

## This issue:

Page 2  
President's Message  
Members News  
Last Meeting Highlights  
Next Meeting Reminders  
Travel Opportunities with  
MCGS

Page 3  
Meet your Officers  
Brick Wall Questions  
& Tips

Page 4  
Webinar Learning  
Opportunities

Page 5  
Technology Merges with  
Genealogy  
This Day in History

Page 6  
Monthly Quote  
Dive Into Muskegon

Page 7  
DNA News

Page 8  
MCGS General  
Information  
Torrent House News



## Upcoming Programs:

### JUNE 17:

#### The ABCs of DNA & Genealogy

Jessica Trotter

What can DNA testing tell you? What tests should I take? What does it all mean? DNA testing can be a powerful tool to wield in your genealogy toolkit. This session offers a beginner's overview on tests, testing companies, and how you can use your results.

An archivist by education—but works in public libraries by day. Jessica has presented regionally for the past eight years including annually for the Archives of Michigan Barbara J. Brown /Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar, for the Genealogy Center at Allen County Public Library, at the Ohio Genealogical Society Conference and Fall Retreat in 2022, and at the NGS Conference in 2018 as well as part of their Virtual On-Demand Lectures in 2020. Her genealogy research areas include Midwest, African American, British Isles, Canadian, and Early American research. She also maintains a genealogy research related blog called Genie Road Trip at [genieroadtrip.com](http://genieroadtrip.com).

## Next Member Meeting

June 17, 2023

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

### AUGUST 19:

#### Perilous Assumptions: Revisiting Those First Finds

Kris Rzepczynski –  
Michigan Archives

Despite the best of intentions, many family-history researchers – particularly as beginners – make incorrect assumptions about records that don't "fit." This program will explore false assumptions, revisiting those mistakes, and the family history discoveries that may await.



A Senior Archivist at the Archives of Michigan, where he specializes in family history and Michigan research, Kris has worked in the genealogical community for nearly 20 years.

## President Corner

Hello,

Feeling a bit overwhelmed lately. Spring brings the need for extra home attention, and I recently experienced some Eldercare issues for my 93-year-old mother. My wonderful, supportive husband says, "Why don't you cancel your genealogy activities for a week or two, so you won't be pressured." Anyone that does genealogy can probably imagine my response - there is no better distraction than going down the genealogy rabbit hole!

The May MCGS Board Meeting was held on Friday, May 12. There is quite a bit going on in the Society, but the #1 topic is the new website. Our new Website Administrator is working as she can to get the bugs out of the site. Please be patient and remember we are all volunteers. Also, many of our Board members have full-time jobs that take priority. I promise it will get resolved and will be a website we can all be proud of!

The #2 topic is improving our Technology (which kind of goes hand in hand with the website). Our new Technology Chair will be moving back to the area soon, and she is assisting now with the June Zoom Presentation. You may notice some video recordings of our presentations, starting in May. Again, we are not experts so it will take a few tries to get it right, but it will be a great addition to the overall benefits for members.

Please welcome our new Board members, Shelly Nelson and Kristi Burns, for Website and Technology Chairs respectively. Our Board is growing and generating lots of ideas!

Have a question or idea? Feel free to contact any Board member or email us at [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com).

**A BIG "Thank You" from MCGS to Genevieve Russo, her family, and her friends. The associated donations are much appreciated and will be utilized for future projects. Below is her abbreviated obituary.**

Russo, Genevieve, 1/1/1939 - 4/22/2023, Muskegon

Genevieve Ann (Perigard) Russo, age 84 passed away on Saturday, April 22, 2023, in Muskegon, Michigan. Joseph and Genevieve (Herrick) Perigard started 1939 with a new baby girl, Genevieve Ann born January 1, 1939. She would be the sixth of seven children: Joseph (Gloria), Clinton (Fran), Patrick (Carol), Andy, Mary, and Helen (Paul) Thomas.

