



TWIG TALK

Newsletter

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TWIG TALK

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Muskegon County Genealogical Society
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Celebrating 50 years in 2022

President's Message

By Dawn Westcomb Kelley -

I hope everyone is staying safe and well. Oh yes, I have been very busy answering the research that we have received. I have *GenealogyBank.com* and *Newspapers.com*, and looked at *Chronicling America*. I will always need help with research.

Since there are obituaries that I cannot do for the society, I asked Diana if she would be willing to help when she has time. Thank you Diana for volunteering. I also want to thank Ingrid for doing research about one of the cemeteries. I really appreciated all your help.

Some of the research questions peo-

Monthly Meeting No Meeting In September 2020



"Tell Your Stories"

For years, we have searched for long forgotten records in dusty attics, moldy basements, libraries, and such places. We have been looking for the stories behind our ancestors. Did we con-

sider those who will look for our stories when we are gone? This could be some interesting history about your life. Consider taking time to highlight some events in your life, that others or family members might not know about. The most important part of your life story may be those that don't exist in the public record.

ple ask I am not able to answer right away because more detail is needed. I usually ask for more specific information in an email so the question can be clarified.

I am sure everyone has been to the Getty Drive-In Theater when you were kid, at one time, or another. Why mention this? I remember my sister, brother, and parents taking us there when were kids. My mom would get sister, my brother and I ready by having our baths first and then putting on our pajamas. We would go to Mona Lake and watch the hot air balloons and then to the movies. It was so much

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*

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President's Message)

back then. What did you do when you were young at heart?

I have been sorting through genealogical articles that I have saved over the years and thought some of them would be very interesting to put into our newsletter throughout the rest of this year.

MEMBER RECOGNITION

Spotlight On Bill Hansen
By Dawn Kelley

I cannot name all the talents that Bill Hansen has, but it is a pretty long list. Our society has been very lucky to have a professional photographer and book author in Muskegon.

He continues to work on a special project to identify veterans in the 50 cemeteries across every township in Muskegon County. Bill created maps for all of these cemeteries. Twenty-one of them are on the Muskegon County Viewer:



[http://
www.muskegoncountygis.com/
MuskegonCemeteryViewer/](http://www.muskegoncountygis.com/MuskegonCemeteryViewer/)

Bill's latest books, published in 2020, are available on Amazon. You can also find them at the Local History & Genealogy Department when it reopens.

- "The Directory of Veteran Burials in Muskegon County, Michigan Cemeteries": 10,000 veterans listed by service.
- "The Directory of Veteran Burials in Muskegon County, Michigan Cemeteries": 10,000 Veterans listed by cemeteries, along with nearly 100 related articles.
- "Muskegon's True Colors Revealed": using the work of our earliest local photographers, and modern technology, we can now see what they saw.
- "Story's From Our Muskegon Pioneers"

Through-out the years Bill has published other books:

- "The Lost City of Fruitvale" Vol.1 & 2.
- "The Book of Death 1899" Muskegonites who died in the news.
- "Lakewood! Next Stop Lakewood"; in the news, the early history of Lakewood, Muskegon County, Michigan, Vol. 1
- "The Motorcycle, the Merchant and the Man"
- "Our Founding Photographers" Vol. 1 a look at the history of photography in Muskegon County, Michigan;
- "Sea Serpents & Gold": the early history of Blue Lake Township, Muskegon County, Michigan, established 1865.



NEWSPAPERS ABOUND

By Curt Witcher, ACPL Genealogy Gems, No. 155, January 31 2017

My colleagues and I have written many times about various newspaper databases available for researchers to use. We have explored the holdings of *Newspapers.com* and *NewspaperArchives.com*, and we have written about successfully accessing the tens of millions of newspaper page images in just those two sources alone. More than once, attention has been given to the Library of Congress, "Chronicling America" website which provides the researcher with nearly twelve million newspaper pages dating from 1924 and earlier. Chronicling American is available for free from anywhere with an internet connection.

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

Unfortunately we are not allowing researchers in the office at this time until further notice.



The three mega sites listed above, though, really only should be the beginning of one's newspaper research. As we try to build the most robust contexts possible for our ancestors in order to find as much information about them as we can, we should keep in mind that there very easily could have been newspapers published during their lives by a company, factory or other work place, a particular military regiment, unit, or division a school, a church or denomination, and an ethnic group to which they belonged. These typically smaller, and most certainly more focused, newspapers truly support the adage that newspapers chronicle the lives and times of an area or group during a particular era. There are so many different types of newspapers, and access to them gets better and better. Weekly one finds mention on various forums, institutional announcements, in *ResearchBuzz* and the like, of various types of newspapers being published online, many of them for free. Be creative with your use of Google.

CENSUS SUBSTITUTES & STATE CENSUS RECORDS

By Delia Cothrun Bourne

Genealogy Gems: News from the Allen County Public Library at Fort Wayne
No. 195, May 31, 2020

One of the first places a researcher will often look for an ancestor is in a federal census report. The later years of the census can provide so much information, but even the pre-1850 schedules can offer clues about where a family was living or a possible father's name. Although experienced researchers will know how to use name variations and other techniques to locate a person or family, even they can be vexed when the family is just are not there or when the census records were lost or destroyed, such as the 1890 census. Researchers need to locate something to use instead as a substitute record. A useful guide is William Dollarhide's "Census Substitutes & State Census Records: Substitute Name Lists for 50 States and States Censuses for 38 States," second edition (Orting, Washington: Family Roots Publishing, 2016), 973 D65ca.

