



# TWIG TALK

## Newsletter

Founded 1972

Vol. 20 No. 2

February 2020



### TWIG TALK

A monthly publication of:  
**Muskegon County Genealogical Society**  
c/o Hackley Public Library  
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Celebrating 50 years in 2022

### President's Message

By Dawn Westcomb Kelley -

You may be in the position of having done years of work to put your family history together. So, now what? Will all of that research be lost? Will anyone add to it? Is there a family member who will maintain the family genealogy and the history together. What is going to happen to the collection of the genealogy information, pictures, movies, recordings, and documents? Who are you going to pass it on to? What if no one wants it, or changes their mind and after awhile they just throw it away. It happens all the time. Some family members just don't care. But by the same token, almost all of the time there is someone with the interest to maintain it. Make sure



**Monthly Meeting**  
**February 13, 2020**  
**6:30 PM**  
**VFW Post 3195**  
**5209 Grand Haven Road**



**"Every Day Is Black History Day" - William C. Muhammad**

William C. Muhammad is representing the James Jackson Museum of African American History. He will be presenting a program about Dr. James Jackson and the Museum.

The Museum is located across the street from the Muskegon Heights City Hall at 7 East Center Street. Hours are, Monday through Saturday 2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

On the inside walls one will notice the messages "**Our people, our land in Muskegon County**" and another "**Come see who we are**".

you have something in writing to whom you want your genealogy to go to. But how do you know? It occurs to me that family reunions are a good place to start such conversations. I say good luck to you and for the sake of genealogy, I hope you are successful in this endeavor as you have been in your research.

### Muskegon Heritage Association & Lakeshore Museum Update

The Muskegon Heritage Museum will be merging with Lakeshore Museum if the millage passes in May 2020, however, the merge will not happen until 2021 as stated in the Muskegon Chronicle on January 8, 2020. Get more information on <https://www.mlive.com/>

*(Continued on page 2)*

### GENEALOGY QUOTES

"In all of us there is a hunger, marrow deep, to know our heritage - to know who we are and where we came from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is still a vacuum, an emptiness, and the most disquieting loneliness." — **Alex Haley, Roots**

(Continued from page 1)

## **GENEALOGY INFORMATION** – Michigan Genealogical Council

### **New Facebook Group**

Western Michigan Genealogical Society has started a new group. This group will provide our local and not so local friends a place to join together to discuss West Michigan genealogy topics, discover new cousins or connections and have another way to learn what is going on in our society.

To join: search on Facebook for 'Western Michigan Genealogical Society' and look for the name with 'Group' below it or go to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wmgs.org/>

**The Library of Michigan** has rescinded the rule limiting patrons to 2 obituary requests annually. Patrons may now request an unlimited number of obituaries via email to: [librarian@michigan.gov](mailto:librarian@michigan.gov) or telephone at 517-335-1477. There is NO statewide index for all obituaries from Michigan newspapers. The library's collection of newspapers may be viewed at: <https://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan/0,9327,7-381>

### **Previous Michigan Genealogical Council Projects:**

The "Muriel Links Obituaries" are approximately 85,000 Obituaries clipped from Grand Rapids Newspapers covering the period 1930–1970 and pasted onto cards that are kept at the Grand Rapids Public Library. Indexing was done by volunteers through FamilySearch, many of whom were members of MGC member societies. The index and images are now available on <http://familysearch.org>.

**US, Michigan--Port of Detroit Manifests, 1906-1954.** (FamilySearch) The index and images are now available on [Detroit Manifests of Arrivals at the Port of Detroit, Michigan 1906-1954](#)

### **Michigan County Marriages (FamilySearch)**

Please be sure to read the description before beginning your search. There are 15 counties whose marriage registers are included in this record set. The index and images are now available on [Michigan, County Marriages, 1820-1935](#)

**The Centennial Families Indexing Project** consisted of creating an electronic index of the 1976 MGC Centennial Family Project. This index is searchable, and researchers can easily locate the original application at the Library of Michigan and Archives of Michigan. The [searchable index for the 1976 Centennial Families Project](#) is now available. Original records are available at the Archives of Michigan. Records on microfilm are available at the Library of Michigan in Lansing and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Unfortunately, these films do not circulate to local Family History Centers.

**Death Without Record** - This Michigan Genealogical Council Project no longer accepts registrations for persons who died and left no Michigan official record. Submitted data remains available.

