



WMGS Newsletter Spring 2016



Upcoming Membership Meetings

All Western Michigan Genealogical Society 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. Presentations are free to the public. .

Saturday, 05 Mar 2016

American Indian Research

Our presenter will be Mr. Levi Rickert. He is a descendant of White Pigeon, the American Indian leader for whom the township of White Pigeon is named. If you think you may have some Native American blood in your family tree, he will discuss how to research American Indian lineage.

Levi Rickert is a tribal citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation. A lifelong resident of Grand Rapids, he serves as the editor-in-chief of two American Indian publications: *Native News Online* and the *Tribal Business Journal*. He founded *Native News Online* five years ago and it has grown to become one of the largest daily American Indian news sources in the United States. *Native News Online* has over 337,000 Facebook LIKES and over 32,000 Twitter followers. The *Tribal Business Journal* is a monthly magazine focusing on economic development in Indian Country. It is mailed to every Indian tribe in America 12 times a year.



Levi Rickert

Saturday, 02 Apr 2016

Funeral Homes and Family History: They Are Dying to Meet You!

Dan Earl has been a family historian with 25 years of experience. He is also a speaker and professional genealogist. Most genealogists know to look in a cemetery to find their ancestors, but what about the funeral home? Funeral home records can provide loads of genealogically rich information. This presentation will teach participants what types of records are typically found in funeral homes, how to locate these resources online and "in the field", as well as provide real life examples of how to search for ancillary clues in funeral home records.

1. Participants will learn about the types of genealogically relevant records funeral homes may have.
2. You will discover how to locate funeral home records online and "in the field".
3. Real life examples will show how researchers can find ancillary clues in funeral home records.

Like many WMGS members, Mr. Earl is "the Family History Guy" in his family. Every family has one. He's the person who knows all about the family's history: who is related to who, the black sheep, and where they came from.

**Something GREAT is coming!
Watch This Space!!!**

Saturday, 7 May 2016

***The Buckeye State:
Researching Your Ohio Ancestors***

Many of those who settled in western Michigan came from Ohio. Kris Rzepcynski, will provide an overview of the rich and abundant Ohio genealogical resources available in print and online.

Kris Rzepcynski is currently a Senior Archivist at the Archives of Michigan and has presented several very well received programs to WMGS members in the past. He previously worked for 12 years at the Library of Michigan as the Michigan/Genealogy Coordinator. Kris holds a Masters in Library and Information Science from Wayne State University, a Master of Arts in History from Western Michigan University, and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Michigan. He has presented at national, state, and local conferences, including the National Genealogical Society, Federation of Genealogical Societies, Ohio Genealogical Society, Public Library Association, Historical Society of Michigan, Michigan Library Association, and for dozens of local genealogical societies.



Kris Rzepcynski

**1940 Michigan
Death Certificates Online**

Archives of Michigan staff have completed loading images of 1940 death records to Seeking Michigan. Images of death certificates from 1897-1940 are now available at seekingmichigan.org for free. The 1941-1952 Death Certificate Index can also be found there.

Saturday, 11 June 2016

Michigan Boys in Blue

John Urschel is the author of the Michigan Boys in Blue Series of ten sourcebooks, two other history books, and was the Executive Producer of "Kalamazoo 1884" a documentary film. His presentation will discuss how he researched the sourcebooks, and how he evaluated what he found. He will also describe his research into the Michigan graves at Andersonville National Cemetery and Gettysburg, the mistakes he found, and how those mistakes were corrected. There will be a bit of music and lots of pictures and time for questions. He will also bemoan the fact that with 33,000 soldiers in his database, he doesn't have the time to dive headlong into the type of genealogical research that you do.

John Urschel holds B.A. in History and an M.A. in Public History from Wright State University (Fairborn, Ohio.) He has been a Security Supervisor, Small Computer Business Owner, Musician, Pinkerton Detective, Records Manager and Archivist for South Bend and St. Joseph County Indiana, and Information Manager for the City of Kalamazoo. He describes himself as "sort of retired."



