



TWIG TALK

Newsletter

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TWIG TALK

A monthly publication of:
Muskegon County Genealogical Society
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Celebrating 50 years in 2022

President's Message

By Dawn Westcomb Kelley -

Thousands of genealogical societies exist throughout the United States and internationally. Societies offer a wealth of resources for those researching family history and might even have local volunteers who can assist in your research. Visit the [Federation of Genealogical Society's online directory](#) to find a local society in your area.

FYI -

- Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00am on Sunday, March 8
- By action of the Board, research for non-members will be \$35.00 per hour as of Friday, February 21, 2020. Research for MCGS



Monthly Meeting
March 12, 2020
6:30 PM
VFW Post 3195
5209 Grand Haven Road



MCGS Presents:
Jessica Trotter

“ABCs of DNA & Genealogy”

What can DNA testing do for you? What tests should I take? What does it all mean? DNA testing can be a powerful tool to wield in your genealogy tool kit. This session offers a beginners overview on tests, testing companies, and how you can use your results.

members will remain the same at \$15.00 per hour.

- Elizabeth Jenkins would like to find someone to read the Old Welch information she received. You can contact her through her email tinlizzy10@juno.com.
- Membership reminder - your dues are due now.



GENEALOGY QUOTES

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

Muskegon's First Hospital

By Fran Harrington

In 1882, The City Missionary Association (CMA) decided that a hospital was needed in Muskegon. With the increase in population for the City of Muskegon from 6,002 in 1870 to 11,262 in 1880 came the increase in the need for medical care. People needing care that was not available Muskegon were sent to Mercy Hospital in Big Rapids. The CMA started making plans for a hospital expecting cooperation from all of the town's people. They tried to involve churches and businesses. Their enterprise was Christian and philanthropic and intended to benefit both employee and employer. In 1883 the Chronicle published an editorial that stated a hospital was much needed because Muskegon had more accidents than most cities twice its size and most workers lived in boarding houses and could not get the same care as someone who had family to take care of them. At this time the CMA was not able to get needed support from the community so the matter was dropped.

In 1888 there was still no hospital. An editorial regarding the need for a hospital again appeared in the Chronicle. It informed the community that even though there was a "Home of the Friendless" it was not a solution because of its laws of incorporation. It was a private charity that couldn't meet the needs of a public institution. Due to that situation the sick needed to leave the "Home". The editorial called for a united effort to provide funds from public sources for a much needed public hospital.

In 1889, the CMA again started working on a hospital. By now the population for the city alone had grown to approximately 22,000. They leased a former rooming house that belonged to Alexander Rodgers, a lumber manufacturer and vice president of Lumberman's Bank. The CMA wanted the hospital to be self-supporting so they decided to sell tickets to fund it. The ticket holder would be entitled to the benefits of the hospital, whether sick or injured, for the cost of \$4 per year (\$106.00 in today's dollars) which could be paid for in installments. No ticket holder would be asked for any more money than what they had paid for the ticket. They also solicited donations of furniture, fixtures, and other articles from the com-

munity.

The lumber mill owners and other employers were solicited to pledge annual financial contributions to help support the hospital. CMA explained that it would be a great convenience to employers because having a hospital would allow patients to get prompt and efficient attention which would allow them to return to work sooner.

A Board of Trustees was appointed to assist the CMA in the management of the hospital. Those members were: Alexander Rodgers, JW Moon, Thomas Hume, AF Temple, HN Hovey, and CJ Hamilton.

A medical staff was elected. Doctor Garber was appointed as the house physician with the following doctors as consulting physicians: JP Stoddard, CP Donelson, G Chaddock, OC Williams, JM Cook, J Vanderlaan, and S Bloch. Mrs. Pettigrew was hired as nurse and head of the nursing department.

In June 1889, the hospital opened for public inspection. It was named "Muskegon City Hospital". The hospital was in good condition and neatly painted. The rooms included a bed, nightstand and chair. There was no carpeting so as to keep down on germs.

In January 1892 a report was issued for 1891 that showed 75 cases had been treated with 2 deaths and several important operations. There had been a number of hand and foot amputations due to injuries to railway employees. A treatment equivalent of 1000 days was provided at a cost of \$1,200. There was a fire in September and all the repairs hadn't been made as of the date of the report. The largest expense for 1891 was the expense of keeping a trained nurse.