**GENDIS** The Genealogical Death Indexing System was a joint project using data from the Michigan Department of Community Health and volunteer genealogist transcribers from Michigan Genealogical Council member societies. Funding for keying the transcriptions came from the Abrams Foundation. The last update from this project was posted in March 2002. While incomplete, this offers an alternate finding aid for Michigan deaths. The original GENDIS lives on the [Michigan Department of Community Health](#) (MDCH) website. A more complete and robust index was created by FamilySearch, along with the original images from MDCH from this period. The index and images became available in 2007 on FamilySearch.org, under the title Michigan Deaths (1867-1897).

### **Court, Land, and Probate Records Massachusetts Plymouth Colony Deeds 1671-1673**

This new database presents an e-book of Plymouth Colony deeds, which contains a verbatim transcription of Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England, Vol. III, pt 2, 1671-1673 completed in 2019 by Scott Andrew Bartley. (Although filed between 1671 -1673 these deeds also refer to earlier events that span the life of Plymouth Colony, 1630-1691.) Names and places are indexed, and the preface provides a detailed explanation of how the material is presented. More than 250 pages and 2,300 names are included.)

Note: This book is only available to members of

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

the NEHGS on AmericanAncestors.org) AmericanAncestors Magazine

**GEDmatch, the Controversial Genealogy Website** has been bought by a Forensic Genetics Firm. This is from the Dick Eastman newsletter of December 9, 2019 in the category of Business News, Education. Crime scene DNA sequencing company Verogen has just acquired GEDmatch, a genealogy database credited with helping to solve some 70 rapes and murders.

Verogen, a San Diego-based company that provides equipment for high-tech sequencing of crime-scene DNA, has announced that it has acquired GEDmatch, a website that rose to fame after it led law enforcement to the alleged Golden State Killer. (You can read about GEDmatch's genealogy DNA matching web site in previous articles in this newsletter by starting at: <https://duckduckgo.com/?q=site%3Aeogn.com+gedmatch&t=brave&ia=web>

GEDmatch has been caught in the crossfire of a bitter argument between genealogists who believe the site has compromised its users' privacy and those who want to work with law enforcement to help solve violent crimes.

Although GEDmatch's new owner is a forensic science company, it is promising a firm line on protecting users who don't want law enforcement to access their genetic information. "We are very committed to privacy," Verogen CEO Brett Williams told BuzzFeed News. You can read more in an article by Peter Aldhous in the BuzzFeed News web site at: <http://bit.ly/2YxWJvG>.

### **Gedmatch's New Owner Statement**

Verogen CEO Brett Williams, the new owner, said he will continue to offer the site for searches by law enforcement that adhere to its newly restrictive terms of service. But if police try to get a court order bypassing those terms, trying to get access to the DNA profiles of people who have requested that they remain off-limits. Verogen will fight it. He said it was about trust. If patrons agree with the terms of service and those terms are violated, there is no trust. - From Joe Schuppe, NBC News

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

**The Family Tree Scandinavian Genealogy Guide: How to Trace Your Ancestors in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway**, by David A. Fryxell (Gift from MCGS in Memory of Kay Deuster)

**The Book of McKee**, by Raymond W. McKee

**Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 1955 & 2019**, compiled by Matt Burns

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### **2020 Census**

The 2020 Census! Michigan stands to lose an estimated \$1,800 per person per year in federal support for programs that use census data. These include Medicaid, nutrition assistance, highway construction and planning, and more – key programs that thousands of our citizens need!

Information, including key dates, fast facts, Radio and TV promotions, and other resources can be accessed from this site:

[www.becountedmi2020.com](http://www.becountedmi2020.com).

This information presented by Judy Nimer Muhn, Corresponding Secretary, Oakland County Genealogical Society (judynmuhn@gmail.com)

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



## **SPECIAL SUBMISSION**

By Dawn Kelley

### **Copyright Issues**

For those of us who have websites or publish artistic materials, copyright may have consequences due to so much material on the internet that is not sourced. Therefore they could be copyrighted without our knowledge.

The Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement (CASE) bill was introduced in the US House of representatives in May 2019 and passed the House 410-6 on October 22 and referred to the US Senate. The bill as it passed the House may be read at: <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr2426/BILLS116hr2426pcs.pdf>. A companion bill was introduced in the US Senate, SB 1273 and passed the Senate Judiciary Committee in July.

