



# WMGS Newsletter

## WINTER 2022/2023



### 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, December 3, 1:30 p.m.**

**Presenter: Rozlyn Kelly**

**Topic: Finding Black Ancestors**

The presentation discusses the unique challenges of African American genealogical research, sharing some of the relevant history and resources available to research. It includes a case study of researching freedom seekers (Underground Railroad), free-blacks and enslaved persons.

Rozlyn Kelly is an attorney with over 20 years of genealogical research experience focused on African American ancestry in Michigan, Canada, Southern Illinois, Kentucky, and Washington, D.C. She is currently President of the Farmington Genealogical Society and serves on the executive board of the Michigan Genealogical Council as President.



**Saturday, January 7, 1:30 p.m.**

**Presenter: Matthew Daley,  
Grand Valley State University**

**Topic: The Settlement of Michigan Counties**

Teaching Michigan's history in the primary school grades is a challenging task beyond the basic information. This presentation discusses how to introduce pre-service teachers to inquiry, aspects of genealogy, and research in local communities through a semester-long project. It utilizes the four key components of social studies (history, civics, geography, and economics) to examine communities, families, and events in a single county. Students build skills in locating, analyzing, and interpreting materials



from genealogy and other primary sources that can be applied to their classrooms.

Matthew Daley is Professor of History at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan where he teaches Michigan, Great Lakes, and urban history. He also teaches in the Social Studies education program.

**Saturday, February 4, 1:30 p.m.**

**Presenter: Lori Fox**

**Topic: What Can a Newspaper Tell You**

# GENEALOGY CLASSES

## MINI-CLASSES

**Saturday, December 3, 2022,  
Noon—1:15 p.m.  
DNA, Color Coding for Analysis**

Not only can you color-code your DNA matches for a quick visual overview, you can filter using those tags. But which colors to assign to whom? The color codes apply to your DNA matches, but in theory they are reflecting relationships in your *tree*. Let's learn more about this technique!

Instructor: Michelle Timmer  
Location: VanderVeen Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor GRPL

## Family Tree Maker User Group

From our Education Coordinator Linda Wells:

"Mark Olsen, Ambassador with Family Tree Maker suggested we start a **Family Tree Maker User Group**. Mark has indicated: The interest in the Family Tree Maker (FTM) software is very evident in the genealogical community, thus FTM is happy to offer a virtual FTM User Group. Whether you are a new FTM user, have been using it for years or are just curious and want to learn more, this user group is for you. This FTM User Group will consist of bi-monthly, drop-in, live-chat style sessions, all via Zoom. Sessions include large group discussions; small "break-out" sessions (Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced); Q & A periods; live demonstrations; etc. Sessions will alternate day and evening times to accommodate more people and are open to anyone. This user group will be attendee driven so users of all skill levels are encouraged to attend."

If you are interested in participating in this user group, please contact Linda Wells (Guth) at: LindaLGuth@gmail.com, so we can get a count of people, to see if it would be worthwhile to start this group up.

## ZOOM CLASSES

**Zoom session—December 1, 2022, 6:30 p.m.  
Michigan Newspapers**

The Library of Michigan has one of the most comprehensive collections of Michigan newspapers. See examples of unique periodicals published in our state and learn strategies for navigating the various online collections of digitized Michigan news publications.

Presented by: Adam Oster at Library of Michigan  
Virtual class registration link (register ahead of time):  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/9tJfL89aAC8XQWvzZy1COz>

**Zoom session—December 6, 2022, 8:00PM  
10 Steps for Organizing for the Busy Genealogist**

As a genealogist who hasn't felt overwhelmed with volumes of paper, a steady flood of daily emails, and projects that have been started but never finished? This presentation will tackle dealing with these issues. You will learn how to set up daily routines that ensure you make the most of the time in your day. You will also discover ways to set up filing systems that work across platforms both digital and conventional. Attendees will be provided with a step by step approach to GET ORGANIZED as well as a "Tool Kit" of good ideas to take back and implement in their business and personal life.

Instructor: Cynthia K. Patton with the Utah Gen. Association  
Virtual class registration link (register ahead of time): <https://ugagenealogy.zoom.us/join/9tJfL89aAC8XQWvzZy1COz>

**Zoom session—December 8, 2022, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.  
Family Tree Maker 2019 New Update**

Zoom: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89150422981?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89150422981?pwd=TXF2TkRoQUpxelFrRm9USUgzb1dVUT09)  
[pwd=TXF2TkRoQUpxelFrRm9USUgzb1dVUT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89150422981?pwd=TXF2TkRoQUpxelFrRm9USUgzb1dVUT09)

Introduction to update 24.1 class topics:

- How to get the update
- Prior to running the update
- Downloading the update
- Once Installed
- Main features of the update
- Mark's Highlights (what he likes about the update)
- Updates & fixes are listed on the What's New support FAQ
- Questions & Answers

Presented by Mark Olsen, FTM Ambassador

## Membership Renewal



It's that time of year again, time to renew your yearly membership with WMGS.

