

This issue:

Page 2

President's Message

Members News

Last Meeting Highlights

Next Meeting Reminders

Travel Opportunities with
MCGS

Page 3

MCGS Board Updates

Other Society News

Tip of the Month

Page 4

Webinar Learning

Opportunities

Page 5

Technology Merges with
Genealogy

This Day in History

Page 6

Monthly Quote

Dive Into Muskegon

Page 7

DNA News

Page 8

MCGS General

Information

Torrent House News



Upcoming Programs:

August 16

"Michigan Roots – Genealogy Research in the Great Lakes State"

Presented by
Kris W. Rzepczynski, MLIS, MA

Drawn by high-paying manufacturing jobs and inexpensive land, thousands of people from all over Europe and the United States, including the Deep South, New England, New York, and Pennsylvania, migrated to Michigan during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This session, aimed at researchers whose ancestral trails extend to and from Michigan, explores these migration patterns and provides an overview of the rich and abundant genealogical resources available in print and online.



A Senior Archivist at the Archives of Michigan, where he specializes in family history and Michigan research, Kris has worked in the genealogical community for nearly 20 years

Next Member Meeting

August 16

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

September 20

"Preserving Patriots, The Daughters of the American Revolution and a Legacy of Lineage"

Presented by
Sarah Deming, State Director of
Protocol, DAR of Michigan

Discover how the Daughters of the American Revolution honors the legacy of our nation's founders through time-honored traditions, genealogical research, and historical preservation. In this engaging presentation, Sarah Deming, State Director of Protocol for DAR of Michigan, shares how DAR members impact society by celebrating patriotism with purpose and ceremony, furthering historic preservation, and providing educational resources. Whether you're researching your ancestry or participating in civic life, this presentation will deepen your appreciation for the history of DAR of Michigan.



President Corner

Hello,

Wow! August already! Hope everyone had a great summer and enjoyed all our lakeshore community has to offer. Our Society had a break during June and July, and we are ready to reengage. The Workshops (Writer's Group, Genetic Genies, and Gene Step by Step) begin again in August so check our website for dates.

Our next Road Trip is August 2, to the Archives of Michigan in Lansing. Also, don't forget the Road Trip to Ft. Wayne; Allen County Genealogy Library is approaching fast - Wednesday, October 1 thru Saturday, October 4, 2025. You must email us to sign up at 1972mcgs@gmail.com.

You can check out the details on our website. During the summer we made some progress on our Special Projects. Thank you to all our volunteers that have stepped up! We still have a few scanning projects which need to be done at the Torrent House (can't take the materials home for these projects). If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at 1972mcgs@gmail.com. We can train anyone to scan, and you can work at your own pace and on any days the Torrent House is open.

Thank you for your support of the Society. Hope to hear from you soon!

Karen (Page) Frazier



Welcome new members:

Cora Pruim – Muskegon MI

Surnames: Fraser, Pruim, Schichtel, VanderWest

Sue Lenar – Roosevelt Park, MI

William Moulatsiotis – Norton Shores, MI

Surnames: Moulatsiotis, Mayville, Weir

Sarah Stibitz – Whitehall MI

Surnames: Borgeding, Hershey, Meyers, Olson, Sauve, Sellon, Sova, Stibitz, Vos

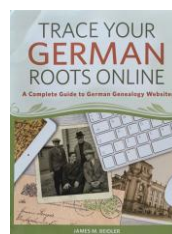


Last Meeting Highlights

Thinking all the way back to June – very warm and windy our in-person presenter enjoying the company of 28 attendees including 3 guests and 3 on Zoom. Her topic of “Squeezing All the Info out of Your Matches” enlightened all of us on the importance of doing the genealogy on the matches we have. She stated that it is important to build out their trees (make them “floating” trees within your tree so when you figure out how they connect you already have them in your tree). She stressed the importance of using the Ancestry ProTools (\$10/month) because it allows you to see the matches of your matches. She also said you need to be creative on how you search even to “over search”, because learning about the people who shared photos on Ancestry and paying attention to the others who saved it gives away a lot of clues. The book draw winner was Sandy Storch.

Next Meeting Reminders

Member only book draw:



By: James M. Beidler
(2016)

Explore your German heritage from the comfort of your own computer. This book highlights important German resources on popular genealogy websites. With helpful illustrated step-by-step instructions, you'll learn how to use each site to its fullest potential, including how to get around language barriers and navigate various German states that have existed throughout the centuries.

Travel Opportunities with MCGS

Library of Michigan/Archives

August 2
At the time of this printing – you will have to call to see availability

ACPL

October 1-4

More details on these as the date approaches. Sign up early for planning purposes!



