



# WMGS Newsletter Summer 2016



## ***National Genealogical Society Announces Grand Rapids, Michigan as the Site for 2018 NGS Family History Conference***

National Genealogical Society (NGS) President, Jordan Jones, announced the 2018 NGS Family History Conference will be held at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2-5 May 2018.

NGS selected Grand Rapids for its significant historical importance as a city centrally located between all the Great Lakes. In the nineteenth century, the Great Lakes were major, strategic waterways that helped Americans moving West and immigrants coming from overseas through Canada to settle and develop the Midwest. Cheap land, mining, and the timber industry made the area attractive. The combination of water power from the rivers and rapids, together with access to grain and lumber, encouraged manufacturing and industry, including breweries, furniture, and cereal. Entrepreneurs flourished as Michigan became the center for the automobile industry for seventy-five years, encouraging migration from the south and attracting an influx of new immigrants in search of jobs and the American dream.

Today, Grand Rapids is a popular vacation destination with miles of bike and walking trails and many nearby locations for water sports or golf. Area highlights include the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, Grand Rapids Public Museum, and beautiful Lake Michigan only thirty miles away. Walk downtown Grand Rapids and see the award winning art from ArtPrize or visit some of the many craft breweries along the beer trail. Bring your spouse, partner, or friends and spend

time enjoying all that beautiful western Michigan has to offer plus take the opportunity to attend the premier family history conference and learn more about genealogy.

Details about the NGS 2018 Family History Conference will be available in the fall of 2017. The four-day conference will include more than 175 lectures and workshops delivered by nationally recognized experts. Registration for the conference will begin 1 December 2017. Whether you are an experienced genealogist or just beginning your family history, save the dates 2-5 May 2018 because you won't want to miss this exciting conference—the first national genealogical conference held in Michigan. NGS is pleased to have the local support of the Western Michigan Genealogical Society, which was founded in 1954 and is the second oldest genealogical society in Michigan.

Founded in 1903, the National Genealogical Society is dedicated to genealogical education, the highest standards of research, and the preservation of genealogical records. The Arlington, Virginia, based nonprofit is the premier national society for everyone, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian, seeking excellence in publications, educational offerings, and guidance in research. It also offers many opportunities to interact with other genealogists.

For more information in the future visit the NGS website at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/> and the Western Michigan Genealogical Society website at [www.wmgs.org](http://www.wmgs.org).

## ***Save the Dates - May 2 - 5, 2018***

## **WMGS Membership Meeting**

### **Saturday, 11 June 2016**

#### ***Michigan Boys in Blue***

*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. Presentations are free to the public.*

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, a Records Manager and Archivist for South Bend and St. Joseph County Indiana, and the Information Manager for the City of Kalamazoo. He describes himself as "sort of retired."

### **Mini-Class**

#### **Saturday, June 11th**

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

#### ***Where There's a Will There's a Clue***

Wills may help determine immigrant origins, list occupations, identify family members and where they lived, describe assets and list how many were owned, and tell today's researchers what objects our ancestors considered to be valuable. Let's check this resource for clues. Instructor: Linda Guth

**Location:** Grand Rapids Public Library, Adult Computer Training Center, lower level.



John Urschel

### **June Two-Hour Class**

#### ***Field Trip: Tour of the LDS Grand Rapids Family History Center***

**Meet at the center at: 2780 Leonard St  
NE, Grand Rapids, MI**

**Tuesday, June 21, 2016 6:00 pm**

Family History Centers (FHCs) are branches of FamilySearch.org and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. They are located all over the world. Their goal is to provide resources to assist you in the research and study of your genealogy and family history by:

- Giving personal one-on-one assistance to patrons
- Providing access to genealogical records through the Internet or microfilm loan program

## ***The 67th annual Upper Peninsula History Conference***

### ***June 24-26, 2016, in Munising.***

The annual Upper Peninsula History Conference pays particular attention to U.P. history topics and themes. This conference moves to a different location in the Upper Peninsula each year to also explore that area's heritage. In addition, the annual Upper Peninsula History Awards are presented at this conference. There will be three keynote speeches: Literacy and Labor Halls - Finnish Radical Socialism; A Grand Adventure - Grand Island National Recreation Area; and Picture Perfect - Celebrating the National Park Service and Pictured Rocks. There will also be 14 "breakout" sessions that address local and statewide history.