Even with the ticket sales, donations, and money from other fund raising efforts, the hospital under the CMA could not afford to continue and it closed its doors in 1892.

In November 1892, Doctor Sigmond Bosh of Muskegon and Dr. Carl Hauber of Chicago decided to reopen the hospital. They leased the same building and spent thousands of their own dollars to make what they felt were necessary

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Muskegon's First Hospital

changes. Repairs were made to the building and rooms were painted and rearranged. They purchased new furniture, new curtains, new beds and bedding. They set up a private doctors' room on the 2nd floor and a private office on the 1st floor. They purchased new and complete surgical instruments, medical appliances and drugs along with a new chair for moving patients. They also acquired a new ambulance similar to the ones used in Chicago. There were 20 regular beds for everybody, rich or poor. Those who could would pay \$5-\$7 per week depending on what room was used and that cost included medical attendance. There was also a poor ward so no one would be excluded from the hospital. Any doctor could bring and treat patients. Dr. Bloch was the house physician with others attending as needed. A staff of nurses was also in attendance.

In October 1893, partly due to the depression (that would last several years), the hospital became unsuccessful. During the 1st year of operation they had 97 patients with 47 of them being charity cases and 18 being partial charity. Both doctors had incurred a great deal of debt. (Apparently, by this time, Dr. Bloch was no longer associated with the hospital because there is no further mention of him). Dr. Hauber was waiting on an inheritance of property that he intended to sell to help pay the bills but it was held up in probate. Another editorial by Rev. Banker appeared in the Chronicle defending Dr. Hauber because of criticism from some in the community. The article stated how Dr. Hauber had put all his money into the hospital assuming he would get support from the community, but he didn't get it. Apparently, people wrongly thought the hospital was private and run only for his profit. The editorial went on to say that in an effort to keep the hospital going, Dr Hauber moved the hospital to a home formerly occupied by George Erwin in Muskegon Heights. The house had 9 rooms and a basement with a large barn. Dr. Hauber had not received a salary and sometimes had to go without food. It told how he became ill and while trying to get help for the hospital, he walked downtown and passed out on the sidewalk.

By January 1893, the needs of the hospital were urgent. They had no fuel and were cutting wood stumps to heat the hospital. At the time they had 5

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HOSPITALITY

By Jane Weber

At our February meeting, with William Muhammad as guest speaker, Pat Straley was the recipient of, "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy." She is very knowledgeable on this subject but this ticket book will offer additional hints. A Meijer's gas gift card plus a Valentine Hershey Kisses candy packet was the door prize. Barb Martin, the winner, can indulge her sweet tooth while thinking about her next travel to the library.

Members & guests gathered at a beautifully decorated snack table. Jim Harkness offered Valentine cupcakes. Paula Halloran brought bagel chips with a variety of cream cheese spreads. Then there was her tasty garlic parmesan pretzels to munch on. Chris Nowak's holiday frosted sugar cookies, red velvet Oreos and brownies were a great hit. Her Valentine snack mix had many flavors to indulge along with red, white & pink plain & peanut M & M's to enjoy. John & Phyllis Slater brought our water.

We welcome Maria Chemelarova as a hospitality volunteer. She will be in charge of bringing the hospitality tote items and table set-up among other assisting s. As always, a big THANK YOU to all volunteers! You are appreciated!

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



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Muskegon's First Hospital

patients and people were urged to make donations of money and provisions.

In February 1894, in an effort to assist the hospital, a board of trustees are named: Rev Banker, JD VanderWerp, JA Miller, RK Mann, Carl Hauber, Mrs. Anna Miller, Mrs. HO Lange, Mrs. Wm Heap and Mrs. Wiswell. All property was assigned to the board. The board also took on the battle for the estate that was willed to Dr. Hauber that he still had not received.

Muskegon City Hospital and Sanitarium from 1890 at the original location on the corner of Franklin and Washington. Some of the original building still exists at that location and has been converted to apartments.