Looking in to 2026:

Archives :
April 4 & August 1

Board Updates

The June Board meeting was busy making final decisions before our summer break. We decided that after our History Book 1 was scanned we would sell it on Amazon, we also decided to scan the ENTIRE Harry Cleveland Military Collection before having them sent out to be bound, along with our previous publication "Family

Tree Talk". Our Board is currently making decisions regarding the new Lifetime Member and Hall of Fame recipients on top of actively working on the website. Even though we were on a short summer break, the work was constantly moving forward with behind-the-scenes volunteers giving tirelessly of their time and energy – for you we are grateful!!!

We look forward to seeing you at our regular monthly meetings. If you ever have a concern, comment, question or just something you wish us to know, please do not hesitate to bring it to our attention at one of these meetings! We always look forward to hearing from you – as this is YOUR society.

1972mcgs@gmail.com



Are you
technologically
savvy??

MCGS is still in
need of a
Technology
Chair.

Are you eager
to see some of
the projects
move along at a
faster pace??

How about
volunteering to
help index or
scan (some of it
can be done at
home).

In Progress Special Projects and Activities:

Indexing:

- DD214 (on going)
- Justice of the Peace for Muskegon County (on going)

Binding:

- Harry Cleveland Military Files (awaiting scanning then binding)

Scanning:

- Historical Pioneer Certificates (on going)

NEED VOLUNTEERS:

- Tressa LaFayette Research Files
- Church books boxes
- Box of Pioneer Pictures

Genealogy Tip of the Month –

Remember what was taught during the Organizing Your Paper Genealogy Class. I want to let EVERYONE know – its BACK-TO-SCHOOL time. And with that it means that all those color-coding binders, folders, pencil boxes, flash drives, highlighters, mechanical pencils and sticky notes are all ON SALE during this month. Check out all the sales at the local Meijer or Walmart stores. You can never have too many supplies when it comes to being organized with your family history...





Western Michigan Genealogical Society

October 18, 2025

[Got Ancestors Seminar](#)

WMGS offers a website that connects all the surrounding area's information in one convenient location called [Common Corners](#)

Library of Michigan

has published the entire year of programs

[click HERE to see the entire listing](#)

August 7th is "Digitizing Your Family Tree Formats, Software and Techniques"

Simply click the program to register

1st Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM



[Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan](#)

47th Annual Genealogy Seminar

October 18, 2025
(fee)



[Michigan Germanic Genealogical Society](#)

September 8, 2025
7:30pm - 8:30pm

"Resources for Genealogical Research in Foreign Countries"

Presented by

Katherine R. Willson.

Free resources are available for beginning online research in any of our immigrant ancestors' home countries.

Don't forget to utilize [Conference Keeper](#).



[Lansing Area African American Genealogical Society](#)

August 16, 2025
10:00am – 11:00am.

"Newspapers"

Presentation by
Melvin McWilliams.
Zoom meeting.

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

[Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society](#)

September 24-28, 2025,
Atlanta GA.

110th Annual Conference.
Registration required.



Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

ACPL is offering 6 [virtual programs](#) for August.

To include French Canadian and Portuguese Research!



[Upcoming Webinars - Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)

Register within the link above.

August 6, 2025, 5:00am EDT
Why you want Irish Quaker Ancestors

August 8, 2025, 2:00pm EDT
Exploring Nigeria Genealogy: A Guide to Researching Your Nigerian Ancestors.

August 12, 2025 2:00pm EDT
A MyHeritage Webinar

August 27, 2025, 2:00pm EDT
Ancestors on the Move: Migration from Farms to Cities, 1870-1920

PLUS MANY MORE!!!!



Technology Merges with Genealogy

Have you noticed that when you do a Google search, the VERY first thing that pops up in the list is an AI generated response. Are they annoying you as much as they are me??

Thanks to Thomas MacEntee here's a tip to get rid of them quickly: When you are typing something to search in Google simply put "-AI" (without the quotes) to EXCLUDE anything AI generated. Tah-Dah! Back to the Google you know! Give it a try!

While I was in Utah with the Ancestor Seekers group the expert genealogists used an online program called IrfanView to note things within a jpeg image. For example, they would screen print a record found on a different website and pull the shot into IrfanView to highlight information on the record and to add notes right onto the page. This was then saved digitally into the family tree. This was most helpful when we found original church records from the 1700s in German and added translations right on the page. Get your free download of the program [here](#).

