

## This issue:

Page 2  
President's Message  
Members News  
Last Meeting Highlights  
Next Meeting Reminders  
Travel Opportunities with  
MCGS

Page 3  
MCGS Board Updates  
What's New on the  
Website

Page 4  
Webinar Learning  
Opportunities

Page 5  
Technology Merges with  
Genealogy  
This Day in History

Page 6  
Monthly Quote  
Dive Into Muskegon

Page 7  
DNA News

Page 8  
MCGS General  
Information  
Torrent House News



## Upcoming Programs:

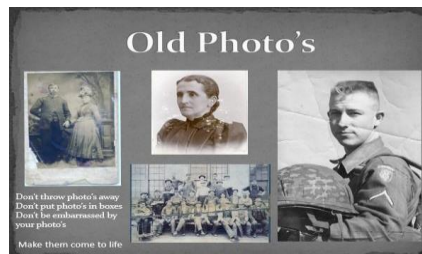
### MARCH 16:

#### “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.



## Next Member Meeting

March 16

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

### APRIL 20:

#### “From Photo Albums and Scans to Family Stories”

Presented by:  
Laura Hedgecock

How do you go from piles of photos, albums, and countless digital scans to family stories that will connect generations?

Speaker Laura Hedgecock discusses how to make precious photos worth the proverbial thousand words by giving them the context and stories behind them. We'll look at pulling story threads from the photos themselves and how to reminisce over photos with loved ones that reap meaningful family stories.



## President Corner

Is it Spring yet?! The lack of snow and warmer weather has brought on spring fever for me and my family. Before we know it, it will be time for our first MCGS Road Trip to the Archives of Lansing (1 st Saturday in April). I'm already planning and looking forward to the opportunity for research. Please email [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com) to reserve your spot.

Planning and booking the presentations for each meeting has been a challenge without a Programs Chair. Anyone with about 2 to 3 hours per month please consider volunteering. This position includes attendance at the monthly Board meeting, generating topics and speaker possibilities, contacting the speaker to book a presentation, coordinating paperwork, and following up just before the date. Need to be able to send/receive emails and type brief documents in MS Word or Google Docs.

Are you interested in helping organize a major Genealogy event in Muskegon for 2025? The planning process for a nice full day event takes almost a year, so we need to start now! Planning an event like this takes required quite a few hands, so volunteers are required. This committee will start meeting mid-2024, meeting monthly. Email us at [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com) to volunteer!

The History Book 2 looks AWESOME! We are SO close on the publication date. More news coming in early March.

Remember to WATCH for further info via your email, Twig Talk, and our website. Thank you for your support of the Society.



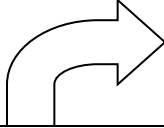
## Our Society is always accepting volunteers.

We are pleased to announce the addition of Jackie Engel as the new Technology Chair. Jackie was a past speaker for us, and has been assisting with the Zoom access for the general meetings for a while now. Welcome aboard!

### New Members in February:

No new members in February

But my apologies to Tom Versalle (Norton Shores) and Sandy Storck (Twin Lake), I missed them for January's New Member column.



See the next page for the positions needed – you can contact the society to volunteer. We look forward to you joining the team.

### Last Meeting Highlights

Winter returned with a brisk coolness to the air as our February meeting was a comfortable temperature inside the Hackley Library. Our president, Karen Frazier, opened with a brief business update of the society then moved right into the very informative presentation of the digital software available to genealogists. It was a thorough analysis comparing the top three programs with many advantages of using a program to keep track of your research.

In person attendance was 22 and Zoom had 7 members attending virtually. Six of our in-person attendees are thanks to our partnership with Hackley Public library and their advertisement of our meeting. What a great way to begin the partnership!

Our book draw winner was new member from January Sandy Storck.