Ann resided in the Muskegon area her entire life where she raised five children and cared for her niece Susan. Ann retired as an Adult Foster Care owner/operator. She was a member of the LDS church and was the first director of their local Family History Center. In addition to genealogy, Ann was passionate with many crafts including jewelry making.....

In lieu of flowers, please support the Muskegon County Genealogical Society, [genealogymuskegon.org](http://genealogymuskegon.org).

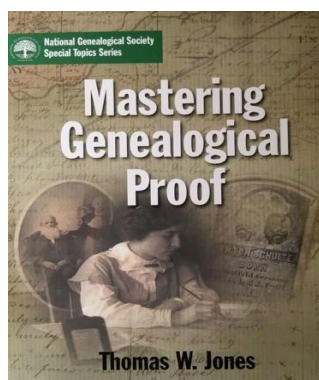
**WELCOME NEW MEMBER:** William DeMumbrum, Muskegon, MI

## Last Meeting Highlights

May's member meeting presentation was met with high anticipation. In conclusion to April's "Organizing Your PAPER Genealogy", learning how to get started and organizing your DIGITAL genealogy was a hot topic. Karen wanted everyone to walk away feeling confident that moving in the digital direction was easy and stress-free; she included a handout for everyone. Also, this was the first presentation that was completely recorded to be uploaded to our members-only section of the website. There were 20 members, and 2 guests present. Remember, if you need help with your organization project, you can schedule a one-on-one session with a member of the society.

## Next Meeting Reminders

Book Draw:



Documentation has an underlying logic that genealogists can apply consistently. This textbook teaches logic. You, a genealogy researcher, student, or novice will learn how to apply reasoning to your documentation, citing your sources for which no model exists. You will learn how to document your sources conventionally with artistry, clarity, conciseness, completeness, and competence.

## Travel Opportunities with MCGS

Make sure to sign up for one of our trips before they pass you by!

**June 23-24**

Barbara J. Brown  
History Seminar  
Michigan Archives  
**REGISTER ASAP**

**August 5:**

Michigan Archives  
8AM - 6PM

**October 4-7:**

Allen County Public  
Library, Fort Wayne  
Times TBD

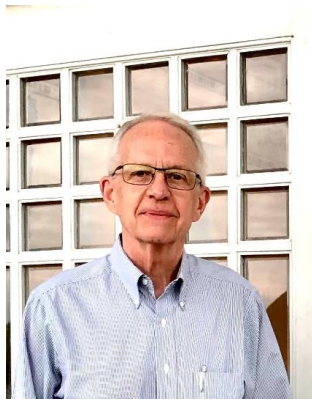
Sign up online [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com) or at a meeting. Dates are set. Times listed are departure and return. Volunteers needed as we carpool to all events and share the travel expense. Pick up locations can vary depending on where you are coming from.

All are welcome.

For the Archives - bring a sack lunch.

For ACPL - gather some friends and share the room cost. More information to come.

# Meet your Officer...



Tom Shepherd

knew nothing about his birth parents or their circumstances. Wanting to discover more got me started in genealogy. I started looking, first kind of casually and then more seriously, in the 1980s.

**Most favorite find in researching:** I had identified a woman who could be my father's birth mother, but I was not able to find any solid evidence to confirm my tentative identification. Finally in 2016 we were able to confirm the relationship through DNA testing. This led to correspondence with living relatives of my father's biological mother, a visit with them in Kansas and visits to the cemetery where my grandmother is buried and the farm where she lived for most of her life. I am still hoping to identify my father's biological father. Pretty sure we have it narrowed down to four brothers but can't figure out, yet, which one.

**Most interesting fact you have dug up:** A story in The Intelligencer, a newspaper in Mexico, Missouri from September, 1894 reporting

that my grandmother's brother, Henry Hinton, had shot and killed W. H. Hougland, the town's druggist. (BTW he was later found not guilty at trial.)

