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Upcoming Programs:

June 21

**“Squeezing all the Facts out of
Your DNA Matches”**

Presented by Kate Penney
Howard

Near the top of your match list, you've got this mystery match that just might be the key to your research. The only problem is they don't have a visible tree, and they didn't respond to the message you sent two years ago, but that doesn't mean that you should give up! This will give users of every skill level more tools to crack that difficult case. You'll learn about strategies for logically approaching your search, what you can glean from your match's profile, how free & paid resources can help you, and you'll receive a research template that will help you ensure you have left no stone unturned. This is an entertaining, fast-paced, so join us with whatever note-taking device you prefer and bring your questions for the Q&A session at the end.

She will finish her presentation with a DNA story on a White Cloud, Michigan lumberjack!



Next Member Meeting

June 21

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

July

ENJOY THE MONTH OFF!!!

Presented by The MCGS Board

Use this time off to enjoy the summer months getting outside to do some genealogy... there are plenty of activities to do during the warmer season:

Family Reunions
Cemetery searching
Gravestone clean-up
Travel to other locations to
complete some research



President Corner

Hello,

June is upon us already! The real start of summer in Muskegon County. Festivals have started, and fishing is great - as my husband can attest to! For our Society and Board, we take a break from regular meetings. There are no Workshops in June or July, and no Saturday meeting in July. However, we are still around, working on small projects, so if you have questions or need some individual help, please email us at 1972mcgs@gmail.com.

Don't forget to sign up for the next Road Trip on August 2, to the Archives of Michigan in Lansing. You must email us to sign up at 1972mcgs@gmail.com.

You can check out the details on our website. We had to take two cars the last trip in April, so coordination is required.

Thank you to all our volunteers that have stepped up to help get some of our projects going. We 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.

Karen (Page) Frazier

Saying goodbye to a beloved member

Constance Kay Fales, born August 24, 1950, passed away May 12, 2025. The daughter of Carl and Iva Fales, she is survived by her brother Chuck Fales; sister Julie (Kevin) Dodge; nieces Jamie Fales and Adrienne (Matthew) Rasmussen; nephew Lyle (Jaclyn) Dodge; great-nieces Makenna, Chloe, and Katherine; and great-nephew Christopher.

After graduating from the University of Michigan, Constance settled down in the Muskegon area. She taught at Muskegon Heights for 33 years. She was beloved by her students and fellow staff members.

Constance was endlessly kind, generous, and supportive. Smart and funny, Constance was a storyteller who loved nature and gardening. She fed the birds and enjoyed watching the deer and critters that regularly visited her gardens.

Active in the Muskegon County Genealogical Society, Constance was a skilled researcher who could puzzle out ancestry that stumped other researchers. She truly had a gift.

Friends cherished Constance. Kids relaxed around her. Dogs and cats adored her. Constance was a woman of light. In Constance, the universe got it right.

Per her wishes, cremation has taken place, and her urn will be placed alongside her family at Bloomfield Township Cemetery near Manton, MI.



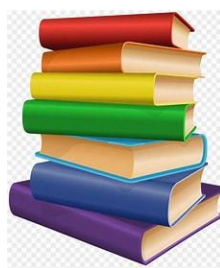
Last Meeting Highlights

What in the world happened to our Spring. The weather for May's meeting was back down into the 40s and it was very cold and windy. Despite that, we had a full house with 26 people (including three quests) for our on-site presentation by Marsha Dekker from the Daughter's of 1812 Stephen Preston Chapter. Surprisingly, the War of 181 was actually from 1812 to 1815 and it actually helped secure our independence from Brittan. Take-aways from this presentation included the important women of this was including "Aunt Dinah" who lived to be 109 years old and Dolly Madison for saving a portrait of George Washington which hangs in the white house to this day! AND this is the war in which Francis Scott Key wrote a poem which would later become our country's national anthem!!

The book draw winner was Paul Hulka.

Next Meeting Reminders

Member only book draw:



No meeting in July – therefore no book draw!

If you happen to have genealogical books just laying around that you are no longer utilizing and would like to contribute to our society, we would be more than happy to use them for our member only book draw. Simply bring them with you to any meeting and state your intent.

Thank you in advance for considering us!!

Travel Opportunities with MCGS

Library of Michigan/Archives

August 2

(sign up early to reserve your seat)

ACPL

October 1-4

More details on these as the date approaches.

Sign up early for planning purposes!