EXPLORING THE WORLD OF PODCASTS:

[Extreme Genes](#)

"Extreme Genes is a genealogy show that sets out to educate the audience on resources and techniques for completing any gaps found in your family tree. Each episode Fisher interviews national experts in the field of genealogy as well as news related to all of our genealogy.

Frequency: Monthly
Host: William Fisher

So, when Karen and I went to Rootstech in March, I signed up for every give-away everyone was offering – never thinking it would amount to anything more than my email box getting filled with a bunch of genealogy advertisements.

Little did I know – I would be the winner of a 6-night, 7 days stay at the Plaza Hotel in Salt Lake City hosted by [Ancestor Seekers](#). This

is a genealogist's DREAM VACATION! Five days of research at the Family Search Library with professional genealogists to give one-on-one help in the specific areas you need it.

I had a blast!!!! I went with two goals, one for my side and one for my husband's. On the first day, not only did I break through my brick wall – we obliterate it. I took my paternal line from 1841 to 1670 in the time I was there!

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



AUGUST 4, 1876

What local college is almost 150 years old?

Discover the answer by following [this link](#).

Monthly Quote

*"Stories
have to be
told, or
they die,
and when
they die, we
can't
remember
who we are
or why
we're here"*

*~ Sue Monk
Kidd*

MEMBERS.... Do you have an ancestor you would like to share? Do you have some advice to help others in their research? Here is your opportunity. Simply submit your article to twigtalk1972@gmail.com by the 15th of the month and you can become a contributor to our publication. All is welcome to share!!!

Dive Into Muskegon

Come out to show support for our very own William Hansen:



EXHIBIT OPENING AUGUST 14, 2025

MUSKEGON COUNTY HISTORY GALLERY OPENING FEATURING MOSAIC MUSKEGON

The Muskegon Museum of History and Science is proud to unveil our Muskegon County History Gallery—a brand-new exhibit dedicated to exploring the rich history, culture, and landscapes of Muskegon County. This gallery will spotlight local stories, people, and places through changing exhibits that explore the heart and history of our community.

Our first installation, *Mosaic Muskegon*, presents a photographic exploration of the county as you've never seen it before. Over the course of 18 months, local artist and photographer William Hansen captured more than 43,000 individual images of sites across Muskegon County. These exposures were carefully layered and stitched together to create over 2,200 highly detailed mosaic photographs—each one a composite of moments, textures, and views that together form a complete image.

Mosaic Muskegon is both a powerful visual record and a living tribute to the places we call home.

WHEN: AUGUST 14

TIME: 5-7PM

**LOCATION: Muskegon Museum of
History and Science**

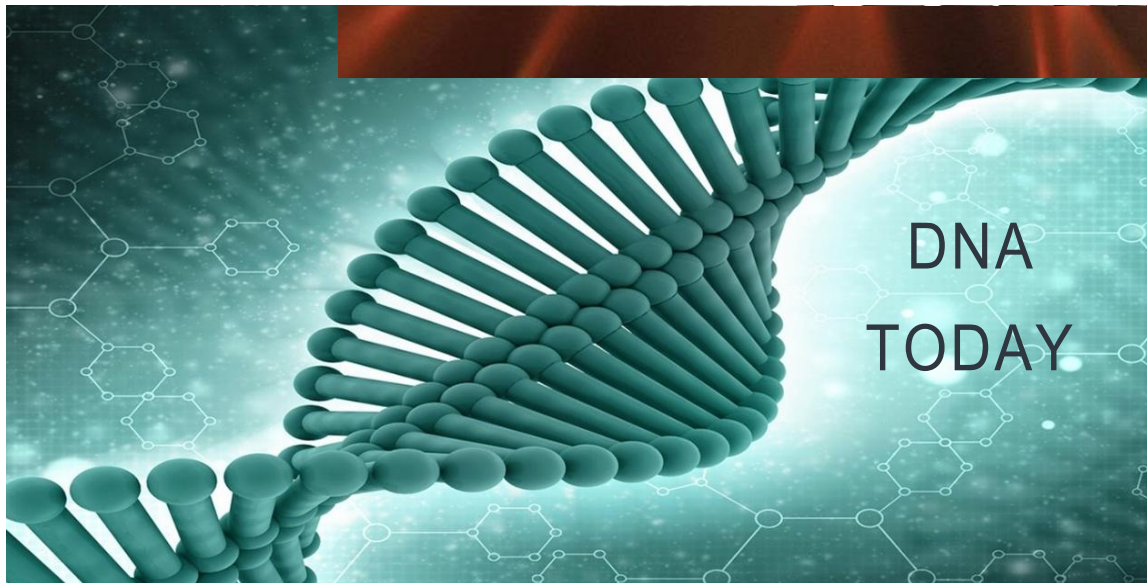
**FREE for Muskegon County
residents and Museum members**