**What is the oldest relative in your tree (farthest back you have gotten):** The research was done by others, but on my mother's line we have gone back to about 1651.

**Your heritage - where do your relatives hail from:** My ancestors are primarily from England, the Netherlands, and Germany. But my wife and children have broadened things to include France, Poland, Iran, and India.

**Any other hobbies or things you like to do when genealogy isn't consuming your**

**time:** most of my time is spent working on our house but I am also learning to repair and cane chairs. I did have 2 Australian Shepherds, both now gone, but I think we'll probably have a new Aussie rescue sometime soon.



City of the  
Dead  
is having a  
cast  
kick-off

Saturday,  
June 17  
10:00 AM  
Evergreen  
Cemetery

Anyone with  
interest  
should  
attend to find  
out how they  
can be  
involved.

## This Month's Brick Wall Question and Tips



We are still searching for help regarding Paula H's brick wall from May... She is asking for help in finding the death date and possible cemetery of her 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandmother, Anna Barbara Burckhard Krug, Born Oct. 12, 1796, in Lellendorf, Bayern, Deutschland. Anna came to America on Nov. 19, 1839,

with her husband and children on the ship Louis from Bremen Germany. She died between 1839 and 1845. Her husband, George Thomas Krug, remarried in 1845. Paula has his obituary and photos of his stone as well as his wife. They lived in Raisinville, Monroe Co., MI. Paula is not aware if Anna died before coming to Michigan. Paula does have records from Holy Ghost Church. To help Paula with her brick wall, please email any ideas to [twigtalk1972@gmail.com](mailto:twigtalk1972@gmail.com) with BRICKWALL in the subject line. Any ideas on how you would solve this is helpful.



**You can attend the seminar onsite or online this year.**

The seminar begins on Friday, June 23 and continues into Saturday, June 24, 2023. Please register before **Wednesday, June 21, 2023** so that all participants can be accommodated.

If you have any questions, please contact the Archives of Michigan by email at [archives@michigan.gov](mailto:archives@michigan.gov) or by phone at 517-335-2576.

[Register here](#) for the seminar.

## Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar

The Archives of Michigan and the Michigan Genealogical Council are hosting a hybrid seminar June 23-24

Check out the box on how to join in

### Southern California Genealogical Society

offers a free monthly webinar covering various topics. This month's presentation is by Edward Swierczewski, Jr. is titled [Preparing Our Dough Boys to Win "The Great War"](#). What was life like for our ancestors preparing for "The Great War" - WWI? We'll visit the training grounds of the storied 42nd "Rainbow" Division, which included the already famous "Fighting Irish" of the 69th Infantry Regiment. We'll look at what life was like in the camp – the desertions, a suicide, several marriages, the previously mortal enemies who had to learn to live together, We'll review the methodologies of using timelines and correlational analysis, together with combining multiple and diverse sources, to re-create several months of the lives of the men who would soon go and fight, and eventually help win, the Great War to Save Civilization! Learn how to find your war hero!



Edward Swierczewski Jr. has been a professional educator for over 30 years, researching and lecturing in Psychology and Human Services at several major universities and government agencies in New York City.

He has attended many webinars and conferences, completed several SLIG and GRIP courses, is currently in ProGen 53, and plans to earn the CG and CGL credentials. He has been researching his family history for over 25 years, and he has a deep passion for sharing his knowledge with others.

This year the Michigan Archives and the Library of Michigan are hosting a lock-in Friday night after the seminar. Pizza will be served, and the Archives and Library will both be open until 10pm. Space is limited and you must register after signing up for the seminar.

MCGS will be carpooling to the event and reserving a place to stay, so we need to know who would like to join us. Let us know ASAP by emailing [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com) with JUNE SEMINAR in the subject line.

Look for future webinars, seminars, on-line learning modules, or workshops from around the web here in future issues!

