



# WMGS Newsletter

## Autumn 2016



## **Cyndi Ingle Headlines WMGS Seminar October 14th and 15th**

For the past 20 years genealogists have gone to Cyndislist.com to locate that one website that might help to topple a stubborn brick wall. From an original listing of 1250 links Cyndislist has grown to an astounding 335,000. Cyndi Ingle's willingness to spend untold hours indexing and checking and rechecking website addresses has resulted in *Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet*, [www.CyndisList.com](http://www.CyndisList.com). Family historians love this vast research source. WMGS is honored to have Cyndi Ingle as the speaker for our Got Ancestors?! 2016 Seminar.

On Friday night, October 14th, Cyndi Ingle will speak about, "How the Internet Made Me an Expert." This is an entertaining and light-hearted look at how Cyndi has become an expert on "everything" because of her time spent online.

*Presentations on Saturday, October 15th include:*

- A Guided Tour of Cyndi's List 2.0
- Striking Out on Their Own:  
Online Migration Tools and Resources
- Foreign Language Tools for  
English-Speaking Genealogists
- Building a Digital Research Plan

Cyndi is the author of a bestselling book for genealogical research on the Internet entitled, *Netting Your Ancestors*. She has also published a printed version of her web site, *Cyndi's List*. Her latest book is *Plant-*

*ing Your Family Tree Online: How To Create Your Own Family History Web Site.*

The Vendor Room and the WMGS Sales Table are two of the attractions at every Seminar. Attendees can browse books and check out genealogically related merchandise. Lunch is delicious, parking is free, everyone is entered in a free drawing for prizes, and you may even meet new cousins!

Please help us reduce costs by using the online registration form on our website at <http://GotAncestors.com/registration/>. You can choose to pay online using your credit card or PayPal, or print out your completed form from your online registration (or the form included with this *Newsletter*) and mail it to us with your payment. If you don't have Internet access, please complete the form below and mail it with your payment to the address at the bottom of this form.

WMGS Members who attend the Saturday Seminar will receive a \$10 voucher in their registration package. This voucher can be used at the WMGS Sales Table, or can be used toward your 2017 Membership. Membership is \$20 per year for members living in the USA.

You can stay up to date with the latest seminar news at our website <http://GotAncestors.com/> and by subscribing to the RSS feed from the "blog" at <http://gotancestors.com/feed/> or click the link for "Entries (RSS)" at the bottom of any page on the website.



**Got Ancestors?!**  
**2016**  
**Make Your List!**  
**with Cyndi Ingle of Cyndi's List**



## WMGS Membership Meetings

*All Membership Meetings are held in the Auditorium at the Main Branch of the Grand Rapids Public Library, 111 Library Street, Grand Rapids, at 1:30 p.m. All presentations are free to the public.*

### **Saturday, 10 September** ***The Book in Each of Us***

This presentation by Buck Matthews emphasizes the importance of preserving our own life stories for those who follow us. Eventually family members have been or will be faced with the task of trying to reconstruct the life journey of a beloved, a black sheep, or a brick wall ancestor. Objects, artifacts, keepsakes and old snapshots are often relatively easy to discover – but the stories that formed the fabric of their lives are lost forever unless today's family historians preserve them.

It's imperative for us to be our own researchers, our own chroniclers of the experiences and events that made us who we are. We have also lived a life worth remembering. We owe it to our descendants to leave behind the information they'll need to understand where they came from by preserving the stories of our ancestors and our own.

Part of this presentation includes the story of a mysterious little block of wood that belonged to Buck's paternal grandfather. Buck discovered it was an artifact from the 1790 founding of the nation's new Federal City. It is now in the collection of the Political History Division of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC.

Although Buck Matthews has spent more than sixty years in radio and television, he has often thought of himself as a writer who just happened to earn a living in broadcasting. An arts and community service activist, he was awarded the Key to the City by two Grand Rapids mayors and received the Grand Rapids Arts Council's Festival award in 1982. His "Buck Matthews Show" on WOOD-TV, Grand Rapids, aired nearly two thousand times over a nine-year period and was named the best of its kind in the nation in 1972.

His writing credits include numerous magazine, newspaper, and broadcast commentaries. *Getting Here* is his third book. His mystery novel, *Uncommon Women*, is available as an e-book on Amazon Kindle. *Soil, Soul, and Simplicity*, is the history of Marne United Methodist Church and the village of Marne, Michigan, is available at the church.



**Charles "Buck" Matthews**

A Maryland native and U. S. Air Force veteran, he grew up in Washington, DC, and attended Ohio Wesleyan and Columbia Universities. He and his wife, Thelma, live in Jenison, Michigan. Their son and daughter and one grandson also live in the Grand Rapids area. *And he's still writing.*

### **Mini-Class**

**Saturday, September 10th**  
**(12 Noon - 1:00 p.m.)**

### ***Kent County Historical Societies***

An historical society is an organization dedicated to preserving, collecting, researching, and interpreting historical information or items. Originally, these societies were created as a way to help future generations understand their heritage. Let's learn about what Historical societies are in Kent County and what they have to offer.