**For more information or to register, go to: <https://www.hsmichigan.org/conferences/local-history-conference/>**

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

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

***Grace, Gert, and the Berkey & Gay Gals:  
Women, War and Work in 1910s Grand Rapids***  
**Thursday, June 2, 2016, 7:00 pm**

Learn about women who lived 100 years ago in Grand Rapids. GRPL local history experts Julie Tabberer, Heather Edwards, and Drew Damron will show how doors opened both personally and professionally for 11,000 women, and how wartime disruptions provided work opportunities that were previously off limits. Hear about the women who worked at the Berkey & Gay furniture factory, an early woman cartoonist, and one of our first female elected officials. Discover the unique archival resources used in the research of these women—an employee-produced factory newsletter, census records, city directories, newspaper articles, and 20,000 extremely rare war registration cards surveying the skills of area women.

**Reading the Great Lakes**  
**Thursday, June 2, 2016, 7:00 pm**

Come explore the Lakes with us! We'll read a range of titles including mystery, history, fiction, and nonfiction all taking place in the Great Lakes region—from Chicago to Cleveland. This book club will be lead by our smart librarians and will take place the first Thursday of every month. Additional copies of the book are available to be checked out on Level 4 of the Main Library. For a complete list of books, visit [www.grpl.org/rtgl](http://www.grpl.org/rtgl). June's selection is *Strike!* How the furniture workers strike of 1911 changed Grand Rapids by Jeffrey D. Kleiman.

***Frozen in Time: the Shipwreck John V. Moran***  
**Monday, June 20, 2016, 7:00 pm**

Join underwater explorer and author Valerie van Heest as she travels back in time and deep beneath Lake Michigan to explore the wreck of the John V. Moran, holed and sunk by the ice in February 1899 off West Michigan. She will share the trials of research, the frustration of the search, and the excitement as she and fellow teammates of the Michigan Shipwreck Research Association, discover and explore the most intact shipwreck in Lake Michigan.

***Forensics: Using Science  
to Solve Mysteries with Dr. David Foran***  
**Thursday, July 21, 2016, 7:00 pm**

Michigan State University's Dr. David Foran, director of the nation's oldest forensic science education program, will introduce participants to the world of forensic science. Discover the difference between the dramatized versions portrayed in the media and the highly technical testing that actual forensic scientists conduct. Dr. Foran will focus on modern forensic casework, ranging from the tragic to the fantastic, and highlight numerous fascinating cases from the past.

## **2016 Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar**

**Friday and Saturday July 8th and 9th 2016**

This year's two-day Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar looks to be one of the best yet as it's featured speaker is well-known genealogist, Amy Johnson Crow. Other presenters include: Kris Rzepczynski Jill Arnold, Daniel Earl, Jessica Harden, Gail Hershenzon, Jim Jackson, Matthew LaFlash, Janice Selberg, Jessica Trotter, Bethany Waterbury, and Katherine Willson. Several have presented at WMGS membership meetings and were very well received.

After kicking off with a tour of the Archives of Michigan, conference attendees will have the opportunity to pick from a variety of speakers and family history topics. The Seminar is sponsored by the Library of Michigan and the Archives and hosted by the Archives of Michigan and the Michigan Genealogical Council.

The Archives of Michigan will be open for research from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Online registration for this seminar will be closing on Wednesday, July 6 at 11:59 PM. On-site registration will be available both Friday, July 8 and Saturday, July 9, but a boxed lunch is not guaranteed.

For more information, or to register go to: <http://seekingmichigan.org/events/2016-abrams-foundation-family-history-seminar>

### **And A Lock-In at the Archives of Michigan!**

The Archives of Michigan is pleased to announce an Archives Lock-In, a free event to be held July 8, 2016 from 6p-10p. Currently, individuals can register for the Lock-In when registering for the 2016 Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar, on Friday, July 8 – Saturday, July 9. If spots are still available, registration will be open to the general public on Monday, June 1st.

