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Upcoming Programs:

DECEMBER:

NO MEETING

The Muskegon County Genealogy Society wishes to extend a hearty Happy Holidays for the month of December – however you celebrate!

May you enjoy the month off while the society starts to get the new year planned.

Remember – this is your society – if there is something you wish to see in the new year for one of our programs, or would like to volunteer for one of the projects, please do not hesitate to contact the society via our main email:

mcgs@1972@gmail.com



Next Member Meeting

January 20

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.

And its all right here in our own hometown. Join us as Jeff shows us new treasures all within reach!!

President Corner

Hello,

I wish to spend this moment with you thanking those responsible for the thousands of volunteer hours spent for the benefit of our society. The time they give is invaluable and we couldn't do it without you.

In no particular order:

Kristi Burns, Matt Burns, Maria Chmelarova, Norman Degan, Kathy DeCormier, Diana Franckowiak, Karen Frazier, William Hansen, Jim Harkness, Frances Harrington, Dawn Kelley, Jennifer Lamkin, Barb Martin, Shelly Nelson, Pam Schaner, Jane Schapka, Tom Shepherd, Gail Taggart, Judy Tierney, Jackie Engle, Paula Halloran, Connie Nesbary.

And to our PARTNER organizations:

Hackley Public Library, Muskegon County Clerk's office, Muskegon Area District Library (MADL), Lakeshore Museum Center

Again, thank you for your contributions to our society that helps ensure future genealogists have the information they need to go further in their research!



Have you renewed yet and claimed your discount?? It's not too late. You can **mail in** your registration through this month for a \$5.00 discount.

Last Meeting Highlights

There were many attendees at the November gathering for the annual meeting. We were able to enjoy bagels with cream cheese, a fruit tray, muffins, and hot caramel apple cider. The meeting summarized all the accomplishments the 2023 Board and committees had, as well as the special projects that are ongoing and yet to happen. The annual Treasurer's report was given and the 2024 Budget was presented along with the potential presentations that will be scheduled.

The members were presented with the 2024 MCGS Board nominees, and it was a unanimous vote to accept the 2024 Board as presented. You can see the Meet the Board section to see who will represent you next year.

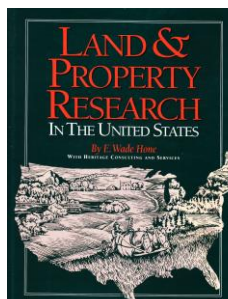
Everyone, as well as zoom attendees, walked away with a gift.

Thank you for a successful year!!!

Next Meeting Reminders

Member's Only Book

Draw:



By Wade Hone

When early settlers left their homelands to start a new life in America, they had dreams of owning their own land and prospering from their own efforts. They were suspicious of all forms of government and did their best, in many cases, to be invisible to a variety of record keepers. But when it came to ensuring that their precious land was, without doubt, their own, they were careful to provide all of the information requested of them by the various government agencies. It is this care in reporting that makes this reference as valuable as the most comprehensive and useful review of land and property research for genealogists.

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...

During the November Annual Meeting a unanimous vote kept your 2023 officers in place.

But, for the 2024 membership year we are still 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 an email registration form to be sent out sometime this month.

(It will be a January date)





Western Michigan Genealogical Society is hosting several interest groups in the month of December (in person only). Simply check the [website](#) calendar for information and registration.

Library of Michigan is presenting a webinar titled "Digitizing My Family Tree: Formats, Software, and Techniques" on December 7 6:30 to 7:30 click [here](#) to register.

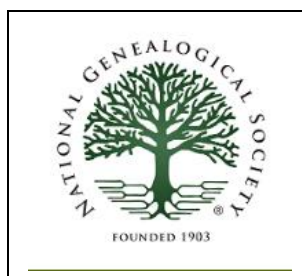
Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

Is offering 9 **webinars** that are free for the public to join during the month of December. 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 "[Social and Civic Clubs: What Archived Records are Available for Your Ancestor Who Volunteered](#)" by Melissa Barker (Click the title to register)



Genealogical Society of North Orange County California

Invites you to attend their monthly meetings with speakers on a variety of topics. They even have a virtual seminar in July featuring Lisa Louise Cooke.

