

T W I G T A L K

Newsletter



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[Celebrating 50 years in 2022](#)

President's Message

By Dawn Westcomb Kelley -

Wishing all mothers a very happy Mother's Day.



Most of us have been working on the female line of our families and still are stuck finding them.

Family Tree Magazine is the best magazine that I have found. May-June 2021 has a Cheat Sheet for finding Female Ancestors. This issue has so...much more information to help find your other ancestors too! Here is the site to get [FREE Genealogy Cheat Sheets - Genealogy Bargains](#)

In the April 2021 issue of Twig Talk, we brought up the subject of small interest groups as a way to foster participation and to help make MCGS more relevant for our members. Have you thought of starting your own interest group?

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|--|--|
| 1. Making the Most of Your Ancestry Membership - Users Group | 5. Exploring Local Cemeteries - Interest Group |
| 2. Family Tree Maker software - Users Group | 6. Organizing Your Genealogy - Interest Group |
| 3. Cemetery Photography - Interest Group | 7. Using Family Search at familysearch.com - Users Group |
| 4. Viewing Webinars Together - Interest Group | 8. Using Find A Grave at findagrave.com - Users Group |
| | 9. Michigan Archives at michiganology.org - Users Group |



MEMORIAL DAY

On this day May 30, (officially May 31) we have the opportunity to remind ourselves of the intense devotion of those who died for us. Memorial Day was initially known as Decoration Day and many people still use that name. But putting flowers on graves of deceased family and soldiers was a common practice in the United States, well before the time of organized commemorations that developed during and following the Civil War of the 1860s. The experience of the horrific loss of life during this war affected everyone. Every person knew a close friend or family member who died or returned maimed for life.

Some of you have the military medals that a family member received. If you do not have them but would like to have them, check out the U.S. Military Medals of America website below. If you have a family member or ancestor's DD214, it will show the medals they received. I used this way of obtaining the medals my husband received but no longer had. I also used it to obtain medals for my dad and my ancestors who served in the Civil War. Ancestors who served in the Civil War do not have a DD214, but you can still get their medals.

For your information, the first DD Form 214s were issued in **1950** replacing the older "WD AGO" (War Department Adjutant General's Office) Forms and the NAVPERS (Naval Personnel) discharge documents. These documents had existed since 1941.

[U.S. Military Medals - Shop High-Quality USA Service Awards on Sale \(medalsofamerica.com\)](http://medalsofamerica.com)

DNA INFORMATION YOU NEED to KNOW

Family Tree DNA merged with the Australia – www.mydna.life

Dr. Lior Rauchberger, CEO of Australian Company, myDNA, has announced a **merger** with well-known genetic genealogy company, **FamilyTreeDNA** along with the parent company that owns their **DNA** processing lab, Gene by Gene.

23andme - VG Acquisition Corp (NYSE: VGAC) announced on Feb. 4 it will complete a SPAC merger (special purpose acquisition corp.) with 23andMe, the consumer genetics analysis company. Sadly it looks like VGAC stock might be too speculative for most SPAC investors.

MyHeritage www.myheritage.com MyHeritage the leading global service for discovering your past and empowering your future, announced February 24, 2021, that Francisco Partners, a leading global investment firm that specializes in partnering with technology businesses, has signed a definitive agreement to acquire the company.

GENEALOGY TIP

How to Organize Your Papers, Genealogy and Pictures?

I mention last month about tackling those piles of genealogy papers. This system works well for pictures too! You should by now, have done some of your piles, and have them in the right folder(s). Now do it for pictures. Soon you will have all the papers and pictures put away. Take those sticky notes and use them over again.

LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY DEPARTMENT AT THE TORRENT HOUSE

Norwegians in America, their History and Record: A Translated Version of the 1907 and 1913 Nordmændene i Amerika, deres Historie og Rekord,

Translated by Odd-Steinar Dybvad Raneng, V. 1, 2 & 3

Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 1948, Compiled by Matt Burns

Hairstyles 1840-1900: Includes Men, Children, & Unusual Coiffures, by Maureen A. Taylor

Pere Marquette: A Michigan Railroad System Before 1900, by Graydon M. Meints

Shelby Funeral Home Records 18 Dec 1905 - 6 May 1907

Prohibition in Southwestern Michigan, by Norma Lewis & Christine Nyholm

Michigan in World War II, by Daniel W. Mason

ONLINE information from Local History & Genealogy Department at the Torrent House

LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY DEPARTMENT on their website

[Research Sources at the Torrent House - Hackley Public Library \(hackleylibrary.org\)](http://hackleylibrary.org)

FOR USE WITHIN THE LIBRARY ONLY (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

The Muskegon Chronicle Digital Edition Blank microfilm is no longer being produced, so News-Bank has contracted with formerly-microfilmed publications to provide digital archives. Explore local history with our new full-color digital archive of The Muskegon Chronicle! You can search this archive in the library or remotely through the library website. This new digital archive covers January 1, 2019 and will grow going forward (there is a 90 day embargo from publication date). Archival issues prior to 2019 are still available on microfilm. This database is available both within the library and remotely with a valid Hackley Public Library card.

[Free Quick Reference Guides for Genealogy \(familytreemagazine.com\)](http://familytreemagazine.com)

US StateWide Vital Records Chart
1880 DDD Supplement Census Records by State
US Migration Routes Map
Naturalization Laws Timeline
War Service Reference Guide
Common Military Acronyms
Tombstone Iconography Guide
Legal Terms Found in Genealogy Records

Also on this website: Foreign Language Terms, Country and Guides General Reference.

Newsletter Articles Needed

How-to, interesting resources—standard & online, family stories, queries, and more!

Send to TwigTalk1972@gmail.com

Marking Time Gravestone Weathering

By Cristine Bouwkamp
Superior Monument / Patten Monument Co.



There is a word for all the black and white and green guck on unreadable old gravestones. It's called weathering. Weathering can be divided into three cause categories.

Physical, Biological, and Chemical. - example, freeze and thaw conditions

Biological - example, Lichen growth

Chemical -example, acid rain

Over the centuries, the type of material used for gravestones has changed as these three types of weathering became apparent. In fact, most cemeteries now have regulations that require the material to be durable and state granite or bronze only. For the most part, gone are the days of wooden crosses, cement slabs and sandstone monuments.

Granite that is used for markers is graded for that use according to the level of quartz content. There are multiple grades of granite but not all are used for monuments. Bronze is an alloy but the

foundries use about 98% copper in the mix. Even with the best scenario of good material and great position in the cemetery, a marker is still susceptible to weathering.

Spring cemetery clean up time is here and one thing that we, as cemetery enthusiasts, can do is help remind people of the importance of proper cleaning of weathered stones. Monument preservationists will tell us to be cautious and use the proper solutions and supplies. A serious tatophile will tell us to leave the weathered and aged look on the stone as a way to keep the aesthetics of the old cemeteries. As a granite specialist, I will tell you what is safe and you can do what you will with the information.



Here are my recommendations:

1. If you don't know the material, leave it alone. Different materials require different precautions. Snap a photo and get help from an expert for safe cleaning practices.
(E.G. Car wax on bronze creates a chemical reaction that will make the paint peel)
2. The newest preservation techniques use a solution called D/2. It is biologically safe but prevents further growth of molds and lichen in and on the stone.
3. A soft brush and water will do wonders without any chemicals, bleaches, or household cleaners. Most of those do more long term damage than good.
4. Read [Michigan's Historic Cemeteries preservation guide](#). While it has not been recently updated, the information on soil, vegetation, mapping and cleaning is extensive.

So what camp are you in? Clean to preserve or leave them alone? Love the weathered look or new and shiny? Either way, the respect and admiration for cemeteries, gravemarkers and history is the reason we do what we do!

Have a great spring in the cemeteries and remember to invite others on your journey!

ANCESTRAL MATHEMATICS

In order to be born, you needed:

- 2 parents
- 4 grandparents
- 8 great-grandparents
- 16 second great grandparents
- 32 third great grandparents
- 64 fourth great grandparents
- 128 fifth great grandparents
- 256 sixth great grandparents
- 512 seventh great grandparents
- 1024 eighth great grandparents
- 2048 ninth great grandparents

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations, you needed a total of 4094 ancestors over the last 400 years.

Think for a moment – how many struggles? How many battles? How many difficulties? How much sadness? How much happiness? How many love stories? How many expressions of hope for the future? – did your ancestors have to undergo for you to exist in this present moment...

