



# WMGS

## Newsletter

### Fall 2019



### 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 7, 2019**

**Membership Meeting**

**1:30 p.m.**

**Victorian Lady**

**Presenter: Wendy Batchelder**



See first hand, what it took to dress and live as a Victorian woman. Local historical interpreter Wendy Batchelder offers a fascinating peek at the daily routine of a Victorian Lady. Suitable for anyone who is interested in fashion and history.

Learn about the life of Victorian women - how they dressed, and why they wore the things they did! Hear how fashions (hair, jewelry, etc...) were presented throughout the Victorian era.

**About the Presenter:** As a life long history lover, Batchelder has always loved learning about the past - from fashion, customs, food, medical history, etiquette, and more. She has worked as a costumer and educator for almost thirteen years at the Grand Rapids Public Museum, and has loved teaching history from many different eras. Though no longer there, she still has many opportunities to share her love of history with young people - from Scouts, youth groups, home school groups, teas, and at schools and libraries. Batchelder has four grandchildren who delight in all of her "dress up clothes" and antique things. Their curiosity is wonderful and gives her the greatest joy to spend time with them.

She is also a flute player and teacher, and spends many hours a week teaching students of all ages.

Her business, "Lost Arts", was developed as a way to promote and share all the interesting things she gets to do - from creating new costumes, to classes & camps, and the Victorian programs she has developed and shares all over the area. Batchelder has found that she adores public speaking. Getting to meet others who share her interests is such a treat. Every time she gives a presentation, she has the privilege of meeting and talking to others who are as fascinated by the Victorian era as she is. We are looking forward to her upcoming presentation.

**Saturday, October 5, 2019  
Membership Meeting**

**1:30 p.m.**

**Resources For Genealogical Research  
In Foreign Countries**

**Presenter: Katherine R. Willson**

Once you've discovered your immigrant ancestor's home country, how will you go about finding documents generated while s/he was still there, and how will you research his/her parents? We'll discuss available resources for beginning your research in foreign countries, including how to locate foreign language genealogy terms and online maps providing contextual information on shifting country borders.



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 presenta-

**Two Hour Classes**

**September and October**

**September Two Hour Class (Date TBD)**

**Researching Vital Records:** This class will explore research strategies of vital records such as birth, marriage, and death and how to find them.

**October Two Hour Class (Date TBD)**

**Navigating the Family Search Website:** Explore the world's largest collection of free family trees, genealogy records and resources. This website is run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. This site is completely free for all to use, whether they are members of the LDS Church or not.

**MINI CLASSES**

**12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, September 7, 2019**

**Topic: Genealogy of a House: "If These Walls Could Speak"**

Are you curious about the history of the house you live in, or would you like to trace the history of a family property? Let's learn how.

**Saturday, October 5, 2019**

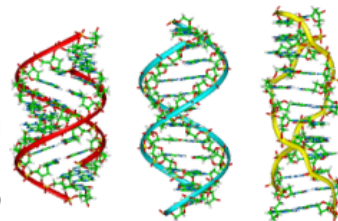
**Topic: Using Social Media for Genealogy**

Social media is a tool that can help the researcher further enhance or find living relatives. This may help you break down your brick walls.

**Location:** Lower Level Adult Computer Lab, GRPL  
**Instructor:** Linda Guth

**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](mailto:DataMaster@wmgs.org)

## Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum Tour

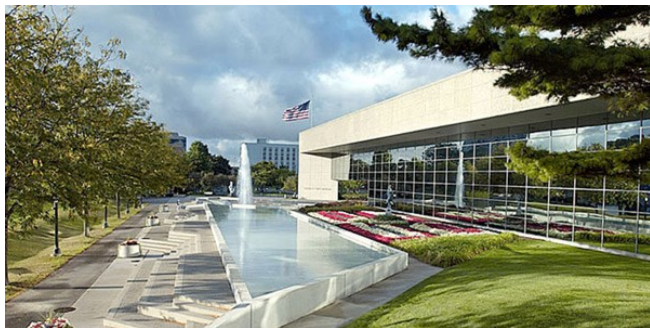
August 15, 2019

11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Curator Don Hollaway will lead a tour of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum and discuss the life of First Lady Betty Ford using museum exhibits and artifacts. The first twenty five Grand Rapids Public Library cardholders will get in free when they present their GRPL library card. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.



