



# WMGS

## Newsletter

### SUMMER 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***

**Saturday, June 11, 1:30 p.m.**

**Presenter: Janet Sheeres**

**Topic: The First Dutch Female Saints to Zion:  
1853-1869**

In the summer of 1847 Dutch immigrants were flooding into West Michigan and Iowa. In that same summer Latter-day Saints were arriving in Utah. Many of these Mormon travelers were native-born Americans but among them were also many emigrants from European countries. Were there any women from the Netherlands on these wagon-trains? Who were they and how were they persuaded that Utah should be their destination? What did they experience on the trail, and once they arrived in Zion? Janet Sjaarda Sheeres has researched the history of Dutch immigrants women who settled in Dutch colonies, but now she has delved into the lives of the first Dutch immigrant women who made the journey to Utah. Join us for the trip.

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 80 articles in various national and international historical and genealogical journals. Janet was born in the Netherlands, speaks fluent Dutch.



## Genealogy Classes

### Researching Death Records

**Saturday, June 11, Noon – 1:00 p.m.**

**In person class at the GRPL, in the VanderVeen Room on the Family History floor**

With death & obituary records, you can uncover details like:

- ♦ Time and location of death
- ♦ Cause of death
- ♦ Birth information
- ♦ Next of kin and family origins

These valuable death records are rich in genealogical information. Let's find out what information we can dig up on our ancestors.

**Instructor: Linda Guth**

**A Walk Among the Tombstones: Preparing for a Cemetery Tour**

**Saturday, June 25, Noon – 1:30 p.m.**

**Virtual class by Zoom**

Discover how you can plan and prepare a successful cemetery tour.

### Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2470659018?pwd=RWIMM3NOelJaL1B4clg1VnJkQ3IhUT09#success>

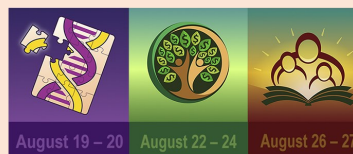
**Instructor: Elaine Kuhn**

# Southern California Jamboree—Online Virtual Conference (August 2022)

Southern California Genealogical Society

## jamboree 2022

Three Online Virtual Conferences



### GENETIC GENEALOGY 2022

**REGISTRATION ENDS AUGUST 18, 2022**

**LIVE: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, AUGUST 19-20, 2022**

- World-class DNA Conference
- Get in on the Latest Discoveries
- Learn from over 20 renowned Genetic Genealogy experts
- Sponsored talks from Family Tree DNA, Living DNA and MyHeritage DNA
- Keynote Speaker is DNA Painter author Jonny Perl talk "The Need for Third-party DNA Tools"

Live Q & A following lectures by Diahna Southard; David

Dowell, PhD; Judy G. Russell, JD, CG®, CGL®; Richard Hill, MBA and Kitty Munson Cooper

### GENEALOGY JAMBOREE 2022

**REGISTRATION CLOSES AUGUST 18TH**

**LIVE: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, AUGUST 26 - 27**

- World-class Genealogy Conference
- Learn from 47 speakers from the USA, Canada, Ireland, Israel and the UK
- Sponsored talks from MyHeritage, FamilySearch, ArkiDigital and others
- Keynote Speaker Bernice Alexander Bennett talk "Preserving Your Family Tales: What's in a Name?"
- Live Q & A following lectures by Michael Brophy; Nicka Sewell Smith; Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, AG®, FOGS; Michael Strauss, AG® and William E. "Bill" Cole.

### JAMBO FREE VIRTUAL EDITION IS COMING

**LIVE: MONDAY AUGUST 22 - WEDNESDAY AUGUST 24**

The Southern California Genealogical Society is committed to providing genealogical education for *all*. Traditionally, during our Jamboree conferences, we offer classes that are free and open to the public. We are offering 16+ classes during JamboFree. Here's the line-up:

- Ethnic and DNA Round Tables – Eleven topics, most with multiple rooms to keep the discussion groups small and personal, hosted by experts in SCGS' interest groups and guests.
- Advanced Beginner Class – Our very popular in-person class returns for 3-hours of learning and fun.
- What's New at FamilySearch by Michael Provard
- What's New at the FamilySearch Family History Library by Michael Provard
- It's Never Too Late to Start! DNA for Beginners by FamilyTreeDNA's Janine Cloud
- Social Hour on Tuesday from 4pm - 7pm PDT.
- *Bonus Lecture - Looking Forward to Looking Back: Where to Go Next* by Jean Wilcox Hibben