\$5 admission for out-of-county guests

**RSVP to marci@lakeshoremuseum.org
or 231-724-5544**



**MUSKEGON MUSEUM
OF HISTORY & SCIENCE**
of the Lakeshore Museum Center

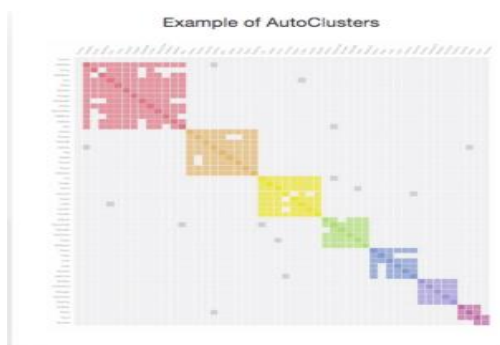


Ancestry.com keeps improving their DNA program with more tools. If you are a “Pro Tools” member, they just recently introduced Matches by Cluster feature. It’s not new to the DNA world, but it’s new to Ancestry.

This is “a powerful genetic genealogy tool that allows you to visualize, sort, and group your DNA matches so you can easily see how your matches are related to each other through DNA. Clusters often represent branches of your family tree, making it easier to identify common ancestors and solve genealogical puzzles!” You can read all about this new feature here on the [Ancestry Blog](#).

“AutoClusters” as it is called on MyHeritage has been around since March of 2019. They boast “a genetic genealogy tool that groups together DNA Matches that likely descend from common ancestors in a compelling

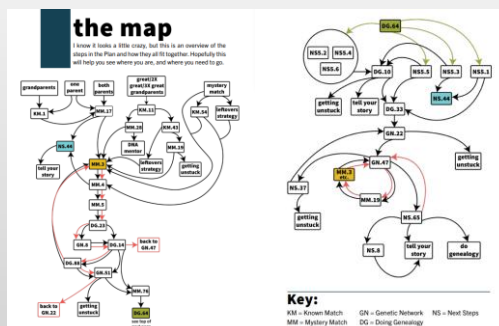
visual chart. This easy-to-use tool, developed in collaboration with Evert-Jan Blom of GeneticAffairs.com, helps you explore your DNA Matches more efficiently in groups rather than as numerous individuals, and gain insights about branches in your family tree.” You can read more of their article [here](#) in which you can compare the two and decide for yourself which company’s DNA tool will help you move further back in your research!



DIGging with the Genies

The Genetic Genies

The Genies had the summer off as well and are looking forward to continuing their learning this month. Again, if you have taken our course before, please feel free to join us for a refresher or simply to have some interesting DNA conversation.



**“DNA
NEITHER
CARES NOR
KNOWS.
DNA JUST
IS AND WE
DANCE TO
ITS MUSIC.”**

**~ RICHARD
DAWKINS**

MCGS MEETING PLACE

Hackley Public Library
316 W. Webster Ave
Muskegon, MI 49440



Saturdays at 10:30am

2025 Meeting Dates:

AUGUST 16

SEPTEMBER 20

OCTOBER 18

NOVEMBER 15
Annual Meeting

DECEMBER
No Meeting

2026 Meeting Dates:

JANUARY 17

FEBRUARY 21

MARCH 21

APRIL 18

MAY 16

JUNE 30

MCGS Meeting

Cancellation

Notice

Notification
posted on the
MCGS Website
and Facebook
page and
WZZM Channel
13 Closings &
Cancellation List

HPL – TORRENT HOUSE THE LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY DEPT.

315 W. Webster Ave.
Muskegon, MI
Check [website](#) for hours!



Added to the Bookshelf:

Catch up next month on all the new books that
have arrived at the Torrent House. Its been a busy place!



Having photos in a digital
format allows easy access to
insert into the family history book
you've always wanted to write.
Have you called to schedule yet?

OFFICERS

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Treasurer Jennifer Lamkin
Past President Jane Appleton Schapka

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Technology OPEN
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MEMBER at LARGE

Gary Versalle

Thank you for allowing us to serve you!

~



The Muskegon County Clerk's Office is fully
functioning in their new location at 1903
Marquette Ave. Across the street from the
Muskegon Community College Baseball field.

Research is limited to ONLY Wednesdays. TO
ENSURE THERE IS STAFF AVAILABLE TO ASSIST
YOU, please call ahead of your visit (231) 724-
6221.

TWIG TALK

A publication of:

Muskegon County Genealogical Society
C/O Hackley Public Library—Torrent House
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