

MUSKEGON COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded 1972

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June 2021

T W I G T A L K

Newsletter



Celebrating 50 years in 2022

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President's Message

By Dawn Westcomb Kelley -

We just might be able to have a regular meeting or just a get together late fall 2021. More updates will be coming soon!

As the society approaches its 50 year Anniversary in 2022. We would like everyone to think of what we have accomplished over the last 50 years. Please send us information and stories about your experiences that should be remembered about the society. We are depending on hearing from you.

In the United States, Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The Flag Resolution, passed on June 14, 1777, stated, "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

The nation's first **Father's Day** was celebrated on **June 19, 1910**, in the state of Washington. However, it was not until 1972, 58 years after President [Woodrow Wilson](#) made Mother's Day official, that the day honoring fathers became a nationwide holiday in the United States.

CONGRATULATION to the Graduates of 2021!

"Never bend your head. Always hold it high. Look the world right in the eye" – Helen Keller

GENEALOGY TIP

You may be too close to a research brick wall to view it objectively. Trade problems with a friend, and try to find their missing information while they try to find yours. This brings a fresh look to a frustrating situation, and it is fun to help someone else.

USEFUL LINK

Here is a useful link to the library in Allen County, Indiana. The genealogy society there produces very well done weekly seminars, many are virtual. When you are on the website scroll down to "Upcoming Events". Here's the link: [Home | Allen County Public Library \(acpl.lib.in.us\)](http://Home | Allen County Public Library (acpl.lib.in.us)) .

1. The World Book of Kelley's

2. Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 1948 – 2020 (Given by Matt Burns)

—CONTINUED FROM A STORY IN THE MAY 2021 TTN—

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

By Frances Harrington

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.

In Grand Rapids, Michigan, on October 16, 1882, she marries Civil War veteran, John K. Stroud, husband #3. Mr. Stroud had been living at the Veteran's Home at the time. He died less than a year later in August of 1883.

In 1883, Katherine is living in Muskegon County, Michigan. She meets Civil War veteran, John White and they marry in November in Manistee, Michigan. He is husband # 4. By 1885 she has been appointed Deputy Collector of Customs for Port Sherman, Muskegon. She ran for the office of Postmaster against Joseph David.

During this time, she is arrested for assault and pays a fine of \$6. The assault may have been against her opponent because after he wins, the Chronicle reports it was "quite a lively war" for the office. At the same time, she is reappointed as the Deputy Customs Collector. Katherine also works to help veterans fill out their pension requests and get admittance to the Veteran's Home. She became very vocal about the deplorable conditions at the Veteran's Home which was eventually investigated by the Legislature.

She divorces John White on 1 August 1887. In December, she moves from Port Sherman to Bluffton in Muskegon County. Katherine decides to make another run for Postmaster. In January of 1888, she wins the election and is appointed Postmistress for Bluffton. During the year, there is an outbreak of yellow fever among the veterans in Jacksonville, Florida. She requests a short leave from her duties and goes to volunteer her services as a nurse. Katherine had a mild case of the fever in earlier years and is convinced she will be safe from contracting it again. She goes to Florida in September and returns to Muskegon in November. She's only one of two people who volunteered to help from the State of Michigan.

On 14 February 1889, Katherine marries husband #5, William W. Fowler, another Civil War veteran. They divorce in 1890. She is also appointed Notary Public during this year.

Katherine marries husband #6, Edward A. Glasford, another Civil War veteran, on 10 January 1891 in Muskegon. She appoints him as her Deputy Postmaster. He runs a little store in Bluffton where they sell postage in exchange for goods (like vegetables) using the postage as a type of currency. The postal service gets complaints about this arrangement and the couple are arrested in 1892 and charged with "making false returns and unlawful use of postage stamps" (a violation of postal laws). They are both found guilty in District Court. Katherine goes before the judge and because the "statute" regarding this charge is so recent, she is allowed to pay a fine of \$125 (\$3,613 in today's

money) instead of prison time. Edward isn't so lucky. He receives a sentence of 9 months in prison in Detroit. The article doesn't say why his sentence was so much more severe than hers but perhaps it's because he was the owner of the store where the crime was committed or they didn't have another \$125 to spare or maybe he had a different judge who wasn't as sympathetic.