**For more information: <https://genealogyjamboree.com/>**

**To Register: <https://next.scsgsgenealogy.com/?backurl=%2Fregjam1056%2F>**

## Ancestry.com DNA updates

The latest update at Ancestry.com for DNA results contains a new feature. It is called **"ethnicity inheritance"**. Your parents each contributed half of your DNA. Now, you can see which ethnicities you inherited from each parent—even if they haven't taken tests.

Figuring out which DNA came from one parent and which from the other is tricky. Ancestry has pioneered a new technology, SideView™, that does this job using DNA matches, the identical DNA you share with relatives.

All of your matches share one or more segments of identical DNA with you and at least one of your parents. They use your DNA matches to split your DNA into the halves that came from each parent.

They find the segments that connect only to one parent or the other. Then, they separate out the DNA you got from each parent by piecing together the segments that overlap. After they separate your DNA into the parts that correspond with each parent, they calculate an ethnicity estimate on the two halves. From this, they can show your "ethnicity inheritance"—the ethnicity percentages passed down to you from each parent.



From: Ancestry.com

## American Ancestors Event

### Family History Refresh: How to Become a Better Researcher



American Ancestors is Coming to Chicago!

While a little bit of a drive, if you are planning to spend some time in Chicago this summer, possibly visiting the Newberry, maybe plan your trip around this day-long genealogy event.

**July 9, 2022, 9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. CT**

The Newberry Library, 60 W Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610  
\$125, *Cost includes 5 lectures and luncheon*

Take your research skills to the next level. This in-person seminar will set you on the right path to getting the most out of your family history research and teach you how to tackle brick-walls like a pro. From the basics of research and organization to a deep dive into cluster research, this special event is perfect for family historians in any stage of research.

9:00 a.m.: Check-in, coffee and tea

9:30 a.m.: Welcome & Introductions

10:00 a.m.: The Basics

11:00 a.m.: Taking Action: How to Create a Research Plan,

12:00 p.m.: Lunch (included)

1:15 p.m.: Using Extended Family to Circumnavigate a Brick Wall,

2:15 p.m.: Broadening Your Scope: Employing Ancestral Associates and Neighbors in Your Research, 3:15 p.m.: Break

3:30 p.m.: Putting it All Together: Making Your Case and Drawing Conclusions

4:30 p.m.: Conclude

**To register: <https://my.americanancestors.org/1668/1978>**

According to Facebook everyone is out doing awesome things this weekend and I'm over here like "Look at me researching Genealogy the entire weekend in my jammies!"

Twisted Twigs  
a genealogy business



## 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.**



## The Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar

Friday, July 8 and Saturday, July 9

**Registration Fee: \$45**

**Registration Deadline: July 6**

**You have the option of attending the Barbara J. Brown Family History Seminar in person or virtual this year.** The seminar begins on Friday, July 8 and continues on Saturday, July 9, 2022. Please register before Wednesday, July 6, 2022 so that all participants can be accommodated. If you have any questions please contact the Archives of Michigan by email at [archives@michigan.gov](mailto:archives@michigan.gov) or by phone at 517-335-2576.

There is a wide variety of speakers and presentations from tours of the Archives of Michigan to occupational records to the census of 1950 and more.

### Featured Speaker

Dr. David McDonald has more than 45 years' research experience and has been a professional genealogist since his school days in suburban Chicago. He has lectured at various national and state genealogy conferences, and has coordinated courses on religions and their records, research in the Northwest Territory and subsequent states, and Advanced Methods. His track on religious records has been taught at both SLIG and GRIP. He has been a featured speaker at NGS, FGS and state and regional conferences across the United States and in the United Kingdom.



A native Midwesterner, Dave has done extensive research in all the states of the old Northwest Territory and adjacent areas of Ontario. He's conducted extensive research in various churches' denominational archives and on location. He was the consulting genealogist for the city of Chicago when a historic church-related cemetery had to be removed as part of a years-long public works project and transportation facilities expansion. Later, Dave spent time as a genealogist for Ancestry ProGenealogists, working projects ranging from colonial and early-federal era research projects in Virginia and North Carolina, to mid-19th-century Norwegian immigrant families to Wisconsin, to Swiss-connected families in central Pennsylvania, to early 20th-century Jewish families in the Ohio River valley, among others.

