



WMGS

Newsletter

May/June 2018



Upcoming Membership Meetings

We meet at **1:30 p.m. in the Ryerson Auditorium of the Grand Rapids Public Library** on the first Saturday of the month, September through June. Should the first Saturday fall on a holiday weekend, another day will be scheduled. Unless a special program, each meeting has a one-hour lecture on a genealogy related subject by a knowledgeable speaker. Books and charts are sold at our meetings and a "Hospitality Hour" follows.

All meetings are free and open to the public.

Saturday, June 9, 2018 Membership Meeting

1:30 p.m.

Topic: Finding Non-Traditional Records

Presenter: Jessica Trotter

Beyond vital records, census records, etc. what else is out there that might give you needed bits of information, and how do you find them? We all know that vital records, census records, etc. are the go-tos for genealogical information. But what else is out there that might give you those needed bits of information, and how do you find those records? Jessica Trotter, a trained archivist, librarian, and genealogist, will talk about identifying additional records to look for and offer some strategies for locating them.

Jessica Trotter is a presenter, researcher and blogger with a degree in History from Michigan State University and a Master of Science in Information, Archives and Records Management Specialization from the University of Michigan. She has been researching her diverse family for over 20 years giving her a solid foundation in African American, British Isles, Canadian, American Midwest, and Early American research.



Saturday, June 9, 2018 Genealogy Mini-Class

12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Topic: Guide to Cemetery Research/Exploration

Presenter: Linda Guth

Location: GRPL, Adult Computer Training Center, lower level.

Cemetery research is about more than just finding where your ancestors are buried. It can also reveal a lot of previously unknown information on your ancestor and his or her family. Learn how to get started in cemetery research and get the most possible information out of it.

Meeting Refreshments

Many WMGS members are great cooks! They share homemade cookies and other goodies with us during our social time! Social time for gene-people is as must! Who else wants to listen to how you found G-G-G Grandpa except another WMGS member? If you can bring cookies, contact Joann Fast, our Hospitality Chairperson.

****NOTE****

**National Family History
Conference May 2 - 5, 2018 at
DeVos Place 75 + Vendors
Including Ancestry,
MyHeritage, 23 & Me, NEHGS,
FamilySearch, Find My Past
Vendor Area Free & Open
to the Public**



DeVos Place

SAVE THE DATE

We're delighted to announce that the speaker for Western Michigan Genealogical Society's 2018 Got Ancestors?! Seminar is **Your Genetic Genealogist – CeCe Moore**.



CeCe Moore is well known for her appearances as the genetic genealogy consultant on television series like *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.*, as well as on other TV shows where she has appeared as a genetic genealogy expert.

She is a leading proponent of genetic genealogy education, and is a co-founder of the *Institutor Genetic Genealogy*.

You can find her blog at *Your Genetic Genealogist* and follow her on Facebook.

We will again be at The Salvation Army Kroc Center on south Division Avenue.

This will be CeCe's first visit to Michigan, so save the date – Saturday, 13 October 2018 for a great day of learning.

**A Special Benefit for Members of
WMGS**

We have a small, dedicated group of volunteers who will check personal resources, search records, compare notes and otherwise make extraordinary efforts to assist you in breaking down the Brick Walls in your family research. Most resources are for Michigan (& the Midwest), New York and New England, but we are not limiting your requests to those areas only. **Our guarantee:** We'll use our combined resources and shared experience to at the very least lead you to a few new places to look. But our goal will be to find that missing piece of information to help you get back another generation or two! What have you got to lose?

Here's what you need to do.

- Be sure you are a current member in good standing. If you have any doubt, just email wmgs@wmgs.org and we'll verify your name against the membership list.
- Send an email to wmgs@wmgs.org. The more information you provide, the better the chances of us making a new find for you. DATES & PLACES are IMPORTANT. Be patient. This service is free to WMGS members. Breaking Brick Walls is not necessarily an easy task. For now, we have a limit of one Brick Wall request per membership year.

