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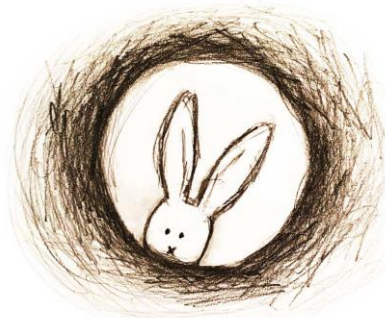
## Upcoming Programs:

### MAY 18:

#### “Genealogy Workflow – Your Plan of Attack”

Presented by Jennifer Lamkin.

Are you Alice in Genealogy Land chasing one white rabbit after another and never really finding the answers you're looking for?? Are you writing them off as brick walls and later go back to them only to forget where you left off?? Well, hopefully, my lesson on workflow will help you slow down, keep you on track, and help you find the answers you are seeking.



## Next Member Meeting

May 18

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

### JUNE 8:

#### “Researching on Location”

Presented by: Judy Nimer Muhn  
**On-Site Presentation**

Traveling the World doing genealogy research: Planning in advance is the key! With checklists, recommendations for travel planning and equipment to take with you, research BEFORE you go and helpful hints from the speaker's own travel experiences, you can be prepared and make the most of your trip.



Judy has been researching her family tree from the age of 12, specializing in French-Canadian, Acadian, Native American and Michigan research. Beginning as a professional genealogist in Europe in 1993, she has lectured at the National Genealogical Society's conferences, Federation of Genealogical Societies, RootsTech/RootsTech Connect, as well as conferences in Europe and around the United States.

## President Corner

I want to thank all our volunteers for their time and effort serving our Society. Also, a hearty welcome to our newest Board members: Maria Chmelarova (Member-at-large), Jackie Engel (Technology Chair), and Patti Mulder (Programs Chair). We are still looking for Board members for Publicity Chair and Public Education Chair. If you have any interest in spending some time with us just let us know.

A 'Thank You' for everyone who has responded to the call for local yearbook donations. Torrent House is very happy with the response and are expanding the storage area for yearbooks. Check your email or our Facebook for the list of needed volumes.

Now is the time to plan your genealogy road trip! Our road trip to the Michigan Archives on April 6 was great. Although each of us had research success, the conversation in the car on the way and back was the best! Our next road trip to the Michigan Archives is Saturday, August 3; and to Fort Wayne, Allen County Library on October 2 through October 5. Email us at 1972mcgs@gmail.com to save a seat.

We are still looking for volunteers to help organize a major Genealogy event in Muskegon for 2025. Planning an event like this requires quite a few hands, so volunteers are required. If we get enough volunteers, this committee will start meeting mid-2024, meeting monthly. Email us at 1972mcgs@gmail.com to volunteer.



## Our Society is always accepting volunteers.

### New Members in April:

Jim Wangerin Montague, MI –  
Surnames: Wangerin and Ochs



### Last Meeting Highlights

Yet another brisk, windy morning began our April meeting.

Our partnership with Hackley Public Library is certainly producing great results – four guests came in April citing Hackley as being the information distributor! We had 28 members in attendance as well as 2 members on Zoom. Our member's only book draw winner was Pam Schaner.

We concluded our photos in genealogy series with a Zoom presentation from Laura Hedgecock teaching us how to incorporate stories to the pictures we have in our genealogy.

Some take-aways from the meeting:

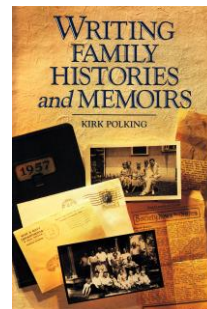
- "a picture is worth a thousand words – but if YOU don't tell the story, it's left open to interpretation of the viewer."
- Don't ignore photos without people
- Look deeper at the photo to find clues to aid in the storytelling.
- If you have the luxury – ask family members!

The handout from the meeting was emailed out.

### Next Meeting Reminders

Member's Only Book

Draw:



Maybe your family history never made the papers, but you still have an interesting one – your career, your experience in the sixties, your parents' struggles in the thirties, your grandmother's journey to Ellis Island, your great-grandfather's life as a trapper, your great-great-grandfather's clash with the enemy at Gettysburg – YOU must write about it!! This book will show you how!

