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Upcoming Programs:

January 18:

What's the deal with Evernote?

Presented by Karen Frazier

Do you wonder about all the talk in the genealogy community regarding note taking and organization applications? Cloud storage? Well, Karen is going to introduce us to *Evernote*, a note-taking and archiving application used for genealogical research and organization. *Evernote* keeps all your devices in sync, so files are available wherever you are researching. It remembers your favorite things including text notes, web clippings, photos, audio, and video files. This session will review the how-to's of *Evernote* with both basic and some advanced information.

Karen Frazier is president of the Muskegon County Genealogical Society 2 years running. She has presented several classes to the society including "Technology and Genealogy" and "How to organize your digital genealogy".

Next Member Meeting

January 18

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

February 15:

Muskegon History

Presented by Kirk Bunke from the Lakeshore Museum

Stay Tuned!
More Details Coming Soon...

President Corner

Hello,

Welcome to the new year! Have you made your Genealogy New Year's resolutions? Sign up for a MCGS workshop during the year? Or commit to a MCGS Road Trip to Lansing or Ft. Wayne?

We hope to help you on your genealogy journey, so don't be afraid to reach out.

We have some good goals for 2025, including some new indexing projects. Don't we all like to find an ancestor's name on some list? Hopefully our projects will give you some new information you did not have before. And with ongoing improvements to our website, members will be able to access all our new databases. Stay tuned for more updates on this.

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

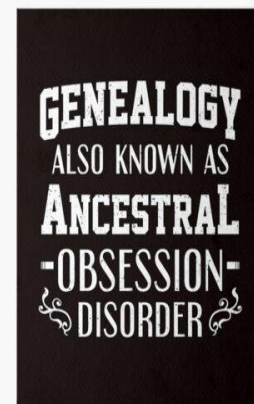


Welcome new members:

Mary Harmon (Carollton Texas)

Kathleen (Ralya) Dilts (Muskegon, MI)

Surnames: Ralya and Parker



Last Meeting Highlights

Twenty-one members and one guest enjoyed a light continental breakfast as the business of 2024 was summarized in our Annual Meeting.

Our Society ended the year with 73 members.

Our assets (as of November) were \$24,269.61.

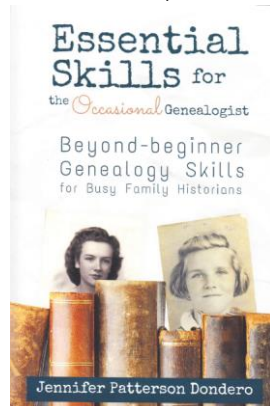
The members voted on the Nominations Committee's recommendation of the Board for 2025. It was unanimous to keep it as it is.

The 2025 Programs for the member meetings are all scheduled.

There are currently three different interest groups taking place in 2025. We are hoping you will find interest in one of them (but remember space is limited – so register early to ensure a spot!)

Next Meeting Reminders

Member only book draw:



Have you enjoyed researching your family history only to find you're stuck?

Never enough time to get your tree growing again? Congratulations, you're an Occasional Genealogist! To get your research to flourish, you'll need some essential skills.

Jennifer Patterson Dondero lays out the steps any genealogist can take to do great genealogy, despite the interruptions. Stop wasting time and energy trying to figure this out yourself. Everything you need is inside *Essential Skills*.

Travel Opportunities with MCGS

The deadline is fast approaching for anyone who wishes to join the trip to Rootstech. Please email Karen Frazier presidentmcs72@gmail.com with intent to join by January 31, 2025

March 6-8
ROOTSTECH 2025



Library of Michigan/Archives

April 5
August 2

ACPL

October 1-4

More details on these as the date approaches.

Board Updates

The Nominations Committee brought their recommendation to the Annual meeting that the current officers remain in position for the 2025 business year and the members voted unanimously to keep the current board in their positions. We also welcomed Gary Versalle to the Board as a Member at Large and Maria Chmelarova has stepped into the Public

Education Chair position. THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!!!!

