



WMGS Newsletter

Fall 2011



WMGS Program Schedule

The following programs will be held in the Grand Rapids Public Library in the Ryerson Auditorium. Meetings begin at 1:30 pm, starting with WMGS business and followed by the speaker. Admission is free and everyone is welcome! Parking is free at the Library on Saturdays. Remember to have your parking ticket validated in the Library's main lobby. Refreshments are served after the speaker's presentation. Books and supplies may be purchased from the Sales Table before and after the October program.

September 10, 2011

Over Wayne County Way

Researching in Detroit and Wayne County (MI) can be overwhelming. This presentation gives tips on how to find what you need, where to go or if you need to go there at all. By Diane Oslund.

Note: The WMGS Sales Table will not be at the September meeting. We will be on the road at the FGS Seminar.

October 1, 2011

Everything You Ever Wondered About Land Patents, but Were Afraid to Ask!

What is a Land Patent? Where do I find one? How did someone get one? Whatever is Bounty land? Did you know Timberlands weren't in Michigan? Karen Blumenshine will answer those questions and more as she tells us about Land Patents, Bounty Lands, Timberlands and other types of patents and how they relate to you as a genealogist.

November 4 & 5, 2011

Got Ancestors?! Seminar Genealogy in Black & White and Blue & Gray

See the enclosed flyer for more information.

Note: The WMGS Sales Table will be at the Seminar from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You do not need to register for the Seminar if you only wish to visit the vendors.

September 24, 2011

Civil War Gravestone Dedication

Eva Gray Tent No. 2, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865, will be dedicating the new headstones for ten Civil War Veterans in Fairplains Cemetery, Grand Rapids, MI. on Saturday, September 24, at 10:00 AM. The gravesites of these soldiers had been previously unmarked. The public is invited to attend.

Mini Classes

Mini Classes are held in the Grand Rapids Public Library from 12:15 to 1:15 in the Adult Computer Center. They are free to the general public. Mini Classes are held on the same day as the monthly WMGS Programs. The topics will be announced on our website and in our monthly email.

There will not be a Mini Class in November due to our Got Ancestors?! Seminar.

WMGS Beginner Classes

We have planned several interesting beginner classes for the fall. When the dates, times and locations have been set we will announce all of the details on our website and in our monthly emails.

WMGS Family History Writers' Workshops

Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 15 at 1:30 to 4:45 p.m.

Dominican Center, 2025 Fulton St East

Please note the new December date...The Writers' Workshops are designed to help and support each other's desire to write about our families with a kind eye and lots of humor. Everyone is welcome. We informally discuss questions relevant to each person's work, provide helpful, non-judgmental feedback on writer's current projects and have fun learning about each other and our research. Everyone is welcome to bring their latest writing project rather than the suggested topic for the meeting.

- September: What were the BEST things about the "Good Old Days?" Why?
October: What were the WORST things about the "Good Old Days?" Why?
November: My longest journey (literal or symbolic.)

The workshops are held at the Dominican Center on the corner of East Fulton and Lakeside Drive. Please call Sister Michael Ellen Carling at 616-643-0208 (home) or 616-643-0225 (office) if you wish to attend. You may park in the Dominican Center parking lot on Lakeside Drive. Use the lower entrance on the east side of the large portico. Go down the steps or down the cement ramp to enter the building. The receptionist will direct you to the room.

October 29, 2011

2011 Family History Month Seminar

The Michigan Genealogical Council & The Archives of Michigan are pleased to present Pamela J. Cooper. Pamela will give four presentations about church records, the Homestead Act, Pensions of the Poor and British research. For more information visit <http://mimgc.org>.



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



--- Note:-- Staying at GuestHouse International ---

Wednesday-Thursday – October 12-13, 2011

\$118=Single, \$88=Double, \$78=Triple, \$73=Quad

Transportation by **Great Lakes Motor Coach**

No smoking on coach.

	7:00	AM	Leave Target on Alpine NW (North of I-96)
	7:30	AM	Leave Meijer (next to I-96 and 28 th St near the "K" marker)
Day #1	8:15	AM	Leave Ionia and I-96 (behind Corner's Landing Restaurant)
Oct 12 th			Possible pickup south of Lansing if there is enough interest—call me
Wednesday	9:30	ish	Refreshment Stop (donuts & juice at highway rest stop)
	10:30	AM	Arrive at Allen County Public Library (260) 421-1200
	9:00	PM	Bus transfer to GuestHouse International (260) 483-0091
	7:00	AM	Wakeup Call – Continental breakfast included
	8:30-8:40	AM	Luggage loading and transportation to library
Day #2	6:00	PM	Depart from Allen County Public Library
Oct 13 th	6:30	PM	Stop for quick meal near Auburn, Indiana
Thursday	9:45	PM	Arrive at Ionia drop-off area
	10:00	PM	Arrive at Meijer I-96 drop off area
	10:30	PM	Arrive at Target on Alpine

Trip includes: roundtrip motor coach transportation, NEWLY REMODELED GuestHouse International at 3017 W. Coliseum Blvd., continental breakfast, and library transfer.

