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## Upcoming Programs:

### October 19:

#### "Meet my Ancestor"

Presented by: Members of MCGS

Celebrating Family History Month with "Meet My Ancestor!" Presented to you by members of MCGS. That's right, you read that correctly, the members of MCGS will be introducing you to one of their favorite ancestors. So, come and join us for a morning of celebrating our vastly diverse heritage. Presentations will be given in a variety of formats, so be prepared to step back in time to eras long gone but not forgotten.

- William Hansen - Photo Project of Muskegon County
- Patrick Moriarty - King Ancestors and Aviation
- Jackie Engel - Belle Park and her father-in-law John M. Park Sr., Civil War Veteran
- Jim Wangerin - DNA results
- Karen Frazier - A House History



## Next Member Meeting

October 19

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

### November 16:

#### MCGS Annual Meeting

Join us in reviewing and celebrating the year 2024. The MCGS Annual Meeting will include:

- Nibbles and Eats!!
- 2024 Society Accomplishments
- Volunteer Appreciation
- Nominations and Election of 2025 Officers
- 2024 Treasurer's Report (YTD and estimated year end results)
- 2025 Budget Review
- Member Gifts! Must be present to win - onsite or via Zoom!



## President Corner

Hello,

Is Fall really here?! It has been a great summer, but my husband and I are ready for cooler temperatures. He is because he already has hunting fever. I am because Fall is the best time of year for Genealogy Road Trips!

The Board of Directors is just starting our Budget process for 2025. If you have any wants or ideas for next year, please email us at [1972mcgs@gmail.com](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com). We need your input to ensure we meet YOUR needs.

The Program "Meet My Ancestors" on October 19 is going to be special. We have five members going to each present their own unique genealogy story. Hope to see everyone there, either onsite or via Zoom.

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



Do you want to help but don't have a lot of time to spare?  
Are you thinking the only projects are large time-consuming ones that you do not want to dedicate yourself to?

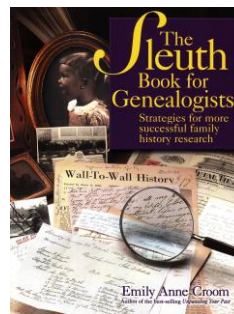
Well, that is NOT TRUE!!! We have lots of projects you can help with, even if it's only an hour. Simply inquire as to what we have available and the amount of time you would like to give. Our volunteers are always greatly appreciated.

### Last Meeting Highlights

A beautiful fall day greeted our nearly standing room only September Member Meeting (34 attending). Our in-house speaker was our very own Cristine Bouwkamp who is a Certified Memorialist who has the pleasure of working with the public at Superior Monument. She taught us how to be a Cemetery Super Sleuth. She told us the importance of "The Search" – to "look past what you first see"; look deeper into the meaning behind the memorial/marker. It could open new doors of information that you never knew were available. She stressed to "not always look for facts" and "don't limit yourself to just finding existence – actually TELL A STORY!" Then, she pointed us in the direction of what some of the symbols on memorial stones could mean. Great presentation Cristine – thank you for sharing your knowledge. Marie Payne was the book draw winner!!! Congrats!

### Next Meeting Reminders

Member's Only Book Draw:



As a genealogist, you need to be both a researcher and a detective. Like every clever sleuth, you're hot on the trail, hunting down your ancestors. But what do you do when the trail goes cold in the records you've been researching? Just follow the footsteps of expert genealogist Emily Croon. In this book, she presents a unique down-to-earth look at genealogical research, employing the savvy experience of world-famous literary sleuths such as Sherlock Holmes and Miss Marple.

Members only and must be present to win.

### Travel Opportunities with MCGS

Our trip to **Allen County Public Library** is considered FULL!! YAY!! Our group of five will be traveling

October 2-5  
See next month for any interesting finds!!!

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

March 6-8

There is still room for this trip. Air fare is on your own, but we already have a suite reserved. We look forward to planning this amazing adventure!



Looking into 2025:

**Library of Michigan/Archives**  
April 5  
August 2

**ACPL**  
October 1-4

# Board Updates

## Adopted Policies:

Lifetime Member/Hall of Fame Award

Charitable Donation Policy

Updated: Policies and Procedures Manual

- Added new position P&P to the manual.