The Archives will be open to Lock-In registrants from 6p-10p. Pizza and refreshments will be available to registrants from 5p-6p.

This event will highlight the Archives' genealogy collections, including the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection and original Michigan source documents. Staff will be available to assist in the use of the collections and to offer guidance as needed.

The Archives' computers will be available for free access to the subscription databases Ancestry and Fold3, as well as free sites like Seeking Michigan and FamilySearch. Laptops are permitted and access to the Archives' wireless network will be available as well.

**Don't Forget to Register!**



# 2016 WMGS Members

Sheryl Ackerman, Grand Rapids, MI	Suzanne R Carpenter, Comstock Park, MI	Darlene Fegel, Lowell, MI
Judy Adams, Galesburg, MI	Sarabeth Carr, Grand Rapids, MI	Kaye L Fish, Grand Rapids, MI
Susan Addleman, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA	Patricia Cederholm, Conklin, MI	Denton W Fitzgerald, Royal Oak, MI
Sharon & Scott Adrian, Fremont, MI	Maurice R Chase Jr., Palo Alto, CA	Shantell Ford, Lowell, MI
Penny Afton-Sage, Grand Rapids, MI	Fran Christensen, Grand Rapids, MI	Wenda - Rae Fore, Jenison, MI
Kathy Agard, Muskegon, MI	Roger Moffat & Lisa Christensen, Caledonia, MI	Lori L Fox, Portland, MI
Sally Hutcheson Akehi, Grand Rapids, MI	Carol Church, Ravenna, MI	Karen Frazier, Fruitport, MI
Evelyn Allerding, Freeport, MI	Kathleen E Coffee, Grand Rapids, MI	Dana Freas, Wyoming, MI
Janet Alpert, Holland, MI	Phil & Cindy Cole, Comstock Park, MI	Pam Freas, Wyoming, MI
Mary A Alt, Marne, MI	Nancy Collins, Grand Haven, MI	Elaine Frost, Byron Center, MI
Meredyth Althaus, Wyoming, MI	Shirley Compton, Cedar Springs, MI	Kenneth R Gackler, Caledonia, MI
Jeffrey Amundsen, Hamilton, MI	Kathy Cook, Grand Rapids, MI	Judith Gager, Greenville, MI
Barbara Anderson, Sacramento, CA	John Cosgrove, Ada, MI	Charles E Gasper, Grand Rapids, MI
Dustin Austin, Bellevue, OH	David R Cosper, Downers Grove, IL	Patricia Gemmen, Allendale, MI
Charlyn Bailey, Ravenna, MI	Roger Cotner, Grand Haven, MI	Christine Genter, Wyoming, MI
Cynthia Bailey, Grand Rapids, MI	Allan Couch, Grand Rapids, MI	Roxanne Gildner, Belmont, MI
Jana Baker, Grandville, MI	Steven Crum, Grand Rapids, MI	Noralyn Gillette, Grand Rapids, MI
Donald & Jane Barsema, Grand Rapids, MI	Joan M Cunningham, Grand Rapids, MI	J William Gorski, Macomb, MI
Vicki Bartlett, Mesa, AZ	John Dale, Fenton, MI	Karen Grant, Grand Rapids, MI
Raymond D Bates, Ludington, MI	Linda Damstra, Grand Rapids, MI	Barbara Greene, Caledonia, MI
Lynnette Bean, Shelbyville, MI	Joyce Daniels, Grand Rapids, MI	Lora Greenland, Rockford, MI
Hattie Beenen, Grand Rapids, MI	Lorrae Danzig, Jenison, MI	Shirley Nason Greenwood, Santa Cruz, CA
Suzanne Bell, Kihei, HI	Dale & Claudette Darling, Comstock Park, MI	Jan Griffiths, Muskegon, MI
Sue Bench, Holland, MI	Sharynne Davey, Rockford, MI	Bill Grinstead, Grand Rapids, MI
Eleanor Benz, Kalispell, MT	Dona David, Muskegon, MI	JoAnne K Gulliver, Sugar Land, TX
