



WMGS Newsletter SUMMER 2023



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, June 10, 1:30 p.m.

Presenter: Megan Heyl

Topic: Genealogy Toolbox—What you need to start your Heritage Hunt



This lecture presents a list of items compiled from the experience of many genealogists that you will want to obtain as you begin your ancestral research. These items will help to make your heritage journey a successful one.

Megan has been teaching the majority of her life. She taught in the public school systems in Ohio and Michigan where she now resides in Holland Michigan. She has taught genealogy courses for close to 20 years and continues educational classes including the Genealogy Study Group, at various societies, libraries, National and International conferences, doing client research, writing articles for various quarterlies, and is also the current Education Director for ISBGFH - International Society for British Genealogy and Family History.

Guest Speaker:

Katherine Willson



GotAncestors?! 2023

WMGS (Western Michigan Genealogical Society) Annual Fall Conference

21 October 2023
9 am - 4 pm

Park Congregational Church
10 E Park Pl NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503



Topics, lunch options and registration info will be available soon at GotAncestors.org

DNA Interest Group



The DNA Interest Group (known as "DIG") meets on the third Thursday of the month at the Main Branch of the Grand Rapids Public Library in the Vander Veen room on the 4th floor. We meet at 6:30 p.m. with the first half an hour being a presentation, video, speaker, etc. From 7:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. we help each other with DNA questions and projects. Check our Facebook group for updates.

**The NEXT Fort Wayne Trip
July 20—21, 2023
Thursday and Friday**



The April bus trip to Fort Wayne was lots of fun. 28 people signed up for the trip but only 25 were able to go with us. We needed at least 30 people to cover the bills. With that said we are going to reorganize the trip in the future. We will not be using a bus on future trips and will carpool or see about a larger van if insurance and liability allows. WMGS will arrange for the motel. We will still be able to help each other while there.

We need to know if there is any interest. A trip has been planned for July 20 and 21, 2023. We have four individuals interested in going at this time. The price (for the motel, parking, and help pay for the driver's gas) has yet to be determined. We need to see what the interest is to see if we can get a group room discount for multiple rooms. We will need people willing to drive also.

Please email John or Sue if you are interested. If we get enough interest, we will work at arranging motel rooms.

Email Sue Irvine, sjirv@yahoo.com or John Pierce, jwpierce53@gmail.com soon.

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 Facebook private group

facebook

**Discover Your
Connection to
Revolutionary Boston**



**Interesting New Lineage
Society to Check Out**

In partnership with the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum, American Ancestors is pleased to introduce the **Boston Tea Party Descendants Program**. Their mission is to foster interest in genealogical connections to participants in the Boston Tea Party, their families, and those involved in the making of colonial rebellion in Boston. As the program grows, the Boston Tea Party Descendants database will become an indispensable resource, bringing new personal and cultural context to an iconic historic event.

Who is Eligible?

The Boston Tea Party Descendants Program is open to applications for the following membership tiers:

- **Lineage Member:** Includes any documented descendants from the following groups: Boston Tea Party Participants, Loyal Nine, Boston Sons of Liberty, North End Caucus, St. Andrew's Lodge, Ship guard volunteers, or Signers of November 1773 petitions to town selectmen.
- **Eyewitness to History:** Includes any documented descendants from inhabitants of Boston in 1773, or any eyewitnesses to the Boston Tea Party.
- **Co-conspirator:** Researchers, educators, or members of the general public who wish to support the program.

Here is where to apply to join:

<https://www.bostonteapartyship.com/boston-tea-party-descendants>

For more information and to discover if you have ancestors who were part of the Boston Tea Party, please see:

<https://www.americanancestors.org/BostonTeaParty>

Today's brick wall is brought to you by the 1890 US Census.

Twisted Twigs
on gnarled branches





Tri-River Historical Museum Network Invites you to Discover West Michigan's Small Museums For Year-Round Adventures in History

Summer is the perfect time to explore our community and areas a little farther afield. Each museum offers something different to visitors from programming to artifacts to documents and more. This is a great family activity for the summer.

Check out this website <https://www.tririvermuseums.com/> to learn more about the location, hours and unique qualities of each of the thirty+ museums or organizations of the Tri-River Historical Museum Network located along the Flat, Grand and Thornapple Rivers. Come and discover or remember the rich history and charm of the area and its people, past and present. Bring your family and friends to take a look into the past to see what life was like before all of today's modern technology.

