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Upcoming Programs:

JANUARY 20:

“Museum Archives of Interest to Genealogists”

Have you ever wondered what material is in the **Lakeshore Museum Center’s Archives?** Join **Jeff Bessinger, the Exhibits & Collections Director, and Archivist**, on January 20 to find out.

Jeff will share how the Archives can help you learn about the history of Muskegon from the early settlers to the modern day. Learn about how many objects are stored in the Archives and how you can access the material for your own research.



Next Member Meeting

January 20

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

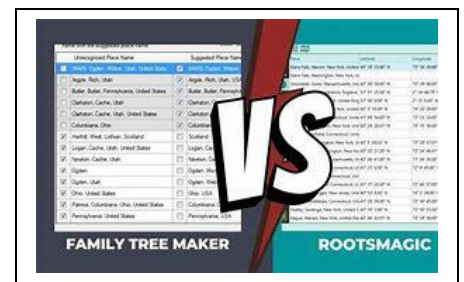
Hackley Public Library Lower Level

FEBRUARY 17:

“Technology and Genealogy”

Presented by Karen Frazier

Comparing Legacy, Family Tree Maker, and RootsMagic. As a genealogist, selecting the right software to build, manage, and research your family tree is crucial. Family Tree Builder, Legacy Family Tree, and RootsMagic are popular options, each offering unique features and benefits. This presentation will compare these three genealogy software options to help you determine which one best suit your needs."



President Corner

Happy New Year!

I hope you survived the holidays with lots of joy and relaxation. I am ready for the New Year and looking forward to new personal genealogy projects.

Goals for 2024: The MCGS Board will continue to work on the cleanup of our 'base', with the establishment of Operations Manuals for some key positions, and cleanup of our physical and digital inventory. Also planned is continued work on the MCGS website. This is important for the long-term growth of our society, and also will provide enhanced benefits to our members. Given everything we do is by volunteer, this can take some time, so watch your email for updates.

Upcoming enhancement of Public Education offerings: Anyone interested in focus groups immediately after the regular Saturday membership meetings (onsite attendees only)? Interested in pursuing a Pioneer Certificate for one of your ancestors from Muskegon County? We can help with that! Interested in learning about DNA from fellow genealogists? Any other topic you are interested in attending monthly? Let us know via our email at 1972mcgs@gmail.com.

Are you looking forward to the publication of History Book 2 – Footprints in History? So is your board! We do not have a publication date yet – it is still in the final review and indexing stage. Keep an eye on your email for updates.

Thank you for your support of the Society!



MGC is seeking a new editor for the MGC Newsletter. Please get in touch with President Judy Nimer Muhn (judydmuhn@gmail.com or info@mimgc.org) for specifics if this position interests you.

Our Michigan Genealogical Council (MGC) Newsletter Editor, Paul Roltsch, retired following the Fall 2023 issue. Paul has served as editor since the Fall 2020 issue. His service coincided with one of the most challenging periods in MGC history, the pandemic and lockdown that came with it. The full MGC Board of Directors thanks Paul for serving the Michigan Genealogical community. Paul, we wish you good health and many more years of successful genealogy research.

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.

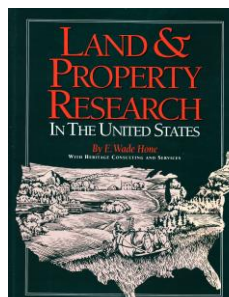
Everyone, as well as zoom attendees, walked away with a gift.

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

The new year bring with it new travel opportunities. Are you interested in going to the Archives or the Michigan Library? How about Allen County Public Library? Join the group and split the cost! The dates are as follows:

The Library of Michigan/Archives:

April 6
August 3

Allen County Public Library:

October 2-5



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!!!



The Genealogy PAPER organization workshop will be immediately following the January member meeting until 3PM

If you would like help getting started fill out [the registration form](#) and we'll see you in January !!





Western Michigan Genealogical Society
 is hosting several Webinars in January via zoom! Scottish ancestry anyone? How about exploring cemetery and funeral home records. Simply check the [website](#) calendar for information and registration.

Library of Michigan

Didn't have its 2024 calendar of events updated as of the time of this printing

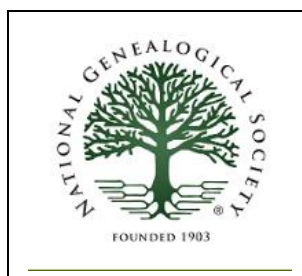
Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

Is offering 10 **webinars** that are free for the public to join during the month of January. There is even one about citing sources without stressing out. You can bet I'll be watching that one!!