She Was The First Postmistress at Bluffton, Deputy Customs Collector at Port Sherman, A Civil War Veteran, And Married Many Times—part 1 of 2

Written by Frances Harrington

She was born Katherine Louisa Hinman in Onondaga, New York, to Sherman A. Hinman and Harriet M. Wesley between 1837 – 1839 (depending on which record you look at). By 1850, the family consisting of Katherine, her parents and two sisters Betsey and Frances have moved to Calhoun County, Michigan. The 1860 census shows they are all still living in Calhoun along with a new brother, Frederick. On 14 November 1860, Katherine married William C. Simmons, husband #1. In September 1861, William (aka Charles Edwards) enlisted and was part of the 5th Iowa Cavalry.

In articles that appeared in the Chronicle in 1885 and 1886, Katherine says she enlisted in the military in 1861 and recounts some of her military experiences. Her pension claim from 1909 says her enlist date

was in 1862. In other articles, she says she volunteered before entering regular service as a nurse so that might be where the discrepancy lies.

She told the reporter that she joined with Company B, 1st Battalion, 1st Nebraska Cavalry. She nursed the wounded after battles at Island No.10, Fort Henry, Paducah, Fort Donelson and other engagements during that campaign. The next year she worked with the army of the Potomac and later with the 1st Brigade of the 5th Corp.

She tells a story of being captured by Confederate General Zollicoffer, where he called her “that Lincoln wench”, and took her mule, saddle, guns, and hat. He noticed she had on some nice patent leather tongue boots (that she bought in St. Louis for \$25, (\$500 in today’s money) and ordered her to take them off. When she refused, they were forced off from her. Apparently, she either had large feet for a woman or the General had small feet for a man because he tried the boots on and they fit so he kept those too. He said that he had no place for, or men to spare, to guard a woman so he ordered that she be taken back to enemy lines. She was taken by the sergeant and 6 men to just beyond the rebel lines. They left her on her own. She was forced to find her way back to Union lines while walking barefoot in knee deep mud and rain. She commented that Zollicoffer was killed not long afterwards and was no doubt buried with “her boots on”.

She also recounts of meeting President Lincoln at Fort Monroe, in 1864. She showed the reporter a silver pin with filigree work set with a valuable ruby and a dozen garnets that the President had given her personally for meritorious service on the James River during the campaign at Richmond in 1863. (In my research, I wasn’t able to validate this or any of her military claims except that she actually did serve.)

Katherine left the military in April of 1865, and went to her father’s home in Calhoun County, Michigan. Her husband didn’t return after the war and was presumed killed in action, until 1893 when she found out he was living in northern Michigan and had a large family. Records do show that he applied for his military pension in 1870 and that from at least 1910 until his death in 1917 he was living in the Veteran’s Home in Grand Rapids.

On 25 February 1866, Katherine married husband #2, Civil War veteran, Andrew J. Harrington (no relation to me) at Montcalm County, Michigan. They divorced in 1874. They remarried in 1876. They divorced again in 1877.

——part 2 of 2 next month——

Southern California Genealogical Society Webinar Series

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.

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.

Wednesday, May 19 9:00 PM - Eastern

[Using GEDmatch Basic Tools](#) by Andrew Lee

GEDmatch is a free website where you can upload your DNA kit from any of the major testing companies. It allows you to find matches that tested with other companies. Andy graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in mechanical engineering.

MCGS MEETINGS

2nd Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

VFW Post 319

5209 Grand Haven Rd.

Norton Shores, MI



Meetings cancelled

Until further notice

Genealogy Family

History Workshops

Torrent House Local History & Genealogy Department
315 W. Webster Ave.

All workshops are cancelled until further notice.



LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY DEPT.

Changes to the Local History & Genealogy Department. PLEASE call ahead of time at 231-722-8016 Tuesday thru Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. To make sure they are open or check out the Hackley Public Library website for new updates on opening and closing at <https://hackleylibrary.org/> Click the Local History & Genealogy button on top of the page and check out the Research Resources .



2021 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

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HISTORY BOOK VOL. 2

We care what happens to our members, their families, and everyone around us. Our History Book, Volume 2 will be extend until further notice. It is very important to start working on your stories now. Do not wait.

If you have any questions or need help, contact us at our 1972mcgs@gmail.com or send your information to Kathy DeCormier at middlaker@frontier.com

In the subject area put "History Book Volume 2".

TWIG TALK

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