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## Upcoming Programs:

### 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."



## Next Member Meeting

February 17

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

### MARCH 16:

#### “Family Pictures Come to Life by Restoring Them”

Presented by Kathy Broughton DeCormier

Kathy will present a very interesting and informative program on how to care for, maintain, and repair historic photographs. History has certainly provided an interesting variety of photographic memories, but with all those photograph types, how do you take care of and repair your treasured memories?

Kathy has been studying various techniques in photo restoration and care for a while now. She will be sharing with us her knowledge.



## President Corner

Hello,

Everyone enjoying 2024 so far? If you are a “snowy” person, this has been a good year for you. My neighbors have been gone more than home, enjoying the snow as much as possible before the weather changes. Again...

There is little news for the Society so far in 2024. Our January Board meeting was cancelled due to weather, and the January membership meeting Speaker canceled due to illness! On the other hand, things are starting to happen behind the scenes!

See Page 3 for updates!!!

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. Remember to WATCH for further info via your email, Twig Talk, and our website. And please communicate your ideas for topics!

Thank you for your support of the Society!



## Our Society is always accepting volunteers.

Current chair positions we're in need of:

Programs, Publicity, Public Educations, Technology

Current committee members we're in need of:

Programs, Pioneer Certificates

### New Members in January:

**Jeff Matthews**, Canton, OH; **Surnames:** Aue, Bergeman, Brueining, Heller, Herbst, Heytz, Hogarth, Klatt, Matthews, May, Miller, Pingry, Schultz and Zorn

**Sandy Storck**, Twin Lake, MI

**SURNAMES:** Rojan/Rojahn, Hunt, Ellefsen/Ellifsen, Dwyer, and Juergens.



See the next page for details on the positions and contact the society to volunteer. We look forward to you joining the team.

### Last Meeting Highlights

Weather was cold but mild and good for travel to Hackley Public Library for our first meeting of 2024.

The meeting almost had a full house of 22 in attendance with 2 guests and 1 new member and several online through ZOOM!!

Our speaker, Jeff Bessinger, was not feeling well and unable to attend. Unfortunately, there are no plans for a rescheduled program from him. Thankfully, our president, Karen, was prepared to give a presentation about digital genealogy resources which was very informative for the novice genealogist, and members added tips that were also helpful. Pam a member in attendance stated that if you get a Library of Michigan card, you can have access to Ancestry, and Newspapers.com from HOME!!! Follow the link to get your card...

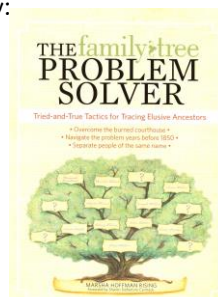
<https://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan/public/get-a-library-card>

Our book draw winner was Jim Rose.

### Next Meeting Reminders

Member's Only Book

Draw:



Has your family history research hit a brick wall? **Marsha Hoffman Rising's** best-selling book has the solutions to help you find the answers you seek. Inside you'll find:

- Ideas on how to find vital records before civil registrations
  - Tips for finding “missing” ancestors on censuses
  - Instructions for investigating collateral kin to further your pedigree
  - Work-arounds for lost or destroyed records
  - Methods for finding ancestors who lived before 1850
  - Strategies for analyzing your problem and creating a successful research plan
- And so much more!

### Travel Opportunities with MCGS

The new year brings 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



And in 2025 – we are looking at the possibility of going to UTAH for ROOTSTECH!!!!!! Watch the Twig talk and stay up to date!!

# Board Updates

## **NEED 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 GIVING THE PRESENTATIONS.**

Also can be a committee member to help as well.

## **NEED 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

## **NEED Publicity Chair**

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

## **Pioneer Certificate**

– In need of a committee member to help with this position.



Keep your eyes peeled here for upcoming workshops and interest groups that MCGS will be having throughout the coming year!

Due to the weather in January, the board did not meet. But some of the projects that we are working on to better our society:

Hackley Public Library partnership

Website improvements

Setting up various interest groups and workshops for members to attend and get help on various topics

Attend a monthly member meeting in person or via Zoom to keep up to date on all the Board has in store for 2024!!!