## In Progress:

Officer Nomination Process begins

2025 Budget Process begins

2025 Development of Public Education opportunities

Website development continues. Members Only section growing slowly.

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](mailto:1972mcgs@gmail.com)



It's that time of year once again...

Membership renewal

Just a reminder that if you renew by December 31 (cash or check only) you can save \$5.00 off the cost.

Membership for 2025 is only \$20.00 UNTIL December 31<sup>st</sup>

## Monthly Board meeting in Review

The September meeting was extremely busy as the Board closed the discussion of several new policies that have been in the making this year. We are proud to announce a Lifetime Member/ Hall of Fame Award policy, and a Charitable Donations policy for outgoing Society donations. These have both been approved unanimously by the board!

## MCGS Website Highlights and Additions

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

The Member's Page is slowly 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. Please let us know if there are any problems you face with the website.





**Western Michigan Genealogical Society**  
is NOT hosting any virtual events during the  
month of October.

**Library of Michigan**

The program is  
[MyHeritage Library Edition for Power Users](#).

Thursday, October 3 at 6:30 PM.

Click the title to register.

# Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

ACPL is offering 16 [virtual programs](#) for October.  
Including a regular weekly  
class on Wednesdays.

Register within each class.

## Southern California Genealogical Society

Saturday, October 12  
9 AM – 4 PM

[“Genealogy Jam”](#)

**Discovering Our  
Southwest Heritage**

Topics include:

[American Southwest  
Research in Federal Records](#)  
by [Sara Cochran](#)

[Expanding Your Research of  
California Ancestors](#) by [Lisa  
Medina](#)

[VIDEO: FamilySearch Full  
Text Search](#), by [Robert  
Raymond](#) Sponsor:  
[FamilySearch](#)

[Hispanic Research in pre-  
1850 California](#) by [Debbie  
Gurtler, AG](#)

[Land Records in the  
Southwest US](#) by [Jamie Lee  
McManus Mayhew, PLCGS](#)

[The Ship Brooklyn and the  
Settling of San Francisco  
Bay](#) by [Peggy Clemens  
Lauritzen, AG®, FOGS](#)

This is a fee-based seminar  
click the link above to  
register

## Michigan Genealogical Council

Saturday, November 16  
9 AM – 4 PM

[Fall Family History Event](#)

The Michigan Genealogical  
Council, with our partners the  
Archives of Michigan and the  
Library of Michigan, proudly  
present Angie Bush for a one-  
day seminar, in-person in  
Lansing or online with Zoom  
Webinars.

Topics include:

- Is DNA the Tool for You? with **Angie Bush**
- Navigating the 1890 Gap: Research with State Census Records with **Kris Rzepczynski, Archives of Michigan**
- The Best DNA Tools with **Angie Bush**
- Michigan Legal Research with **Eric Kennedy, Library of Michigan**
- Practical Applications and Case Studies with **Angie Bush**



## Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan

Is hosting their 46<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Genealogy  
Seminar

Saturday, October 19  
9:00 – 2:30  
Virtual or In Person

Topics include:

- Building Your Eastern European Ancestral Village
- 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

AI (Artificial Intelligence) is making its debut in the genealogy world. Let's start off by saying, because of AI the 1950 census was made public and searchable in a record four months!!

I recently listened to an interview with Thomas MacEntee explaining exactly what AI was and its benefits and conflicts within the genealogical community.

He stated that AI was basically a computer-based system that can mimic human intelligence – and the goal is to have it perform human tasks. One of the largest platforms of AI is called ChatGPT.

Thomas stated that there are two types of features of

AI. This first being “deep learning”. This mimics the human brain, looking for patterns using vast amounts of information to interpret photos, audio and text. The second is “generative AI”. This is when new content (photos, audio or text) is generated based on information the user provides. It uses its own database of training data to understand patterns and generate output that matches the user’s query.

AI looks like it will be here to stay and next month I will be sharing where in the world of genealogy AI is being used, followed by the benefits and conflicts of using it.

### EXPLORING THE WORLD OF PODCASTS: [Muskegon History and Beyond with the Lakeshore Museum Center](#)

Recently discovered an awesome local podcast, produced by our own Lakeshore Museum Center. They are “a short podcast exploring the people, places, and events that shaped Muskegon, Michigan and beyond”.