### Travel Opportunities with MCGS

Have you ever taken your research to an on-site facility? Are you interested in going to the Archives or the Michigan Library? How about Allen County Public Library? Join the group and split the cost! The dates are as follows:

The Library of Michigan/  
Sate Archives:

August 3 8AM – 6PM

Allen County Public  
Library:

October 2-5



2025 – ROOTSTECH!!!!  
Dates March 6-8  
Watch the Twig talk to  
stay up to date!!

# Board Updates

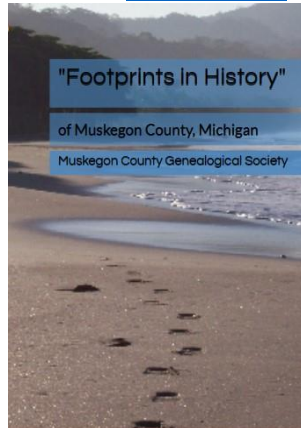
The Vivid-Pix has been delivered to Hackley Library. We are waiting set up, then select members will be trained to aid with public usage. Watch our website and newsletter for updates.



## IT IS AVAILABLE!!!

Footprints in History" of Muskegon County, Michigan

The long awaited second publication of MCGS is now available!! It is printed in soft or hard cover and is available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).



## New Members to the Board

**Patti Blaszak Mulder** has graciously stepped up to fulfill the position of the Programs Chair. She has already approached the board with lots of good ideas for the future. We are looking forward to her sharing those ideas with implemented programs!!!

**Jackie Engle** started the Technology position last month and the board is putting her to hard work during the regular meetings with running Zoom and making sure the program is being recorded for the website.



Are you interested in having a day long genealogical seminar in Muskegon?

The society would like help organizing a full day Genealogical Seminar for summer 2025

The time to start planning in NOW!!

Contact our general email with your intent!

## Monthly Board meeting in Review

The April board meeting was filled with updates with several new forms reviewed. We are implementing a new donation form for anyone who makes monetary or physical donations to the society. We are also looking into having a form available for anyone who has genealogical information that they wish to designate in a will as to not lose it upon their death. We are trying to find other ways to make it easier for our members to pay for services other than Paypal – we looked into Venmo, but, unfortunately, they do not have a service available for non-profit organizations at this time.

## MCGS Website Highlights and Additions

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

The latest updates are being implemented through the Newspapers section of the website. The research fees have been updated to reflect our current rates along with what other types of research our society offers. We are now offering enhanced genealogy website links for ease of navigation around the world wide web. All databases are SEARCHABLE by surname!





**Western Michigan Genealogical Society** is hosting 1 Webinar in May via zoom! It's all about how to plan for a research trip to Washington D.C. Click the [website](#) calendar for information and registration.

**Library of Michigan**

May 2: The program is diving into [Cemetery Research with the Library of Michigan](#). Click to register.

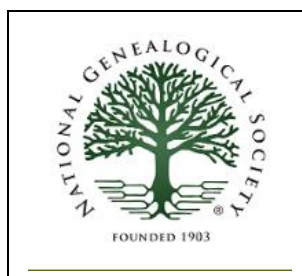
## Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

Is offering 9 **webinars** that are free for the public to join during the month of May, including Goldie May, Cemetery Etiquette, and Breaking through Brick Walls

[Click here](#) and choose Family History/Genealogy under the Events tab and choose one that interests you... to register click on its title!

### Southern California Genealogical Society

Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 – 2:00 pm



["Digital Library on American Slavery & Related Projects from Across the South"](#)

Presented by Diane L. Richard

The DLAS platform focuses on slave petitions and runaway-slave advertisements and includes a cutting-edge project for NC Bills of Sale. Then, an overview of the other existing runaway slave advertisement websites and where bills of sale are found for additional select states is given. Diane will also discuss other related projects.



Diane L. Richard is the co-founder of Tar Heel Discoveries

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

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The National Genealogical Society (NGS) 2024 Virtual [Family History Conference](#): Expanding Possibilities, 16-18 May. The program focuses on innovation and finding creative ways to solve problems in genealogy.

**Virtual Expo Hall:**  
16-18 May

**FOCUS on Genealogy Organizations:** 16 May

**Main Conference:**  
17-18 May

Are you ready for the [Barbara J. Brown Conference](#)

at the Archives of Michigan?

May 9-10<sup>th</sup>

This is both virtual and on-site with lots of free add-ons this year for on-site attendees, included in the cost - continental breakfast and lunch both days, a free virtual pre-seminar class on Probate Records, extended hours at the LOM and Archives Friday night with a Pizza supper provided.

Click the link to see the full schedule of classes and speakers. Cost is \$55.00 for the seminar.

