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Upcoming Programs:

March 15

“Making the Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne, IN Your Research Assistant”

Presented by Curt Witcher

Curt Witcher is the Director of Special Collections at the Allen County Public Library, managing the widely acclaimed Genealogy Center as well as the Rolland Center for Lincoln Research. He is a former president of both the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Genealogical Society, and the founding president of the Indiana Genealogical Society. Curt currently serves on the Indiana State Historical Records Advisory Board, the Indiana Historical Society's publications committee, and the executive committee of the Friends of the Lincoln Collection of Indiana's Board of Directors. He also serves on the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society board of directors as well as an advisor for the African American Genealogical Society of Fort Wayne



Next Member Meeting

March 15

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

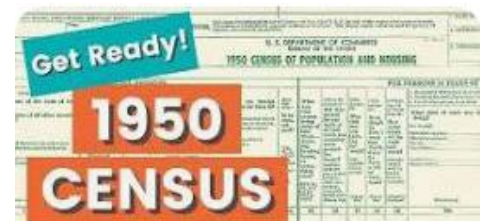
Hackley Public Library Lower Level

April 19:

“Ancestral Past: Michigan in 1950 – Painting the Picture of Michigan based on the 1950 census results”

Presented by Scott Norwick from Ancestral Past

This presentation will cover the background on the 1950 census including birth locations, parent birth locations, income levels, education levels, military service, unemployment levels and job industry information. Comparisons will be discussed on urban to rural areas, Michigan's various regions and Michigan to other Midwest states. Scott will also address foreign immigration clusters highlighted through birth and parent birth locations. Focus on the migration to Michigan from other states (including the Great Migration from southern states), concentration on employment industries and interesting and unusual job titles will be summarized.



President Corner

Hello,

I am ready for spring! Enough of this cold, dark, dreary weather.... The highpoint of my week was the Saturday presentations in February. Kirk Bunke did a wonderful walk through the Industry History of Muskegon. Lots of awesome pictures! Then the African American Migration Patterns to Michigan, via Zoom by Rozlyn Kelly, was also very eye opening. For a stormy day, it was a good way to spend the time. Hope you are taking advantage of the bad weather with Genealogy Webinars and Podcasts!

The Writer's Workshop started February 18. The group is very excited to start their journey together in writing about our past. Maybe we will have some stories to tell at a future Saturday meeting!

A major focus for 2025 is the new Website Development Committee that will be working on 1) getting our current digital databases on the website (both for public or Member's only); 2) figuring out what we want our website to look and feel like going forward; and 3) technically improving the website so it runs smoothly. Feel free to reach out if you have any ideas regarding this.

Karen (Page) Frazier

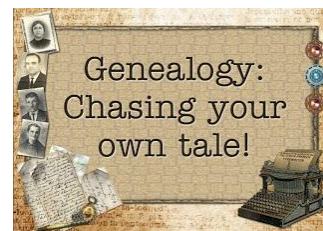
Welcome new members:

Cynthia Archer Mitchell, Muskegon, MI

Surnames: Archer, Jansen, Sebald, VanDerwier

Susan Lawrence, Muskegon, MI

Surnames: Klinker, Olson, Pedersen



Last Meeting Highlights

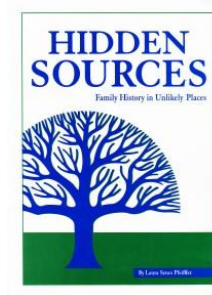
February's meeting was met with cold temperatures and snow-covered roads. Several members decided to stay home and enjoy the meeting in the comforts of their own homes on Zoom while 18 members joined us with 6 guests to listen to our on-site speaker, Kirk Bunke, share his knowledge on "Muskegon's Industry Through the Ages".

Mr. Bunke's presentation started back over 200 years prior to Michigan even being a state. He spoke on what changes occurred over time, which forced the industry in Muskegon to adapt for survival. He pointed out five major industries in Muskegon, Fur Trading to Lumber to Furniture Manufacturing, to Foundries to Autos and Auto Parts to finally Aerospace. He showed statistics from 1904 that showed the population of Muskegon has remained relatively the same up to today.

The book draw winner was Barb Martin.

