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Upcoming Programs:

NOVEMBER 18:

MCGS Annual Meeting

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

- Nibbles and Eats!!
- 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!



Next Member Meeting

November 18

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

JANUARY 20:

“Museum Archives of Interest to Genealogists”

Jeff Bessinger – Collections and Exhibit Director, Lakeshore Museum Center

Ever wondered what a museum could possibly have that is of interest to genealogists? Well, come and find out! Old photos, maps, programs, booklets, scrapbooks, and directories are just a few of the things that might be a link to your ancestor.

REMINDER:
NO MEETING IN
DECEMBER!!

President Corner

Hello,

Been on a fall color tour yet? Now is the time to enjoy our gorgeous fall, hopefully with a little sunshine mixed in!

The MCGS Fall Road Trip (Oct 4 thru 7) to the Allen County Library in Fort Wayne was awesome. No big finds, but lots of small ones for all of us. And great genealogy discussions along the way.

For myself, I had six death certificates found over the years that I could not decipher the handwriting for the cause of death. Our group was able to decipher all of them! Who knew that cause of death of "gravel" was kidney stones!

I hope everyone remembers we now provide Zoom attendance options for all our Membership meetings. A reminder email and the Zoom link will go out a few days prior to each Membership Meeting. FYI – our November Annual Membership Meeting will include giveaways, and those members attending via Zoom are eligible to win.

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!



NOW is the time to RENEW!!
End the year right by 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

October's meeting was met with a typical fall day, rainy and cool. But inside temperatures were pleasant as we met several member's ancestors.

The introductions started with Jackie Engel who, in full period attire, presented her Great Grandmother, Alice Isabel Walling Park. Then Barb Martin shared her mother with us. And finally, our president Karen shared her bootlegging grandfather, Michael DeBor. This was an amazing time, and we are hoping to continue this every October for Family History Month. So, start thinking about who you could introduce us to next year!!!

In person, there were 23 members and 1 guest (who became a member – Theresa Mouw from Whitehall. She is searching for surnames Sampson, Kovach, and Muir) and on Zoom we had 1. Marie Payne was the winner of the book draw.

Next Meeting Reminders

Member's Only Book Draw will continue in January as the November meeting is our Annual Membership meeting with other goodies both to eat and win.

Make sure to join us November 18th at Hackley Public Library or watch your email for our link to join via Zoom!!!

We will be voting on the Board members for next year and we are in need of a few positions to be filled:

Program Chair – this person is responsible for attaining the monthly program presenter.

Public Education Chair – this person will help coordinate and generate instructional material for educational workshops.

Travel Opportunities with MCGS

What a great year of adventures MCGS had. Three trips to the State Archives (one was for the Barbara J Brown conference) and a 4-day trip to Allen County Public Library.

Loads of information is just waiting to be discovered during these travel opportunities.

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



Meet your Board...

November is our Annual Meeting in which the Board may or may not change. For the 2024 membership year we are currently looking to fulfill several positions that would substantially benefit the growth of our Society.

Program Chair – The person heading this committee will help coordinate the monthly presentation topic and speaker – the presentations can be in-person or via Zoom. YOU WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR GIVING THE PRESENTATIONS.

Public Education Chair
The person heading this position will help coordinate and generate instructional materials for public education. Including but not limited to monthly workshops, study and/or investigative groups, mini seminars, or classes, etc. at Torrent House and local libraries around the county.

Publicity Chair – The person in charge here will seek out and coordinate ways to promote the Society, whether it be locally statewide or nationally.

The society is ALWAYS seeking volunteers for a number of special projects we always have in-progress or forthcoming. If anyone feels an urging to donate some of your “spare time” to improve the society in a way that will benefit future generations of genealogists, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#) at our email address with **VOLUNTEER** in the subject line.

As always, our society wouldn't be where we are without YOU!!!



We are rescheduling the Genealogy PAPER organization workshop!! Keep your eyes open for December Twig Talk for the date to mark your calendars.

(We are seeking a January date)





Western Michigan Genealogical Society is hosting a number of seminars in the month of November (in person or via ZOOM).

Simply check the [website](#) calendar for information and registration.

Library of Michigan is presenting a webinar to teach about the Fold3 Library Edition on November 2 6:30 to 7:30 click [here](#) to register.

Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

Is offering 9 **webinars** that are free for the public to join during the month of November. An array of topics will be covered including DNA and international research!

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



Southern California Genealogical Society

presents [“Family History Activities and Storytelling with Children and Grand Children”](#) by Karen A. Fortin (Click the title to register)

Passing on family stories and traditions can help strengthen family bonds and the self-identity and well-being of the children. This presentation looks at the importance of family storytelling and provides activity ideas that parents and grandparents can use to make learning family history fun.

