

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:

August 17:

“Wills, Thrills, and Chills: Digging into Probate Records”

Presented by: Kris Rzepczynski

This session will provide an overview of probate records, the different types of records created, including wills, inventories, and calendars, the family history content to be discovered, and where to find them online and onsite.



A Senior Archivist at the Archives of Michigan, where he specializes in family history and Michigan research, Kris has worked in the genealogical community for more than 23 years. He holds a Masters in Library and Information Science from Wayne State University and a Master of Arts in History from Western Michigan University.

Next Member Meeting

August 17

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

September 21:

“The Cemetery Super Sleuths”

Presented by: Cristine Bouwkamp

The Cemetery Super Sleuth presentation will explore how to identify clues that might be able to point a genealogist towards a research source. We will start with some interesting emblems, symbols and move on into harder clues like monument shapes, and even some grave lot locations that might give us some hints.



Cristine is a seasoned memorial consultant at Superior Monument & Patten Monument Company. With over two decades of experience in the industry, Cristine has demonstrated exceptional expertise in memorial design, highlighted Achievement of becoming a Certified Memorialist from Monument Builders of North America. Currently serving as the Director of Marketing and Business Development at Patten Monument Group, Cristine brings a wealth of knowledge and dedication to her role, fostering strong connections within the community and driving innovative solutions in the memorialization field. Cristine currently serves as the Chair for the MBNews, and President Elect of the Women's division of the MBNA. She is an industry writer and speaker, and volunteers as an advisor for cemetery boards.

President Corner

Hello,

Have you visited a cemetery yet this summer? Perfect weather for a road trip and wandering the grounds, looking for your extended family. In South Carolina I wandered and took over 300 photos. My dad asked, "Why are you taking pictures of so many that are not our 'Page' surname?" I told him in his convoluted family tree they are all related! You never know until you check them out.

Things in the genealogy world have been quiet recently. Our most recent project, the Vivid Pix located at Torrent House, has arrived and is ready for training. Our Board will be getting lessons on the operations and then will open it up for public use via appointments only. More news on this via our website and Facebook.

We are still looking for volunteers to help organize a major Genealogy event in Muskegon for 2025. Planning an event like this requires quite a few hands, so volunteers are required. If we get enough volunteers, this committee will start meeting monthly in August 2024. Email us at 1972mcgs@gmail.com to volunteer.

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



New Members:

Our Society is always accepting volunteers. Just ask where you could be needed...



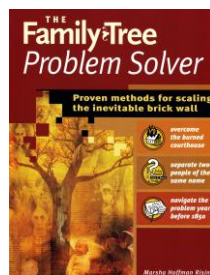
Last Meeting Highlights

A bit cooler, yet warm day greeted our members who joined us for the June meeting! This usually means attendance will be down but, we had 25 (in-person and on Zoom) members enjoy our in-person presentation by Judy Muhn in a discussion like presentation about the importance of going on-site to do research with all the tips and tricks needed for success. Some highlights of that presentation were the importance of "preplanning" – including reaching out to the facility you are visiting to find out what is allowed, hours, etc. Did you know you can ask for an assistant at most places? Another important trip – DO NOT overpack. You may want to fill your suitcase with other things besides dirty laundry. It was a very informative meeting to say the least. Amy Derby won the member book draw.

Next Meeting Reminders

Member's Only Book

Draw:



Complications arising from incomplete or missing records, census irregularities, individuals of the same name, and burned courthouses can stop the most experienced genealogists dead in their tracks. Learn to break through those brick walls with this book, which dissects researcher's common problems in case studies with straightforward solutions

Travel Opportunities with MCGS



Have you ever taken your research to an on-site facility? Well, after June's presentation, we had several people signing up for our travels...

We are going to the Michigan Archives and the Library of Michigan and the Allen County Public Library! Join the group and split the cost! Register via email 1972mcgs@gmail.com

The dates are as follows:

The Library of Michigan/ Sate Archives:

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

Several new policies were approved and being implemented at the last meeting, they include a new Charitable Donation Policy and an Incoming Donations Policy, as well as a Lifetime Member and Hall of Fame Award policy.

We also updated the policy regarding the Retention of Records the society needs to maintain.

The Board Minutes all the way back to 1971 have been scanned.

The Board has welcomed two new members, Technology Chair – Jackie Engle and Programs Director – Patti Blaszak Mulder.

See the [Monthly Board Meeting in Review](#) section for other things your Board has been keeping busy with.