In 1897, an article appears in the Muskegon Chronicle with the heading: "HAD SIX HUSBANDS Mrs K L Glasford Has Been Married Seven Times". They interview Katherine about all her 6 Civil War veteran husbands. The article states that her 6th husband, Mr. Glasford, had disappeared a short time ago and is thought to be living at a veteran's home in Dayton, Ohio. Husband # 5, Mr. William Fowler, had written to Katherine stating, "He knew no one he would rather share his pension money with than her," and inquiring if he could board with her. He had been living in Grand Rapids (perhaps at the Veteran's Home) when the letter was written. Arrangements were made and he returned to her home in November. The next year, in 1898, her father, Mr. Hinman, and Mr. William Fowler take her to Huntsville, Alabama, where she says she will enter the Red Cross services. Six months later, the 1900 Census shows her living with husband #6, Mr. Glasford, in Huntsville so he evidently left Dayton to be with her.

In 1909, she files for her own military pension. The pension record shows her name as Katherine L. Glasford, nurse, formerly Katherine L. Kennedy. I don't know where the Kennedy name comes from since it didn't show up anywhere in my research and she never mentioned a husband with the last name of Kennedy.

Katherine's 1909 Pension Application

NAME OF SOLDIER:	<i>Glasford, Katherine L.</i>			
SERVICE:	<i>Late rank nurse in Med. Dept. U.S. Col.</i>			
TERM OF SERVICE:	<i>Enlisted Sept. 1862. Discharged April 1865</i>			
DATE OF FILING:	CLASS:	APPLICATION NO.	LAW:	CERTIFICATE NO.
<i>1909 Nov. 3</i>	<i>Invalid, Widow, Minor.</i>	<i>1386770</i>	<i>.</i>	
ADDITIONAL SERVICES:				
REMARKS:	<i>See No. 300701 Van. Co. Simmons & Charles Edwards A14R43 US Inf. 135 Iowa Cav. B1 Batta Neb Cav & Old War</i>			

By 1912, Mr. Edward A. Glasford has returned to the Soldier's Home at Dayton, Ohio. He dies there on 28 March 1912 and is buried at the National Cemetery there.

By this time, if you are like me, you'd probably think that after being married 7 times with 6 husbands, she would be done. You'd be wrong.

On 15 July 1912, Katherine L. Glasford, (age 75) marries husband #7, Jacob VanWie, (age 65) at Cayuga County, New York. I found no records of him ever being in the Civil War like her previous

6 husbands. The 1920 Census shows the couple still living together at Cayuga. He is listed as a farm laborer and she is listed as a nurse for a private family. She is 83 years old.

I next find an article about Katherine, in May 1922 from Scipio, Cayuga County, New York. The caption reads: "War Nurse Decorated By Lincoln To Receive Good Care Rest Of Life". Katherine was taken in and assisted by agencies in Auburn County, New York, for two days after she was found wandering the streets there. She is returned to Port Byron, Cayuga County, New York, (where she had been living) to a Supervisor, Willis L. Miller. Mr. Miller was on the Board of Supervisors for Cayuga County Public Relief. Supervisor Miller said, "the balance of her life will be spent in comfort and that her tales of being driven from her home were pure imagination".

Katherine VanWie dies 4 months later on 14 September 1922 at Willard, Seneca, New York. Willard was a small town and the home of the state hospital previously called The Willard Asylum for the Chronic Insane that opened in 1869. In 1890 it was changed to the Willard State Hospital and later to the Willard Psychiatric Center. It closed its doors in 1995. Many records of patients after 1900 have been destroyed or are very hard to get from the state archives of New York so I wasn't able to prove Katherine ended up as a patient there but many New York veterans did and sadly, I think she did also.

