



WMGS

Newsletter

Winter 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.

Saturday, January 5, 2019

Membership meeting

1:30 p.m.

What's in a Dutch Name?

Presenter: Janet Sjaarda Sheeres

The program details information regarding the origins and meanings of Dutch surnames as well as the provincial/regional differences of these surnames. What do all the "van", "vander" and "de" prefixes mean? What ancestor decided your last name? Were the names changed upon entering the United States? The program is illustrated with photos of the related provincial and regional costumes.

Janet Sjaarda Sheeres is an independent scholar, genealogist, and freelance author who researches and writes on the subject of family, church, and Dutch emigration/immigration history. Since she



began writing about thirty years ago she has published three books, over 70 articles in various national and international historical and genealogical journals. Janet was born in the Netherlands, speaks fluent Dutch.

Saturday, February 2, 2019

Membership meeting

1:30 p.m.

Finding your Michigan Ancestor at the Library of Michigan

Presenter: Tim Gleisner

The Library of Michigan has been collecting Michigan information since 1826. During that time the Library of Michigan has collected materials that cover almost any aspect of life within the state. From newspapers, books, newsletters to magazines the Library of Michigan has tried to collect it. Join Tim Gleisner, Head of Special Collections at the Library of Michigan, and discover what the Library of Michigan has to offer for anyone interested in Michigan Genealogy and History.



Tim Gleisner has been the Head of the Special Collections at the Library of Michigan Since 2017. Previously he worked at the Grand Rapids Public Library for 12 years, where he was the Head of the Reference and Special Collections Departments. Before this he worked at the Herrick District Library in Holland and managed the Genealogy and Michigan Collections of that Library. In 2018 he was awarded the Filby Award from the National Genealogical Society for Outstanding Genealogical Librarianship.

Saturday, March 2, 2019
Membership meeting
1:30 p.m.

Presenter: Marcus Winchester

Marcus Winchester is a citizen of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians. The Pokagon Potawatomi are located in southwestern Michigan and northern Indiana. Marcus works for his community in the Department of Language and Culture. In this capacity Marcus strives to promote and maintain Potawatomi history, language, and culture for the future generations of his tribe.

In his presentation, Marcus will discuss how his community avoided the Indian Removal Act of 1830. This is a story of tactfulness, relationship building, and ingenuity on behalf of the Potawatomi leaders during this time period.



Mini Classes:

WMGS offers mini classes before the Saturday monthly meetings in January, February and March

12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

Location: Lower Level Adult Computer Lab, GRPL

Instructor: Linda Guth

January Mini-Class: Genealogy Resolutions

The new year is about to begin and it's time for some genealogy introspection. What will you do this year to enhance or expand your family history research? What will be different about how you do that research in 2019 versus 2018? What genealogy lessons did you learn in the past that you will be implementing this year? Join in on this discussion and share your ideas.

February Mini-Class: Black History

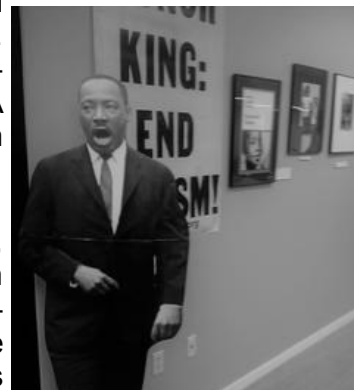
In commemoration of Black History Month this mini-class will review and learn about little known facts about Black History.

March Mini-Class: TBA

Grand Rapids African American Museum & Archives

The Grand Rapids African-American Museum and Archives (GRAAMA) is located at 89 Monroe Center NW. The museum had its grand opening on Monday, Dec. 26, 2016, the first day of Kwanzaa, a seven-day festival celebrated by African-Americans. The museum also includes a store and donation drop-off center. A local artist and collector, George Bayard III, has headed up this effort to open Grand Rapids' first museum of African-American history.