In Progress:

Diligently cleaning out the Torrent House of old unneeded information and duplicated records to make room for new projects.

2025 Development of Public Education opportunities

Future website changes are in the works!

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

Monthly Board meeting in Review

The November meeting focused on the upcoming Annual Meeting, ending the year with accomplishments and starting the new year with expectations. We are looking ahead to work on getting the website current and up with the times to attract younger members, bringing in programs that have potential of attracting more patrons, and updating our brochures (both our generic and sales) to get up to date on what we offer the community.

An Invitation to FACEBOOK

[Our Facebook Page](#)

While we take Facebook for granted, we also have a wellspring of information available at our fingertips. What many people see on Facebook is actually only the surface and sometimes, if we are extremely lucky, we can go down a rabbit hole, while scrolling, and some wonderful and unusual places can be discovered.

The Muskegon County Genealogical Society maintains a Facebook page and what members and friends may not be aware of is that the page is also for anyone to share information, photographs or interesting bits of genealogical lore. The MCGS Facebook page welcomes contributions from any of its members. People do spend a lot of time simply liking posts and comments, but we would “like” you to participate too.

The simplest way to submit something for post is via the message button. Click the button and a new window opens in Messenger, automatically addressed to the Society. At this point, you may attach a photograph or an image or simply type a message. Always be sure to include any information you have regarding a submission and please keep in mind, you should never include personal information, like your physical address, phone number or email address.



MCGS is always looking for VOLUNTEERS!!

Are you good at keeping track of inventory? Our Sales Chair would be perfect for you. Are you good at typing? We are ALWAYS looking for people to help index.

Reach out to us!



Western Michigan Genealogical Society

Plan ahead...
October 18, 2025
[Got Ancestors Seminar](#)

Library of Michigan
The programs are
[Ancestry.com Library Edition](#).
Thursday, January 2 at 6:30 PM

Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

ACPL is offering 8 [virtual programs](#) for January.

Register within each class.

Legacy Family tree Webinars

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! Must register.

January 22, 2025

Using the Collaborate Tool at FamilySearch

January 28, 2025

Latest Updates to the MyHeritage Mobile App

February 4, 2025

Oops! Married twice
(at the same time)
Case Studies in
Bigamy!



<https://miigsm.org/>

Saturday, January 18
1:30pm.

Canadian Research,
by Grace Wilfong

Saturday February 15
1:30pm

Emigration, Immigration
and Naturalization
by Tom Koselka

The Library of Michigan
and
The Michigan
Genealogical Council
are teaming up once
again for the
Barbara J. Brown
Family History Seminar
Friday, May 8th 1 PM to
Saturday May 9th 4 PM

Location:
Michigan Library &
Historical Center
702 West Kalamazoo St.,
Lansing MI.

No other information yet.
Check the website
(<https://mimgc.org>) in
early 2025 for more
details. There
is usually a cost for
attending the seminar
and in the past, they have
offered a "lock-in" at the
Archives and Library with
extended hours and
supper!!

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) series continued...

Let's discuss the PROS of AI merging with genealogy. According to Thomas MacEntee the list includes:

- Ability to analyze vast amounts of data (it's not humanly possible for us to analyze all this information and look for corrections.
- Enables a better understanding of migration patterns and motivations.
- Gives clearer FAN club relationships.
- Shows the impact of social histories on ancestors.

- The ability to translate
- The ability to transcribe
- For all those that want to fill in that "dash" between birth and death dates you can build complex timelines as well as map event dates to locations!

AI is quickly becoming the fasted growing technological advancement to be used in genealogical research since computers, which is helping to shotput your family tree further back in history!

Next month: The CONS!

EXPLORING THE WORLD OF PODCASTS:

[Journeys into Genealogy](#)

Journeys into Genealogy was started in 202 by Emma Cox, a family historian and genealogist based in Kent, UK. This podcast is an eclectic mix of genealogy-based topics, stories and people. You will find lots of interesting interviews with people sharing stories about their family histories, experts who can help with research, specialist advice for looking after objects, and much more. Stories and interviews with people from the UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, amongst others.