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

Boulder Genealogical Society

Presents ["Connecting the Dots: Using Timelines, Comparison Charts and FAN charts to Identify your Ancestors"](#) by Carol Cooke Darrow (Click the title to register) January 2.



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**

West Florida Genealogical Society

Presents

"Mining the Census – Finding all the Clues We Miss on Census Records"

Saturday January 6

You can register for this even [here](#) and check out all the other programs they are offering at their monthly meetings.

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!

Organizing and analyzing the piles of data you have collected can be intimidating. But there are simple tools you can use to get the job done. Timelines that include the dates of events and the age of the person can help you avoid 9-year-old fathers. Identity charts help to highlight differences between people of the same name who live in the same place. FAN Club charts help you identify the friends, associates and neighbors (FANs) of your ancestor.

Carol Cooke Darrow has been a professional genealogist since 2000. She teaches Genealogy 101 for beginners on the second Saturday of the month on Zoom. She also facilitates the WriteNOW family writing group on second Sundays each month.



Technology Merges with Genealogy

Words to live by being a genealogist - location, location, location. Where were my ancestors from, where did they live, where did they go? Every detail to give flesh to the bones is inundated with locations. In the development of a new country, the boundaries from states, counties and right down to towns or townships changed multiple times throughout our short history. And knowing where to find the

records within those moving borders is sometimes the most challenging struggle we face.

Are you aware that there is an internet-based program that can help with this? Allow me to introduce you to [Animap](#). This is a web-based program that helps you sort out the counties of states for specific periods. Before states required records to be registered within their offices, churches were the main repository of all vital

information. Where was that church located at a specific time is important to knowing what county is to be searched to find other records. Enter the help of [Animap](#).

There is a small annual charge for the use of this site, but if you focused your time on locations in your research, the price of \$40/year really isn't an exorbitant cost.

I invite you to check it out to see if it will aid in your search!

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



JANUARY 1951

On January 3, 1951: First woman elected to the Michigan Congress

Find out more about who this was and where she was from by visiting the [Michigan Day By Day](#) website. Psst...there's a plaque for her in her town!

Monthly Quote

*"History
remembers
only the
celebrated."*

*Genealogy
remembers
them all."*

By

*Lawrence
Overmire*

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!!!!

Activity at the Mart Dock during the 1937 celebration of Muskegon's Centennial.

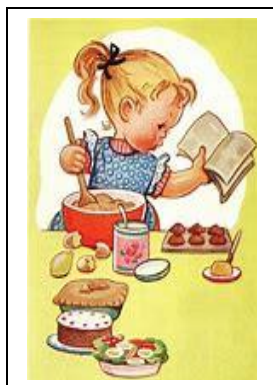


Photo courtesy of Actorscolony.com

Dive Into Muskegon

**Genealogy Using Digital
Resources @Holton Library
March 27 6:00:**

The Muskegon County Genealogical Society will cover the basic principles of using digital resources as a starting point for your research then move to hands-on practice with Ancestry.com Library Edition (free to all) to build or grow your family tree. Computers will be supplied, but participants are free to bring their own laptop or tablet. Registration is required; do so by calling (231) 821-0268

