



# WMGS Newsletter SPRING 2021



## 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 (NO IN-PERSON MEETINGS YET)***

**Saturday, March 6, 2021, 1:30 p.m.**

**Virtual presentation via Zoom Webinar**

**Zoom link: [https://zoom.us/j/97300550464?](https://zoom.us/j/97300550464?pwd=aG0xNyMTENXUVVxL0N3ZG9mSkJjdz09#success)**

**pwd=aG0xNyMTENXUVVxL0N3ZG9mSkJjdz09#success**

(or access via WMGS website,  
click on the link for the meeting)

**Presenter: Mark Hoffman**

***Topic: Researching Beyond the Usual  
Civil War Union Sources***

This session moves beyond the basic information on the service of Union veterans of the Civil War. It includes many seldom-used sources – online, archival and printed -- which help provide context and detail to the Union Civil War experience. The presentation will include sources of information on ancestors, both men and women, soldier and civilian. It draws upon almost 40 years of experience researching Civil War-era soldiers and their families, both as a genealogist and as a Civil War historian.



Mark Hoffman currently serves as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Previously, Hoffman was deputy director of the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries for eight years after holding leadership roles with the Michigan Bureau of State Lottery and the Michigan House of Representatives. A life-long student of the American Civil War, he is the author of *Among the Enemy: A Michigan Soldier's Civil War Journal* (2013) and *My Brave Mechanics: The First Michigan Engineers and Their Civil War* (2007) – both published by Wayne State University Press. He is a graduate of Michigan State University, with a degree in History.

**Saturday, March 13, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Genealogy class: Resources  
on WMGS website**

**Zoom link: [https://zoom.us/j/92962976395?](https://zoom.us/j/92962976395?pwd=dkkrCFYxL3pTc2xqdGIENjBBVTRUdz09)**

**pwd=dkkrCFYxL3pTc2xqdGIENjBBVTRUdz09**

(or access via WMGS website,  
click on the link for the meeting)

**Instructor: Linda Guth**

This Zoom class will review genealogy information available on our website. We'll go over the page of the WMGS website, looking at the various search features, plus how to enter your family tree into this informative database. You can search for photos, by names, places, etc. After all, you may find a cousin right here in "river city" (as they say). I found a cousin at one of the Library's Lock In's. Now that we can't meet in person because of Covid, maybe you can find a cousin this way instead. This is a valuable research tool.

**Remember to "like" and follow  
WMGS on Facebook**

**Find us at:**

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

**or search for "Western Michigan  
Genealogical Society" at Facebook and you  
will be directed to our new FB closed group**

**facebook**

**Saturday, April 3, 2021, 1:30 p.m.**

**Virtual presentation via Zoom Webinar**

**Zoom link:** <https://zoom.us/j/97300550464?pwd=aG0xNytMTENXUVVxL0N3ZG9mSkJjdz09#success>

(or access via WMGS website,  
click on the link for the meeting)

**Presenter: Jim Jackson**

**Topic: The War of 1812**

An overview of the causes and significant events of this war, the only war partially fought on Michigan soil. Also, how to research military, bounty land and pension records online or at local, state or national archives.

Jackson has been interested in Genealogy and Local History since the mid-70s, and served as President of the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, Inc., the Oakland County Genealogical Society and the Calhoun County Genealogical Society. He has been the index editor of the DSGR Magazine since 1994, and the Past-Camp Commander for Camp #22 of the Sons of the Civil War (SUVCW) in Battle Creek, MI.



He has taught classes and presented talks to various local and national societies, including the Great Lakes Conference, Fort Wayne, IN; the American Society of Indexers Conference in Philadelphia, PA; the Local History Conference, Macomb Community College, MI; the Ohio Genealogical Society in Cincinnati, OH; the Ontario Genealogical Society in Oshawa, Ontario; and the National Genealogical Society (NGS) Family History Conference in Grand Rapids, MI.