Karen A. Fortin has degrees in History and Library and Information Science and a passion for research. She is a member of various local, state, and national genealogical societies, and loves to help people explore their family history so that they can better understand their ancestors and the world in which they lived. One of her goals is to help people explore historical periods, places, and events so that they can better understand their ancestors and the world in which they lived.



To celebrate its 15th birthday – and this year’s one-million-member milestone – the WikiTree community is hosting three days of free events, November 3-5, 2023. Everything is completely free and open to anyone interested in family history or genealogy.

The fun begins with a 36-hour virtual genealogy symposium, starting at 8am EDT (Noon UTC) on November 3. This virtual conference features popular genealogy speakers including Melanie McComb, AJ Jacobs, Thomas MacEntee, Mags Gaulden, Sara Cochran, Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, Marian Burk Wood, David Ryan, GenFriends, the DNAChef, and more.

A wide variety of genealogy-related topics will be covered including DNA tools, Irish research, preserving family history memorabilia, Google maps and other online tools, Appalachia research, military pensions, tech troubleshooting, the 1890 US Census, passenger manifests, research checklists, and ... genealogy trivia.

The second part of the event, the “WikiTree Day” birthday party, kicks off at 8am EDT (noon UTC) on November 5. Have some fun with fellow genealogists and casual family historians and find out why the WikiTree community has become so popular.

There will be research parties, games, and open chats via Zoom and Discord. The day will also include a special panel discussion about genealogy and artificial intelligence (AI) with Steve Little, Drew Smith, Thomas MacEntee and others.

[Register here](#)

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

I received an email earlier in the month of October from Fold3. It states:

We're excited to announce an update to **Civil War Stories!** In 2020, we launched an ambitious project to create a comprehensive list of every soldier who fought in the Civil War, the company and regiment he belonged to, and the battles he fought in.

Over the next several days, we will relaunch Civil War Stories with new, updated,

and refined data.

•Updated soldier Memorials. We have generated six million NEW and UPDATED Fold3 Memorials for Civil War soldiers. (If you have tagged, bookmarked, or generated a link to a beta Memorial, you will be directed to find the new and improved Memorial).

Tripled the number of source records to create soldier memorials. This means more detailed information than ever!

•Add records, photos, and stories to soldier Memorials

(previously, individual contributions were not allowed).

Updated battle pages. In addition to 400 Civil War battle pages, we've added more than 1,000 smaller engagements classified as skirmishes.

The distinction between companies and batteries. Previously, all units were identified as companies. With this update, we've created the ability to distinguish between the two.

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



NOVEMBER 11

On November 11, 1940: Armistice Day Storm Hits Great Lakes

Find out more about this unusual storm by visiting the [Michigan Day By Day](#) website.

Monthly Quote

Not to know what happened before we were born is to remain perpetually a child.

For what is the worth of a human life unless it is woven into the lives of our ancestors?

*Cicero
ca 55 BC*

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 October

Here the story continues after the death of Johan:

Erika remarried on May 7, 1892, to Peter O. Olson from Dalton Township. His wife had passed away in 1890 as well. Peter O. Olson was a farmer in Dalton Township and was also from Sweden. In Swedish his name was Per Olof Nordin. Olson is from his father's name Olof to Olsson (Olof's son) then shortened to Olson. He had arrived in Grand Haven in August of 1879 from Sweden.

On July 21, 1892, Johan's brother Oscar Peterson (he had taken the last name of Peterson from his father Per's name (Peter in English), Peterson = Peter's son) married Alma Anderson in Cadillac, Michigan. They would have four children of their own and later help to oversee care for Johan's children.

On March 3, 1893, Erika passed away at the age of 40. She had been a

dressmaker in Muskegon. Surviving children were John Isak (19), Hulda (15), Oscar (11), Frieda (9), and Richard Ernest (6).

Peter Olson remarried the next year on May 12, 1894, to Jenni Larson from Bergen, Norway. It appears that the children did not stay with him. He passed away on Jan. 31, 1918.

An 1894 record notes John (Isak at age 19) and Freida (age 9) living in Muskegon, not with Peter. Perhaps John took on a parental role and the children stayed in the home on Erickson Street. Probably close to 1900, John (Isak) decided to move to Munising, Michigan in the Upper Peninsula to work as a log scaler. Richard was listed in the 1900 census as living with his uncle Oscar in Cadillac.

