



Twig Talk

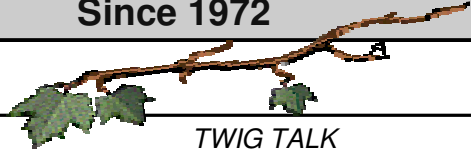


Newsletter of the Muskegon County Genealogical Society

Since 1972

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TWIG TALK

A publication of:

Muskegon County Genealogical Society

c/o Hackley Public Library
316 W. Webster Avenue
Muskegon, MI 49440-1209

www.genealogymuskegon.org

mcgs1972@yahoo.com

President:

Jane Appleton Schapka

Vice President:

Nancy Clark Spoon

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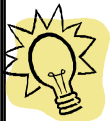
Dawn Westcomb Kelley

Treasurer:

Margaret AusterMiller Brewster

2010 Committees

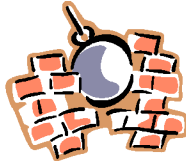
By Laws	George Brewster
County Clerk	Members
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History Book Project	Kathy DeCormier
Hospitality	Karen Towne, Jane Weber & Paula Halloran
Library	Barb Martin
Membership	Susan Gerst
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Pioneer Cert. Program..	Eileen Wojewodzki
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Test Your "GeneKnowlegy"

Do you know the name of the outdoor theater that was on Airline Rd in Muskegon?

Find the answer is in this newsletter!



Thursday, SEPTEMBER 9, 2010

7:00 P.M. **Sharp**

Door opens at 6:30 P.M.

"GETTING AROUND THE BRICK WALL"

Speaker JIM JACKSON

Jim received the Lucy Mary Kellogg award presented by the Michigan Genealogical Society and has given many lectures in Michigan and at the 2007 American Society of Indexers Conference in Philadelphia, PA and at the Great Lake Conference in Ft Wayne. He is a past president of the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research and is President of the Oakland Genealogical Society. He has taught genealogy classes and presented talks to various local and national societies.

Board Meeting—Tuesday, Sept. 7, 6:00 p.m., Torrent House

"Genealogy-Family History Workshop"
Sat., Sept. 11, Hackley Public Library, 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

"Civil War Living History Event"
at Hilt's Landing in September

The Lakeshore Museum Center event is co-sponsored by Company F of the Third Michigan Infantry, which is dedicated to educate the general public and preserve all aspects of Civil War live. It will be a fun family event and the first of many special events to be held at the site just off Durham Road in northern Muskegon County. A shuttle from the Pioneer Resources will take people to the site. Parking is at Viking Tool & Engineering which is across from the Best Western Hotel at the corner of Durham Road and Colby Road to the east of US 31 at the Colby St. exit.

Admission: \$5 adults, \$2 ages 5 -18, Free children under 5, \$12 Family Pass. Food and beverages will be available for purchase on site.

Sat., Sept. 11th from 10 am to 6pm & Sun., Sept. 12th from 10am to 4pm
<http://www.lakeshoremuseum.org> The Muser July 2010, Vol. 10/issue 4

Note: The scheduled August video program could be not given because of technical problems at the meeting. Jane Schapka pulled "Plan B" out of her hat and presented a program on death records.



County Clerk's Office

Volunteers
Wednesday's 1:00—4:00 p.m.
141 E. Apple Ave.
2nd Floor

Our Specialty to Volunteer is to help genealogist!



Library Update

Barb LaBatt Martin

Just Reminder

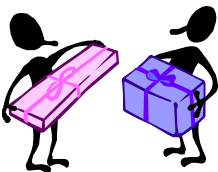
Hours for HPL Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Beginning on Sunday, September 12th, they be opened from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Hospitality
Karen Towne
Paula Halloran
Jane Walker Weber

Our hot, muggy August meeting was cooled with ice cream and strawberries. Thanks go to Connie Fales, Paula Halloran, Karen Town and Jane Weber for the treat. Emma Ruprecht was the lucky door prize winner. Jane Schapka provided a very informative program on death records.



Membership
Susan Boos Gerst
tsgerst@yahoo.com
Kathy Broughton DeCormier

We give a warm welcome to our NEW member.