*A list of his books can be found at  
<https://michlist.com/store.html>*

**Saturday, May 1, 2021, 1:30 p.m.**

**Virtual presentation via Zoom Webinar**

**Zoom link:** <https://zoom.us/j/97300550464?pwd=aG0xNytMTENXUVVxL0N3ZG9mSkJjdz09#success>

(or access via WMGS website,  
click on the link for the meeting)

**Presenter: Adam Oster**

**Topic: Annual Reports: Supplemental Documents for Genealogical Research**

Governments, businesses and a variety of other organizations produce annual reports that describe the activities of the entities throughout the preceding year. These reports provide vital information for genealogical researchers when investigating the greater context of the lives of their ancestors. Learn more about these useful documents and see examples from the collections of the Library of Michigan.



Adam Oster is the Community Engagement Librarian for the Library of Michigan. Adam holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Grand Valley State University with a minor in Political Science and Secondary Education Certification. He also has a Master of Library Science degree from Indiana University. Adam's interests include genealogy and local history research.

**Southern California Genealogical Society**

**Jamboree 2021 Two Online Virtual Conferences**

<https://genealogyjamboree.com/>

This virtual event has two online conferences. **Friday and Saturday, June 4—5, 2021**, a genetic genealogy conference called "The Genes in Your Family," suitable for all levels of genetic genealogists.

Friday and Saturday, **June 11—12, 2021**, "The Stars in your Family." SCGS is publishing a book and is accepting submission stories about individual ancestors. Please see webpage for details.



**TO REGISTER:**

<https://next.scgsgenealogy.com/?backurl=%2Fregjam%2F>



## NGS 2021 Live! May 19— 2021

Register today for NGS 2021 Live! The National Genealogical Society Family History Conference always offers the opportunity to learn new strategies, resources, and techniques to sharpen your family history skills. NGS's 2021 Live! gives you the chance to enjoy the benefits of learning from your home, streamed directly to your computer or mobile device. This two-day feast of excellent speakers and new lecture topics, plus live interaction with speakers via chat and Q&A, also features the announcement of winners for NGS Awards, the newest genealogical products and services from exhibitors in our virtual expo hall, drawings for exciting genealogy-related prizes, and more!

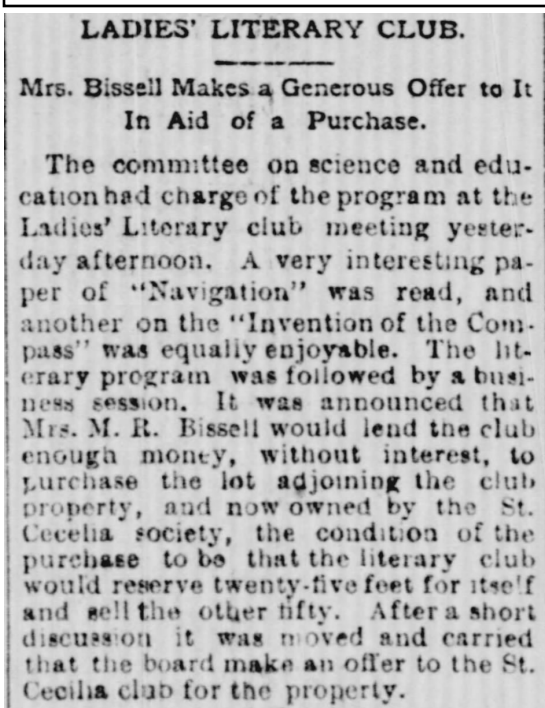
### All conference packages include:

- ◆ Two days of Live! content streaming straight to your computer or mobile device
- ◆ Sessions by award-winning authors Dani Shapiro, author of *Inheritance*, and Ric Murphy, author of *Arrival of the First Africans in Virginia*
- ◆ Ability to repeat or delay viewing NGS 2021 Live! content including break-out sessions (beginning 15 June 2021) \*
- ◆ An additional 15+ Sponsored Bonus Sessions (beginning June 15, 2021)

For pricing and package options please visit the registration page.

<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/registration-packages/>

### Women's History Month Flashback from the Grand Rapids Herald, January 10, 1892



The recently updated website of the Genealogical Library of Allegan County, Michigan has a number of collections and databases.