We look forward to seeing you at our regular monthly meetings. If you ever have a concern, comment, question or just something you wish us to know, please do not hesitate to bring it to our attention at one of these meetings! We always look forward to hearing from you – as this is YOUR society.

1972mcgs@gmail.com



Are you interested in having a day long genealogical seminar in Muskegon?

The society would like help organizing a full day Genealogical Seminar for summer 2025

The time to start planning in NOW!!

Contact the Programs email with your intent!

Monthly Board meeting in Review

The May board meeting was held on Friday June 14, some of the highlights are:

1. Passed Several new policies (see above)
2. Board Members have started training of the Vivid-Pix Memory Station
3. Began the development of the Operations Manuals for Key Board positions
4. Continued to update the Policies and Procedures Manual
5. Website is under continuous development.
6. Our Society is now at 71 members!!

MCGS Website Highlights and Additions

www.genealogymuskegon.org

The Member's Page is now working!!

Only Members can register

Go to ABOUT US choose MEMBER, then click DON'T HAVE AN ACCOUNT

The Website Manager must activate the account.

Family Tree Periodicals will be the next updated section.





Western Michigan Genealogical Society

is hosting 0 Webinar in August!

It appears that any genealogy society around Michigan is telling everyone to get outdoors and enjoy the weather!!

Library of Michigan

August: The program is the [Virtual Rare Book Roadshow](#). Thursday, August 1 from 6:30-7:30 pm. Click to register.

Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

Is taking the month of August off.

Southern California Genealogical Society

Is telling everyone to enjoy their summer. No webinars in August.



[Genealogy on YouTube](#)

Find a wide range of Genealogy content within the scope of YouTube. One of two ways – you can easily search on Youtube the word Genealogy or you can click the link above to take you to Conference Keeper's YouTube list of contributors. There are several that I personally enjoy watching for content and learning tips and tricks on Ancestry and FamilySearch websites.



Enrich your genealogy knowledge anytime, anywhere!

The world's most popular webinar website for genealogy and DNA testing, where you can enjoy a robust offering of live and recorded webinars presented by top speakers.

Free!

There are 11 webinars available in the month of August ranging from Analyzing Deeds and Wills to Finding your Ancestor's Burial place. You [Must register](#).

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

If you really are in the need of learning opportunities in the month of August Seek out what [Conference Keeper](#) has to offer... Any day or time in a range of topics to suit your fancy.

Technology Merges with Genealogy

How many out there have been using the Geneanet.com website?? This website was featured in our October 2023 Twig Talk. Did you know they have a website that features Family Trees of famous people? Over 18,000 in which they brag of! The site is called Geneastar and you can swap in between these two sites on the main page. You can even submit a tree of someone famous (if you happen to have them in your line and they are not already available).

Another feature that I have enjoyed lately has been [the first names origin](#) section of this website. It's a unique feature where you

can explore the origin, meaning, popularity and geographical repartition of a first name. Check out your ancestor's name to see if it originated where you expected.

Geneanet also features a section for the [origin of your SURNAME](#). Again, a very fun element to add to any family story book you may be working on or a great conversation starter at family reunions. This feature also reports how many individuals on Geneanet share that last name and the geographical location of those individuals. It also enables you to see what members have that surname in their family tree.

EXPLORING THE WORLD OF PODCASTS: [Genealogy Gems](#)

Hosted by Lisa Louise Cooke, produced monthly, highlights research techniques that are accessible to genealogists of any skill level. She also scores interviews with fascinating figures such as "Who Do You Think You Are?" executive producer Dan Bucatinsky (episode 113) and Pamela Smith Hill, editor of the Laura Ingalls Wilder annotated autobiography *Pioneer Girl* (episode 183). You also get to hear from other listeners, in letters sharing their research joys and frustrations.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



AUGUST 9, 1947

“Earthquake in Michigan”

Although it is extremely rare, it's not improbable. Follow [this link](#) to learn more about the earthquake of 1947.

Check out all the websites on the World Wide Web that can aid in your search for answers!!

PSST...
Just click the links!!

Monthly Quote

*"Only a
genealogist
thinks a step
backwards
is progress"*

~ Unknown

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!!!!