You can check out all the details for their upcoming meetings [here](#).

It truly is a pleasure to "pop-in" on meetings from other societies to see the variety and diversity of how they operate.

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

In every community there were dozens of social and civic clubs to be a part of and volunteer. The Garden Clubs, Home Demonstration Clubs, Historical Societies, Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs and so many more. Were your ancestors part of one of these clubs? Learn about the records that could be available in archives for genealogists to learn about their ancestor who volunteered.

Melissa Barker is a Certified Archives Manager at the Houston County, Tennessee Archives. She is a professional genealogist and lectures, teaches and writes about genealogy research, researching in archives and records preservation. She has a website, [genealogyservices.webs.com](#), and a blog at [agenealogistinthearchives.blogspot.com/h](#) they lived.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The National Genealogical Society (NGS) 2024 Virtual [Family History Conference](#): Expanding Possibilities, 16-18 May. The program focuses on innovation and finding creative ways to solve problems in genealogy.

Virtual Expo Hall:
16-18 May

FOCUS on Genealogy Organizations: 16 May

Main Conference:
17-18 May



Technology Merges with Genealogy

The internet is truly a wonderful tool, allowing people from all over the world to connect at the speed of light. With this amazing tool, we are able to learn things that were never possible before the World Wide Web. For instance, do you know you can find out about your Irish surnames from actual people in Ireland? In an article titled "[The Evolution of Irish Surnames – Where your Irish surname fits](#)", on the

website, [A letter from Ireland](#), it goes into detail as to where and WHEN your surname existed. This is an amazing place to go if you have Irish ancestry. It was started in 2013 by a husband-and-wife team to help people learn more about their Irish heritage, but I'll let them introduce themselves and give you more details about the why and the what. (Meet them [here](#).)

Not only can you receive a letter from Ireland weekly, you can also learn more about your WWII veteran with tips and tricks from Fold3. [This article](#) gives ten tips on how to learn more about any military service personnel you may have in your family tree. And did you know that Fold3 has a library edition? I learned this from the Library of Michigan webinar I attended in October.

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



DECEMBER

In December 1965: Snowboarding invented in Muskegon

Find out more about how this went from a backyard activity to an Olympic sport by visiting the [Michigan Day By Day](#) website.

Monthly Quote

*When we
illuminate
the road
back to our
ancestors,
they have a
way of
reaching
out, of
manifesting
themselves...
sometimes
even
physically.*

*Raquel Cepeda
A Bird of
Paradise: How
I Became
Latina*

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!!!!

The conclusion of...

Evergreen Cemetery Mystery Solved

Submitted by:
Connie Nesbary

July 24, 1903, court records show a 3-year insurance policy was taken out on the property at 71 Erickson St (no longer a viable address) in Muskegon for \$550. Charles E. Jacobson remained guardian of minor children Oscar (now 20), Freida (19), and Richard Ernest (16). It was noted that he paid \$3 for a pair of shoes for Freida, sums for repairs for the house, property taxes of \$25.07 for 3 years (1898 through 1900), and he was collecting rent for the house on behalf of the estate. The outside of the house was painted at a cost of \$35. 1907 – Richard Ernest, then 19, was a deck hand on the ship Naomi (formerly the **SS Wisconsin**). The ship had rescued the crew of **the John V. Moran** on Feb. 9, 1899, and was one of the first with a double hull. A young man's dream to work on. Unfortunately, on May 21, 1907, there was a fire on the Naomi in Lake Michigan, and Richard Earnest was killed from sustaining burns. He was buried on May 22nd in Oakwood Cemetery in Muskegon.

