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Upcoming Programs:

APRIL 20:

“From Photo Albums and Scans to Family Stories”

Presented by:

Laura Hedgecock

On-Site Presentation

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.



Next Member Meeting

April 20

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

MAY 18:

“To Be Determined”

(The subheading of all our research!!!)



Check the website or May's TwigTalk for updates!!

President Corner

I am so ready for summer now. After recently seeing the Costa Rican rainforest, and the humidity that goes with it, I am very happy to live in Michigan. Just send me the sunshine!

Have you made your genealogy road trip plans yet for 2024? Consider joining us on April 6 with a trip to the Archives of Michigan. If nothing else, the genealogy conversation in the vehicle to and fro will make your day! Email us at 1972mcgs@gmail.com to save a seat.

April 1 is the official publication date for our 2nd book "Footprints in History". Check it out at Hackley Public Library and give us your opinion. There will be a copy available to loan out (at the main Hackley building) and also one to view at Torrent House. Much more information coming soon, so watch your email and our website for ordering information.

Still looking for some volunteers to help 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 requires quite a few hands, so volunteers are required. If we get enough volunteers, this committee will start meeting mid-2024, meeting monthly. Email us at 1972mcgs@gmail.com to volunteer.

Thank you for your support of the Society. Hope to hear from you soon!



Our Society is always accepting volunteers.

Patti Mulder has volunteered to be the Programs Chair! Welcome aboard!!!!

New Members in March:

Thomas Lack, North Muskegon, MI

SURNAMES: Lack, Mazarka (various spellings)

Barb Wehnes, Muskegon Hgts., MI

SURNAMES: Corneilson, (Cornelison) Courtice, Lamm, Wehnes, Wellen



Last Meeting Highlights

A brisk, windy morning began our March meeting. After a bit of technically difficulty (fault of the operator - I'm sure - wink wink) and lots of patience from the audience we were able to get the show on the road.

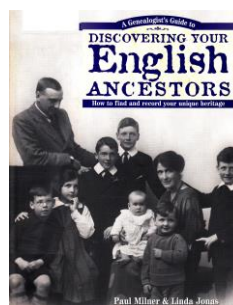
We had 28 persons in attendance with several coming from Hackley's public announcement!!! Three attendees through ZOOM. Our "two-fer" book winner was Jim Clark and we had a special St. Patrick's Day drawing for members wearing green - Karen Farmer was the winner of that!!

Member Kathy DeCormier gave a detailed presentation on photo restoration using Roxio Creator 10. She showed photos that she transformed from worn and tattered to like new conditions - the response was pure amazement! She said the key was to scan photos at a high DPI and ALWAYS back up whatever work you do, keeping digitals on several different flash drives. And to print your creations to enjoy!

Next Meeting Reminders

Member's Only Book

Draw:



There's never been a better time to begin researching your English ancestry. With today's technology, you can trace generations of your English family history without ever leaving the U.S. Even better, you have this step-by-step guide to help you get started.

Paul Milner is a native of Northern England and a professional genealogical researcher specializing in the British Isles. Linda Jonas is president of the British Isles Family History Society - USA and has been a full-time professional staff historian for the past 20 years.

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 8AM - 6PM
August 3 8AM - 6PM

Allen County Public
Library:

October 2-5



2025 - ROOTSTECH!!!!
Dates March 6-8
Watch the Twig talk to
stay up to date!!

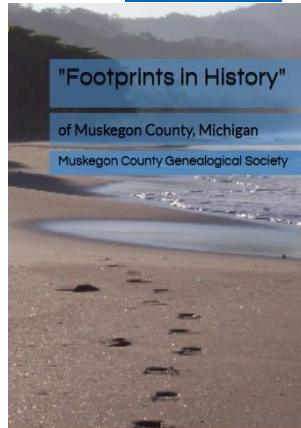
Board Updates

NEED: 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 with Volunteer in the subject line.

IT IS AVAILABLE!!!

Footprints in History” of Muskegon County, Michigan

The long awaited second publication of MCGS is now available!! It is printed in soft or hard cover and is 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 (for \$20) at the Torrent House in Downtown Muskegon.

We have a limited supply of our second book available IF you purchase both as a set. Just visit them at 315 W. Webster and ask for the Muskegon County Genealogical Society Book Bundle. The total cost is \$60 hardcover set and \$50 for soft/hardcover combo set.



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.

Monthly Board meeting in Review

The March board meeting was moved up to accommodate Karen's out of country trip (lucky lady!). The main topics of discussion was the History Book completion and public announcement, the ordering of the Vivid-Pix system, the hard work that is happening behind the scenes of the website reconfiguration, a new QR code added to the promotional flyers for ease of getting to our website and several new policies being implemented. Whew! All while growing the society to expand the knowledge of our history to those wanting to dive deeper into their Muskegon County heritage. Our Society is now at 66 members!!

