



TWIG TALK

Newsletter

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TWIG TALK

A monthly publication of:
Muskegon County Genealogical Society
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Membership Meeting

Thursday, October 11

Starts at 6:30 p.m.



The Meeting will be at the Greater Muskegon Woman's Club,
280 West Webster Avenue.



The GMWC is celebrating it's 100th year. Parking is located at the rear of the building with a barrier free/handicap entrance available. The GMWC will be hosting and providing refreshments. Karin Carlson, Recording Secretary, will present a program about the Club's history and some of the it's

past members and Nancy Bierenga, President, will conduct a tour of their historic building..

President's Report

By Dawn Westcomb Kelley -

October Family History Month

In 2001, Congress passed a resolution to make October *Family History Month* in the United States. See the announcement on page 2 for the 2018 MGC Fall Family History Event.

Here are a couple ways to celebrate this year!

CeCe Moore will be speaking at the Salvation Army Kroc Center in Grand Rapids on Saturday, October 13th. Here is a link to Western Michigan Genealogical Society website www.wmgs.org/ to find out more.

Start a journal. If you have not started a journal or have not begun

(Continued on page 2)

Greater Muskegon Woman's Club Officers and Directors

President	Nancy Bierenga
Vice President	Pam Caris
President-Elect	Hannah Olechnowicz
Treasurer	Paula Martin
Recording Secretary	Karin Carlson
Corresponding Secretary	Sharon Beck
Member at Large	Julie Smith
Immediate Past President	Gavonnie Williams

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

GENEALOGY- Establishment of a Pedigree by extracting evidence, from valid sources, of how one generation connected to the next.

FAMILY HISTORY - A biographical study of a genealogically proven family and of the community and country in which they lived.

(President's report continued from page 1)

recording your life story, now is the time. You may also want to include in this journal stories from or about your grandparents.

If you are thinking about doing a journal, consider some of the helpful tips that can be found online at sites such as Lifehacker.com. There you will find a complete article about how to get started.

Finally this month, this is the time of the year we look for members interested in serving on the board of directors. The nominations committee is being headed by Jennifer Lamkin and Gail Taggart, so please consider their invitation when they call. The election for the 2019 board will be held at the November 8th general meeting. As with all boards, a certain amount of turnover is expected. Nominations, prior to the vote, will be taken from the floor at the November meeting.

HOSPITALITY – Jane Weber



Our September meeting had member Bill Hansen present "From Forest to Factories." His interesting program offered an early history of Muskegon Heights, MI.

Our door prize gave Judy Ruch a Barnes & Noble gift card plus Mr. and Mrs. Scarecrow decorations. Marcia Wiersma won the free draw book "The Lost World of Nicholas and Alexandria." She will learn about the Romanov family assassination along with devious Rasputin and Anastacia's disappearance. Larry Rosencrans was fortunate to win the other free book "Fighting Men of the Civil War." He will view a unique photographic record of the war and stories of Yankee & Reb soldiers. Maria Chemelarova will get helpful ideas as the ticket book recipient. The book "Everything Guide to Online Genealogy" will be an excellent resource for her.

Members and guests always look forward to the snacks offered by volunteers! Judy Ruch brought a variety of crackers to be garnished by her homemade chicken with grapes-celery topping. It was very tasty recipe! Marie Payne's kitchen was a busy place where she baked yummy cranberry and banana muffins. She brought a succulent treat of grapes, too! Karen Beam made a delicious salsa to be dipped with chips. This salsa could also be used with different kinds of crackers offered with her treat.

Phyllis and John Slater are the awesome providers of our water. All our thanks to the September snack table people.



Saturday, November 3 2018 MGC Fall Family History Event (Michigan Events)

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Michigan Library and History Center, 702 W
Kalamazoo, Lansing, Michigan

Plan to spend **A Day with John Philip Colletta** this year! John will be giving four 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:

https://mimgc.org/upload/events/files/1536410193_2018FallFamilyHistoryEventFlyer.pdf

Richard Eastman

The Daily Online Genealogy
Newsletter, September 26, 2018
<https://blog.eogn.com/>



The following book review
was written by Bobbi King:

***Professional Genealogy
Preparation, Practice & Standards***
Edited by Elizabeth Shown Mills.

Published by Genealogical Publishing Co. 2018.
678 pages.