LIST OF MUSEUMS

1. Ada History Center
2. Belding Museum Belrockton Dormitory
3. Boston Saranac Historical Depot Museum
4. Bowne Township Historical Commission
5. Byron Centre Historical Society & Museum
6. Cascade Historical Society
7. Cedar Springs Museum
8. Charlton Park Historical Village
9. Fallasburg Historical Society
10. Fighting Falcon Military Museum
11. Flat River Historical Museum
12. Freeport Historical Society
13. Grattan Township Historical Society
14. Ionia County Genealogical Society
14. Ionia's Blanchard House and Museum
14. Ionia Free Fair Antique Village
15. Lake Odessa Area Historical Society – Depot Museum
16. Lakeview Area Museum
17. Lowell Area Historical Museum
18. Lyons Muir Historical Museum
19. Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum
20. Oakfield Museum
21. Pine Forest Historical Museum
22. Plainfield Charter Township The Hyser Rivers Museum
23. Portland Area Historical Society
24. Rockford Area Museum
25. Sand Lake Salisbury Park Museum Historical Society
26. Vestaburg Area Historical Society
27. Welch Historical Museum
28. West Michigan Railroad Historical Society



The Ada History Center





2023 Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar

Friday, June 23, and
Saturday, June 24

*You can attend the Barbara J. Brown
Family History Seminar onsite or
online this year*

Each summer, the Archives of Michigan and the Michigan Genealogical Council host a seminar to promote family history awareness and teach genealogy research skills. The event is generously supported by the Abrams Foundation in loving memory of Barbara J. Brown.

For this year's event, they are pleased to offer this flagship annual gathering as a hybrid event. Participants can attend sessions either online or onsite. They are delighted to be hosting Drew Smith, who will be joining onsite in Lansing and through Zoom to virtual attendees. Drew regularly speaks at conferences and meetings of national, state, and local genealogy societies, especially on topics linking genealogy and technology. Together with George G. Morgan, Drew has been the co-host of **The Genealogy Guys Podcast** since September 2005. Beginning in 2016, he hosts the **Genealogy Connections Podcast**, which alternates with **The Genealogy Guys Podcast**.

The seminar begins on Friday, June 23 and continues into Saturday, June 24, 2023. Please register before Wednesday, June 21, 2023 so that all participants can be accommodated. If you have any questions please contact the Archives of Michigan by email at archives@michigan.gov or by phone at 517-335-2576.

To Register:

<https://form.jotform.com/230326155369153>



Southern California Genealogical Society and Family Research Library

The following webinars offer seminars for up to 500 attendees per session, at no charge. These original webcasts are available to all genealogists for free. These one-hour webinar presentations are given each month and are conducted by professional genealogical speakers and expert lecturers.

Register here:

<https://www.scsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html>

First Saturday Lectures: 1:00 p.m. EST

Third Wednesday Webinars: 9:00 p.m. EST

Sara Cochran – **National Archives at
Riverside: A Virtual Tour**, Wednesday, July 19



Amy L. Wachs, JD – **Introduction to Tracing
Your Roots in Eastern Europe**, Wednesday,
August 16



Leslie Carney – **Landholders: Ranches to
Land Grants**, Wednesday, Sept. 20



Mary K. Risseuw – **Nellie Was A Rebel:
Using Unusual Sources to Find Her Child's
Father**, Wednesday, October 18,



Karen A. Fortin – **Family History Activities
and Storytelling with Children and
Grandchildren**, Saturday, November 4,



Melissa Barker – **Social and Civic Clubs: What
Archived Records are Available for Your
Ancestor Who Volunteered**, Saturday,
December 2,



Membership List

This is the current membership list. Our members sustain our organization. We couldn't offer our programs, classes, events, without your support. Thank you to all of our new and renewing members!

