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## Upcoming Programs:

### May 17

#### **“What was the War of 1812 & Persons Who Played a Part in it”**

Presented by Marsha Dekker

Marsha Dekker currently serves as a Volunteer Genealogist for the State of Michigan, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) as well as President/Treasurer of a local chapter of Daughters of 1812. As the former Registrar of a local chapter of DAR, she assisted over 50 women with membership. She worked for the Kansas Oil Museum assisting with the Butler County Genealogy Library & helping patrons with research, starting a genealogy group, giving tours for schools, and giving classes in genealogy for the local Community College. Marsha is a member of Clan Campbell, Clan Ewing, Williams Family Association, the National Genealogical Society, Western Michigan Genealogy Society, and several websites such as American Ancestors, Ancestry, My Heritage, FamilySearch, and others.



## Next Member Meeting

May 17

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

### 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!



## President Corner

Hello,

The sun is shining, and the trees are budding. Spring is upon us! I hope everyone is getting ready for some genealogy research trips. Now is the time to plan your summer...

Our last Road Trip on April 5 to the Archives of Michigan was a success. We had to take two cars this year to fit everyone! The signups for the Archives trip in August, and the Ft. Wayne Genealogy Center trip in October, is open so make your plans now. Email us at [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com) for a flyer with all the detailed information.

We are a few months in for our new Workshops (DNA, Writers Group, and Gene Step by Step), and everything is going well. Our calendar for 2025 is very full, with Programs, Workshops, and Road Trips. Check out the Events tab on the website for dates and additional information.

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

Karen (Page) Frazier



## Welcome new members:

David Bayne – Muskegon MI  
Surnames: Bayne, Steenhoven

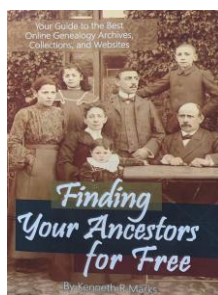
### Last Meeting Highlights

What a beautiful day met us for our April member meeting, cooler wind but sunny skies. It was a full house with 25 members and one guest in person and 4 members joining via Zoom.

Our on-site presenter, Scott Norrick from Ancestral Past, shared with us that knowing what was happening in the time of our ancestors leads to understanding the decisions they made. Stating that “they were defined and shaped by when and where they lived.” He stated, “this is a timely meeting seeing that April 2025 is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1950 census”, and for Michigan he shared some interesting statistics: Detroit held 29% of the state’s population (today it’s only 6%), one in eleven were immigrants, one in three were born outside the state. With the top employment being farming followed by auto and auto parts. The book draw winner was Cindi Archer Mitchell.

### Next Meeting Reminders

Member only book draw:



Most current genealogy researchers, when starting their quest to find their ancestors and begin filling out their family tree, start their research by searching online. There are many paid subscription services out there. The problem is that those subscriptions can cost hundreds of dollars per year. The goal of this book is to provide you with the major online databases, archives, and websites that are *free for you to use*.

**The first part** discusses nationwide U.S. databases, archives and libraries. **The second part** presents the 50 to 80 largest and most diverse websites in each of the 50 states. **The Appendix** contains techniques for using some of the websites in this book. In addition, there is a *downloadable, free PDF with clickable links for all the websites in this book*.

### Travel Opportunities with MCGS

#### Library of Michigan/Archives

We ended up taking two vehicles last month!!! What a great turn out!

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 April Board meeting's top discussion was cleaning out the file cabinets of our meeting room at the Torrent house, followed by a discussion from the Feasibility Committee for a possible tombstone project our society is deciding to undertake. There was also an introduction to a new statement that anyone who joins the society on a road trip will have to sign. It basically states, you are willingly and voluntarily joining the society on said trip and that upon a motor vehicle accident each person's own medical coverage through their auto policy covers them and they will not hold responsible the society or the driver. We are thinking of putting together a directory of all surnames that members of the Society are researching to help make a community to collaborate with.

