



TWIG TALK

Newsletter

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TWIG TALK

A monthly publication of:
Muskegon County Genealogical Society
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facebook

Celebrating 50 years in 2022

President's Message

By Dawn Westcomb Kelley -

All MCGS meetings cancelled for 2020.

This has not been easy for myself as president to have to tell our members that because of COVID-19 that we cannot gather for the normal monthly meetings, the Annual Membership Meeting in November at the VFW, Board of Director meetings, and the Workshops given at the Torrent House.

Check your emails, website and Facebook often to see more updates about the society. In case things change.

Monthly Meeting
No Meeting In August 2020



Also send us your stories about what happened in your life since the COVID-19 started. This is the time to write a story for our History book, Volume 2, and make sure you check the last page of Twig Talk for more details about Volume 2. If you need help writing your story or stories contact us. We have not set a deadline date yet.

Thank you so much Norm Dagen. We appreciate all your work of keeping everything up to date on our MCGS Facebook page.

GENEALOGY QUOTE

We all grow up with the weight of history on us. Our ancestors dwell in the attics of our brains as they do in the spiraling chains of knowledge hidden in every cell of our bodies.

— Shirley Abbott

LIBRARY INFO

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

ALLEN COUNTY LIBRARY – FORT WAYNE, IN

Re-opening by Curt B. Witcher

As you read this, the Genealogy Center is days away from reopening for the public to use our physical collection and onsite databases again. On Monday, July 6, 2020, we will reopen our doors to our customers at 9 a.m. and resume our regular schedule of hours. We are so happy to be able to welcome you back to your facility--back to your home for family history discoveries--back to the place where you come to find your stories.

Like so many things in our lives right now, the reopened Genealogy Center will look significantly different in a number of ways. Our primary concern is for the health and safety of our colleagues and our customers as you discover anew the sources in our Center for finding your families' stories. Toward that end, there is a lot of physical distancing that has been put in place. All our public computer stations are spaced out by at least six feet; the chairs at our research tables are physically distanced by at least six feet; and we are asking that customers and staff remain physically distanced as much as possible.

Plexiglas shields have been installed at our service points that make us look a bit more like bank tellers than traditional librarians. Our library board of trustees is requiring all staff and all customers to wear face masks while in our buildings—that will be a different look as well. Plastic keyboard and mouse covers will be available for customers to use as well as hand sanitizer and cleaning agents. Our spaces will be cleaned regularly throughout each day. All we want you to catch while you're with us is a renewed passion for finding your families' stories!

To read more go to <http://lists.genealogycenter.info/pipermail/genealogygems/>

FEDERATION of GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

Muskegon County Genealogical Society

FGS invites its members and other societies to contribute to the 2020 Society Showcase. This year's Showcase features a virtual presence in the Virtual Expo Hall. At the discounted price of \$35, societies will have a virtual booth in the Expo Hall and the opportunity to highlight their group to all conference attendees.

You may highlight events, facilities, education or research activities, or publications. The virtual booth can be customized, allowing you to post photos, documents, clickable web links, or videos to show off your society.

The Expo Hall will be open and available to conference attendees from September 15 to October 15. The deadline for your registration is August 15. To register for the society showcase, click [HERE](#).

Questions? Contact the Society Showcase Committee at societyshowcase@fgs.org

CITY of MUSKEGON CEMETERIES - Cemeteries Office (231)724-6783:

Please note, new signs have been placed at the City of Muskegon Cemeteries, Oakwood, Evergreen, Restlawn and Lakeside.

- May 1st flowers and plants can be at gravesites
- September 3th, flowers and plants are to be removed
- November 25th, winter wreaths can be placed. Removed by March 1st.
- Planting in urns are encouraged, urns must be placed to the side of the marker or monu-

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>



ment, flush to the marker or monument

- Urns not tended to in 2 years will be removed
- No lot should be defined by bricks, hedges, edging, etc. Any kind of ground coverage is not permitted
- No hanging baskets or baskets suspended from any type of hook
- Plantings in ground cannot exceed 12" from the front or back of the marked or monument. Anything that impedes maintenance will be cut down
- No artificial flowers placed in ground or in glass containers
- Cemetery is not liable for monuments, markers, urns, flowers, decorations, etc.



