



TWIG TALK

Newsletter

Founded 1972

Vol. 20 No. 4

April 2020



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
www.genealogymuskegon.org
1972mcgs@gmail.com

[Find & Like Us On](#)

facebook

Celebrating 50 years in 2022

President's Message

By Dawn Westcomb Kelley -

I would like to send speedy recoveries to our members Pat Straley and Tom Porritt. If you would like to send a card please contact the society at 1972mcgs@gmail.com and I will provide you with their address.

I know many of you are off work due to the Covid-19 virus. There always is something to do while you are off from your job. Particularly about catching up on things like your family genealogy.

Also what about sending in your stories about you or families for the History of Muskegon County Volume 2. Here is a list if you need any of the forms:

1. Workshop dates to help you with

Monthly Meeting
April 9, 2020

CANCELLED!



- your stories and scanning,
- 2. Family History, Veterans,
- 3. Business History,
- 4. Business Owners, and
- 5. Detailed Order Form.

If you would like any of the forms emailed, please contact us at 1972mcgs@gmail.com we will send the forms in PDF. Our website is not setup for the forms.

LIBRARY INFO

Hackley Public Library and the Torrent House and Genealogy Department are closed. Please check out their website for more information at: <https://hackleylibrary.org/>

BOOKS GENEALOGY LOCAL HISTORY AND GENEALOGY DEPT. Sent to you on March 17

- [Czech and Slovak Immigration to America: When, Why, How, and Where, by Stephen Szabados](#)
- [Lost Restaurants of Grand Rapids, by Norma Lewis](#)
- [Index of Vital Statistics From the Muskegon Chronicle 1954, compiled by Matthew Burns](#)
- [Muskegon Police Department: A Historical Review 1861-1961, by Robert F. Fox](#)

GENEALOGY REQUEST

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

GENEALOGY SAYING and Quotes

Every book is a quotation; and every house is a quotation out of all forests, and mines, and stone quarries; and every man is a quotation from all his ancestors. – Ralph Waldo Emerson

What Happened To Doctor Hendrick?

By Frances Harrington

In November 1896, a large announcement appeared in the Muskegon Chronicle titled, "Annual Announcement of the City Hospital, 225 Peck Street, Muskegon, Michigan. Dr. A. W. Hendrick, Manager". (This is not to be confused with the "Muskegon City Hospital" managed by Dr. Hauber.) The article praised the accommodations of the hospital and qualifications of the doctor and some of the ailments he treats. It states the hospital treats piles, ruptures, cancer, fractures, and consumption. They perform surgical operations and treat all forms of female complaints and chronic diseases. They also successfully treat drinking, opium, and tobacco habits.

Another article from the "Morning News of Muskegon" says, "Dr. Hendrick and his hospital are becoming very favorably noted for the large amount of very excellent surgery being done here. Those who go there for treatment come away generally cured".

I was able to find quite a few testimonials and some other notices in the Chronicle. One such notice says "Doctor Hendrick has performed 70 operations with 20 of them being large and dangerous and not one person has died....this kind of surgery does not most always end up with a funeral".

I was surprised to find people so openly writing about their medical treatments. Treatments for ruptures, seizures, constipation, piles, and cancer of the womb to name a few. These testimonies also gave names and addresses!

Who was this much-praised doctor that you probably never heard about?

Dr. Alexander W. Hendrick was born August 8, 1836 to Alexander W. Hendrick and Betsey A. Record in Berlin, New York. As a young man, he went to college in New Hampton, New Hampshire where he took a course in the Bible School. He entered the ministry at the age of 24. In 1860, he married Miss Harriet Horton. In 1871 he graduated from Hahemann Medical College in Chicago.

The couple moved to Kalamazoo, then to Gal-

ien, and from there to Paw Paw, Michigan. He had a successful practice in Paw Paw. In 1888, a fire destroyed his office along with much of his medical equipment and his medical library. The loss was valued at \$1350. That would be equal to about \$36,517 in today's money.

He and his wife had six children, four of them survived to adulthood.

The family moved to Muskegon in 1894 and he opened an office on Western Avenue. In 1895, he opened the hospital on Peck St., where he and his family also lived. By all accounts, he seemed to be doing quite well. That is, until 1897.

On Saturday, July 17, 1897, Harriet called the police asking for protection. She was taken to police headquarters in a "very nervous condition" accompanied by her husband. He told the police that she was having these attacks for a few years but that this time she became violent. The police noticed bruises on Harriet that Dr. Hendrick said were self-inflicted. He said, he noticed this episode coming on for a few days. He said she had an attack of vertigo that morning and later became very nervous and insanely violent. He said she got the bruises when they tried to stop her from leaving the home. He said he called Dr. Quick who gave her some medication. Her husband said she needed a few days of quiet and she will be normal again.

Mrs. Hendrick told the police that she became upset over a deed to the house that he had her sign over to him and that she was perfectly sane. This incident started on Friday night.