- Local newspapers going back to 1884
- Extensive local obituary files
- Locally produced databases
- Native American census records
- Local family histories and genealogies
- Military records from the Civil War and forward
- Allegan County one room schoolhouse records
- High school yearbooks
- Plat maps
- Tax records
- Township histories
- Old phone books
- Photographs
- City Directory
- Postcards

<https://www.thenandnowgen.org/>



**GREATER GRAND RAPIDS WOMEN'S HISTORY COUNCIL**  
*Upcoming Events for March 2021*

***Women's History Month!***

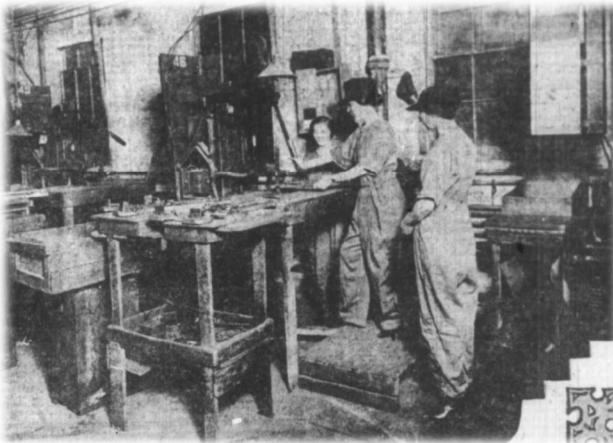
***During March 2021, the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Kutsche Local History Roundtable will explore how West Michigan women have collaborated to transform their communities—and the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council will participate on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Register for the free, virtual programs here: <https://www.gvsu.edu/kutsche/annual-local-history-roundtable-11.htm>***

**\*\*\* Monday, March 1st, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.: *Solidarities: White Women and Women of Color's Activism to Secure the Vote* opens the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Kutsche Local History Roundtable. While** the Nineteenth Amendment ostensibly provided women the right to vote, access to the ballot was not equal. Because many Black, indigenous, women of color remained disenfranchised, this presentation will place women's suffrage in conversation with the broader movement toward civil rights for Black, indigenous, people of color. Invited national scholars Liette Gidlow and Allison Lange will join Sophia Brewer and Jo Ellyn Clarey from the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council to explore diverse women's efforts to secure the vote.



*Banner State Woman's  
National Baptist Convention in  
1915 (Library of Congress)*

**\*\*\* Wednesday, March 17th, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.: *Lesser Known Women in West Michigan History* continues the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Kutsche Local History Roundtable during March. Representatives of the Ionia County Historical Society, Lakeshore Museum Center, and Ada Historical Society will highlight West Michigan women whose accomplishments might not be known outside their communities. Their efforts in various industries impacted untold numbers of people and illustrate how women have leveraged their abilities and interests to make change. This panel also reflects commitment to continuing work to preserve the stories of everyday Michiganders.**



**\*\*\* Wednesday, March 24th, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.: *Grand Rapids Women & Their Work During the Great War* ends the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Kutsche Local History Roundtable during March. The Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council's Katelyn Bosch Ver-**

Merris will examine both the paid labor and volunteer contributions of women in Grand Rapids during WWI. Utilizing rich primary sources, this presentation will provide a singular look at women's desires as well as their actual navigation of the war industry. Women used the upheaval of wartime to balance their work as citizens—they organized a home defense and contributed to wartime industries—but they also used the emergency to advance their personal training and implement their own goals.



*Celebrating Women's History Month 2021, the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council has launched a new web page, **Women Who Ran! A Grand Rapids Women's Electoral History** (<https://www.ggrwhc.org/women-who-ran/>)*



**Etta M. Smith**  
Candidate for  
**LEGISLATURE**  
**Democratic Ticket**  
"Entire City"  
—FOR CLEAN POLITICS—

*Grand Rapids Press, October 30, 1920*

\*\*\* Friday, March 26th, 10:30 am – 11:30 am: **A Decade of Upheaval: Grand Rapids Women and Public Office in the 1910s** will take us back to a heady decade when Grand Rapids women in increasing numbers stepped onto the public stage. Women had long participated in civic affairs and could even run for elective office before the Nineteenth Amendment took effect in 1920. But, suddenly in Michigan after November 1918, the state's women could run for anything—and they did. Grand Rapids women advanced beyond earlier races limited to school board seats and competed for City Comptroller of Grand Rapids, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and, eventually, for national office. During the 1910s, which began in peace and prosperity but ended in war and pandemic, Grand Rapids women sophisticated their political game, claimed party affiliations, and carried their visions and concerns into public office.