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](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com)

## In Progress Special Projects and Activities:

### Indexing:

- DD214
- Justice of the Peace for Muskegon County

### Scanning:

- Historical Pioneer Certificates
- History Book 1
- Tressa LaFayette Research Files
- Church books boxes

### Binding:

- Harry Cleveland Military Files

## FamilySearch Seminar

### [FamilySearch Seminar](#)

I know this was last month, but I wanted to share with everyone what an amazing FREE seminar it was. Pat Greene, a new member from Kansas (Jim Billings) and I joined up in Lansing to enjoy a day of learning and fun. There were 5 main sessions and a working lunch session as well. This seminar is an annual event that takes place the last Saturday of April and you can bet this will become an annual event for our calendar! I look forward to more joining us next year!



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).





## 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](#)

May 1<sup>st</sup> is Cemetery Research w/ the LOM

Simply click the program to register

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM



### [Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan](#)

### [The Midwest Fires of 1871-1881](#)

From their website:

**Saturday, May 17  
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

Open to the public.

Join us for this webinar given by Derek J. Blount

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### [Southern California Genealogical Society](#)

### [Build a Better Family Tree with Brick-and-Mortar Research](#)

**Saturday, May 3  
2:00 PM PST**



### [Understanding Citations](#)

**Saturday May 3 12:00-2:00**

You may initially find creating citations intimidating as you strive for accuracy and aim to avoid errors. The excitement of discovering new records about one's research subject can often lead to reluctance to pause to cite your sources. However, the process becomes significantly less daunting if you understand when and why to cite and become familiar with basic citation conventions.

