



WMGS Newsletter March/April 2018



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, March 3, 2018
Membership meeting
1:30 p.m.**

Topic: WMGS Databases and Website Resources

Presenter: Wanda Schottler

The Western Michigan Genealogical Society has organized and posted a number of outstanding family history resources. Come learn the ins and out of the WMGS databases and website, and how they can help you with your family history research.



Wanda Schottler has been teaching Beginner's Classes for WMGS for over 10 years and currently is involved with Sales, Search, and Projects committees. She has been working on her family tree for over twenty years and still searching for an elusive great-great grandfather.

**Saturday, April 4, 2018
Membership meeting
1:30 p.m.**

Topic: Did I REALLY Read It?

Presenter: Lori Fox

It is about reviewing your documents and reading them again line by line for information that you did not see or assumed the first time. For example, finding people with same name in same county and you follow the wrong family.

Lori Fox is an ex-secondary business teacher. She has been doing genealogy for over 30 years and is a member of several genealogical societies inside and outside of Michigan. Lori is very active with Ionia County Genealogical Society since its formation in 1997. She is also a member of the Genealogical Speakers Guild and the Association of Professional Genealogists. Lori enjoys sharing her excitement and knowledge about genealogy through a teaching format either in the classroom or at the lectern.



Thursday, March 29, 2018

6:30 p.m.— 8:30 p.m.

The Path to Our Danish Ancestors



This class provides a foundation for Danish genealogy research. Learn the historical background of Denmark and the techniques appropriate to research families in Danish records & repositories.

Location: VanderVeen Room – GRPL

Instructor: Mary Knudstrup

April, Upcoming, dates and times

to be announced...

Irish Genealogy

Learn about the best strategies and sources to uncover your ancestors from Ireland. This course is highly recommended for those who are relatively new to Irish family history and wish to get to grips with research techniques, archives and genealogical sources.

Location: VanderVeen Room – GRPL

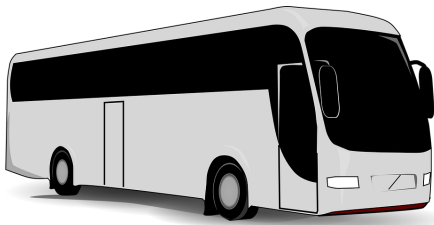
Instructor: TBA



Annual Bus Trip ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Join KVGs for a day of genealogy research

The annual bus trip to the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, sponsored by Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society (KVGs), will be on Saturday, March 17, 2018 (No refunds after March 3, 2018)



COST: \$35.00 per person for bus, not meals

For more information please see the KVGs Website: www.mikvgs.org

Saturday, March 3, 2018
Genealogy Mini-Class

12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Topic: When it's Okay to Guess in Genealogy

Presenter: Linda Guth

As genealogy researchers, we do not speculate. We critically observe and carefully record. We research and research some more. What if you don't find what you're looking for? Sometimes you need to form a theory to test. Sometimes, you must just guess. . . .

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

Saturday, April 4, 2018
Genealogy Mini-Class

12:00 p.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Topic: TBA

Presenter: Linda Guth

Topic to be announced

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

A Note From Our President

On the 3rd of February 2017, the tree in my front yard and the one in my side yard, and the tree next door, were full of robins. I was thrilled! Spring was coming soon! I was in a new house and looking forward to seeing what flowers were going to come up in the flower beds. I also have a dogwood tree that I wanted to see in bloom. It is now February again and to date I have not seen a robin. Although I am looking forward to seeing them and hearing their cheery song, my focus this year is just a little further out. I am excitedly anticipating the National Genealogical Society (NGS) 40th Annual Conference May 2-5. It is happening here in my own back yard- so to speak! Just think of it- 175 presentations to choose from (so learning lots), being around a lot of other like-minded people (you don't think different than all the rest of the population after all), and a vendor hall that will be filled with lots of things to help you in your research and people to help you with those products!

You can check out all of the conference information at www.ngsgenealogy.org Click on the "learn more" link of the Paths to Your Past conference. From there you will see 7 areas of information available. (Each has a green line below it.) You can click each one and find subcategories to peruse. For instance- under program you will find the online program which tells you about every presenter and presentation. Under registration you will find that the early bird rate ends on March 20th so register now so you have a few more dollars for the vendor hall!