This free, virtual program by the GGRWHC's Jo Elyn Clarey is sponsored by the Grand Rapids Time Traveler Series of GVSU's Kutsche Office of Local History. Register here: <https://www.gvsu.edu/brooks/module-events-view.htm?siteModuleId=75DD7655-A450-DCC5-37EC4FF9F955F3DD&eventId=7D221E66-E31B-42A9-85A4530A10F25BD8>

\*\*\* Wednesday, March 31st, 7:00 pm: **Women Who Ran! Seeking Public Office Before the Nineteenth Amendment**-- Hats off to the trailblazing women of Grand Rapids! Decades before the Nineteenth Amendment granted American women the right to vote, many had led serious political lives and even run for office. In fact, before the certification of the federal amendment in 1920, 47 different Grand Rapids women had run 82 campaigns for public office between 1887 and 1920. In 1919 and 1920 alone, they ran for Grand Rapids City Commission, the Michigan State Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives—as well as City Comptroller and State Superintendent of Public Instruction!

This free, virtual program by the GGRWHC's Jo Elyn Clarey is sponsored by East Grand Rapids Branch/Kent District Library. **Watch to register:** <https://www.ggrwhc.org/events/category/events/>



*1936, Grace Ames Van Hoesen, with male members of the Kent County Commission*

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

## **BOOK RECOMMENDATION**

### **"Out-of-Style"**

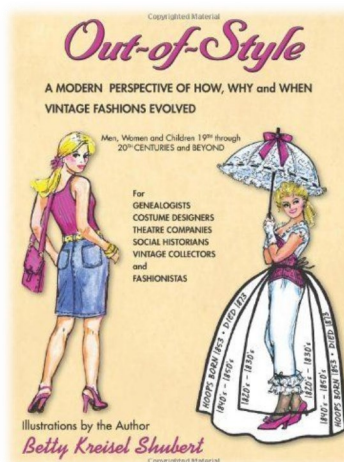
**by Betty Kreisel Shubert**

How to time-date vintage clothes and family photos made easy

Learn how, why and when vintage fashions evolved in the 19th to 21st centuries for men, women and children.

- Fascinating gems of social history are woven into stories that illuminate the life and times of each decade
- Hundreds of sequential illustrations reveal the style clues that time-date garments

Written by an experienced costume designer with an insightful sense of humor making this a surprisingly good read.



# 2021 WMGS Writing Contest

## ~ Scandals in the Family ~

*Within every family there is likely a story of scandal, whether having documented proof or not. As genealogists, we want to scour the archives, online databases, and newspapers to find the evidence of these (sometimes) tall tales. Tell us your stories of scandals in the family - no matter how big or little.*

### Write it up and enter the 2021 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 2021 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, and chart information will not 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 tiff 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, 2021.

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

**“WMGS Writing Contest 2021” written in the Subject Line.**

Notification: Contest winners will be announced at a WMGS Membership Meeting before the end of 2021, 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 & digital rights and are aware that submission will be edited by *Michigana* staff prior to printing; copyright is retained by the author. Entries may not have been previously published. All prizes may not be awarded.

#### 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 the *Michigana* Editor at [michigana@wmgs.org](mailto:michigana@wmgs.org).

#### 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)



## 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.

**\*\*\*At this time the Writers Group is not having in-person meetings due to the threat of Covid 19. Many of our members are older or have compromised immune systems. Depending on how many people have access to vaccines we will then return to in-person meetings later in the summer. Check the WMGS website for updates or you can email Bobbi Schirado at rhjschirado@gmail.com.\*\*\***

Those who attend are encouraged to bring several copies of a Work-In- Progress (WIP), but it's certainly not a requirement and everyone is invited to participate in the discussion. We have a suggested topic for each meeting to help kick-start our writing, but if you are working on a family history, a story about how you discovered an ancestor, or an article for the 2020 Writing Contest you're welcome to get feedback on that instead. This year our topics are focused on more on our personal history and what we've experienced in order to preserve it for our children, relatives and local history.

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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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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