The class will be held in the Adult Computer Lab, Lower Level, at the Grand Rapids Public Library. Instructor: Linda Guth.



**Shirley Gage Hodges**

## **Saturday, Oct 1st** ***Maps, Gazetteers*** ***and Directories***

Maps, Gazetteers and Directories help to put your ancestors at a specific place in a specific time period. This helps researchers know where to look for additional information and sources. Shirley Gage Hodges' presentation will show genealogists about where and how to use Maps, Gazetteers and Directories successfully in our own research.

Shirley has been actively doing genealogical research since 1967. She has taught genealogy classes and seminars – both for the novice and advanced genealogist – in the U. S. and Canada since 1994. She has also been a guest lecturer for several college-level programs. Visual aids, handouts and examples accompany her lectures.

Although she specializes in tracing your female ancestors she covers a wide variety of topics for both the novice and advanced genealogist. Her interest in sharing her love of genealogical research and her sense of humor has delighted audiences. Shirley served as President of the Genealogical Speakers Guild from 2006-2010. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the National Genealogical Society and numerous state and local societies. She became a columnist for *The Global Gazette* in June 2006.

The Michigan Genealogical Council presented the 2012 Lucy Kellogg Award to Shirley Gage Hodges at the November 8, 2012 Delegate meeting in Lansing, Michigan. The Award is given annually to an outstanding genealo-

gist in the State of Michigan. She has helped index records and preserve historic sites.

## **Mini-Class**

**Saturday, October 1st**

**(12 Noon - 1:00 p.m.)**

### ***Why Join a Genealogical Society?***

Every genealogical society is different - some are local, some regional, some national, some ethnic, etc. They all offer a range of features and services. Let's find out what a "typical" Genealogical Society usually offers to it's members. The class will be held in the Adult Computer Lab, Lower Level, at the Grand Rapids Public Library. Instructor: Linda Guth.



**Karen Krugman**

## **Saturday, November 5th** ***Colonial Research in America***

Karen Krugman will present information focusing on the colonial era of America. She will explore the availability of online resources and what to expect when trying to locate records for early American ancestors.

Karen Krugman has been researching since 1990, and professionally since 1998. She enjoys the challenge of Lineage Society research. Since 2002 she has been speaking to genealogy groups in the metro Detroit area as well as other areas of Michigan and Ohio. Her talks are given with a uniquely humorous spin. Karen is a member of a number of genealogical societies and has served in many leadership capacities. She has written five books based on her family history research and was co-author of *The Ford Family Cemetery book*, where auto pioneer Henry Ford is buried.

## **Fall Classes at the Grand Rapids Public Library**

**Classes Held at the Main Library – 111 Library St NE**

### ***Michigan's River Jordan***

**Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2016, 7:00 pm**

Join literary and public historian Veta Tucker Smith as she discusses her recently published work, *A Fluid Frontier: Slavery, Resistance, and the Underground Railroad in the Detroit River Borderland*.

A long-time West Michigan educator and founder of the Kutsche Office of Local History at Grand Valley State University, Tucker will discuss the role of the Detroit River corridor in the underground railroad movement, as fugitive slaves fled the United States for Canada.

*A Fluid Frontier*, co-edited by Tucker and Karolyn Smardz Frost, contains essays that explore the many facets of geography and history that shaped both the region and the people who sought freedom in it. A question and answer period will follow the discussion. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.

### ***Exploring Social Media and Email***

**Monday, Sept. 26, 2016, 11:00 am**

Connecting with new cousins and finding relatives who have family photographs or original copies of vital records is much easier today than in the past when it took days or weeks to get an answer by mail. Today genealogists have a variety of digital options. The Internet and social media have made it easier than ever before to keep in touch with friends and family. Beginning with a brief introduction to email, this class teaches how to communicate with others online and offers tips on how to be safe while doing so. You will learn the basics about Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and find out what you need to get started with Skype, Google Hangouts, and other video calling services.

***WACs, WASPs, SPARs, & Marines:*  
Nicknames, Recruiting, and the Wartime Experience  
of Servicewomen from Grand Rapids**

**Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016, 7:00pm**

WWII was the first large-scale employment of women in the armed forces. They were first accepted by the Army, later the Navy and Coast Guard, and finally the Marine Corps. Women's struggle for acceptance is reflected in their portrayal in the media, recruitment and training, and in the nicknames they were given. This presentation will include a record of the struggle in Grand Rapids and examine how, though being the most resistant of all the forces, the Marine Corps ultimately became the most progressive branch in its acceptance of women.