# Technology Merges with Genealogy



NGS has signed a new contract with [Ancestry](#) and the [National Archives and Records Administration](#) (NARA) to resume the [digitization of the War of 1812 pensions](#). As some of you may remember, the initial work on this project began in 2010. It has been both an important and a monumental task spanning 7.2 million pages contained in 180,000 files.

In 2020, as COVID-19 forced the closure of NARA, the project was put on hold. We are pleased to announce the next phase—digitization of surnames starting with the letters Sj to U—begins again this month. Our target is to complete this phase in one year. The digitized records would be, and indeed have been, made available to the public for free.

To learn more about this project, [visit the NGS website](#).

## [Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana](#)

Special collections include African American and a Native American Gateway; military records; and a surname database contributed by researchers. One of the largest genealogical library collections in the U.S. ACPL also has free webinars you can attend through ZOOM – check out what’s coming up!!

Check out all the free websites on the World Wide Web that can aid in your search for answers!!

PSST...

Just click the links!!

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY



## JUNE 23

On June 23, 1828, The Historical Society of Michigan was officially founded. Governor Lewis Cass served as President and the Territorial legislative council – including Henry Schoolcraft – serving as ex officio members.

To learn more about what happened in Michigan History check out the following link... [Michigan Day by Day](#)

## Monthly Quote

*Every family has a story that it tells itself, that it passes on to the children and grandchildren. The story grows over the years, mutates, some parts are sharpened, others dropped, and there is often debate about what really happened. But even with these different sides of the same story, there is still agreement that this is the family story.*  
— A.M.  
Names

## SAMUEL RANSOM SANFORD

### “The Walking Sheriff”

Continued from May Twig Talk

By Frances Harrington  
Research Chair

On ten acres, he planted 1,000 peach trees. His orchard was bounded by Peck St. to the west, Sanford St. to the east, Houston to the north, and Merrill to the south. He also planted cherries, plums, pears, apricots, nectarines, apples, grapes, currents, and gooseberries. His father-in-law, Samuel Peck, was a fruit grower and both were successful at it. They proved that, if nothing else, at least you could successfully grow fruit in the sandy soil of Muskegon.

He and Ambrosia had 4 children together: Cornelia in 1861, Irwin in 1862, Arthur in 1865, and Marian Louise in 1870. Irwin died in 1864 and Marian in 1871. You will notice that many of the streets around Sanford’s Addition that ran north and south, were named after family: Ransom, Arthur, Irwin, Ambrosia, and Sophia (his first wife’s middle name). Terrace, Pine, and Spring had already been given their names. He named the east and west streets after grapes: Myrtle, Concord, Hartford, Diana, Delaware, Iona, Isabella, Hamburg, Israella, and Catawba, except for Elton which is a

pear. (Note: In later years, Israella was changed to McLaughlin, Hamburg was changed to Catherine, and Elton was changed to Bauer.)

Samuel did quite well in all his endeavors until the “panic of 1873”. (A financial crisis that triggered and economic depression in North America from 1873 – 1877.) During this time, Samuel lost almost all his personal possessions. Part of this was because he had signed bank notes (co-signing for a loan), which he ended up liable for, when the people he signed for, were unable to pay. He had also invested in a lot of land which made him “land poor” and he lost much of the land because he couldn’t keep up with the taxes. He also (like many of his fellow lumberman), borrowed large sums of money and with the crisis, he was unable to make the payments. As time went on and the economy improved, he was able to pay back all the money he had owed, dollar for dollar, and some at 10% interest. Through it all, he never filed bankruptcy, like so many others did.

Samuel was also

## Dive Into Muskegon

instrumental in bringing the first railroads to Muskegon. He was one of the Directors of the old Chicago and West Michigan Railroads (later part of the Pere Marquette Railroad System). He was also a member of the Board of Education for several years and was always agreeable to the more progressive ideas of the day.

He helped establish the first Democratic newspaper, the “Muskegon Telegraph”. It later became the Muskegon Enterprise and was published by his son I. Ransom Sanford.

