



WMGS

Newsletter

SPRING 2022



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 5, 1:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Presenter: Patricia Yocum

Topic: Researching Polish Family History - Getting Started

Task - How to get from the U.S. back to the birthplace in Poland

1 - Factors shaping the research: Polish history, language, names, and records;

2 - Prime search tools: U.S. - Ellis Island, Stephen Morse's One-Step Sites; FamilySearch; Poland - archives, Geneteka, Poznan Project;

3 - Search strategies.

Patricia Yocum is librarian emerita at the University of Michigan, where she earned master's degrees in both English literature and library science. Her interest in family history dates from her childhood, fostered by stories of her grandparents' immigration from southeastern Poland. Intrigued with the notion of mass movement from Europe, she has researched the paths of nearly 300 people from two family villages and published the results. She has also researched the paths of hundreds of other Polish immigrants. Patricia is continuing this work as a member of the board of directors and the head of the research team of the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan. Committed to sharing what she has learned, she has given talks in Michigan, Florida, New York, and Massachusetts. These talks are aimed at helping people with Polish roots trace their ancestry and helping everyone learn more about a distinctive people and culture.



SAVE THE DATE

After a successful Got Ancestors?! Conference back in October, we are already planning for 2022. Please keep **Saturday, October 15, 2022** open for our next conference.

Genealogy Classes

Mini—Classes

Saturdays: March 12, 19, 26

12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

Zoom Link:

[https://zoom.us/j/97799230722?](https://zoom.us/j/97799230722?pwd=MWJVT05EcjZCZ3NQNOI2NEtt dXhKQT09#success)
[pwd=MWJVT05EcjZCZ3NQNOI2NEtt](https://zoom.us/j/97799230722?pwd=MWJVT05EcjZCZ3NQNOI2NEtt dXhKQT09#success)
[dXhKQT09#success](https://zoom.us/j/97799230722?pwd=MWJVT05EcjZCZ3NQNOI2NEtt dXhKQT09#success)
(or access via the WMGS website)

How to Begin Genealogical Research

New to genealogy? We'll go over beginners first steps, organizing your records, things to avoid doing, helpful hints, and what citations are all about.

Saturday, April 2, 1:30 p.m.

Virtual presentation via Zoom Webinar

Zoom link: Access via WMGS website,
click on the link for the meeting
(same link as March meeting)

Presenter: Derek J. Blount

Topic: Finding Your Lost British Ancestors

Derek Blount will review some of the many British records now available online and how to find them. Examples of each of these records will be presented and discussed in the areas of clerical, civil, military, probate, land, emigration and work.



Derek Blount is a professional genealogist with his own business, "Lost Branches". He has worked for 34 years on his family genealogy traveling America, Canada and United Kingdom gathering records, visiting cemeteries and churches. Derek was born in England and specializes in research in the United Kingdom and Commonwealth nations. He holds a B.S. degree from Oakland University and has completed course work at the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburg. He has lectured on numerous genealogy subjects for the past six years to many of the Michigan genealogical societies. He also serves as Vice President of the Oakland County Genealogical Society and is also on the Board of the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research. Derek also holds memberships in the Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan and the Welsh Genealogical Society. He holds memberships in the Association of Genealogical Professionals and the Society of Genealogists in London. Derek also serves as the Genealogist for the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit.

Saturday, May 7, 1:30 p.m.

Virtual presentation via Zoom Webinar

Zoom link: Access via WMGS website,
click on the link for the meeting
(same link as March meeting)

Presenter: Mark Mullinax

**Topic: Finding Fabulous (and FREE)
Genealogy Websites**

Want to research your family tree but don't want to spend a fortune doing it? Every U.S. state and many foreign countries have websites devoted to genealogy and family history that can be accessed for FREE! This presentation shows a variety of popular and less well known genealogy websites you can access from home at absolutely no cost to you!

Mark Mullinax is a professional genealogist with more than 35 years experience in family history research. He has been a contributing researcher for



family history books and has written articles for a variety of magazines and newsletters. He is a member of several professional organizations including the National Genealogical Society, the Genealogical Speakers Guild, the American Library Association, the Michigan Historical Society and the International Molyneux Family Association. He lives in Grand Rapids and commutes to Brighton District Library weekly where his goals include assisting others in their efforts to learn about their ancestors, helping preserve the history of Brighton and Livingston County and making that history easily accessible to others.

Remember to "like" and follow WMGS on Facebook

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 Facebook private group



National Archives Genealogy Series: 1950 Census

On April 1, 2022, the 1950 Census will be released, and users will be able to access it for free through a dedicated website. A link to the website will be available starting on April 1st at <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1950>

The National Archives has a 1950 Census genealogy series of webinars to explain all that you can find in the census. See web link below for more information.