As a learner, Dave has taken courses at SLIG, IGHR and Gen-Fed. He has lectured as part of IGHR's staff since 2015. He is particularly attracted to research during the federal era, prior to 1850. He has conducted extensive research in England, Germany and Switzerland. Dave's work has been included in numerous genealogical publications, including the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, and several state societies' journals. He is a past editor of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Newsletter.

**Registration at: <https://form.jotform.com/220747394684164>**



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



## ***Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan Virtual Meeting***

*offered in partnership with the  
Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast*

### ***Polish Immigration to the U.S. – Taking Advantage of Economic Opportunities***

*presented by Richard Walawender*

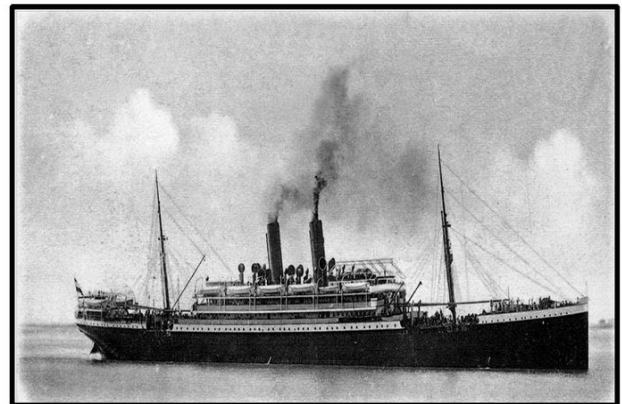
***Saturday, June 18, 2022 at 2:00 pm Eastern Time***

***Zoom Meeting – pre-registration is required***

***Visit [pgsm.org](http://pgsm.org) to register starting June 1***

*Free and open to the public*

*As the American economy rapidly expanded with industrialization, companies in several key industrial centers were eager to hire Polish immigrants as laborers and miners. This, in turn, attracted even more Poles to locate in these areas, establishing their own companies to serve Polonia. Many other Polish immigrants brought with them their agricultural talents and set up their own farms. This presentation will explore where these opportunities were and why they attracted Polish immigrants.*



*Richard Walawender is a partner at a law firm based in Detroit. He established and oversees the firm's three offices in Poland. Since 1989, when he was asked to represent the Solidarity Trade Union to set up the first commercial bank in Poland, he has represented many U.S. companies doing business in Poland and Polish companies establishing operations in the U.S. He graduated from the University of Michigan, majoring in East European Studies, and then from U of M Law School. He also serves as the Honorary Consul of Poland in Detroit and is chair of the Polish Institute of Culture and Research in Orchard Lake, Michigan. Richard is a member of PGSM.*



# Genealogy Sleuths Help!

## Daisy Sokop 1899 Yearbook

*A few months ago the Grand Rapids Historical Society received an interesting donation. Donations are forwarded to the Grand Rapids History Center at the Main Branch of the Grand Rapids Public Library. The usual donations are postcards, newspaper articles, photos, etc. This recent donation, however, was so interesting that GRHS passed it along to WMGS for help from genealogy sleuths*

This recent acquisition has stirred up a lot of interest. A person from Tennessee found a yearbook in an abandoned building on the shore of the Tennessee River in Meigs County, TN and mailed it to GRHS. There is no obvious reason or answer as to how this yearbook ended up out of state. It is the 1899 yearbook for



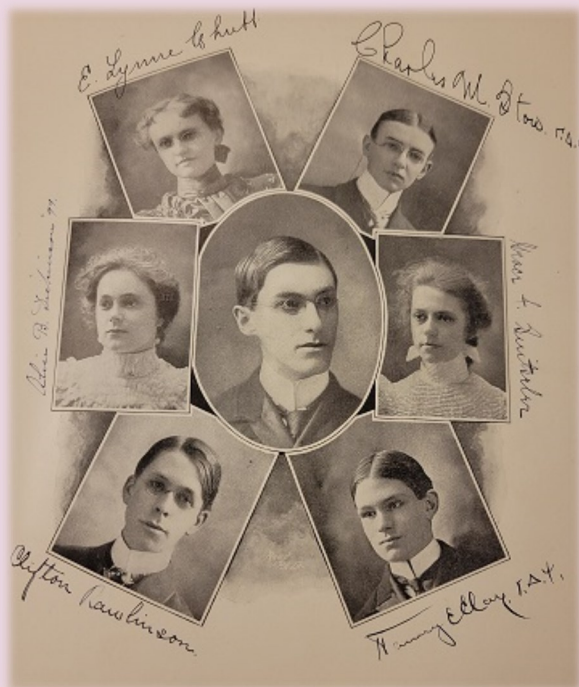
**Grand Rapids High School Football Team**