FINDING THE LOST REGION

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

**Fourth Annual Midwestern History Conference
Sponsored by the Midwestern History Association and
the Hauenstein Center at Grand Valley State University**

For the fourth consecutive year the MHA will meet in Grand Rapids, giving locals the opportunity to stay on the cutting edge of the reviving field of Midwestern studies. This assemblage of scholars—including those from the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council—is dedicated to re-energizing study of the role of the Midwest in American history. Attend all or just part of the day-long offerings—but don't miss the GGRWHC's presentation at 7:00 pm! Scroll down for more and stay tuned at www.ggrwhc.org!

Courtesy of GVSU's Hauenstein Center, admission will be open to the public and free, including a complimentary lunch—if you RSVP! Also find the day's complete schedule on the following: <https://www.gvsu.edu/hc/module-events-view.htm?siteModuleId=2C5125A7-B7A9-5FEB-4D1655B86DF0EF04&eventId=20AB1F05-9F9A-DB93-67F2E838268D976A>



The Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council at the MHA Conference GVSU DeVos Campus Downtown Wednesday, June 6, 7:00 pm

When in 1917 the American wartime government established the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense, 17,000 local organizations sprang up immediately. Invited in because of military needs, the nation's women citizens made contributions ranging far beyond specific war needs and their traditional gender roles.

Midwestern Women and the Children's Programs of the WWI Council of National Defense

will be the second in GGRWHC's three-year project illustrating the little-credited but incredibly important American women's initiatives to create a home defense by guaranteeing healthy food sources, raising healthy children, and ensuring the health of



women in the industrial work force. This year's focus will be on how women's programs benefited children, ensuring the future health of the nation in the wake of a public health disaster. When one third of American male draftees failed their physicals, the better care of American children became an important aspect of an ongoing home defense. Integrating local histories into the national story, Melissa Fox, Jayson Otto, and Sue Caldwell will report on a variety of 1918 "Children's Year" initiatives in urban Grand Rapids, Michigan, and rural Jasper County, Indiana.

Riding the Rails on the Children's Special: Weighing and Measuring Babies along Michigan's Interurban Lines, Melissa Fox, Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council

Children's Recreation as a Defense Measure: The Case of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Jayson Otto, Aquinas College

Schooling for War in Rural WWI Jasper County, Indiana, Sue Caldwell, Director-At-Large of the Indiana Genealogical Society & Jasper County Genealogist for the IGS

Do you know of something that our members need to know and/or would be interested in knowing? Send your information to:

talkingtree@wmgs.org

The editors of the WMGS newsletter and the WMGS quarterly, the publicity chairperson, the website and database managers, the WMGS president — and more — will receive the information. So you don't have to wonder who to contact, just send it to: **talkingtree@wmgs.org**

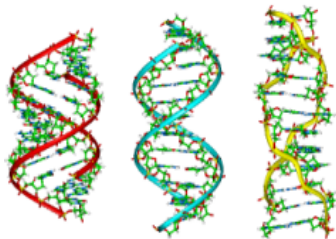
DNA Interest Group (DIG)

Formed in 2015, the Western Michigan Genealogical Society's **DNA Interest Group (DIG)** meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Grand Rapids Public Library's VanderVeen Center on the 4th floor. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. The group discusses the use of Y-DNA (male) and mtDNA (mitochondrial—female) and autosomal DNA (atDNA) tests and their relationship to family history research.

Questions, comments, or program suggestions are welcome. Please contact:

Roger Moffat-

DataMaster@wmgs.org



Don't forget to "like" and follow WMGS on Facebook

Find us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/wmgs.org/>



Michigan History Museum - Say Yes! to Michigan Day

Date: May 12, 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m.

**Location: Michigan History Museum
702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48915**

Celebrate the real stories of Michigan. Enjoy live music, mingle with a group of suffragettes, test your Michigan trivia knowledge, design your own lighthouse and MUCH more.

This event is free of charge, thanks to Michiganology. Each purchase that you make from Michiganology.com supports free public event days like this one at the Michigan History Museum.

The Michigan History Museum—flagship of the Michigan History Museum System—is located in the east wing of the Michigan Library and Historical Center. Sunday admission and weekend parking are completely free and accessible.



