



WMGS

Newsletter

SUMMER 2018



A note from the President:

The National Genealogical Society's 40th Annual Conference has come and gone already but the memories linger. It all came together beautifully and was topped off by the first blossoms of spring! THANK YOU to all of you who turned out to support our efforts to host a grand conference. You were amazing! Thank you to those who worked on the committee with me - Roger Moffat, Don Bryant, Denise Fedko, Maureen Nelson, and Sue Irvine! Thanks to Tom Koselka and Katherine Willson for working with all the societies for Society Night and for those societies who came out for the event. Thank you to Wanda Schottler and all who helped her at the sales table. Thank you to all who initially helped to get the word and then helped with the preparations behind the scenes. Thanks to those who came out and served by stuffing bags, helping at the registration desk and in the vendor hall. Thank you to those who were willing to stand in the hall and answer questions, and to those who helped by monitoring a lecture. You were invaluable! Your acts of help were greatly appreciated- not only by us - but by the conference attendees, the speakers, the vendors, and the NGS staff. I have heard many wonderful comments! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Can't say it enough!

I also want to say thank you to the following businesses that gave us gift certificates for volunteer appreciation drawings. These certificates just topped off the day for many individuals. When you go into their establishments, please tell them THANK YOU also.

In Grandville:

Applebee's

On the Border

TGI Fridays

Red Robin

Texas Roadhouse

In Grand Rapids:

Z's Fine Food & Good Spirits

San Chez Bistro

Saturday, September 8, 2018

Diana Barrett

WW I Woman's Cards

During the week of April 27th through May 4th 1918, twenty thousand Grand Rapids women, half the city's female population, registered for the war effort. One thousand registrars were trained to conduct a twenty-to-thirty-minute interview with each woman. Her information was recorded on a 5 X 8 card, designed and printed in Washington DC and used nationally. Unlike the male WWI registration cards, those from the women's nationwide registration are a data-rich resource. The men's cards were saved; the women's cards disappeared. Grand Rapids, however, had discovered a collection of 20,000 cards housed in the Library's attic. Since that time, due to excellent research by genealogists and other interested researchers, many new sources of cards, and new information has been discovered beyond Grand Rapids and Michigan.

Diana Barrett has been a member of the Grand Rapids Historical Commission since 2001, and from 2009 -2011 served as its chair. Barrett also has been responsible for the Commission's websites, historygrandrapids.org and furniturecityhistory.org. For her work on the websites, and research regarding the Woman's Committee WWI cards archived at the Grand Rapids Public Library, Barrett has earned the Albert Baxter Award for local history in Grand Rapids and a Historical Society of Michigan State Award in Communications. She is currently working on a book about former Grand Rapids Mayor George Welsh.





Skype class coming in July:
Instructor: Mark Olsen
Genealogy Community Ambassador
with

Family Tree Maker®

Mark Olsen is the Family Tree Maker Ambassador to historical and genealogical societies around the world working to support their members as they use Family Tree Maker.
Mark is a graduate of Brigham Young University and holds a bachelor's degree in Family History with a Spanish records emphasis. He has been working in the genealogy industry since 2007.

For more information on this mini-class please refer to our website at: www.wmgs.org and click on the calendar page.

Genealogy Lock-In

Friday, August 10

6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Grand Rapids Public Library

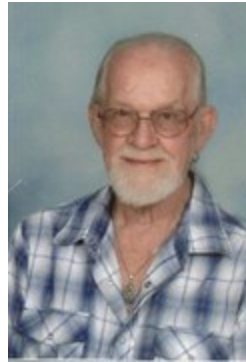
Come to the Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department for a free after-hours program just for genealogists. Learn how to use the library databases, newspaper microfilm and other resources, and take advantage of free copying and printing during the event. Bring your family history questions 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.