From Wikipedia, [List of shipwrecks in 1907](#):

The 1,181-gross registered ton steel-hulled screw steamer burned on Lake Michigan 28 nautical miles (52km; 32mi) west of Grand Haven, Michigan, a total loss, with the loss of five lives. 86 survivors were rescued by the Kansas.

From Mlive: [Lookback: Steamer Naomi stuck in Lake Michigan ice...](#)

On May 21, 1907, just over two years after her passengers trekked to shore [after the ship was stuck in ice four miles off the Muskegon Piers], a deadly fire swept through her wooden superstructure killing four of her crew and fatally injuring one passenger. Many believe the fire was started by rats chewing on a large shipment of matches stored next to an open barrel of oil.

The Naomi was towed to Grand Haven and eventually moved to the Manitowoc Dry Dock in Wisconsin for repairs. [Click here](#) to see a photo of the ship and to read more about the history of the Naomi (originally the Wisconsin). The owner of the Naomi at the time was Captain Edward G. Crosby, who had named the ship after his daughter. Captain Crosby perished in the sinking of the Titanic on April 15, 1912, with his wife and daughter surviving. Accounts differ when the Naomi was renamed as the E.G. Crosby -- either by 1910 or after Captain Crosby was lost on the Titanic. After serving in World War I as The General Robert M. O'Reilly, the ship was renamed Pilgrim. In 1924, she was returned to her original owners and given back her original name of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin sunk off the coast of Kenosha, Wisconsin in 1929. The wreck was discovered in 1963 and is now a popular dive site.

On July 5, 1907, Oscar was living in Chicago and filed papers in Muskegon releasing Mr. Jacobson from the guardianship.

Dive Into Muskegon

Freida did the same while living in Muskegon. I suspect that Hulda had moved to Chicago, and Oscar and Freida followed her at some point, because... In 1910 – After the death of her mother, I could not find records for Hulda in Muskegon. She does show up in a 1910 Census in Knox, Illinois, as a servant in the Swank family household. No further records of Hulda were found. At the age of 26, Frieda married Charles Thompson in Chicago, Illinois on Oct. 19, 1910. They had a daughter Clara. Frieda was widowed in 1944, lived to the age of 86 and passed on Oct. 12, 1970, in Evanston, IL where she is buried. On June 7, 1917, Charles Jacobson, the guardian, passed away at the age of 55 in Muskegon and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Muskegon with his family. 1918 - At age 37, Oscar registered for the World War I draft on Sept. 12, 1918. He stated he was a night cook at Oakwood's Hotel, 7086 S. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL where he also lived. He passed away on Sept. 24, 1919, just a year later and is buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in Skokie, IL.

I hope you've enjoyed reading this history of a family who immigrated to Muskegon from Sweden. I will submit it to historical repositories - Connie Nesbary, to contact me: info@connienesbary.com.



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.

Calling anyone interested in diving deeper into DNA!

Watch your email!

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: [DNA Testing Companies - Pros and Cons](#)



MCGS MEETING PLACE

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



Saturdays at 10:30am

2023 Meeting Dates

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!



Added to the Bookshelf:

By author James N. Jackson - Michigan War Dead Buried Overseas or Missing in World War I, World War II, and Other Conflicts,

Compiled by William P. Hansen - Story's from Our Muskegon Pioneers

By Author Desmond Walls Allen - 1918 Camp Pike, Arkansas, Index to Soldiers' Naturalizations

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

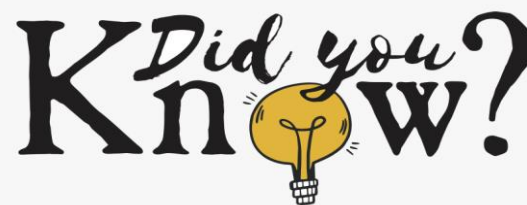
DELIGATE

Gail Taggart:
Michigan Genealogical Council
National Genealogical Societies

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- 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

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