## **WMGS Two Hour Classes September**

**Saturday, Sept. 17th 1 - 3:00 pm**

### ***Michigan Genealogical Societies***

Genealogical societies provide products and services needed by members, such as education and training, research aid, exchange of knowledge, etc. Let's learn about which Genealogical/Historical societies are in Michigan and what they have to offer. Class will be held in the Adult Computer Lab, Lower Level, at the Grand Rapids Public Library. Instructor: Linda Guth.

### **October**

**October, 19th 6:30- pm**

### ***Preparing for the Allen County Public Library Road Trip***

Twice a year the Western Michigan Genealogical Society sponsors a bus trip to The Allen County Public Library. Many records and family histories are not available online. This library carries one of the largest research collections available in the United States. It includes references for small American towns, large cities, organizations, and military and church records. Shelves hold American and world resources. WMGS Past President and veteran Bus Trip Coordinator, Sue Irvine, will show you how to prepare for research for this awesome WMGS road trip.

Class will be held in the Adult Computer Lab, Lower Level, at the Grand Rapids Public Library.

### ***Michigan Genealogical Council Fall Seminar November 12th***

Blaine Bettenger, founder of FamilyTreeDNA, has a Ph.D. in biochemistry with a concentration in genetics, and will present four sessions on using DNA to identify ancestral connections. His blog may be found at <http://thegeneticgenealogist.com> and has more information about him.

The Seminar will be held at the Michigan State History Center 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, Michigan. For more information go to: <http://www.mimgc.org/>.

# Western Michigan Genealogical Society's Bus Trip to Ft. Wayne's Allen County Public Library

Staying at Econo Lodge

Wednesday – Thursday – November 16 - 17, 2016

\$129=Single, \$97=Double, \$88=Triple, \$81=Quad

Transportation by Great Lakes Motor Coach

No smoking on coach or in Motel

## NEW PICKUP AREAS

<b>Day #1</b> <b>April 13</b> <b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 AM	Leave Alpine NW area (back behind the Theater) (North of I-96)
	7:30 AM	Leave Meijers (next to I96 and 28th St near the "K" marker)
	8:15 AM	Leave Lake Odessa and I-96 (Exit 64) (just ¼ mile south to Outreach Christian Church lot)
	8:45 AM	Possible pickup off I69 at Marshall Park/Ride
	9:30 ish	Refreshment Stop (donuts & juice at highway rest stop)
	10:30 AM	Arrive <b>Allen County Public Library</b> (260) 421-1200
	9:00 PM	Bus transfer to <b>Econo Lodge</b> (260) 489-8888
<b>Day # 2</b> <b>April 14</b> <b>Thursday</b>		Last spring many of us enjoyed pizza at the motel! – Fun time!
		5707 Challenger Parkway, Fort Wayne, IN, 46818, US
		Cross Streets: Near the intersection of Challenger Pkwy and Cross Creek Blvd
	7:00 AM	Wakeup Call – Continental breakfast (and maybe cold Pizza)
	8:30-8:40 AM	Load luggage. Transportation to library.
	6:00 PM	Depart from Allen County Public Library.
	6:45 PM	Stop for quick meal near Auburn, Indiana
	9:30 PM	Arrive at Lake Odessa exit (church parking lot)
	10:00 PM	Arrive at Meijers I-96 drop off area
	10:30 PM	Arrive at Alpine area behind theater

**Trip includes:** roundtrip motor coach transportation, lodging at Econo Lodge (same place as last spring), 5707 Challenger Parkway, and library transfer. Light Breakfast included. The Allen County Library has a café and many eateries are close to the library.

- The motel does not have an elevator. Please indicate floor requirement.
- Cancellations will receive a refund with replacement only.
- WMGS member? Membership PERK. You will receive a coupon worth \$5 towards next year's membership or towards any purchase at the WMGS sales table.
- We need 36 bus riders to make this trip a reality. An email by first part October would be most helpful.
- A \$15 deposit guarantees your place on the bus. Please send your deposit or at least an email by **October 15th**.
- Balance must be paid by November 5th. Please make checks payable to WMGS.

Please contact Sue Irvine with any questions. 616-889-0042 or [sjirv@yahoo.com](mailto:sjirv@yahoo.com)

Send registration and payment to Sue Irvine, 4215 Northgate NE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49525

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\* \$129=Single    \$97=Double (each)    \$88=Triple (each)    81=Quad (each)  
Ft. Wayne Trip   Wed – Thurs    November 16-17, 2016    All rooms non-smoking

Is 1st floor a requirement? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (help provided for carrying baggage but no elevator)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Pickup Point: Circle one:   Star Theater   Meijers   Lake Odessa   Charlotte**

Roommates: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation and other trip information will be confirmed by email.: \_\_\_\_\_

## WMGS WRITERS 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 writing projects, discover new research techniques, and have great fun making new friends.