Next Meeting Reminders

Member only book draw:



In this publication, **Hidden Sources: Family History in Unlikely Places** by Laura Szucs Pfeiffer, you will find family history research possibilities that may otherwise have eluded you--sources to further your research and help you overcome the stumbling blocks every researcher has experienced. With this introduction, anyone wanting quick, easy-to-access information about how to find their ancestors will be immediately pointed in the right direction. The first-time, part-time, and even full-time researchers will find many little-known sources that may contain information about their ancestors' lives.

Travel Opportunities with MCGS

We are headed to RootsTech!!!!

March 6-8

Look for trip highlights in April's TwigTalk



Library of Michigan/Archives

April 5
August 2

ACPL

October 1-4

More details on these as the date approaches.

Board Updates

The Board is working on updating the membership brochure which includes our mission statement and purpose. This brochure is sent out to the West Michigan Genealogical Society and the Michigan Genealogical Council for distribution.

We are looking into starting a project identifying missing tombstones for ancestors and pioneers of Muskegon and

possibly getting them replaced. This is a long-term project and will need volunteers. If this is something you are interested in, please contact a person on the board to let them know.

In Progress:

Still indexing DD214 and Justice of the Peace for Muskegon County. The Harry Cleveland Military Files have accumulated 8,499 men and women from all branches with pictures – we are looking into binding these into books.

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



MCGS is excited to announce that several members have stepped up to restructure their positions within the Board to help fulfill the open positions

We are ALWAYS looking for volunteers to help index. So, are you good at typing? See the Board Updates with all the indexing projects underway.

Monthly Board meeting in Review

Our focus for the year 2025 is our website. A committee of volunteers have started meeting to put together a list of requirements and needs to make it up to date and “with the times”. Pam has been working diligently on uploading files for the Database section of the website, some open to the public, some only available to members. Keep checking back on the website to see what new stuff has been updated.

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 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.



Western Michigan Genealogical Society

Plan ahead...

October 18, 2025

[Got Ancestors Seminar](#)

Library of Michigan

have published the entire year of programs

[click HERE to see the entire listing](#)

March is MyHeritage Library Edition

Simply click the program to register

1st Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM

Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

ACPL is offering 7 [virtual programs](#) for March, including German, Irish and Female ancestry.

Register within each class.



Lecture Series for 2025

<https://themayflowersociety.org/history/lecture-series/>

From their website:

In 2021, the Mayflower Society launched a very popular Lecture Series covering a variety of Mayflower Pilgrim-related topics including their odyssey, their life and times, their maritime experience and, of course, genealogy!

Please plan to join us for a fun learning experience about the Mayflower Pilgrims and genealogy topics, right from the comfort of your own home.

- Monthly webinar lectures are free and open to the public.
- **No pre-registration required.**
- Live event links are posted below.
- Webinars are recorded and available on demand.

Southern California Genealogical Society

Saturday, March 1,
1 to 2 p.m. EST

Allyson Maughan

[“Solving your Picture Problems”](#)

Pictures tell a brilliant story about our ancestors. But what do we do when pictures have a problem? No writing on the back? Too many conflicting names and dates? Unfamiliar faces? Discover the antidote to these dilemmas, and finally, use those pictures in your research.

Key Learning Objectives:

Why would you use pictures in family history research?

1. How to sort images
2. How to overcome problems with family pictures, such as, no written information on the back, conflicting information written on the back, or partial information written on the back
3. How to use pictures in your family history.

Allyson is a genealogical speaker, writer, and consultant.

The Library of Michigan and The Michigan Genealogical Council are teaming up once again for the Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar Friday, May 9th 1 PM to Saturday May 10th 4 PM

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

Free Breakfast and Lunch for onsite attendees. Check the [Website](#) for more details. The cost to attend is \$55.00 and they are offering extended research hours at the Archives!!

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...

Keeping with the CONs of AI:

Are you aware that AI can quickly collect data entered at genealogy platforms when users are entering data and family trees. Users are then tracked as searches are performed and the information is analyzed to create new features and products.

DNA is captured and computer hackers have caused a decline in the number of people completing DNA testing kits.

AI is also very expensive for vendors, resulting in higher costs for the genealogy consumer.

Where do we think AI will be in 5 years:

Some possibilities include:

- DNA triangulation
- Conversion of handwriting into searchable texts (including older forms of English and German handwriting)
- Auto creation of citations
- Automatically discover connections between FAN club members
- Identification of family members in photographs based on traits such as facial features.
- Suggesting records for expanding genealogical searches including records not yet digitized.