The Archives of Michigan is excited to welcome **Ari Wilkins** as this year's featured speaker! [Ari Wilkins](#) is a genealogist who has been actively researching family history for over twenty-five years.



## Technology Merges with Genealogy

### Online Newspapers

Sitting at the breakfast table with a cup of coffee on a Sunday morning with a newspaper in hand is more of a memory than a reality in today's technological day. Even this newsletter has very few printed and distributed.

But for our ancestors, this was the way to know the who, what, where and whys of the day. Newspapers from the past are the Facebook of today.

With technology growing, the ease of finding our ancestors is becoming increasingly easier. This month's tips are going to be delving into newspaper websites to help you locate and read the gossip of times gone by in no time at all.

Up first is a paid site; [Newspapers.com](http://Newspapers.com), owned by Ancestry.com (which is included in the new All Access Family Plan subscription). They boast a whopping 955,086,712 pages of newspapers to explore.

Another popular one is [GenealogyBank.com](http://GenealogyBank.com) a division of Newsbank, inc. This is a more affordable option (always running sales) for those on a tighter budget and boasts it has 15,000 newspapers with billions of historical records dating back to 1690 of which 95% are exclusive to GenealogyBank. Use [this link](#) before committing to see a listing of all the newspapers available.

### THIS DAY IN HISTORY



**MAY 4, 1916**

**First baseball game at Marsh Field**

Follow [this link](#) to learn more about this iconic Muskegon baseball field.

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

*"Honoring those who lived before me is extremely rewarding."*

*"It is through their struggles to get here that I have the life I currently live."*

*~ 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!!!!

For the month of May, the [Visit Muskegon](#) website has 188 activities listed from Community activities, family friendly and outdoor events. A lot of the events are at area MADL locations.

Check it out to find fun stuff to do.

May 2024 						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Dive Into Muskegon

### Hackley and Hume Historic Site AFTER DARK Tours!

Offered only the first Friday nights May through October from 9-10PM for only \$15.00 per person. Learn about the booming lumbering industry of Muskegon while visiting the most prominent lumberman of our town. See the way Victorian Era families lived while tour the historic homes.

Please help the Local History Department at the Torrent house complete their collections of Muskegon County year books. They are currently in need of the following publications:

#### **THIS IS AN UPDATED LIST**

Bluffton Elementary School - 1991 or older., and 1994, 1995, 1998-2005

Bunker Middle School - 2001 or older, and 2006, 2007, 2012

Mona Shores High School - 1965 or older, and 1985

**Montague High School – all editions needed**

Muskegon Catholic Central High School - 1953 or older, 1970-1971, 1973, 1977-1982, and 1984-2012

Muskegon Heights High School - 1921 or older, and 1968, 1970 - 2012.

**Muskegon Junior College - They only have 1947 - 1949. Anything else would be appreciated!**

**Nelson Junior High - They only have 1973 and 1975. Anything else would be appreciated!**

North Muskegon High School - 1940 and older, 1942 - 1944, 1946 - 1948, 1963, 1986, 2000, 2004 - 2007, 2011, 2012.

Oakridge High School - 1973 and older, and 1975 - 1982, 1984 - 1988, 1990, 1996, 1999, 2000.

Orchard View High School - 1961 and older, 1963, 1964, 1976, 1977, 1981, 1983 - 1986, and 1988 and after.

Ravenna High School – Prior to 1946. 1977, 1979, 1980, 1886-1991, 1994-1998, 2009, 2010, 2017, 2018

