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Upcoming Programs:

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!
Can't wait for you to meet our ancestors!

Next Member Meeting

October 21

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

NOVEMBER 18:

MCGS Annual Meeting

Join us in reviewing and celebrating the year 2023. The MCGS Annual Meeting will include:

- 2023 Society Accomplishments
- Volunteer Appreciation
- Nominations and Election of 2024 Officers
- 2023 Treasurer's Report (YTD and estimated year end results)
- 2024 Budget Review
- Member Gifts! Must be present to win - onsite or via Zoom!



President Corner

Hello,

I cannot believe that it is October! Fall planning has begun at our home – my crochet projects are out, and my husband is watching the salmon run and the deer graze.

Looking forward to the MCGS fall Road Trip to the Allen County Library in Fort Wayne (October 4 through 7). This is an awesome way to kick off the fall – gathering lots of new information to then spend the winter trying to figure out how to best post it and record it. I have never left the Allen County Library disappointed so I'm very excited about new finds – maybe a brick wall buster!

Starting this month all monthly membership meetings will have the option to attend via Zoom. For members that are too far away to attend on site, or are home-bound, this option is huge.

The MCGS Board of Directors is busy with planning for 2024. All members are encouraged to submit ideas for presentation topics. What topic would you like to see? Let us know via email at 1972mcg@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support of the Society!



October and November is the time to start thinking about renewing for 2024.

Remember, if you renew **BEFORE** the end of the year, you will be given a discount.

Click [here](#) to renew!!

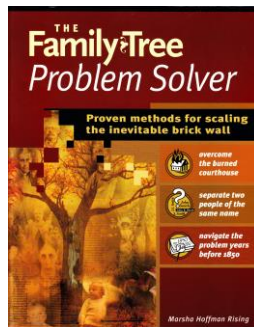
Last Meeting Highlights

September's meeting was the first meeting that members could have attended via zoom. But members who attending in person had the pleasure of having our presenter, Jessica Trotter, speak in person! She was continuing her DNA program from June with "Your Results are in! Now What??".

Jessica showed us that company's algorithms are different based on the testing pools they serve. And she stated that just because you have results, doesn't mean they won't "change". Everything is based on updates. She said it's important to "cluster" your matches and investigate their trees – then follow the paper trail. Yes, friends, DNA doesn't give you the answers.... It gives you more CLUES to follow. In person there were 20 members and 1 guest and on Zoom we had 7. Connie Fales was the winner of the book draw.

Next Meeting Reminders

Member's Only Book Draw:



The Family Tree Problem Solver is the best and most accessible book on the market about breaking down brick walls. The mysteries of research before 1850, collateral relatives, and court and land records are thoroughly explored and applied to your research problems. And it's all brought to you by genealogy's most popular publications, Family Tree Books and *Family Tree Magazine*.

Travel Opportunities with MCGS

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

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

Three members of the society are embarking on a trip through the past to bring it to the present by traveling to the Allen County Public Library.

This trip is scheduled once a year in the month of October.

Keep watching this section for future trips our society will be offering to the members in the coming year.



Meet your Board...

Jim Harkness

My name is Jim Harkness. I was born in Muskegon at Hackley Hospital, the middle child (#4) of 7 children to my parents Richard and Elaine (Allen) Harkness. I became interested in genealogy while serving in the U.S. Navy, living on an aircraft carrier. After talking to my father and mother about where we came from there were more questions than answers. Both of my father's parents died very young before I was born, and I saw little of my mother's parents as they separated and divorced when my mother was a child during the Great Depression. Anyway, I had some spare time at sea, so I started to write away (snail mail by air mail) for records to various relatives, historical societies, county clerks and state governments. This was in the 1970's prior to the computer age when things moved more slowly, except for the jets onboard! I was

hooked.

I'm a member of the MCGS Board as a Member "At Large," and I am also working on military stories for the MCGS History Book 2 project nearing completion. I have been a member of the MCGS since about 2010. Because of my military experience I have a particular interest in how military service impacts families and in family trees.