Produced bi-monthly.

Enjoying our publication?

Why not [click here](#) to fill out the survey and have your voice be heard.

This is an anonymous survey so please feel free to be candid.

I would like your honest opinion of our publication.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



JANUARY 1, 1902

**For our Football fans:
This is the date of the first Rose Bowl.
Do you know who won it??**

Find out by following [this link](#).

Monthly Quote

“Remember me in the family tree; my name, my days, my strife.

Then I'll ride upon the wings of time and live an endless life.”

~ Linda Goetsch

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!!!!

How the Story Developed Itself

As I was pondering what I was going to fill this space with, I decided to publish another recipe from a book from days gone by. I was browsing through a locally produced cookbook called *Auxiliary Favorites II* which was prepared and distributed by the Muskegon Rescue Mission Women's Auxiliary in 1969. I randomly choose one; Chocolate Peanut No-Bake Cookies. Then, as a genealogist, I thought, “Who is this person – Mrs. Lyle Christenson?” I wondered what was **her** name, when did they get married, you know, the general questions one would ask. So, I thought I would look into a brief history of her. To my amazement, it brought me full circle right back to our own society. Not in the way you would think, though. I didn't discover that she was a member or even her decendants being members. Upon searching for Lyle Christenson from Muskegon, Michigan, the first site that came up was *FindAGrave*. Mr. Lyle Christenson was born 12 Jan 1925 in Muskegon, MI and passed away on 20 Nov 1997 in the same place. But where the amazement lay was in the picture that was posted. It was a familiar one that I have seen before:



I didn't even have to think or ponder where from; the ever famous Harry Cleveland Military Records. You know, the collection that our society miraculously acquired last year. We have currently been finishing up the indexing process of this collection and have 8,499 WWII

Dive Into Muskegon

military men and women indexed with photos.

But, back to the original quest: to find out who Mrs. Lyle Christenson was. Her name was Evelyn Leone “Ev” Ham Christenson. She was born on Halloween in 1927 in Muskegon, MI and passed away 11 Feb 2020 in the same place. She was the daughter of Cornelius and Margaret (VanDuinen) Ham. She married Lyle Christenson on 22 Aug 1950 and helped him with his photography business for 40 years. She was employed at the Muskegon County Sheriff's Department and the Muskegon County Clerk's office. She served as a Sunday School teacher and a deacon at Bethany Christian Reformed Church where she was also involved with the food pantry.



I hope you try and enjoy the recipe that helped develop this story:

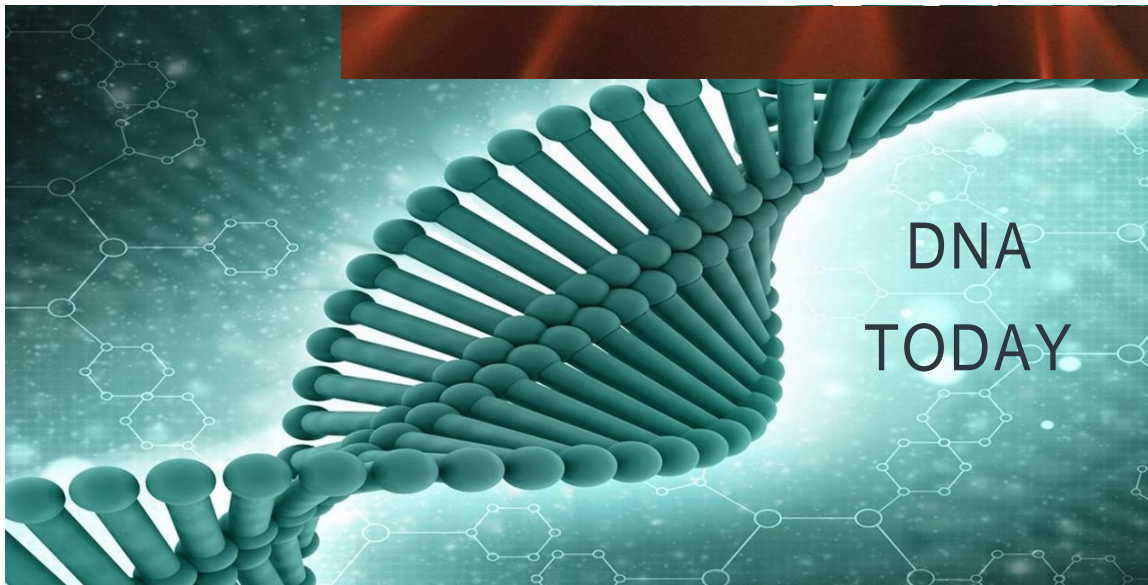
Chocolate Peanut No-Bake Cookie By Mrs. Lyle Chirstenson