Membership has it's benefits from discounts to our quarterly magazine to leadership opportunities and more. Please find the renewal form on page 7.

## 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. Our next three meeting are as follows:

Thursday, January 19

Thursday, February 16

Thursday, March 16



We meet at 6:30 p.m. with the first half and hour being a presentation, video, speaker, etc. and from 7:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. we help each other with DNA questions. Check our Facebook group for updates.



2-4 March 2023

## What Is RootsTech?

RootsTech is the world's largest genealogy conference that brings learning and innovation to all people. Hundreds of classes (both online and in person) offer something for all family history enthusiasts, from beginners dipping their toes in the water to experienced genealogists going for a deep dive. If that weren't enough, RootsTech also offers opportunities to learn about innovations in the genealogy community, connect with other enthusiasts, and find living relatives. As a whole, you can expect 3 days dedicated to learning and connecting during the conference. Plus, you will still have access to all the learning opportunities anytime you want on our year-long learning platform at [rootstech.org](https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech).

RootsTech registration for 2023 is now open, and it's an experience you won't want to miss! This year, you can tailor the experience to your needs and interests like never before. Hundreds of online classes will be available globally. Plus, an in-person option with additional classes and opportunities will take place at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.



**What's New at RootsTech in 2023?** The theme at RootsTech this year is "uniting," with the aim to unite families, traditions, communities, and experiences around the world. With this goal in mind, RootsTech will take the experience both online and in person for the first time ever, making it accessible and customizable for more people than ever before.

**Register at: <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/event/rt2023>**



## HISTORY DETECTIVES—MORNING SESSIONS

**9:30 a.m.**

**50 Years Later: A Look Back at the Fight Over the ERA in Grand Rapids**  
**Nora Salas and Ruth Stevens**

**Sponsored by the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council and the Kutsche Office of Local History at Grand Valley State University**

The 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment gave hope to supporters of full equality for women. A broader Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) for women, was introduced in Congress in 1923, where it languished there for years. When it was finally pushed through in 1972, the countdown for ratification began. In Grand Rapids, the local chapters of ERAmerica, the National Organization for Women, the League of Women Voters, and labor organizations led the fight for ratification, while the increasingly influential Eagle Forum, with support from many religious organizations, warned of dire consequences if the ERA were to become law. Presenters Nora Salas and Ruth Stevens provide a local perspective on the political tempest generated by the seemingly straightforward language of the ERA with an eye to how the debate over the ERA has relevance today.



**10:30 a.m.**

**Vanished Market Avenue NW: From Fulton to Monroe**

**Team Photo**

**Sponsored by The Grand Rapids Historical Society and the Grand Rapids Public Museum**

Imagine the fabric of old Market Avenue northwest: the long gone Eagle Hotel and Rathbun House; the Widcomb Building and iconic Art Deco façade of Kresge's; the Mutual Home Federal Savings & Loan, Smith's Opera House, the Savoy Theatre, the old Greyhound Bus Station. Images of these vanished buildings and more abound in the collections of the Grand Rapids Public Museum Archives and the City of Grand Rapids Archives and Records Center. This presentation will include some of the earliest images of Grand Rapids along this vanished avenue.



**11:30 a.m.**

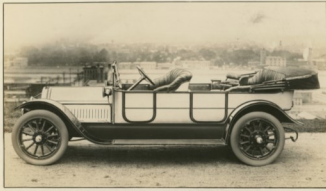
**Emmett Bolden v Grand Rapids Operating Company (Keith Theatre)**  
**Jon VanderPloeg**

**Sponsored by Grand Rapids African American Museum and Archives and the Kutsche Office of Local History at GVSU**

In 1927 the Michigan Supreme Court held that African-American physician Dr. Emmett Bolden, could not be restricted to balcony seating. This landmark decision rejected the "separate but equal" doctrine 27 years before the U.S. Supreme Court did so in *Brown v Board of Education*. While many

people know of the *Bolden* decision and its importance, few today know its legal underpinnings, and what it tells us about Michigan's long legal history favoring a progressive view of human rights.

