



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 -

Hello everyone. This year definitely has been the year to remember with Covid-19. This virus is nothing like the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic. If you would like to learn more about it, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1918-pandemic-h1n1.html>

All of us wish we could get back to our normal lives. Even at this point, it is not going to be easy to get back to normal, until all of us work together to make it happen, than we will beat this Covid-19 pandemic. Wishing all of you to stay safe and healthy.

May is Cemetery Awareness Month

Monthly Meeting
May 14, 2020

CANCELLED!



in Muskegon County, as we were recognized by Muskegon County Board of Commissioners, in April 11, 2017.

Just reminder to back up your computer May 1.

LIBRARY INFO

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

BOOKS ABOUT GENEALOGY AND LOCAL HISTORY IN THE GENEALOGY DEPT.

No new additions for May.

Genealogical Resources

This is intended to be a short list of lesser known genealogical resources applicable to research in and around Muskegon County. It does not include some of the better known resources, because they don't need the extra exposure.

1. The Michigan GenWeb.org—http://www.migenweb.org/county_list.htm. This URL takes you to a listing of counties from which you can select those of interest.
2. The Oceana County Historical & Genealogy Society—<https://www.facebook.com/Oceana-County-Historical-Genealogical-Society-113597788674225/>

GENEALOGY SAYING and 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

MARKING TIME

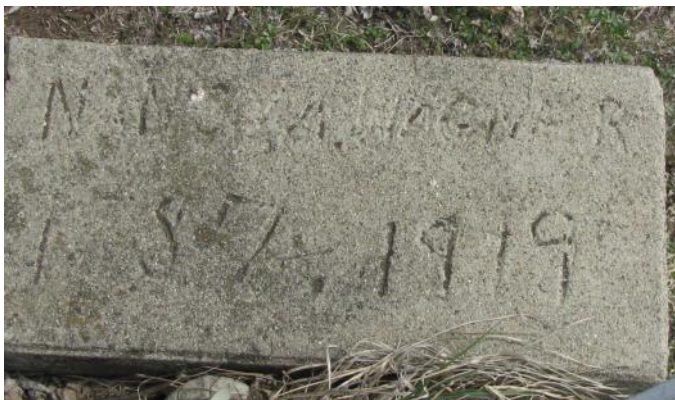
Grave Markers: Time Will Tell

By Cristine Bouwkamp
Superior Monument / Patten Monument Co.

How often have you been in a cemetery and found a nearly unreadable, broken, or deteriorated grave marker? Every time, I would bet! Maybe you saw something made from wood or cement, or some type of stone that you do not recognize. Did you wonder, "Why would they do that?" It seems obvious to us now that those materials do not last. In the past, a wide range of materials were used and allowed in cemeteries across America.

While we often see interesting materials like zinc, marble and sandstone, there are some that have not stood the test of time.

Poured cement markers, are crude and often inscribed in while it is drying. Occasionally, pebbles are added to the mix for texture or to create a design. These were especially popular during the great depression. Still homemade today, these monuments are intended to be temporary but a new marker is often not purchased until well after the cement has crumbled, if ever.



Slate and limestone are soft stones that are easy to work with for shaping, and the scratch carved designs and lettering could be added quickly. However, the density is also, why they are now unreadable after wind and rain has battered down on them for decades.

Wood markers will often be in the form of a cross. It's religious symbolism is important for some but for others it's symbolism as a natural, weathered, and fragile substance, mirror that of life itself. While it brings people, great joy to fashion marker by hand for their loved one,



wood is the least durable choice for a grave marker.

For our ancestors, expediency was a factor in the use of readily available materials. Commercially shaped granite stones were not available in most places until after the mid 1700's. Therefore, it was reasonable to use the resources that the local land had to offer. Yet, we still see examples of wood, local stone, slate, or cement being used in cemeteries that have little to no restrictions.



Cemetery ordinances now regulate the type of markers allowed on a grave. The common wording is, "Monuments and markers must be made of granite or bronze", or

"durable stone". This wording is added to exclude types of material that deteriorates and become unsightly. Monument grade granite is, classified as the hardest type of granite due the high content of quartz. Granite can come from the entire world and is readily available at any local monument shop.