*Parking is free in the lot on the west side of the museum.*



## Genealogy Lock-In

August 16, 2019

6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

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](http://www.grpl.org/register) or call 616-988-5400.



# You're Invited

## Join us to celebrate the opening of the Carl Bajema Michigan History Collection at the Grand Rapids Public Library

The culmination of decades of research, the collection covers hundreds of topics, with an emphasis on railroads, lumber, natural resources, and the social history of Michigan.

**Tuesday, August 13, 2019 | 5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.**

Grand Rapids Public Library  
Main Library, 111 Library Street NE  
Vander Veen Center for the Book, Level 4

Remarks at 6:00 p.m.  
Light appetizers  
Free parking in the library lot

Please RSVP by August 5, 2019

## DO YOU HAVE AN ANCESTOR WHO FOUGHT IN THE CIVIL WAR?

If so, you may be eligible to join the lineage society: **National Society Daughters of the Union**. The Henry S. Jenks Chapter is accepting applications and welcoming new members. This chapter meets in the Grand Rapids area four times a year. For further information, and to receive an application and instructions, contact: Denise Roeller via her email address: [mamaroeller@hotmail.com](mailto:mamaroeller@hotmail.com)

## SAVE THE DATE

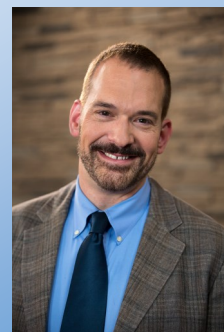
**Saturday, October 12, 2019**

**Salvation Army Kroc Center  
(2500 S. Division)**

**"Got Ancestors?!"**

**Who's Your Daddy?"**

**Presenter: Michael Lacopo**





## Interlibrary Loan Experience

By: Marcia Shears



In April, I went to the Allen County Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana on a WMGS Bus Trip. WMGS makes these trips to Fort Wayne twice a year. For those of you that have never been there, the Allen County Library has one of the largest genealogy collections available in the United States. They have records from around the world and staff that can help you, while you are on site at the library. They usually have an optional tour of the library for those who are new to the library soon after the bus arrives.

While I was there, I found a great genealogy book containing ancestors of people who are DNA matches with me and my family. The book was well referenced and had an index at the back of the book. I copied the book to PDF files in sections on the copier to a USB drive. By copying the book to PDF sections, I can reference the book frequently from home, without making another trip to Fort Wayne to see it. I can also share sections of the book with my DNA matches, who have the same ancestors.



I started to read the beginning of the book. In the prologue, the author mentioned many descendants of this family who had shared their research with her and another book. She said without their help her book would not have been possible. I picked up on the book reference immediately and looked to see if it was in the online ACPL card catalog. I could not find the book, so I took the information to the ACPL staff librarian and she confirmed that the book was not available at the Allen County Library, but she printed a list of a few other locations the book was available. Sadly, none of them were in Michigan, Ohio or Indiana.

I brought the list back to my local Grand Rapids Public Library and asked if it was possible to obtain the book via interlibrary loan. The Interlibrary Loan service allows libraries to borrow books, DVDs, CDs, and articles from libraries all over the world. I didn't think there was a chance of this because generally genealogy books and other materials can only be viewed at the library they are in and are not available to be taken out of the home library, but I didn't think I had anything to lose by trying.

About a week later I received an e-mail from my local library saying that the book, which contained 785 pages, was available via interlibrary loan and would be coming to the Grand Rapids library from St Louis County, Missouri in about a week. The book was available for me to view and copy at the library for a couple of weeks. Our library's copier does not have the ability to scan directly to a USB drive, but it does allow scanning of small sections to a pdf file, which is sent to your email address. This worked well.

