



WMGS

Newsletter

SUMMER 2017



Upcoming Membership Meeting

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 and open to the public.

Saturday, June 10, 2017
Membership meeting
1:30 p.m.

Topic: *They Didn't All Come Through Ellis Island! Finding & Analyzing Passenger Lists*

Presenter: Katherine R. Willson

If as many of our ancestors came through Ellis Island as families are led to believe, the island would have sunk! Learn about the multiple points of departure from Europe, ports of entry into the U.S., how to find passenger records online, and how to analyze these lists as a means of filling in your ancestors' life stories.



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.

Saturday, June 10, 2017
Genealogy Mini-Class
12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.

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

Instructor: Linda Guth

Mini-Class:
Saturday, June 10, 2017

Topic: **Women's Fashion Throughout The Years**

Take a trip down fashion's memory lane and learn how women's fashion has changed throughout time.

Tuesday, June 6, 2017
6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

This class will focus on tree structures, upload/download of genealogical information and the 'TreeSync' option for use with Family Tree Maker software. We will discuss the GEDCOM file structure and its use with file uploading. More than 50% of the class time will be spent covering the new Family Tree Maker version 17 feature of "FamilySync" and Ancestry trees. Location: 4th Floor VanderVeen Room @ the Grand Rapids Public Library

Midwestern History Conference: Finding the Lost Region

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

GVSU Hauenstein Center, Grand Valley State University
Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium, 401 Fulton Street West

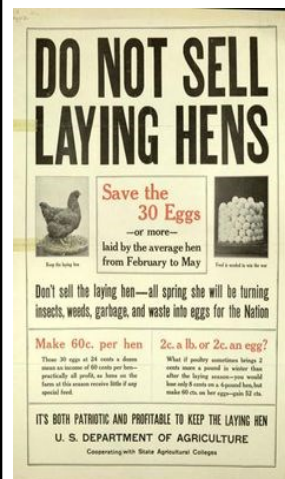
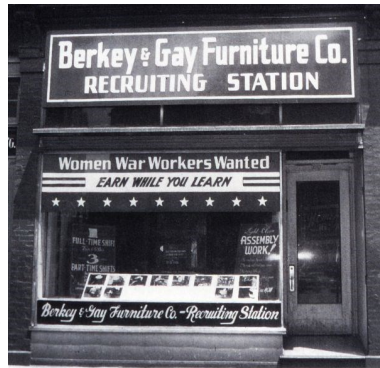
Admission to the day-long conference is free, including a complimentary lunch, and is open to the public. You must RESERVE at this link: www.hauensteincenter.org/rsvp

The Midwestern History Association is dedicated to rebuilding a field neglected in recent decades and for the third time will gather specialists here in June, when the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council will introduce a little-known adjunct to the Council of National Defense. The CND's Woman's Committee was organized in 1917 when the U.S. entered the Great War and was charged with organizing the nation's women for the war effort.

The Woman's Committee of the WWI Council of National Defense in the Midwest Wednesday, June 7, 2:00 – 3:30 pm

The Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council has pioneered work on Woman's Committee activities on the national, state, and local levels and is pleased to provide an overview of the role of midwestern women in national level wartime food programs and to feature fascinating reports about urban Grand Rapids and rural Jasper County, Indiana.

Finally, this women's war story has begun making its way into accounts of American history.



Creating 'An Army of Housewives': Woman's Committee Food Programs of World War I by Anita Anthony-VanOrsdal will address how demand for midwestern farm products provided women reformers opportunities to shape federal wartime policies and state laws. Powerful coalitions of women in the Midwest directed initial food programs, guiding grassroots efforts throughout the nation by nearly fourteen million American women. Midwestern women remained a vital component of wartime food program successes.