EXPLORING THE WORLD OF PODCASTS:

[Armchair Genealogy](#)

Welcome to the Armchair Genealogy Podcast with me "The Genealogy Guy"! Dive into the fascinating world of family tree research as we chat with experts and enthusiasts from various roles in genealogy. Discover how to uncover your roots without ever leaving the comfort of your home. Listen to captivating stories, learn valuable tips, and connect with long-lost relatives – all from your armchair. There's no better time to start exploring your family's past than now, or maybe you need to move it to the next level. Subscribe to the "Armchair Genealogy Podcast" to be notified about new episodes today and begin your journey!

Produced monthly

Are you in need of NARA records and want to save money??

Gopherrecords.com

is here to help!

They specialize in the retrieval of Civil War and other 19th-century military records from the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), including service records, pensions, medical records, Court Martial records, Bounty Land records, and others. They will duplicate the records of your choice and deliver them faster and at a much lower cost than if you ordered them directly from NARA. If you need records, they will gopher you!

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



MARCH 21, 19XX

Can you guess the year in which the S.S. Badger took its maiden voyage and what was its original purpose??

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

Monthly Quote

MEMBERS.... Do you have an ancestor you would like to share? Do you have some advice to help others in their research? Here is your opportunity. Simply submit your article to twigtalk1972@gmail.com by the 15th of the month and you can become a contributor to our publication. All is welcome to share!!!

Dive Into Muskegon

"Genealogy

is like

a

scavenger
hunt

and a

jigsaw
puzzle

all rolled

into one!"

~ Dolores J.
Rush



The 5th generation family-owned CW Marsh manufacturing company reaches a rare milestone by turning 125 this year! CONGRATULATIONS! Both [Fox News](#) and [mlive](#) reported on it.

Why do I do genealogy?

By Frances Harrington

I like the detective work (research). I want to learn about the people who raised the people, who raised the people, who raised me. Bits and pieces of all those people got passed down to me (and I don't just mean DNA). I've found some interesting stories, debunked some old family lore, and I gained a new respect for what my ancestors went through, as I tracked down their past. Their past is what gave me my future.

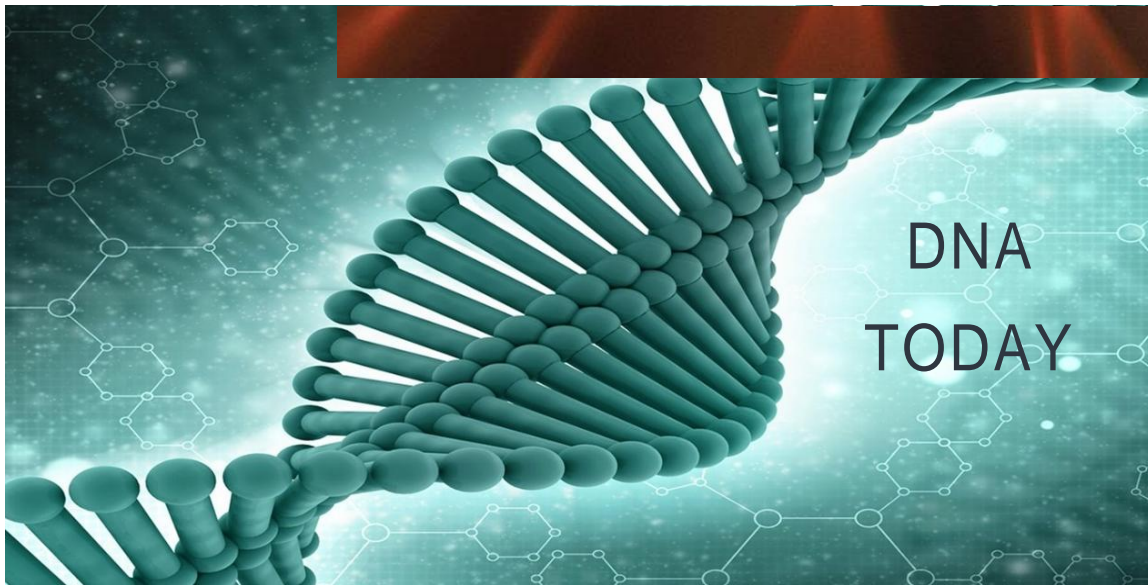
After the first couple of months of adding bits and pieces of history from lives of regular Muskegon citizens to this section along with their simple recipes from the past, I have decided to continue for this year. This is another recipe from [Auxiliary Favorites II 1969](#) recipe book; I've chosen a super easy one titled [Unbaked Cookies](#). Now, I know what you are thinking, but, nope these are not what you are assuming them to be. The three simple ingredients, which are still readily available today:

1pkg. butterscotch/caramel chips
3 T. peanut butter
3 c. Special K flakes

and the directions even a novice can follow: **Dissolve chips and peanut butter in double boiler; pour mixture over flakes and stir well; drop on waxed papered cookie sheet and chill;** make these come together in a jiffy!

