



# TWIG TALK

## Newsletter

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### TWIG TALK

A monthly publication of:  
**Muskegon County Genealogical Society**  
c/o Hackley Public Library  
Torrent House  
315 W. Webster Avenue  
Muskegon, MI 49440-1208  
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Celebrating 50 years in 2022

### President's Message

By Dawn Westcomb Kelley -

Well, here we are into a new year. 2019 has ended and we are planning for a wonderful 2020.

We started 2019 with a new Program Committee charged with a goal of arranging for interesting and informative meeting programs. They succeeded marvelously. We had 9 meetings with programs and each and every one of them was a winner. The members of the committee are Ingrid Porritt, Tom Shepherd, and Bill Hansen. I want to thank them for their good teamwork.

I would also like to thank the members who suggested some of the pro-



**Monthly Meeting**  
**January 9, 2020**  
**6:30 PM**  
**VFW Post 3195**  
**5209 Grand Haven Road**



Joe Zappacosta  
Hackley Public Library Director  
Since November 5, 2018

Mr. Zappacosta has held several previous library director positions totaling about 19 years. He and his family are currently residing in Muskegon. We are looking forward to his presentation.

grams.

I selected Gail Taggart with approval of the board as our publicity person. We will need other volunteers to help her. There will be a sign-up sheet at the meetings if you would like to volunteer.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION** – Just a reminder, that your membership dues are due January 1, 2020. See the membership application on page 5.

### **Muskegon Heritage Association & Museum**

The Muskegon Heritage Museum strives to preserve and share information about the rich history of Muskegon's Business, Industries, and the unique products made in Muskegon. Go to their website and find out more at <https://muskegonheritage.org/>. Regular museum hours are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 11am to 4pm— from the middle of May to the middle of October.

### **PIONEER CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

You can contact us at [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com) and we can

*(Continued on page 2)*

### **GENEALOGY SAYING and Quotes** - Favorite quotes about family history.

**We inherit from** our ancestors gifts so often taken for granted. Each of us contains within this inheritance of soul. We are links between the ages, containing past and present expectations, sacred memories and future promise. – Edward Sellner

(Continued from page 1)

send you the information in PDF or you can pick one up at the Torrent House & Local History Genealogy Department. Dates for the Pioneer Certificate Program is from January 1, 1859 to December 31, 1894. In the near future, we will have a class to help you get started. There will be another sign-up sheet at our meetings.

**GENEALOGY INFORMATION** Name Changes of Michigan Counties:

The naming etymology of Michigan county names is an interesting subject that could have some application in the search for ancestors. For example, if you have an ancestor reported to be buried in Ottawa County but you can't find them in an Ottawa County cemetery, you may want to look in Muskegon County cemeteries. Muskegon County was partitioned from parts of Ottawa County and Oceana County in 1859. For reference go to this URL - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_counties\\_in\\_Michigan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_counties_in_Michigan) .

**Ancestry.com** if you are a member, do not forget to check out under Extras and look for AncestryAcademy they are all free courses.

**AMERICAN ANCESTORS** also have (2) FREE webinars in January, but you must sign-up for them. Check out the website at <https://www.americanancestors.org>.

**No. 1 What is New at AmericanAncestors.org?**

Live Broadcast: Thursday, January 9, 3:00–4:00 PM EST  
*Presented by Don LeClair, Associate Director, Database Search and Systems*

**Cost: FREE**; recording available on the website following the presentation

AmericanAncestors.org is the award-winning website of New England Historic Genealogical Society and home to hundreds of databases with 1.4 billion searchable names, and robust online library catalog, digital manuscript collections, educational resources, and online periodicals with more being added each week. Stay up to date with what is new at AmericanAncestors.org with this quarterly webinar series! Hear about new databases, search features, and resources only available at AmericanAncestors.org.

**No. 2 Boston Research and Records**

Live Broadcast: Thursday, January 16, 3:00–4:00 PM EST

*Presented by David Allen Lambert, Chief Genealogist*

**Cost: FREE**; recording available on the website following the presentation

Since its founding in 1630, the City of Boston has kept records pertaining to its citizens, including several unique resources. Join Chief Genealogist David Allen Lambert to learn what records exist for Boston, tips for using them in your research, and where to find them. Special attention will be given to records from the 17th through 19th centuries.

