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Upcoming Programs:

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.

Next Member Meeting

August 19

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

SEPTEMBER 16:

Your Results are in! Using DNA in Your Research

Jessica Trotter

This presentation explores steps to take and ideas to consider when looking at DNA results and match lists and unexpected results.

(A good section of this is strategies for what to do when matches don't answer you back)

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.

President Corner

Hello,

What an awesome summer so far. Feeling the need to be outside, enjoying the sun, even with the sneezing from the pollen! In my home summer is also fishing season, and my husband is taking full advantage of it.

This time of year is a great time for a road trip. While my husband goes fishing, I hit the road! Personally, I have a couple of genealogy research trips planned. Jennifer Lamkin and I are going to the Barbara J. Brown seminar on June 23 & 24 at the Archives in Lansing, staying Friday night so we can participate in the lock in with free pizza! Still time to sign up if you wish to go with us.

Also, I have planned a trip to Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, at the Zhang Legacy Collections Center. This is a new location for me. Some of the Muskegon County records that get transferred to the Archives in Lansing are then transferred to the Zhang Center. It is an official depository of the State of Michigan Archives. Who new!? I'm going to research some old criminal records from the 1920's, and the City of Muskegon tax rolls from the 1890's through 1925. Wish me luck!

Last, don't forget the Society's scheduled trip to the State of Michigan Archives on the first Saturday in August (August 5th this year). Jennifer and I look forward to driving and having hours of conversation all about genealogy!

Thank you for your support of the Society. Have a great summer!

Have a question or idea? Feel free to contact any Board member or email us at 1972mcgs@gmail.com.



William DeMumbrum, Muskegon, MI

Charles (Chuck) Fales, Cadillac, MI (who just happens to be the brother of our long-time member Connie Fales).

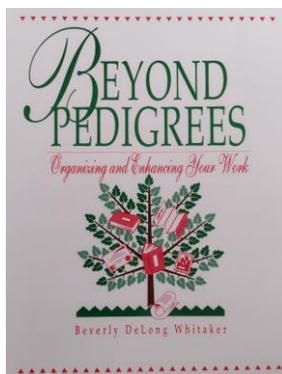
Gary Koche, Downers Grove, IL, Surname or person researching: Robert Kay

Last Meeting Highlights

Our first Zoom meeting was held with great enthusiasm as we welcomed our program speaker, Jessica Trotter, on the big screen. Our program for the month drew a large crowd with several guests joining us; as well as one becoming a member. Everyone who attended benefitted from her program, no matter where they were on the DNA journey. She taught us that uploading your DNA is a great option for optimizing the money you spend to have a DNA test competed in the first place. She gave the differences of what type of DNA tests are out there and why are they relevant. She even explained what a centimorgan number is and how to use it to determine relationships. Our society will be welcoming Jessica back in September to continue the lesson on DNA.

Next Meeting Reminders

Book Draw:



By Beverly DeLong Whitaker

Beverly has created a one of a kind "genealogical assistant". BP will teach you easy and efficient ways to research and discover your family history! One of the valuable skills you'll learn in Beyond Pedigrees: How to manage research on multiple lines at the same time!

Travel Opportunities with MCGS

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

August 5:
Michigan Archives
8AM - 6PM

October 4-7:
Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne
Times TBD

Sign up online 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 - If we have several people sign up, we are looking at renting a house for a much cheaper cost to everyone. Sign up EARLY so plans can be established.

Meet your Officer...



Dawn Westcomb Kelley

The position/roll you hold for the society:
Vice President & Membership Chair

How long have you been a member:
34 years

What got you started in genealogy:
Curiosity; and where did my family and ancestors come from.

Most favorite find in researching:
there are so many, but what stands out the most is finding out what you have been looking for that is right under my nose.

Most interesting fact you have dug up:
the one that stands out the most is when I found my second great grandfather in an 1869 City Directory.

What is the oldest relative in your tree (farthest back you have gotten):
John Tower and Margaret I Brook yearly 1620's.

Your heritage - where do your relatives hail from:
England, Denmark, and Sweden

Any other hobbies or things you like to do when genealogy isn't consuming your time?
Helping other people.

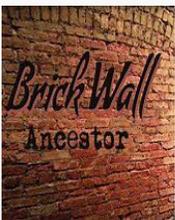
Anything else you would like to let people know about you - My husband Bill and I have been married 55 years this past April.