When not doing Board stuff I am researching the following surnames:

Harkness, Golwitzer, Allen, Hanson, Nicholson, Wood, Cruikshank, Severson, and Nelson along with a host of others. My heritage lies in Ireland/Scotland (father's paternal), Germany (father's maternal), English (mother's paternal), and Norway/Sweden (mother's maternal). I have been lucky to have completed tracing 3 of my 4 lines at least back to country of origin overseas (still working on the Allen line in Kentucky in the early 1800's!).

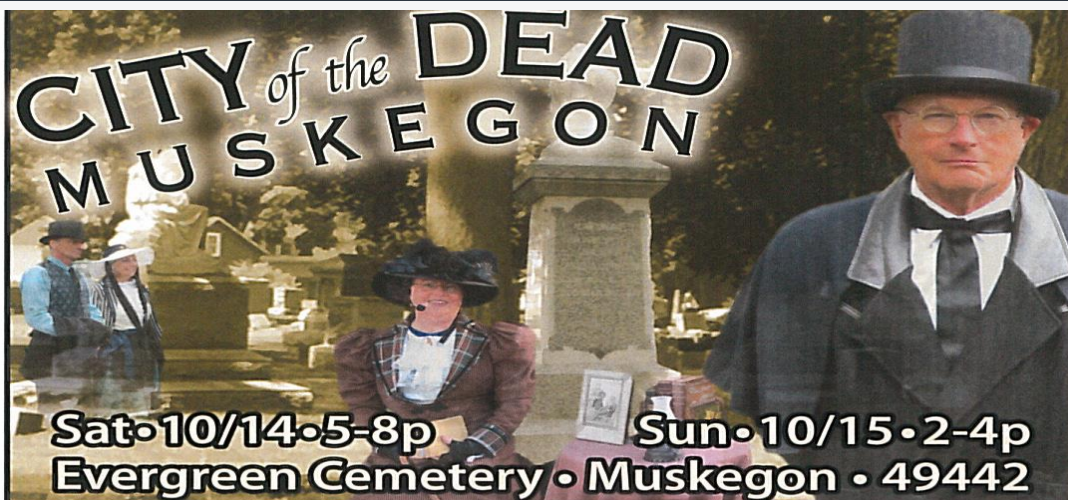
There continue to be research surprises in my family tree periodically, but my first one was also one of the most

memorable to me. When I first started tracing back the Harkness line, I was surprised to find out that the earliest Harkness ancestors in Muskegon County came here in about 1849 and were farmers at first, but later the father (my 2nd great-grandfather) and sons worked as lumbermen on the Muskegon River for the Muskegon Booming Company. The stories they could tell if only I could interview them today! Even my father was unaware of this history.

When not doing genealogy work, I am sleeping or eating (just kidding). Other interests include playing ice hockey in a recreation league (which I had to give up 2 years ago due to not being able to keep up with the youngsters), hunting and camping at the family cabin "up north," walking for exercise and stress relief, and periodic trips to visit four grown children and nine grandchildren in IL, VA and NC.



Are you looking for some inexpensive fall family fun. The weekend of the 14-15 would be the perfect time. Start Saturday off by attending the [Montague Pumpkin Fest](#) and choose either Saturday or Sunday to round out your Fall Fun Day with the [City of the Dead](#) tour. What a great way to start the Autumn season!





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 a **WHOPPING 21** webinars that are free for the public to join during the month of October. Some are geared for the Halloween season!

[Click here](#) and scroll down to Genealogy Events and choose one that interests you... to register click on its title!



Fox Valley Genealogical Society is offering an appropriate class for the Halloween season titled ["Funeral Homes and Family History: They're Dying to meet you"](#) by Daniel Earl.

Most of us know to look in cemetery records but miss a valuable resource, the funeral home. This lecture looks at the history of funeral homes and the records they kept. We will also look at a case study showing the value of these historic and unique records.

Daniel Earl - I got my start in family history at age 10 when my father took me to the grave of my great-grandfather; that sparked a lifetime of interest in family history. I have spent the last 25 years researching my own family history and helping others make history a part of their story. I am associated with the following groups and organizations: * Hungarian Genealogical Society of Michigan - President * International Society of Genetic Genealogy * Virtual Genealogical Association - Past-President Daniel has experience doing research in the following regions: * Great Lakes Region United States (Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin) * Mid-Atlantic United States (Maryland, DC, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York) * Central Eastern Europe (Hungary, Romania, Croatia, Slovakia, Serbia)



The Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan is presenting their 45th Annual Genealogy Seminar this October. Saturday the 14th is virtual only with two classes being presented and the 21st is virtual or in person with four sessions.

