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## Upcoming Programs:

### 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](http://genieroadtrip.com).

## Next Member Meeting

September 16

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

### October 21:

#### Family History Month: “Meet my Ancestor!”

Presented to you by members of  
MCGS

That's right, you read that correctly, the members of MCGS will be introducing you to one of their favorite ancestors.

A google form went out in August to all our members asking for volunteers to step up and introduce us to an ancestor of their choice. Come and join us for a morning of celebrating our vastly diverse heritages. Presentations will be given in a variety of formats, so be prepared to step back in time to eras long gone but not forgotten. So far, you will have the pleasure of meeting a bootlegger from the 1920s, a Civil War soldier, a busy dad who turned his hobby into a legacy and a housewife from Allendale with more of a story to tell! There is still time to register for an introduction spot. Simply click [HERE](#).

## President Corner

Hello,

August has been busy around our house and is going by in a flash. It has been a bit hard for me to re-engage with the Society and its genealogy projects after our July hiatus! Our summers in Muskegon are gorgeous but feel short like you don't want to miss a single moment outside. Bicycling is a big activity for my husband and me. We are excited about the ever-growing bike trails around this part of Michigan and have plans to visit most this summer.

The MCGS Road Trip on August 5th to the Archives in Lansing was a success, or not! Indexing of the Military records (DD214s and/or their predecessor) has begun. Muskegon County Military Libers 1 - 6 (basically 1860's up to about 1910) were moved to Lansing earlier this summer, before we had an opportunity to index the data. They are already available to the public at the Archives. Liber 2 indexing was completed during this road trip. The remaining will be done as we visit there. This data will eventually end up on our website.

For one of our road trippers, lots of negative research resulted! Is there any value in this? Yes, as it can provide evidence whether a person was there or not, or if an event happened or not. For example, there were rumors my great grandparents were divorced/separated. I reviewed all records during the time period in question and did not find anything for them within Muskegon, Ottawa or Oceana Counties. So, they were living apart in 1930 and 1940, but not legally separated or divorced. This resulted in a 'Negative Research Log' that remains part of their records collection for that family group.

Thanks to all for supporting our society. Any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us at [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com)



Paula Way, Idaho Falls, ID - Primary family names are **Wardell, Wilcox, Loss, and Clark**. Secondary names are **Thoma, Sisson, Dreese and Davis**.

### Last Meeting Highlights

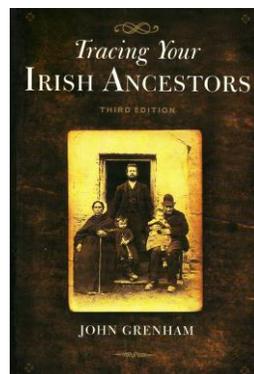
August's meeting was met with sunshine and a warm breeze. Many members and a guest packed the meeting as Michigan Archive's Kris Rzepczynski taught us the importance of revisiting our "first finds" and the perils of making assumptions. He said in today's research we are "parachuted" into records and never really dig any deeper because we are so focused on wanting "names, more names"!! And, because of that, we miss key clues that could help us attain our genealogy goals.

We also had member Judy Tierney share her father's hand-carved, miniature replica circus creations. She told how they were stored in her mother's garage for 16 years and to her astonishment no damage to them. Judy will be reintroducing us to her father again in October.

The book winner was Amy Derby.

### Next Meeting Reminders

Member's Only Book Draw:



Now, updated to reflect the enormous changes brought about by the internet, the new Third Edition of *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* marks another huge step forward in Irish genealogy. Most importantly, a chapter has been added that deals specifically with the Internet, while a new online subsection showing country Internet sources had been added to each of the county source lists and, where possible, references have been given throughout for any online versions of the records dealt with.

### Travel Opportunities with MCGS

**All are welcome.**  
Make sure to sign up before it passes you by!

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

"Meet and depart" locations are flexible depending on how many attendees and their locations. Departing Muskegon for the library at 8 AM. Any other departure locations will be determined if needed.

A Hotel or House will be our evening locale, again, depending on how many persons are in attendance. Cost will be evenly split between all participants. Meals are self-pay.

Sign up online at [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com) with ACPL in the subject line (or let us know at the next meeting). Volunteers needed as we carpool to all events and share the travel expense.

**Sign up EARLY so plans can be established.**

# Meet your Board...

Pam (Stough) Schaner

I have been a member of the Muskegon Genealogy Society for about one year. I recently volunteered to be the Data chair. This is a new position and so far, has involved scanning old MCGS newsletters. The plan is to get the Society's information and research gathered together in a digital format with the goal to provide access on the website. I have also recently been involved with the group editing the Muskegon Genealogy Society Family History Book Vol. II. And, I volunteer in the collections department with the Lakeshore Museum.