Bayard is a Grand Rapids resident of nearly thirty years. He is an artist by trade, but began collecting items as several people came to him with special things from the past. He thought the mementos of African-American history in Grand Rapids would be the right fit for a museum. For the past several years Bayard has pursued his constant dream to open the Grand Rapids African American Museum and Archives.



The museum is open from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday—Saturday. If you are interested in having special event hours please call 616 540-2943 for more information.

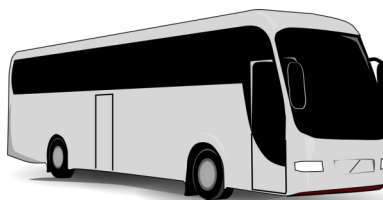
Please "like" and follow



WMGS on Facebook

Find us at:

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



SAVE THE DATE

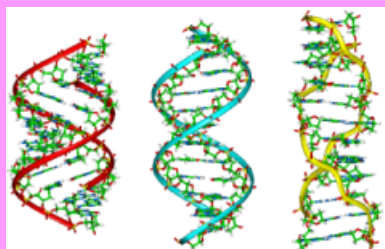
**Spring 2019 WMGS Research trip
to Fort Wayne's Allen County
Public Library is scheduled:
Wednesday and Thursday,
April 24 - 25.
Registration to be announced.**

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



WMGS HISTORIAN IS LOOKING FOR YOUR RECORDS

Cataloguing is being continued of our society's history collection and we discovered we have been sadly negligent in preserving our own records. We have most of the early minutes of meetings but committee, educational and other efforts are underrepresented.

A lot of work by dedicated people is not currently a part of our preserved story. We want to change that.

Knowing how genealogists tend to keep every piece of paper forever, we are appealing to our members and past members to look through their treasures and see if you have any fliers, notes, newsletters, worksheets, minutes etc. that are relevant to WMGS. If you know of someone who is no longer active please contact them for us. Don't worry if you think the papers are duplicates, unimportant or messy, they will be sorted. Give what you have to any board member and we'll find them a home that will assure they are recognized as valued. We thank you in advance for your assistance.

(Submitted by current WMGS Historian Janet Idema from Sue Rabick, previous Historian)

12th Annual History Detectives

Saturday, January 19, 2019, 9:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Lawrence C. Earle is Grand Rapids' First Artist

Presenter: Don Bryant

"But dis art is serious business, my boy, and you must learn to traw goot first of all and traw, traw some more, and always traw, traw, for dat is de foundations of every-thing." Master Dutch painter Marinus Harting wrote those words in 1857 to a 12-year old student here in Grand Rapids. This inspired Lawrence C. Earle to dedicate his life to artistic expression. Don brings this artist's fascinating life and diverse art career to light through glimpses and illustrations of Earle's family, upbringing in Grand Rapids, training in Chicago and Europe, and career highlights.



Sponsor: Western Michigan Genealogical Society

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Undercurrent: African American Women in Turn-of-the-20th-Century Grand Rapids

Presenter: Sophia Ward Brewer

African American women have received little attention for their cultural and political contributions to 19th century reform movements. Sophia will explore the undercurrents created by a small community of African American women in Grand Rapids as they made their marks on local history. She will uncover who they were, reveal where they came from, and describe how they impacted their period's fight for civil and women's rights.

Sponsor: Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

What Did They Know and When Did They Know It? Grand Rapidian's and the Holocaust

Presenter: Rob Franciosi

Scholars have established that American political leaders knew a great deal about the fate of millions of Jews under Nazi occupation. Contrary to popular myth, so did average Americans. Events, as they happened, found their ways into many American daily newspapers between 1933 and 1945.

Rob and GVSU students researched the two Grand Rapids newspapers to discover what our community knew as the Holocaust was being perpetrated.