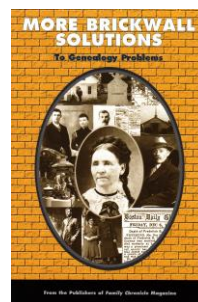
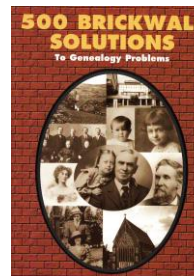
We look forward to next month with a special drawing for members only...



### Next Meeting Reminders

Member's Only Book

Draw:



It's a two-fer – two books for the draw of one!!!

These books need no explanation...Brick wall solutions. Everyone has them and everyone needs one.

Also, for the month of March, we will be having a **SPECIAL** drawing for **MEMBERS only** who are **WEARING GREEN** in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

### Travel Opportunities with MCGS

Have you ever taken your research to an on-site facility? 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/  
Sate 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, Public Education Chair, Publicity Chair and Pioneer Certificate committee member. If you are interested in being part of helping others to find their history, contact us at [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com) with Volunteer in the subject line.

## Available April 1 NO FOOLING!!!

Footprints in History” of Muskegon County, Michigan

Pages of stories seen through the eyes of its residents as told by family members and research compiled by the Society fill this 394-page book including over 400 photos of people and places of times gone by, military histories dating back to the Civil War, African American Pioneers, Slovak and Polish churches, clubs, and businesses and so much more. It is printed in soft or hard cover and will be available on Amazon.com.

Did you happen to miss the first publication, History of Muskegon County, MI, “A Proud Legacy Vol 1” published in 2009? It is still available, while supplies last at the Torrent House in Downtown Muskegon. If you are interested in BOTH books, we are offering the set at a discounted price. Just visit them at 315 W. Webster and ask for the Muskegon County

Genealogical Society Book Bundle.

\$60 hardcover set and \$50 for soft/hardcover set. The set is only available at the Torrent House.



Are you interested in a Legacy Society help workshop?

What's a Legacy Society, you might ask.

These are the societies that require proof to be a member: DAR, SAR, Mayflower society, any Pioneer Certificate program.

Watch your email for registration.

The February board meeting was a long one – to cover everything from year end through January. Some of the highlights from that meeting was an update on the History Book Project (look for it soon!!!), Board approved purchase of a Vivid-Pix system for the Torrent House (keep eyes and ears peeled as this is happening quick), planning programs for the upcoming months and a detailed discussion of the inner workings of the website. The Board is working hard to grow the Society by offering opportunities to and for the community like we have never done before. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please always feel free to reach out to one of us, either at our monthly member meeting or via email [1972mcg@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcg@gmail.com).

## MCGS Website Highlights and Additions

Our website .... CRASHED!

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

This has been an ongoing problem lately, So, our website chair, Shelly, has been diligently working to acquire a new web host and to get our website up and running AGAIN. Keep checking back to see how it's coming along.







**Western Michigan Genealogical Society**  
 is hosting **13** Webinars in March via zoom!  
 From beginning your journey to finding  
 female ancestors to adding flesh to the  
 bones of the ones you do find. Simply check  
 the [website](#) calendar for information and  
 registration.

**Library of Michigan**

March 7: The program is diving into [Female Ancestors: Finding Women in Family and Local History](#). Click to register.

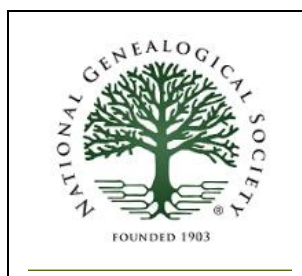
## Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

Is offering 9 **webinars** that are free for the public to join during the month of March. Several have the Irish appeal for St. Patrick's Day.

[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

Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 – 6:15 pm



[“What is this WikiTree I Keep Hearing About?”](#)

Presented by Emmaline MacBeth

Celebrating its 16th year in 2024, WikiTree is a community of members on a mission to grow one free, accessible, accurate, shared family tree that connects us all. Learn about what the site has to offer, the power of collaborative genealogy, and how you can get involved.

Emmaline MacBeath is a genetic genealogist who specializes in African American genealogy and using DNA to reconnect family. She is a Project Leader of the US Black Heritage, Adoption Angels, and African Ancestry Projects at WikiTree.