Shannon Green, CG®, CGG, CGL, is a board-certified genealogist, researcher, educator, and writer.

~~~~~

Don't forget to utilize



[Conference Keeper.](#)

## Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

ACPL is offering 8 [virtual programs](#) for May. Check for exact days and times on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday evenings

The Library of Michigan and The Michigan Genealogical Council are teaming up once again for the Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar  
**Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 1 PM to Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> 4 PM**

**Location:**  
Michigan Library & Historical Center  
702 West Kalamazoo St.,  
Lansing MI.

**Free Breakfast and Lunch for onsite attendees.**  
Check the [Website](#) for more details. The cost to attend is \$55.00 and they are offering extended research hours at the Archives!!



## Technology Merges with Genealogy

Can you pronounce:

[Transkribus](#)

(TRAN-SCRIBE-US)

It is a new AI powered platform to help make history accessible to everyone.

From its brochure it states it creates digital and searchable versions of historical documents, where you can easily digitise(*sp*), transcribe and edit text, collaborate and even train your own AI model within the platform. There are four plans of membership, Free, Scholar, Team, and Organisation (*sp*).

So, what can it do...

1. Perform automatic text recognition with handwritten and printed material.
2. Enrich texts with metadata and extract information.
3. Search through documents quickly and efficiently
4. Train customized AI models for text recognition.

200+ text recognition models and 30+ languages. There is also a [Youtube](#) channel to help learn more about this new technology.

Be sure to check it out and open more doors of discovery with the latest technology!!

### EXPLORING THE WORLD OF PODCASTS:

[Cutoff Genes Podcast](#)

Ever wondered what consumer DNA testing can do for you – beyond telling you your ethnicity? Are you an adoptee – or someone who has an unknown parent or relative? Do you love Genealogy? You're in the right place. Join Julie Dixon Jackson, Genetic Genealogist, and Richard Castle as they attempt to guide you through what it takes to use DNA to break down brick walls, solve mysteries – or find your "people"!

Frequency: Bi-Weekly

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

**I was absolutely speechless when I learned that at the FamilySearch Seminar. The card catalog in 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.**

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY



**MAY 20, 1927**

**What West Michigan iconic activity had its start this day?**

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

## Monthly Quote

*"Family  
—  
like  
branches  
on a tree,  
we all  
grow in  
different  
directions  
— yet our  
roots  
remain as  
one"*

*~ Unknown*

**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](mailto:twigtalk1972@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and you can become a contributor to our publication. All is welcome to share!!!



Did you know that Muskegon has a conglomerate of museums that “explores Muskegon County’s rich history with exciting exhibits, hand-on activities and a variety of programs across multiple historic sites”? Thank you to member Pam Shaner for pointing out the richness of our county through our local museum. They even have local ARCHIVES available! The [Lakeshore Museum’s website](#) highlights all the activities that are happening at each location. How about an “After Dark” tour of the Hackley & Hume homes or get some friends together to try to escape the attic of the Hackley House in an escape room challenge. There are so many options to participate in, check out their calendar of events to see all that is available through these museums!