He never smoked or drank alcohol and was always very active. It was said that he had such a strong grip, that if you shook hands with him once, you were careful to try not to do it again.

Samuel stopped all his business dealings in 1897 at the age of 75, when his health started to fail. It had been said of him, “his stewardship of public office was marked by characteristic loyalty and fidelity, and his business activities were directed with honor and fairness...”

TO BE CONCLUDED...

In July Twig Talk



# DNA TODAY

Did you have your DNA tested through Ancestry.com?

“Raw Data. What is that?”, you ask. Well, that is the information file that is generated by the company you chose to test your DNA. It provides the valuable information that links you to your family. This information belongs to you. It’s important that you download it and keep it safe. But you can use this information file to not only get answers from the testing company, but others as well. You just

need to upload your file to these other sites. It’s called transferring. For example, you tested with [AncestryDNA](#), you can then transfer your file to [MyHeritage](#), [Family Tree DNA](#) and [Living DNA](#).

[23andME](#) and AncestryDNA are the only companies that you CANNOT upload to. Remember, you do need to register with each company to upload.

Diahan Southard from [YourDNAGuide](#) has a

wealth of knowledge to help you with this. She elaborates on [how to download your RAW data](#) on her website.

Diahan states, “Transferring your DNA test results from one company to another is like fishing in multiple ponds. You’ll have access to many more “fish” (matches)!”

So, make sure you transfer, transfer, transfer to catch as many fish as you can!

Are you aware that you can **DOWNLOAD** your RAW data then **UPLOAD** it to other DNA sites **FOR FREE!!!!**

## OTHER GREAT DNA RESOURCES

### MORE information about transferring your DNA...

- MyHeritage. We especially encourage you to [transfer to MyHeritage](#) because of their growing international testing pool, strong analysis tools and the [benefits you get with the \\$29 unlock fee](#).
- Family Tree DNA ([here’s how to transfer](#))
- Living DNA ([here’s how to transfer](#))



Think of all the new and exciting matches you could discover.

**MCGS MEETING PLACE**

Hackley Public Library  
316 W. Webster Ave  
Muskegon, MI 49440



Saturdays at 10:30am

**2023 Meeting Dates**

June 17

July-No Meeting

August 19

September 16

October 21

Annual Meeting

November 18

Dec – No Meeting

**MCGS Meeting**

**Cancellation**

**Notice**

Notification posted on the MCGS Website and Facebook page and WZZM Channel 13 Closings & Cancellation List

**HPL – TORRENT HOUSE**  
**THE LOCAL HISTORY & GENEALOGY DEPT.**

315 W. Webster Ave.  
Muskegon, MI  
Check [website](#) for hours



*Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 1933, 1934, 1935 & 2022*  
(Given by Matt Burns)

*Sharing Your Family History Online – A Guide for Family Historians (Tracing Your Ancestors)* (Donated in memory of long-time member John Archer, who passed away)

Make sure when you visit the Local History Department in the Torrent House to sign in. This lets the library know how important it is to our community by counting the number of visitors and reasons why they come.

We encourage all members to submit your 4 or 5 Generation Charts. If you have any questions contact: Dawn Westcomb Kelley at [membershipmcs1972@gmail.com](mailto:membershipmcs1972@gmail.com)



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- Secretary ..... Tom Shepherd
- Treasurer ..... Jennifer Lamkin
- Past President ..... Jane Appleton Schapka

**DELIGATES**

- Gail Taggart:  
Michigan Genealogical Council  
National Genealogical Societies

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- Technology ..... Kristy Burns
- Website..... Shelly Nelson

Thank you for allowing us to serve you!



**Members of the MCGS** are available at the County Clerk's Office on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to assist in Genealogy Record Searches.  
No appointment is necessary.

**TWIG TALK**

*A monthly publication of:*  
**Muskegon County Genealogical Society**  
C/O Hackley Public Library—Torrent House  
Local History & Genealogy Department  
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Muskegon, MI 49440-1208

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