MCGS Website Highlights and Additions

Our website IS UP AND RUNNING!!!!

www.genealogymuskegon.org

We are still revamping the final project and deciding what will be behind a paywall (meaning you will have to be a member of the society to access certain data bases). So far, the decision has been the Member Twig Talk, and the Military DD214s.





Western Michigan Genealogical Society is hosting **2** Webinars in April via zoom! Including court records and how to use them to enhance your research and The Art of Story Finding. Click the [website](#) calendar for information and registration.

Library of Michigan

April 4: The program is diving into [Digitizing My Family Tree: Formats, Software and Techniques](#). Click to register.

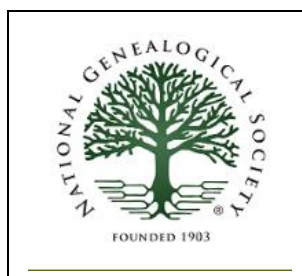
Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

Is offering **9 webinars** that are free for the public to join during the month of April. Including DNA, PERSI, Passenger lists and Tax Records.

[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 April 6th
1:00 – 2:00 pm



["Research Land Records in California"](#)

Presented by Susan Skilton

Explore the available resources for different historical time periods in California: including pre-statehood land grants, homesteads, squatter land, mining claims, records at the Bureau of Land Management, and fire insurance maps. In addition, we will examine how such records inform and enrich family history research.

Susan Skilton works as a Genealogist for Ancestry ProGenealogists in the San Francisco office of Ancestry. Susan is accredited for research in the United States Pacific States Region.

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

Are you ready for the [Barbara J. Brown Conference](#)

at the Archives of Michigan?

May 9-10th

This is both virtual and on-site with lots of free add-ons this year for on-site attendees, included in the cost - continental breakfast and lunch both days, a free virtual pre-seminar class on Probate Records, extended hours at the LOM and Archives Friday night with a Pizza supper provided.

Click the link to see the full schedule of classes and speakers. Cost is \$55.00 for the seminar.

The Archives of Michigan is excited to welcome **Ari Wilkins** as this year's featured speaker! [Ari Wilkins](#) is a genealogist who has been actively researching family history for over twenty-five years.

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

As promised – more mapping websites!

Of course you have used the [Library of Congress](#) maps site for the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, but have you ever just typed “[maps](#)” in the search bar? The search will result in 97 different map collections available, some of them have thousands of maps within the collection, ranging from Civil War to Transportation and

communication.

How about [internet Archive](#)? Simply type “Map of {your place name}” to see what comes up. Muskegon has a map from 1872 available to view.

The [David Rumsey Map Collection](#) is always a popular one. With more than 130,000 maps, you are sure to locate one that can advance your genealogy further.

Do you have ancestors in Scotland? The [National Library of Scotland](#) has many maps and features to

entice everyone’s curiosity.

An **update** from last month’s suggestion of the [Randy Majors Research Hub](#). I installed the extension on my computer then did an experiment while I was in Ancestry.com. A new box appears between the name and the place boxes. I did a search for someone in 1835 in Muskegon Michigan. It came back with **WARNING: Muskegon County did not yet exist in 1835**. Then gave me the option to view a map of 1835 Michigan counties !!!!!!!!!!!!!

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



APRIL 15, 1912

Ever wonder if Michigan had any passengers on the ill-fated Titanic?

If you would like to feed that curiosity, check out the article posted by 99.1 WFMK [“The Titanic’s Michigan Connection, 1912”](#).

Monthly Quote

*"It doesn't
matter what
story we are
telling,*

*We're
telling the
story of
family."*

*~ Erica Lorraine
Scheidt*

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!!!!

April 8 – The Muskegon Astronomical Society invites you to a “Star Party” from 1:30-4:30 pm. While waiting for the Total Solar Eclipse, they will be giving a presentation and introduce you to beginner astronomy. This is a free event, but donations are accepted. Want more details? Click [here](#). Can also find something else to do around town in the month of April as well.



Photo courtesy: Livability.com

Dive Into Muskegon

**Muskegon County
Genealogical Society
throughout our town!**

The Muskegon County Genealogical Society (headed by our President, Karen Frazier) has been partaking in a variety of learning experiences throughout the county through a working relationship with MADL. Watch here and the website for future classes being taught at a library near you!

Please help the Local History Department at the Torrent house complete their collections of Muskegon County year books. They are currently in need of the following publications:

THIS IS AN UPDATED LIST

Bluffton Elementary School - 1991 or older., and 1994, 1995, 1998-2005

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, 1977-1982, and 1984-2012

Muskegon Heights High School - 1921 or older, and 1968, 1970 - 2012.

Muskegon Junior College - They only have 1947 - 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 - 1944, 1946 - 1948, 1963, 1986, 2000, 2004 - 2007, 2011, 2012.

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

Orchard View High School - 1961 and older, 1963, 1964, 1976, 1977, 1981, 1983 - 1986, and 1988 and after.

