



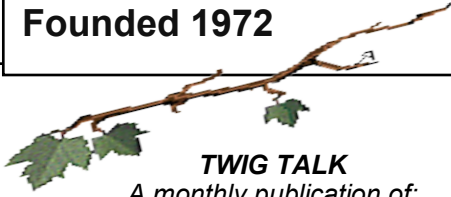
# TWIG TALK

## Newsletter

Founded 1972

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July 2020



### TWIG TALK

A monthly publication of:  
**Muskegon County Genealogical Society**  
c/o Hackley Public Library  
Torrent House  
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[1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com)

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facebook

**Celebrating 50 years in 2022**

### President's Message

By Dawn Westcomb Kelley -

Wishing all of you to stay safe and healthy and knowing that all of you would like to get back the way it was. Try to stay optimistic and everything will be ok.

**Congratulations** to Barbara (Barb) LaBatt Martin as she has received her Michigan First Family certificate from the Michigan Genealogical Council (MGC) for Joseph Otto. We hope some of you are working on yours to submit to MGC. Do not forget, that the MCGS also has the Pioneer Program for you to submit. Contact us at [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com)

Monthly Meeting  
July 11, 2020

No Meeting in July



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Jane Gates who turned 95 years old June 25th.



Just a reminder to back up your computer on July 1.

### LIBRARY INFO

Please check Hackley Public Library - Torrent House Local History & Genealogy Department website for more information on when they plan to reopen at: <https://hackleylibrary.org/>

### GENEALOGY SAYING and QUOTES

#### MAGIC RECKONING

Take your house number and double it. Add five. Multiply by half a hundred, than add your age (if you are under a 100). Add the number of days in a year. Subtract 615. The last two figures will be your age; the others will be your house number. Quoted by Morris Mandel in The Jewish Press

**Michigan Genealogical Council**  
**Summer 2020 Newsletter**

Furnished by - Kim Smith, Michigan Genealogical Council



The Filby Award for Genealogical Librarianship Awarded Kris Rzepczynski, senior archivist at the Archives of Michigan, presented with the Filby Award at the recent National Genealogical Society conference. The Filby Award, sponsored by

ProQuest, recognizes genealogical excellence in a library setting. State Archivist Mark Harvey says Rzepczynski “embodies the many aspects of an exemplary genealogical librarian/archivist.” He worked with the Abrams Family Historical Collection at the Library of Michigan from 1998 to 2012. In 2012, he moved, with the Collection, to the Archives of Michigan. He continued hosting the Abrams Family History Seminar and introduced researcher “lock-ins” the night before the seminar, drawing up to fifty researchers who could get one-on-one research attention from a team of family history archivists and librarians. MGC President Brenda Leyndyke says Kris “partners with the Michigan Genealogical Council to provide the best that genealogy research has to offer. Our council serves over 6200 members from over 75 genealogical and historical societies in Michigan. Kris meets monthly with our board and bi-monthly with our delegates, to promote genealogical research using the resources available at the Archives. Kris provides our meeting attendees with the latest and greatest information, always with enthusiasm for genealogy. Kris is the 4th Filby Award winner from the Library and Archives of Michigan. Past winners include Carol Callard, Randy Riley and Tim Gleisner. We are blessed to have such wonderful leaders. MGC congratulates Kris Rzepczynski on this great achievement.

**Lifting a City**

What do you do if a city goes underwater? Lift it up using hydraulic jacks and jackscrews, obviously. That is what Chicago did in 1858, when the city built on a swamp realized it was barely four feet above Lake Michigan. This resulted in loads of swampy streets without prop-

er drainage, leaving water and sewage nowhere to go. The only solution was to install a storm water and sewer system, but due to the city’s level, city planners understood they had have to literally lift the whole of Chicago to install these systems below the street. Crazy as it sounds this is what they did. Over decades, entire buildings and city blocks were lifted. - Then and Now Historical and Genealogical Library Quarterly

**The Generations Project**

The Generations Project Is a reality television series produced by and shown on BYU Television. It helps those who have questions about their family history investigate their own identities by embarking on a journey to uncover the lives and stories of their ancestors. During this journey, each participant attempts to retrace their ancestor’s footsteps often participating in immersion experiences, meeting experts, and even sometimes connecting with family they never knew they had. As each participant on the show sets out on their journey they discover new details about the lives of their ancestors, answer questions about identity, about time and place, and even discover things about themselves. Overall, this journey helps participants learn where they have been and make their own conclusions about where they are going. This show can be found on [www.byutv.org](http://www.byutv.org) - WMGS newsletter