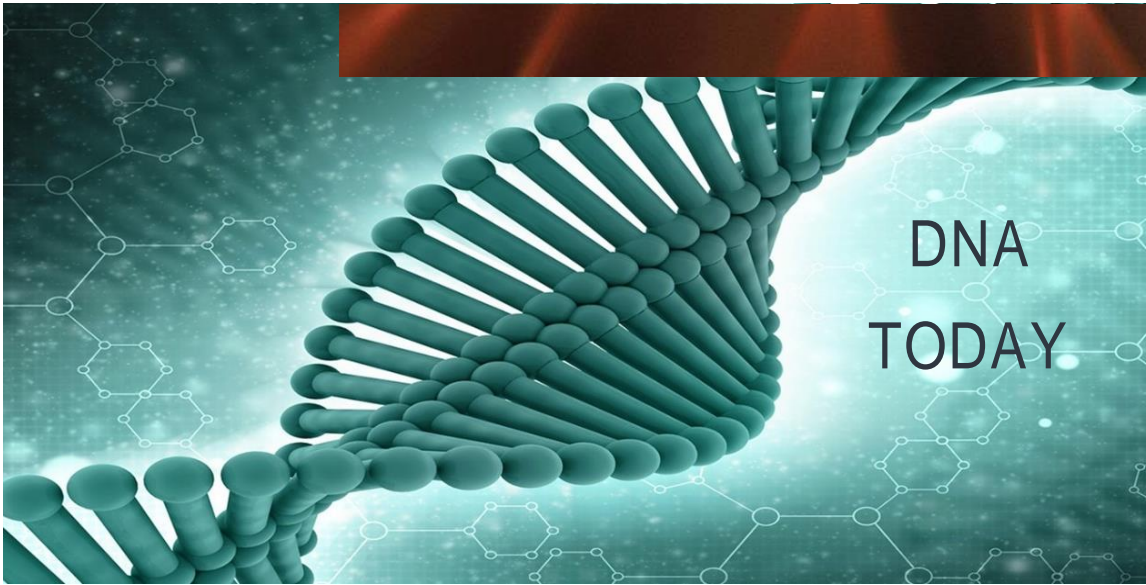
Reeths Puffer High School - 1958 and before, and 1965, 1966, 1981, 1982, 1985 thru 1990, and 1992 thru 2012

**Steele Middle School – 1962 and earlier, 1965 – 2006 except 1973. Anything else would be appreciated!**

**St. Jean's - They only have 1950 and 1952. Anything else would be appreciated!**

**Western Michigan Christian High School - They only have 1958, 1959, 1978-81, 1984 and 1985. Anything else would be appreciated!**

Whitehall High School - 1987 and older, 1989, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1999 thru 2012



# DNA TODAY

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

Do you happen to know why the Ethnicity Results from different DNA companies vary so greatly from one location to another?

This was the topic of our Genetic Genies group in April.

To summarize, it befalls to three reasons:

1. Testing pools
2. Fancy math
3. Timing

The Genies explored each reason in more depth and came to an understanding that all the results are necessary, but sometimes we will never acquire

the historical genealogical records needed to make a proof that so many of us want.

We worked on figuring out the ranges of the estimates to better understand what all the possibilities were. Next month we are DIGging into Ancestral communities and groups.

There are five main companies to explore your DNA to help solve your genealogy mysteries:

- [AncestryDNA®](#)
- [Myheritage.com](#)
- [Living DNA](#)
- [FamilyTreeDNA](#)
- [23andMe](#)

Want to know how they rank and figure out which is best for you? Head on over to [DNA Weekly](#) to see their reviews of the companies, testing kits and so much more.

Ethnicity estimates range from current to thousands of years ago – can you decipher which ones are showing up in your results?

## DIG with the Genetic Genies

### Where in the world are you from?

Our Genies this month were met with several surprise ethnicities they were not expecting. But, upon further DIGging, came to an understanding why these estimates are showing up in their DNA.



**MCGS MEETING PLACE**

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



**Saturdays at 10:30am**

2024 Meeting Dates:

May 18

**NOTE: DATE CHANGE June 8**

August 17

September 21

October 19

November 16

**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:**

Author William Dollarhide:

American Migration Routes, Part 1, Indian Paths, Post Roads & Wagon Roads

American Migration Routes, Part 2, Stagecoach, Steamboat, Canal & Early Railroad Routes

Polk City Directory, Muskegon County, Michigan, 2023

Early Loggers and the Sawmill, by Peter Adams

Compilations by author William P. Hansen:

The Who's Who of Muskegon Lumber Era Pioneers v.3

The Who's Who of Muskegon Lumber Era Pioneers v.4

The Who's Who of Muskegon Lumber Era Pioneers v.5

The Who's Who of Muskegon Lumber Era Pioneers v.6

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Secretary ..... Tom Shepherd

Treasurer ..... Jennifer Lamkin

Past President ..... Jane Appleton Schapka

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Gail Taggart:

Michigan Genealogical Council

National Genealogical Societies

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**MEMBERS at LARGE**

Maria Chmelarova

***Thank you for allowing us to serve you!***

~



Effective April 1, 2024, The Muskegon County Clerk's Office has relocated. The new address is 1903 Marquette Ave. Across the street from the Muskegon Community College Baseball field.

**Again, 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  
Muskegon, MI 49440-1208

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

[facebook.com/MuskgonGenealogicalSociety](https://facebook.com/MuskgonGenealogicalSociety)