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

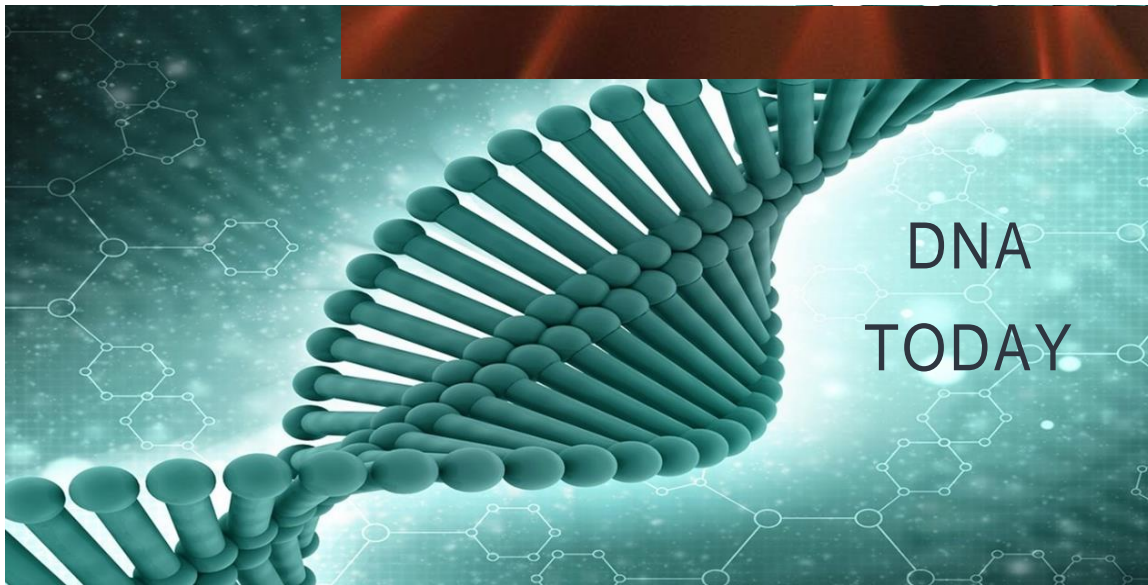
Reeths Puffer High School - 1958 and before, and 1965, 1966, 1981, 1982, 1985 thru 1990, and 1992 thru 2012

Steele Middle School – 1962 and earlier, 1965 - 2006. Anything else 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, 1989, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1999 thru 2012



DNA TODAY

RootsTech, this year, was once again filled with loads of classes to attend both in-person and virtually. DNA is always a hot topic (still being relatively new to the genealogy scene) and [Jonny Perl](#) led an introduction lecture on the DNAPainter website. There were actually [99 DNA related sessions](#) on RootsTech in 2024 alone. Did you attend any of them? This is a great way to get started if DNA has been a mystery that you have wanted to solve. Another

great way is to join the Genetic Genies to meet with like-minded individuals all helping each other with a common goal.

Allen County Public Library is also holding a virtual session on DNA (see webinar page for that link).

Don't forget about [Conference Keeper](#). Their DNA section is LOADED with both free and fee based virtual programs regarding DNA from across the country.

For those of you on the fence:

Don't let the fear of the unknown hold you back from learning new skills. DNA looks daunting and very difficult, but if you take it only a small piece at a time, learning one aspect of the whole slowly, it will come with ease and open new doors of opportunity to learning something you never knew before!

DIG with the Genetic Genies

Our interest group for DNA has gone fishing!

We are currently in the process of catching more fish!!!!

Curious as to what that means join us Saturday after the monthly member meeting or the 4th Tuesday of the month 2-4 pm at Norton Library on Seminole to find out.

Space is limited so use the link to the left to register.



MCGS's interest group ~ DIG is underway!

Our first meeting had several Genies downloading their DNA and uploading to the top genealogy DNA sites to add more "fish" to their pool of ancestors!

Remember Genies – Keep working on your homework it's going to take a while.

THIS IS A MEMBER ONLY GROUP [PREREGISTRATION](#) is recommended to ensure your spot.

MCGS MEETING PLACE

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



Saturdays at 10:30am

2024 Meeting Dates:

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:

A History of Marshall, by Richard Carver

The Oaks, Muskegon Heights High School Yearbook, 1969

Said & Done, Muskegon High School Yearbook, 2023

History of Worcester County, Massachusetts, Embracing a Comprehensive History of the County From its First Settlement to the Present Day, v. 1 & 2.

The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy, Third Edition

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MEMBERS at LARGE

Maria Chmelarova

Thank you for allowing us to serve you!



Effective April 1, 2024, The Muskegon County Clerk's Office has relocated. The new address is 1903 Marquette Ave. Across the street from the Muskegon Community College Baseball field.

Again, research is limited 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

1972mcgs@gmail.com

genealogymuskegon.org

facebook.com/MuskgonGenealogicalSociety