Board Updates

The May Board meeting's hot topic discussion was the website and Pioneer Certificates. The board is doing a thorough review of the qualifications and deciding to expand the requirements to include pre-1859 residence. All previously issued certificates will be on the website. Also, events have been expanded to show

programs, workshops and road trips. The Resources section now includes the podcasts that are mentioned in the Twig Talk, genealogy links and Facebook groups to come soon.

The Member's Only section has the Updated Military DD214 Index (and it's still growing – so check back often) and it also houses the program videos from our March, April and May meeting presentations along with the handouts!!

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 (in progress)
- Justice of the Peace for Muskegon County (has begun)

Binding:

- Harry Cleveland Military Files (awaiting binding)

Scanning:

- Historical Pioneer Certificates (on going)

NEED VOLUNTEERS:

- Tressa LaFayette Research Files
- Church books boxes

Genealogy Tip of the Month – Citing Sources

Our goal is to help and encourage all of us to start or improve our source citing skills. If you have a specific item you would like help writing a citation for, feel free to email us so it can be included in future newsletter examples. For our first one, let's make it very easy! A book, any book, published and you have a copy, or the library has a copy (not digital- that's the next step!)

What: Author(s) name, last name first. If more than one, in order as listed in book; **Title of Book** - italicized, original year published; Volume (if any) & chapter/page(s) that related to your research (use p for page). Chapter titles are in quotation marks: Bethea, Mary Belle Manning, *Ancestral Key to the Pee Dee*, 1978, "Pages of Dillon", p 567-578. **Publisher:** Place of Publication, then a colon, then the publisher, and the year (if reprinted or later edition) Columbia, SC: R.K. Bryan Co.

Where & When: Where did you find the book? Did you buy it? Did you access it at a library or archive? What date? Dillon County Library, Dillon, SC, 3 Jul 2001 OR Schuler Bookstore, 4 Aug 2001

What if any of the above information is not available? Make a note that the information is missing - Note "n.p." for No place; Note "n.p." for No publisher; Note "n.d." for no publication date; Note "Anonymous" for no author Bethea, Mary Belle Manning, *Ancestral Key to the Pee Dee*, 1978, "Pages of Dillon", p 567-578. Columbia, SC: R.K. Bryan Co. Dillon County Library, Dillon, SC, 3 Jul 2001. Source: 'Evidence Explained' website, at

<https://www.evidenceexplained.com/>



Western Michigan Genealogical Society

Plan ahead...

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](#)

June 5th is Time to Hit the Books – Yearbooks, Alumni Lists and more

Simply click the program to register



[Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan](#)

[Digital Resources for Research](#)

June 7, 2025 – Noon

Presenter:
Michelle Tucker
Chubenko



Michigan Germanic Genealogical Society

<https://miggs.org>

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.

Look for future webinars, seminars, on-line learning modules, or workshops from around the web here in future issues!



June 21 1:30-3:30

[Walking Tour of the Detroit Public Library](#)



Don't forget to utilize

[Conference Keeper.](#)



Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

ACPL is offering 0 [virtual programs](#) for June.

It appears they are suggesting cleaning out the attic of hidden archives!



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

Register within the link above.

June 10 at 2:00pm – A Gateway to 5.7 Million Records: Using MyHeritage's "Histories, Memories, & Biographies" Collection

June 11 at 8:00pm – Top 5 Strategies for Researching Early Kentucky and Virginia Families

June 18 at 2:00pm – Bridging the Generation: Connecting the Enclaved in Your Ancestor's Records to their Descendants

June 20 at 2:00pm – Exploring Library and Archives Canada Online

PLUS MANY MORE!!!!



Technology Merges with Genealogy

So, upon looking into ways to stay organized digitally (remember trying to get rid of the clutter – yes still!) I happened to come across an online program for just that. It is called SCRAPPLE. This is a mind-mapping program to help keep your thoughts organized. I introduced it to my Genetic Genies back in May and I was going to feature it in the DNA section this month but, decided it can help all of us on our organizing genealogy journey. It is a pay service but its very minimal and only a one-time fee of \$20.99 to pay for the license to own the program.

If you are one that likes to try-it-before-you-buy-it, they have a 30-day free trial. There are videos to help you on the website as well as one particular for DNA that I will link here.

YouTube video demo:
[Scapple for Genealogists: A Tutorial by Britta Brewer](#)

Website for Scapple:
[Mind Mapping Software & Tool For Mac & Windows](#)

I believe this may be a valuable program to help get rid of lots of scratch paper when you are trying to quickly gather your thoughts or need to map out a family tree.