The set is divided into three volumes that in-

clude Eastern States, Central States, and Western States and National. A map at the front of each volume defines the sections: Eastern includes New England, Mid-Atlantic, Old South and Old Southwest. The latter, for example, extends to Mississippi. Central includes Central Southern, the Old Northwest, and the Central Plains. The Western volume includes all states to the west of a line from Montana southward to New Mexico, and also includes U.S. maps and nationwide lists. In each volume, the states are grouped into those sections.

Each geographical section starts with an historical timeline for the area, followed by a section on each state with some general statements about that state's censuses and other various enumerations and lists. A listing of the state digital archives leads the discussion of sources, followed by databases at Ancestry, Family Search, and other online sources. Periodical sources, books, and microfilm complete the list.

The foreword and introductions that appear in each volume discuss the conception and organization of this set. Included is the fascinating tale of the 1925 New York State Census, which was marred by scandal when the Secretary of State installed friends and relatives in non-working paid positions. She was found guilty of misappropriating state funds, and the affair ended the state census process in New York. The introductions also include charts showing the years when census substitutes are available by state and the availability of federal census schedules for each.

The various lists and enumerations are valuable as research alternatives when the federal census is missing or incomplete. The information Dollarhide provides on the various state census enumerations provides a pathway through potential brick walls and definitely should be examined by every thorough genealogist.



UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING - MUSKOGON

United Way
of the Lakeshore

The following is an opportunity provided by United Way Lakeshore, Day of Caring, www.unitedwaylakeshore.org. United Way

Lakeshore organizes a Day of Caring every year for community service. On **September 11th** this year the project will cleaning grave markers of veterans in six or more cemeteries in Muskegon County.

If you want to participate in this community project you must register at the website above. There you will find out about hours of operation, how to organize a team or become part of a team, and other details.

September 11th – Veteran Cemetery Projects

The following cemeteries will be serviced in their respective communities:

- Muskegon Heights - Mona View Cemetery
- Dalton Township – Oakhill Cemetery
- Egelston Township – Egelston Township Cemetery
- Fruitland Township – Fruitland Township Cemetery
- Sullivan Township – Sullivan Township Cemetery
- Laketon Township – Laketon Township Cemetery (Four cemeteries in one location. Bear Lake is the older section located on the west side of Horton Road, while Laketon, Laketon-McLaughlin, and Clower are the newer sections on the east side of the road)

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 infor-

mation 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.

NEXT UP:

Saturday, September 5, 1:00 PM - Eastern

Who Needed it Anyway?

Researching Around the Missing 1890 Census
by Sara Cochran

The loss of the 1890 Federal census is a source of great frustration for American Genealogists, but all hope is not lost! Learn strategies and gather tips for success in locating your family in other records between the 1880 and 1900 Federal censuses.

Sara Cochran has been conducting genealogical research for over 25 years, and her research has taken her into nearly every state in the USA as well as Ireland, Italy, Austria, and Britain. She holds a Boston University Genealogical Research Certificate as well as a Bachelor Degree in Library Science. She especially enjoys breaking down brick walls for her clients, discovering the stories of black sheep ancestors, and helping individuals preserve their photographic legacy.

Wednesday, September 16, 9:00 PM - Eastern

Putting America to Work; Records of the WPA and the CCC

by Peggy Lauritzen, AG®, FOGS

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was founded as part of President Roosevelt's New Deal. Providing jobs for over 8.5 million people, they were instrumental in compiling many records that are valuable to genealogists today. Many of the indexes and records we use today were compiled by the WPA; those unemployed professionals who were 'put to work' in the days following the Great Depression.

Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, AG®, FOGS, has become a favorite speaker at conferences and webinars. She serves as a Family History Center director and is an instructor and author at

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Legacy Family Tree Webinars, Ancestry Academy, Family Tree University, and a columnist for *Reminisce Magazine*. She received the 2018 Laura G. Prescott Award for Exemplary Service to Professional Genealogy.

Saturday, October 3, 1:00 PM – Eastern

Manifest Destiny: Researching Your Mexican War Ancestors
by Michael Strauss, AG®

The Mexican-American War of 1846 marked the first United States conflict mostly fought on foreign soil that served as a training ground for officers in the Civil War 15 years later. Military Background/U.S. Involvement; Compiled Military Service Records; Navy Rendezvous Reports; Marine Corp & Regular Army Enlistments; Pension & Bounty Land; Cemetery Records; Veteran & Lineage Societies

Michael L. Strauss, AG®, is a nationally recognized genealogical speaker. He has a BA in History and is a United States Coast Guard veteran. He is also a qualified expert witness in Court in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Additionally, he is a faculty member at SLIG, GRIP, and IGHR where he serves as the course coordinator.

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

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.

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

PLEASE READ about the re-opening of Torrent House - Local History & Genealogy Department on the Hackley Public Library website at: <https://hackleylibrary.org/local-history/local-history>



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" was on ABC early this year and if you were not able to watch it or would like watch it again here is the link <https://abc.com/shows/the-genetic-detective> to watch all of them. Season 2 is in the works, but not sure if it will be Spring of 2021 or Fall of 2021



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".