Contributed by Mrs. Corneal Holtrop, born lone E. Wood in 1899 to Perry and Marian Wood in Muskegon, Michigan. When she was 22-years-old she married John Leslie Frantz on September 15, 1921 in Muskegon. By 1930 they were raising 6 children and living in a rented house on a foreman's salary. The decade after was filled with joy and tragedy. They purchased a house on Jackson street, lost their 3rd child to a heart condition and added a seventh child to the family. Unfortunately, in November 1942 lone admitted her husband into the Traverse City State Hospital for an Organic Brain Disease and that is where he remained until his death on May 8, 1943.

lone found happiness again when on March 15, 1951 she became the second wife of Cornealius A. Holtrop. No children were born to this marriage. But this happiness was short lived when in 1954, lone was widowed when Cornealius passed away. lone died in 1981 and was buried in the Ravenna Cemetary next to her husband, John and their young daughter, Florence Loraine.



DNA TODAY

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

We started the first session of DIG with a full classroom!

As DNA is a constantly evolving science; keeping up with the materials needed to stay current is almost a full-time job!

Thank you, participants, for your patience and understanding!!

Just a quick service reminder, if you are interested in DNA, RootsTech is the first week of March. What does that mean? Well, this is just one time during the year in which the DNA testing companies offer discounts. I had the Genetic Genies holding off on uploading their DNA from Ancestry to the other 3 companies because there may be discounts offered for uploading to their sight during this timeframe. Keep an eye on their websites:

[My Heritage](#)

[Living DNA](#)

[Family Tree DNA](#)

use that costs. If you want to be able to read further into your DNA reports, you will have to pay anywhere from \$20 on up. So, if watching these sites during RootsTech can save you money, I want to keep you informed.

NEWS:

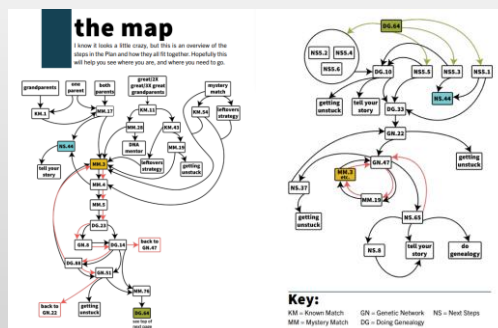
Diahan Southard shared some DNA news: MyHeritage DNA has collaborated with another upstart DNA company to delve into ANCIENT origins. What does this mean? You can see where your DNA connects to those from a very, very, very, long time ago. If you have your DNA already uploaded to MyHeritage go check out the new update and see where your ancient history come from.

Keep in mind, uploading your DNA to these sites is FREE. It's the after

DIG with the Genetic Genies

The Genetic Genies

While we as a class are just starting out, knowing the steps in DNA is very important as well as staying organized. If you are responsible for multiple DNA tests (not testing sights – but tests for other relatives), it might be helpful to start a binder or some digital storage for the information you are collecting. Keeping everything in order is important to maintaining sanity during the whole process.



MCGS MEETING PLACE

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



Saturdays at 10:30am

2025 Meeting Dates:

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:

New York in 1698: A Comprehensive List of Residents Based on Census, Tax, and Other Lists, compiled by Kory L. Meyerink
The Genealogist's Guide to Researching Tax Records, by Carol Cooke Darrow and Susan Winchester
Silent Springs the Panther: Historic Accounts of Michigan Big Cat Attacks, by Aaron J. Veselenak



Visit the Torrent House to get started on digitizing all those family photos!!! It's quick and easy to learn!

Call ahead to schedule an appointment!!

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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:

Muskegon County Genealogical Society
C/O Hackley Public Library—Torrent House
Local History & Genealogy Department
315 W. Webster Avenue
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