Shirley A Bergman, West Palm Beach, FL	Darlene Dawood, Sand Lake, MI	Sylvia Gurk, Pierson, MI
Mary Bernthal, Grand Rapids, MI	Sabrina Dawson, Santa Rosa, CA	Linda Guth, Jenison, MI
Barbara Bettes, Sparta, MI	Claudia S Day, Grand Rapids, MI	Nancy Guzzo, Grand Rapids, MI
Jim Biener, Grand Rapids, MI	Shirley DeBoer, CG, Grand Rapids, MI	Sue Haadsma-Svensson, Indianapolis, IN
Phyllis Bieri, Lowell, MI	Marvel M DeBois, Grand Rapids, MI	Joan E Hansen, Grand Rapids, MI
Cheryl Bignall, Grand Rapids, MI	Leona R DeBruyne, Grand Rapids, MI	Marion Harris, Lake Odessa, MI
Melissa Bird, Peoria, AZ	Robert DeFer, Chesterfield, MO	Patricia Gruse Harris, Michigan City, IN
Patricia Blood, Ionia, MI	Jason Deible, Middleville, MI	Carolyn Hart, Jenison, MI
Sue Bogard, Grand Rapids, MI	Linda Kae DeJongh, Clarksville, MI	Roger Haskins, Fairfax, VA
Tammy Bond, Rockford, MI	Tina Demling, Grand Rapids, MI	Becky Haywood, Grand Rapids, MI
Fred Boogaard, Grandville, MI	Lori Demmink, Marne, MI	Marcia Hegstad, South Lyon, MI
Donald Bos, Austin, TX	Tom Dickenson, Ada, MI	Cheryl Henges, Cape Coral, FL
Gerald L Bowersox, Hudsonville, MI	Beverly Dillon, Grand Rapids, MI	Jane Hesselschwerdt, Grand Rapids, MI
Marta Brechting, Comstock Park, MI	Frederick Dolehanty, Rochester Hills, MI	Megan and Jim Heyl, Holland, MI
Carol Bredeweg, Hudsonville, MI	Sue Dombrowski, Rockford, MI	Sue Hill, Hastings, MI
Pat Brewer, Dorrr, MI	Judith L Dood, Byron Center, MI	Mary Hodges, Richland, MI
Willa Brown, Grand Rapids, MI	Bonnie Drabik, Dorrr, MI	Ann Hole, Comstock Park, MI
Mary Bruining, Jenison, MI	Micky Drollinger, Alto, MI	Ruth Holkeboer, Grand Rapids, MI
Donald and Mindy Bryant, Grand Rapids, MI	Zo Eckert, Rockford, MI	Graham Hollis, Kalamazoo, MI
Skip Bryant, Kewadin, MI	Ann Ed, Grand Rapids, MI	Tarianne D Holtslander, Kentwood, MI
Kenneth Buehler, Rio Rancho, NM	Andrea K Edwards, Walker, MI	Mrs Noel C Horn, Grand Rapids, MI
Irene Bultman, Grand Haven, MI	David J Eisen, Mishawaka, IN	Patricia Hornbeck, Jenison, MI
Richard L Burke, Comstock Park, MI	Vicki Elzinga, Belmont, MI	Bobbe and Roger Horton, Grand Rapids, MI
Garry Bush, Gaithersburg, MD	Laurel A Emerson, Richmond, MI	Gretchen Houtman, Greenville, MI
Robert A Bush, Grand Rapids, MI	Gayla J Endahl, Marne, MI	Linda Huffaker, Rockford, MI
Bruce B and Marcia Butgereit, Kentwood, MI	Lee Engstrom, Grand Rapids, MI	Janice K Hulbert, Sand Lake, MI
Rebecca Cajka, Kentwood, MI	Christine Evans, Carlsbad, CA	David C Husted, Jenison, MI
Keith G Calkins, Berrien Springs, MI	Margaret M Evans, Lansing, IL	Connie Ingham, Grand Rapids, MI
Carol Caraccia, Ypsilanti, MI	Marlene Fabbro, Wyoming, MI	Shirley Ingraham, Grand Rapids, MI
Sister Michael Ellen Carling, Grand Rapids, MI	Patti Faist, Caledonia, MI	Laurel Ingram, Grand Rapids, MI
Esther & Elden Carlson, Grand Rapids, MI	Constance Fales, Muskegon, MI	Sue Irvine, Grand Rapids, MI
Sherry Carney, Grandville, MI	Joanne Fast, Comstock Park, MI	Darrell Jackson, Grand Rapids, MI
JoAnn Carpenter, Grand Rapids, MI	Denise Fedko, Rockford, MI	Kathryn Jackson, Hot Springs Village, AR