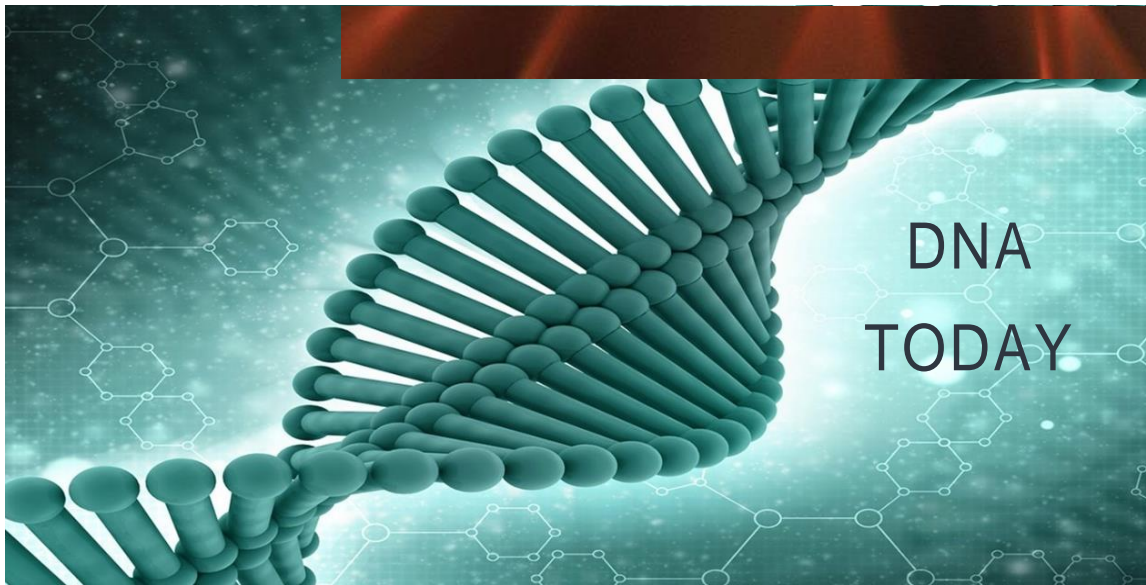


MILLION DOLLAR FUDGE

- 3 pkg (6oz each) chocolate chips
- 1 jar (8 oz) marshmallow cream
- 2 c. broken walnuts
- 4-1/2 c. sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1-1/2 sticks butter or margarine
- 1 tall can evaporated milk
- 1 tsp vanilla

Combine chocolate chips, marshmallow cream, and walnuts in a large bowl. Combine sugar, salt, butter or margarine, and evaporated milk in large, heavy saucepan; heat to boiling, stirring constantly; boil 6 minutes, stir often. Pour at once over chocolate mixture in bowl; stir vigorously with a wooden spoon until chocolate is melted and mixture is creamy. Pour into buttered shallow pan, 13x9x2; let stand a few hours to set; cut into squares; store in cool dry place.

Recipe submitted by Mrs. Vernon Hiltz, Mrs. Martin Sytsema, and Mrs. H. Hoebeke in the Auxiliary Favorites II 1969 Cookbook prepared and distributed by Muskegon Rescue Mission Women's Auxiliary



DNA TODAY

We are starting an interest group around DNA for the coming year. With the indirect expert help of Diahna Southard from YourDNAGuide and the use of DNAPainter together we can break through the mysteries of DNA and genealogy together. If this is something you are interested in, **you can [click this link to register](#)**. Registration will only be open until the end of January in

which we 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 in January will be given initial details of a first meeting and will be making decisions regarding the group. Registration will reopen after that with the details.

Calling anyone interested in diving deeper into DNA!

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: [Finding Your Family with DNA Testing](#). Hurry this is JANUARY 2!!!



MCGS MEETING PLACE

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



Saturdays at 10:30am

2024 Meeting Dates:

January 20

February 17

March 16

Tentative:

April 20

May 18

June 15

August 17

September 21

October 19

November 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!

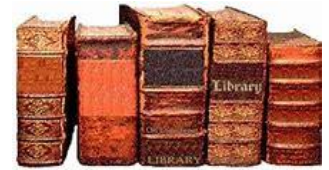


Added to the Bookshelf:

Greater Muskegon Telephone Directory, December 1947

McLean, Drake, Ashcroft Pedigree Lineage v. 1
Prepared by Clara Ellen Ashcroft-Vickers

McLean, Drake, Ashcroft Pedigree Lineage v. 2
Prepared by Clara Ellen Ashcroft-Vickers



A Note from Diana at the Torrent House:

Hello Everyone of the MCGS,

We received and have installed the chairs with wheels which MCGS donated the funds to purchase for the Local History and Genealogy Department. You will notice the new chairs are a little lighter shade of gray than the older group we've had, but we just grouped like color with like color. They look great! Patrons and staff alike, so appreciate their easy mobility! Thank you!

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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Facebook Norm Dagen

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

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Newsletter Editor Jennifer Lamkin
Twigtalk1972@gmail.com

Pioneer Program Barb Martin

Programs OPEN

Research..... Fran Harrington
Researchmcs72@gmail.com

Technology Kristy Burns

Website..... Shelly Nelson

Thank you for allowing us to serve you!



County Clerk's office is MOVING....

NOTE: ACCESS TO ANY RESEARCH MAY BE LIMITED DURING THIS TRANSITION PERIOD UNTIL THE RELOCATION OF THE COUNTY CLERK OFFICE TO OUR NEW LOCATION. PLEASE CALL AHEAD, EVEN FOR WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON RESEARCH, TO ENSURE THERE IS STAFF AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOU.

(231) 724-6221

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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