Juanita R. Joiner—Muskegon
Surnames: Kight, Milton, Theobald, Willeie

Get Well Wishes go out to,
George Brewster, Kathy DeCormier,
Joanne Wood, Nancy Zissler

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

CONGRATULATIONS PIONEER CERTIFICATE APPLICATES FOR 2010

There will a special recognition in October

Joanne Cihak Blakkan
1905 Settler—Frank J Cihak

Alice Ferguson Kooistra
1878 Pioneer—Luella Olson

Jeri VanderLaan Landheer
1884 Pioneer—Luije VanderLaan



Money/Time Saving Ideas for Genealogy—by Michael John Neill



These were good money/saving ideas, I thought it would be worth while repeating from 2009 Twig Talk. Here is the website for information:

http://www.genealogy.com/66_neill.html

1. Before you visit a library, visit it online.
2. Print one bibliographic page for each book or source you plan to use.
3. Enter all information from each source or record at the same time.
4. File as you go to avoid hunting in the future.
5. Write it down, neatly.
6. Focus on one line or one family at a time.
7. Discover what indexes and records you can use online.
8. Consider posting some of your data to a Web site.
9. Determine if others have researched your family.
10. Learn about the records you will research.
11. Have maps.
12. Make goals and work towards them.
13. Get your soundex codes in one place.
14. Photocopy title pages to ensure accuracy.
15. When copying from a file that contains many documents, assign a code to each document.





Genealogy Tips **Ancestry Daily News**

Copyright 2010, ancestry.com
(P.S. If you see typos we can't
change it-this is part of the copyright)

Death Certificates **(Consideration)**

When my grandmother died I learned some valuable lessons regarding the accuracy of some of the information included on the death certificate, specifically the names of the deceased's parents. If I hadn't known the names of my grandmother's parents, my father would not have been able to provide them. When I obtained my other grandmother's death certificate, the names of her parents (provided by my aunt) were incorrect. Lesson 1—the information is only as good as the person who provided it. Lesson 2:—The children of the deceased aren't necessarily an accurate source. When you're looking at birth and marriage information on a death certificate, use birth, baptismal, and marriage records to verify the information. That information was provided by the actual people involved, typically at or near the time of the event. Linda Krieger

Don't Store Valuables in Attics or Basements

Get all of your precious family letters, etc. out of attics and basements, and into a safe environment so they don't bake/freeze. Extreme temperatures shorten the life of papers and photographs. Mary Clement Douglass Curator of collections [ret.], Smoky Hill Museum, Salina, Kansas

Gold in 1925 State Census

Both sides of my family settled in Iowa either after immigrating or when relocating from the East coast. I have found quite a bit of information in the 1925 Iowa census. On the second page, following the usual listing, each person gives their parents' names (including mother's maiden name) and their birthplace. I've matched up siblings and found names for ancestors who stayed behind. I wish other states had used the same census form! Christine Gibson

Changing Information From Year To Year

If you are like me, you probably will have found instances where an ancestor's place of birth in a later census (or that of one or more of his or her parents) differs from one census to another. How could that happen? Is it possible that your ancestor got it right one time and not the other? Did he or she get more correct information after the previous census was taken? Did someone else other than your ancestor provide information to the enumerator? Was there a reason to lie? Did the enumerator copy the information down incorrectly when he or she was interviewing the respondent? Or did the enumerator make an error while transcribing his or her working notes or when preparing a copy for the state or Federal government? All of these are possible. I even have a

great-great-grandfather who was listed in the 1870 census as being insane but, by 1880, he apparently had fully recovered! (Yes, there are columns for 'Insane' in both of those censuses, and the fact recorded in the 1870 census may be correct at that time.) The point is that you have to look at the possibility of errors in census records, and you should be seeking other evidence to corroborate or refute the data shown on a census schedule.



Breaking Through A Brick Wall

You asked in the newsletter for how people break their brick walls, well I have started crumbling mine on Charley N. Calmes and Mabel Jane Louise Smiths

marriage date and place. I started my locating their divorce which was in Texas. The experts tell you to keep calling and writing until you get answers, sometimes you will get lucky and find a person who is willing to help. When I located a copy of their divorce in Texas in 1930 I was told any other records was destroyed so it would not be possible to find out why they divorced. I called Houston, Texas and they had me call Austin and the person who worked in the genealogy section told me to call back to Big Spring, Texas and ask for a RECORDS MANAGER and after talking to a lady at our family history center who by the way was from Big Spring, Texas I did call the district court clerk and asking for a records manager I was told the copy of the divorce petition was in the mail. Charley Nevill Calmes and Mabel Jane Louise Smith was married Jan 08, 1912 but now I have to find the location, it is supposed to be in Muskegon, MI.

If you follow the advice from people who know what they are doing and talk genealogy to every body someone will have an answer that will help. You have to be stubborn and do not give up. I have been working on my genealogy on and off since 1972. I know that to some people this may be a small thing but to me it was Christmas. Loretta Calmes Rhoads, Lorettalee47@hotmail.com

How true this attachment is! Today was a good day. I went to GH library to see if I could break through my brickwall. GH library is beautiful, and I would recommend it to anyone who loves libraries. It's a little odd that you have to lock up your purse and bags.