Sponsor: Kutsche Office of Local History at GVSU



1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Hot Spots in a Cool City: Evening Entertainment in Grand Rapids, 1940-1970

Presenter: M. Christine Byron

Today Grand Rapids is known as a "cool" city for ArtPrize, craft beer, and live music. But even in the mid-20th century the city offered a "cool" range of entertainment from cocktail lounges, music venues, dining-and-dancing spots, and movie theaters. Chris will take us back to such venues as the Log Cabin Cocktail Lounge, Club 21, Hattem's Cafe & Cocktail Bar, the Parkway Tropics for the music of Bennie Carew, and Civic Auditorium to imagine Louis Armstrong's performance there. Or maybe we'll catch a movie at the Regent Theatre, bowl at the Fanatorium, or roller skate at the Coliseum!



Sponsor: Grand Rapids Historical Commission

2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Fresh Air, Thrift, Exercise, and Innocent Delight: School Gardening Programs in Progressive Era Grand Rapids

Presenter: Jayson Otto

In the growing movement of urban gardening in the early 20th century, Grand Rapids became a model for its school-led gardening programs. By the 1920s the movement was in full bloom and every grade school in Grand Rapids had a school garden. Jayson will walk us through the school garden programs and the organizations and individuals in the city and state, including women's clubs, local banks, and the Michigan State Agricultural College.

Sponsor: Grand Rapids City Archives

3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

WWII: When Patriotism Was The Norm

Presenter: Sandra Warren

We Bought a WWII Bomber: The Untold Story of a Michigan High School, a B-17 Bomber & The Blue Ridge Parkway author Sandra Warren was a student at South High in the 1960s, long after the federal government's "Buy a Bomber" program was over. She was inspired to dig into the story of South High student's purchase of an airplane during WWII after she discovered that plane met its demise less than three hours from her home in North Carolina.



Sponsors: Grand Rapids Historical Society and the Grand Rapids Public Museum

Additional Information About History Detectives

History Detectives will take place at the Grand Rapids Public Library Main Branch (111 Library St. NE) in the Ryerson Auditorium

12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch

Reserve ahead of time! Boxed lunches are \$10 and must be ordered in advance. Choose a turkey, ham, or vegetarian sandwich (or make any of these gluten-free). Also included in the lunches are a fruit cup, pasta salad, cookie, condiments, and bottled water. Pop will be available for an additional \$1. To reserve a lunch, call 616.988.5492 or email rsvp@grpl.org by Tuesday, January 15. Cash payment is due at the event. Lunches provided by Cherry Deli; afternoon cookies by Lomonaco Sicilian Cookies.



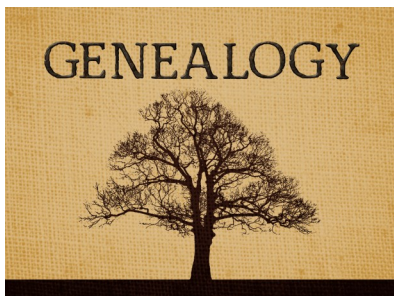
Limited Seating Space is limited and seating is offered on a first come, first served basis. There will be an overflow room available with a simulcast video presentation.



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



Black Family History Series

February 9, 2019

10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

What parent or grandparent hasn't had a child ask where they came from, what their job was, or how they met their spouse? While these family history questions are universal, answers can sometimes be challenging to find. This is especially true for African Americans interested in their family history. Join us for a series of workshops that will help people of African American ancestry learn and document your family's genealogical history. Hosted by local genealogist Joyce Daniels, the series will help you investigate your roots and connect with others around family history. Registration is not required, however a free lunch will be provided if you RSVP to rsvp@grpl.org.

Co-sponsored by the Western Michigan Genealogical Society

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

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:

January : Cars I Have Known -mine, a friend's or the family's

February: Non-Motorized Methods of Transportation

March: Movie Memories

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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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—Julie DeVisser
Michigana@wmgs.org

Newsletter Editor—Jessica Riley
jessica629@hotmail.com

Publicity Chairman—Denise Fedko
dhfed@yahoo.com

Past President—Don Bryant
webmaster@wmgs.org