The Michigan History Museum offers five levels of permanent and changing exhibits that tell the story of Michigan's past from precontact through the late 20th century. Exhibits include interactive computers, audio-visual presentations and hands-on elements. Please allow at least ninety minutes for your visit to adequately explore.

**Did you know that
WMGS can now take
credit cards at the
merchandise table!
Bring your credit
cards to the next**

Fun Family History Activities for Family Reunions

With summer right around the corner, here are some great ideas to make your family reunion fun and special

Like many families, you and your relatives may have made plans to get together this summer. What a great opportunity for sharing stories and family history. Give one of these 10 fun family history activities a try at your next family reunion to get people talking, sharing and having fun.

Photo Swap

Invite attendees to bring their old, historic family photos to the reunion, including pictures of people (great, great-grandpa), places (churches, cemetery, the old homestead) and even previous reunions. Encourage everyone to label their photos with the names of the people in the photograph, the date of the photo, and their own name and an ID number (a different number to identify each photo). If you can get a volunteer to bring a scanner and laptop computer with CD burner, then set up a scanning table and create a CD of everyone's photos.

Family Scavenger Hunt

Fun for all ages, but an especially good way to get the kids involved, a family scavenger hunt ensures plenty of interaction between different generations. Create a form or booklet with family-related questions such as: What was great-grandfather Powell's first name? Which Aunt had twins? Where and when were Grandma and Grandpa Bishop married? Is there someone born in the same state as you? Set a deadline, and then gather the family together to judge the results. If you wish, you can award prizes to the people who get the most answers correct, and the booklets themselves make nice reunion souvenirs.

Family Tree Wall Chart

Create a large family tree chart to display on a wall, including as many generations of the family as possible. Family members can use it to fill in the blanks and correct any inaccurate information. Wall charts are popular with reunion attendees as they help people visualize their place within the family. The finished product also provides a great source of genealogical information.



Heritage Cookbook

Invite attendees to submit favorite family recipes -- from their own family or one passed down from a distant ancestor. Ask them to include details on, memories of and a photo (when available) of the family member best known for the dish. The collected recipes can then be turned into a wonderful family cookbook. This also makes a great fundraising project for the following year's reunion.



Tour into the Past

If your family reunion is held near where the family originated, then schedule a trip to the old family homestead, church or cemetery. You can use this as an opportunity to share family memories, or go a step further and recruit the clan to clean up the ancestral cemetery plots or research the family in old church records (be sure to schedule with the pastor in advance). This is a particularly special activity when many members are attending from out-of-town.

Oral History Odyssey

Find someone with a video camera who is willing to interview members of the family. If the reunion is in honor of a special event (Grandma and Grandpa's 50th Anniversary) ask people to talk about the guest(s) of honor. Or ask questions on other select memories, such as growing up on the old homestead. You'll be surprised how differently people remember the same place or event.

Memorabilia Table

Set up a table for attendees to bring and display treasured family memorabilia -- historic photos, military medals, old jewelry, family bibles, etc. Be sure all items are carefully labeled and the table is always hosted.

Powell, Kimberly. "Fun Family History Activities for Family Reunions." ThoughtCo, Apr. 11, 2018, [thoughtco.com/fun-family-history-activities-reunions-1421885](https://www.thoughtco.com/fun-family-history-activities-reunions-1421885).

Looking for a challenging and fun volunteer activity?

The Western Michigan Genealogical Society is a volunteer organization. As more members volunteer, the job gets a little easier for all of us. In particular we are looking for:

WMGS Writing Contest Coordinator

Michigana Photo Editor

Michigana columnists for:

⇒ Our Extended Family

⇒ News and Notes

⇒ Plus new columns to be developed

Book Reviewer

Editors and Proofreaders

Pioneer Certificate Coordinator

Interested? Contact: michigana@wmgs.org or

ruthgen@gmail.com



Kalamazoo
Public Library

Please note the following presentations in the Kalamazoo Public Library Central Branch, VanDeusen Room, 315 S Rose St., Kalamazoo

"Red Terror in Kalamazoo: An Incident in the Shakespeare Strike of 1948"

Thursday, May 10, 2018 7:00 p.m.

