



WMGS Newsletter September/October 2017



WESTERN MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS

GOT ANCESTORS?! 2017 GOT ANCESTORS?! – LEGAL MATTERS!

FEATURING

THE LEGAL GENEALOGIST – JUDY G. RUSSELL, JD,CG,CGL

AT THE

SALVATION ARMY GRAND RAPIDS KROC CENTER

SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER 9:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

*****COPYRIGHT MYTHCONCEPTIONS**

*****DNA AND THE GOLDEN RULE**

*****WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE**

*****NO VITALS? NO PROBLEM!**

WMGS Sales Table – Network with other Genealogists – Door Prizes

Our speaker, Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL is a genealogist with a law degree, and her purpose at The Legal Genealogist is, in part, to help folks understand the often arcane and even impenetrable legal concepts and terminology that are so very important to those of us studying family history. Without understanding the context in which events took place and records were created, we miss so much of both the significance and the flavor of what happened.

Her personal background is quite eclectic. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism with a political science minor from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and a law degree from Rutgers School of Law-Newark. Russell has worked as a newspaper reporter, trade association writer, legal investigator, defense attorney, federal prosecutor, law editor and, for more than 20 years before her retirement in 2014, she was an adjunct member of the faculty at Rutgers Law School.

She has spent the last decade learning her trade as a genealogist, and holds credentials as a Certified Genealogist® and Certified Genealogical LecturerSM from the Board for Certification of Genealogists® where she currently serve as a member of the Board of Trustees.



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 and mail it to us with your payment.

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, September 9, 2017 Membership meeting 1:30 p.m.



**Topic: Naturalization Records Online!
The Archives of Michigan & FamilySearch**

Presenter: Kris Rzepczynski

The Archives of Michigan and FamilySearch are partnering to digitize hundreds of thousands of Michigan naturalization records.

With the assistance of the Michigan Genealogical Council and researchers like you, the index will ultimately be made available at both FamilySearch and Seeking Michigan, while the images themselves will be available exclusively at www.seekingmichigan.org. This program will cover the ins and outs of the indexing process and detail the current status of the project.

Saturday, September 9, 2017 Genealogy Mini-Class 12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Topic: What is the Census of Agriculture and how can we use it?

Presenter: Linda Guth

The Census of Agriculture is a complete count of U.S. farms & ranches and the people who operated them. It is taken once every 5 years, beginning back in 1840. Let's learn about this census and how we can find out more about our farmer ancestors.

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

Saturday, October 7, 2017 Membership meeting 1:30 p.m.

Topic: Locating Living Relatives (Reverse Genealogy)

Presenter: Katherine R. Wilson

Let's step away from researching our deceased ancestors and attempt to locate living relatives who might be in possession of Great-Great-Grandma's family Bible, photos of Civil War ancestors, or letters written from the home country. We'll discuss online sites that allow us to look for potential living relatives at no cost and methods for contacting them without sounding like a scammer or a phisher!

Katherine R. Willson of Ann Arbor, MI is a highly acclaimed and professionally trained national public speaker. Her passion for genealogy combined with practical and creative strategies keeps her audience fully engaged and actively participating in these energetic, entertaining presentations.



Family Discovery Day

Sponsored by: Grand Rapids LDS Family History Center with support from Western Michigan Genealogical Society



Celebrating Families Across Generations

Saturday September 23, 2017
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Grand Rapids Family History Center
2780 Leonard St. SE

INFORMATION & ONLINE REGISTRATION

Facebook: Family Discovery GR
Registration: lds.org/familyhistoryday

- ⇒ No Fee
- ⇒ Youth Classes
- ⇒ Lunch Provided

*Flash Drives Available with Lessons
Videos \$5*

Key Note Speaker at 9:00 a.m.

Claire Brisson-Banks



- ♦ 20 plus classes
- ♦ New Presenters & Topics
- ♦ Classes for Beginners to Experts
- ♦ Free Parking & Internet Access
- ♦ Laptops welcome
- ♦ ADA compliant facility

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

Monday, September 25
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Hidden Treasures in Your Libraries, Museums and Archives Are you looking for new research resources? Discover the much overlooked resources in Michigan and around the world in “All types of Repositories” when doing genealogical or family history research. Tap into these resources and fill your genealogical arsenal with a new treasure trove of forgotten collections created to document life events over centuries of time and preserved for posterity in a variety of ways.

Instructor: Claire Brisson-Banks
(<http://clairebrissonbanks.com>)
Location: 4th Floor VanderVeen Room

NOTICE: Beginning on Tuesday, September 12th, we will be having very basic, beginner Genealogy classes (held weekly, on Tuesdays). The topics for each day is still being finalized. Watch for news on dates and class descriptions.

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.

Don't forget to “like” and follow WMGS on Facebook

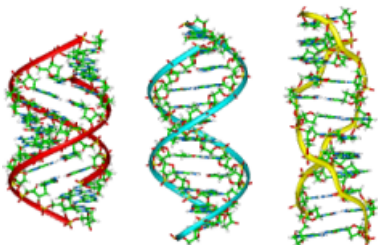
Find us at:

<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.

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

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

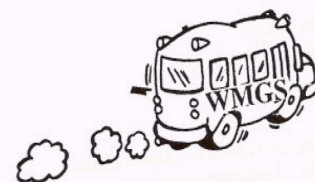
Need help? The WMGS Writers Group meets the third Tuesday of the month and we would love to help you make your story the best that it can be. For information about location, time, and directions go to:

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 p.m. 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.

Upcoming Writing Topics:

September 19: Write a school related story.

October 17: Tell us about a Halloween experience.

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

PLANNING ON ATTENDING?

Those who attend are encouraged to bring several copies of a Work-In-Progress (WIP), but it's not a requirement. 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 and vets. If you plan to attend, please let Sister Michael Ellen Carling know you will be there. You can call her at 616-514-3231 (home), or 616-514-3340 (office) or mecarling@grdominicans.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

The National Genealogical Society 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.

Membership Application

NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

\$20 in the US

\$25 outside the USA

Membership begins January 1 and ends December 31

DATE: _____ PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP+4 _____

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

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

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

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

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



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

About WMGS

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

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

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

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