No member meeting in July.
Meetings will resume on August 19th.

There will be no member help at the County Clerk's office for the month of July.

This Month's Brick Wall Question and



Still no response for our member Paula regarding her brick wall. I will give a few suggestions to possibly help with the search...

1. Make a timeline (this will show gaps in information).
2. Utilize the FAN Club method of searching (this means look at family, friends, associates, and neighbors on EVERY document), you might find a relative not found before and that might lead to more records.

I would like to keep this section in our newsletter to allow members to help members - but if this isn't going to be utilized, this space will be used for other material. Please help me by reaching out with suggestions for new material, or to keep this section going, please email your brick wall to twigtalk1972@gmail.com with BRICKWALL in the subject line. All ideas are welcomed.



Western Michigan Genealogical Society

is hosting its annual

Got Ancestors?! 2023 Fall Conference

on Saturday, October 21st

from 9 am to 4 pm

Park Congressional Church

10 E Park Place NE, Grand Rapids, MI. 49503

Katherine Willson is

the scheduled guest speaker.

Anyone interested should check with the

GotAncestors.org website for information and registration.

Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

Is offering 7 webinars that are free for the public to join during the month of July.

[Click here](#) and scroll down to Genealogy Events and choose one that interests you...

Register for the webinar by clicking on its title!

Southern California Genealogical Society

offers a free monthly webinar covering various topics. This month's presentation is by Sara Cochran entitled:

[National Archives at Riverside: A Virtual Tour](#)

Tucked into an unassuming building off a major freeway in Riverside County are the Federal agency records from Arizona, Clark County Nevada, and Southern California. In this virtual tour, we'll visit the NARA website, plan a trip to the archive, and meet just a few of the genealogically rich record sets held here.

Click the link above to register.

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's 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.

The Genealogical Society of North Orange County, California,

is hosting Lisa Louise Cooke in an all-day seminar via ZOOM on Saturday, July 29, 2023 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. **PDT** (noon to 6:30 p.m. our time). This does have a \$30 fee which includes all your handouts, door prizes and games throughout the seminar. Ms. Cooke will be speaking on the following topics: **How to Reopen and Work a Genealogical Cold Case, Google Earth Pro for Genealogy, Seeing Family History Through Google Lens, and Tap into Your Inner Private Eye: 9 Strategies for finding living relatives.**

[Click Here](#) for more information and to register.

Michigan Genealogical Council

will be hosting the 2023 MGC Fall Family History Event on Saturday, November 4, with in-person presentations by Michael Strauss. This is a one-day event. Information, including registration, will be available soon on the [MGC website](#) under events.

Sneak peek to the topics: Military Genealogy research, Research in the Civil War, Researching the Civilian Conservation Corp, and Occupational Genealogical Research

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

Technology Merges with Genealogy

Let's not forget about our LOCAL websites to utilize for information regarding our ancestors of this area:

[HPL – Torrent House Local History & Genealogy Dept.](#)

[Muskegon County Clerk's Office](#)

[Muskegon County Cemetery Records](#)

Sometimes we get wrapped up in looking elsewhere, we forget the resources right before us.

On the state level, remember these great resources as well:

[Library of Michigan & Archives](#)

[Western Michigan University Archives & History Collections](#)

[Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections](#)

And one that I haven't utilized, but apparently need to (since it was brought up multiple times at the Barbara J. Brown Seminar):

[Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites](#)

This site will link you to websites out there that might have the information you are seeking.

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



JULY 3

On July 3, 1863, Custer leads Michigan Calvary Brigade at Gettysburg. To read more about this Day in History and Michigan Calvary Brigade visit the [Michigan Day By Day](#) website.

Monthly Quote

We inherit from our ancestors gifts so often taken for granted. Each of us contains within this inheritance of soul. We are links between the ages, containing past and present expectations, sacred memories, and future promise.

– Edward Sellner

SAMUEL RANSOM SANFORD

“The Walking Sheriff”

Concluded from June Twig Talk

By Frances Harrington
Research Chair

Samuel died on September 14, 1899, at his home at 128 S. Terrace Street. His estate was estimated at \$42,000. That would be \$1,462,961.20 in today's money (2022). In 1910, Ambrosia donated the property at Sanford's Bayou to the Muskegon Chamber of Commerce for the "bonus fund". The bonus fund was established as a financial incentive to bring non-lumbering business and industry to Muskegon.



