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Upcoming Programs:

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.

Next Member Meeting

September 21

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

October 19:

“Meet my Ancestor”

Presented by: Members of MCGS

Do you have an ancestor you would like to talk about? An interesting story? A black sheep of the family? A recent awesome find? October is your month to Show and Tell! Just email us back with your topic name and we will add you to our meeting presentation.

This was an awesome presentation last year we are looking forward to continuing for this year. Please notify us by September 30 if you wish to participate. We can help you with multimedia needs, if any.

Meeting Date: Saturday, October 19, 10:30am



President Corner

Hello,

Our Society and Board take much of July off as a hiatus – must enjoy the Michigan summer while it's nice. It can be a bit difficult trying to re-engage with genealogy, especially trying to remember where you left off! Remember the times, due to life's circumstances, it was 6 months or even years between genealogy research sessions, only to get back and not have a clue where you left off? This is when those research notes come in handy, so plan ahead and write it down!

Our most recent project, the Vivid Pix located at Torrent House, is up and running and open for public training and use via appointments only. Please contact the Torrent House to get registered. More news on this via our website and Facebook.

Our Society is again volunteering at the County Clerk's office every Wednesday between 1pm and 4pm. The County Clerk moved and has been settling in their new location. Their new address is: 1903 Marquette Ave. Suite A104, Muskegon, MI 49442.

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



Do you want more out of your Society?
Are you thinking there is something that could be missing?

Fresh ideas help keep MCGS interesting and appealing to new people. Our volunteers have a “get to” attitude. We “get to” make this Society the best it can be, and we are always accepting volunteers. Just ask where you could “get to” help.

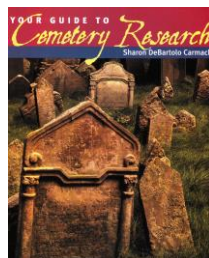
New Members: none reported in July/August

Last Meeting Highlights

Our guest speaker traveled from Lansing's State Archives to give us a very informative presentation of probate records. Kris Rzepczynski filled the room with inquisitive patrons eager to learn about the Wills, Thrills and Chills that can be obtained through probate records. His famous words for most of the challenging questions by the audience was “it's complicated” – which means there is multiple explanations or lack thereof. He gave several case studies to teach us tips and “don't forgets” when it came to searching databases. He even walked us through the steps of a successful search on Family Search's website. The room was filled with 26 members and 4 guests on one of the coolest days of August. The book draw winner was Maria Payne.

Next Meeting Reminders

Member's Only Book Draw:



Sharon DeBartolo Carmack illuminates the fascinating practice of cemetery research, from determining an ancestor's final resting place to decoding mysterious headstone symbols. You'll learn how cemeteries can help fill the holes of your precious family history.

Members only and must be present to win.

Travel Opportunities with MCGS

The year is two-thirds over and we only have one more research trip left this year – to the **Allen County Public Library!** Don't wait to join the group and split the cost! Register via email 1972mcgs@gmail.com

The dates are as follows:

October 2-5

We are still looking ahead to 2025 for ROOTSTECH!!!!

March 6-8

Watch the Twig Talk to stay up to date or don't wait and sign up! We are looking to share a rented vehicle and splitting the cost of a condo. Flights are a per individual basis and on your own, as we plan to meet up in Utah!



Board Updates

The President's message stated that the board took a very well-deserved hiatus for the month of July, but back in full swing for August. The summer months are a bit slower, especially coming back from a break.

Board Updates:

Vivid Pix Memory Station – ready for public use, requires an appointment via Torrent House.

Book 2 Footprints in History – publicity continues. Postcard mass mailing completed.

Website Member Section – now working. Remember to request your access via the website.

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



This is our last call to anyone who would like to help organize a day long genealogical seminar in Muskegon.

If this is something you would like to see happen in our town – speak up as time is slipping away to have enough time to plan for summer 2025

Contact the Programs email

Monthly Board meeting in Review

The August's board meeting was held on Friday August 9, highlights are:

Review and cleanup of Sale items and Sale Brochure, including inventory of current supplies.

MCGS Website Highlights and Additions

www.genealogymuskegon.org

The Member's Page is now working ... again.

Only Members can register

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

The Website Manager must activate the account.





Western Michigan Genealogical Society

is hosting Jessica Trotter on Saturday

September 7 (1:30 – 3:30)!

This seminar is on-site only. Click [here](#) to find out more information.

Library of Michigan

September: The program is

[Michigan Carnegie Libraries](#).

Thursday, September 5 at 6:30 PM.

Click the title to register.

Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

ACPL is offering 7 [virtual programs](#) for September.

Including “How to be a good ancestor”.

Click to register.