## MCGS Website Highlights and Additions

If you have not checked out our website recently, I invite you to...

[www.genealogymuskegon.org](http://www.genealogymuskegon.org)

It is getting an overhaul of new items added monthly.

You can get the whole scoop on what has been updated right here in the Twig Talk.

This month:

Marriage index for the years 1860-1945

Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 1869-1882 and 1927-2023





**Western Michigan Genealogical Society**  
 is hosting several Webinars in February via zoom! City Directories anyone? How about learning about the first Germans in America? Simply check the [website](#) calendar for information and registration.

**Library of Michigan**  
 February 1 program is diving into [The Story of Woodland Park Michigan, A Black Resort During Segregation](#). Click to register.

## Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

Is offering 10 **webinars** that are free for the public to join during the month of February. They range from DNA to how to research specific countries of origin.

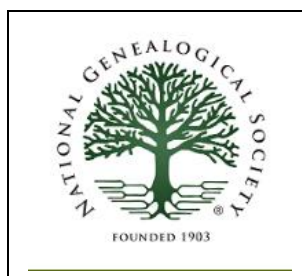
[Click here](#) and choose Family History/Genealogy under the Events tab and choose one that interests you... to register click on its title!

### Southern California Genealogical Society

Are you finding all possible genealogy clues in the family cemetery? Are you missing out on pieces of your ancestor's stories? Researching the cemetery where your ancestor is buried can reveal more than a death date and location.

Learn the 7 steps every genealogy researcher should take to analyze the cemetery where your ancestor is buried and locate the plentiful death and burial records with [Cemetery Clues: 7 Steps to Comprehensive Research](#) by Lisa Lisson

Lisa Lisson is the owner of Are You My Cousin? Website. She helps genealogy researchers who are stuck in their research learn where to search for their ancestors' records and how to access those records. Lisa coaches researchers of all levels. Lisa is a published author; a RootsTech and Family Tree Magazine contributor. She holds degrees in Biology and Physical Therapy. She loves running; and, if she is not running or researching, she is probably traveling.



### 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**

## ROOTSTECH 2024

**Feb 29 – Mar 2**

Do you want to partake in the world's renowned genealogist's seminars in the comfort of your own home? How about having access to over 200+ new online sessions to view at your leisure?

Rootstech 2024 is [HERE](#)

All you need is a free [Familysearch.org](#) log in and you're in!!

It's free and you will be able to browse the class seminars in advance to set up your own schedule for the conference AND have full access to the class syllabi.

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





## Technology Merges with Genealogy

WooHoo!! I have just been introduced to the most amazing web program for my genealogy research!

Raise your hand if you have ever heard of GoldieMay....

Not many, huh? Well, allow me to introduce you to Richard K. Miller. He is the developer of this amazing new program that is (in his words), "Not another place for your conclusions, but a place for your work in progress".

Watch the following video by Rick to see if you are as impressed as I was...

[Do more Genealogy in Less Time.](#)

I am looking forward to the Subway Map portion of this program as well as the location breakdown and hints that this will offer based on the timeline.

This may be the program we need to help break through those pesky brick walls that hold us back.

My husband blessed me

with an annual subscription, but I haven't had time to really delve into it yet.

Anyone else who finds this exciting and wishes to discuss this further, or who have also purchased it and wants to figure it out together, please feel free to message me at the Twig Talk email and we can set up a time to adventure forward together.

[Twigtalk1972@gmail.com](mailto:Twigtalk1972@gmail.com)

Check out all the websites on the World Wide Web

that can aid in your search for answers!!

PSST...

Just click the links!!

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY



## FEBRUARY 5, 1918

### February 5, 1918: Muskegon Native Survives WWI U-Boat Attack

Find out more about who this was and read their story by visiting the [Michigan Day By Day](#) website.