If you use the Internet and use a copyrighted work, such as a graphic that you don't own, you may be subject to a \$30,000 fine. Interestingly, the copyrighted work will automatically be eligible for the damages stipulated in the bill even if the owner has not registered the item. The bill proposes the creation of a voluntary small claims board within the U.S. Copyright Office — providing copyright owners with an alternative to the existing process of bringing copyright claims (including infringement and misrepresentation under 512(f)) to federal court. The goal is giving graphic artists, photographers, and other content creators a different pathway toward receiving damages if their works are infringed. The concern is that the internet an easy way to copy and paste creative works from artists. However, internet advocacy and civil rights groups (ACLU and Electronic Frontier Foundation) have warned that a system like the one proposed by the CASE Act could cost the average internet user thousands of dollars for simply sharing a meme, or lead to encroachments on their First Amendment rights.

Should these bills, in their current form , be made law, the Librarian of Congress would appoint three Copyright Claims Officers to preside over the claims board. The House bill limits damages to US \$15,000 per work, and \$30,000 total per claim. If copyright owners do not register the work in accordance with Section 412 of the Copyright Act, "statutory damages may not exceed \$7,500 per work infringed, or a total of \$15,000 in any one proceeding. The newly created claims board will receive the complaints and will issue a "notice" to the party being sued. One must respond to the notice in a tight time table. To read more and keep up with current developments see the following websites:

<https://www.theverge.com/2019/10/22/20927545/copyrightbill-house-congress-hakeem-jeffries-case-act-dmca>

And

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2019/10/ready-pay-30000sharing-photo-online-house-representatives-thinks-you-are>

As genealogists we may find some of the provisions to be of concern. It is likely that some genealogists have made copies of photographs or other materials that may be subject to copyright without their knowledge.

The above submission was excerpted from articles by: Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee and Derek Blount, MGC Public Records Access & Records Preservation Chairperson.



The Family Tree poster can be filled out and you can have it framed to put on your wall. Give as a special gift to a family member or have it framed for yourself to hang on the wall like Paul Halloran did. They come in a tube for \$7 each and you can buy one at Hackley Library - Local History & Genealogy Dept. or we can send one to you shipping & handling will be \$3.50.



**Southern California Genealogical Society Webinar Series** - SCGS is there for you, no matter where you live. Join our twice-monthly webcasts with knowledgeable genealogists to help grow what you know. The live broadcast is free and open to the public.

Register at [www.scgsgenealogy.com](http://www.scgsgenealogy.com). You MUST Register to participate.

Click on the Webinar Title you want to attend listed below.

Register with our partner website, [GoToWebinar.com](http://GoToWebinar.com).

Enter your name and email address and answer a few questions. You will receive confirmation of your registration by email.

You will also receive reminders before the webinar. The reminder email will have information on accessing the handout material.

On the day of the session, click the link that you received in your invitation to [GoToWebinar.com](http://GoToWebinar.com) to join the online session.

**Saturday, February 1 1:00 PM - Eastern**

**[African Americans in the Military – 18th to mid-20th Century](#)**  
by **Janice Lovelace**

African Americans served in every war starting with the Revolutionary War in 18th century. However, segregation impacted their roles. What was it like to be an African American soldier before the Executive Order of 1948 integrating the military? What part did African American women play in military? Where do you find records?

**Janice Lovelace, Ph.D.** (psychology) has 30+ years of experience in genealogical research, as well as completing academic work in the area (certificate program in genealogy at Boston University). She has presented nationally and regionally on women's and ethnic minority genealogy, research methodology and health issues.

**Wednesday, February 19 9:00 PM - Eastern**

**[De-Thorning Interviews. Cold Calls & First Contact](#)**  
by **Tammy Priolo, BASc, PLCGS**

This lecture will demonstrate the tactful approach to interviewing individuals, making cold calls and making first contact with individuals via emails and social media. Learn how to be comfortable gleaning oral family history stories from people you know and have never met before. Examples of these types of contact will be given.

1. Approaches, Considerations & Cautions
2. How to Prove If True

Professional genealogist Tammy Priolo BASc, PLCGS 25+yrs. Consults, researches, writes, lectures & workshops nationally & internationally. Many genealogical volunteer positions including nine years with the FHC in North Bay Ontario. Member of APG, GSG, OGS and Advisory Board Member Ancestry.ca

# 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



## 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  
 ..... 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 Taggert  
 Special Projects ..... Dawn Kelley  
 Website ..... Board Members  
 County Clerk Office ... Members  
 Michigan Genealogical Council.  
 ..... Gail Taggart, Delegate

## February Ticket Book