I recently attended a morning meeting with my local genealogy group. As we were filing into the room, someone set out the new edition of *Professional Genealogy* for people to look at. My colleague Sara saw the book and announced, "My dog ate my *Progen*." We all chuckled, appreciating a weak attempt at humor so early in the morning. Then we heard a more insistent tone, "No, really, my dog ate *Progen*!" Now she's got our attention. What kind of dog would eat *Progen*? Well, turns out, a dog with good taste. Not only did he lunch on *Progen*, he dined on the *new* edition. He completely ignored the old edition setting nearby; Sara showed us the proof photos. The spine of the book looked like a thoroughly chewed-over cob of Iowa sweet corn. Then he had moved across and gnawed around the edges of the cover just about the time Sara walked in. The dastardly deed took a total of 43 minutes. Sara says she can still use the book, because all the text pages are intact. But still. It's too bad folks think the book is only for the professionals. I don't think it is. I think it's for everyone.

There *are* several sections targeted for the professional, or the aspiring professional, that's certainly true. The first sections about professional preparation and career management speak to the professional business genealogist.

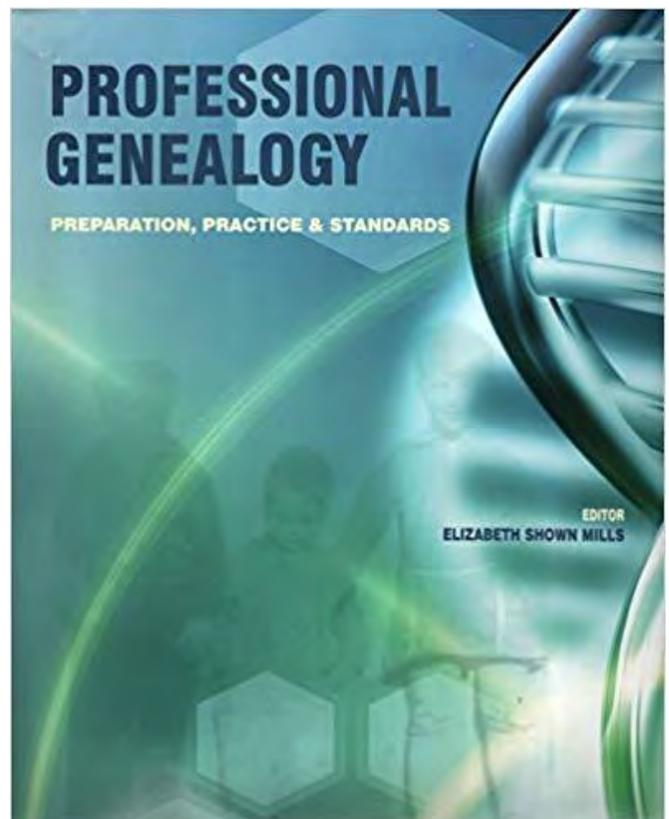
For the aspiring professional who has questions about what's involved with the professional side of genealogy, the chapters on educational preparation, credentialing, structuring a business, setting fees, and marketing, answer lots of questions.

But for all of us, the chapters on legalities and ethics are about situations that confront everyone at some time or another. The chapter on research skills offers sound advice on research planning, research procedures, forensic specialization, analysis and reasoning. The chapter on writing, editing and publishing will answer lots of questions about self-publishing and writing, which lots of us do.

Blaine T. Bettinger and Judy Russell have written a most excellent chapter on Genetics for Genealogy. I didn't expect to find this in the book, but it's there, and it goes from elementary principles to understanding the more complex interpretations. Diagrams, charts, the whole enchilada.

I've always thought *Professional Genealogy* has wide-spread appeal, not just for the professionals, as in the name, but for all genealogists, no matter what their level of experience or expertise. And, I guess, their dogs.

Professional Genealogy is available from the publisher, Genealogical Publishing Co., at <https://library.genealogical.com/printpurchase/Xeger> as well as from Amazon at <https://amzn.to/2levDSa>.



TWIG TALK TRIVIA

Trivia Trudy at the Torrent House

October 2018

Oh Hi! Welcome back. I'm still sitting here in the Civil War section of the Michigan Room. Last month I told you about the Brown Books and their creation (These are the books listing the names of men who fought for Michigan in the Civil War).

Reading through Volume 46, **The First Colored Infantry of Michigan**, I was left with the questions I posed last month (see below). So, I opened the blue book in the gray box nearby. **Negros in Michigan During the Civil War** published by the Michigan Civil War Centennial Observation Commission.