In Memoriam

Bill Simmons

William J. Simmons, age 94 of Grand Rapids passed away peacefully at his cottage in Stanton on Saturday, May 19, 2018. He was born the son of William T. & Mary (McDowell) Simmons on January 11, 1924 in Vicksburg. Preceding Bill in death are his parents; wife, Patricia and son, David. Bill is survived by his children, Mary (Douglas) Ryan of Grand Rapids; Paul (Amy) Simmons of Wyoming; Jane Needham of Stanton; grandchildren, Molly (John) Taylor; Daniel Ryan; Amanda Woltz; David Simmons; Rose Claire Simmons (Lysandra Marie); Jessica Needham; great grandchildren, Monica, Alison, Griffin, Nolan, Varro, Vaeya; special friend of the family, Michael Finley and lots of family and friends all over the world.



One of Bill's biggest hobbies was genealogy and he served as President of the Western Michigan Genealogical Society on several occasions. We remember him fondly at WMGS and send our condolences to his family.

Taken in part from <http://obits.mlive.com/obituaries/grandrapids>. Please see this site for a more detailed obituary.

Nominations for Officer of WMGS

By e-mail send our president your nominations for the following offices. We vote at the October meeting for the officers to take office the first of the year. Thanks for your consideration.

President

Vice- President

Treasurer

Secretary (this office does not have anyone running at the current time.)

Email: president@wmgs.org

Michigan Archives

The Archives of Michigan is responsible for preserving the records of Michigan government and other public institutions. In fulfilling this primary mission, it serves as the collective memory of Michigan state government. In addition, after review, the Archives of Michigan also accepts papers from private individuals and organizations.

With documents dating back to 1792, the Archives of Michigan houses much of Michigan's record heritage. More than 80 million state and local government records and private papers, 300,000 photographs and 500,000 maps, plus films and audio tapes are available for research.

702 W. Kalamazoo St.
Lansing, MI 48915



517-373-3559

[www.michigan.gov/
archivesofmi](http://www.michigan.gov/archivesofmi)

Friday, July 20 and Saturday, July 21

Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar

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

David Lambert has been on the staff of NEHGS since 1993 and is the organization's Chief Genealogist. David is an internationally recognized speaker on the topics of genealogy and history. His genealogical expertise includes New England and Atlantic Canadian records of the 17th through 21st century; military records; DNA research; and Native American and African American genealogical research in New England.



Lambert has published many articles in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, the New Hampshire Genealogical Record, Rhode Island Roots, The Mayflower Descendant, and American Ancestors magazine. He has also published A Guide to Massachusetts Cemeteries (NEHGS, 2009). David is an elected Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston, Mass., and a life member of the New Hampshire Society of the Cincinnati. He

is also the tribal genealogist for the Massachuset-Punkapoag Indians of Massachusetts.

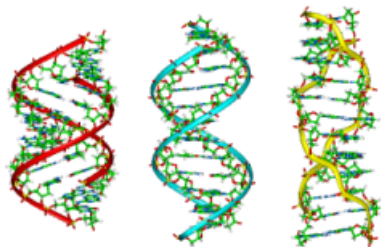
For registration and other information:

seekingmichigan.org/events/2018-abrams-foundation-family-history-seminar

Other presenters include Kris Rzepczynski, Daniel Earl, James Jackson, Annakathryn Welch, Thomas Koselka, Jill Arnold, Dr. James Sims, Katherine Willson and Jessica Trotter.

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

Family Discovery Day

Saturday, September 15, 2018

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Location: LDS, 2780 Leonard NE

Attend family discovery day, and learn how to strengthen your family across generations. Hear encouraging messages from experts in the industry and other popular speakers who will help inspire you to:

- Seek your ancestors
- Build your family tree
- Discover and share your family's stories

Class topics will include:

Stories: Digitizing and documenting your own story and learning interviewing techniques to record your family's stories.

Technology: Furthering family history efforts using the latest and greatest technology available to use at the current time.

Find and Preserve: Researching to gather family records and preserving them for future generations.