1 cup white sugar
1 cup brown sugar
½ cup margarine
½ c milk

Bring above ingredients to rolling boil and remove from heat.

Quickly add: 1 small pkg. chocolate chips
2 cups quick oatmeal
½ to 1 lb. salted peanuts
½ cup coconut

Mix well; let cool slightly; drop by spoonful on waxed paper. Store in refrigerator.



DNA TODAY

Genealogy and Mendel

The Muskegon County Genealogical Society is tipping its proverbial hat to the father of genetics.

Gregor Johann Mendel an Austrian-Czech biologist, meteorologist, mathematician, Augustinian friar and abbot of St. Thomas' Abbey in Brno Margraviate of Moravia was born in a German-speaking family in the Silesian part of the Austrian Empire (today's Czech Republic).

The way in which traits are passed from one generation to the next and sometimes skips a generation, was first explained by Gregor Mendel. By experimenting with pea plant breeding, he

developed **three principles of inheritance** that described the **transmission** of genetic traits, before anyone knew **genes existed**.

Mendel's pea plant experiments conducted between 1856 and 1863 established many of the rules of heredity, now referred to as the laws of Mendelian inheritance.

He gained posthumous recognition as the founder of the modern science of genetics.

G.J. Mendel
2 Jul 1822 – 6 Jan 1884

The month of January marks the 140th anniversary of his death.

Contributed by Maria Chmelarova

MCGS's
interest group ~
DIG!

Sign up with the
[Google Form](#) to
join us for a new
session of our
Genetic Genies
DIG interest
group.

We start in
February!!

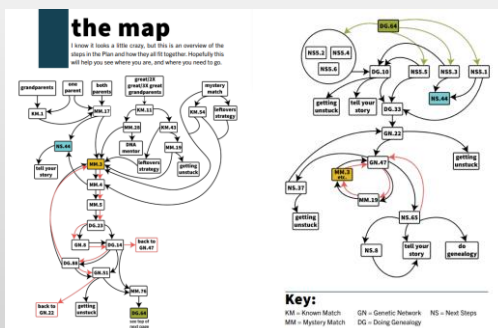
Meet on the 4th
Tuesday from 1-3
at the Norton
Library branch of
MADL.

Must register to
attend as space is
limited.

DIG with the Genetic Genies

The Genetic Genies are looking forward to starting over!!

Due to the amount of content covered and the depth of the knowledge learned, last years Genies are looking forward to attending the upcoming sessions to continue their growth and help others grow their family trees through DNA as well.



MCGS MEETING PLACE

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



Saturdays at 10:30am

2025 Meeting Dates:

JANUARY 18

FEBRUARY 15

MARCH 15

APRIL 19

MAY 17

JUNE 21

JULY

NO MEETING

AUGUST 16

SEPTEMBER 20

OCTOBER 18

NOVEMBER 15

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 another quiet month. There were no new books reported for the month of November or December.



Visit the Torrent House to get started on digitizing all those family photos!!!

Call ahead to schedule an appointment!!

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

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Maria Chmelarova Gary VerSalle

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:

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