**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**

Sick of making mistakes on your family tree just to have to correct them?

Well, join the Delaware Genealogical Society in welcoming Dr. James M. Baker PhD as he gives a presentation titled:

[I Thought He Was My Ancestor: Avoiding Six Biggest Genealogy Mistakes](#)

He has presented classes and webinars to many genealogy groups, including the National Genealogical Society, Southern California Jamboree, and Legacy Family Tree Webinars.

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

## Technology Merges with Genealogy

### Land Records and Maps

I have been delving into maps lately and wanted to share with you a couple websites I have discovered on my journey.

The first one is [Randymajors.org Research Hub](http://Randymajors.org_Research_Hub). You can register for free (with ads) or pay a small monthly fee for ad-free. This site boasts the ability to “do the location work for you as you search on Ancestry & FamilySearch!”

It claims it also checks for valid places, warns of boundary changes, and links to historical county boundaries on Google Maps for the place AND the years you are searching. And it automatically checks that the county existed IN THE YEAR you are searching. Sign me up!!!!

The next one I found was [The Newberry Atlas of Historical County Boundaries](http://The_Newberry_Atlas_of_Historical_County_Boundaries). This sight is “meant to be a resource for people seeking records of past events” and is of

special interest to those “trying to analyze, interpret and display county-based historical data like returns of elections and censuses, and for people working on state and local history projects. The special interests of those potential users range from history to demography, economics, genealogy, geography, law, and politics.”

Be sure to check them out and I’ll share a couple more next month.

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



## MARCH 14, 2018

### Grand Traverse Pie Company Helps Celebrate Pi Day.

If you are a person with math tendencies you know the difference between Pi and pie, if not, read this month’s [Michigan Day By Day](http://Michigan_Day_By_Day) to learn about it and get a sweet treat!!!

Yes, they still offer it every year on March 14<sup>th</sup>!!!

## Monthly Quote

**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!!!!

# 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

Want to know what's happening in Muskegon on any given day? Click [here](#) to find something to do around town from Trivia night to free Thursdays at the Art Museum.



Photo courtesy: Livability.com

*“Doing  
the  
history,*

*eliminates  
the*

*mystery.”*

*~ Curt Witcher*

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: **THIS IS AN UPDATED LIST**

Only for the missing years that are listed below:

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 - 1965 or older, and 1985

Montague High School – all editions needed

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, 1963, 1986, 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

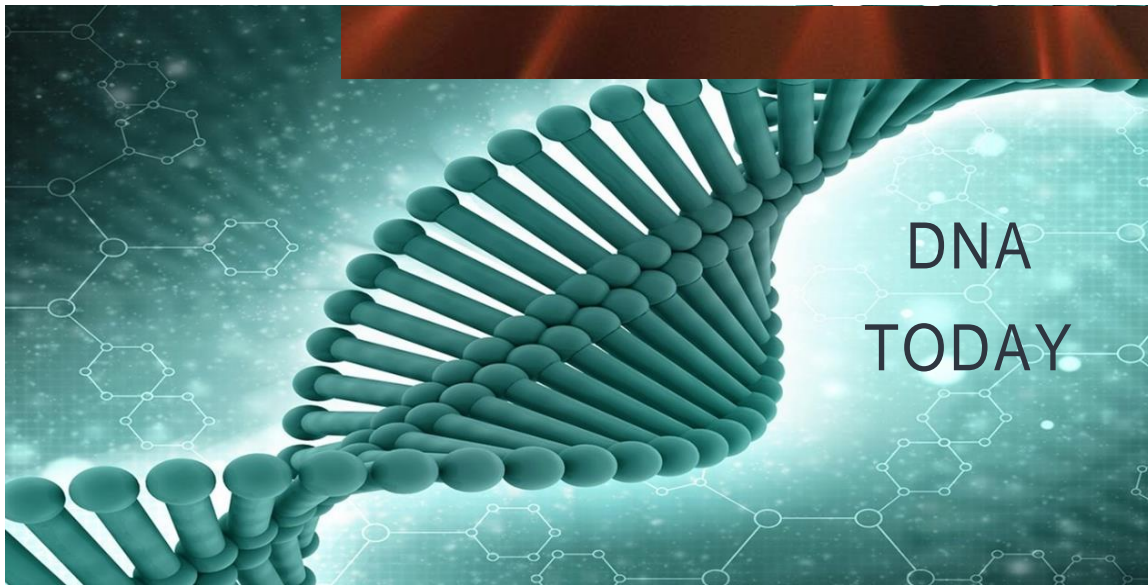
Steele Middle School - They only have 2007 thru 2012. Anything before or after that would be appreciated!