EXPLORING THE WORLD OF PODCASTS:

[The Family Treehouse](#)

“The Family Treehouse” is a captivating podcast produced by Storied that brings together family history enthusiasts and skilled storytellers. Each episode explores the rich tapestry of personal and ancestral narratives, delving into the intriguing tales of diverse individuals and their family trees. With a passion for genealogy and an appreciation for the power of storytelling, the podcast invites guests to share their journeys of discovery, recounting the triumphs, challenges, and hidden gems unearthed.

Frequency: Monthly

Are you aware that Family Search has TWO websites???

I was absolutely speechless when I learned that at the FamilySearch Seminar. The card catalog, the one you are probably familiar with, has not been updated since 2021... Can you believe that? They boast how many new resources are added yet you CAN NOT access them unless you go to the new site...

Well, ladies and gentlemen... here is the link that you will want to bookmark:

[Welcome to the FamilySearch Library](#)

Once you are there, click COLLECTIONS

Then SEARCH OUR CATALOGS

The site will walk you through each one.

Family Tree Magazine even has an entire article dedicated to it...

[How to Find Records Faster with FamilySearch's Catalogs](#)

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



JUNE 4, 1896

What did Henry Ford name the first gasoline-powered automobile ?

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

Monthly Quote

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

The *Auxiliary Favorites II* has another old time recipe from the kitchen of Helen Dick. I chose a summery salad for those of us that might have picnics or family reunions to attend in the hotter months FRUIT SALAD.

First, make the lemon sauce by mixing in the top of a double boiler the juice and rind of 1 lemon, $\frac{3}{4}$ c. sugar, 1 TBSP flour and 1 egg. Add 1 cup boiling water and cook until thick. While cooling, cut fruit into small pieces: 2 apples, peeled; 4 bananas; 2 oranges; 1 can pineapple chunks. Mix with cooled lemon sauce; fold in small amount of whipped cream. Cool until ready to serve.

Helen Irene Dick was born Allers on August 4, 1901 in South Haven Michigan to Herman W and Minnie (Mielks) Allers.

She had a New Year's Day wedding in 1921 to Howard F. Dick, and bore him four children, Ralph, Vernon, Audrey and Norman. Sadly, little Audrey Eunice was three months premature and was only with them 8 hours before passing away on June 30, 1931.

Helen and Herman filed for divorce on July 16, 1945 in which it was granted on October 29, 1945, their youngest son was only 13 years old.

Helen found happiness again by marrying Archie L. Ames on November 10, 1945 and they were together until his death in 1958.

At some point, she returned to using her previous married name as that is how her recipe is listed in the cookbook, and upon her death on June 17, 1980, she was buried next to her first husband Howard at Sunrise Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Muskegon Michigan. Howard preceeded her in death in 1968.

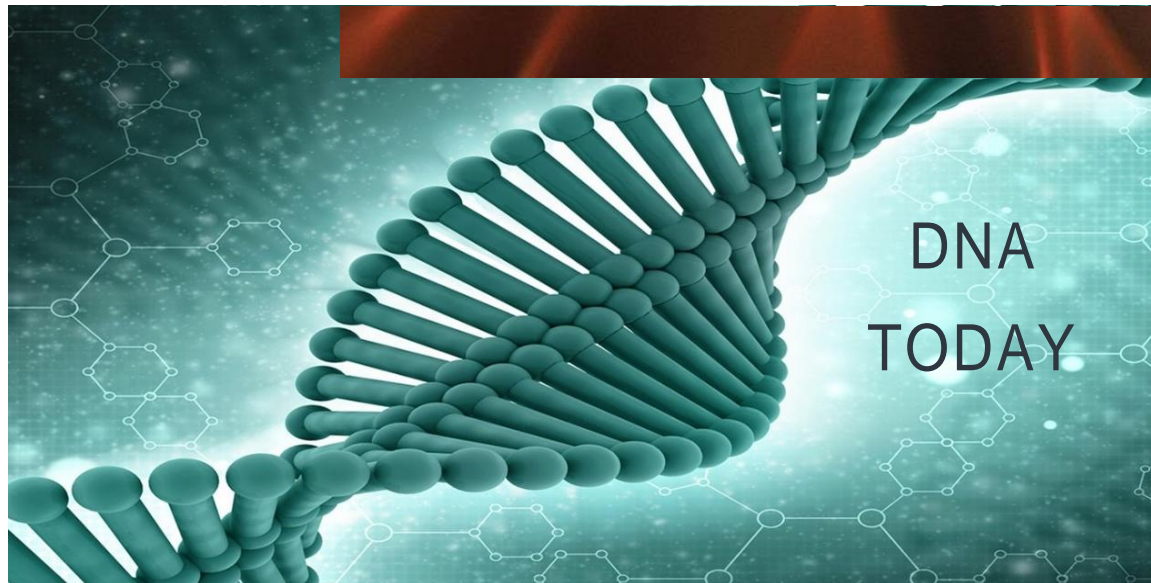


Many thanks to Brian McKeown of the UPS Store at 2743 Henry Street, Muskegon. Brian's store donated the scanning of History Book 1. (A \$340 value.) More than one employee spent their time finishing the project. MCGS provided a pizza party for the store employees as a way of saying thank you.