John Urschel

Michigan Civil War Information

From April 1861 to April 1865, Michigan furnished 90,747 men, not counting 1,982 men commuting and 4,000 Michigan men who served in the units of other states. The first Michigan troops discharged from federal service, the 20th Regiment of Infantry, arrived in the state from the battle field on June 4, 1865 and the last, the Third and Fourth Infantry, arrived on June 10, 1866. To learn more, go to: http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,4569,7-126-2360_3003_3009-16995--,00.html

WMGS Classes

Saturday March 5, 2016 Noon – 1:00 PM Prepping for the Allen County Public Library (Mini Class)

The Allen County Public Library has one of the largest research collections available, incorporating records from around the world. Our presenter will show you how to prepare for research for this awesome WMGS road trip. Instructor: Sue Irvine

Monday March 21, 2016 6:30 – 8:30 PM MyHeritage Family Tree Builder software extras (2 hour class)

There is more to this software than entering people and their bios. Learn about the extras such as: Consistency Checker, Duplicates Checker, Checking for Deceased People, and Exporting some data to an Excel spreadsheet, plus more. Instructor: Linda Guth

Saturday April 2, 2016 Noon – 1:00 PM Image Scanning (Mini Class)

During this class we will review 4 types of scanners: Flatbed, Sheet fed, Flip-Pal, and Portable. Learn how to scan photos and documents for your genealogy research. Instructor: Linda Guth

Saturday May 7, 2016 Noon – 1:00 PM Finding Living Relatives (Mini Class)

Other than asking your immediate relatives, how else can you find living relatives? Many living relatives, most of whom you have never met, all form part of your extended family. They may have that elusive photo or document that you're looking for. We will discuss various ways to find your living relatives. Instructor: Linda Guth

Annual Local History Roundtable

"Changing Communities" Thursday, March 24, 2016

The 7th Annual Local History Roundtable will be held on in the Mary Idema Pew Library on GVSU's Allendale Campus. Focused on the theme, "Changing Communities," the meeting will explore how West Michigan cities like Grand Rapids, Holland, and Muskegon have transformed over the past century and more.

Each spring, the Local History Roundtable brings together librarians, archivists, curators, community members, preservationists, educators, students, and others who share a passion for local history. The one to two day conference is organized by a local, volunteer planning committee. A different theme and location is chosen each year. We hope you will join us for the 2016 meeting. For more information or to register, go to: <https://www.gvsu.edu/kutsche/annual-local-history-roundtable-11.htm>

2016 WMGS Writing Contest

~ Event in History & How It Affected Your Family

~

Pivotal historic events have caused major changes in our ancestors' lives. Choose one such event that changed the course of an individual's or family's path. Describe the event and its ramifications. For example: Wars, weather events, winning the lottery, an arranged marriage, a recession or depression, etc. are events that may cause either positive or negative changes.

Eligibility: All family historians and genealogists, except the *Michigana* Editor and judges, are invited to submit their favorite story for the contest. There is no entry fee and membership in WMGS is not required.

Deadline: Entries will be accepted between January 1 and March 30, 2016. Length: Stories should be between 1,500 and 3,000 words in length. Please cite your sources by using endnotes, and attach copies of documentation when appropriate. Family group sheets and pedigree charts should be included if pertinent. Neither documentation nor charts will be included in the word count.

Formats: Email your entry in iPages, Microsoft Word, or as a PDF. Photographs or graphics should be sent separately as 300 dpi tiff or jpeg files. Email your submission to michigana@wmgs.org with "Michigana Contest 2016" written in the Subject Line.

Identification: Include the story title, your name, your mailing address, phone number, and approximate word count. This information will only be used to identify and notify the winners.

Notification: The Judge's decisions will be announced at the May 2016 Membership Meeting and in the next available issue of *Michigana*. Winners do not have to be present to win. Prize winning articles will be published in future issues of *Michigana*. By submitting articles, authors are giving WMGS one time print and digital rights. However, copyright is retained by the author. Entries may not have been previously published. All prizes may not be awarded.