(Sources for this story: Hackley Public Library (Family History & Genealogy Dept), Lakeshore Museum Center (Jeff Bessinger), Genealogy.com, Newspapers.com, Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.com, The Auburn Citizen)

MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL

Notes from the May 13, 2021 Delegate Meeting

From Brenda Leyndyke, President
Michigan Genealogical Council

The Barbara J Brown Family History Seminar

Kris Rzepczynski, Archivist, provided a report regarding the July 9 and 10 Barbara J. Brown Family History virtual Seminar. Information and registration is available at the Archives web page and mimgc.org. **Early bird pricing of \$35 ends May 31st. Regular pricing of \$45 will be available after that.**

Judy Russell, the Legal Genealogist, will be giving three talks at the Seminar. In my opinion Judy Russell is one of the must hear genealogical speakers. You would not want to miss this seminar.

At this meeting Tim Gleisner from the Library of Michigan gave an update that included new databases that Michigan library cardholders can access from home. If you do not have a library of Michigan library card, you can get one card free at the Library of Michigan website. The new databases are 1873-1997 Detroit News and a Genealogy Bank product, Heritage Hub that is a collection of obituaries from Genealogy Bank. Currently, some people are getting a message that says you must be a state employee to access the records. The library is aware of this and working on fixing it.

Our speaker was Jo Ellyn Clarey of the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council. Jo Ellyn talked about a little-known genealogical gem, The WWI Registration Cards of American Women. 17,000 local committees aided the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense and enabled home front projects. The Women's Committee took a census of American women. How do I find these, you ask. Many are still hidden in the attics, files, and basements of local or township record holders, but Grand Rapids collection is in a fully searchable database at <https://www.ggrwhc.org/projects/wwi/#toggle-id-4>

Another Michigan collection includes Genesee County which is held at the Archives of Michigan and a small group from Midland, MI, which have been digitized and are at the ggrwhc.org website.

I challenged societies, gave them homework, to go back to their local area and find where the cards relating to their area are. Someone has them and hopefully they are being stored somewhere. Jo Ellyn said a good place to start is by doing newspaper research from April 1917 to November 1918. Search words to include are WWI women's registration cards, Women's Council of National Defense, and Women's Defense cards. The cards in this collection are a gem. I hope you will keep digging to find these cards and if you find your area's cards let MGC know at info@mimgc.org. We will let the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council know. For more information about this project check out ggrwhc.org. If you would like a copy of Jo Ellyn's syllabus from yesterday's talk, please log in to the MGC website and you will find it under secure download, then handouts. Jo Ellyn gave her permission to share it with your society members.

If you have any questions about the above information, please send an email to info@mimgc.org.

Southern California Genealogical Society Webinar Series - 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.
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- 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.

NEXT UP:

[Researching Pennsylvania Ancestors](#)

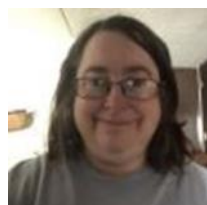
by Jennifer Warner

Do you have Pennsylvania ancestors and don't know where to start? Pennsylvania has many resources available to you. We will discuss the many resources available to you online and in paper form.

Wednesday, June 16

9:00 PM - Eastern

Jennifer (Jenny) Warner has been researching genealogy for 42 years. Her mother taught her daughters about their family origins and how to research their family history. Jennifer is a member of 14 Lineage Societies and many genealogical societies on national, state and local levels. She holds offices in many genealogical and lineage societies including the Genealogical Speakers Guild. Jenny loves sharing her knowledge of family history.





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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- County Clerk Office ... Members
- Michigan Genealogical Council.
.....Gail Taggart, Delegate

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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c/o Hackley Public Library
Torrent House

315 W. Webster Avenue
Muskegon, MI 49440-1208

www.genealogymuskegon.org

twigtalk1972@gmail.com