Nahum Jaramillo, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Thomas E Jarvis III, West Olive, MI  
 Merridy Jeffery, Dorrr, MI  
 Janet Jensen, Rockford, MI  
 Johnie B Johnson, Lansing, MI  
 Dixie L Johnston, Hastings, MI  
 Terry Jolink, Grandville, MI  
 Philip Jones, Annapolis, MD  
 Henrietta Jordan, Columbus, WI  
 Theresa Kalinski, Los Angeles, CA  
 Dorothy Kane, Grandville, MI  
 Dawn Westcomb Kelley, Muskegon, MI  
 Kay Kiel, Wyoming, MI  
 Beth Kleersnyder, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Doris Knight, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Jerry Kolodzieizyck, Lake Odessa, MI  
 Roger Konyndyk, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Mindy Koole, Greenville, MI  
 Tom Koselka, Westland, MI  
 Gail Kukawski, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Alan & Jeri Landheer, Jenison, MI  
 Mary M Lane, Dearborn, MI  
 Rick & Kim Lanting, Byron Center, MI  
 Kathie LaRoy, Baldwin, MI  
 Louann Larsen, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Margaret Laskowski, Comstock Park, MI  
 John Laubach, Frankfort, MI  
 Marlene Leistico, Comstock Park, MI  
 Frederick W Leonard, Alto, MI  
 Brenda Leyndyke, Battle Creek, MI  
 Martha "Marti" Lind, Clarksville, MI  
 Amy Linde, Rockford, MI  
 Julia Liu, Danville, CA  
 Barbara Lubbers, Kentwood, MI  
 Patsy Lucas, Byron Center, MI  
 Sally Luidens, Rockford, MI  
 John Kevin MacAulay, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Eric Piehl and Martha MacCleery, Ada, MI  
 Margaret K Maksymowski, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Kathy Malkewitz, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Laurel Manning, Portland, MI  
 Jerilyn Marshall, Cedar Falls, IA  
 Tim Marvin, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Philip Mathison, Sun Prairie, WI  
 Olga Matteson, St Johns, MI  
 Irvine McCann, Virginia Beach, VA  
 Harriet McCarthy, Lansing, MI  
 Janet McFarland-Idema, Jenison, MI  
 Lynne McHoskey, Holland, MI  
 Deborah McNabb, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Kristi McPherson-Burns, Portage, MI  
 Zane Mead, Nashville, MI  
 Elaine P Medich, Flushing, MI  
 Kathy Mellema, Rockford, MI  
 Susan Merizon, Walker, MI  
 Rod Merrill, Scottville, MI  
 Don Meyer, Covington, KY  
 Linda Meyer, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Pat Minnema, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Mary Julia Mitchell, Lansing, MI  
 Shirley Mitchell-Jones, Three Rivers, MI  
 Rita M Modderman, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Betty Lee Mollo, Holland, MI

