealogy Standards* is expected to be ready by next March. A new application guide and judging rubrics incorporating the new standards will be released at about the same time. In the interim, portfolios submitted for consideration for certification will be evaluated using the existing *Genealogy Standards*.

[1] The Board for Certification of Genealogists® (BCG) contractually granted the publisher of *Genealogy Standards* the exclusive right to copy, publish and distribute the standards including amendments. However, BCG-certified associates have the contractual right to include reasonable portions of the standards in presentations, articles, blog posts, social media, and the like. In no case may BCG or its associates allow the standards to be published in their entirety because the publisher deems that competitive to its publication rights.

The words Certified Genealogist and the designation CG are registered certification marks and the designations Certified Genealogical Lecturer and CGL are service marks of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, used under license by board-certified associates after periodic competency evaluations, and the board name is registered in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office.

COUNTY CLERK RESEARCH

Muskegon County Building 990 Terrace St.

Parking is on the West end of the building off Pine St.

Entrance is on Apple Avenue between the buildings.

Clerk’s office is on the first floor.

Researchers can come on Wednesday’s from 1:00-4:00 p.m.



MUSKEGON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*NAME _____

*PHONE (____) _____ or *CELL (____) _____

*ADDRESS _____

*CITY _____ *STATE _____ *ZIP _____

*E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MEMBERSHIP: 2019

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: on our website, if you pay by PAYPAL or Credit Card, there is an **EXTRA \$1.00** charge.

\$25.00 Single in the USA \$30.00 Single USD\$ outside the USA

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