Some genealogists don't know how to begin, while others just need a deadline to kick start their creative juices. The Writers Group fulfills these needs. Some focus on telling one family story or a personal memory. Others are writing longer articles or books. You are encouraged to bring your current Work In Progress (WIP). Everyone is welcome. Feedback is given with a kind eye and a willingness to be helpful. After all, writers need to stick together.

### PLANNING ON ATTENDING?

Those coming to the WMGS Writers Group 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, have any questions or need more specific directions please contact Sister Michael Ellen Carling at 616-514-3231 (home), 616-514-3340 (office), or email [mecarling@grdominicans.org](mailto:mecarling@grdominicans.org). 22

## Newsletter Notes

The WMGS Newsletter is published four times a year: February, May, August and November. The deadline for submitting material is the monthly meeting prior to the month of the publication: January, April, July and October, unless other arrangements are made in advance.

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for publication. If you find it interesting or helpful it's likely others will to! Please share!

If you have questions regarding information in the Newsletter, about the Western Michigan Genealogical Society, or have suggestions for events, feel free to contact one of the board members listed on the back page of the Newsletter.

## Next Grand Rapids Public Library Genealogy (GRPL) Lock-In October 28th from 6-10 PM

The Lock-In is a free event hosted by the Grand Rapids Public Library and sponsored by the Western Michigan Genealogical Society for both new and more experienced family historians. The Lock-In is held on the fourth floor Local and Family History Department. It provides an opportunity to use the extensive resources available in the stacks, share knowledge with other genealogists and learn about new techniques and resources. Learn how to use the microfilm reader/scanner/printer, save images, and take advantage of free copying and printing during the event. Use the time to search databases—we will have plenty of computers available or bring your own laptop and use the library's WiFi network. Bring your genealogy questions or Ancestry and Heritage Quest problems—volunteers will be on hand to assist. Network with other genealogists—you never know what you might find!

**Registration is required: [www.grpl.org/register](http://www.grpl.org/register) or call 988-5400.**

### Lock-In Guidelines

**Registration:** You may ONLY register for yourself and one other person. There is a maximum of fifty people due to space limitations. If all spaces are filled there will be a waiting list. If you are registered and find you will be unable to attend, please notify the library as soon as possible so another genealogist can take your place.

**Food:** The Library and WMGS will provide snacks for hungry researchers. You may not bring food to share with others. ALL edibles MUST be eaten in the VanderVeen Room. **No** food or liquids are allowed in the stacks or by computers.

**Copying:** Please copy no more than TEN pages at one time. This will reduce the length of time each person has to wait for their copies to be available. To avoid confusion, it is helpful if you collect your copies as soon as they have been printed.

## DNA Interest Group (DIG)

DIG will continue to meet at 7:00 PM on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Grand Rapids Public Library. Check at the desk on the Fourth Floor for directions to the meeting room. 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. If you have questions or want more information, please contact:

Roger Moffat - [DataMaster@wmgs.org](mailto:DataMaster@wmgs.org)

# **2017 WMGS Writing Contest**

## **~ A Sense of Place ~**

**Location, Location, Location.** Our ancestors moved, settled and moved again. Place often determines occupation, educational opportunities, and even the materials used in building a home. For the 2017 WMGS Writing Contest, entries should focus on the Great Lakes Region (Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Ontario).

Examples:

- You may choose to share the story of the family farm, home or business, and its location changed (or didn't change) your family's history.
- Why did your ancestors come to a specific area?
- Why did they leave?
- Or, you may have a family story that took place in a park, by a lake, in court, at an event, in a church, etc.
- You may write about a family, an individual or yourself.

**Every Story Preserves History.  
Consider Sending Us One of Yours!**

Entries are due between January 1 and March 30, 2017!  
Send to: [michigana@wmgs.org](mailto:michigana@wmgs.org) or [ruthgen@gmail.com](mailto:ruthgen@gmail.com)

**National Genealogical Conference Coming to Grand Rapids  
May 2 - 5, 2018 SAVE THESE Days!!!**

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

**\$20 in the US**

**\$25 Outside the USA**

**Membership begins January 1st and ends December 31st.**

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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## 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](http://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](mailto:membership@wmgs.org) or write to: WMGS – Membership. c/o GRPL, Western Michigan Genealogical Society, 111 Library St NE, Grand Rapids MI 49503-3268.

## WMGS Contact Information

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## 2016 Got Ancestors?!

**October 14th and 15th**  
**Prince Conference Center at Calvin College**  
**Grand Rapids, Michigan**

**Listen to Cyndi Ingle Discuss**  
**Genealogy and the Internet**