I have been looking for 2 years for Sarah Rice's maiden name. I found her obituary in the Coopersville Observer. She had remarried and died in Elk Rapids. I finally broke through my brickwall. I also found her death certificate on seekingmichigan.org and found her father's name and her mother's first name. Which leads to another brickwall. What fun! Paula Halloran Loretta Calmes Rhoads and Paula Halloran, thank you for sharing your brick wall break through with us.

Hackley Public Library Presents A Family Legacy Writing Workshop



Learn the most important elements of writing. Do you need help getting started writing your family history, autobiography, or want to develop your writing skills? Do your children know their heritage? Each of us has a story from our ancestors or even our own story to tell. If these stories are un-written, then how are your children going to know of their parentage?

Learn the most important elements of writing. Discuss the importance of research and description. The secret of holding a reader is using emotion. Make your ancestors come alive on paper. Make your family legacy something your children will be proud of.

Linda Weaver Clarke, lecturer and author of award winning novel *Melinda and the Wild West*, will be teaching a Writing Workshop that is free to the public. Clarke flies throughout the United States presenting her workshop to libraries.

Clarke became interested in writing when she realized that her ancestors' stories were intriguing but the facts alone were not enough, so she turned their biographies into stories that her children would enjoy. "Putting the facts into story form brings an ancestor to life," Clarke said. "I like what Leon Garfield said: 'The historian, if honest, gives us a photograph; the storyteller gives us a painting.' What I'm teaching people is how to paint their story, to be the storyteller."

Clarke will be teaching the workshop at the Hackley Public Library, 316 West Webster Avenue, Muskegon, Michigan 49440, on **Saturday, October 9, 2:00 - 4:00**. The Author's award-winning novel will be available after the event. To learn more about her classes, visit: www.lindaweaverclarke.com. For more information about Hackley Public Library, visit the library's website: www.hackleylibrary.org.

Linda's website is: <http://www.lindaweaverclarke.com>

Submitted by HPL Librarian

Mary Southwick—Local History & Genealogy Dept.



New Hackley Public Library BOOKS for the Local History & Genealogy Dept.



- > **Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 1997**, by Matt Burns (Gift of Matt Burns)
- > **Hudsonville 1873-1973**
- > **A Bibliography of American County Histories**, compiled by P. William Filby
- > **Indiana Genealogical Research**, by George K. Schweitzer
- > **American Passenger Arrival Records**, by Michael Tepper
- > **Ethnic Groups in Michigan**, James M. Anderson & Iva A. Smith Editors
- > **Clarissa's Best Riddle--Her Maiden Name**, by Ella Soelberg
- > **Managing a Genealogical Project**, by William Dollarhide
- > **The Handy Book For Genealogists**, edited by George B. Everton, Sr.
- > **The Gold Key to Writing Your Life History**, by Leone Noble Western
- > **Mayflower Marriages**, by Susan E. Roser
- > **Muskegon County Census Books 1884 (CD ROM)** (Gift of MCGS)
- > **Muskegon County Census Books 1894 (CD ROM)** (Gift of MCGS)

New Hackley Public Library BOOKS for the Local History & Genealogy Dept.

