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Upcoming Programs:

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!



Next Member Meeting

November 16

Doors open 10:00

Meeting starts at 10:30

Hackley Public Library Lower Level

December :

NO MEETING

The Muskegon County
Genealogical Society
would like to wish you
and yours:



See you in January!

President Corner

Hello,

I have a confession to make to our members.... If I could do genealogy 24 hours a day I would! Unfortunately, my family feels otherwise. Anyone else have this dilemma? Well, the best solution to this is to join a group of people who enjoy the same hobby. Thanks to each one of you for being in my group! And if you ever run across another genealogy geek, pass the word along about our Society. The more, the merrier!

Don't miss our November Annual Meeting. There will be a review of what we have accomplished in 2024, and upcoming plans for 2025. And great giveaways! Must be present (onsite or via Zoom) to win.

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



Last Meeting Highlights

Another beautifully warm sunny day with Autumn leaves ever changing met our standing room only October Member Meeting (32 attending with several over zoom). The crowd was introduced to several members of the Society sharing their family with us. Partick Moriarty shared Forest King and his airline business and Jackie Engel shared Bell Park and her father-in-law's unmistakable mustache, while Bill Hansen wowed us with his photo project that will be displayed at the Lakeshore Museum and Karen Frazier shared her House History project she completed on her son's Muskegon Historic Home. And finally, Jim Wangerin surprised us with the DNA results of his wife's grandparents.

Barb Martin was the member-only book draw winner.

Next Meeting Reminders

There is no meeting in the month of December. Please watch for the January Twig Talk for the new upcoming member meeting book draw.

Have a safe and happy holiday season with your family and may you add many branches onto your tree during this extended break.



Travel Opportunities with MCGS

What a wonderful trip we had to **Allen County Public Library**. We had one newbie and four seasoned explorers. It was an amazingly rewarding time spent with fellow family history fanatics! The next big trip is scheduled for

March 6-8

To **ROOTSTECH 2025**.

Contact our President

Karen Frazier at

presidentmcgs72@gmail.com

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

The Nominations Committee has been making calls to the members to fulfill positions of the Board. Please make sure to attend the meeting to cast your vote for the 2025 Board Members responsible for your society.

In Progress:

Officer Nomination to be presented

2025 Budget to be presented

2025 Development of Public Education opportunities

Website development continues and continues. Members Only section is still 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



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 31st (click the above link to print)

Monthly Board meeting in Review

The October meeting focused on the upcoming 2025 budget. The committee chairs each submitted a proposed budget for their respective committees for review. The final draft will be presented to the members at the November Annual Meeting.

MCGS Website Highlights and Additions

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
months of November or December.

Library of Michigan

The programs are

[Fold3 Library Edition for Power Users.](#)

Thursday, November 7 at 6:30 PM

[Annual Reports: Supplemental Documents for Family
History Research](#)

Thursday, December 5 at 6:30 PM

Click the title to register.

Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center

ACPL is offering 7 [virtual
programs](#) for November.

No classes offered in
December.

Register within each class.

Legacy Family tree Webinars

I am curious as to how many
of you utilize this resource.

This site covers a myriad
number of topics to also suit
your fancy and is delivered
to you right in the comfort of
your own home.

There are both free and
'premium' classes, which
with the annual fee of \$49.95
isn't too bad, considering the
cost of some webinars by
themselves.

There is no limit to the
number you can register for.
So, with the winter months
approaching, investigate
several of these classes and
share with the society which
ones you would
recommend.

Have you already sat in on
an interesting webinar that
you feel would benefit the
society as a whole? Report
that to Patti, our Programs
Chair to possibly set up a
society wide learning
opportunity. She can be
contacted at the following
email address:

programsmcgs72@gmail.com

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**



**In need of some more
learning
opportunities?**

**Don't forget about
the ever-popular
Conference Keeper
website.**

**It has any class you
could ever be
interested in right in
your own home!**

**They have so many
seminars that the
calendar isn't large
enough to list them
all!!!**

**Simply click the image
above to be taken to
the website to
register.**

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...

Where in the world of genealogy is AI being used?? Well, according to Thomas MacEntee it is being used anywhere from DNA to Transcription.

DNA - with all that data the only way that matches can possibly be made is through Artificial Intelligence. With Ancestry alone there are over 20 million people who have tested. How many matches do you have??

Family Photos - MyHeritage has a photo enhancement tool right on their website. This tool can

- colorize black and white photographs
- adjust the clarity
- animate
- determine the date of an image based on characteristics within the photo

Just to name a few.