SCHEDULE

Free and no registration
Videos premiere on event day
and remain available

March 2, 1:00 p.m. EST: Overview of What's on the 1950 Census by Claire Kluskens

March 16, 1:00 p.m. EST: Mapping the 1950 Census: Census Enumeration District Maps at the National Archives by Brandi Oswald

March 30, 1:00 p.m. EST: The 1950 Census Website: Design, Development, and Features to Expect by Michael L. Knight

April 27, 1:00 p.m. EST: The Story of the 1950 Census P8 Indian Reservation Schedule by Cody White

May 11, 1:00 p.m. EST: From Parchments to Printouts: History of the Census from 1790 to 1950 by Sharon Tosi Lacey

May 18, 1:00 p.m. EST: History of Census Records and the National Archives by Jessie Kratz

May 25, 1:00 p.m. EST: Historic Census Bureau Sources for Filipino, Guamanian and Chamorro, American Samoan, and Native Hawaiian Research by Christopher Martin

<https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2022>

The Mayflower Society

Lecture Series

<https://themayflowersociety.org/history/lecture-series/>

In 1876, the first Society of Mayflower Descendants was established in New York City on December 22, 1894 as a society for lineal descendants of the *Mayflower* Pilgrims.

While nearly half of the 102 Mayflower passengers who arrived on the shores of Massachusetts died during the first winter, 26 families of passengers are known to have left descendants.

Since its founding, the Society

has welcomed over 100,000 members who could prove Mayflower descent and has an ever-growing number of members across the globe. The General Society of Mayflower Descendants is committed to research on the lineal descent of the Mayflower Pilgrims and education about the Pilgrims who traveled aboard the Mayflower in 1620.



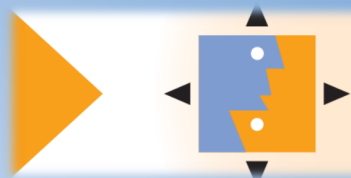
In 2021, the Mayflower Society launched a very popular Lecture Series covering a variety of Mayflower Pilgrim-related topics including their odyssey, their life and times, their maritime experience and, of course, genealogy!

You can attend the following Zoom webinars to learn more about Mayflower Pilgrim and genealogy topics from the comfort of home. Monthly webinar lectures are free and open to the public. No pre-registration required. See website above for details and for Zoom links and passwords.

Wednesday, March 30, 7:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. EST
Sara Cochran: "Locating Records in Archives From the Couch"

Wednesday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. EST
Mike Terry: "Mayflower Society DNA Project"

Wednesday, May 25, 7:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. EST
Beth Finch McCarthy: "Who Lyeth There? Digging Up Colonial New England Ancestor Records"



OUR AMERICAN MOSAIC

24-28 MAY 2022 • SACRAMENTO, CA
NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

Join family historians and genealogists thrilled to be together again In-Person or Online at home at the 44th National Genealogical Society Family History Conference, Our American Mosaic, 24–28 May 2022. Choose from lectures and special programs with an emphasis on researching the diverse cultures that have made California and the West thrive. The conference includes sessions on methodology, DNA, records and repositories, land, western research, and more, along with the ever-popular BCG Skillbuilding Track. Pre-conference events in Sacramento include the Delegate Council meeting, Focus on Societies, tours, and the BCG Education Fund Workshop. You can also choose or add On-Demand lectures available to stream to your computer from July through 31 December 2022.

Register by 18 March 2022 and Save Discounted, early-bird conference registration runs through 18 March 2022. Attendees may also register for tours, luncheons, and social events, until 18 April 2022 (or until events are fully booked). Space is limited for some events so register early.

Online registration ends on 18 April 2022. Registration sent by USPS must be postmarked by 18 April 2022. On-site conference registration opens Monday, 23 May 2022, 3:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Questions? Contact the NGS Registrar at registrar@ngsgenealogy.org.

OPEN BOARD POSITIONS

When we can get things up and running again we will need a little help in a few areas. If you have any questions about any one of these positions please contact us and we can walk you through what the job looks like. When you see it all listed out it looks like a lot but together we can do it.

WANT TO JOIN
OUR BOARD?

Correspondence Coordinator: This is a board position and the person would be responsible for handling correspondence for the society, both snail mail and an e-mail account.

Membership Coordinator: This also is a board position with the individual responsible for keeping the membership list current, sending out dues notices and new member packets, and providing mailing lists for the Michigana and the Newsletter.

Gifts & Acquisitions Coordinator: This individual receives the gifts, sends out thank you's, and gets the gift to the appropriate "new home." This person is also the individual that works with the GRPL staff to acquire things for the library. Currently we are helping fund the cost of online genealogy programs.

Webmaster: Manages the website for the society, posting relevant info, maintaining the society calendar, and managing broken links.