Since most markers are now made of granite, we will continue to see less stone deterioration, discoloration, and crumbling in our cemeteries. Of course, time will tell.

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Marking Time

A monument should be made to last forever, to stand the test of time and serve as a reminder of a life that is worth remembering for many generations.

STORY—Great, Great, Great Grandmother Passes at the Age of 103 –February 7, 1900

By Dawn Westcomb Kelley
Continued from the April 2020 TTN.

The following text has been transcribed directly from the original article in regards to my 3rd Great Grandmother—Dawn

The Muskegon Daily Chronicle, Muskegon, Michigan Thursday Evening February 8, 1900

LIVED A CENTURY. Mrs. Sylvia Duram was 103 Years Old. Died at Her Coopersville Home on February 7.

Came to this region when Grand Rapids was a Muddy Hamlet. Often Walked 36 Miles in one day through the woods and carried purchase preserved all her faculties to the very last - her reminiscences were valuable and interesting.

Henry F. Duram, of No. 37 W. Isabella Street, called to Coopersville, by the death of his mother, Mrs. Sylvia Duram. She died yesterday aged 103 years two months and 14 days. Mrs. Duram had visited Muskegon several occasions. Considering her age she was a remarkable woman - her memory was good, she did a great deal of her own housework and her faculties were keen. She recalled many events of her early, including the year without any summer, 1816. Three years ago, she came to Muskegon and visited her son and family. During her stay here, she visited by hundreds of people anxious to see a woman who had passed the century mark.

Mrs. Duram leaves two sons, and a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren. Her sons Henry F. of this city, and Charles E. Duram, on a farm three miles northeast of Coopersville. The two sons are the only children living of a family of 17 - 12 sons and 5 daughters. Four of her sons served in the war of the rebellion, one of them severely wounded. The two living sons are aged:

Henry 63, Charles 62.

Mrs. Duram was the oldest woman in western Michigan, if not in the state. She was born November 20, 1796, near the Chenango River, in eastern New York. Her maiden name was Collins, of which family she was the only survivor. Her oldest sister died at Los Angeles, Cal., in June 1894, at the age of 102. When 18 years of age Miss Collins married Tolford Duram, at Port Byron, N.Y. This event took place in 1813. In 1854 the family, consisting father, mother, five sons and one daughter, came from Waterloo, N. Y., to Michigan, setting on the present homestead in Ottawa County. Mr. Duram died 25 years ago at the age of 76. After coming to Michigan, he built the river boat Kansas for Daniel Ball. The boat plied for a number of years between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven.

When on a visit a few years ago, interviewed by The Chronicle. She was born in Tioga County, New York, near where she was born, Port Byron, in 1797. Her father was one of the first settlers there and at that time the forests predominated in those regions and Indians were plentiful. She had but one sister somewhat older than she was and whom she married not

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



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Great, Great, Great Grandmother Passes at the Age of 103

long before she did and lived to be 102 years old. Mrs. Duram was married in New York State and her husband was a sub-contractor, who helped build the Erie Canal and the Oswego canal. Part of the latter was built through the heavy forest. Mr. Duram had many men working for him on the job and Mrs. Duram was on the ground with her husband. It was toll and they let the contract money run to get it all at once. Later the chief contractor failed and Mr. and Mrs. Duram lost all that they had expended, including hard labor. It involved in those days of big work and small pay what appeared to be a very large sum for them, and was deeply discouraging.

They lived many years a Rochester, N. Y., and 41 years ago came to Michigan, settling in the woods near where Coopersville now stands, although there were no signs of a village there then. That is the farm they cleared off upon which Mrs. Duram son Charles now lives and where, of late years, she made her home.

They had hard times in those early days clearing farms out of the forest. They came down the Grand River on a flat boat to Lamont when they first arrived, then through the woods to farm location.

Mrs. Duram used to tell how there were but two fair - sized stores in Grand Rapids then and the place was a muddy village.