Hooverizing and Managing the Nation's Women: The Example of Jasper County, Indiana by Sue Caldwell will provide rich illustration of top-down management problems in one CND local committee (out of 17,000 nationwide). Her study of Jasper County, Indiana analyzes aspects of women's experiences with food conservation programs when set in a rural county and the role of food in newspaper propaganda campaigns aiming negative rhetoric specifically at women. The participation of women as wartime enforcers of regulations they did not initiate nevertheless increased their representation on county-level defense councils, opening an eventual wedge into government.



Schoolyard Patriots: Municipal Housekeepers and Government in Grand Rapids, Michigan by Jayson Otto will illustrate how well-organized women's reform movements & clubs were already primed for engagement in official governmental roles. Their early connections to civic agriculture provided models for WWI projects, and their pre-war public gardening programs for school children transformed into full-blown wartime gardening and preservation projects. The civic work of women reformers in Grand Rapids can complicate our understanding of wartime "municipal housework" and build a fuller picture of the political economy their work supported.

Saturday, June 3, 2017, 10:00 a.m.
Herrick Library
Genealogy Department Tour



Let's meet at the Herrick Library for a tour on what the library has to offer. Located on the main level of the main library, their Genealogy Department maintains several collections of print and electronic materials useful in genealogy research. Print resources include ship records, local cemetery records, Surname Index (Family Histories), Family File and Pioneer File folders, and the Holland Sentinel Microfilm Index. They also offer genealogy education classes periodically as well.

Location: 300 S River Ave, Holland MI

Instructor: Bill Grinstead

Friday, July 21 and
Saturday, July 22

Abrams Foundation Family
History Seminar

(hosted by the Archives of Michigan and
the Michigan Genealogical Council)

Seminar attendees will have the opportunity to pick from a variety of outstanding speakers and family history topics over this exciting two-day seminar. The Archives of Michigan will be open for research from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. On-site registration will be available both Friday, July 21 and Saturday, July 22, but a boxed lunch is not guaranteed.

For more information and to sign-up:

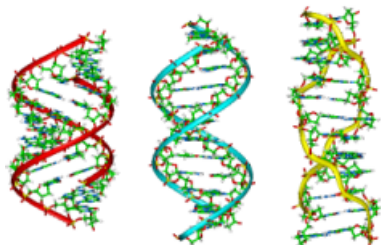
<http://seekingmichigan.org/events/2017-abrams-foundation-family-history-seminar>



One of the featured speakers, Jen Baldwin, has been working in the realm of professional genealogy since 2010. She is currently the Data Acquisition Manager, North America for Findmypast. Jen lectures, writes, and consults on a variety of genealogy and social media related topics, and was part of the research team for Genealogy Roadshow, season two.

The seminar will be held at the Michigan Historical Center. 702 West Kalamazoo, Lansing, MI

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

Fun Tips for
Getting Your Children
Involved in *Genealogy*



It feels like kids today are not interested in the past. As genealogists, we know that learning about one's family history can be a wonderful adventure. How do you get children interested in genealogy? Fortunately, the same things that worked on children generations ago still work today. Here are some powerful ways you can do just that and get your kids and grandkids to love genealogy as much as you do:

Tell Them Family History Stories and Make Them Exciting

Little House on the Prairie books have been popular with children for years. These mostly true stories resonate with children because they are exciting, with engaging characters, and intriguing plots. Children love these books because they are told in a way that appeals to them. Do the same thing with your own family history stories. Tell them to your children and grandchildren, but make the people in them into interesting characters who are having adventures. Tell them the stories until they know them by heart, but don't make it a chore. Then give them history books of the corresponding time period.

Take Them on Trips to the Places You Talk About in Your Stories

Kids love travel. Make their travel special by taking them to the places you talk about in the family history stories. Showing them where actual events from your story took place, mentioning who was associated with those places, and telling the story again in the place it happened is like taking a child right into a storybook. You can have fun exploring together and working out where certain things in your stories took place. They will always remember the trip and the family stories. They will feel more pride in their heritage because they can actually see it in a tangible way.