A deputy sherriff then made an application to the probate court for her to have an exam to determine if she was insane. Judge Vanderwerp appointed five doctors to examine her on Monday. She did not want to return home and asked if she could stay at the Sherriff's residence until then.

The doctors did the exam on Monday and she stayed with a friend until they went the to court on Tuesday July 22nd.

On the 22nd, Mrs. Hendrick arrived at the court of Judge Vanderwerp with her lawyer. The room was packed with 90% of those attending being

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)
What Happened to Dr Hendrick?

women. A witness was called who said Dr. Hendrick had called him in where he saw Mrs. Hendrick unconscious on the floor. He then helped get her into bed. He said she started rambling on about some other women. He said he thought this all happened after Dr. Quick had been there.

Next, their 17-year-old daughter was called. She told how her mother was jealous of a former female patient of the doctor named Jenny Wenting who was in her 20's and had stayed at the hospital for a couple of months. While they argued, she did hear mention of the deed for the hospital property. She said her mother seemed crazy that Friday night and said she did not know what caused it but, it happened after she had taken some medicine.

Dr. Hendrick then testified that his wife was selfish and jealous and has been for over 20 years. He then began giving some of his educational history about how he had been a minister and then went into medicine. He did not provide a certificate. When asked about Miss Jenny Wenting, (the woman his wife was so jealous of) he admitted that when she left his hospital she had a baby with her. He wouldn't say where the baby had been born. He said they found a home for the baby in Kalamazoo and that he and Jenny took the baby there. On the way back, they spent the night at a hotel in Holland registering under assumed names. He could not explain why they had done that except "that they did".

The report from the group of doctors who examined Mrs. Hendrick, said they were of the opinion that she was NOT insane, just nervous. The evidence showed that she may have been temporarily insane on Friday, because of domestic problems and her nervous condition but that she was now perfectly sane.

Judge Vanderwerp made an order on July 27, 1897 releasing her as sane.

In August, Dr. Hendrick, who was 61, filed for divorce for cruel and abusive treatment. This divorce was contentious and played out in the newspapers over months.

Mrs. Hendrick filed a crossbill for unwarranted jealousy and improper relations with another

woman. She accused him of drugging her to make her look insane and tying her hands and feet leaving bruises. She denied his accusations that she was cruel and abusive. She says that during the early years when he was a minister, times were hard. She helped as she could and worked hard to raise their children. She said he later assumes to be qualified and pretended to practice medicine, while at times still working in the ministry. She stated she inherited money from her father that she gave her husband for his business and their home that was not returned. She is 57 and has no other income. She asks for alimony since he has considerable assets. Temporary alimony was granted.

In November, Judge Russell filed an order for contempt of court against Dr. Hendrick for not paying the court ordered temporary support and is ordered to show cause. Dr. Hendrick then shows up after an absence of several days. He says he has secured the funds to start making payments.

The final trial for divorce ends in March 1898 where they must divide the property. The Judge had arranged for a complete inventory of all property and its value. She is awarded the

Services Suspended Until Further Notice

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



*(Continued from page 3)
What Happened to Dr Hendrick?*

property in Kalamazoo and half interest in the other property including the hospital building in Muskegon. He is also ordered to pay back money he owes her and solicitor's and register's fees. A payment schedule, with interest, is set up. If he fails to make the payments, the entire amount will be due in full. Mrs. Hendrick's divorce decree was finalized on January 10, 1899.

On January 12th, a notice appeared in the Chronicle from Harriet's lawyer regarding a recent article about the decree of the divorce case of Dr. A. W. Hendrick vs Harriet Hendrick. Apparently, it did not show to whom the decree was granted. They wanted it known that Mrs. Hendrick had filed a crossbill in the suit brought against her husband in which she asked for a divorce because of cruel treatment. The court sustained a portion of her charges and the decree was granted to her because her husband had been guilty of extreme cruelty. (The earlier article did say that Harriet's claims that Dr. Hendrick drugged her and committed adultery with Miss Wenting were unsubstantiated.)

On January 19, 1899, the hospital mysteriously was gutted by fire. (Isn't that strange? Another fire with a rather large payout.) No one was living there at the time because his daughters had left several weeks before and he was supposed to be in Kalamazoo on business. He was actually in Ohio where he married Miss Minnie Garber. They later move to Sparta, Michigan to live.

Before he could collect on the insurance, Harriet sued Dr. Hendrick and Concordia Fire Insurance Company to prevent him from collecting until he paid her the unpaid alimony that was ordered by the court. Harriet won and he files a counter suit.

In March, he was arrested for not paying damages to Adolph Miller who had sued him previously. He furnished a \$1,000 bond.

In August, his new wife, Minnie, reported him missing. She related that on the 18th he received a letter that upset him. He told her that he had to go to Muskegon to see patients and

his attorney. He put on his best clothes, took \$85.00 and a revolver with him but did not take his medical bag. In his open safe, she found a copy of his will that named his daughters as legatees, dated 1895. He had been gone for several days and she believed he may have committed suicide. She says if he does not return soon, she plans to go back to Ohio to live.

