

WISCONSIN STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**2023 GENE-A-RAMA REGISTRATION FORM**

No refunds will be issued after March 11, 2023

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please be sure to read the CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION!*

You can register via postal mail or online. Please note though all mail in registrations must be postmarked by February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023. If you would like to register after that date, you will need to use the online registration.

For questions, contact the WSGS office at: [wsgs@wsgs.org](mailto:wsgs@wsgs.org)

	By Postmark Feb 25	After Feb 25 ONLINE ONLY	
<b>Full 2-day Registration</b>			
WSGS Member Rate	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$ _____
Regular Rate	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$ _____
<b>Friday or Saturday Only</b>			
(Circle day)			
WSGS Member Rate	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$ _____
Regular Rate	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$ _____
<b>Syllabus</b>	\$10.00	N/A	\$ _____
<b>Meals</b>			
<b>Friday Lunch</b>	\$18.00	N/A	\$ _____
Dinner	\$24.00	N/A	\$ _____
<b>Saturday Lunch</b>	\$19.00	N/A	\$ _____
<b>WSGS Membership</b>			
Individual		\$40.00	\$ _____
Family		\$50.00	\$ _____
Youth (Under 25)		\$15.00	\$ _____
Print Newsletter		\$20.00	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$ _____

*Join us!*  
2023 WSGS Gene-A-Rama  
information inside



Wisconsin State Genealogical Society, Inc.  
PO Box 5106  
Madison, WI 53705-0106



**Trials and Tribulations of  
Coming to America!**

**March 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Gene-A-Rama**

**The Lismore - A DoubleTree by Hilton  
333 Gibson Street  
Eau Claire, WI 54701**

# 2023 Gene-A-Rama

## 2023 Gene-A-Rama Agenda

### Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00-9:00 AM Registration and Vendors Open  
9:00 AM President's Welcome, WSGS Annual Business Meeting  
10:00 AM Break  
10:30 AM **Katherine R Willson:** *Research in Foreign Countries*  
11:30 AM Lunch  
1:00 PM **Lori Bessler:** *Writing a Biographical Sketch*  
2:00 PM Break and Vendors open  
2:30 PM **Katherine R. Willson:** *Our European Ancestors' Voyage to America*  
3:30 PM Break and Vendors open  
4:00 PM **John Berg:** *The Intersection of Genealogy and History: One Needs the Other, Right? When commonly accepted narratives are challenged by a new perspective.*  
5:15 PM Cash Bar  
6:00 PM Dinner and After Speaker  
**Katherine R Willson:** *The 1918 Influenza Pandemic and Its Effect on Our American Ancestors*

### Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00 AM Registration and Vendors Open  
9:00 AM **Russ Horton:** *Germans in the Civil War*  
10:00 AM Break  
10:15 AM **Katherine R Willson:** *They Didn't All Come Through Ellis Island Finding & Analyzing Passenger Arrival Lists*  
11:15 AM Lunch  
1:00 PM **Sarah J. Beer:** *Following the Paper Trail: The Search for Hans Hanson*  
2:00 PM Break  
2:30 PM **Katherine R. Willson:** *America's Westward Expansion: Records of Travelers & Service Providers*  
3:30 PM Closing Remarks / Safe Travels

## Conference Registration

You can register via postal mail or online. Please note though all mail in registrations must be postmarked by March 8<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to register after that date, you will need to use the online registration.

For online registration, please go to [www.wsgs.org](http://www.wsgs.org). It will be live in late January.

If mailing, send the completed form and check payable to **WSGS** to:

**WSGS 2023 Gene-A-Rama**  
**PO Box 5106**  
**Madison, WI 53705-0106**

Please note that membership in an Affiliate Society does not qualify as WSGS membership. You can become a member and pay the WSGS Rate at the time you register.

***All attendees will receive an e-mail confirmation from the WSGS Office.***

### Hotel information

#### Direct Booking Link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=EAUDTDTT&groupCode=CDTWSG&arrivaldate=2023-03-23&departuredate=2023-03-26&cid=OM,VV,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIREC>

**Rate:** \$109/night **Cutoff Date:** 2/23/23  
**Group Code:** WSG

Guests may also book their rooms by calling the hotel directly at **(715) 835-8888** & select option "0" to be directed to the Lismore Hotels Front Desk (if guests select option "1", they will be directed our Hilton Central Reservations Call center – they can book the room for the guest, but they cannot troubleshoot and often times give guests inaccurate information). Guests should reference the **Group Code (WSG)** when calling to book their room that is the easiest way our Front Desk staff can find the room block.

## Meet Our Speakers

**Katherine R. Willson**, a 7<sup>th</sup> generation Michigander, is an engaging & dynamic genealogy lecturer at local, regional and national conferences; an educator teaching beginning, intermediate, and advanced genealogy classes in Michigan since 2001; the author of *The Genealogist's Guide to Grand Rapids, Michigan* (published in 2018 by The In-Depth Genealogist), and a professional researcher for private clients. Her genealogy interests began at age 10 while earning the Junior Girl Scout My Heritage badge.

**Lori Bessler**, has worked at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library Archives since 1988 where she is the Reference Librarian and Outreach Coordinator.

**Russell Horton**, is the Reference & Outreach Archivist at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum where he began working as a graduate student in 2001.

**Sarah J. Beer MLIS**, I am currently the Associate University Archivist and University Records Manager for UW-Eau Claire. I received my bachelor's degree in Public History and Political Science from UW-Eau Claire in 2017, and went on to earn my master's degree in Library and Information Science with a concentration in Archival Studies from UW-Milwaukee in 2021. In my role as Associate Archivist I lead the day to day operations of the Special Collections and Archives department of McIntyre Library and supervise both students and interns. I coordinate with statewide agencies for the transfer of archival materials for instruction, research, and genealogy. I perform public services like outreach, reference requests, and providing access to public records. Genealogy is an important aspect of my job and certainly my favorite part- there is nothing quite as fulfilling as helping someone put together the pieces of their past.

**John L. Berg**, was born in Wisconsin Rapids located in southern Wood County, Wisconsin. John earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Vocational Rehabilitation from the University of Wisconsin – Stout in May, 1978. He taught special education at USD 274 in Oakley, Kansas and the Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools until his retirement in June, 2012. He also earned a Master of Science degree in Teaching History from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, then to the University of Minnesota Graduate School program for the Master of Arts, earning a Ph.D. in History. He has written a book on logging railroads in Price and Ashland Counties titled "*The Lake Shore and Eastern, A Logging Railroad in North Central Wisconsin*", and co-authored another on the Pike Lake Chain in northern Price County.