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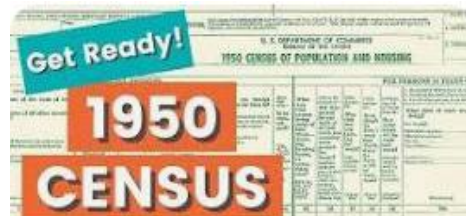
Upcoming Programs:

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, educations 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.



Next Member Meeting

April 19

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

May 17

“What was the War of 1812 & Persons Who Played a Part in it”

Presented by Marsha Dekker

Marsha Dekker currently serves as a Volunteer Genealogist for the State of Michigan, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) as well as President/Treasurer of a local chapter of Daughters of 1812. As the former Registrar of a local chapter of DAR, she assisted over 50 women with membership. She worked for the Kansas Oil Museum assisting with the Butler County Genealogy Library & helping patrons with research, starting a genealogy group, giving tours for schools, and giving classes in genealogy for the local Community College. Marsha is a member of Clan Campbell, Clan Ewing, Williams Family Association, the National Genealogical Society, Western Michigan Genealogy Society, and several websites such as American Ancestors, Ancestry, My Heritage, FamilySearch, and others.



President Corner

Hello,

As I am writing this, the weather was spring-like, but now it is snowing! I think I will go back to Utah... the trip to RootsTech in Salt Lake City was awesome! And did you know the Family Search Research Library is ½ block from the convention center? I spent one day at the library and definitely need to go back.

Our calendar for 2025 is very full, with Programs, Workshops, and Road Trips. Check out the Events tab on the website for dates and additional information.

A major focus for 2025 is the new Website Development Committee. Feel free to reach out if you have any ideas regarding this. You will begin to see more and more changes and additions. For example, check out the Videos from some of our past Programs, including the most recent one by Curt Witcher – Why the Genealogy Center of Ft. Wayne, IN should be YOUR Research Assistant. Both the video and handout are under the website member section.

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

Karen (Page) Frazier



Welcome new members:

Tom Sibley, Wyoming, MI
Surnames: Sibley, Murphy

Jim Billings, Leawood, KS
Surmanes: Courture, LaFlamme, Salois



Last Meeting Highlights

A beautiful pre-spring day warmly welcomed 22 members and 4 guests to the March member meeting with 3 online attendees.

There was a first call of business where the members in attendance voted unanimously on the proposed “Our Purpose” statement changes to be included on our website and in our brochure. She then shared the RootsTech experience enjoyed by her and two other members.

We then moved onto the presentation of the month by Kurt Witcher from Allen County Public Library. He explained the myriad resources that the ACPL has to offer both onsite and online.

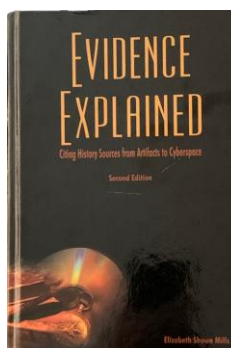
Kurt was very witty and entertaining as he sold the audience on the importance of using ACPL as one of their main resources for finding family history. Find them at:

www.GenealogyCenter.org

The book draw winner was Sandy Storch.

Next Meeting Reminders

Member only book draw:



Students, Scholars, and curious sleuths all face the same questions:

What details must we capture for each type of source in order to understand it and properly interpret its evidence?

In this publication, *Evidence Explained* guides you through a maze of sources not covered by other citation manuals – all kinds of original records, accessed through different media. A thousand citation models for U. S. and international documents demonstrate how to handle the quirks that stump us when we use those materials

Travel Opportunities with MCGS

Library of Michigan/Archives

April 5 (looks to be full unless you wish to start another car)

August 2
(sign up early to reserve your seat)

ACPL

October 1-4

More details on these as the date approaches. Sign up early for planning purposes!



Board Updates

March's Board meeting consisted of creating a "Feasibility Committee" to evaluate a potential tombstone project. The Board reviewed and updated the "Our Purpose" statement that was voted on during the March Member meeting. We are still cleaning out all the paper files and determining what to do with them on an individual basis.

Our website is the focus of 2025. There is a subcommittee meeting once a month to make determinations of what is needed vs what is desirable. Our goal is functionality and appearance to attract more members and to make it user friendly for all ages. Please check out the member only section and offer ANY and ALL feedback regarding the website, the committee will be sure to take all comments into consideration.

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 technologically savvy??

MCGS is still in need of a Technology Chair.

Are you eager to see some of the projects move along at a faster pace??

How about volunteering to help index or scan!

In Progress Special Projects and Activities:

Indexing:

- DD214
- Justice of the Peace for Muskegon County

Scanning:

- Historical Pioneer Certificates
- History Book 1
- Tressa LaFayette Research Files
- Church books boxes

Binding:

- Harry Cleveland Military Files

ROOTSTECH

[RootsTech Home page](#)

March 6-8 was the ever so anticipated RootsTech trip that three members of our society participated in (pictured left to right Sue L. Karen F. and Jennifer L). What an amazing journey from start to finish. At first, the Expo Hall was whelming to say the least – with vendors from all over the world informing us of the latest and greatest AND answering all questions. The classes were extremely informative with only a portion available online. My greatest surprise was when I read a sign that said The Piano Guys were going to be there to perform live on Saturday!! To say the least, it was definitely something I will plan to attend again! Karen and I even were able to spend one day at the Family Search Library... all day on ONE floor.