- Cemetery water is not for human consumption
- No persons are allowed in the cemetery after dark
- Leash laws are in effect
- No vehicles are allowed on grass walk aisles

FGS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE



There may be no such thing as a free lunch, but the 2020 FGS Virtual Conference offers exclusive FREE genealogy educa-

tion!

FGS is offering three sizes of registration packages to meet your specific needs. BONUS content is included for FREE with all packages! For more information on registration packages, see <https://fgs.org/conferences/registration/>

In addition to your on-demand sessions AND the FGS Live! Event, registration gives you FREE access to:

- 30+ BONUS sessions from our conference

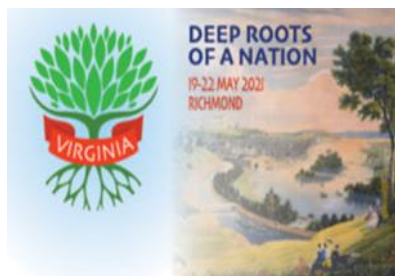
sponsors including Ancestry, FamilySearch, American Ancestors, MyHeritage, Missouri State Archives, and many more

- 16 BONUS society leadership sessions designed to provide helpful tools and techniques to benefit genealogy societies
- Our Virtual Exhibit Hall
- FREE Digital syllabus containing material for ALL sessions

For more information on all of the FREE bonus sessions, see <https://fgs.org/conferences/sponsored-sessions/>

Hurry! Register Now! Early bird registration ends August 15.

2021 NGS FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE



Vacation Planning? Plans for the NGS 2021 Family History Conference Are Underway!

The National Genealogical Society

(NGS) is excited to announce that its 2021 Family History Conference is scheduled to take place 19-22 May 2021 in Richmond, Virginia, at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. Information about the Conference's program—Virginia: Deep Roots of a Nation—and the many genealogical resources in Richmond are now available online as a downloadable brochure.

The program will feature a variety of lecture tracks with session topics including: African American, Native American, and other ethnic groups research; archival records in Virginia and neighboring states; immigration and migration; researching federal and local government records as well as land, military, religious, and tax records; using DNA to trace your ancestors; and much more. The Board for Certification of Genealogists will be sponsoring a skill-building track, and in support of NGS's merger later this year with the Federation of Genealogical Societies, a "Focus on Societies" day is also planned.

The conference will offer several events, tours,

special workshops, a family history expo, and more. Don't miss out! Conference registration opens on 6 January 2021.

In 2022, the NGS Family History Conference will be on the West Coast with the California Genealogical Society (CGS) serving as the local host. Join us in Sacramento, California, 25-28 May 2022. Details will be available in the coming months on the NGS Family History Conference website and in the NGS Magazine.

Ancestry Security Team Confident Family Tree Maker Vulnerability Has Not Impacted Ancestry's Systems

Dick Eastman, author



Eastman's Online Genealogy News-
letter July 23, 2020

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

Dick Eastman has been writing this
genealogy newsletter for 24 years.

Used with permission

The following is an announcement from Ancestry.com:

"We have been alerted to a potential security vulnerability at the MacKiev Company, which owns Family Tree Maker software. While we no longer have formal affiliation with the company, Family Tree Maker is used by some Ancestry customers to sync family trees between Family Tree Maker software and Ancestry. Based on our investigation, we do not believe that any Ancestry systems or data have been compromised. The Ancestry-Family Tree Maker sync uses OAuth2, a widely-used authentication protocol to provide Family Tree Maker permission to access Ancestry resources without exposing user passwords.

"As a best practice, we recommend Ancestry customers who have used their Ancestry credentials to access Family Tree Maker software change their password and enable two-factor authentication."

Eastman's Online Genealogy News-
letter July 30, 2020

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

Dick Eastman has been writing this
genealogy newsletter for 24 years.

Used with permission

The following re-
views were writ-
ten by Bobbi
King, the Book
Reviews Editor
for this newslet-
ter:

New and Updated At a Glance Guides

The *At a Glance* guides are published by the Genealogical Publishing Company. Meant to be quick-read references, the guides are four-page laminates, 8 x 11 in size, authored by experts on specific topics. There is a wide range of guides available at the GPC website. Here are brief descriptions of some updated guides newly published in 2020.

