



WMGS Newsletter Fall 2018



Saturday, October 6, 2018
Membership meeting
1:30 p.m.

**Off to the Great War: Learning About
West Michigan World War I Veterans**

Presenter: Adam Oster
(Ryerson Auditorium)

Many people from West Michigan served in World War I. Follow their experiences from the time they joined up through their service overseas. Learn the process of locating their records as well as how they can shed light on a veteran's time during the Great War.

Adam Oster is a librarian at the Kentwood (Richard L. Root) Branch of Kent District Library. His responsibilities include providing reference services, readers advisory, outreach as well as computer class design and instruction. Adam holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Grand Valley State University with a minor in Political Science. He also has a Master of Library Science degree from Indiana University. Adam's interests include genealogy and local history research.



Got Ancestors 2018 Seminar

CeCe Moore

Saturday, October 13, 2018
Salvation Army Kroc Center

We're delighted to announce that the speaker for Western Michigan Genealogical Society's 2018 Got Ancestors?! Seminar is Your Genetic Genealogist – CeCe Moore.



CeCe Moore is well known for her appearances as the genetic genealogy consultant on television series like *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.*, as well as on other TV shows where she has appeared as a genetic genealogy expert.

She is a leading proponent of genetic genealogy education, and she is also a co-founder of the *Instituto Genetic Genealogy*.

You can find her blog at *Your Genetic Genealogist* and follow her on Facebook.

This will be CeCe's first visit to Michigan, so save the date – Saturday, 13 October 2018 for a great day of learning. The seminar will consist of 4 sessions during the day.

Topics include: The Power of DNA: Genetic Genealogy Basics, I have my Results, Now What?, Breaking Through Brick Walls with DNA, and Identifying the Man Known as Paul Fronczak Through DNA Detective Work.

Registration is now open online at:
<http://gotancestors.com/registration>

Saturday, November 10, 2018
Membership meeting
1:30 p.m.

**Tracking a Population:
How the Swedish Lutheran Church kept tabs on
everyone in Sweden (and America!)**

Presenter: Jill Pearson Reider
(Ryerson Auditorium)

Don't you wish you had a continuous record of your ancestors in America instead of a snapshot every ten years and hunting for anything you can find in between to fill in the gaps? Come and find out how the Swedish Lutheran Church kept track of its parishioners from the day they were born until the day they died, including baptisms, marriages, household examinations, moving into and out of the parish, and death. They are a genealogist's dream come true! You'll be searching your own family tree hoping to find a Swede in there!

Jill Pearson Reider has been researching her family roots since her twenties. Her mother's roots are



deep in early America with Dutch ancestors who settled in New Amsterdam (Manhattan), Germans who settled in the Germanna Colony in Virginia, as well as many other early 18th century settlers from England and Germany. Her father's parents both emigrated from Sweden, and she has embraced her Swedish heritage by learning to speak Swedish, learn-

ing Scandinavian folk dancing, and researching her Swedish roots in the Swedish church archives and through numerous trips to Sweden to visit with cousins who still live on the family farms. Jill is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Swedish American Heritage Society of West Michigan and a member and volunteer with the Swedish American Museum in Chicago. She is a member of the Western Michigan Genealogical Society and has written numerous articles for the quarterly, Michigana. She enjoys helping others discover their own roots, Swedish or otherwise!

Saturday, December 1, 2018
Membership meeting
1:30 p.m.

**Bringing Your Ancestors to Life with
Archival Resources**

Presenter: Julie Tabberer
(Ryerson Auditorium)

Discover how to use archival collections to go beyond basic facts and dates and learn more about who your ancestors were. Julie Tabberer will illustrate how to think creatively and find primary sources that may contain unexpected information. Archives hold unique and rich material that can be particularly helpful for researching women and people of color. Using the archives at the Grand Rapids Public Library as an example, Julie will give you tips and guidelines for using archival records for genealogy research in any geographic area.



Julie Tabberer is a librarian and head of the Grand Rapids History & Special Collections department at the Grand Rapids Public Library. She holds a Masters Degree in Library and Information Science from Wayne State University. Julie enjoys all things related to local history, especially digging for clues to puzzles. She is passionate about making the story of Grand Rapids available to everyone, and is working on advancing the digital accessibility of the library's archival collections.

Julie's research interests cover a wide range. She is currently attempting to track down her great-great-grandfather, William Darby, and discover if he came to North America from England or Ireland. Julie also works to uncover the often hidden role of women in Grand Rapids' history, especially in the furniture industry and around Prohibition. In her free time, she and her spouse, Pete, chase after their preschooler while hiking, camping and taking in as much of ArtPrize as possible.

Genealogy Lock-In

Friday, November 9, 2018

6:00 p.m.— 10:00 p.m.

Grand Rapids Public Library

Come to the Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department for a free after-hours program just for genealogists. Learn how to use the library databases, newspaper microfilm and other resources, and take advantage of free copying and printing during the event. Bring your family history questions or problems—volunteers from the Western Michigan Genealogical Society will be on hand to assist. Network with other genealogists—you never know what you might find. Registration required: www.grpl.org/register or call 616-988-5400.

Please “like” and follow
WMGS on Facebook

Find us at:

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



Mini Classes:

WMGS offers mini classes before the Saturday monthly meetings in October, November and December. The topics for these classes are to be announced.

12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

Location: Lower Level Adult Computer Lab,
GRPL

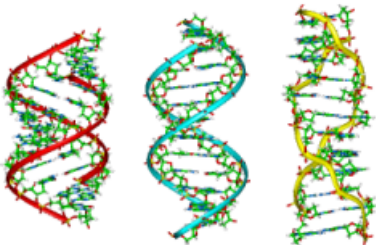
Instructor: Linda Guth

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.