## Monthly Quote

*“Remember  
me in the  
family tree;  
my name,  
my days,  
my strife.*

*Then I'll  
ride upon  
the wings of  
time and  
live an  
endless life.”*

*By*

*Linda Goetsch*

**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!!!!

Want to know what's happening in Muskegon on any given day? Click [here](#) to find something to do around town from family movie day at the Frauenthal to snowshoeing at Muskegon State Park.



## 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

Do you or someone you know have a Muskegon County High school year book and you have no idea what to do with it? Well, here is one solution...

Donate them to the Torrent house. Our local History Department is looking for the following editions:

Only for the missing years that are listed below. NOTE: Muskegon High School - Torrent already has a complete set from 1895 thru 2022. No additional copies needed.

Bluffton Elementary School - 1991 or older., and 1994, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005

Bunker Middle School - 2001 or older, and 2006, 2007, 2012

Mona Shores High School - 1968 or older, 1970, and 1972 and after. The library only has 1969 and 1971!

Muskegon Catholic Central High School - 1953 or older, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1977 thru 1982, and 1984 to 2012

Muskegon Heights High School - 1921 or older, and 1968 to 2012.

Muskegon Junior College - They only have 1947, 1948, and 1949. Anything else would be appreciated!

Nelson Junior High - They only have 1973 and 1975. Anything else would be appreciated!

North Muskegon High School - 1940 and older, 1942 thru 1944, 1946 thru 1948, 1962 thru 1964, 1974, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1998 thru 2000, 2002, 2004 thru 2007, 2011, 2012.

Oakridge High School - 1973 and older, and 1975 thru 1982, 1984 thru 1988, 1990, 1996, 1999, 2000.

Orchard View High School - 1961 and older, and 1963, 1964, 1970, 1972, 1973, 1976, 1977, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, and 1988 and after.

Ravenna High School - They only have 1946 and 1948. Anything else would be appreciated!

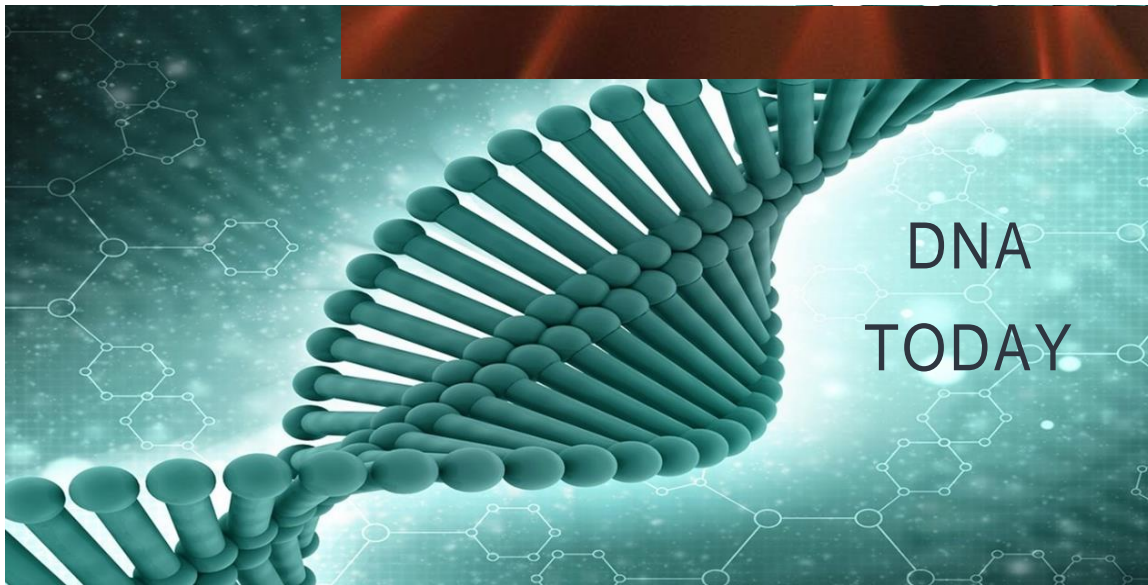
Reeths Puffer High School - 1958 and before, and 1965, 1966, 1981, 1982, 1985 thru 1990, and 1992 thru 2012

Steele Middle School - They only have 2007 thru 2012. Anything before or after that would be appreciated!