Those first years they paid \$2 a bushel for wheat to sow and money was a scarce article in the new settlements. There were more Indians than white people in those regions then". Mrs. Duram told THE CHRONICLE when she visited Muskegon, "but they never molested us."

One incident in Mrs. Duram's life showed the hardships of pioneer days. It was a common thing during the early years in their settlement in Michigan for her to walk to Grand Rapids through the woods 18 miles and return also on foot, carrying her purchases.

Dawn Kelley adds—"When you read this obituary, compare it with the birthday article that appeared last month in Twig Talk".

(Editor's Note: The family name in the original 1896 article was spelled "Durham", which is the correct spelling. It is spelled incorrectly "Duram" in the 1900 article)

From Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter: 4-22-2020



"RECLAIM THE RECORDS" WINS LONG-RUNNING LAWSUIT FOR MISSOURI BIRTH AND DEATH INDEXES

The following announcement was made by Brooke Schreier Ganz, the President and Founder of "Reclaim The Records":

We're thrilled to announce today that we have prevailed in our in action against the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, to have access to **free public copies of the Missouri birth index for 1920-2015 and the Missouri death index for 1968-2015.**

These records, which are already stored as plain text in a state database, will not need a transcription project, and are basic finding aids to vital records. They're not actual certificate copies, but include the given name, surname, and date of birth or death. These indices are widely available online for other states across the country, including for several states directly bordering Missouri.

THREE GENEALOGY REQUESTS

Request #1

This picture taken between 1947 and 1954 of workers at Shaw Box Crane Company on Broadway in Muskegon Heights. The man standing in the back row on the right is Lawrence Lynn. We would like to find out if there is any way of identifying of the other men. Second and third men from the left, from the way they are dressed, probably a supervisor, or someone from management.

Do you know any of them? Email us at 1972mcsg@gmail.com



Request #2

READ OLD WELCH –

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

Request #3

CAN READ GERMAN —

Erika Paulson (nee Müller) can read German writing, Gothic print and old script. Please contact the society at 1972mcgs@gmail.com

She does not want any originals,
just copies of them

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, May 2 1:00 PM - Eastern
When Prussian Grandpa Contributed No DNA, Can We Find Out Who Did?

by David Dowell, PhD.

When three siblings did not receive any DNA from their supposed maternal grandfather, a systematic research plan traced the origin of the biological grandfather. Family oral histories, digital phasing,

David Dowell, PhD, was a librarian for 35 years and a special investigative officer in the USAF for 4 years and has two degrees in history and two in library science. He has researched family histories since the 1960s.

Wednesday, May 20 9:00 PM - Eastern
The Packet Ships That Brought Them To America

by Nancy Waters

The turn of the eighteenth century brought an unprecedented demand for safe, fast passage across the Atlantic for cargo, mail, and passengers. Thus, in 1818 the packet ship was born.

Nancy Waters is a researcher, lecturer, college instructor, and award-winning author whose extensive speaking experience includes NGS, FGS, BYU, Rootstech. She is an instructor at HCC, Maryland, teaching MS applications and is past Managing Editor, MGS Journal. Nancy's books have won the 1997 Heart of America Genealogical Society Award of Excellence, the 2007 NGS Writing Competition Award for Excellence and the 2007 Maryland Historical Society, Sumner A. Parker Award.

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 (cancelled)
 June 11 (cancelled)
 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 (cancelled)
 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
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 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

Something New to Watch on ABC TV

CeCe Moore, the Genetic Genealogist, is getting her own show in May!!! "The Genetic Detective" will be on ABC starting May 19 at 10 pm. Check out more details on Abundant Genealogy's website:



<https://abundantgenealogy.com/new-abc-news-series-the-genetic-detective-featuring-cece-moore/>

HISTORY BOOK UPDATE

We care what happens to our members, their families, and everyone around us. So the deadline the History Book, Vol 2 will be extended. We will let you know of the new date in the next few months.

Just a reminder that Society cannot pickup any mail at this time at Hackley Public Library as it is closed. This is very difficult time for everyone.

If you have any questions, you can still email us at any time at 1972mcgs@gmail.com

Kathy DeComier—History Book Committee