I first became interested in family history when I was a young teenager. My paternal great aunt had traced our family line back to Germany. The immigrant from Germany registered as a Patriot during the American Revolutionary War and she became a member of the DAR. Going through what she provided to my dad back then was what got me interested in genealogy. A great aunt on my mother's side was also interested in genealogy but could provide me only with a few names, dates, and stories. There was still a lot left to do. After the birth of our first child, and two subsequent ones,

my life became too busy to continue genealogy research. I did not do any more research until after my retirement from the Child Abuse Council in 2016 and then things were *completely* different! I had a lot of catching up to do in learning to use technology to research as well as record data. (I use Family Tree Maker as my primary record keeping source as well as having multiple trees on Ancestry.com.) It was no longer writing letters and waiting for responses. So many clues, hints, and websites to explore and 'rabbit holes' to plunge into! I have since expanded my family tree and began researching my husband's line. I helped his father join the Mayflower Society as a descendant of John Alden.

I have been able to 'leap the pond' for my husband's Lithuanian side and that was very satisfying. It began through a Lithuanian genealogy Facebook page and ultimately led to a possible relative in Russia. Follow all avenues, you never know! I find reading old obituaries, wills, and newspaper articles fun. One of my great-grandfathers left a hand-written autobiography that I've followed up on, making a map of where he lived. He was a telegrapher working for the railroads in the Midwest beginning in 1884 and had many adventures.

I used Ancestry DNA to make connections that I never would have without it. Despite my maiden

name being German, I only have about 3% German ancestry, with 84% English and Scottish. Shortly after receiving my results, I was able to add a lot more information on my maternal grandfather's ancestors that would have been much more difficult otherwise. My great-grandfather's name was John Baker, and as you can imagine that is pretty common! I connected with some of my mom's first and second cousins that she had completely lost touch with through DNA matches.

I was able to find pictures of my paternal 2x great-grandparents (born in 1800) on Ancestry.com and was even able to meet up with the owner. It was great to find kindred spirits in the family because there aren't many who are interested. I've researched some Civil War ancestors in both my family and my husband's. The pension files were invaluable. I have direct ancestors who fought in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, and World Wars I and II.

My father, Richard Stough, was born in Muskegon and my mother, Melba Baker moved here when she was about five years old. They both graduated from Muskegon Heights High School in 1944.

In addition to genealogy, I enjoy gardening, try to exercise, and began to learn knitting during the pandemic shutdown.



## We have a date for "Organizing Your Paper Genealogy"!

After the September meeting, we will be taking a short lunch break and returning to HPL and spreading out to start the organizing process!! Register [here](#) To hold your spot.

## This Month's Brick Wall Question and Tips



Still more brilliant information from Connie Knox and GenealogyTV. In this episode, Connie shares "10 Tips to Better Genealogy Research to Help you Break Down Family History Brick Walls".

Check out her website [here](#). You can watch her on YouTube [here](#).

Or you could click on the image below to go right to the current show.

Enjoy and I hope this helps you in your search!





## Western Michigan Genealogical Society

is hosting its annual

### Got Ancestors?! 2023 Fall Conference

on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>

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](http://GotAncestors.org) website for information

and registration.

## Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

Is offering 3 webinars that are free for the public to join during the month of September.

[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 **Leslie Carney**, on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 9PM. Click the program title to register.

[Landholders: Ranches to Land Grants](#), knowing the history of acquiring land and the conflicts of different political powers can lead to information about your landholder ancestors.

**Leslie Carney**, a Professional Genealogist and Speaker specializing in the Southwestern United States, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Native American Indian and Sonora Mexico. Over 30 years experience researching in various repositories, archives and documenting family history. A Speaker who enjoys educating others in the understanding of Social History, Genealogical issues and promoting the interest in genealogy. Leslie holds a certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University and an alumnus of the ProGen Study Group. A long-time member of Pima County Genealogical Society and past Board member.

### The Library of Michigan

has one of the most comprehensive collections of Michigan newspapers. See examples of unique periodicals published in our state and learn strategies for navigating the various online collections of digitized Michigan news publications.

This virtual event is scheduled for Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 6:30 PM

Registration is FREE but required. Click [here](#) 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

Here are several websites (mostly free) that can be utilized to aid in your research needs:

[WieWasWie](#) Do you have Dutch heritage? This website is the national Website for the Netherlands.

Drew Smith from the [The Genealogy Guys Podcast](#) says this website: [Domestic Names | U.S. Geological Survey \(usgs.gov\)](#) helps find places that no longer exist.

Is it books or newspapers you are seeking? Try these resources...

One website that I *literally* stumbled upon, [Digital Michigan Newspapers Collection \(cmich.edu\)](#) was one from a very unlikely source, Central Michigan University. They have an array of newspapers – give them a try!!

[The Ancestor Hunt](#) has links to a large number of newspapers and other resources.

Need websites that could suggest other places to look for clues...

Try [Linkpendium.com](#)

So, what is Linkpendium, anyway?

Linkpendium is a 10,000,000+ resource directory to everything on the Web about families worldwide and genealogically relevant information about U.S. states and counties. We cover both free and subscription sites, with a strong emphasis upon free resources provided by libraries, other government agencies, genealogical and historical societies, and individuals.