Central High School (also listed as Grand Rapids High School) and it belonged to a girl named Daisy Margaret Sokop. A quick look on Ancestry showed that Daisy was the daughter of Frank and Clara Sokop. Daisy had two brothers, Clarence and Charles. Her father was from Germany and her mother was from Wisconsin. In 1900, when Daisy was 20 years old, she was living with her family on Mt. Vernon St. and they had a servant. Her father Frank was an iron merchant.

In the 1910 census Daisy was working as an "office girl" in an "iron office", presumably with her father. In the next two censuses (1920 and 1930) she is living with her parents. By the 1940 census she is a bookkeeper and she owns her home. Daisy Sokop died in 1961 and is buried in Oakhill Cemetery. When she died, she was the owner of a roofing company started by her father. It

appears that she spent her life in Grand Rapids so it is mysterious that her yearbook ended up in Tennessee.

Fortunately this treasure has made its way back to Grand Rapids. Daisy saved a number of mementos in her yearbook from school newspaper articles about a rivalry between the juniors and seniors (some things never change!) to school election ephemera to a copy of the junior class song (among many other items). There are some fascinating ads in this yearbook for such things as flour, ocean liner tickets, breweries, ice, furniture, coal and more. Here are a few pictures from this yearbook.



If anyone knows the Sokop family, please contact WMGS. Otherwise this yearbook will be donated to the library.

**Senior Class Officers, Class of 1899**

## Roofing Co. Owner Dies

### Daisy Sokup Also Active in OES

Miss Daisy M. Sokup, 81, of 300 Mt. Vernon Ave. NW, a life-long resident and co-owner of the Sokup Roofing & Sheet Metal Co., died unexpectedly Wednesday in her home.

A graduate of Central High School, Miss Sokup owned the roofing company, which was started by her father in 1873, with her brother, Clarence E. Sokup.

She was a life member of Oriental Chapter No. 32, OES, and had served as the organization's treasurer for the last 30 years. She was an honorary member of the Past Matrons Association of the White Shrine of Jerusalem.

## WMGS WRITERS GROUP

The WMGS Writers Group IS meeting during the summer. We meet in-person at 1:30 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1100 Lake Dr. SE, Grand Rapids or you can attend using Zoom:

Join Zoom meeting

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

Meeting ID: 882 2163 0806

Passcode: write

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,88221630806# US (Chicago)

Topics for the next three months are:

**June: The first things you did or wanted to do when school let out for the summer**

**July: Part-time jobs I loved or hated**

**August: The oldest relative you knew as a child**

As always, you may choose to write about the monthly topic or bring any other writing project you're working on.

### 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



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

**NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI  
PERMIT No. 209**

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](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

**President**—Mindy Koole  
[president@wmgs.org](mailto:president@wmgs.org)

**VP**—Marcia Shears  
[U08554@hotmail.com](mailto:U08554@hotmail.com)

**Secretary**—Lisa Christensen  
[lisachristensen49301@gmail.com](mailto:lisachristensen49301@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**—Mark Timmer  
[mark.timmer@centurytel.net](mailto:mark.timmer@centurytel.net)

**Michigana Editor**—Elizabeth Slowik Sinkevics  
[michigana@wmgs.org](mailto:michigana@wmgs.org)

**Newsletter Editor**—Jessica Riley  
[jessica629@hotmail.com](mailto:jessica629@hotmail.com)

**Publicity Chair**—Jessica Riley  
[jessica629@hotmail.com](mailto:jessica629@hotmail.com)

**Past President**—Don Bryant  
[webmaster@wmgs.org](mailto:webmaster@wmgs.org)