How many of you use Google Photos? If you put a name to a person in the photo it will "find" all the photos that match the person you identified.

Transcription - NARA used AI to help index the 1950 Census Population Schedules. You can also dictate right into a word document to save time. Next month we will visit the benefits of AI.

EXPLORING THE WORLD OF PODCASTS:

[Genealogy Tips with Legacy Tree](#)

Produced by Legacy Tree Genealogists, the world's largest genealogy research firm. From understanding DNA to searching archives, you will learn the tips and strategies to begin or continue your own research. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, the podcast will help you discover your family story and ancestors with accuracy and peace of mind.

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



NOVEMBER 21, 1977

"Do you know what Michigan interstate was finished on this date?"

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

Monthly Quote

*"History
remembers
only the
celebrated.*

*Genealogy
remembers
them all."*

*~ Lawrence
Overmire*

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!!!!

I thought I would include a couple of articles that have recently been discovered from Muskegon's past...

The Ladies of The Maccabees (*female auxiliary of the Knights of the Maccabees*) are the first fraternal order in the world to be composed exclusively of women and incorporated, officered and managed by women. The organization took place on March 24, 1886, in Muskegon, Michigan, at the home of Mrs. Adelpia G. Ward, in whose mind the plan had been conceived. Nine women gathered at Mother Ward's home on this stormy afternoon and voted to organize a society to be composed exclusively of women and give benefits to women and children. From this small beginning, the Order has branched forth and works actively in 22 States of the Union. The present membership is 55,432.....
Source: *Archives.org: Michigan History Magazine*, Vol. V, 1921, pages 41-42.

Captain Jonathan Walker

Mrs. C.L. Thompson, of Muskegon, has furnished us with the following note summarizing her talk at the midwinter meeting of the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society: Whittier has immortalized in verse the Man with the Branded Hand. This poem which first appeared in 1846 has moved thousands by its soul-stirring sentiment, and there is a most interesting history connected with this heroic man, unnamed even in the poet's verse, who with that band of true reformers – Garrison, Phillips, Douglas, and Lincoln, immortalized in history, sculptured in granite – are now silent but eloquent reminders of the world's progress in justice and humanity.

The story of Captain Jonathan Walker's unyielding devotion to the motto of his life – "Ever Save, never Surrender the Slave" – was borne out in that maimed right hand branded "S.S." by his persecutors to mean "Slave Stealer", - by his adherents, always held to mean "Slave Savior".

Dive Into Muskegon

For assisting in the "underground railroad" and utilizing his vessel to secure freedom for the slaves, he became a shackled prisoner in solitary confinement in a cell without a chair, bed, or table, where, after a year, subjected to all indignities, the United States Court sentenced him to one year in prison for each slave, \$600 fine for each slave, and the branding upon his palm with a red hot iron the large double S.

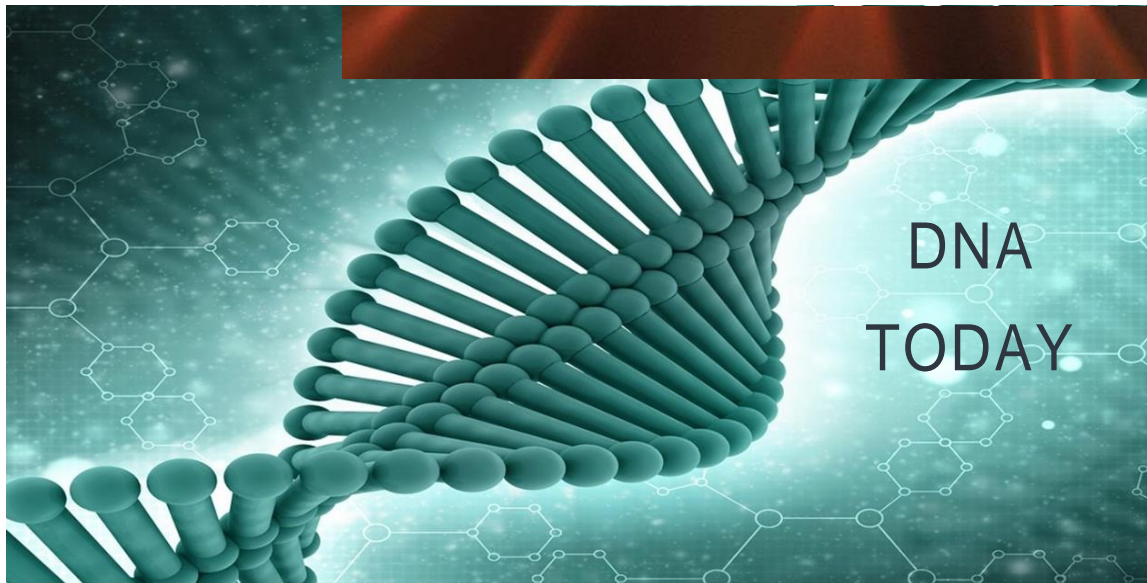
Today in Evergreen cemetery at Muskegon rests the body of this martyr. A fitting noble monument marks this resting place. On the south face is inscribed: "This Monument is erected to the Memory of Capt. Jonathan Walker By his Anti-Slavery Friend, Photius Fisk, Chaplain of the United States Navy." On the eastern face of the shaft is the life size Branded Hand. One the upper base is the following: "Jonathan Walker, Born in Harwich, Mass. March 22, 1799, Died in Lake Harbor, Muskegon Co., Michigan, April 30 1878."

