



WMGS Newsletter SPRING 2017



Call for Proposals for 2018 Conference Proposals accepted until April 1, 2017

Although It is still early in 2017, we are looking ahead with anticipation to the NGS 2018 Family History Conference coming to Grand Rapids. NGS has opened the call for proposals. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS—11:59 p.m. EDT on April 1, 2017.**

Among the topics being considered by NGS are presentations on migration paths to the Midwest including waterways, trails, and railroads; records and repositories for Michigan, the surrounding states, and Canada; records generated by France, Great Britain, and later by the newly established United States as they fought for control of the Old Northwest Territory; land grants, deeds, and maps; and laws and court records. Conference tracks under consideration include:



- Ethnic groups: Dutch, German, Polish, French Canadian, Scandinavian, Cornish, African Americans, and Native Americans
- Immigration from: Europe, Eastern Europe, Canada, and Latin American countries
- Migration into and out of the area: from New England, New York, the Mid-Atlantic States, and the South, and later migration south and west
- Religious groups: Catholic, Lutheran, Congregational and United Church of Christ, Dutch and Christian Reformed, Quaker, and Amish
- Military records: forts, French and Indian War, American Revolution, Loyalists, War of 1812, Toledo War, Civil War, World War I and II, and the use of factories during wartime
- Occupations and trades: furriers, farming, fishing, mining, lumbering, brewing, shipping, and manufacturing
- Other organizations: Masons, abolitionists, prohibitionists, and unions

Proposals may also include presentations about DNA, and how to use DNA to solve genealogical roadblocks, as well as Internet websites, apps, and other technology tools. Speakers who wish to submit lecture proposals may submit up to eight proposals electronically via: www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/call_for_proposals

The following information is required for each submitted proposal:

- Speaker's full name, address, telephone, and e-mail address
- Presentation title, not to exceed fourteen words
- Program brochure lecture summary, not to exceed twenty-five words
- Brief, but comprehensive outline
- Speaker biography, not to exceed twenty-five words, speaker's recent lecture experience
- List the national or regional conferences where you have presented this lecture in the last three years and where you are scheduled to present this lecture during the next year
- Identification of the appropriate audience level: beginner, beginner-intermediate, intermediate, intermediate-advanced, advanced, or all

For more detailed information about submitting a proposal, check the WMGS website at www.wmgs.org

March 4, 2017
Membership meeting
1:30 p.m.

Topic: *Find the Midwife! Discovering midwives in online records and other sources*

Presenter: Janet Sjaarda Sheeres



Over forty-five heretofore forgotten Dutch immigrant midwives who served in the Dutch colonies across the United States have been uncovered. In this session Janet will share some practical research tips on how to find immigrant women who served as midwives in their various ethnic colonies. The session will include a case study. It will also show how women were often sidelined in early historical records.

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. She has served as president of the Zeeland, Michigan, Historical Society, AADAS (Association for the Advancement of Dutch American Studies), and has served as Chairperson of the Christian Reformed Church Historical Committee. Since she began writing about thirty years ago she has published over 70 articles in various national and international historical and genealogical journals. Her biography titled *Son of Secession: Douwe J. Vander Werp*, was published by Eerdmans in 2006, her book, *The Not-So Promised Paradise: The Dutch Colony in Amelia, Virginia 1868-1880* was published by Eerdmans in 2013, and *The 1857 to 1880 Synodical Minutes of the Christian Reformed Church*, which she edited and annotated was published in 2014. She is an Associate Editor of *Origins*, the journal of the Calvin College Heritage Hall Archives, and has taught genealogy classes for CALL (Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning).

Genealogy Mini-Class
Schedule

Location: GRPL, Adult Computer Training Center, lower level.

Instructor: Linda Guth

Mini-Class:
Saturday, March 4, 2017
(12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

Topic: Rookie Genealogist Mistakes
This class will review a list of rookie mistakes, evaluate the consequences, and how experience teaches you to do it better: a self-improvement checklist.

Mini-Class:
Saturday, April 1, 2107
(12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

Topic: to be announced

Mini-Class:
Saturday, May 6, 2017
(12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

Topic: to be announced

April 1, 2017
Membership meeting
1:30 p.m.