**Hints to Finding Your Female Ancestor**

- ◆ Research a woman indirectly by seeking records of her relatives-husband, father, siblings and children. She may be named as an heir, witness or traveling companion. A letter may mention her, too.
- ◆ Marriage records are most likely to contain a woman's maiden name. If you notice from censuses most of her children were born in

**Research at the Muskegon County Clerk—  
Services Suspended Until Further Notice**

You can check out updates at [https://  
co.muskegon.mi.us/407/County-Clerk](https://co.muskegon.mi.us/407/County-Clerk)



one county, start your marriage records search there. Look for a certificate and license application in county records. Churches many have marriage bonds or bands, Study historical newspapers, too, for an announcement.

- ◆ Seek records on each of a woman's children, even those not in your line, including birth and baptism records, marriage records and death records. One may give a maiden name if others don't. Also note others named, especially witnesses, as they may be her relatives.
- ◆ At her tombstone, look at plots near hers, since families often were buried near each other. Study the caretaker's burial records for more information about those people to see if anyone was buried nearby with out a headstone.
- ◆ When you have a possible surname, start researching families in the area with that surname to see if any have children with your female ancestor's first name. Keep note of all the clues that support, as well as those that refute the conclusion you've found your ancestor's maiden name. It's likely that a collection of clues will lead to her name, rather than a single momentous record that states, "I, Mary Smith Pearson .."

### **Pioneer Certificate Program**

Finally, a break in the quarantine! With our cautious return to normalcy, this committee has been able to receive applications and start the review process. Our member societies are encouraged to promote the certificates and to guide those interested through the application process. The goal of this committee is to receive well-documented lineages of our early pioneers.

Here are a few pointers to keep in mind:

- ◆ Please read through the directions carefully. They may be long but a lot of information is included
- ◆ Number your documents consecutively. Do not separate the numbering by generation
- ◆ Find a Grave memorials, for the most part,

are not documented. Only readable dates on the stone are accepted, and they may be wrong

- ◆ Censuses before 1880 do not state relationships, therefore additional supporting documents will be needed
- ◆ Citations should be complete enough for another researcher to find the document referenced. It is not enough to say 1880 MI census
- ◆ If you cannot read it- neither can anyone else. A transcription may be needed
- ◆ If it is in another language -transcribe it to English It is exciting for the Michigan Genealogical Council and the Pioneer Certificate Committee to be able to honor our early pioneers.

We look forward to receiving more well documented applications.

- Kim Smith, Michigan Genealogical Council Pioneer Certificate Chair

### **Library of Michigan Update!**

Provided by Matt Pacer

Greetings everyone from the Library of Michigan. Much has changed since the last update. First, I hope you and your family are safe and healthy. Library of Michigan staff continue to work from home during the ongoing pandemic. You can contact staff through email ([librarian@michigan.gov](mailto:librarian@michigan.gov)) or you can call us and leave a message at 517-335-1477. It may take us a little while longer to respond to your question, but we thank you for your patience.

One of the best changes that occurred during the last two months is the online library card application. As a Michigan resident, you can apply for a library card and access many of our databases such as Fold3 and Detroit Free Press Historical Newspapers. Please click on the following link to locate the library card application form: [WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/LIBRARYCARD](http://WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/LIBRARYCARD). To see the databases you can access please visit the following website: [WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/FAMILYHISTORY](http://WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/FAMILYHISTORY).

Even though we cannot go out and make presentations at your location, we are available for virtual presentations. If your organization would like to talk about scheduling a family history program, please email us at [librarian@michigan.gov](mailto:librarian@michigan.gov)

Lastly, please routinely check our website and Facebook page to find new information about the Library of Michigan and any reopening information. We hope to see you soon!

**Please Note:** 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/0,9327,7-381-88854\\_90003---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan/0,9327,7-381-88854_90003---,00.html)

Matt Pacer—Library of Michigan

CONGRESS  
MEMBERS  
EXPRESS  
CON-  
CERNS



ABOUT POLITICIZING  
THE U.S. 2020 CENSUS

The following is a message sent by Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson of the [IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee](#):

The 2020 US Census has already experienced a number of problems, including going to the US Supreme Court over a citizenship question, inadequate funding, and a delay in the contractor contracts. Now there is concern expressed in an article in the *New York*

*Times* that two new top level positions were filled with outside the agency political appointments which is unprecedented –and that is what is raising concerns about making the census partisan.