I Do Have Ancestor Stories

Continued

By Jude Ruch

My Patriot isn't just one person but a family of three persons that I can choose from. Mary Shirley McGuire (b. 1762 in Virginia), her husband William McGuire (b. 1748), and their 2-year-old son Michael³. This family was seized by the British at Martin Station, Kentucky and held captive from 1780-1782 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. They were released or escaped in Montreal in the winter and on their way home they hid and slept in a cemetery. Mary had given birth while in captivity and wrapped the newborn under her clothes. Michael, the toddler, froze to death between them as his parents slept. They dug a grave as best they could and left the dead child behind. Later historical records have the McGuire family living in Tennessee.

After telling me of her discovery and the story that came with it, Pam asked, "Are you excited"? I was but I was also stunned! That family story left me with so many questions... Were they forced to walk those hundreds of miles both ways? Did they have winter clothing? With no money or food or weapons did they steal their food? How long did it take to return to their home, and how did they find their families?

So now my last grandchild, Danielle, could choose when she was 18 which patriot she wanted for DAR membership — Lorentz Ruch or a McGuire. I hope she chooses Mary Shirley McGuire. In gathering my documents, I discovered a 5th cousin, Charlie Walker in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I have met him and thanked him for his research documents. To complete my application, I am awaiting death certificates from Jefferson City, Missouri, for both my paternal grandmother Sarah Eva Lamons Davis (b. 1891), and her father Peter Jackson Lamons (b. 1852).

While on the subject of my granddaughter, Danielle, she phoned me in Feb 2021 to ask if we were related to Reuben Ruch. Her history class, during the

Dive Into Muskegon

pandemic met half as often, but twice as long and they had watched a History Channel documentary, "America: The Story of Us"⁴ in her class that day. She said, "I thought... did they just say Ruch"? Now she was even more interested in the story.



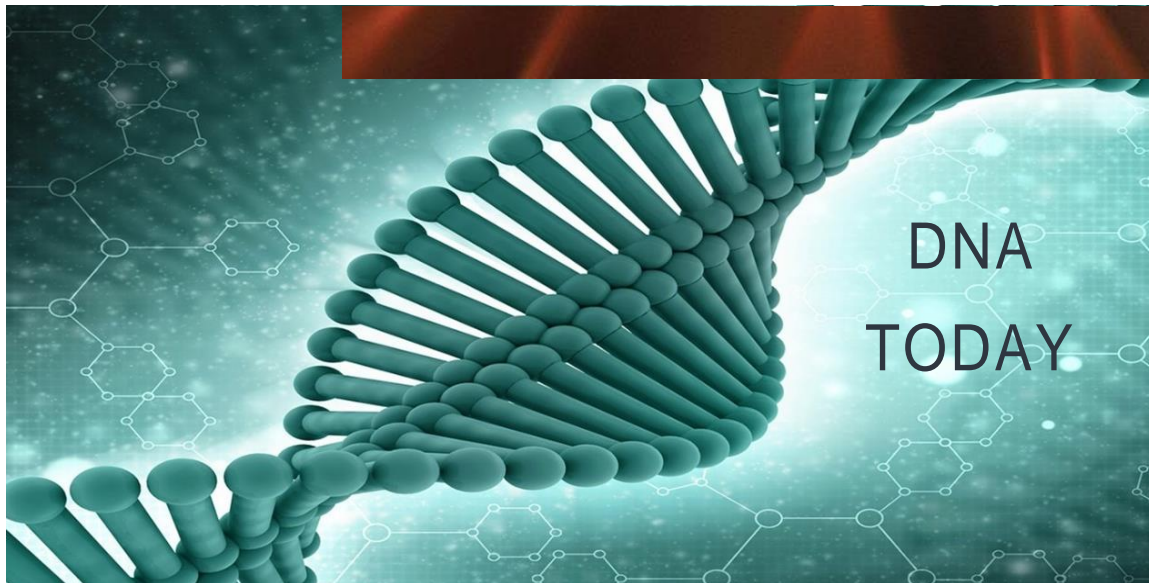
Image 2 – This historical marker in Shelby County, Tennessee commemorates the McGuire family's service and sacrifice in the American Revolution.

Conclusion in the next issue....

³ Unknown author, "The History of Mary Shirley McGuire," at Mary Shirley McGuire Chapter – Plano, Texas, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution

(<https://www.texasdar.org/chapters/MaryShirleyMcGuire/history.html>: accessed 12 April 2024), section "History."

⁴ America: The Story of Us, video (2010), The History Channel (<https://www.history.com/shows/america-the-story-of-us> : accessed 12 April 2024), television miniseries, 12 episodes.