Deb Moore, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Shari Morehouse, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Helen C Morey, Belmont, MI  
 James R Moses, Lansing, MI  
 Michael L Muilenberg, Amherst, MA  
 Kelly Nash, Byron Center, MI  
 Paula Naujalis, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Phyllis A Neitzel, Wyoming, MI  
 Maureen Nelson, Cedar Springs, MI  
 Linda Nielsen-Wieck, Rockford, MI  
 Patrick Nugent, Ada, MI  
 Judy Nyman, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Laura O'Brock, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Kathleen Ogden, Alexandria, VA  
 Mary Ohm, Grandville, MI  
 Pam Olsen, Ada, MI  
 Paul Osborn, Niantic, CT  
 Sue Osgood, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Eleanor J Palmer, Rockford, MI  
 Barbara Parker, Greenville, MI  
 Vickey Parker, Coopersville, MI  
 Sherrie & John Parr, Colon, MI  
 Mary Ann Patrick, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Kayleen Pawloski, Topinabee, MI  
 Mary Pawloski, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Jonmarie Pearson, Dumfries, VA  
 Jean Pendell, Trenton, MI  
 Loraine Peterson, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Carol Phelps, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Dianne Phelps, Reed City, MI  
 Linda Phillips, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Mary Jane Phillips, Wyoming, MI  
 Sandra Phillips, Battle Creek, MI  
 Dorotha Simmons Piechocki, Wyoming, MI  
 John W Pierce, Ionia, MI  
 Kathryn J Post, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Carl and Lucinda Puite, Cedar Springs, MI  
 Mary Quarandillo, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Susan J Rabick, Sparta, MI  
 Jim Rademaker, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Patrick Rademaker, West Olive, MI  
 Shelley S Ramirez, Greenville, MI  
 Betsy Randall, Reed City, MI  
 Jeny Ransom, Cedar Springs, MI  
 Allan Rau, Rockford, MI  
 Julie Raupp, Canadian Lakes, MI  
 Lucille A Read, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Therese Rich, Hudsonville, MI  
 Joyce Richards, Montague, MI  
 Diane M Rider, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Jessica Riley, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Francina Roberts, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Mary Jo Robertson, Thousand Oaks, CA  
 Bruce Robey, Wyoming, MI  
 Donna J Rogers, Rockford, MI  
 Helen Schaeffer, Lake Orion, MI  
 Nan Schichtel, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Bobbi Schirado, Sparta, MI  
 Judith Schmansky, Interlochen, MI  
 David Schmidt, Irmo, SC  
 Cathy Schmitt, Comstock Park, MI  
 Eileen & David Schmuker, Belmont, MI  
 Wanda Schottler, Grand Rapids, MI

Marcia L Schulz, Cedar Springs, MI  
 Suzan Schumacher, Wyoming, MI  
 Donna Schwarzwaelder, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Jenny Shangraw, Rockford, MI  
 Caroline J Shearer, Ada, MI  
 Marcia L Shears, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Brian Shumway, Hastings, MI  
 Caroline Sias, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Dawn Sikkema, Chevy Chase, MD  
 Rick Simkins, Lowell, MI  
 William J Simmons, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Phyllis Slater, Whitehall, MI  
 David Lee and Liz Smith, Grandville, MI  
 Janet S Smith, Allegan, MI  
 Rebecca Smith, Howard City, MI  
 Betty VanEyck Snow, Hudsonville, MI  
 Gail M Snow, Ada, MI  
 Darlene J Snyder, Comstock Park, MI  
 Arthur G Souter, Cooks, MI  
 Virginia L Staal, Grandville, MI  
 Terrence M Start, Grandville, MI  
 Julie A Steere, Jenison, MI  
 Eleanor Stegehuis, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Patricia Steinport, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Randall Stenholm, West Olive, MI  
 Lois M Stephens, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Betsy Stevens, Greenville, MI  
 Linda Stewart, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Meredith Stoehr, Centerville, OH  
 Linda Stoecker, Dorrr, MI  
 Ronald B Strauss, Wyoming, MI  
 John G Strickland, Springfield, MI  
 Linda S Struman, Cedar Springs, MI  
 Susan E Studabaker, Three Rivers, MI  
 Jeanette Studley, Washington, DC  
 Sue and Jim Swanlund, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Pamela K Swiler, Lake Odessa, MI  
 Cindy Swix, Portland, MI  
 Cindy Taylor, Byron Center, MI  
 Barbara Termeer, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Coral E Thomas, Clarksville, TN  
 Dian Thomas, Ada, MI  
 Richard Thomas, Kentwood, MI  
 Russell D & Laurie A Tilden, Norton Shores, MI  
 Mark & Michelle Timmer, Zeeland, MI  
 Sheryl Tisdell, Greenville, MI  
 Carol Tonkin, Portland, MI  
 Denise J Toogood, Coopersville, MI  
 Jessica Trotter, Lansing, MI  
 Dorann Truax, Lowell, MI  
 Theresa Tuttle, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Daniel Van Meurs, Grand Rapids, MI  
 June Van Wingen, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Ann VanDenMeerendonk, Wyoming, MI  
 Marion VanderVeen, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Trena VanderWoude, Lowell, MI  
 Kristin Ann VanDeVusse, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Ann VanDusen, Rockford, MI  
 Janet C VanWyck, Alto, MI  
 Kathryn Verploegh, Rockford, MI  
 Sara Vrugink, Walker, MI  
 Phylinda Walker, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Robert B Walsh, Bothell, WA