Sheryl Ackerman, Grand Rapids, MI	Frederick Dolehanty, Rochester Hills, MI
Sharon & Scott Adrian, Fremont, MI	Sue Dombrowski, Rockford, MI
Penny Afton-Sage, Grand Rapids, MI	Karyl Donald, Comstock Park, MI
Janet Alpert, Holland, MI	Randy Dykhuis, Lansing, MI
Mary A Alt, Marne, MI	William Eakins, Asheville, NC
Michael Bacon, Kentwood, MI	Zo Eckert, Rockford, MI
Cynthia Bailey, Grand Rapids, MI	David J Eisen, Mishawaka, IN
Paul D Barker, Ionia, MI	Tanya Eldred, Cedar Springs, MI
Vicki Bartlett, Mesa, AZ	Vicki Elzinga, Belmont, MI
Raymond D Bates, Ludington, MI	Laurel A Emerson, Ira, MI
Lynnette Bean, Grand Rapids, MI	Gayla J Endahl, Auburndale, FL
Hattie Beenen, Grand Rapids, MI	Margaret M Evans, Lansing, IL
Lin Beenen, Ada, MI	Doug Fairchild, Middleville, MI
Eleanor Benz, Kalispell, MT	Patti Faist, Caledonia, MI
Shirley A Bergman, West Palm Beach, FL	Joanne Fast, Grand Haven, MI
Mary Bernthal, Lowell, MI	Denise Fedko, Rockford, MI
Barbara Bettes, Sparta, MI	Sue Fiebelkorn, Twin Lake, MI
Jim Biener, Grand Rapids, MI	Christine Flowers, Grand Rapids, MI
Cheryl Bignall, Grand Rapids, MI	Wenda - Rae Fore, Jenison, MI
Melissa Bird, Peoria, AZ	Kari Formsma, Jenison, MI
Patricia Blood, Ionia, MI	Lori L Fox, Portland, MI
Danielle Bodziak, Grand Rapids, MI	Kenneth R Gackler, Caledonia, MI
Sue Bogard, Grand Rapids, MI	Judith Gager, Greenville, MI
Tammy Bond, Rockford, MI	Charles E Gasper, Grand Rapids, MI
Barbara Bookout, Grand Rapids, MI	Natalie Gates, Englewood, CO
Nancy L Borst, Grand Rapids, MI	Judith Geyer, Grand Rapids, MI
Donald Bos, Austin, TX	Roxanne Gildner, Belmont, MI
Esther Bos, Grand Rapids, MI	Noralyn Gillette, Grand Rapids, MI
Carol Bredeweg, Hudsonville, MI	Paula Glauz, Phoenix, AZ
Chris Brown, Grandville, MI	Karen Grant, Grand Rapids, MI
Willa Brown, Grand Rapids, MI	Lora Greenland, Rockford, MI
Sherry Browning, Ypsilanti, MI	Shirley Nason Greenwood, Santa Cruz, CA
Donald and Mindy Bryant, Grand Rapids, MI	Bill Grinstead, Grand Rapids, MI
Richard L Burke, Comstock Park, MI	Kathleen Guider, Grand Rapids, MI
Garry Bush, Gaithersburg, MD	JoAnne K Gulliver, Sugar Land, TX
Robert A Bush, Grand Rapids, MI	Nancy Guzzo, Grand Rapids, MI
Bruce B and Marcia Butgereit, Kentwood, MI	Sue Haadsma-Svensson, Bellaire, MI
Janet Cable, Rockford, MI	William Haines, Holt, MI
Keith G Calkins, Berrien Springs, MI	Josephine Hall, Duxbury, MA
William Cariano, Spring Lake, MI	Regina Hall, Lansing, MI
Sister Michael Ellen Carling, Grand Rapids, MI	Ellen Hamilton, Grandville, MI
Esther & Elden Carlson, Grand Rapids, MI	Joan E Hansen, Grand Rapids, MI
Suzanne R Carpenter, Comstock Park, MI	Michelle Harger, Lowell, MI
Minola Casullo, Walker, MI	Patricia Gruse Harris, Michigan City, IN
Patricia Cederholm, Conklin, MI	Deb Havens, Grand Rapids, MI
Maurice R Chase Jr., Palo Alto, CA	Becky Haywood, Grand Rapids, MI
Roger Moffat & Lisa Christensen, Caledonia, MI	Judy Hebert, Comstock Park, MI
Kathleen E Coffee, Grand Rapids, MI	Marcia Hegstad, South Lyon, MI
Tina Cole, Mattawan, MI	Eileen Heuvelhorst, Grand Rapids, MI
Nancy Collins, Grand Haven, MI	Megan and Jim Heyl, Holland, MI
Kathy Cook, Grand Rapids, MI	Frederick Hill, Ottawa, ON
Doug Cooper, Fredericksburg, VA	Lynne Hill, Grand Rapids, MI
Roger Cotner, Grand Haven, MI	Joanna Hodges, Hudsonville, MI
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Linda Damstra, Grand Rapids, MI	Ann Holmes, East Lansing, MI
Joyce Daniels, Kentwood, MI	Tarianne D Holtslander, Clarksville, TN
Dale & Claudette Darling, Comstock Park, MI	Michele Hoogewind, Kentwood, MI
Darlene Dawood, Sand Lake, MI	Janice Hooker, Manistique, MI
Carol DeBoer, Wayland, MI	Bobbe and Roger Horton, Grand Rapids, MI
Shirley M DeBoer, CG, Grand Rapids, MI	Gretchen Houtman, Greenville, MI
Linda Kae DeJongh, Clarksville, MI	Rebecca Hoyle, Wyoming, MI
Tina Demling, Grand Rapids, MI	Linda Huffaker, Rockford, MI
Julie DeVisser, Caledonia, MI	Janice K Hulbert, Sand Lake, MI
Tom Dickenson, Ada, MI	David C Husted, Hudsonville, MI
Beverly Dillon, Grand Rapids, MI	Jim Hutton, Grand Rapids, MI