Southern California Genealogical Society

Saturday, Sept 7 1-2 PM

[“Daughters of the King to Mothers of a Nation”](#)

The Filles du Roi (King’s daughters) were around 800 young women brought to New France by the king to help with the population. They succeeded as the population of New France doubled in a decade. An estimated 2/3 of French Canadians are related to one of these daughters, and many Americans, including Hillary Clinton, Madonna, and Angelina Jolie. Lianne shares their history with other smaller groups, such as the filles a marier, that the French Sun King, Louis XIV, and Jean Talon brought to New France. Along with their history and their children’s history, Lianne reveals why they are so unique, what they all did to survive, and the problems and hardships they endured. Lianne discloses where the records and projects are available online to help you determine if you are a descendant of these wonderful daughters of the king.

Eaton County Genealogical Society

is hosting a **FREE** Symposium!!

Saturday, September 28

9:30 – 3:30

In person or virtual

[Symposium Registration](#)

Speakers:

Jessica Trotter - Britain to Canada to Michigan

Lori Fox - Newspapers Have A Lot to Tell

Katherine Wilson - 40+ Sources for Finding Maiden Names
75+ Free Resources for Filling Out Your Family Tree



Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan

Is hosting their 46th Annual Genealogy Seminar

Saturday, October 19

9:00 – 2:30

Virtual or In Person

Topics include:

- Building Your Eastern European Ancestral Village
- Discover Your Immigrant Origins
- How to Engage Family in Genealogy Research

[Must register](#)

Cost is \$30 virtual
\$65 in person

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



Technology Merges with Genealogy

Family Tree Magazine offers insight into many helpful websites via their weekly emails. One such email I received was titled "[75 Best State Genealogy Website of 2024](#)". The description is simple: "Take the time to explore every one of these websites that covers a state (or territory) where your ancestor lived".

I have delved into some of these websites and have found some very interesting things. For example, for Michigan: the Michigan Biographical Index contained many of my ancestors. What I liked best about this is the ease of searching for someone. The site states:

"This is a cumulative full-name index merging more than one thousand Michigan publications and manuscripts."

Another website that made the list was our own State Archives website [Michiganology](#). This website is helpful when searching anything from the state archives including death certificates. Always remember the staff at the archives are extremely helpful and always willing to give aid.

EXPLORING THE WORLD OF PODCASTS: [Ancestral Findings](#)

Don't have time for a 30-minute podcast? Then check out Genealogy Gold's "bite-sized" five- to ten-minute episodes, which are produced on a weekly basis. Host Will MoneyMaker created [the Ancestral Findings website](#) more than 20 years ago to help others with their family history research, and launched the genealogy podcast about five years ago.



THIS DAY IN HISTORY



SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

"World's Largest Ice Cream Sundae"

Find out where in Michigan this World Record was set and read about what creamery won and who they beat out for the title by following [this link](#).

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

"Finding the path our ancestors walked is not always easy, but the rewards of the journey make the effort worthwhile"

*~ Jayne McGarvey
Genealogy*

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

Conclusion

By Jude Ruch

I immediately began researching Reuben Ruch (b. 1844)⁵ and discovered that he was wounded in the knee during the Battle of Gettysburg in the Civil War.⁶ And yes, Reuben (see Image 3) was the grandson of Brigadier General Peter Ruch, who was the son of Lorentz Ruch,⁷ our family patriot. So, using a family chart, Danielle went to school the next day and told her teacher that Reuben Ruch was her 1st cousin 5 times removed.

So, yes, I do have "stories," and my children and my grandchildren have "stories". Researching proved they were all true stories.



Image 3: Reuben Ruch

⁵ "Pennsylvania, U.S., Death Certificates, 1906-1967," database with images, Ancestry (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/5164/images/41381_620305176_0848-00329 : accessed 12 April 2024), certificate image, Ruben F. Ruch, 30 January 1921, no. 8802; citing Records of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, image #329 of 3191.

⁶ Find A Grave, database with images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/141323733/reuben-ruch> : 12 April 2024), "Reuben Ruch" (14 May 1844 – 29 Jan 1921), memorial created by "Peggy Spengler-Moser," images included; burial details unknown.

Dive Into Muskegon

⁷ Daughters of the American Revolution (Indiana), A Roster of Revolutionary Ancestors of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution, Vol. I, imaged, Ancestry (https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/29740/images/dvm_LocHist013467-00283-1 : accessed 12 April 2024) image #557 of 1125; citing A Roster of Revolutionary Ancestors of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution: commemoration of the United States of America bicentennial, July 4, 1976, Evansville, Indiana.