No fee, lunch provided, Flash Drives will be available with lessons/videos for \$10. Key Note Speaker is Dan Earl, "Creating Resilient Children with Family History".



VOICES is not an interview—it is a conversation between you and a loved one, a colleague, a friend, or a mentor about your life, your successes, your failures, your wisdom. The

person you bring with you will be part of the conversation. You will both be recorded on-camera—the conversation between the two of you will be preserved for all time.

How to book your reservation:

Under “search for events”, select the date range (from/to) you would like to search, then select the **VOICES** location most convenient for you. Select the location you want, then click “search” to see what dates and times are available. Then click on the date and time you wish to book!

IMPORTANT: They need your phone number. Be sure to provide it in the reservation form.

Some things to note:

If a date/time is not available, it will not show in the schedule.

No same-day reservations can be accepted.

They are unable to accommodate walk-ins.

They will ask you to sign a release form before you may participate in the VOICES project so that we can share your narrative on our website and possibly air it on WKTV Comcast Channel 25.

<https://wktvvoices.org/>

If you have any difficulties, just call (616) 261—5700 and ask for **VOICES** reservations.

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

Looking for a challenging and fun volunteer activity?

WMGS is a volunteer organization. As more members volunteer, the job gets a little easier for all of us. In particular we are looking for:

- ♦ Writing Contest Coordinator
- ♦ *Michigana* Photo Editor
- ♦ Various Columnists for *Michigana*
- ♦ Editors and Proofreaders

Interested? Contact:
Michigana@wmgs.org or
ruthgen@gmail.com

Tuesday Genies

2:00 p.m.— 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday Genies - gather every Tuesday from about 2:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. Barring holidays and snowstorms, variously two to eight people volunteer at the Grand Rapids Public Library downtown to work on WMGS projects and answer out-of-town genealogy requests. Members also help people get started on genealogy research or find new sources of information. We encourage you to come help and/or be helped. See you on Tuesdays!

Location:
Grand Rapids Public Library—4th floor



Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council

Summer Events with the Grand Rapids Women's History Council

Hollyhock Lane Parade

Wednesday, July 4, 8:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

Back by popular demand, the GGRWHC will take to the streets to honor parading suffragists from a hundred years ago. Watch for details & join the fun with bands, bicyclists, candy, and placards! To quote a past participant: this event is “oddly exhilarating”!

Beyond Her Grave Bicycle Tour: The Legacies of Women Buried in Fulton Street and Oakhill Cemeteries

Tuesday, August 14, 6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by She Rides Her Own Way, the Grand Rapids Public Library's GR Reads program, and the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council, a one-of-a-kind bicycle tour will make stops at Fulton Street and Oakhill cemeteries, highlighting remarkable as well as lesser-known local women, who have made a difference in the history of our city.



For more information about these events and other activities of the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council go to their website at:

www.ggrwhc.org

SAVE THE DATE
Got Ancestors 2018 Seminar

CeCe Moore
Saturday, October 13, 2018 at the
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 *Institutor 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



**Congratulations to the
Winners of
the 2018 WMGS
Writing Contest!**

Thank you to **all** who entered the 2018 WMGS Writing Contest. Watch for these stories and more in upcoming issues of *Michigana*.

First Place: **Mary Patrick**, "The Untraditional Tradition"

Second Place: **Laura O'Brock**, "Sowing Seeds, Pruning People, and Reaping Rewards"

Third Place Tie: **Gretchen Weaver**, "Traditions"
Grace Truman, "Our Family Traditions"

~ Sharpen your pencils.
Warm up your keyboard. ~

The 2019 contest theme and rules will be announced in the next issue of *Michigana* or check our website at wmgs.org

**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:

July 17: The best places we watched fireworks

August 21: The best ways to keep cool in the "Dog Days of August"

September 18: School Rules (There are a variety of definitions for this one—have fun with it)

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

**NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT No. 209**

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.

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