Topic: *Pinpoint dating of your photos between 1842 - 1920*

Presenter: Randy Gladstone

**May 6, 2017
Membership meeting
1:30 p.m.**

**Topic: *Lincoln Memorialized:
Early Monuments to the 16th President***

Presenter: Bruce B. Butgereit

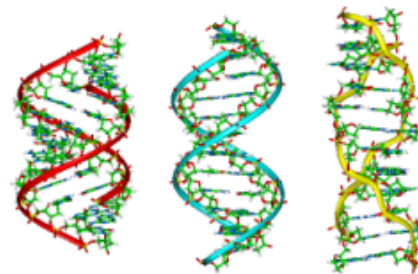
While most everyone can recognize the Lincoln Memorials in Springfield, IL and Washington D.C., these were not the first memorials built to honor the martyred president. This PowerPoint presentation will provide a



timeline of the early efforts to memorialize President Abraham Lincoln. You will see there wasn't a shortage of ideas and designs. You may be surprised to learn about some you've never heard of.

Bruce B. Butgereit is a local and regional historian. Bruce is recognized for his research ability in a wide variety of subjects that include the Civil War, post-Civil War patriotic and fraternal groups, Kent County war memorials, Abraham Lincoln, and the Lincoln Highway. This research has been shared over the past forty years with living history presentations, written articles (magazines, newspapers, newsletters, and historical journals), and other programming. Bruce is the recipient of many awards and recognition for his work.

**DNA Interest Group
(DIG)**



Formed in 2015, the Western Michigan Genealogical Society's **DNA Interest Group (DIG)** meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Grand Rapids Public Library's VanderVeen Center on the 4th floor. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. The group discusses the use of Y-DNA (male) and mtDNA (mitochondrial—female) and autosomal DNA (atDNA) tests and their relationship to family history research. Questions, comments or program suggestions are welcome. Please contact:

Roger Moffat- DataMaster@wmgs.org

All Membership Meetings are free, open to the public, and held at the Main Branch of the Grand Rapids Public Library, 111 Library Street. Meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. Check the Society website or the newsletter for topic information and for information about the Saturday education classes.

www.wmgs.org

Western Michigan Genealogical Society's Bus Trip to Ft. Wayne's
Allen County Public Library

Staying at Econo Lodge

Wednesday – Thursday, April 19 – 20, 2017

\$133=Single, \$99=Double, \$89=Triple, \$82=Quad

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

NEW PICKUP AREAS

Day #1 April 19, Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Leave Alpine NW area (well behind the Theater) (North of I-96)
7:30 a.m. Leave Meijers (next to I-96 and 28thSt near the “K” marker)
8:15 a.m. Leave Lake Odessa and I-96 (Exit64) (just ¼ mile south to Outreach Christian Church lot)
8:45 a.m. Possible pickup off I69 at Marshall Park/Ride
9:30ish Refreshment Stop (donuts & juice at highway rest stop)
10:30 a.m. Arrive **Allen County Public Library** (260) 421-1200
9:00 p.m. Bus transfer to **Econo Lodge** (260) 489-8888
Last spring many of us enjoyed pizza at the motel! –Fun time!
5707 Challenger Parkway, Fort Wayne, IN, 46818,
US Cross Streets: Near the intersection of Challenger Pkwy and Cross Creek Blvd

Day #2 April 20, Thursday

7:00 a.m. Wakeup Call –Continental breakfast (and maybe cold pizza)
8:30-8:40 a.m. Load luggage. Transportation to library.
6:00 p.m. Depart from Allen County Public Library.
6:45 p.m. Stop for quick meal near Auburn, Indiana
9:30 p.m. Arrive at Lake Odessa exit (church parking lot)
10:00 p.m. Arrive at Meijers I-96 drop off area
10:30 p.m. Arrive at Alpine area behind theater

Trip includes: roundtrip motor coach transportation, lodging at Econo Lodge (same place as last fall),
5707 Challenger Parkway, and library transfer. Light Breakfast included.

Allen County Library has a café. Many eateries are close to the library.

- **The motel does not have an elevator. Please indicate floor requirement.
- **Cancellations will receive a refund with replacement only.
- ** WMGS member? Membership PERK. You will receive a coupon worth \$5 towards next year's membership or towards any purchase at the WMGS sales table.
- **We need 36 bus riders to make this trip a reality. An email by first part of March would be most helpful.
- **A \$15 deposit guarantees your place on the bus. Please send your deposit or at least an email by March 15. Balance must be paid by April 5. 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

\$133=Single \$99=Double (each) \$89=Triple (each) \$82=Quad (each)
Ft. Wayne Trip Wed –Thurs April19-20, 2017 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: Star Theater --- Meijers --- Lake Odessa --- Charlotte --- Marshall

Roommates: _____

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

2017 WMGS Writing Contest

~ A Sense of Place ~

Location, Location, Location. Our ancestors moved, settled and moved again. Place often determines occupation, educational opportunities, and even the materials used in building a home. For the 2017 WMGS Writing Contest, entries should focus on the Great Lakes Region (Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, New York, Ohio, Ontario, and Pennsylvania). Examples: You may choose to share the story of the family farm, home, or business and how its location changed (or didn't change) your family's history. Why did your ancestors come to a specific area? Why did they leave? Or, you may have a family story that took place in a park, by a lake, in court, at an event, in a church, etc. You may write about a family, an individual or yourself. Every story preserves history.