**GOOGLE BOOKS**

Google Books has hundreds of County Histories and more e-books that you can download and read about your family ancestors. Here are just a few: *Michigan Genealogy, Sources & Resources*, by Carol McGinnis, *Genesee County, Michigan*, and *Ships of Our Ancestors* by Michael A. Anuta.

More than 35 million immigrants came to the New World between the sixteenth and mid-twentieth centuries. Their journey across the dangerous Atlantic Ocean was made on sail and steam-powered vessels of all shapes and sizes. Published accounts of some of the voy-

Muskegon County Building 990 Terrace Street  
Muskegon, MI

Parking is on the East end of the building off Pine Street.

**COUNTY CLERK RESEARCH**



Entrance is on Apple Av between the buildings.

Clerk's office is on the first floor.

Muskegon County Genealogical Society volunteers are needed, on Wednesdays from 1:00pm—4:00pm



ages, made in different eras, paint vivid pictures of the hardships and tragedies of the shipboard life endured by these pioneers. Still, many researchers want to know more about the specific trip made by their own immigrant ancestor. One basic question that springs to mind is what did the ship look like? Fortunately, there are a number of resources available to help answer that question.

Michael Anuta's ***Ships of Our Ancestors*** is a standard reference known to many genealogists, and provides pictures of about 1000 ships that crossed the Atlantic from the 1850s through the 1950s. Many other publications provide pictures of ships as well as details on their construction and history. One of these is the six-volume set ***Great Passenger Ships of the World*** by Arnold Kludas, which covers all passenger liners of more than 10,000 gross tons built between 1858 and 1986. Some works, such as the ***Picture History of the Cunard Line 1840-1990***, feature the ships of one particular company. ***The history of the Norddeutscher Lloyd line of Bremen, Germany*** proudly claims that one-quarter of the immigrants arriving at Ellis Island traveled on one of their ships. The line's two-volume history is full of historical details, and is wonderfully illustrated with ship photographs and facsimile documents.

Images of vessels that carried immigrants to these shores before the Civil War are a bit more difficult to locate. A published catalog of ***The Marine Paintings and Drawings*** in the Peabody Museum helps by providing illustrations of many sailing vessels in the period before widespread photography. Other books, such as ***Clipper Ships of America and Great Britain 1833-1869***, are short on illustrations, but do provide fascinating historical information on numerous sailing vessels of the period. When an image of a particular ship is unavailable, this kind of background information may help identify a nearly identical sister ship for which pictures do exist. William Filby's ***"Passenger Lists"*** bibliography, available in the Genealogy and Local History Department, provides call number references for these and other sources of pictures or historical data on the ships of our ancestors.

## **NEW BOOKS AT THE LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY DEPT**

*More Dating Old Photographs 1840-1929*  
*Becoming an Accredited Genealogist: Plus 100 Tips to Ensure Your Success*, by Karen Clifford

*Family Photo Detective: Learn how to find Genealogy Clues in old photos and solve Family Photo Mysteries*, by Maureen A. Taylor

*Hidden Sources: Family History in Unlikely Places*, by Laura Szucs Pfeiffer

*Uncovering Your Ancestry through Family Photographs*, by Maureen A. Taylor

*The Genealogist's Companion and Sourcebook*, by Emily Anne Croom

*Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 1956*, compiled by Matthew Burns



Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter  
December 28, 2019

Get it at: <http://www.eogn.com>

Dick Eastman has been writing this genealogy newsletter for 22 years.

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### **Over 750,000 Applications for US Birth Certificate Copies Exposed Online**

This is a major security breach. An online company that allows users to obtain a copy of their birth and death certificates from U.S. state governments has exposed a massive cache of applications — including their personal information.

More than 752,000 applications for copies of birth certificates were found on an Amazon Web Services (AWS) storage bucket. The bucket, owned by a Barcelona-based company Onlinevitalus, wasn't protected with a password, allowing anyone who knew the easy-to-guess web address access to the data.

No actual birth certificates were involved but personal data exposed was in the applications for birth certificate copies, not for copies of the birth certificates themselves.

You can read more in an article by Zack Whittaker in the TechCrunch web site at: <https://techcrunch.com/2019/12/09/birth-certificate-applications-exposed/>.