Produced bi-monthly.



## THIS DAY IN HISTORY



### OCTOBER 7, 1941

#### “Worst train wreck”

Find out where in Michigan this train wreck happened and the effects of it by following [this link](#).

## City of the Dead Muskegon

Celebrating 15 years with this year's production

Saturday, October 12  
5:00-8:00 PM

Sunday, October 13  
2:00-04:00 PM

Evergreen Cemetery.

Tickets for the historical walking tour can be purchased at the gate for \$7.50  
kids under 12 are free.

Dress for the weather, which could mean hats, gloves, parkas and warm boots!

Tours last approximately an hour.

This year you will meet citizens from Muskegon's past, including some famous and not-so-famous surnames: Smith, Lunsford, Tillotson, Pingree, Pfenning, Salter, Lee, Mann, Montgomery, Hackley, Moon, Peck-Sanford and DeLong.

Follow on Facebook and [YouTube](#).

## Monthly Quote

*“There’s a  
fine line  
between a  
packrat and  
a serious  
family  
historian*

*~ 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](mailto:twigtalk1972@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and you can become a published author!!!!

### SOMETIMES, YOU JUST GOTTA LOVE GOOGLE

Contributed by Fran Harrington

I got a research request in from a man named Hans. The request came all the way from Sweden. He was looking for information on his grandmother’s aunt Louisa, who was living in Muskegon in the late 1880-1941. He gave a lot of pertinent information on his request form which made it quite easy to find most of what he was looking for. Louisa had 3 children, Edwin, Anna Louise, and Charles. I sent him the information I found on each of them. Since I didn’t know how it would work getting money from Sweden, instead of charging him the going rate, I let him know he could make a donation to the Society, if he wanted. A couple weeks later, we got a donation from him for \$100 (US)! He emailed me and asked if I might help him find a “living relative” of Louisa’s. He had family history and pictures he wanted to share with her descendants. Since he’d been so generous, I told him I’d give it a shot, not really expecting to find anything. After all, I was used to looking for dead people, not live ones. It turns out that Louisa’s daughter Anna died shortly after marrying Henry G. in Spring Lake, MI. They had a daughter, Dorothy G, who married Harold W. The couple had a son, William. William married JoAnn C. After that, I was able to find William’s obituary by doing a google search, and thank goodness, it named his children. One of his married children was named Kristine B. After a couple more google searches, I was actually able to find not only her mailing address, but her email address too. I emailed her and explained the situation and that I was hoping she might be interested in the pictures and information that Hans had. Within an hour, I got a reply. She was so

## Dive Into Muskegon

excited! She said she was definitely interested. It turns out that she does genealogy and was currently researching that line of her family. Who’d of thought I’d actually find someone who was doing genealogy! I gave her Hans’ email, and gave him hers, so they could contact each other. I was happy that I could help Hans with his request, Hans was happy he found a family member he could share his findings/pictures with, and Kristine was happy to be receiving information she would never find online. Sometimes, you just gotta love Google!

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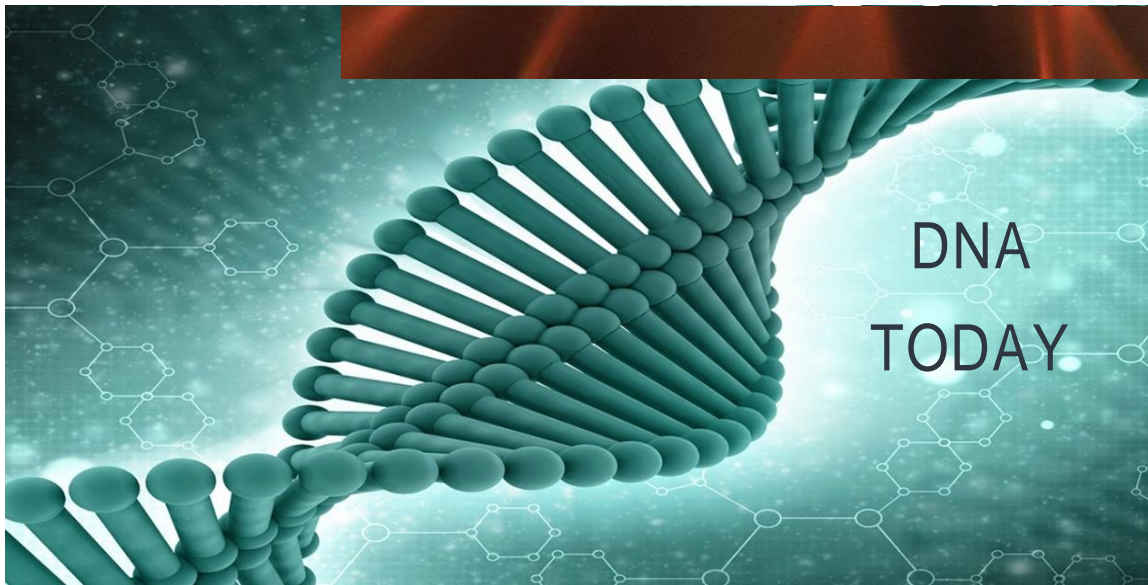
A close by seminar that we thought might interest some of you:

### Coopersville Area District Library

**Thurs., Oct. 3  
6:30**

“How To Do Comprehensive Genealogy Research”

Jeanette Weiden, Head of Local History and Genealogy at the Loutit Library in Grand Haven will be giving this presentation. Even for those experienced in doing their own genealogy, this program can offer valuable insights and information



# DNA TODAY

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

Do you 'know' the true branches of your family tree or is it full of confirmation bias? Do you believe you know the truth based solely on the stories told to you from past generations or do you have the scientific research to back it up?

Here is where our Genetic Genies realized the true importance of DNA. Learning that remaining unbiased in the search and to depend solely on the scientific data opens more doors to fill in the gaps of our trees. We learned that there are four basic concepts of genetic genealogy:

- Best Known

Matches (BKM  
- Best Mystery Matches (BMM)

- Genetic Networks
  - Genealogy Research
- We then were taught how our BMM was going to become our BFF.

Our Genies are now about to embark on their own journeys of discovering their true family trees – using this newfound knowledge of shared matches, and genetic networking, their family trees are about to come into full bloom!

Does this still confuse you, yet you are still interested in learning more? Watch for another start up session next year.

### News in the DNA world:

A FREE DNA analysis website?? REALLY?? Have you checked out [GEDmatch.com](http://GEDmatch.com)? This is a \*FREE website that will help analyze your DNA. It boasts it “provides more applications for comparing your DNA test results with the most people worldwide”. The \*FREE tools include One-to-Many DNA comparison, One-to-One DNA comparison, and Admixture (heritage).

\*There are several tools that can be accessed at different tier costs.

Our final lesson was completed and the work of identifying those mystery matches is about to begin.

Using the Shared matches tool will make this task possible!

## DIG with the Genetic Genies

### When was the last time you were on a first date?

Some of us might not even remember. Well, this is the way we are supposed to “talk” to our DNA matches when we reach out to them for the first time. Let me refresh you:

1. Address them by their USER name
2. DON'T talk about yourself too much
3. Ask simple, direct questions
4. Give an “easy action item” (Just let me know you received this even if you are unable to answer the questions”)

Remember – the goal is to get them to RESPOND



MCGS MEETING PLACE

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



**Saturdays at 10:30am**

2024 Meeting Dates:

October 19

November 16  
Annual Meeting

December  
NO 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:**

Must have been a quiet month. There were no new books reported for the month of September.

Visit the Torrent House to get started on digitizing all those family photos!!! Call ahead to schedule an appointment!!

**OFFICERS**

- President ..... Karen Page Frazier  
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- Vice President ..... Dawn Westcomb Kelley  
[VPmcgs72@gmail.com](mailto:VPmcgs72@gmail.com)
- Secretary ..... Tom Shepherd
- Treasurer ..... Jennifer Lamkin
- Past President ..... Jane Appleton Schapka

**DELEGATE**

- Gail Taggart:  
Michigan Genealogical Council  
National Genealogical Societies

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- Facebook ..... Norm Dagen
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- Website..... Shelly Nelson

**MEMBERS at LARGE**

Maria Chmelarova

***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**  
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Local History & Genealogy Department  
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