We would love to hear your story. Write it up and enter the 2017 writing contest!

WMGS 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 2017 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.

Rules: 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.

Deadline: Entries will be accepted between January 1 & March 30, 2017.

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. Neither documentation nor charts will be included in the word count.

Formats: Email your entry in iPages, Microsoft Word, or as a PDF. ** IMPORTANT: Send photographs or graphics separately as 300 dpi tiff or jpeg files. Email your submission to michigana@wmgs.org or ruthgen@gmail.com with "Michigana Contest 2017" written in the Subject Line.

Identification: Include the story title, your name, your mailing address, phone number, and approximate word count. This information will only be used to identify and notify the winners.

Notification: Contest winners will be announced at the May 2017 Membership Meeting and in the next available issue of *Michigana*. 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; copy right is retained by the author. Entries may not have been previously published. All prizes may not be awarded.

The 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

Need help? 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: www.wmgs.org

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

All entries due by March 30, 2017!
Email to: michigana@wmgs.org or ruthgen@gmail.com

**Greater Grand Rapids Women's
History Council Annual
Reception and Program**

ICCF (Inner City Christian Federation),
920 Cherry Street, SE

**5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Wednesday
March 29, 2017**

5:00 pm – Complimentary hors d'oeuvres

5:30 pm -- Brief annual meeting and
celebratory program

The Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council will honor the 19th-century women's organizations that created and managed the children's programs necessitating construction in 1908 of the Blodgett Home for Children--now the ICCF, the host building for the day. Guided by GVSU's Cindy Laug, they will see how those programs proliferated in the twentieth century and led to Mary Free Bed taking over the building for rehabilitation projects. Appropriately, this event on March 29th will offer an opportunity to visit a building beautifully rehabilitated itself. Finally, you will toast the recent 125th anniversary of the Mary Free Bed Guild, whose members in 2016 were inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. Free admission and free parking. Please reserve your spot today by calling: 616-574-7307 or email info@ggrwhc.org.

**Did you know that
WMGS can now take
credit cards at the
merchandise table!
Bring your credit cards
to the next monthly
meeting to buy your
favorite genealogy
books or maps.**

Grand Rapids African American Museum and Archives

The Grand Rapids African-American Museum and Archives (GRAAMA) has opened downtown at 89 Monroe Center NW. The museum had its grand opening on Monday, Dec. 26, 2016, the first day of Kwanzaa, a seven-day festival celebrated by African-Americans. The museum also includes a store and donation drop-off center. A local artist and collector, George Bayard III, has headed up this effort to open Grand Rapids' first museum of African-American history.

Bayard is a Grand Rapids resident of nearly thirty years. He is an artist by trade, but began collecting items as several people came to him with special things from the past. He thought the mementos of African-American history in Grand Rapids would be the right fit for a museum. For the past several years Bayard has pursued his constant dream to open the Grand Rapids African American Museum and Archives.



He has assembled a board of directors and has started obtaining grants. He has also started relationships with collectors all over the region, state and nation. Bayard has secured commitments from other Michigan museums to use their archives. Oral histories will be an important part of the museum and it's collection.

Bayard anticipates opening the museum's permanent home, which he hopes will include a performance hall, in 2018 and hopes that it will also have national history exhibits. The museum is looking into building in the 1000 block of Division Avenue for its permanent location, but is still in negotiations. They are also happy to take monetary donations for further construction.



**The museum is open from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.,
Tuesday—Saturday. If you are interested in
having special event hours please call (616) 540-
2943 for more information.**

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.

Upcoming Writing Topics:

March 21: Contrast and compare how an aspect of life or an object was different "back then" from now.

April 18: Write a weather related storm story.

May 16: Relate a story that revolves around flowers and your family.

PLANNING ON ATTENDING?

Those who attend are encouraged to bring several copies of a Work-In- Progress (WIP), but it's not a requirement and everyone is invited to participate in the discussion. 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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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

About WMGS

The Western Michigan Genealogical Society is a 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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