Speaking of the Vendor Hall. It is free and open to the public so you can tell your spouses what you would like for your birthday, Christmas, Mother's Day and /or Father's Day and they can go get it and surprise you with it! Just warn them that they might just find something that they are interested in also.

So Punxsutawney Phil says spring won't be here for another month. You have time to check out the conference and make your wish list- oh, and register before Mach 20th for the Early Bird discount. See you there!

Mindy

Council of National Defense, Women's Committee, World War I "Women's Cards" project now complete!



The Women's Committee of the Council on National Defense, Grand Rapids Unit Records consists of over 24,000 note cards containing data about women who registered for home front service during World War I. The collection provides insight into the lives of women during the early 20th century. Not only do the cards provide biographical information such as name, age, address, but they also record education levels, skills, and employment status. These cards provide valuable information for researchers of Women's history and genealogy. Watch for more news in the next issue of *Michigana* — complete with photos as well as news articles from 1918 and 1919. **Kudos to ALL who worked on this project!**



VOICES is the local and regional oral history project powered by WKT Community Media. Their mission is "to collect, share and preserve the stories of people in our community"—the stories of our lives; the stories of people from all walks of life.

They have modified a 1958 Airstream® Overlander Trailer that they turned it into a comfortable video recording studio, and are going out into the community to encourage our neighbors, friends and family to share their story. Step inside... and you'll be welcomed into an inviting atmosphere. Sit back, relax, and share *your* story.

VOICES is literally a vehicle for reminding us of our shared humanity and an understanding that everyone has a story. At the same time, **VOICES** is creating an archive for your family and for the community. All **VOICES** interviews are audio- and video-recorded for airing on Channel 25 in Wyoming, Kentwood and Gaines Township (U-Verse Channel 99).

Go online to <https://wktvoices.org> to schedule your appointment and learn more about this project.

Do you know of something that our members need to know and/or would be interested in knowing? Send your information to:

talkingtree@wmgs.org

The editors of the WMGS newsletter and the WMGS quarterly, the publicity chairperson, the website and database managers, the WMGS president — and more — will receive the information. So you don't have to wonder who to contact, just send it to: talkingtree@wmgs.org

The latest *Michigana*, volume 64, Issue 1, No. 257, has information on helpful genealogical information in the Grand Rapids Public Library (GRPL) and the Kent District Libraries (KDL). The articles mention the databases available (Ancestry, Heritage Quest, etc.) as well as indexes to clipping files, newspapers, and books and maps. Several of the KDL branches have local history rooms.

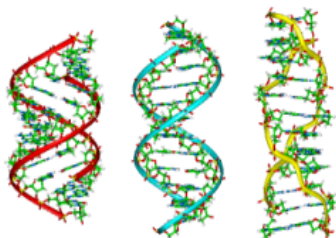
DNA Interest Group (DIG)

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



Genealogy Lock-In

Friday, March 9, 2018

6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Come to the Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department for a free after-hours program just for genealogists. Learn how to use library databases, newspaper microfilm and other resources, and take advantage of free copying and printing during the event. Bring your family history questions or problems—volunteers from the Western Michigan Genealogical Society will be on hand to assist. Network with other genealogists—you never know what you might find!

Registration required at www.grpl.org/register or call 988-5400.

Don't forget to "like" and follow
WMGS on Facebook

Find us at:

[https://www.facebook.com/
wmgs.org/](https://www.facebook.com/wmgs.org/)



2018 WMGS Writing Contest

~Family Traditions ~

Traditions often enrich and strengthen family bonds and create fond memories. Whether they are stories, activities, or beliefs handed down from generation to generation, it's important to preserve your family traditions for future generations. WMGS encourages you to write about one of your family's traditions. They may occur daily, weekly, monthly or yearly, and revolve around military, holidays, or other special occasions. Some may be humorous or unusual.

Traditions may or may not be genealogical facts, but often provide important research clues. You may choose to describe how a Family Tradition assisted in your research, how you determined when and how the tradition began, or whether the tradition is based on true information or was created to teach or convince.

We would love to hear your story. Write it up and enter the 2018 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 2018 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 15, 2018.

