



WMGS Newsletter November/December 2017



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, November 4, 2017
Membership meeting
1:30 p.m.**

Topic: Civil War Historical Novel

Presenter: Erica Marie LaPres Emelander

The Turner Daughter Series details the lives of a family that was torn by the Civil War. Each novel revolves around one individual family. It also features one actual historic figure as a main character. ***Though War Shall Rise Against Me*** takes place in Gettysburg and focuses on Charlotte Turner, who is left to run the family farm in Pennsylvania. We also meet her friends, Alexandra Sadler, Augusta Lewis and actual Gettysburg civilian Ginny Wade.

Erica Marie LaPres Emelander is a middle school social studies/religion teacher who lives in Grand Rapids, MI. Erica has always enjoyed reading and writing. Along with her love of history and God, she has been able to incorporate all four of these loves into her writing. Erica is currently working on a Historical Fiction Civil-War Era book series, the Turner Daughters. Her novels revolve around the civilians who lived during the Civil War. Before writing her books, Erica does as much research as possible in order to make her novels as historically accurate as possible.



**Saturday, December 2, 2017
Membership meeting
1:30 p.m.**

**Topic: Genealogical Resources at the
Grand Rapids Public Library**

Presenter: Susan Rabick

The downtown Grand Rapids Public Library (History & Special Collections, 4th floor) houses vast, often overlooked, resources for genealogists. Thoroughly covered are Michigan, the Midwest and eastern states beginning in colonial times. Less extensive holdings are available for the rest of the U.S. and of the world. Susan Rabick will show sample books, their contents, and how to locate those relevant to a participant. Vital statistic records, genealogies, histories, and "How-to" books will be included. Other suggested materials for visitors to the library include periodicals, searchable collections, archival collections, and data bases.

Susan Rabick has dabbled in her family genealogy since her teens but got serious about twenty years ago. She has been able to trace her family back to New Netherland and the Mayflower in the United States and to Louis Herbert, the Father of Canada. After retirement, she became active in WMGS, currently holding the office of Historian. She is a member of the "Tuesday Genies" at the Main Branch of the GRPL where she helps people with their research. Sue has a membership in genealogy societies in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New England, Ontario and New York.



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NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
2018 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE
2-5 MAY 2018 | GRAND RAPIDS, MI

Paths to Your Past



The NGS 2018 Family History Conference will be held in Grand Rapids next May

The upcoming NGS 2018 Family History Conference will be the first national genealogical conference held in Michigan. The NGS Family History Conference, **2–5 May 2018** is your opportunity to choose from more than 175 lectures presented by many nationally recognized speakers, explore an exhibit hall filled with more than 80 exhibitors, and network with over 2,000 genealogists.

Every NGS conference has a different theme with a new program top to bottom—so there is always much new to learn and discover. More details to follow.

Saturday, November 4, 2017 Genealogy Mini-Class 12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Topic: Headstones: Types and Meanings

Presenter: Linda Guth

Originally, a tombstone was the stone lid of a stone coffin, or the coffin itself, and a gravestone was the stone slab that was laid over a grave. Now all three terms are also used for markers placed at the head of the grave. Learn about the different headstones and the meanings behind the decorations / carvings.

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

Saturday, December 2, 2017 Genealogy Mini-Class 12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Topic: Genealogy Gift Ideas

Presenter: Linda Guth

Choosing a gift for a family member can sometimes be puzzling. Stop by to get ideas or share ideas of your own.

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

Volunteer Opportunity

Putting together the WMGS quarterly, *Michigana*, is made up of many pieces and parts. They can be fun as well as educational. We have opportunities for people to get involved. You are invited to join the fun!

- ◆ Conduct interviews and write up the column for "Our Extended Family"
- ◆ Put together "News and Notes" with interesting bits about genealogy/family history to keep our members informed about new sources of research
- ◆ Contact/find column writers and help get the columns ready for publication (includes Library Notes, Book Notes, News and Notes, and more)
- ◆ Help develop new columns
- ◆ Prepare images for publication

Library Millage

There will be a library millage vote in November. The millage request would support operation at city library branches. Taxpayers approved a similar millage in 1997. The Board of the WMGS supports the library millage.

Genealogy Lock-In
November 10, 2017
6:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.

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.

Registration is required: www.grpl.org/register or call 988-5400.

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 book stacks or near any of the library 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.



VOICES is the local and regional oral history project powered by WKTV Community Media. Their mission is “to collect, share and preserve the stories of people in our community”—the stories of our lives; the stories of people from all walks of life.

They have modified a 1958 Airstream® Overlander Trailer that they turned it into a comfortable video recording studio, and are going out into the community to encourage our neighbors, friends and family to share their story. Step inside... and you'll be welcomed into an inviting atmosphere. Sit back, relax, and share *your* story.

VOICES is literally a vehicle for reminding us of our shared humanity and an understanding that everyone has a story. At the same time, **VOICES** is creating an archive for your family and for the community. All **VOICES** interviews are audio- and video-recorded for airing on Channel 25 in Wyoming, Kentwood and Gaines Township (U-Verse Channel 99).