#### 2016 Members, Continued

Diane Ward, Grand Rapids, MI  
Danny Watts, Grand Rapids, MI  
Ruth Waybrant, Grand Rapids, MI  
Gretchen Weaver, Grand Rapids, MI  
Maryrita Weiss, Grand Rapids, MI  
Barbara Wenger, Belding, MI  
Patricia Wenzel, Champaign, IL  
Dawn Westfall, Great Valley, NY  
Sandra Westgate, Newaygo, MI  
Dorris White, Coral, MI  
Joan wieck, Grand Rapids, MI  
Judith A Wiers, Hudsonville, MI  
Jan Williams, Fountain, MI  
Judith Wilson, Walker, MI  
Loyd Winer, Grand Rapids, MI  
JoAnn Wisner, Jenison, MI  
Vivian Wittkowski, Wyoming, MI  
Jean Woltjer, Holland, MI  
Sue & Ron Wortley, Wyoming, MI  
Kathleen Wortman, Jenison, MI  
Pat Wright, Spring Lake, MI  
Debra Yonker-Hecht, Grand Haven, MI  
Marilyn Young, Yuma, AZ  
Bernard Zahm, Rockford, MI  
Dana Zamara, Raleigh, NC  
Julie Ann Zenk, Fremont, MI  
Mary Zimmer, Wayland, MI  
Charlene Zoet, Spring Lake, MI  
Mitch Zoet, South Lyon, MI  
Margie Zylstra, Hudsonville, MI

### 2016 Michigana Writing Contest Winners

#### First place:

Jessica Riley,  
*Canadian Captive*

#### Second place:

Marlene Fabbro,  
*Albert Grimm, Nazism,  
and the Cold War Touch  
Grand Rapids*

#### Third place tie:

Jessica Trotter,  
*TB in the Family Tree*  
Paula Naujalis,  
*Swarm of Locusts*

#### Honorable Mention

Laura O'Brock,  
*A Mistake That Saved  
Millions*

### Next Grand Rapids Public Library Genealogy (GRPL) Lock-In July 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](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 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.

### Gert, Grace and the Berkey & Gay Girls: Women, War & Work in 1910s Grand Rapids The Berkey & Gay Red Cross Girls, April 1917

Co-sponsored by the Greater Grand Rapids  
Women's History Council  
and The Grand Rapids Public Library  
June 2, 2016, 7:00 pm, GRPL, 3rd Floor  
(the event is free and open to all)

Celebrate the working women of Grand Rapids a hundred years ago. Using unique archival resources, GRPL local history experts will highlight some of the city's women employed outside their homes. The last decade of the heady Progressive Era opened personal and professional doors for these 11,000 women; the disruptions of wartime provided opportunities in a working world previously off limits.

**For More Information or to Download the Flier, Go To:**

<http://www.ggrwhc.org/>

## 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 family story or a personal memory at each meeting. Others are writing longer articles 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](mailto: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 will continue to meet at 7:00 PM on the 3rd Thursday of every month during the summer 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)

## **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.

### 2015-2016 WMGS Officers

**President** - Mindy Koole  
[president@wmgs.org](mailto:president@wmgs.org)  
Phone: (616) 691-7986

**Vice President** - Marcia Shears  
[U08554@hotmail.com](mailto:U08554@hotmail.com)

**Secretary** - Eileen Schmuker  
[divamom3849@gmail.com](mailto:divamom3849@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** - Mark Timmer  
[mark.timmer@centurytel.net](mailto:mark.timmer@centurytel.net)

**Immediate Past President** - Don Bryant  
[webmaster@wmgs.org](mailto:webmaster@wmgs.org)

### Contact Information

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