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](#)

April 3rd is House History

Simply click the program to register

1st Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM

Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

ACPL is offering 8 [virtual programs](#) for April, every Tuesday afternoons and Thursday evenings

Register within each class.



[Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan](#)

Polish Research in Michigan (Webinar via Zoom)

From their website:

**Saturday, April 26
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

Open to the public.

Join us for this webinar given by Valerie Koselka



[Advanced Colonial Research, Part 2: Modern Techniques](#)

Saturday April 12 1:00-2:00

Dive into modern methodologies for tackling colonial-era research in 2025. This session emphasizes leveraging contemporary tools, including DNA tests, artificial intelligence (AI), and online databases, to illuminate the lives of early settlers. Detailed case studies will illustrate breakthroughs achieved using traditional research methods and modern tools.

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!



<https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars/>

April 3 8pm EDT - GPTs for Family History: Unlocking the Potential of AI

April 3 9pm EDT – Seven Sources for Seeking Scoundrels

Seek more classes online

Don't forget to utilize [Conference Keeper](#). The most extensive site for genealogical events on the world wide web!





Technology Merges with Genealogy

How many have ever heard of [“The Family History Guide”](#). Until very recently – I had not. THEN, at RootsTech I was introduced to them again. I was able to acquire several of their cards (which will be available at the April Member meeting), but I thought I would give a brief introduction here. The Family History Guide is a nonprofit organization with the mission “to greatly increase the number of people actively involved in family history worldwide, and to make everyone's family history journey *easier, more efficient, and more*

enjoyable.” They want to be your “go-to” place for “free learning, research, training, and activities center for family history”. I was impressed with the resources available in a myriad number of topics, including 200 youth activities to get them involved in the family history. There is also quick access to research articles, videos and databases; online tracker to monitor your learning progress; pages for over 60 countries, states and provinces. Check them out today or pick up their card at the next meeting.

EXPLORING THE WORLD OF PODCASTS:

[Family Locket](#)

Diana Elder and Nicole Dyer, the mother-daughter team of FamilyLocket.com discuss how to take your family history research to the next level and uncover more of your family tree. Learn about research objectives, analysis, locality research, research planning, source citations, report writing, case studies, and more. They are the creators of the Amazon bestselling book, *Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide*. Diana created the Research Like a Pro method after becoming an Accredited Genealogy professional through the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists.

Produced weekly

Want another option to get records from NARA??

[Civilwarrecords.com](#)

They boast:

“We specialize in military records at the National Archives from the 1800s. We go to DC, so you don't have to!

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



APRIL 18, 2015

What was the record-breaking size of this perch that was caught this day in history??

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

"Reminder:



Undocumented

Genealogy

Did you know that the Frauenthal offers a free movie once a month from September to May?

is

Sunday, April 13 at 3:00
The Wizard of Oz

Mythology"

Do you need some ideas to do around town during the Spring season in Muskegon? [The Visit Muskegon webpage](#), has loads of ideas, from local bowling alleys to beach hikes and discovering ancient history to modern machinery. Explore all the pages the website has to offer to discover what is waiting for you right around the corner!