The prizes: 1st prize: \$100 and one annual WMGS membership (total value - \$120); 2nd prize: \$75 and one annual WMGS membership (total value - \$95); 3rd prize: \$50; 4th prize: \$25.

Need help? The WMGS Writers Group meets the third Tuesday of the month and we would love to help you make your story the best that it can be. For information about location, time, and directions go to: www.wmgs.org

***Next Grand Rapids Public
Library Genealogy (GRPL) Lock-in
April 29th 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 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. If you wish, you may also bring additional food and drinks. 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 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.

Slide Scanning Options

Many of us have collections of 35 millimeter slides. Converting them to a digital format requires several considerations. If you have a standard flatbed scanner, you need a special attachment that fits around the slide and draws light to the image. These attachments are sold online.

The Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library has recently installed two new digital microfilm copy-scanners, which will also digitize slides and save them to a flash drive. Ask a staff members about their operation. Some companies will digitize old slides for a fee.

More Events at the GRPL

***We Bought a WWII Bomber:
The Untold Story of a Michigan High
School, a B-17 Bomber and the Blue
Ridge Parkway***

March 7 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

During WWII, to help fund the war effort, students at South High School in Grand Rapids took part in the "Buy the Bomber" program, raising over \$375,000 selling War Bonds and Defense Loan Stamps and bought a B-17 Bomber. They christened the bomber, "The Spirit of South High," after which it flew off never to be heard from again, until now. Author Sandra Warren will share the extraordinary tale of how students raised so much money and the incredible "spirit" that led alumni, 72 years later, to solve the mystery of what happened to the bomber.

**Bridge Street Views
GRPL**

April 28 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Explore the evolution of Bridge Street through old photographs alongside present day images of structures, including commercial and residential buildings. GRPL Library Assistant Drew Damron will use the library's archival collection to tell the story of this historic Grand Rapids road.

***Grand Rapids
Civil War Roundtable***

Meetings are held third Wednesday at the Dewitt Student Center, Kuyper College, 3333 East Beltline NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Programs begin at 7:30 p.m.

Wed., March 16:

Richard Miller "Civil War Music and Stories"

Thu., April 14, 7:00 pm:

Special Meeting with The Grand Rapids Historical Society at Aquinas College

Wed., May 18:

Tony Ziebol "Richard Kirkland, The Angel of Marye's Heights"

For more information email cwhonor@comcast.net call (616) 363 – 4468, or Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/grcwr.

Family History Open House

Saturday March 12, 2016 9:00am - 5:00pm

Capital Area District Library

401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing

Forest Parke Library and Archives.

Basement - Local History Room

We're celebrating National Genealogy Day with a Family History Open House! Drop in for a class or bring a sack lunch and stay all day. Chat with fellow researchers and our Genealogy Gurus in the Genealogy Lounge - it will be open all day.

Classes 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

9:30 - 10:30 am What I Wish I'd Known:

Getting Started in Genealogy

10:45 - 11:45 am Sharing Your Research

1 - 2 pm Archival Research: You Can Do It!

2:15 - 3:15 pm FamilySearch.org and

Family History Centers

3:30 - 4:30 pm Like & Tweet Your

Ancestors with Social Media

For more information call 517-367-6363 or go to: www.cadl.org



Free Admission to Spring Museum Tour

The Tri-River Museum Network will host its ninth "Spring Into the Past" tour **Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.** each day. This event is designed to raise awareness and generate interest in some of West Michigan's finest small museums.

The twenty-one area historical societies that will participate in the tour are: Pine Forest Historical Museum, Portland Historical Society, Belrockton Dormitory, Blanchard House, Bowne Township Historical Museum, Fallasburg Historical Village, Freeport Historical Museum, Lowell Historical Museum, Fighting Falcons Military Museum, Flat River Museum, Lake Odessa Historical Society, Boston/Saranac Historical Society, Alton Historical Museum, Averill Historical Museum, Cascade Museum, Oakfield Pioneer Heritage Museum, Historic Charlton Park, Cedar Springs Museum, Grattan Township Historical Society, Lyons/Muir Museum, and the Clarksville/Campbell Historical Society will have a display in Papa C's Pizza shop.