Question 1: Why didn't black soldiers enlist in Michigan until 1863? The War ended in 1865.

Answer: They did enlist before that, but Michigan and Canadian men traveled to other states to do so. Think Massachusetts and the movie **Glory**. Michigan citizens were squabbling among themselves about all things war, slavery, economy, social justice, and the cultural impact on their communities.

Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863 which ended the effects of the Fugitive Slave Laws. Michigan's need for more soldiers led to the enlistment of **The First Colored Infantry of Michigan**

Question 2: Why were so many black soldiers enlisting to fight in place of other men? Both men's names were listed together in the Brown book. It's just that I found so many more entries like this in Volume 46 than the previous volumes.

Answer: I found no answers in the books I was reading so I turned to the internet. Apparently men were allowed to hire surrogates in both the North and the South. Brokers handled the legal and financial arrangements for a fee. Since black soldiers received half the salary of white soldiers, maybe that was a way that they could help their families financially. I'm curious about the men named as hiring substitutes. Why did they do this? Having never served myself, I do not stand in judgement but life at home could not have been easy for them. Maybe someone will make an alphabetical list of these names. Would I find a relative or neighbor of a relative on that list. Interesting.....

Question 3: Why did so many black men enlist from Cass and Wayne County?

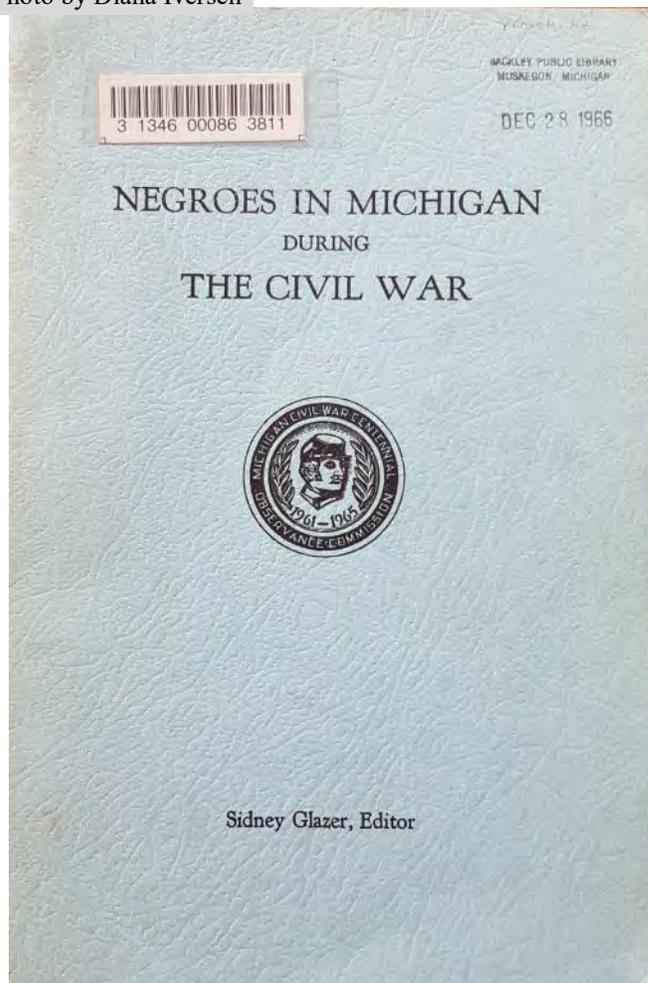
Answer: The Underground Railroad entered Michigan primarily through those counties. Cass County had a large community of Quakers who moved up from the South. They were very involved

in the U.R.R. (Underground Rail Road) nationally. In 1847, a Virginia Planter named Saunders left a will that freed his slaves. An agent arranged to buy land in a free state near a Quaker community. That was Calvin Township, Cass County. They arrived on Christmas Eve 1847. All 40 men received an equal share of land. I found no mention of the women. By 1850, there were 376 Blacks in Cass Co. and 697 in Wayne County.

In Wayne County, there was a sizeable group called **The African-American Mysteries: The Order of the Men of Oppression**. It was a very tightly organized, secret society. They claimed that once a fugitive cleared the Ohio River, they could have them in Canada in 48 hours. To read more about this group search Clark Library/Underground Library. There you'll find newspaper interviews with some of the members of this group. John Brown was part of this group. Those interviews cast a whole new light on Mr. Brown for me.