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 2018" 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 2018 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; copyright 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

NGS Conference Information

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
2018 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE
2-5 MAY 2018 | GRAND RAPIDS, MI



Registration Open

The National Genealogical Society's fortieth annual Family History Conference, Paths to Your Past, which will be held 2-5 May 2018 at the DeVos Place Convention Center.

To register, visit the NGS website and complete the online registration form at

<http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/register/>

View the Online Program or Download PDF at the NGS conference website:

<http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/program/>

VOLUNTEER AT THE CONFERENCE

There are a number of ways to volunteer and help out at the conference. You can volunteer at the three following places:

Registration Table: Volunteers arrive early, Tuesday through Saturday. They check in pre-registered attendees and speakers, providing them with their registration envelopes, name badges, syllabi, and meal tickets.

Vendor Support: During nonpublic hours, a volunteer checks name badges at the door. During Exhibit Hall hours, a volunteer staffs the exhibitor registration booth to assist with vendor questions and concerns. **THE EXHIBIT HALL IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.** Support is needed at the vendor tables approximately thirty minutes before the exhibit hall opens throughout the day. Shifts vary from one hour to one hour and thirty minutes.

Room Monitor: Volunteer room monitors help during lecture sessions by greeting attendees, checking name badges to make sure attendees are registered for the conference, assisting the speaker, and recording attendance numbers. Most shifts are one hour and thirty minutes long. A cell phone is required, in case you need to call someone if help is needed.

For more information contact the Western Michigan Genealogical Society at NGSHelpers@wmgs.org or sign up online at

<http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/volunteer/>

Why Attend NGS 2018?

Reap the Rewards of Attending the NGS Family History Conference

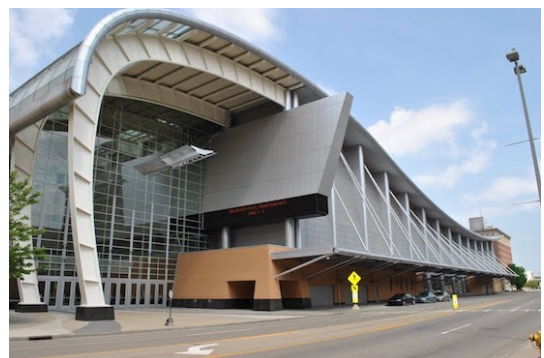
Researching your family tree is an exciting and rewarding experience. Yet, it can often be a solitary journey. After the initial interactions with extended families, genealogists and family historians find themselves—more often than not—quietly conducting research in libraries, court houses, state archives, cemeteries, or online. As fulfilling as your research can be, it also can be frustrating and just plain baffling.

Once a year the National Genealogical Society (NGS) gives family historians and genealogists the chance to:

- Share their experiences with more than 2,000 fellow genealogists
- Learn about additional resources that could aid their research
- Develop greater skills in interpretation and documentation of source materials
- Explore new avenues of research
- Attend special events and lectures by some of the most renowned genealogists in the U.S. and abroad

The NGS 2018 Family History Conference offers four exciting days of networking, learning, and socializing, including:

- an exhibit hall featuring more than eighty genealogy vendors of family history products and services
- pre-conference events and tours
- hands-on workshops
- 175+ sessions with a variety of topics featuring some of the nation's best genealogy speakers.



DeVos Place

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. 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: Uncles and Aunts—your own memories, stories about earlier generations, how you discovered they existed.

April: A memorable childhood friend, two or four legged

PLANNING ON ATTENDING? Those who attend are encouraged to bring several copies of a Work-In-Progress (WIP), but it's certainly 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

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

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

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.

WMGS Contact Information

President—Mindy Koole
president@wmgs.org
Phone (616) 719-3429

VP— Marcia Shears
U08554@hotmail.com

Secretary—Eileen Schmuker
divamom3849@gmail.com

Treasurer—Mark Timmer
mark.timmer@centurytel.net

Michigana Editor—Ruth Waybrant
Michigana@wmgs.org

Newsletter Editor—Jessica Riley
jessica629@hotmail.com

Publicity Chairman—Denise Fedko
dhfed@yahoo.com

Past President—Don Bryant
webmaster@wmgs.org