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:

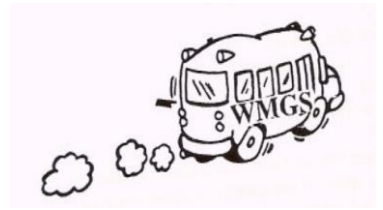
Roger Moffat- DataMaster@wmgs.org



Western Michigan Genealogical Society's

Bus Trip to Ft. Wayne's
Allen County Public Library

Staying at Econo Lodge



Tuesday – Wednesday – November 13-14, 2018

\$136=Single, \$102=Double, \$90=Triple, \$85=Quad

Transportation by **Great Lakes Motor Coach** No smoking on coach or in motel

NEW PICKUP AREAS

Day #1 6:30 AM Leave Alpine NW area (well behind the Theater) (North of I-96)

Nov 13th 7:00 AM Leave Meijers (next to I-96 and 28th St near the "K" marker)

Tuesday 7:45 AM Leave Lake Odessa and I-96 (Exit 64) ¼ mile south to Outreach Christian Church lot

8:15 AM Possible pickup off I69 at Marshall Park/Ride

9:00ish Refreshment Stop (donuts & juice at highway rest stop)

10:00 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 14th 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 year), 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 \$5 coupon for next year's membership or for purchases at the 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

\$136=Single \$102=Double (each) \$90=Triple (each) \$85=Quad (each) Ft. Wayne Trip Tues – Wed Nov. 13-14 2018

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**: _____

2019 WMGS Writing Contest

~Aunts, Uncles, & other Collateral Relatives~

Aunts, uncles, and cousins are all part of your family's history. They are your collateral relatives. Some are saints; others may be very intriguing Black Sheep.

Write about a collateral relative. Possible topics include:

How they helped you advance your research

Aspects of their lives

Why are they different or unique

We would love to hear your story. Write it up and enter the 2019 writing contest!

The Western Michigan Genealogical Society 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 2019 WMGS 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 31, 2019.

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 Microsoft Word.

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

Email your submission to michigana@wmgs.org with "WMGS Writing Contest 2019" 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 June 2019 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: wmgs.org

For further information or any questions about the Writing Contest, please contact the *Michigana* Editor at michigana@wmgs.org

All entries due by March 31, 2019!

Email to: michigana@wmgs.org

2018 Michigan Genealogical Council Fall Seminar

(in partnership with Archives of Michigan and Library of Michigan)



featuring **John Philip Colletta, Ph.D.**

Saturday, November 3, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Michigan Library & Historical Center

702 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing

Dr. Colletta, a popular genealogy lecturer for 30 years, has worked at the Library of Congress and taught National Archives programs for 20+ years. He is on the faculty of the Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research (IGHR) and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG). He has published *They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record*; *Finding Italian Roots: The Complete Guide for Americans*; *Only a Few Bones*; and the Great Course, "Discovering Your Roots". Dr. Colletta's website is <http://www.genealogyjohn.com>.

SCHEDULE (class descriptions available at <http://mimgc.org>)

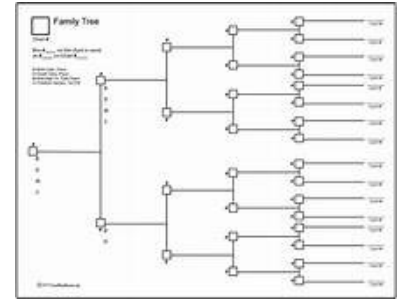
- ***Finding the Town of Origin: U.S. Sources for Discovering an Ancestor's Native Town Overseas***
- ***Lesser Used Federal Records: Sources of Rich Detail about Ancestors' Lives***
- ***The County Courthouse: Your "Trunk in the Attic"***
- ***Breaking through Brick Walls: Use your HEAD!***

More seminar information including online registration is available at <http://mimgc.org>. Archives of Michigan and Library of Michigan are open Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (free parking on Saturdays).

Genealogy Stocking Stuffers

- ◆ Small picture frames — Notepads — Pencils and Pens

- ◆ Family Tree Charts



- ◆ Family Videos on DVD — Convert old VHS videos to DVD, or transfer videos from your phone or computer

- ◆ Books on Genealogy

- ◆ Memberships to Genealogy Societies

- ◆ Memberships to Genealogy Research Web sites, Ancestry.com, GenealogyBank.com, Fold3.com, Newspapers.com, .

- ◆ Genealogy Software

- ◆ Honor an Ancestor — If there is a project going where you can dedicate an engraved brick with someone's name on it and a short inscription buy one honoring one of your genealogist's ancestors, and put a certificate indicating it in the stocking.

- ◆ Plane Tickets — If your genealogist has been wanting to go to a certain location to do "in the field" genealogy research, but hasn't been able to afford the trip, getting them plane tickets there and back is a terrific stocking stuffer gift.

- ◆ Old Family Recipe Cards



(copied in part from www.ancestralfindings.com)

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:

October : Autumn memories

November: Favorite places to spend the holidays—past or present

December: Traditional potluck; bring something delicious using a recipe from the past

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



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

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PERMIT No. 209**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

About WMGS

The Western Michigan Genealogical Society is a 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.

WMGS Contact Information

President—Mindy Koole
president@wmgs.org
Phone (616) 719-3429

VP— Marcia Shears
U08554@hotmail.com

Secretary—Eileen Schmuker
divamom3849@gmail.com

Treasurer—Mark Timmer
mark.timmer@centurytel.net

Michigana Editor—Ruth Waybrant
Michigana@wmgs.org

Newsletter Editor—Jessica Riley
jessica629@hotmail.com

Publicity Chairman—Denise Fedko
dhfed@yahoo.com

Past President—Don Bryant
webmaster@wmgs.org