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

Our favorite DNA expert Diahna Southard is hosting an ASK THE EXPERT series for the next couple of months. For March, her expert is the one and only Crista Cowen – The Barefoot Genealogist turned Ancestry’s Corporate Genealogist. She is more knowledgeable on Ancestry.com than any one I know.

During this session you can converse with others and ask questions of Crista that you’ve been longing to know the answers to. You can

probably ask Diahna a few, too!

This session is scheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. Registration is required. **Just click the picture below** and it will take you to the sign-up page.

Did you know that these two gals teamed up with Janet Hovorka (from [FamilyChartMasters.com](http://FamilyChartMasters.com)) to present a whole class at RootsTech called “*Brick Wall Ancestors need a Search Party*”?



## DIG with the Genetic Genies

### Our interest group for DNA is underway!

There are currently 13 members, and we have a few spots left for anyone who wishes to join us. Space is limited so register early.

We have selected two regularly scheduled meeting dates:  
Saturdays after the monthly member meeting and the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 2-4 pm at Norton Library on Seminole.

The Tuesday meeting is for those unable to come or stay on Saturdays.



## Introducing MCGS’s new interest group ~ DIG

DIG stands for DNA Interest Group. We are the Genetic Genies who are coming together twice a month to collaborate and learn more in depth knowledge of how DNA can move us further back in our family trees.

THIS IS A MEMBER ONLY GROUP and you MUST PREREGISTER to join the limited space meeting.

**MCGS MEETING PLACE**

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



**Saturdays at 10:30am**

2024 Meeting Dates:

March 16

April 20

May 18

**NOTE: DATE CHANGE June 8**

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:**

- Compass Points, Mona Shores High School Yearbooks, 1966-1968; 1970; 1972-1984; 1986-2023
- The Forgotten Iron King of the Great Lakes: Eber Brock Ward, 1811-1875, by Michael W. Nagle
- Decades of Deals: 50 Years of Ads That Caught Your Ancestors Eye and Pocketbook v.1, by William P. Hansen
- How to Find Your Family History in U.S. Church Records: A Genealogist's Guide, by Sunny Jane Morton & Harold A. Henderson, CG
- Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques, by George G. Morgan & Drew Smith
- Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide, by Diana Elder, AG with Nicole Dyer
- Research Like a Pro with DNA: A Genealogist's Guide to Finding and Confirming Ancestors with DNA Evidence, by Diana Elder, Nicole Dyer, and Robin Wirthlin
- History for Genealogists: Using Chronological Timelines to Find and Understand Your Ancestors, by Judy Jacobson
- The Who's Who of Muskegon Lumber Era Pioneers v.1, compiled by William P. Hansen
- The Who's Who of Muskegon Lumber Era Pioneers v.2, compiled by William P. Hansen
- The Norseman, North Muskegon High School Yearbooks, 1962, 1964, 1974, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1998 and 1999

**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
- 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 ..... Jackie Engel
- Website..... Shelly Nelson

**MEMBERS at LARGE**

Maria Chmelarova

Thank you for allowing us to serve you!



The County Clerk's Office is limiting research to ONLY Wednesdays

TO ENSURE THERE IS STAFF AVAILABLE TO ASSIST YOU, please call ahead of your visit.

(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)