Local historian Tom Dietz will recount the surprising story of the 1948 Shakespeare Company workers strike. Learn how the postwar Red Scare and a raid by some Detroit union members on the company offices helped turn a simple strike for higher wages into a congressional investigation. Free and open to the public.

"Michigan, My Michigan: A History of this State - From Territory to Statehood"

Monday May 21, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

The history of Michigan is interesting, fascinating and filled with twists and turns. Join Lynn Houghton for a multi-session journey looking at all aspects of Michigan's growth and development from its early beginnings to recent years looking at events, topics, trends, themes and people, all of which have shaped this State. Along with being the Regional History Curator for the WMU Archives and Regional History Collections, Lynn taught Michigan History for Western's Department of History from 2002 to 2017.

Greater Grand Rapids African American Museum and Archives



87 Monroe Center St.
1 Block east of Rosa Parks Circle

The mission of GRAAMA is to promote, preserve, display, collect and honor the lives, culture, history and accomplishments of African, African American, and connected peoples in the Greater Grand Rapids Michigan community.

Hours: 12:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m. Tuesday- Saturday. For special event hours please call (616) 540-2943 for more information



*"We are not makers of history, We
are made by history"*

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



WMGS WRITERS GROUP

This group meets the **THIRD TUESDAY** every month from 1:30 to about 3:45 p.m. at the **Dominican Center**.

The Writers Group holds supportive meetings for everyone who wants to learn more about organizing and writing family history. We take time to informally discuss questions relevant to each person's work, provide helpful, non-judgmental feedback on current or on-going writing projects, discover new research techniques, and have fun making new friends.

Genealogy is more than "names and dates." An ancestor's story or a personal memory are even more fascinating and enlightening. But some genealogists don't know how to begin, while others just need a deadline to kick start their creative juices. The Writers Group can fulfill both of these needs. Genealogy is more than "names and dates." An ancestor's story or a personal memory are even more fascinating and enlightening. But some genealogists don't know how to begin, while others just need a deadline to kick start their creative juices. The Writers Group can fulfill both of these needs.

Upcoming Writing Topics:

May: The most memorable times I spent with my mother

June: The most memorable times I spent with my father

PLANNING ON ATTENDING? Those who attend are encouraged to bring several copies of a Work-In-Progress (WIP), but it's certainly not a requirement and everyone is invited to participate in the discussion. Members include those who are just starting to write and others who have been working on their genealogy for some time. Everyone is welcome - newbies with fresh ideas, and seasoned vets whose pens have been in the trenches for some time.

If you plan to attend, please let Sister Michael Ellen Carling know you will be there. Call her at 616-514-3231 (home), or 616-514-3340 (office) and her email address is mecarling@grdominicans.org.

Membership Application

NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

\$20 in the US

\$25 outside the USA

Membership begins January 1 and ends December 31

DATE: _____ PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP+4 _____

What is your level of genealogy experience" (circle one): Beginner Intermediate Advanced

Would you like someone to contact you about volunteer opportunities with WMGS? Yes No

Would you like to donate to WMGS? Yes No If yes, Amount: _____

Make checks payable to WMGS, Send checks and completed form to:

WMGS Membership, Western Michigan Genealogical Society
c/o Grand Rapids Public Library
111 Library St. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-3268

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

About WMGS

The Western Michigan Genealogical Society is dedicated to gaining knowledge, preserving records and teaching others about genealogy and family history.

Membership: An annual membership to WMGS is \$20 and begins on January 1st of each year. Membership benefits include: 10% discount on all items at the sales table, four issues of *Michigana* per year, free queries in *Michigana*, free online brick wall help and leadership opportunities. Your membership in the Western Michigan Genealogical Society will also include use of the private files of the Society and publication of your genealogy online at trees.wmgs.org

Change of Address: (Temporary or Permanent) If you will be permanently moving to a new address or going on an extended vacation, please notify WMGS before your address change occurs. Be sure to include the date your address will change or the dates when you will leave and plan to return. Email your address change information to the Society at membership@wmgs.org or write to: WMGS—Membership, c/o GRPL, Western Michigan Genealogical Society, 111 Library St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503-3268.

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