His disappearance was investigated, but Dr. Alexander Hendrick was never seen or heard of again.

In February 1900, Harriet was awarded a settlement from the insurance and the sale of the hospital property. In 1903, she married Hiram Newell in Emerald, Wisconsin. She died in 1924 in Ashtabula, Ohio at the age of 84.

Dr. Hendrick's wife Minnie returned to Ohio where she never remarries. She died in 1941 in Greenville, Michigan at the age of 84.

Research by Frances Harrington
Information taken from newspaper archives at genealogybank.com

STORY by Dawn Westcomb Kelley 3X great grandmother celebrating her 100 birthday. As it appeared in the Muskegon Chronicle on November 21, 1896.

Is 100 Years Old

Mrs. Sylva Durham reached that milestone yesterday.

Mrs. Sylva Durham, mother of Henry F. Durham of 33 W. Isabella Street, was to have celebrated her 100th birthday there yesterday, having on that day reached that advanced milestone on life's long journey, a point few now living may hope to attain. As a matter of fact she did not come, being slightly indisposed and therefore giving up the idea.

She lives at present with her youngest son, Charles in Polkton Township, Ottawa County, not far from Coopersville, but for 13 years was a resident of this City, living with her sons at 33 and 37 Isabella Street. She has but these two sons now living, but has had 17 children, twelve sons, and 5 daughters. Four of her sons served in the civil war. Of those, living Henry is now 59 years old and Charles is 58.

She was born in Central New York, near the Chenango River, and is the daughter of Benjamin Collins, who was born in Connecticut and served in the Conti-

(Continued from page 4)

mental Army. When 18 years old Miss Collins married Tolford Durham, of Port Byron, N.Y. That event took place in 1813. In 1854 the family, consisting of father, mother, five sons and one daughter left Waterloo, N.Y., and came to Michigan, settling on the present homestead in Ottawa County. Tolford Durham died 20 years ago at age of 76. It was he who built the canal from Oswego to Syracuse, N.Y. He was a shipbuilder by trade and in 1856 built the Daniel Ball river boat Kansas that plied on the Grand River a number of years, between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven.

Mrs. Durham is the only surviving member of the Collins family. Her oldest sister died at Los Angeles, California, in June 1894. The latter lived with her daughter, 80 years of age, at the time of her death, and not long before her death walked several miles for exercise.

Mrs. Sylvia Durham is remarkably spry and active for her age. She has her second sight, seeing clearly without spectacles, walks about and works, and at the table eats what others do except she abstemious and careful, and drinks no tea. Unlike many old people, children and their noise do not annoy her, and she enjoys their society. Her mind is clear and memory good, and she bids fair to live many years yet. She knits, sews, in late upon doing housework, and on the farm in the country will attend to stock or do other chores. An instance of her activity occurred not long ago, when her little nephew being missing for a while she cheerfully walked several miles in search of him. Those who know Mrs. Durham hope she will yet celebrate many birthdays in the land of living.

Source: genealogybank.com - Sat, Nov 21, 1896, Muskegon Chronicle, Muskegon, MI on Page 7
Important information found in this newspaper clipping.

1. She was celebrating her 100 birthday on Nov 21, 1896 and her birthday was day before. 2. She had two sons still living one lives in Muskegon and other in Ottawa County. 3. Gives the address of both sons. 4. Tells that she lived in Muskegon for 13 years. 5. Four of her sons served in the Civil War 6. Where she was born and who her father was. 7. Her age, who, when and where she was married. 8. Name of her husband, age when he died and before her. 9. How her built the canal from Oswego to Syracuse, N.Y. 10. Her husband was shipbuilder by trade. The person he built it for and year the riverboat was built and what name of it. 11. Sylva was the only surviving member of the Collins family. 12. Where oldest sister died and date.

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, April 4 1:00 PM - Eastern
Foundations to Researching in Europe
by Julie Goucher

In this presentation we consider the broad elements of researching a European surname and then expand outwards to include other important factors such as culture, geography, borders and links with other areas outside of Europe, including the influence of European Empires.

Julie Goucher has been a keen genealogist since the late 1980s, and has a special interest in Italian and European family history. She is a published author and writes regularly

Wednesday, April 15 9:00 PM - Eastern
Dissecting a Civil War Pension-Union & Confederate
by Jill Morelli, CG®

Do you have a Civil War soldier who fought? Lucky you! A Civil War pension file is one of the most informational records we can obtain about our ancestor, but we need to take the time to dissect this one record. Why were they created? When were they enabled by law? What does a typical pension contain and what atypical items might be found? Both Union and Confederate pensions will be discussed.

An enthusiastic genealogist, Jill Morelli, CG®, lectures, writes and researches her family and those of others. Her lively presentations on intermediate and advanced methodologies, unique record sets, and Scandinavian research convey information that is readily usable by attendees whatever their skill level.

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 (cancelled)
 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 (cancelled)
 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



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 April and will be up on our website later in April.

History Book Chairman,
 Kathy DeCormier