Until now only the Director of the Census Bureau, its Congressional liaison and its spokesperson have been political appointees. “For decades, the agency’s directors and top managers have been career statisticians, economists and survey methodologists — sometimes eminent ones.” The new appointees are:

Nathaniel T. Cogley, a professor who heads the government department at a Texas university, who will take a new position as deputy director for policy. His résumé lists many appearances on television and radio programs as a commentator on political issues and more.

Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter  
June 25, 2020

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

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

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Adam Korzeniewski, will be Cogley’s senior advisor. His Linked-In page lists him as a former political consultant for Republican candidates who most recently worked for the Census Bureau in a field job in New York. The Linked-In page has since been taken down.

The article in the *New York Times* includes comments by Congresspersons and a former Census Bureau head about the appointments as “disturbing” and away from the traditional non-partisan aspect of the census. The concern is that the appointees will seek to skew the 2020 census totals in an inaccurate way, by the need to accurately count the nation’s hardest-to-reach residents. The decennial census is mandated in the US constitution to be taken every ten years. The first US census was taken in 1790. To read the press release announcing the appointments see: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2020/statement-new-staff.html>

To read the *New York Times* article see: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/23/us/census-bureau-cogley-korzeniewski.html>

To access the previous postings about the 2020

US Census see the IAJGS Records Access Alert archives at: <http://lists.iajgs.org/mailman/private/records-access-alerts>

You must be registered to access the archives. To register for the IAJGS Records Access Alert go to: <http://lists.iajgs.org/mailman/listinfo/records-access-alerts>. You will receive an email response that you have to reply to or the subscription will not be finalized. It is required to include your organization affiliation (genealogy organization, etc.)

## **ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN**



Virtual appointments with the Archives of Michigan are now available

Due to the COVID-19 situation, the Archives of Michigan closed to the public on March 13, 2020. Staff are working to develop safety processes and protocols that will enable reopening to the public, but an opening date has yet to be determined.

Throughout the shutdown, staff archivists have provided assistance to researchers over the phone and by email, and are now pleased to announce a new video conferencing service. During one-on-one appointments, researchers can speak with an archivist to ask questions or request particular records.

### About the Archives:

The Archives of Michigan is responsible for preserving the records of Michigan government and other public institutions. In addition, after review, the Archives of Michigan also accepts papers from private individuals and organizations.

A growing number of materials in the Archives of Michigan is available online at the Michigan-

ology website. It includes Archives of Michigan research guides and indexes, a blog and educator resources – all from Michigan History Center staff.

There are more than 3 million records on Michiganology and new material is added frequently. There are a number of collections ranging from pre-statehood to the late 1960s, and these include letters, diaries, photographs, postcards and video.

The Archives of Michigan includes a substantial family research library and other materials that are not digitized and available online. You must call or visit the Archives to access these materials, including naturalization records, military records, and more than 50,000 cartographic images and over a million photographs.

### Schedule an Appointment:

If you would like to schedule a virtual appointment to talk with an archivist about your needs or request documents and services, visit our online reservation system appointment online or call (517) 335-2576.

The Michigan History Center fosters curiosity, enjoyment and inspiration rooted in Michigan's stories. Our 12 museums and historic sites across the state provide family-friendly places where people of all ages can have fun actively learning about their heritage and the history of Michigan seven days a week through exhibits, special events and diverse programming. For more information, visit [www.michigan.gov/mhc](http://www.michigan.gov/mhc).

For the latest information on building opening and closures, please visit the DNR COVID-19 Information page. We also will share specific information about the [Archives of Michigan website](#) and the [Michigan History Center Facebook page](#) once it has been determined.



# 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  
 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

**"The Genetic Detective" is on ABC, Tuesday at 10 pm**



Check out more up-to-date details on Abundant Genealogy's website:

<https://abundantgenealogy.com/debuts-tonight-new-television-series-the-genetic-detective-featuring-cece-moore/>

## HISTORY BOOK UPDATE

We care what happens to our members, their families, and everyone around us. History Book, Volume 2 will be extend until further notice. We will let you know of the new date in the next few months. This is very difficult time for everyone. If you have any questions, you can email us at 1972mcgs@gmail.com or send your information to Kathy DeCormier at middlaker@frontier.com —In the subject area put "History Book Volume 2".