## Dive Into Muskegon

Another recipe from the *Auxiliary Favorites II*. This month’s feature is from Ruth Carr and she calls this a “Curtain call of the holiday bird”: **Chicken or Turkey Soup**.

Remove meat from carcass of chicken, turkey, or duck and set aside. Crack bones. Place the bones in kettle, add skin, several stalks of celery, 1 carrot, 1 onion, 6 peppercorns, tip of 1 bay leaf, 4 cloves.

Cover with water. Simmer 2 hr. cool slightly, strain. Return meat to stock, Chill, skim off fat. Add salt to taste. Simmer 15 min.

Ruth Joanne (Ryke) Carr was born on April 30, 1936 to Dutch immigrant parents John and Henrietta (DenOtter) Ryke — yes from Muskegon’s own famous family bakery “Ryke’s”. She was the youngest of six children in which her oldest sister was 19 years her senior.

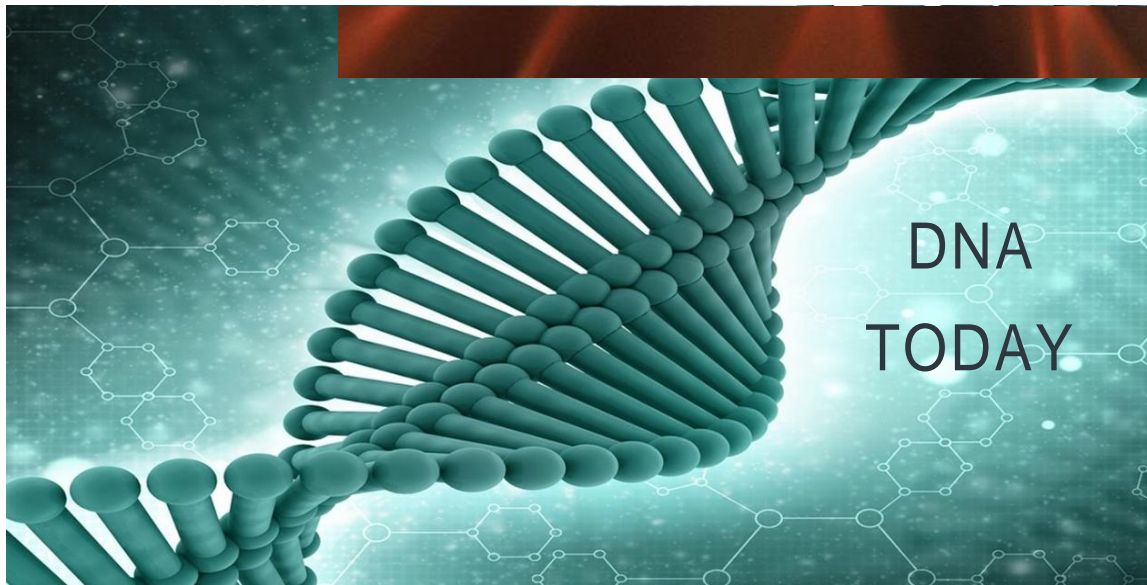
I personally knew her older sister Betty, through our church affiliation, who told me during one conversation that all the children put in their time at the bakery — whether it was helping to mix the frosting or sweep the floors. It was truly a family business. I believe this would have been no different for little Ruth while she was growing up as well.

On June 4, 1955 (per her obituary) she married the “love of her life” Robert Carr — to which they were married 65 happy years! This union was blessed with the birth of two sons.

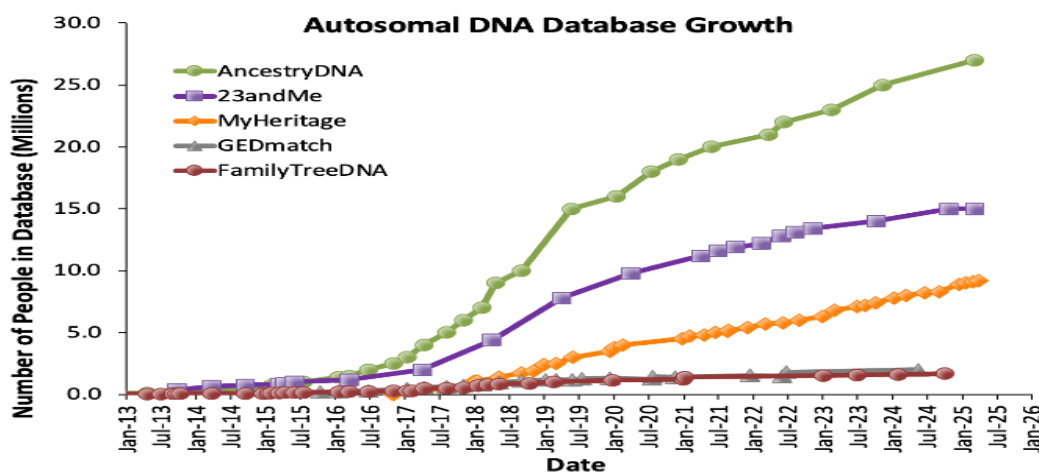
At one point in their marriage they owned and operated a Floral and gift shop called Bob Carr’s House of Gifts out on Holton Road.

Ruth passed away January 7, 2021 at the age of 84 years old.





**“GENES  
ARE LIKE  
THE STORY  
AND DNA  
IS THE  
LANGUAGE  
THAT THE  
STORY IS  
WRITTEN  
IN.”**



© 2025 by Leah Larkin, [www.theDNAgeek.com](http://www.theDNAgeek.com)

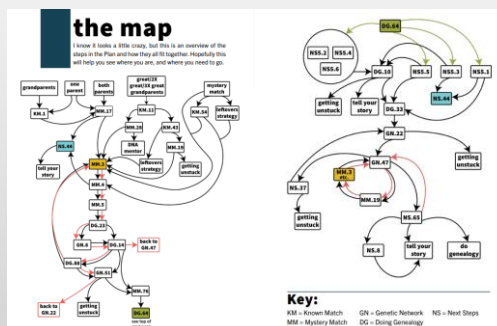
A quick depiction of the growth of DNA testing at the various companies. To read more on this, visit the Blog portion of Leah Larkin’s website: [www.theDNAgeek.com](http://www.theDNAgeek.com)

She also has a great article following this one in the Blog section about the restructuring of 23andMe. And she says to not panic!

## DIGging with the Genies

### The Genetic Genies

The Genies have been revisiting their ethnicity estimates and their communities and Journeys. Remember that ethnicities go back 1000s of years and will not necessarily have genealogical proof, but the communities and Journeys will show matches that are more closely related (in terms of time) – like the last few hundred years, in which you should definitely have genealogical resources helping to prove these locations of your ancestors.



~ SEAN KEAN

## MCGS MEETING PLACE

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



**Saturdays at 10:30am**

2025 Meeting Dates:

MAY 17

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](mailto:Presidentmcgs72@gmail.com)  
Vice President ..... Dawn Westcomb Kelley  
[VPmcgs72@gmail.com](mailto:VPmcgs72@gmail.com)  
Secretary ..... Tom Shepherd  
Treasurer ..... Jennifer Lamkin  
Past President ..... Jane Appleton Schapka

### DELEGATE

Gail Taggart:  
Michigan Genealogical Council  
National Genealogical Societies

### COMMITTEES

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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

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[genealogymuskegon.org](http://genealogymuskegon.org)

[facebook.com/MuskgonGenealogicalSociety](https://facebook.com/MuskgonGenealogicalSociety)