Membership List Continued

Sue Irvine, Grand Rapids, MI	Paula Naujalis, Grand Rapids, MI	Ketheryn Sleziak, Grand Rapids, MI
Darrell Jackson, Grand Rapids, MI	Maureen Nelson, Cedar Springs, MI	Elizabeth Slowik Sinkevics, Rockford, MI
Donna Jackson, North Augusta, SC	Patrick Nugent, Ada, MI	Janet S Smith, Allegan, MI
Mary Jamba, Fairview Park, OH	Judy Nyman, Grand Rapids, MI	Cheryl Smithe, Marne, MI
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Ted Johnson, Lowell, MI	Paul Osborn, New London, CT	Julie A Steere, Jenison, MI
Lois Jones, Dayton, IN	Sue Osgood, Grand Rapids, MI	Patricia Steinport, Grand Rapids, MI
Henrietta Jordan, Columbus, WI	Michael Page, Rockford, MI	Randall Stenholm, West Olive, MI
Lisa Kaiser, Grand Rapids, MI	Barbara Parker, Greenville, MI	Betsy Stevens, Greenville, MI
Dorothy Kane, Grandville, MI	Vickey Parker, Coopersville, MI	Linda Stewart, Grand Rapids, MI
Dawn Westcomb Kelley, Muskegon, MI	Kayleen Pawloski, Topinabee, MI	Meredith Stoeher, Raleigh, NC
Kay Kiel, Hudsonville, MI	Jill Pearson-Reider, Grand Rapids, MI	Linda Stoeper, Dorr, MI
Joyce Kilmer, Loveland, CO	Jean Pendell, Trenton, MI	Sally Strait, Waterford, MI
Beth Kleersnyder, Grand Rapids, MI	Loraine Peterson, Grand Rapids, MI	Susan E Studabaker, Three Rivers, MI
Mary Kay Knudstrup, Lowell, MI	Mary Jane Phillips, Wyoming, MI	Gary Swain, Kalamazoo, MI
Roger Konyndyk, Grand Rapids, MI	Dorothy Simmons Piechocki, Wyoming, MI	Sue Swanlund, Grand Rapids, MI
Mindy Koole, Wyoming, MI	John W Pierce, Ionia, MI	Cindy Swix, Portland, MI
Kristen Krieg, Lowell, MI	Janis Pierzchala, Macomb, MI	Susan Tamm, Rockford, MI
Robert Krieg, Lowell, MI	Tom Poll, Grandville, MI	Cindy Taylor, Byron Center, MI
Gail Kukawski, Grand Rapids, MI	Richard Posthuma, Plymouth, MI	Dian Thomas, Ada, MI
Teresa Lamarr, Grand Rapids, MI	Jill L. Potter, Grand Rapids, MI	Judith Thomas, Saugatuck, MI
Mary M Lane, Dearborn, MI	Susan J Rabick, Rockford, MI	Richard Thomas, Ionia, MI
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Louann Larsen, Grand Rapids, MI	Shelley S Ramirez, Greenville, MI	Mark & Michelle Timmer, Zeeland, MI
Kathlyn Larson, Grand Rapids, MI	Charlene M Rasch, Coopersville, MI	Denise J Toogood, Coopersville, MI
Margaret Laskowski, Comstock Park, MI	David Raskowski, Romeoville, IL	Jessica Trotter, Lansing, MI
Brenda Leyndyke, Kalamazoo, MI	Julie Raupp, Canadian Lakes, MI	Dorann Truax, Lowell, MI
Roberta Lipke, Mc Bain, MI	Fredna Rayford, Grand Rapids, MI	Daniel Van Meurs, Grand Rapids, MI
Sharon Loughridge, Comstock Park, MI	Janice Reid, Alexandria, VA	Mark VanAllsburg, Grand Rapids, MI
Barbara Lubbers, Kentwood, MI	Joe Reilly, Holland, MI	Ann VanDenMeerendonk, Wyoming, MI
Patsy Lucas, Byron Center, MI	Craig Rich, Holland, MI	Kristen Vander Ploeg, Grand Rapids, MI
Lynda Lutz, Byron Center, MI	Diane M Rider, Grand Rapids, MI	Trenna VanderWoude, Lowell, MI
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Jason Mancuso, Caledonia, MI	Bonnie Roede, Kent City, MI	Jon Walgren, Bloomfield Hills, MI
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Barbara Martin, Muskegon, MI	Jude Ruch, Coopersville, MI	Matthew Watson, Indianapolis, IN
Marilyn Mazie, Comstock Park, MI	Amy Russell, Kokomo, IN	Ruth Waybrant, Grand Rapids, MI