<http://www.guesthouseintl.com/hotels/fortwayne> - phone 260-483-0091

*The motel does not have an elevator. Please indicate floor requirement.

*Cancellations will receive a refund with replacement only.

*WMGS member? GREAT NEWS. You will receive a coupon worth \$5 towards next year's membership or towards any purchase at the WMGS sales table.

*We need 38 bus riders to make this trip a reality. An email by **Sept. 15th** would be most helpful. A \$15 deposit guarantees your place on the bus. Please send your deposit or at least an email by **Sept. 15th**.

*Balance must be paid by **Oct 1st**. Make checks payable to **WMGS**.

*Please contact Sue Irvine with questions. (616) 889-0042 or sjirv@yahoo.com

Send registration to: Sue Irvine, 4215 Northgate NE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49525-1539

\$118=Single, \$88=Double, \$78=Triple, \$73=Quad

Ft. Wayne Trip Wed – Thurs October 12-13, 2011 Registration Form

Room type: Smoking ___ Non-smoking ___ Is 1st floor a requirement? Yes ___ No ___

NAME: _____ Phone# (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____ City,State,Zip _____

Pickup Point: Circle one: **Target Meijer Ionia Other** Roommates: _____

(Note: if choosing Other, you must call Sue at (616) 889-0042 to arrange a pick-up location south of Lansing)

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

Are you losing useful parts of your WMGS Newsletter when you fill out the Bus Trip or the Seminar form? One solution is to print the forms from our website. The Bus Trip form can found by going to www.wmgs.org and clicking on the link at the top of the page. The Seminar Form and information can be found at <http://GotAncestors.com>.

Useful Civil War Websites

www.ancestry.com Ancestry has several searchable databases for Civil War soldier and sailor, but also has a searchable draft registration database that includes all men born between 1828 and 1845 as well as unmarried men born between 1818 and 1829. This is a great way to find men who moved between the 1860 and 1870 census.

seekingmichigan.org You can now search images of the Michigan Soldiers & Sailors Individual Records. The entry will tell you when the soldier mustered in, mustered out and the unit he fought with.

www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/ National Parks Civil War Soldiers & Sailors database. Includes confederate soldiers. Search by name to find the unit a soldier fought with.

www.familysearch.org Family Search has several useful databases. To find them, look for the Browse by Location section and click on USA, Canada, and Mexico link. The titles will be alphabetical.

United States, Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards. Not searchable. Divided by Soldier's surname. Names are alphabetical within each category. Cards will show the soldier's name, death date, pension number, unit of service, current address, payments and reason for disability.

United States, Civil War Widows & Other Dependents Pension Files. Searchable, however the images are not available at Family Search. They can only be viewed at Footnote.com. If you find a file you're interested in, write down the information and view the contents at the Grand Rapids Public Library (they subscribe to Footnote.com.)

Now until June 3, 2012 **Thank God for Michigan!** **Stories from the Civil War**

The Grand Rapids Public Museum's new exhibit will unveil uniforms, weapons, photographs, letters, and more from the Museum's vast collection. These artifacts will give you a rare glimpse into the lives of the local soldiers and officers who volunteered to fight and the civilians on the home front that supported them. The exhibit is included in the general Museum admission fee.

Sept 1 and Sept 15, 2011 **ECGS at the Library of Michigan Days**

The Library of Michigan is open for business and continues to have its original collection open to the public. Members of the Eaton County Genealogical Society will be available to help you with your research starting at 10:00 am. This is a great opportunity to have experts guide you through the Library's unique resources that can't be found on the Web.

October 10, 2011 **The War of 1812**

PBS will present a 2 hour documentary about the War of 1812. It will include interviews with historians, first hand accounts, battle re-enactments and stories about ordinary and famous citizens. The documentary is scheduled to air at 9 p.m. Check your local directories in October to verify the date and time. For more information visit www.pbs.org/wned/war-of-1812/about.html

If you, as a new or renewing member, would be willing and able to hold an office or work on a committee or project, WMGS would appreciate your help very much. You may indicate your area of expertise and/or interest on this membership form. We will be happy to contact you about your desire to help. Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW _____

RENEWAL _____

\$20 in the USA

US\$25 Outside the USA

Make checks payable to: Western Michigan Genealogical Society

DATE: _____ PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

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

Do you use computer software to manage your genealogy? No Yes _____
list the software you use

Send checks and completed form to:
WMGS Membership, Western Michigan Genealogical Society
111 Library St NE, Grand Rapids MI 49503-3268



Western Michigan Genealogical Society
c/o Grand Rapids Public Library
111 Library St NE
Grand Rapids MI 49503-3268

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT NO. 209

ADDRESS 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.

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
Western Michigan Genealogical Society
111 Library St NE
Grand Rapids MI 49503-3268

2011 WMGS Officers

President	Don Bryant email: president@wmgs.org	Recording Secretary	Janet Jensen email: JanetJ6990@aol.com Phone: (616) 874-8035
Vice President	Marcia Shears email: U08554@hotmail.com Phone: (616) 458-1221	Immediate Past President	Mindy Koole email: koole2@comcast.net Phone: (616) 691-7986
Treasurer	Marlene Fabbro email: mfabbro@sbcglobal.net		