German Genealogy Research, Updated Edition

by Ernest Thode

There are segments on German history followed by sections on research tips:

- German Emigration, including the reasons for leaving homelands and the eras of peak migrations;
- Passenger Lists, including lists of websites and German archives where online lists may be found;
- Unlocking German Family History, including background and online sources related to German places, surnames, given names, and dates, the most noble being a description and link to the ever-valuable Meyers Gazetteer;
- German Record Sources, including information about and where to find church and civil registration records, the German Center for Genealogy which has Germany's largest genealogical collection, the Berlin Document Center which documents the regime from 1920 to 1945, village heritage books and histories that list village residents, military archives, censuses, and references for further reading;

Other Online Resources, including additional website URLs for finding German information.

Scottish Genealogy Research, Updated Edition

by David Dobson

There are segments on Scottish history followed by sections on research tips:

- Scottish Emigration Background, including migration information and references for further research;

(Continued from page 4)

- Passenger Lists, of which there are few before the mid-19th century, but there are pointers to some resources;
- Unlocking Scottish Family History, with information on surnames and palaeography, the study of old handwriting styles and deciphering old documents;
- Basic Genealogical Sources, including descriptions of old parish registers of the Church of Scotland 1553 to 1854 and other church records, post 1854 statutory registration of births, marriages, deaths, divorces, civil partnerships and same-sex marriages, and census returns from 1842 to 1911;
- Supplementary Record Sources, describing sources for wills and testaments, monumental inscription lists, Kirk Session Records, Services of Heirs, Property and the Register of Sasines, burgh records, estate and family papers, maritime records, and tax records.
- Major Online Resources describes websites useful for further research.

Polish Genealogy Research, Updated Edition

by Rosemary A. Dembinski Chorzempa.

There are segments on Polish history and research tips:

- Polish Names describes the complications of deciphering the surnames;
- Polish History and Emigration describes brief history from 963 A.D. to present;
- Finding the Hometown is a brief guide to locating an ancestral village of origin;
- Online Databases from Poland offers updated information on new efforts posting Polish records online;
- Other Resources includes details about the millions of Polish and U.S. records at FamilySearch;
- Areas in Polish Lands is a full page of major place names in Polish, Latin, German, and English language, a reminder of the variety of sovereigns and kingdoms that once ruled Poland and produced a mix of record languages.

Small as they are, these are very worthwhile references rich in resource and research ideas.

All of the “At a Glance” references are available from the publisher, [Genealogical.com](https://www.genealogical.com), at <https://www.genealogical.com/store/> as well as from genealogy booksellers most everywhere else.

You Can Help Nazi Victims’ Families Learn Their Fates in Online Archive Project

From Dick Eastman · July 28, 2020 · History, Online Sites

From an article by Renee Ghert-Zand in The Times of Israel website:

“Thousands answer crowdsourcing call to assist Germany’s Arolsen Archives in making 26 million newly digitized historical documents searchable by anyone online.

DOCUMENT FROM SACHSENHAUSEN (COURTESY OF THE AROLSSEN ARCHIVES)

“A huge crowdsourcing project to memorialize the victims of Nazi persecution is bringing together thousands of volunteers from across the globe who are locked down during the international coronavirus crisis. The “Every Name Counts” project, based out of Germany’s Arolsen Archives (formerly the International Tracing Service), aims to make 26 million recently digitized primary historical records searchable.”

“It was a perfect opportunity to harness the interest and energy of a global community of volunteers to assist in advancing the archive’s new mission to make its holdings available to researchers, and more importantly to family members wanting to find out exactly what happened to their loved ones during and immediately after the war.

“While part of the archives became available online to the public in May 2019, crowdsourcing is a new approach for the Arolsen Archives. Before the pandemic, it had used only outside companies, artificial intelligence, and its own staff to do the indexing.

You can read the full story at <https://bit.ly/331VXeI>



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 (cancelled)
 September 10 (cancelled)
 October 8 (cancelled)
 November 12 (cancelled)
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 (cancelled)
 October 10 (cancelled)
 November 14 (cancelled)
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



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”.