For more information you can find their flyer [here](#) on our website. You can print it and register by mail or follow the directions to their website to register online.

Michigan Genealogical Council

will be hosting the 2023 MGC Fall Family History Event on Saturday, November 4, from 9AM TO 4PM with in-person and virtual presentations by Michael Strauss. This is a one-day event. Registration is NOW open for more information and to sign up click [here](#).

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

In a newsletter from Geneanet.org, they announced that New York City was opening a NEW naturalization database. I've linked the article [here](#) for anyone who might have family that settled in the boroughs of New York upon arrival. Wait! You've never heard of Geneanet? Allow me to introduce you. Tap the picture to learn about them.



Do you believe to have records at the [National Archives](#), but you're not sure where to look. Well, their latest update introduces a new platform called [History Hub](#) to help with this, and Lisa Louise Cooke takes on the task of teaching us the ins and outs of it. On her [GenealogyGems podcast](#) she gives you all the tips and tricks to help you find the answers you're looking for. Tap the picture to watch Lisa explain the update!



Need a way to collaborate with others on your family tree? Have you tried the geni.com website? It boasts that it has "powerful genealogy tools to help build your tree". This site reminds me of Family Search in that the tree being built is a "world tree", one super-family tree, in which everyone is connected. It states that the tree has 181,759,255 people connected to it. Maybe you can find a branch from your tree that you've been searching for or break down a brick wall that's been blocking your path.

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



OCTOBER 4

On October 4, 1895, Buster Keaton was Born. Read more about this Day in History and his connections to Muskegon by visiting the [Michigan Day By Day](#) website.

*Monthly
Quote*

*If you
could see
your
ancestors, all
standing in a
row, would
you be proud
of them, or
don't you
really know?*

*But there's
another
question
which
requires a
different view
- If you
could "meet
your
ancestors,
would they be
proud of
you?"*

*~ Nellie Winslow
Simmons Randall*

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 month and you can become a published author!!!!

Evergreen Cemetery Mystery Solved

Submitted by:

Connie Nesbary

...Continued from September

Here is the story I've pieced together. All documents are logged in Ancestry in a family tree that may be shared with anyone interested.

Johan Peter Näsberg was born on Nov. 9, 1851, in the north of Sweden. He married Erika C. Lundgren on Sept. 5, 1875. Their first four children were born in Sweden, 1 boy and 3 girls.

August 10, 1874 – Isak John Theodor Näsberg was born.

Sept. 5, 1875 – Johan and Erika were married in Ljustorp, Västernorrland, Sweden.

April 4, 1876 – daughter Märta was born.

Jan. 18, 1878 – daughter Hulda was born.

Sometime in 1878, Johan departed from Timrå in Västernorrland (West Northland), Sverige (Sweden) and emigrated to Quebec, Canada at age 27 arriving on Sept. 19, 1879. He was probably scouting for a location to move his family to North

America. He must have returned because he was with the family when they emigrated from Sweden in 1881. In 1879, Johan's brother Oscar also moved to Muskegon and then settled in Cadillac, Michigan.

Jan. 22, 1880 – daughter Selma was born in Timrå.

On June 20, 1881, the family left their home in Sörberge (a village in Timrå) in Västernorrland, Sverige (Swedish for Sweden). {By the time they left Sweden, Erika had 3 siblings and 9 half-siblings. Her mother had passed away in 1854 when Erika was only 2 years old, and her father had remarried.} On the ship manifest, the family was listed as Johan Peter Näsberg, Erika Lundgren (maiden name) Näsberg, Isak John Theodor Johansson (meaning Johan's son) Näsberg, Märta Johanna Johansdotter (meaning Johan's daughter) Näsberg, Hulda Kristina Johansdotter Näsberg, and Selma Erika Johansdotter Näsberg. They sailed from Goteborg, Sweden to Hull, England aboard the ship Romeo. They sailed on to New York, finally settling in Muskegon where Johan was a laborer.