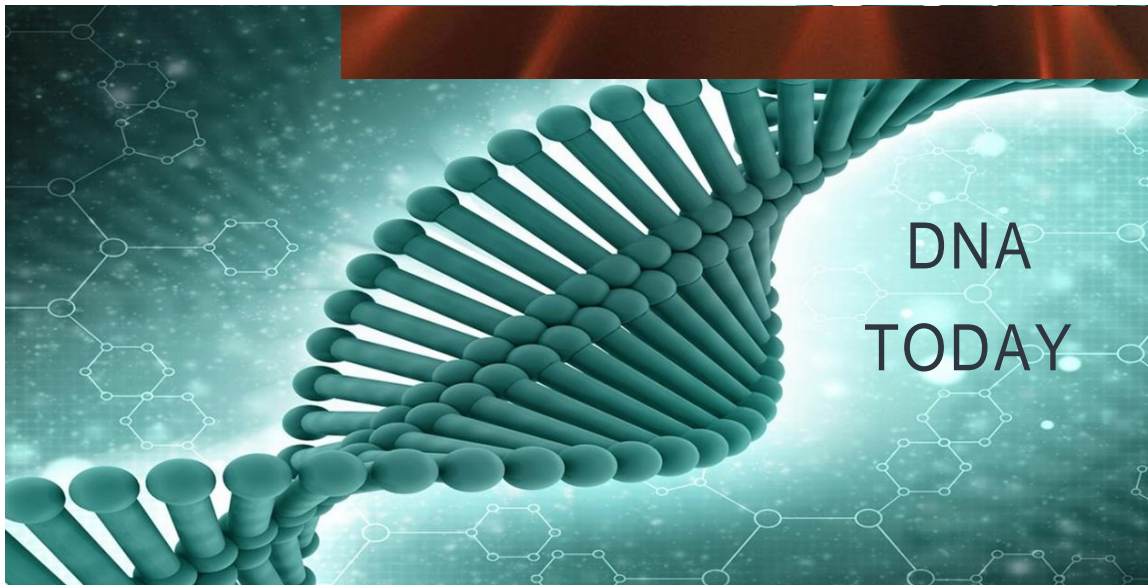
Editor's Note: Based on her research, the author, and her family members (the author herself, her husband, son, daughters, and grandchildren) are now DAR and SAR members. Their applications proved direct lineal descent from Pvt. Lorenz Ruch, William McGuire, and Mary Shirley McGuire.

Okay, so this really isn't "Muskegon" per say...But we thought it was great information for our community to acknowledge and celebrate! So, we are sharing the invite with EVERYONE:



It's our 175th birthday (can anyone tell me the official name of this celebration??) and we're throwing a party! Join us **Thursday, September 19, from 5 to 8 PM** as we transform the library parking lot into a **BirthDay Block Party**. Bring your lawn chairs, enjoy live music, play lawn games, and hang out with us. We'll have free giveaways, food for purchase, and the Friends of Spring Lake District Library will host a book sale to support future programming. Don't miss this fun evening with your neighbors!

By the way it's called demisemiseptcentennial!



DNA TODAY

**MCGS's
interest group ~
DIG!**

Do you know how to use Match Blocks when it comes to determining a relationship with a DNA match?

You are aware that the more centimorgans (cM) you share with someone – the more closely related they are to you, right? Well, did you know that a range of cM can actually represent a wide variety of genealogical relationships. For example, if you share 800 cM with someone, that person can be a 1st cousin, a half niece/nephew, a great niece/nephew, half aunt/uncle or even a great aunt/uncle. Whew!!! The mystery is figuring out

which relationship they are. One key tip to remember when this multi-relationship mystery occurs is to take in account the age of the other person. This will make it easier to rule out some relationships. To continue with the example; say that person is 75 years old and you are only in your 50s, it is highly unlikely that person will fit the category of either niece/nephew group, so those can be ruled out. Take DNA investigation one chunk at a time and things will eventually work themselves out.

News in the DNA world:

FamilyTreeDNA and MyHeritage DNA are collaborating. Connie Knox from GenealogyTV has a wonderful interview with Katie Rowe-Schurwanz, the Product Manager of FamilyTreeDNA, to help better explain this. Enjoy the interview by clicking the picture below.



Do you know who your cousins are??

DNA can help determine the cousin relationship to help fill in your family tree.

DIG with the Genetic Genies

Is Your Cousin Really Your "Cousin"?

Do you know the difference of all the cousin's relationships? Our Genies learned last month that there is in fact a huge difference and those 1^{sts} Cousins Once Removed and 3rd cousins vs. half cousins. It all has to do with where they are in your genealogy tree. And sometimes the only way to tell is by looking at someone's age!



MCGS MEETING PLACE

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



Saturdays at 10:30am

2024 Meeting Dates:

September 21

October 19

November 16
Annual Meeting

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:

- The Who's Who of Muskegon Lumber Era Pioneers Addendum 2024, by William P. Hansen
- Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 1923-1924 (Donated by Matt Burns)
- Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 1925-1926 (Donated by Matt Burns)
- Index of Vital Statistics from the Muskegon Chronicle 2023 (Donated by Matt Burns)
- Spotlight, Ravenna High School Yearbook 1979
- Progressive Years: Madison County, Montana 1920-1950 v.2

OFFICERS

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- Website..... Shelly Nelson

MEMBERS at LARGE

Maria Chmellarova

Thank you for allowing us to serve you!

~



The Muskegon County Clerk's Office is fully functioning in their new location at 1903 Marquette Ave. Across the street from the Muskegon Community College Baseball field. **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
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