The Torrent House has a new sign on the corner of Third and W. Webster for the Local History and Genealogy Department.



**Subject:** Program Review From The November 14 Annual Meeting  
**To:** MCSG Board

The survey reveals that our members were pretty satisfied with our 2019 programs. Here's the compilation of the feedback; and thank-you to everyone who participated:

Number of feedback forms received: 18 from the November 14th meeting.

Average score, all programs: 4.3 out of 5

Average scores by type of program:

5 programs with a history emphasis: 4.2

4 programs with a genealogy emphasis: 4.4

Three people answered "yes" to the question "Do you watch or participate in webinars and podcasts? One person asked if there was a person or resource knowledgeable about societies and historical groups.

Here are some of the responses to the request for program suggestions:

Veteran organization or historian re: experiences and records

"How To's" e.g. genealogical technology, google maps to pinpoint ancestors

Muskegon County land records

Dave Alexander on Muskegon Chamber of Commerce

History of Muskegon Public Schools

Civil War history and Civil War art

Local history

Shipwrecks

Muskegon Gold

Museum

As a final note, the program committee wants to provide programs that interest everyone and also are a learning experience.

MUSKEGON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*\* Our membership year is January 1 through December 31 \**

- New Membership     Renewal Membership
- \$25.00 Single in the USA     \$30.00 Single USDS outside the USA
- \*Membership cards are available on request. Send a small SASE with your membership payment.*
- We are a non-profit organization 501 (c) (3)  
If you wish to make a donation, please fill in the amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\*E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\*NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\*ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\*CITY \_\_\_\_\_ \*STATE \_\_\_\_\_ \*ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check or money orders payable to MCGS

MAIL TO:  
MCGS  
Attn: MEMBERSHIP  
C/O HPL - Torrent House  
315 W. Webster Ave.  
Muskegon, MI 49440-1208

MCGS USE ONLY

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_  
Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_  
Paid Cash \_\_\_\_\_  
Money Order \_\_\_\_\_  
PayPal \_\_\_\_\_



## 2020 Dates to REMEMBER

### MCGS Meetings

2nd Thursday at 6:30 p.m.  
**VFW Post 3195**  
**5209 Grand Haven Road**



January 9  
 February 13  
 March 12  
 April 9  
 May 14  
 June 11  
 August 13  
 September 10  
 October 8  
 November 12

**NO meetings** in July & December

### Genealogy Family History Workshops

Hackley Library-Torrent House  
 Local History & Genealogy  
 Dept., 315 W. Webster Ave  
 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
*Space is limited, so please pre-register, by calling the Torrent House, Local History & Genealogy Dept. at 231-722-8016 Tues thru Sat, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m.*

January 11  
 February 8  
 March 14  
 April 11  
 May 9  
 September 12  
 October 10  
 November 14

**NO workshops in**  
 June, July, August & December

### WHAT TO BRING!

⇒ Any genealogy items you would like to donate for the FREE table.

### YOU CAN BUY!

⇒ 15 Generation Charts—\$4 ea.  
 ⇒ Tickets for the Book Drawing  
 ⇒ \$3.00 for the 2-pack Magnifying Glasses, 90mm & 60mm



## Muskegon Genealogical Society

### 2020 Officers

**President:** Dawn Westcomb Kelley  
**Past President:** Jane Appleton Schapka  
**Vice President:** Ingrid Porritt  
**Secretary:** Tom Shepherd  
**Treasurer:** Nancy Clark Spoon

### Committees

Facebook ..... Norman Dagen  
 Historian ..... Board Members  
 History Book Project..... Kathy DeCormier  
 Hospitality..... Jane Weber  
 ..... Diana Franckowiak  
 ..... John & Phyllis Slater  
 Library ..... Barb Martin  
 Membership ..... Paula Halloran  
 ..... Chris Nowak  
 Newsletter Editor..... Tom Porritt  
 Pioneer Program..... Barb Martin  
 Programs & Publicity..... Ingrid Porritt  
 ..... Tom Shepherd  
 ..... Bill Hansen  
 ..... Gale Taggart  
 Special Projects ..... Dawn Kelley  
 Website ..... Board Members  
 County Clerk Office ... Members  
 Michigan Genealogical Council.  
 ..... Gail Taggart, Delegate

## January Ticket Book