Jan. 22, 1882 – daughter

Dive Into Muskegon

Märta (Martha) Johanna passed away from typhoid fever at age 5 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

August 31, 1882 – son Oscar August was born in Muskegon.

Dec. 20, 1882 – daughter Selma passed away from pneumonia at age 2. Burial location unknown.

1883 records - The family lived on Erickson St north of Sumner Street.

July 22, 1884 – daughter Frieda Caroline was born.

Sept. 5, 1886 – possibly a son, Charles Axel, was born and died. He is buried by the parents in Oakwood Cemetery in Muskegon, MI. I could not find a birth record.

August 15, 1887 – son Richard Earnest was born.

April 30, 1890 – Johan died at the age of 38. Surviving children were John Isak (16), Hulda (12), Oscar (age 8), Frieda (6), and Richard Ernest (3). Johan is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Muskegon.

What happened to the family after the death of Johan...

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



DNA TODAY

[Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#) is hosting a FREE class with speaker and Creator of DNAPainter Jonny Perl. It is a beginner class appropriately titled "[Beginning with DNAPainter](#)". It will be held on Wednesday, October 4 at 2 PM. Simply click the title of the class to register.

Our July edition of Twig Talk had a link of Connie Knox from GenealogyTV interviewing Jonny Perl

on the new updates that DNAPainter had implemented. So, maybe that should be revisited after the beginning lesson Jonny himself is going to teach.

Remember, DNAPainter is a way to find the possible relationships of DNA matches on any platform. Once you receive the possible relationship, you need to investigate the age of the match to see which relationship is the most

probable. Then from there you "Do Genealogy!!" moving backwards then forwards with the family lines until you find the connection to link your matches to you.

Other classes on DNA are available for free and some pay on the conference keeper website. Simply limit the search to DNA or click [here](#) to be brought right to the site.

June and September programs by Jessica Trotter included a very small introduction to DNAPainter.

Are you looking for a way to learn more about this amazing tool for DNA?

OTHER GREAT DNA RESOURCES

The final part of Diahan Southard's series on DNA

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

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



MCGS MEETING PLACE

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



Saturdays at 10:30am

2023 Meeting Dates

October 21

Annual Meeting
November 18

Dec – No Meeting

2024 Meeting Dates:

January 20

February 17

March 16

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!



The Torrent House is proud to announce they have received, by donation, 3 ScanPro microfilm/microfiche readers.

Added to the Bookshelf:

By author Dana Kenneth Johnson:

- Forgotten Michigan: Newaygo County
- Historic Schools of Oceana County
- Historic Schools of Ottawa County, Michigan
- Mecosta County: Lost, Forgotten & Unforgettable Places
- Manistee County: Lost, Forgotten & Unforgettable Places



By author Elizabeth Lemoine:

- The History of Lakewood Club, Michigan v. 1: The Resort Years
- The History of Lakewood Club, Michigan v. 2: Depression and Reconstruction
- The History of Lakewood Club, Michigan v. 3: Village Status

By author Matthew A Ellis:

- Hidden History of Grand Rapids

OFFICERS

President Karen Page Frazier
President72@gmail.com

Vice President Dawn Westcomb Kelley
VPmcgs72@gmail.com

Secretary Tom Shepherd

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Database..... Pam Schaner

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History Book Proj..... Kathy DeCormier
Jim Harkness

Membership Dawn Westcomb Kelley
Membershipmcgs1972@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor Jennifer Lamkin
Twigtalk1972@gmail.com

Pioneer Program Barb Martin

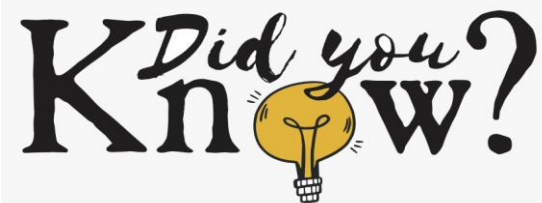
Programs Tom Shepherd

Research..... Fran Harrington
Researchmcgs72@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

1972mcgs@gmail.com

genealogymuskegon.org

facebook.com/MuskgonGenealogicalSociety