We are particularly proud of our unique indexes to online biographies.

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



## SEPTEMBER 28

On September 28, 1912, 216-0, Most lopsided drubbing in High School Football. To read more about this Day in History and the High School Football team this refers to visit the [Michigan Day By Day](#) website.

*Monthly  
Quote  
They Chose  
Me  
My  
Ancestors  
chose me to  
tell their  
stories,  
unravel their  
truths, and  
learn from  
their  
hardships.  
They chose  
me to keep  
their  
possessions,  
handle them  
with respect,  
and share  
them with  
family. My  
ancestors  
chose me.  
— m.  
dickerson*

**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](mailto:twigtalk1972@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and you can become a published author!!!!

## Evergreen Cemetery Mystery Solved

Submitted by:  
Connie Nesbary

Retirement has rewards in more time to work on genealogy. I've been investigating the Nesbary line for several years. My husband Dale, retired President of Muskegon Community College, grew up in Muskegon County. A few years ago, I noticed a "M J Nesberry" buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Muskegon in lot "PF". PF stands for Potters Field which was a section designated generally for indigent, unidentified, or unclaimed people. The Nesbary name is misspelled in several ways and "Nesberry" is typical. I wanted to find out: "Was this Nesberry related to Dale's family?" However, with no other information it became a dead-end. Recently, I ran across the new website for the Muskegon County Genealogy Society (thank you!) and found the death date. I was so excited. Now I could create this person in

Ancestry, add the death date and location and voila! I had no idea the extensive rabbit hole I would go down.



The above Record of Deaths in the County of Muskegon shows a Martha J. Nesberg, age 5 yrs, 9 months and 1 day, died on Jan. 22, 1882, of typhoid fever. Her parents were listed as John and Eurike Nesberg. The family members were born in Sweden, and fortunately, I learned Swedish for an exchange student experience in Stockholm many years ago. The name "Nesberg" is pronounced "nez berry" in Swedish. This is how the cemetery records could have easily been recorded as "Nesberry." Records found on Ancestry confirm that the parents were Johan Peter Näsberg (Swedish version of Nesberg) and Erika Lundgren Näsberg. The next line shows Selma Nesberg age 2 years, 10 months and 29 days passed on December 20, 1882, of lung fever (pneumonia). Martha (Märta in Swedish is pronounced Maerta; my Swedish mother's name is Märta, too, so I'm hooked on

# Dive Into Muskegon

solving this story) is in plot PF in Evergreen Cemetery. I would suspect that she was buried next to her sister but didn't see Selma listed at all.

So, the next question to answer was: *What happened to the family and where are the rest of the family buried?*

Through basic searches on Ancestry and the Internet, I found a tragic story for the family of Johan and Erika Nesberg that includes a family struggling with multiple early deaths, shipwrecks, and a connection to the Titanic...

The saga will continue in the October Edition of Twig Talk.



# DNA TODAY

If you want to really dig into DNA, I cannot recommend Diahan Southard's **FREE** classes enough. She breaks down the learning into small easy to digest bite sized pieces so even the beginner can understand. AND she does it in a way that is fun. Just click [this link](#) to find out specific information related to each topic. I've started the rotation over to really get a handle on it.

Each live webinar lasts about 40 minutes, plus time for questions. **You will receive access to a recording afterward, even if you can't attend live.** Live attendees receive a handout summarizing the talk and packed with "next steps" learning links and resources. Each webinar covers a specific aspect of DNA testing that will have you taking action with your DNA test results to find the connections and answers you have been looking for! One signup will get you access to all four webinars: attend whichever ones you like.

Up-level your DNA education with this free webinar series!

- DNA Ethnicity Estimates: How to Actually Use Them!
- Organize Your DNA Matches Simply and Efficiently
- Double dip your DNA: YDNA + Autosomal DNA – a Case Study
- Test. Analyze. Repeat: Long-term DNA Strategies for Success

Have you signed up yet for the rotating webinar series by Diahan Southard from [YourDNAguide.com](http://YourDNAguide.com)

This is a rotating series. [Click here](#) to see when the next one is scheduled and to register!

## OTHER GREAT DNA RESOURCES

### MORE information about Diahan Southard and YourDNAGuide...

Did you know you can find free, educational videos on her [YouTube channel](#)?

Last month I linked you to her Part 1 episode on "What to Do with Your DNA Test Results", This month I am linking you to part 2 – just click to watch.



**MCGS MEETING PLACE**

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



**Saturdays at 10:30am**

**2023 Meeting Dates**

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!



**Added to the Bookshelf:**

The Van/Von Gundy Lineage: The Descendants of Henry F. and Mary Elizabeth (Behymer) Gundy v. 2

By Jelena Murry and Dennis Lee Gundy

History of Chester County, Pennsylvania, Index to Families and Persons  
Compiled by Lucy I. Smedley and Arabella Cleveland

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Gail Taggart:  
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**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***

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**Muskegon County Genealogical Society**  
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