St. Jean's - They only have 1950 and 1952. Anything else would be appreciated!

Western Michigan Christian High School - They only have 1958, 1959, 1984 and 1985. Anything before or after that would be appreciated!

Whitehall High School - 1987 and older, and 1989, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1999 thru 2012



## DNA TODAY

In a recent webinar that I joined by DNA expert Diahana Southard from [YourDNAGuide.com](http://YourDNAGuide.com) (Test, Analyze Repeat), she offered advice about each of the five DNA testing companies, and she rated them on several criteria. Allow me to share with you what I learned.

There are two ways to test for DNA, a cheek swab, and a spit test. You must decide which one is best for you. But you also must look at the testing pool (how many have already tested in which yours will be compared

to). And there's also the matter of where you expect to find DNA matches (where in the world are your ancestors from?).

With these three factors to consider Diahana rated the five testing companies as follows:

**AncestryDNA** has 20 million testers, and they have great ethnicity estimates. (5 ½ ribbons)

**23andMe** has 13.8 million in their testing pool and they have good ethnicity estimates, BUT they do not have a way to build a family tree on their

website. (2 ribbons)

**MyHeritageDNA** has 5.1 million testers, and they have a great ethnicity estimator. (4 ribbons)

**FamilyTreeDNA** only has 1.5 million testers and ethnicity estimates are not a strength. (1 ½ ribbons)

**LivingDNA** has an unknown number of testers, but it is perfect if you have U.K. ancestors only. (1 ribbon)

The clear winner here was AncestryDNA. Plus, you can build your family tree on their website and find relatives that match your DNA.

Are you confused about what DNA company to test with?

Are you seeking advice about what each company offers.

Diahana Southard from YourDNAGuide has the best advice about that.

### OTHER GREAT DNA RESOURCES

If you want to join a free webinar from Diahana simply click [here](#).

Diahana hosts a free webinar once a month on a rotating schedule, so if you must miss one, simply reregister for the series the next time it comes around. She LOVES repeat students!!





**MCGS MEETING PLACE**

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



**Saturdays at 10:30am**

2024 Meeting Dates:

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:

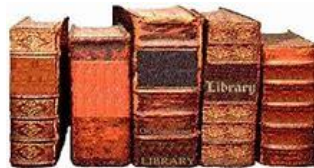
Contributions by Matt Burns:

Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 1927

Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 1928

Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 1929

David P. Krutz - Distant Drums: Herkimer County (New York) in the War of the Rebellion



**OFFICERS**

President ..... Karen Page Frazier  
[President72@gmail.com](mailto:President72@gmail.com)

Vice President ..... Dawn Westcomb Kelley  
[VPmcs72@gmail.com](mailto:VPmcs72@gmail.com)

Secretary ..... Tom Shepherd

Treasurer ..... Jennifer Lamkin

Past President ..... Jane Appleton Schapka

**DELIGATE**

Gail Taggart:  
Michigan Genealogical Council  
National Genealogical Societies

**COMMITTEES**

Database..... Pam Schaner

Facebook ..... Norm Dagen

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

Membership ..... Dawn Westcomb Kelley  
[Membershipmcs1972@gmail.com](mailto:Membershipmcs1972@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor .... Jennifer Lamkin  
[Twigtalk1972@gmail.com](mailto:Twigtalk1972@gmail.com)

Pioneer Program .... Jane Appleton Schapka

Programs ..... **OPEN**

Public Education .... **OPEN**

Publicity ..... **OPEN**

Research..... Fran Harrington  
[Researchmcs72@gmail.com](mailto:Researchmcs72@gmail.com)

Technology ..... **OPEN**

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 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

[1972mcs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcs@gmail.com)

[genealogymuskegon.org](http://genealogymuskegon.org)

[facebook.com/MuskgonGenealogicalSociety](https://facebook.com/MuskgonGenealogicalSociety)