~ Unknown

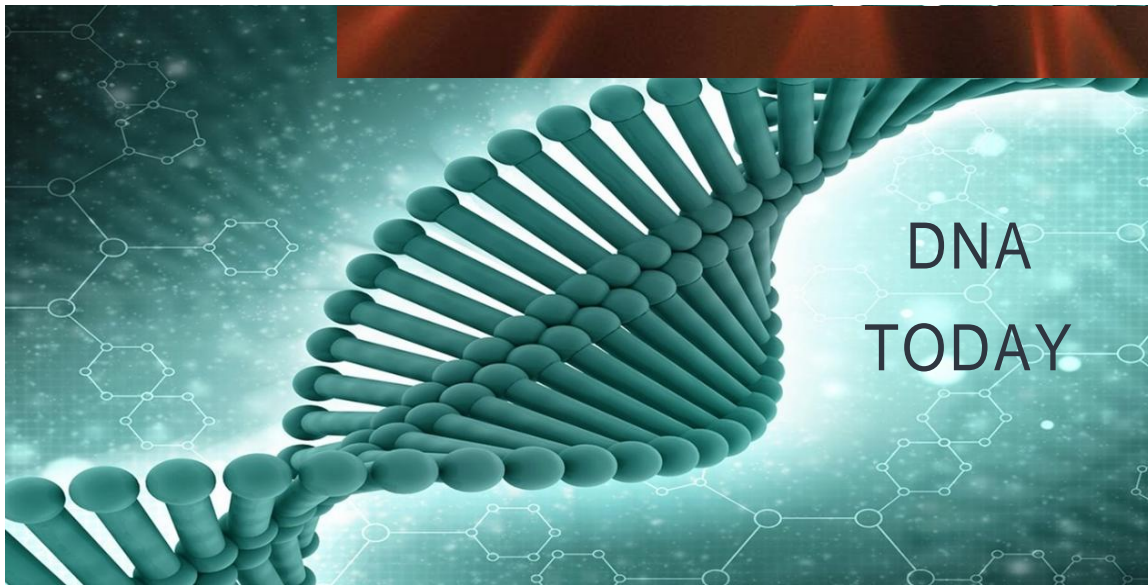


This month's highlighted recipe from the *Auxiliary Favorites II* is **Blueberry Coffee Cake** from Mrs. Fred Welty. She was better known by her family as Juella Viola Wolters, the second child of Henry and Cornelia (Tanis) Wolters, born December 26, 1919 in Overisel, Allegan County, MI. By the time she was 20 years old, she moved and held the occupation of maid for the Koning family in Holland, Ottawa Co., Michigan. In 1945 at 25 years old, she married Mr. Frederick E. Welty, a machinist at Continental Motors. They became members of The Dutch Christian Reformed Church on July 25, 1949. By 1950 Juella and Frederick had two sons, Norman and Lawrence, and in their marriage added two daughters, Betty and Gloria. It appears that she and her husband remained life-long residents of Muskegon County, Michigan until their passing in 2007 (Juella) and 2009 (Frederick).

Now for her delicious sounding cake:

2 cups flour
¾ cup sugar
1 cup blueberries
3 ½ tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
¼ c shortening
2 eggs, well beaten
¾ cup milk

Sift flour; measure. Blend 2 T. of flour with ¼ cup sugar; mix with the blueberries. To remaining flour add baking powder, salt and sift again. Cream shortening; add ½ cup sugar gradually. Continue beating until light and fluggy. Add beaten eggs; beat well. Add flour mixture alternately with milk. Stir in berries; DO NOT BEAT. Turn into a greased 8x8x2 pan and bake in 375* oven for 35 to 40 min.



DNA TODAY

“DNA IS THE MESSENGER WHICH ILLUMINATES THAT CONNECTION, HANDED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION, CARRIED, LITERALLY, IN THE BODIES OF MY ANCESTORS.”

While meandering the Expo Hall at RootsTech, I came across a different kind of DNA company, called [Genetic Legacies](#). They claim to have highly advanced technology that can deliver unique capabilities of processing highly FRAGMENTED DNA – like the kind found on fragile family heirlooms and personal artifacts. I was wowed! Having lost my mom at a very young age, I immediately started thinking about whether I had any artifacts that I could use to extract HER DNA... Hairbrush – no; Heirlooms that were once prized possessions of hers – no. But they did mention letters received from the loved ones... they had to lick the envelop and THAT contains DNA. I was amazed to say the least. Almost awe struck. To think that DNA can be extracted from an envelope licked many years ago! Well, I was ready to send in the sample, that is, until they

told me the cost. It is going to take a pretty penny to have them even determine if there is enough DNA within the sample. That is considered Phase I. If the sample passes Phase I, it will be moved on to Phase II (which is where the REAL cost is). I'll just let everyone browse the website for the cost in your own time, let's just say, I will definitely need to save up for this unique way of testing the DNA.

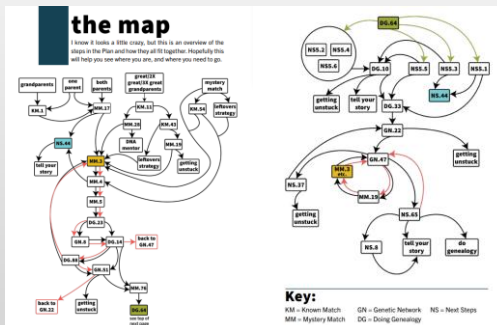
NEWS:

Diahan Southard shared some DNA news/advice about 23andMe's Chapter 11 bankruptcy announcement, and I feel this is great advice to share with everyone regardless of what DNA testing company you are through... Watch it [here](#)

DIGging with the Genies

The Genetic Genies

The Genies have been learning about Ethnicity Estimates. For the returning classmates, it is a revolution to see exactly how the percentages have changed from last year. Or rather, to see the changes in the regions they have in their DNA. Ancestry alone increased their reference panel from 71K in 2024 to almost 117K in 2025. And MyHeritage increased their ethnic groups from 42 in 2024 to 79 in 2025. With these expanded samples and groups, it helps to bring focus to your DNA.



~ BRYAN SYKES

MCGS MEETING PLACE

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



Saturdays at 10:30am

2025 Meeting Dates:

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 a quiet month as there were no new books reported.



Are you aware one of the best features about using the Vivid-Pix to preserve your memories is for the purpose of pRT? What is pRT? Its Photo Reminiscence Therapy. The National Institute of Health states that looking at photos of your life provides health and social benefits. Schedule today!

OFFICERS

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Presidentmcgs72@gmail.com
- Vice President Dawn Westcomb Kelley
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- Treasurer Jennifer Lamkin
- Past President Jane Appleton Schapka

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MEMBER at LARGE

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
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