## HISTORY DETECTIVES—AFTERNOON SESSIONS



**1:00 p.m.**

**1913: Automobiles and Their Owners in Grand Rapids**

**Thomas R. Wilson**

**Sponsored by the Grand Rapids Public Library and the Grand Rapids Historical Commission**

A few years ago, presenter Tom Wilson discovered a rare booklet, "Automobile Guide and List of Registered Cars 1913 in Central Western Michigan." Organized by license plate number, it also gave the names of the auto owners, their addresses, and the manufacturer of their cars. Not surprisingly, the majority of cars were owned by wealthy men; but a number of women also owned autos, some of them electric vehicles. Wilson will share some of his interesting findings from this period of early Grand Rapids automotive history.

**2:00 p.m.**

**The Beginnings of Sewage Treatment in Grand Rapids**

**Kayne Ferrier**

**Sponsored by the Grand Rapids City Archives and Research Center**

Today we expect clean water from our taps and toilets; but only in 1930 did the City of Grand Rapids begin providing water treatment services for itself, East Grand Rapids, and other contracted areas. Sewage treatment, in particular, began only on November 1st, 1930. So what happened before then? And what finally caused Grand Rapids to take action? This brief presentation on the history of Grand Rapids water sewage treatment will let you know!

**3:00 p.m.**

**What Sanborn Maps Reveal About Grand Rapids**

**Adam Oster**

**Sponsored by the Library of Michigan, the Grand Rapids Public Library, and the Western Michigan Genealogical Society**

Produced for over 150 years, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps are large-scale renderings urbanized areas originally intended for determining the value of property destroyed by fire. Discover how these sophisticated, color-coded maps can provide valuable and detailed information about structures – and the way they are heated, ventilated, and built – within cities. See examples of early Grand Rapids Sanborn maps and learn techniques for navigating these essential resources as well as how to utilize them in uncovering the story of both Grand Rapids and its neighborhoods.

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**

What was that one thing that  
always interferes with  
my genealogy  
obsession?

Oh yeah.. LIFE



Twisted Twigs on Gnarled Branches

# 2023 WMGS Writing Contest

## ~ *My Favorite Ancestor* ~

*Some genealogists have tiny trees; others have thousands of relatives. No matter the size of your tree, at least one of those ancestors is likely to be your favorite. Maybe it's a relative who was an adventurous soul! It could be the very first immigrant in your family. Maybe it was a good cook, a business person, a pioneer, a war hero, an artist or a musician. It could be someone you knew or from centuries past. For the 2023 Writing Contest, climb your family trees and pick an ancestor, grandparent or earlier, who you like well enough to call your favorite ancestor.*

## How to Enter the 2023 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. Attach copies of documentation, family group sheets, and pedigree charts when appropriate. Endnotes, documentation, photograph captions, and chart information will not be included in the word count.

**Formats:** Please submit stories as a Microsoft Word attachment. **\*\*IMPORTANT:** Please send digitized photographs, charts, maps or graphics as separate files as 300 dpi tif or jpeg files.\*\*

**Identification:** Include the story title, your name, mailing address, phone number and email address in the header of the first page and in the body of the email. This information will only be used to identify and notify the winners.

**Entries will be accepted between January 1 through March 31, 2023. Email your submission to [michigana@wmgs.org](mailto:michigana@wmgs.org) with "WMGS Writing Contest 2023" written in the Subject Line**

**Notification:** Contest winners will be announced before the end of 2023, on the WMGS Facebook Page, in *Michigana* and at a WMGS membership meeting. 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 and 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.

*Looking for help, feedback, encouragement? The WMGS Writers Group is great for positive camaraderie along the writing journey. Check the WMGS website at [www.wmgs.org](http://www.wmgs.org) for the latest info on whether the group is meeting online or in person.*

## WMGS WRITERS GROUP

We usually meet the third Tuesday of the month but our next meeting will be December 13 instead of the 20th due to the upcoming holiday celebrations. An in-person potluck meeting at the church is planned. If the weather is too bad you're welcome to attend using Zoom.

2023 - It's possible that winter meetings may end up only being on Zoom due to weather, Covid, etc. Check at [wmgs.org](http://wmgs.org) or email Jill Pearson Reider at [jillreider1@gmail.com](mailto:jillreider1@gmail.com) or Bobbi Schirado at [rhjschirado@gmail.com](mailto:rhjschirado@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Next meeting topics:

**December 13th** - We'll decide on more topics for the coming year and eat yummy potluck dishes.

**January 17** - How has this pandemic or one in the past effected you or your ancestors? How did their lives or yours change?

**February 21** - Family stories about cars: How did the automobile industry impact your or your ancestors' lives? Your First Car. Your worst car. How did transportation change your or your ancestors' occupations?

**March 14** - Your Favorite Ancestor (This is the topic for the WMGS Writers Contest. Let the Writers Group help tune up your entry that's due March 31.

### 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  
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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](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.

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