With a focus on the Wyoming and Kentwood communities, **VOICES** will travel through the West Michigan region to gather the stories that make us human—our lives, experiences, sorrows, triumphs and tragedies. They believe that we all benefit from knowing each other's story; the shared bond that helps us build community.

Go online to <https://wktvvoices.org> to schedule your appointment and learn more about this project.

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**

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, January 20, 2018

Grand Rapids Public Library's award-winning History Detectives: Sleuthing for Local History is an all-day event.

Six presentations will be given on various local history topics throughout the day exploring various aspects of Grand Rapids history. Presented by area historians and members of historical and cultural organizations, topics are varied and reflect the unique heritage of our West Michigan community and is held in the Ryerson auditorium.

Regarding the WMGS Newsletter

Reminder: The WMGS newsletter is going digital. We will be sending out a link to the latest newsletter to our members to access online. The online version can be downloaded and is in color. You can still receive a paper copy of the newsletter by opting in. To do this contact us at "membership@wmgs.org" or by US mail to WMGS - Membership, c/o GRPL, 111 Library St NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

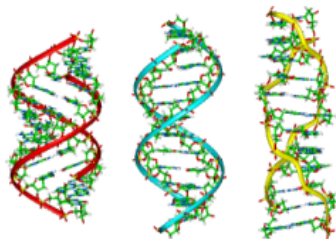
DNA Interest Group (DIG)

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/>



Did you know that WMGS can now take credit cards at the merchandise table! Bring your credit cards to the next monthly meeting to buy your favorite genealogy books or maps.

Membership Renewal

It's that time of year again, time to renew your yearly membership with WMGS. Membership has it's benefits from discounts to our quarterly magazine to leadership opportunities and more. Please find the renewal form on page 7.

2018 WMGS Writing Contest

~Family Traditions ~

Traditions often enrich and strengthen family bonds and create fond memories. Whether they are stories, activities, or beliefs handed down from generation to generation, it's important to preserve your family traditions for future generations. WMGS encourages you to write about one of your family's traditions. They may occur daily, weekly, monthly or yearly, and revolve around military, holidays, or other special occasions. Some may be humorous or unusual.

Traditions may or may not be genealogical facts, but often provide important research clues. You may choose to describe how a Family Tradition assisted in your research, how you determined when and how the tradition began, or whether the tradition is based on true information or was created to teach or convince.

We would love to hear your story. Write it up and enter the 2018 writing contest!

WMGS has worked for over 60 years to educate researchers in evaluating and citing sources. Your story may inspire someone else to use new research techniques or discover a unique resource. The 2018 Writing Contest will recognize unpublished excellent genealogical writing by awarding substantial prizes. Prize winning entries will be published in *Michigana*. Like all submissions to *Michigana*, entries will be thoroughly edited before publication. Information about submitting any article to *Michigana* can also be found in the latest issue of *Michigana*, or at wmgs.org.

Rules: 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 & March 15, 2018.

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.

**** IMPORTANT:** Send photographs or graphics **separately** as 300 dpi tiff or jpeg files.

Email your submission to michigana@wmgs.org or ruthgen@gmail.com
with "Michigana Contest 2018" 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: Contest winners will be announced at the May 2018 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; 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 1 annual WMGS membership (total value - \$120); 2nd prize: \$75 and 1 annual WMGS membership (total value - \$95); 3rd prize: \$50; 4th prize: \$25

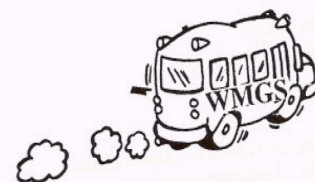
Need help? The WMGS Writers Group meets the third Tuesday of the month and we would love to help you make your story the best that it can be. For information about location, time, and directions go to:

www.wmgs.org



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

Staying at Econo Lodge



Tuesday – Wednesday – November 14-15, 2017

NEW PICKUP AREAS

Day #1 7:00 AM Leave Alpine NW area (well behind the Theater) (North of I-96)
Nov 14th 7:30 AM Leave Meijers (next to I-96 and 28th St near the "K" marker)
Tuesday 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 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

Day #2 7:00 AM Wakeup Call – Continental breakfast (and maybe cold pizza)
Nov 15th 8:30-8:40 AM Load luggage. Transportation to library.
Wednesday 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.

Allen County Library has a café. 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 October would be most helpful.
- ^ A \$15 deposit guarantees your place on the bus. Please send your deposit Oct 15th. Balance must be paid by Nov 5th. 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

\$133=Single \$99=Double (each) \$89=Triple (each) 82=Quad (each)

Ft. Wayne Trip Tues – Wed Nov. 14-15, 2017 All rooms non-smoking

Is 1st floor a requirement? Yes ___ No ___ (help is provided for carrying luggage but no elevator)

NAME: _____ Phone# (____) _____ Cell # (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____ City, State, Zip _____

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

Roommates: _____

Confirmation and other trip information will be confirmed by **email**: _____

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:

November 21: Write about an ancestor who served in the military.

December 21: Annual pot luck "Christmas Talk Fest." Bring something delicious using a recipe from the past. We'll also brainstorm writing topics for 2018.

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.

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

**WMGS**

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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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