DNA TODAY

MCGS's
interest group ~
DIG!

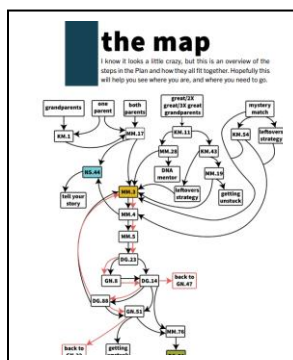
We delved deeper into GEDcom files and were able to see what one looks like (not recommended for those that don't speak "Techie"). It is basically a file in a format in which all genealogy programs can read. This allows you to create your pedigree or family tree in one program and TRANSFER it to other platforms for saving time. For DNA purposes, the tree you want to be observed by others doesn't include all the Foo Foo we like to add to our trees (pictures, clippings, etc.). We discovered that if you already have a massive tree in Ancestry,

you can simply download the GEDcom file (it doesn't include all the Foo Foo) and upload it back to Ancestry renaming it your DNA tree. It will then only contain the data on each person. Voila!!! Instant tree without having to re-enter all the information!!

We, also learned four ways to stay organized:

1. Create a DNA Research Log
2. Drawing on your Match's Pedigree (literally)
3. Using the "Notes" field on all DNA websites
4. Label your DNA matches

The Genies also were able to get a sneak peek at what "The Plan" from YourDNAGuide looks like:



It looks very daunting – but trust me – once you start “playing” with it – it all makes sense.

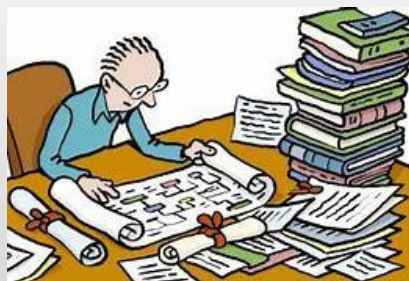
Are you aware
that staying
organized with
your DNA is just
as important as
with your
genealogy?

DIG with the Genetic Genies

Keeping your DNA organized

It pretty much has the same rules to follow as the Genealogy Workflow presentation that was in May.

- Choose a goal
- Make a plan
- Keep Research Notes updated
- Find your holes and start over.



MCGS MEETING PLACE

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



Saturdays at 10:30am

2024 Meeting Dates:

No meeting in July

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:

- Michigan's Copper Country in Early Photos, by B.E. Tyler
- 125 Years of Faith 1856-1981, St. Mary's Church
- Ontario Land Registry Office Records: A Guide, by Fawne Stratford-Devai & Ruth Burkholder
- South Carolina Censuses & Substitute Name Lists 1670-2008: With a Selection of Nationwide Censuses & Substitutes 1600-Present, by William Dollarhide
- North Carolina Censuses & Substitute Name Lists 1660-2011: With a Selection of Nationwide Censuses & Substitutes 1600-Present, by William Dollarhide
- Sto Lat: A Modern Guide to Polish Genealogy, by Cecile Wendt Jensen
- The Mattson Family, by Tracy Caughey Damm
- The Curtis Family, by Tracy Caughey Damm
- The Caughey Family, by Tracy Caughey Damm
- The Fowler Family; The Berry Family; The Cassel Family; The Byers Family; The Johnson Family; The Vinke Family; The Kinsman Family; The Towle Family, by Tracy Caughey Damm
- Torch, Western Michigan Christian High School Yearbook, 1967

OFFICERS

- President Karen Page Frazier
Presidentmcgs72@gmail.com
- Vice President Dawn Westcomb Kelley
VPmcgs72@gmail.com
- Secretary Tom Shepherd
- Treasurer Jennifer Lamkin
- Past President Jane Appleton Schapka

DELEGATE

Gail Taggart:
Michigan Genealogical Council
National Genealogical Societies

COMMITTEES

- Database.....Pam Schaner
- Facebook Norm Dagen
- Membership Dawn Westcomb Kelley
Membershipmcgs1972@gmail.com
- Newsletter Editor Jennifer Lamkin
Twigtalk1972@gmail.com
- Pioneer Program Jane Appleton Schapka
- Programs Patti Blaszk Mulder
Programsmcgs72@gmail.com
- Public Education **OPEN**
- Publicity **OPEN**
- Research..... Fran Harrington
Researchmcgs72@gmail.com
- Technology Jackie Engel
- Website..... Shelly Nelson

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