By March 1894, the hospital was moved to the property willed to Dr. Hauber at the corner of Southern and Hugart (now known as 8th Street). The hospital was referred to as the “City Hospital” or “Hauber’s Hospital”.

Over the next year, Dr. Hauber continued to try to keep the hospital going. He suffered a nervous breakdown and was taken to Chicago for treatment. This treatment was paid for by his friends because he had no money. Although he returned to Muskegon to recover, the hospital eventually closed. The building was sold in 1897.

It was not until 1903 that Mercy Hospital was opened and Hackley Hospital was opened in 1904.

(Editor’s note: thank you Fran for your well researched and interesting article about early health care in Muskegon. Such articles are always appreciated—Tom)

PIONEERS and the ANCESTORS from 2019

We would like to thank the 16 Decedants who submitted the MCGS Pioneer Applications in 2019. Each one received their Pioneer Certificate. If you would to submit your Pioneer Application, you can contact us at 1972mcgs@gmail.com we will send you one by email, mail or you can pick one up at the Torrent House – Local History and Genealogy Dept.

<u>Pioneer Ancestors</u>	<u>Descendants</u>	<u>Resident's Year</u>
Sofie Angrin	Patricia Forberg	1884
John Erikson Forberg	Patricia Forberg	1884
Annie Yell	Patricia Forberg	1884
Harry L. Yell	Patricia Forberg	1884
Mary A. Cayo	Amy Lee Porter Dupont	1880
Daniel Pierce	Michael Rolland Matthews	1867
Israel Cayo	Amy Lee Porter Dupont	1880
John Essenbagger	Amy Lee Porter Dupont	1880
Thomas H. Cady	Amy Lee Porter Dupont	1873
Thomas H Cady	Jane Lee McComb Porter	1873
John Essenbagger	Jane Lee McComb Porter	1880
Israel Cady	Marriane L. Porter Houseman	1880
Mary A. Cayo	Marriane L. Porter Houseman	1880
Levi Bucher	Frank Henry Farmer	1860
Sarah Ann Stroble	Frank Henry Farmer	1860
Andrew Tolford Durham	Dawn Marie Westcomb Kelley	1868

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. You MUST Register to participate.

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

Register with our partner website, 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 to join the online session.

Saturday, March 7 1:00 PM - Eastern

Reverse Genealogy, DNA, and Tracing the Living by Nicka Smith

So, you've done a great job finding your ancestors, but you are not sure where to start to try to locate their living descendants. In this episode, we'll cover tips and tricks you can use to safely and respectfully unearth the identities of your living cousins.

Nicka Smith is a professional photographer, speaker, and documentarian with more than 20 years of experience as a genealogist.

Wednesday, March 18 9:00 PM - Eastern

1867 Voter Registration and Beyond By Diane L. Richard

An 1867 law allowed that males 21+ years, regardless of skin color, were eligible to vote; extant 1867 voter registrations are invaluable to genealogists. Lists of Qualified Voters were created across the south and beyond. These are the first lists to include those formerly enslaved. Also discussed are later voter laws enacted to combat rampant racist restrictions on voters.

A professional genealogist since 2004, Diane L. Richard, has researched for the popular TV show "Who Do You Think You Are". She has authored almost 300 articles for such publications as internet Genealogy and Genealogy Today.

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

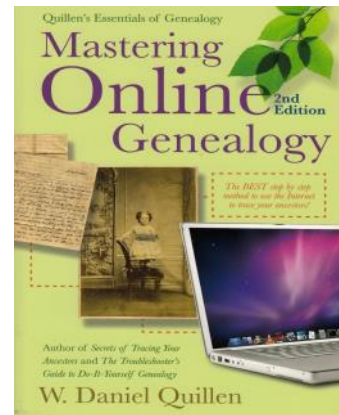
2020 Officers

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
Maria Chemelarova
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

March Ticket Book



NOW IS THE TIME

The Muskegon County Genealogy Society is working on Volume 2 of the "Family History Book".

The deadline for submissions is August 1, 2020. These could be your family stories, your neighbor's stories, or your friend's stories. This a chance for you to be part of Muskegon County's history. More information to come in March and will be up on our website later in March.

History Book Chairman,
 Kathy DeCormier