*"There are
only two
lasting
bequests we
can give
our
children –
one is
roots, and
the other,
wings"*

*~ Nodding S.
Carter*



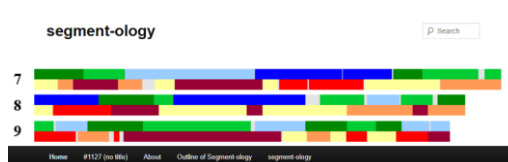
**“DNA HAS
BEEN APTLY
DESCRIBED
AS THE
FIRST
THREE-
DIMENSIONAL
XEROX
MACHINE.”**

How many of you have heard of Jim Bartlett?? Well, count me in the group who hasn't. He has been doing genealogy since 1974 and started to teach classes on genealogy around 2002 on the east coast. Why, you may ask, am I featuring him in our DNA section of our newsletter? Because, last month marked a 10-year anniversary of him writing a DNA blog. He started with a simple post titled, "What is a segment?" and he has been posting about DNA ever since. His blog can be found at [segment-ology](http://segment-ology.com).

I would say, this blog by Jim Bartlett is NOT for the novice DNA explorer. Even I had a hard time following some of the posts as they were COMPLETELY beyond my scope of understanding.

I will choose to dip my toes into his posts until the water gets too high – in which case I will need a lifeline to bail me out of the deep waters!

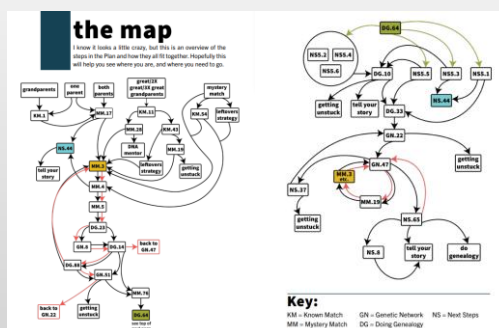
Anyone want to be that lifeline??



DIGging with the Genies

The Genetic Genies

Remember, DNA must be organized in the same manner that your genealogy is. If you are using the four color-coding system I suggested for each set of your great grandparents, keep the colors the same for your DNA groupings that match your genealogy. This will keep everything consistent and easy for you to identify which DNA goes to which family line.



**~ KENNETH
BOULDING**

MCGS MEETING PLACE

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



Saturdays at 10:30am

2025 Meeting Dates:

JUNE 21

JULY

No Meeting

AUGUST 16

SEPTEMBER 20

OCTOBER 18

NOVEMBER 15

Annual Meeting

DECEMBER

No Meeting

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:

Must have been a quiet month as there were no new books reported.



Have you called to schedule
your appointment to
preserve those memories????

OFFICERS

President Karen Page Frazier
Presidentmcgs72@gmail.com
Vice President Dawn Westcomb Kelley
VPmcgs72@gmail.com
Secretary Tom Shepherd
Treasurer Jennifer Lamkin
Past President Jane Appleton Schapka

DELEGATE

Gail Taggart:
Michigan Genealogical Council
National Genealogical Societies

COMMITTEES

Database..... Pam Schaner
Facebook Norm Dagen
Membership Dawn Westcomb Kelley
Membershipmcgs1972@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor Jennifer Lamkin
Twigtalk1972@gmail.com
Pioneer Program Jane Appleton Schapka
Programs Patti Blaszk Mulder
Programsmcgs72@gmail.com

Public Education Maria Chmelarova
Publicity Jackie Engel
Publicitymcgs72@gmail.com
Research..... Fran Harrington
Researchmcgs72@gmail.com

Sales OPEN
Technology OPEN
Website..... Shelly Nelson

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
Local History & Genealogy Department
315 W. Webster Avenue
Muskegon, MI 49440-1208

1972mcgs@gmail.com

genealogymuskegon.org

facebook.com/MuskgonGenealogicalSociety