Continued from page 4



- > **Mayflower Marriages**, by Susan E. Roser
- > **Muskegon County Census Books 1884 (CD ROM)** (Gift of MCGS)
- > **Muskegon County Census Books 1894 (CD ROM)** (Gift of MCGS)
- > **1884 Muskegon County, Michigan Census Books 1 & 2 (Microfilm)**
- > **1884 Muskegon County, Michigan Census Ward 1-4 (Microfilm)** (Gift of MCGS)
- > **1894 Muskegon County, Michigan Census Books 1 & 2 (Microfilm)** (Gift of MCGS)
- > **Indians, Saw Mills, and Danes: The Early History of the Flat River Area of Michigan**,
by Robertson M. Augustine
- > **75 Years of the American Association of University Women of Michigan 1922-1997**,
by Esther Walton
- > **100 Years Are Ripe in the Land of Mears; Mears First Century of Pictures 1873-1973**
- > **Hesperia Centennial Souvenir Book 1866-1966**
- > **Pioneer Parade: A History of Ensley Township**, Newaygo County, Michigan
- > **Calumet Township Centennial 1866-1966**
- > **Nashville, Michigan 1869-1969**
- > **Sand Lake Centennial 1869-1969**
- > **Family Associations, Societies and Reunions 1991-92 edition**
- > **Directory of Family Associations**, by Elizabeth Petty Bentley
- > **Muskegon County, Michigan Plat Book & Index of Owners**
- > **Newaygo County Yesteryear (2 books)**
- > **Loutit Library Local History Room: A Guide to Resources**, compiled by Diana Pierson, Ellen Benes Gedeon & Donna Wyant
- > **New Era, Michigan The First 100 Years**
- > **The Vermont Historical Gazetteer: A Magazine, Embracing a History of Each Town, Civil, Ecclesiastical, Biographical and Military** (In Memory of Nora Johnson Muskegon County Genealogical Society)
- > **On The Streets Where We Live: A History of the Streets and Avenues of Sault Ste. Marie**
- > **History of the Presbyterian Sunday School at Grand Haven, Michigan 1876**
- > **Post Offices in the United States 1893**, by Don Simmons
- > **Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area**, edited by Estelle M. Guzik
- > **Butte Remembers**
- > **Marriages 1800-1850 Centre County, Pennsylvania**, compiled by Harold O. Thomen & edited by Gladys Campbell Murray
- > **A Key To The United States 1880 Federal Census: Identifying Enumeration District Numbers and Microfilm Numbers of the National Archives and the Genealogical Library**
- > **The Dictionary of Genealogy**, by Terrick V.H. Fitzhugh
- > **Geitgey in America 1762-1985 Two Hundred Twenty-Three Years**, by Frances Harrsen Geitgey
- > **Faces of Maine**, by Bob Niss
- > **Saga of Inyo County**
- > **St. Catherine's House**, by Eve McLaughlin
- > **A Handy Guide to the Genealogical Library and Church Historical Department**, by Ronald Cunningham & Evan Evans
- > **Genealogies in the Ferguson Library**, by Thomas Jay Kemp
- > **A Memorial History of Moses Bitsche Son of Peter Bitsche and a Complete Family Register**, by Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Z. Peachey
- > **North Prairie, An Historic Wisconsin Village 1834-1950**, by Donald J. Kabitzke
- > **Prisoners Who Died at Andersonville Prison: Atwater List**

Dates to Remember—2010

Upcoming Events

Board Meeting
1st Tuesday
except July & December
at 6:00 p.m.
Torrent House
315 W Webster

September 7
October 5
November 2
Off December

Regular Meetings
2nd Thursday except July
Doors at 6:30 p.m.
Starts at 7:00 p.m.
Masonic Temple
396 W. Clay

September 9
October 14
November 11
December 9

A Look Ahead...

Genealogy Family History Workshops

Join us for hands-on research help from the volunteer society members. Bring your current research info with you.
Hackley Public Library
Local History & Genealogy Dept.
Lower Level
316 W. Webster

Off June, July, & August

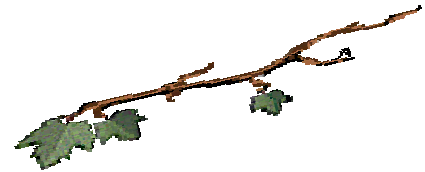
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
September 11
October 9
November 6
Off December

HAVE A SAFE
LABOR DAY WEEKEND

What to Bring on September

- Pencil and notepaper for all the great information we will share.
- Show and tell memorabilia and/or stories. How did you
If you still have a brick wall problem, tell us about it.

Of course bring a few friends.



GENEALOGY FAMILY HISTORY WORKSHOPS START SAT., SEPT. 11, 2010 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

In the Local History & Genealogy Dept at HPL



Thanks! Fran Harrington
Magic Mirror Cemetery Photography

<http://morris88.deviantart.com/journal/20760697/>



Coming in October

National Family History Month
MCGS is celebrating 38 years!
Some of the following events: pioneer certificates, banquet, and humorous skit
Don't miss this occasion!!



GET YOURSELF ORGANIZED!

Is it very important to be **ORGANIZED** right from the start of your research. **Without being ORGANIZED, you will be very disappointed when you can't find what you're looking for.**

See:
http://www.genealogy.com/66_neill.html



TIP: City directories for your ancestor's town make a good substitute for missing censuses. Look for them on microfilm at your local or large libraries.



TIP: Don't forget to look in university libraries for genealogy Records. To find academic libraries near you, see lists.webjunction.org/libweb/Academic_main.html or www.publishlibraries.com/university_library.htm



TIP: Find local churches and their records at the same time in major genealogical library catalogs. For example, do a place search in the Family History Library catalog www.familysearch.org/eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp which references thousands of microfilmed church registers for christenings, marriages and burials. Watch for entries subcategorized as Church Records, and see if any match your ancestor's religion or were located near his home.

TIPS are from the Family Tree Magazine—August 2010 Love that magazine

Answer to question p. 1, is the Auto Theater