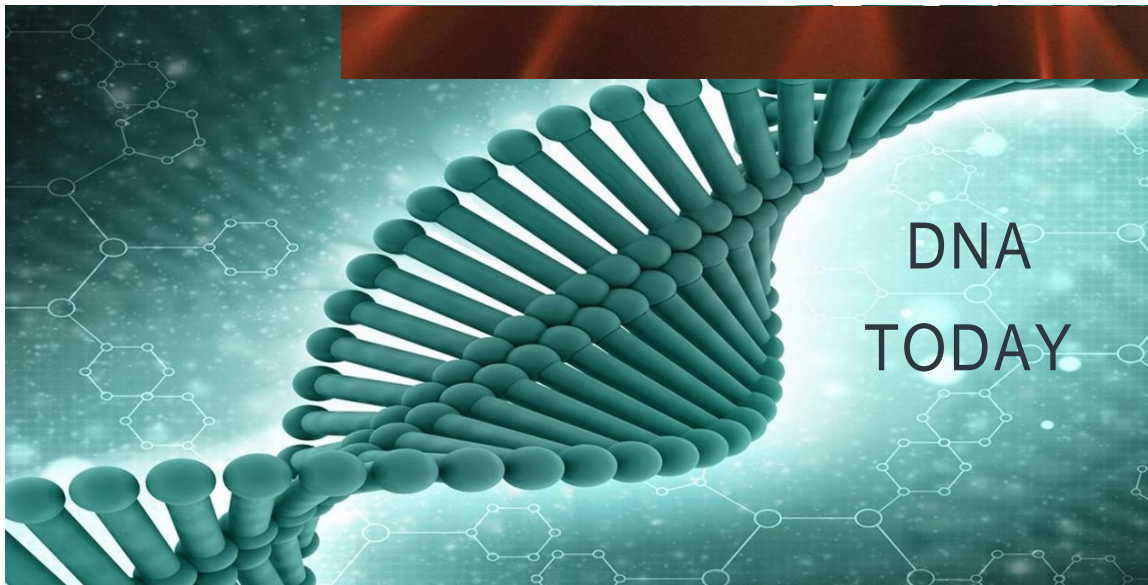
Muskegon Court records note that on March 14, 1900, the children's uncle, Oscar L. Peterson, who lived in Cadillac, requested that the court appoint Mr. Charles Jacobson, who worked as a salesman in a clothing store in Muskegon, as guardian of Oscar (age 17), Freida (age 16), and Richard Ernest (age 13). At the time, Oscar Peterson had two children of his own. Charles was married

Dive Into Muskegon

to Hilma, they had 4 children (ages 16, 11, 8 and 6), and they lived at 239 Washington Avenue in Muskegon (house no longer there). A difficult decision was presumably made on how to move forward in the best interests of the orphaned children. Later court records show that Charles was renting the Nesberg home on Erickson St. on behalf of the estate, so the children may have lived with him.

Sep. 25, 1901, eldest son John (Isak) Theodor married Selma Carlson in Munising, Michigan. She was born in Sweden, and they had nine children. He was a "cedar maker" in the lumber industry and later a night watchman at a papermill. Following Selma's death in 1946, John lived with his daughter Evelyn in Troy, MI. He passed away on March 9, 1969, at the age of 94 and was buried in Munising, MI.

The rest of the story will remain a mystery until the December issue of Twig Talk, where the story will conclude.



DNA TODAY

We are looking to start an interest group around DNA for the coming year. With the indirect expert help of Diahna Southard from YourDNAGuide and the use of DNAPainter maybe together we can break through the mysteries of DNA and genealogy together. If this is something you are definitely interested in, we will be sending an email with a sign-up sheet in the near future. The inaugural registrants

will meet to decide on the details of the group, the where, the when, and the duration of the meetings.

Again, if this has sparked an interested to you, it will be important to register, showing interest and intent. Only those who register will be given initial details of a first meeting and will be making decisions regarding the group.

Watch your email for sign- ups

Have you started organizing your DNA matches yet?

Are you looking for a group to get together and work on this part of your genealogy together.

Coordinating with others is the most effective way to accomplish a goal.

OTHER GREAT DNA RESOURCES

There are multitudes of DNA classes available virtually.

Did you know you can find other free, virtual-educational classes covering the topic of DNA over at ConferenceKeeper.org ?

Here is a link to one of them: [A How-to Guide to Using DNA Test Results in Genealogical Research](#)



MCGS MEETING PLACE

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



Saturdays at 10:30am

2023 Meeting Dates

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!



MCGS is proud to announce that we made a contribution to HPL-Torrent House’s wish list for the purchase of 6 vinyl chairs with arms and wheels and 2 book carts with three shelves each.

Added to the Bookshelf:

Compiled by Matthew Burns:

Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 1930

Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 1931

Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 1932

By author Rich Nelson: The Tender Man – My Father’s Story

Compiled by: Joyce Armstrong Pouba: Michigan Indians Meet Indian Traders, Missionaries and Early Settlers

By author Gertrude P. Smith: A Brief History of the Wardell Family, from 1734 to 1910

By author Kip Sperry: Abbreviations & Acronyms: A Guide for Family Historians

By author David B. McConnell: Michigan’s Story

Compiled by Frances Harrington: Street Name Changes of Muskegon County

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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

A monthly publication of:

Muskegon County Genealogical Society

C/O Hackley Public Library—Torrent House

Local History & Genealogy Department

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