If you're ever in Evergreen Cemetery, across from the Mausoleum you will see a monument that says Sanford on the west side, and Peck on the east side. Members of both families are buried there, including Samuel, Ambrosia, Cornelia, Irwin, and Marian Sanford along with Ambrosia's parents, Samuel B, and his wife Dency (Cook) Peck.



Dive Into Muskegon

Sources: Hackley Public Library (Local History & Genealogy Dept.), Ancestry.com, Lakeshore Museum Center, Romance of Muskegon (Alice Prescott Kyes), Genealogybank.com (Muskegon Chronicle), Portraits & Biographical Records (Biographical Publishing Co), An Account of Muskegon (James L Smith), Wikipedia (panic of 1873), findagrave.com, Muskegon Register of Deeds Office. The money equivalence mentioned in the article was as of May 2022 from CPI Inflation Calculator.

Attention members!!

Our very talented researcher and author, Fran Harrington, will no longer be posting her history articles in the Twig Talk. They will now be published on our website. Thank you, Fran, for the wonderful way you brought these important people of Muskegon back to life!!!

MEMEBERS.... Do you have an ancestor you would like to share with others? Here is your opportunity to share a story about one of **your** Muskegon relatives. Simply submit your article to twigtalk1972@gmail.com by the 15th of the publishing month and you can become a published author!!!!



DNA TODAY

Do you know
what WATO
means??

At our June member meeting, we had Jessica Trotter give us a lesson of the ABCs of DNA and during that presentation she mentioned several times DNA Painter. If you are unsure of what that it, I'm here to give a quick lesson. Blaine T. Bettinger from [the genetic genealogist website](#) completed a project called the Shared cM Project, which helps determine all relationships possible

within a particular cM amount. Jonny Perl took that project one step further and created an interactive website to make this even easier. You will need to register for a FREE account at the [DNA Painter](#) website. Once you are signed in, in the upper left corner there is a "New to DNA Painter – Start Here" module. This should help answer any questions. This is a FREE site, but there are for-pay features

Basically, once you log in, choose **Tools** at the top, then scroll down to **Shared cM Project Tool, Go to the Tool**. The chart that appears is what you will be looking at to find the relationship suggestion. Simply enter the cM amount of your shared match and it will highlight the probable relationships. There is so much more to this website. I encourage you to check it out!

Have you
heard of DNA
Painter?

Hint:
Jessica Trotter
spoke of it at
our last
member
meeting
program...

OTHER GREAT DNA RESOURCES

MORE information about DNA Painter...

Connie Knox from [GenealogyTV](#) interviewed Jonny Perl to get all the new DNA Painter updates. You can watch it [here](#) to get more help from the creator himself.



WATO means:
What
Are
The
Odds

MCGS MEETING PLACE

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



Saturdays at 10:30am

2023 Meeting Dates

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



There are no new books to report for this month.

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

OFFICERS

- President Karen Page Frazier
President72@gmail.com
- Vice President Dawn Westcomb Kelley
VPmcs72@gmail.com
- Secretary Tom Shepherd
- Treasurer Jennifer Lamkin
- Past President Jane Appleton Schapka

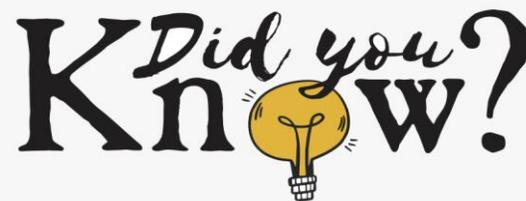
DELIGATE

Gail Taggart:
Michigan Genealogical Council
National Genealogical Societies

COMMITTEES

- Database..... Pam Schaner
- Facebook Norm Dagen
- History Book Proj..... Kathy DeCormier
Jim Harkness
- Membership Dawn Westcomb Kelley
Membershipmcs1972@gmail.com
- Newsletter Editor Jennifer Lamkin
Twigtalk1972@gmail.com
- Pioneer Program Barb Martin
- Programs Tom Shepherd
- Research..... Fran Harrington
Researchmcs72@gmail.com
- 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
315 W. Webster Avenue
Muskegon, MI 49440-1208

1972mcs@gmail.com

genealogymuskegon.org

facebook.com/MuskgonGenealogicalSociety