Volunteer Coordinator: This board position recruits volunteers to help with a project or committee to help accomplish a particular goal and chooses the volunteer gifts and presents them each year. This person also heads the committee to honor individuals with awards and selects members to serve on the nominating committee every 2 years.



Western Michigan Genealogical Society's

Bus Trip to Ft. Wayne

Allen County Public Library

Wednesday–Thursday ---April 20 – 21, 2022

\$156=Single, \$118=Double, \$107=Triple, \$100=Quad

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

Day #1	7:00 a.m.	Leave West River Park & Ride. U.S. 131 exit #91, 4395 West River Drive, Comstock Park, MI
April 20 th	7:30 a.m.	Leave Cascade Meijer. I-96 at 28 th Street, 5531 28 th Street S.E., Cascade MI, meet under the "K" aisle marker
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	Leave Outreach Christian Church, Lake Odessa, I-96 exit #64, 7831 N Jordan Lake Road, Lake Odessa, MI, ¼ mile south of I-96
	9:00 a.m.	Leave Marshall Park & Ride, I-69 exit #36, 15720 Michigan Avenue E. Marshall, MI
	10:00 a.m.	Rest Area Stop
	11:00 a.m.	Arrive Allen County Public Library (260) 421-1200
	9:00 p.m.	Bus transfer to FairBridge Inn and Suites, 5707 Challenger Parkway, Fort Wayne, IN 46818 (260) 489-8888
Day #2	7:00 a.m.	Wakeup Call
	8:30 a.m.	Load luggage, Transportation to Library
April 21 st	6:00 p.m.	Depart Allen County Library
	6:45 p.m.	Stop at Auburn, IN (quick meal)
Thursday	9:00 p.m.	Drop off Marshall, Park & Ride
	9:30 p.m.	Drop off Lake Odessa church parking lot
	10:00 p.m.	Drop off Cascade Meijer
	10:30 p.m.	Drop off West River Drive Park & Ride

Trip includes: roundtrip motor coach transportation, lodging at FairBridge Inn and Suites and library transfer.

- The motel does not have an elevator. Please indicate floor requirement.
- W.M.G.S. members will receive a \$5 coupon to use toward next year's membership or a purchase from the W.M.G.S. sales table.
- We need 37 bus riders to make this trip a reality.
- A \$25 deposit guarantees your place on the bus if received by March 15th
- Balance to be paid by April 1st, a \$10 late fee charged if paid after April 1.
- Cancellations will receive a refund with replacement only.
- 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



Return Coupon With Deposit

\$156=Single \$118=Double (per person) \$107=Triple (per person) 100=Quad (per person)

Ft. Wayne Trip Wednesday - Thursday April 20-21, 2022 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: West River - Meijer 28th/I96 - Lake Odessa - Marshall

Roommates: _____

Confirmation and other trip information will be confirmed by email: _____

2022 WMGS Writing Contest

~ Survivors ~

It's amazing, what our ancestors lived through. From personal tragedies like illness to sweeping historical events like war, people, then and now, find a way to survive. Now is the time to write about your ancestors' challenges and hardships, and how they managed to survive. Most importantly, what can we learn from the courage and resiliency of our ancestors? How do they inspire us?

Write it up and enter the 2022 WMGS Writing Contest.

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. In order to encourage quality in research, 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 submitted in Microsoft Word. ****IMPORTANT:** Please send digitized photographs, charts, maps or graphics **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, 2022.

Email your submission to michigana@wmgs.org with "WMGS Writing Contest 2022" in the subject line.

Notification: Contest winners will be announced before the end of 2022, on the WMGS Facebook Page, in the next available issue of *Michigana* and at a WMGS membership meeting, if possible. 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

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

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

WMGS WRITERS GROUP

Since its inception in 2004, Sister Michael Ellen Carling, one of the Writers Group's founders, has arranged for us to meet at the Dominican Center. Many things have changed over the last year-and-a-half and one of them was that the Main Building of the Dominican Center was sold to an organization which will renovate it into apartments. Sister Michael Ellen and the other Dominican Sisters have been gracious and helpful in opening their home to the Writers Group for almost 17 years. We have enjoyed their company, graciousness, and thank them for their years of support.

Here are the topics and we will be meeting at a new place since the church we were using has been sold. Topics for the next three months:

March: Which relative who died before you were born or when you were a child would you have loved to meet? Why?

April: What is the oldest thing (clothes, implement, art, pottery, etc.) that you still use?

May: How did you celebrate Memorial Day when you were young?

We will be meeting using Zoom as long as there are high instances of Covid. If they drop we will meet in person at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1100 Lake Dr. SE, Grand Rapids.

Here is the Zoom information for any meeting until June.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88221630806>

Meeting ID: 882 2163 0806

Passcode: write

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,88221630806# US (Chicago)

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

Option of receiving the WMGS newsletter by regular mail _____ or via email: _____

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

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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.

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