On the north side is the following quotation from Whittier's poem:

"Then life that manly right hand,
Bold ploughman of the wave,
Its branded palm shall prophesy
Salvation to the Slave.
Hold up its fire-wrought language,
That whose reads may feel
His heart swell strong within him,
His sinews changed to steel."

The last 15 years of his life Captain Walker spent on a fruit farm near Muskegon, Michigan, where by dint of hard work he was able to make a comfortable living for himself and wife. He loved to tell of how much faith he had put in the "bank of humanity" and had never been cheated nor deceived. All the years of his eventful life he had helped the poor and suffering, and his great sympathetic heart went out to all his fellowmen.

Source: *Archive.org: 'Michigan History Magazine'*, Vol V, 1921, pages 33-35.



MCGS's interest group ~ DIG!

We are starting to receive questions related to what to do with DNA results from 23andMe given the latest news surrounding them (they have appointed 3 new board members to hopefully quell the downward spiral). But we would like to offer up a little advice.

Here are the instructions for:

- 1) Downloading your results so you can keep them (and upload to other sites if you want, like MyHeritage or Family Tree DNA)
- 2) Deleting your DNA results from 23 and Me.

Gene-ie in a bottle

If you've already handed your data over to 23andMe, the good news is you can [download](#) it yourself before the storm hits (instructions in the link). Here's how:

- Go to [your account settings page](#).
- Find the **Delete Your Data** option under "23andMe Data"

Do NOT DELETE UNTIL YOU HAVE DOWNLOADED IT FIRST!!

Due to the uncertainty of any sale of 23andMe, we strongly encourage you to think about this and make a timely decision based on your comfort level.

Pro tip: If you want a copy of your data, download it within your account settings *before* going through the deletion process. Once you submit your deletion request, 23andMe will send an email to the address linked to your 23andMe account.

Once you confirm your request, they'll start the deletion process. If you initially agreed to have your sample saved, it will also be physically destroyed. FYI: You'll also lose access to your account. I'd consider that a good thing.

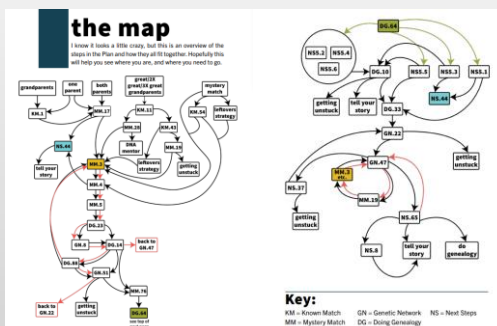
DIG with the Genetic Genies

Have you seen THE PLAN??

Does this map look confusing or maybe difficult to follow??

Well, the Genies would love to help you make sense of it. We are starting another round of the DNA Interest Group (with continued work on this plan) in the coming year. A Google Form will be sent out soon – just make sure to register to be included in the group!!

We look forward to helping you DIG further into your roots!!



Our Genies have started the work of following The Plan to DIG deeper into their roots and add lots of branches to their trees.

We look forward to anyone who would like to join us in the new year!

MCGS MEETING PLACE

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



Saturdays at 10:30am

2024 Meeting Dates:

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 another quiet month. There were no new books reported for the month of October.



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

Call ahead to schedule an appointment!!

OFFICERS

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Past President Jane Appleton Schapka

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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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