Show Them Artifacts of Their Ancestors

If you have family heirlooms associated with the stories you tell, show these to your children. Let them handle them if it is possible to do so without damaging the item. If you don't have heirlooms, but know of items associated with famous ancestors that are in museums, go there with your children and look at those (just make sure you've told them the story associated with these things first).

Fill Out a Family Tree With Your Children

Once your children know the family history stories and have connected with them in all kinds of personal ways, fill out a family tree chart with them. Start with the child or children as the beginning people on the tree, then go backward in time as far as you can on the paper or with your knowledge of the family tree. This way, your children will be able to see where they fit into the family, among the people whose stories they know so well.

(REPRINTED IN PART FROM: www.ancestralfindings.com)

A Special Benefit for Members of WMGS

We have a small, dedicated group of volunteers who will check personal resources, search records, compare notes and otherwise make extraordinary efforts to assist you in breaking down the Brick Walls in your family research. Most resources are for Michigan (& the Midwest), New York and New England, but we are not limiting your requests to those areas only. **Our guarantee:** We'll use our combined resources and shared experience to at the very least lead you to a few new places to look. But our goal will be to find that missing piece of information to help you get back another generation or two! What have you got to lose?

Here's what you need to do.

- Be sure you are a current member in good standing. If you have any doubt, just email wmgs@wmgs.org and we'll verify your name against the membership list.
- Send an email to wmgs@wmgs.org. The more information you provide, the better the chances of us making a new find for you. DATES & PLACES are IMPORTANT. Be patient. This service is free to WMGS members. Breaking Brick Walls is not necessarily an easy task. For now, we have a limit of one Brick Wall request per membership year.

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

SAVE THE DATE

Got Ancestors 2017 Seminar

"The Legal Genealogist"
Judy G. Russell

Saturday October 14, 2017 at the
Salvation Army Kroc Center
on South Division



Topics:

- ⇒ Copyright Mythconceptions
- ⇒ When Worlds Collide: Resolving Conflicts in Genealogical Records
- ⇒ DNA and the Golden Rule: The Law and Ethics of Genetic Genealogy
- ⇒ No Vitals? No Problem! - Building a Family through Circumstantial Evidence. When there is no birth, marriage or death record, what's a genealogist to do? Learn how to use circumstantial evidence to build a family. A family for Isabella (tracing a woman married before the 1850 census).

Michigana Contest Winners

Congratulations to the Winners of the 2017 WMGS Writing Contest!

Thank you to all who entered the 2017 WMGS Writing Contest. The judges had a challenging time in choosing the winners of this year's contest. Watch for these stories and more in upcoming issues of *Michigana* magazine.

First Place: **Meredyth Althaus**

"We Learned, We Loved, We Lived:
Remembering Grandma Day's House"
Grandma's House in Lowell, Michigan

Second Place: **Janet Jensen**

"My Childhood Happy Place"
The cottage on Chicaugon Lake

Third Place Tie: **Barbara Bettes** and **Susan Rabick**

Bettes: "If God Be for Us, Who Can Be Against Us"
The Orser family in colonial New York

Rabick, "Pursuit of Happiness"
SS Peter & Paul Byzantine Cemetery in Patton, Pennsylvania

Fourth Place: **Donald Bryant**

"Beating the Bushes for the Real Story"
The old homestead on Bristol Road in Grand Rapids

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.

Don't forget to "like" and follow
WMGS on Facebook

Find us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/wmgs.org/>



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.

Upcoming Writing Topics:

June 20: The best things about Summer when you were growing up.

July 18: Learn about Google Earth and how it can help you write your family's history

August 15: Write about a naughty ancestor's unacceptable behavior.

PLANNING ON ATTENDING?

Those who attend are encouraged to bring several copies of a Work-In- Progress (WIP), but it's 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), or 616-514-3340 (office) and her email address is 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.

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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