Maps and additional information can be obtained at any of the museums taking part in the "Spring Into the Past" tour or online at www.addorio.com/TriRiver/springintopast2016.pdf

Family Tree Maker Isn't Dead!

Family Tree database users were surprised when Ancestry decided to end its support of Family Tree database software. An announcement at Roots Tech last month allowed those using Family Tree Maker to take a deep breath. MacKiev, the company that wrote the Macintosh version of the software program will continue to support and improve it.

MacKiev intends to emphasize the software's stability and speed before adding additional features to the program. This is good news for all present Family Tree Maker users who were worried about having to switch to another software application.

Dutch Colonial Records Digitized

The New York State Archives has announced a project to digitize and deliver online its Dutch colonial government records. This project is made possible through a partnership with the New Netherlands Institute and support from the government of the Netherlands and the Society of Daughters of Holland Dames.

The records will be digitized in batches, and whole volumes will be unavailable during this period. Please contact the State Archives Researcher Services by email ARCHREF@nysed.gov (link sends e-mail) or (518) 474-8955 to request information on availability of records or in advance of any research visit to use Dutch records during 2016.

2016 Lansing Family History Center Seminar

**8:00 am to 4 pm 23 April 2016
431 E. Saginaw Hwy. East Lansing, MI**

This seminar has 45 sessions dedicated to helping genealogists research their ancestors. You may bring your lunch or visit local restaurants. Many WMGS members have attended this event in the past, learned a great deal and met many new friends. For more information or to register, go to:

<http://www.lansingfhc.org/index.html>

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

Staying at Econo Lodge

Wednesday – Thursday – April 13-14, 2016

\$128=Single, \$97=Double, \$87=Triple, \$81=Quad

Transportation by Great Lakes Motor Coach

No smoking on coach or in Motel

NEW PICKUP AREAS

Day #1 7:00 AM Leave Alpine NW area (back behind the Theater) (North of I-96)
April 13 7:30 AM Leave Meijers (next to I96 and 28th St near the "K" marker)
Wednesday 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 Allen County Public Library (260) 421-1200
9:00 PM Bus transfer to Econo Lodge (260) 489-8888
Last fall 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

Day # 2 7:00 AM Wakeup Call – Walk across parking lot to restaurant for breakfast
April 14 8:30-8:40 AM Load luggage. Transportation to library.
Thursday 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 fall), 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 of March would be most helpful.
- A \$15 deposit guarantees your place on the bus. Please send your deposit or at least an email by **March 11th**.
- Balance must be paid by April 9th. Please make checks payable to WMGS.

Please contact Sue Irvine with any questions. 616-889-0042 or sjirv@yahoo.com

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

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Send registration and payment to Sue Irvine, 4215 Northgate NE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49525
\$128=Single \$97=Double (each) \$87=Triple (each) 81=Quad (each)
Ft. Wayne Trip Wed – Thurs April 13-14, 2016 All rooms non-smoking

Is 1st floor a requirement? Yes _____ No _____

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 or on-going writing projects, discover new research techniques, and have 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 can fulfill both of these needs.

STORY A MONTH

You are encouraged to bring your current Work In Progress (WIP). Some of us are working on telling one relative's story, or a personal memory at each meeting. Others are writing longer stories or books. 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, please let Sister Michael Ellen Carling know you will be there. Call her at 616-514-3231 (home), 616-514-3340 (office), or contact her by email at mecarling@grdominicans.org. This gives her an estimate of the number of chairs to set up. She's also the person to call if you have any questions or need more specific directions.

WMGS DNA Interest Group (DIG)

DIG meets at 7:00 PM on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Grand Rapids Public Library. The group meets in the VanderVeen Center for the Book on the 4th floor. 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. Meetings are scheduled for December 17th, January 21st, and February 18th.

If you have questions or want more information, please contact Roger Moffat - DataMaster@wmgs.org

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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GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT No. 209

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

WMGS
c/o Grand Rapids Public Library
111 Library St NE
Grand Rapids MI 49503-3268

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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