That Blue Book is a treasure! I learned more than I'd learned in some of my college classes. Next time more specifics on the Underground Railroad/ people names/ place names. Maybe you'll see yours.

Photo by Diana Iversen



What's Happening Locally?

Join local organizers for a walking tour that will feature Muskegon lore, legends, and scandals! There will be stories of ghosts, gangsters, and assassinations that have taken place in the area.

From Muskegon's Lakeshore Museum Calendar lakeshoremuseum.org

Event Date: October 11-2018 5:30 pm
 Event End Date: October-11-2018 7:00 pm
 Location: Starting from the Hackley & Hume Historic Site
 Capacity : Unlimited
 Individual Price: \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members

Also from the Lakeshore Museum Calendar
 Free tours include the Hackley and Hume Historic Site, the Fire Barn Museum, and the Scolnik House of the Depression Era. This is the museum's way to say "thank you" to the residents of Muskegon County for supporting our millage each year!

Event Date: October 07, 14, and 21 - 2018
 Time Start: 1:00 PM
 Time End: 4:00 PM
 Capacity: Unlimited
 Individual Price: Free for Muskegon County Residents. Normal admission applies for out-of-county residents.
 Location: Hackley & Hume Historic Site

9th Annual City-Of-The-Dead Tour of Evergreen Cemetery
 Organizer: **Harbor Unitarian Universalist Congregation**
 Location: 400 Irwin St, Muskegon, MI
 When: October 13, 2018 from 5 to 8 PM and
 October 14, 2018 from 2 to 4PM
 Cost \$5 (children under 6 free)
 Event Categories: Family, Holiday, Theater
 Website: <http://www.harboruu.org/events/City-Of-The-Dead>
 Phone: (231) 755-2932
 Email: cityofthedeadmuskegon@gmail.com

COUNTY CLERK RESEARCH

Muskegon County Building
 990 Terrace St.



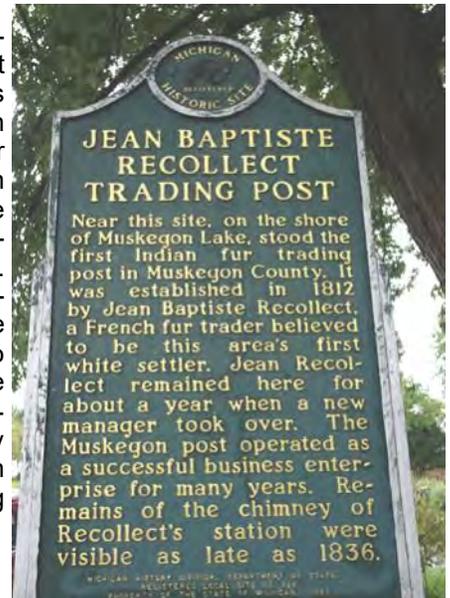
MCGS volunteers are there every
 Wednesday from 1:00-4:00 pm

Direct phone # 231-724-7140

Around the Neighborhood

Things you might notice

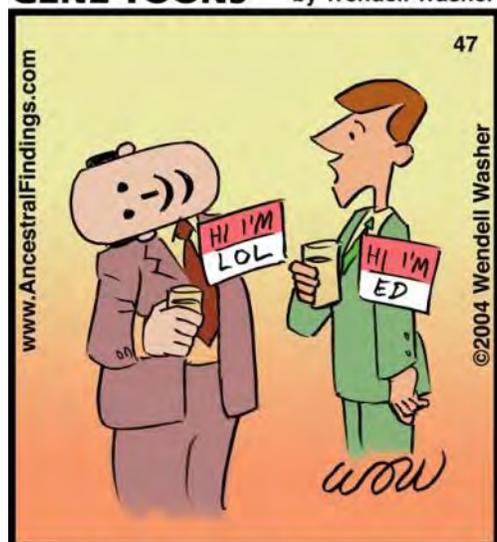
The Jean Baptiste Recollect monument is located in North Muskegon near the intersection of N. Bear Lake Road and Rudiman Drive. You have probably heard the history, but who can trace the history of families who may have been in the area during this period?



New Books at the Hackley Public Library

- *Welsh Place-Names and Their Meanings*, by Dewi Davies
- *The Book of Scotts-Irish Family Names*, by Robert Bell
- *A New History of Michigan*, by Mark Pickvet
- *The Story of Heraldry*, by L.G. Pine
- *Michigan Yesterday & Today*, by Robert W. Domm

GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



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You do a lot of online research,
 don't you?