Harriet McCarthy, Lansing, MI	Mary Ryon, Grand Rapids, MI	Gretchen Weaver, Grand Rapids, MI
Lynne & Pat McCrory, Grand Rapids, MI	Judy Sabaitis, Grand Rapids, MI	Linda Wells, Jenison, MI
Janet McFarland-Idema, Jenison, MI	Nannette Sander, Belmont, MI	Susan Welton, Wayland, MI
Julie McKeen, Mears, MI	Pam Schaner, Norton Shores, MI	Dawn Westfall, Great Valley, NY
Kristi McPherson-Burns, Portage, MI	Nan Schichtel, Grand Rapids, MI	Sandra Westgate, Newaygo, MI
Elaine P Medich, Flushing, MI	Bobbi Schirado, Sparta, MI	Linda Westrom, Elbow Lake, MN
George Meier, Belmont, MI	Terry Schliewe, Byron Center, MI	Linda Wieck, Rockford, MI
John Melin, Rockford, MI	David Schmidt, Irmo, SC	Judith A Wiers, Hudsonville, MI
Susan Merizon, Walker, MI	Laura Schmidt, Grand Rapids, MI	Judith Wilson, Walker, MI
Rod Merrill, Scottville, MI	Wanda Schottler, Grand Rapids, MI	Thomas R Wilson, Grand Rapids, MI
Don Meyer, Covington, KY	Suzan Schumacher, Wyoming, MI	Jo Ann Wisner, Jenison, MI
Lorraine Miles, Grand Rapids, MI	Jenny Shangraw, Rockford, MI	Jean Woltjer, Holland, MI
Harold and Joy Minor, Kalamazoo, MI	Caroline J Shearer, Ada, MI	Sue & Ron Wortley, Wyoming, MI
Mary Julia Mitchell, Lansing, MI	Marcia L Shears, Grand Rapids, MI	Kathleen Wortman, Jenison, MI
Rita M Modderman, Grand Rapids, MI	Janet Sheeres, Grand Rapids, MI	Marilyn Young, Yuma, AZ
Yalonda Moncrief, Wyoming, MI	Leah Sherman, Ada, MI	Bernard Zahm, Rockford, MI
Deb Moore, Grand Rapids, MI	Brian Shumway, Hastings, MI	Julie Ann Zenk, Fremont, MI
Jane Morris, Belding, MI	Caroline Sias, Grand Rapids, MI	Mary Zimmer, Grandville, MI
James R Moses, Lansing, MI	Thomas Sibley, Wyoming, MI	Margie Zylstra, Grand Rapids, MI
Michael L Muilenberg, Trumansburg, NY	Dawn Sikkema, Chevy Chase, MD	

WMGS WRITERS GROUP

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month, in person and on Zoom. In person, the location is Trinity United Methodist Church, 1100 Lake Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, 49506, one block west of Fuller. Park in the first lot on Lake Drive and come in the door on that side of the church.

We meet in the Fireside Room, immediately left as you come in the door. Contact Jill Pearson Reider at JillReider1@gmail.com or 307-699-0812 if you have any questions.

For the Zoom link, and more information, check the WMGS website: https://www.wmgs.org/writers_group.htm

Next meeting topics:

Tuesday, June 20 — The wedding I remember the most or the one I regret that missed.

Tuesday, July 18 — Memorable summer trips — your favorite or one that was a catastrophe.

Tuesday, August 15 — Picnics and the foods you ate.

Hope to see you there!

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
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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.

WMGS Contact Information

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president@wmgs.org

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u08554@hotmail.com

Secretary—Lisa Christensen
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Treasurer—Mark Timmer
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Michigana Editor
michigana@wmgs.org

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jessica629@hotmail.com

Past President—Don Bryant
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