Never give up on being able to see a book, DVD, CD or article without checking to see if what you need might be available via interlibrary loan.

# 2020 WMGS Writing Contest

## ~ A Memorable Trip or Journey ~

*Travel is a part of many family experiences and the stories that come from the trips we and our ancestors have made shape us into who we have become. Write a story about a memorable trip or journey.*

*Suggestions for possible topics include:*

- Immigration to another country
- Migration from one area to another
- Visiting a place that holds significant meaning for your family
- Taking a trip back to the "old country" or an original homestead
- Forced immigration or migration
- Taking a vacation to visit a loved one

### Write it up and enter the 2020 WMGS 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 2020 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](http://wmgs.org).

### Rules for the WMGS Writing Contest

**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.

**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. Endnotes, documentation, photograph descriptions, nor chart information will be included in the word count.

**Formats:** Entry must be completed in Microsoft Word. **\*\*IMPORTANT:** If you include your photographs, charts, or graphics within your document, please also send them **separately** as 300 dpi tif or jpeg files.\*\*

**Identification:** Include the story title, your name, mailing address, phone number, and approximate word count in the body of the email. This information will only be used to identify and notify the winners. Other than the title, this information does not need to be included within your entry.

**Deadline:** Entries will be accepted between January 1 & March 31, 2020.

Email your submission to [michigana@wmgs.org](mailto:michigana@wmgs.org) with

**"WMGS Writing Contest 2020" written in the Subject Line**

**Notification:** Contest winners will be announced at the June 2020 Membership Meeting, on the WMGS Facebook Page, and in the next available issue of *Michigana*. Each entrant will also receive an email with the results of the WMGS Writing Contest at the time of the announcement. 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.

#### Want help or feedback?

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](http://wmgs.org)

#### 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

For further information or any questions about the Writing Contest, please contact Julie DeVisser, *Michigana* Editor, at [michigana@wmgs.org](mailto:michigana@wmgs.org)



Western Michigan Genealogical Society's

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



Tuesday - Wednesday – November 12-13, 2019

\$139=Single, \$102=Double, \$90=Triple, \$84=Quad

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

### PICKUP AREAS

Day #1 7:00 AM Leave Alpine NW area (well behind the Theater) (North of I-96)  
Nov-12<sup>th</sup> 7:30 AM Leave Meijers (next to I-96 and 28<sup>th</sup> St near the "K" marker)  
Tuesday 8:15 AM Leave Lake Odessa and I-96 (Exit64) (just ¼ mile south to  
Outreach Christian Church lot)  
8:45 AM Possible pickup off I-69 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 **Baymont Lodge** (260) 489-8888 (name change)  
Last spring many of us enjoyed pizza at the motel! – Fun time!  
5707 Challenger Parkway, Fort Wayne, IN, 46818 (Name change - was Econo Lodge)

Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 AM Wakeup Call – Continental breakfast (and maybe cold pizza)  
Wednesday 8:30-8:40 AM Load luggage. Transportation to library.  
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 Baymont (same place as last spring), 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 March would be most helpful.

^ A \$15 deposit guarantees your place on the bus. Please send your deposit or at least an email by Oct 15<sup>th</sup>. Balance to be paid by Nov 2nd. Please make checks payable to **WMGS**.

^^ Please contact Sue Irvine with any questions. 616-889-0042 or [sjirv@yahoo.com](mailto:sjirv@yahoo.com)

Send registration and payment to Sue Irvine, 4215 Northgate NE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49525

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\$139 =Single \$102=Double (each) \$90=Triple (each) 84=Quad (each)

Ft. Wayne Trip Tues – Wed Nov 12-13, 2019 All rooms non-smoking

Is 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### Upcoming Writing Topics:

**August:** *Foods from your childhood that you no longer eat, or that may no longer be available.*

**September:** *Memories of your favorite, or least favorite, teacher.*

**October:** *Describe the time before computers or other techie tools like smart phones. How have digital innovations changed your life?*

### **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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US POSTAGE  
PAID  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI  
PERMIT No. 209**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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## 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](http://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](mailto: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

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