



# Western Michigan Genealogical Society

C/O Grand Rapids Public Library

111 Library Street NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503-3268

<http://www.wmgs.org>

Newsletter--Fall 2006

## Have you paid your WMGS membership?

To learn if your membership has been paid, please check on your mailing label. If the date is before September 2006, your membership has expired! Renew now to keep up on the latest WMGS news!

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* and leadership opportunities. Membership to the Western Michigan Genealogical Society advantages also include a use of the private files of the Society and publication of Members' genealogy online at <http://trees.wmgs.org/>.

### Change of Address:

(Temporary or Permanent) If you will be moving to a new address permanently, or going on an extended vacation, please notify WMGS before the address change occurs. Be sure to include the date your address will permanently change or the dates when you will leave and plan to return. You may email the Society at [Membership@wmgs.org](mailto:Membership@wmgs.org) or write to: WMGS-Membership, Western Michigan Genealogical Society, 111 Library St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503-3268.

**POSTMASTER:** WMGS is a non-profit organization and is affiliated with the Michigan Genealogical Council.

## 2006 WMGS Officers

President	Mindy Koole	koole2@comcast.net	(616) 691-7986
Vice-President	Bill Simmons	wmgen@aol.com	(616) 540-1765
Treasurer	Marlene Fabbro	mfabbro@umich.edu	(616) 530-8232
Recording Secretary	Janet Jensen	JanetJ6690@aol.com	(616) 874-8035
Corresponding Secretary	Lucy Read	LRead49503@aol.com	(616) 458-9117
Michigana Editor	Bobbi Schirado	schirado@iserv.net	(616) 887-3977

## ~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*WMGS Program Schedule\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

The following programs will be held in the  
**Grand Rapids Public Library-Main Branch,**  
in the **Ryerson Auditorium.**

Meetings begin at **1:30 pm** with the business of WMGS,  
followed by the speaker.

Admission is free and everyone is welcome!

Refreshments served after presentation.

Come join us!

### September 9, 2006

Speaker **Father Dennis Morrow** will be presenting "**Searching Catholic Records Grand Rapids Diocese**".

### October 7, 2006

"**Sourcing Your Family Files**" will be presented by speaker **Diane Oslund**, Professional Genealogist from Oak Park, Michigan.

### November 4, 2006

Michigan Archivist, **Mark Harvey** will be presenting  
"**Military Records**".

**Free**  
**WMGS Genealogy**  
**Classes**

Before you sign up for any of the following classes you must be able to use a mouse and understand basic computer principles. You should have basic computer skills. You may want to take a Grand Rapids Public Library basic computer class. Registration is necessary to take any of these **FREE** classes.

Sign up for these classes by calling the **Grand Rapids Public Library** at:

**616-988-5400**

**Learn How To Use The United States GenWeb And More**

**Tuesday**  
**November 14, 2006**  
**1:00 pm**

The US GenWeb, American History & Genealogy Project, Canada GenWeb and the GENUKI (UK & Ireland) are groups that place information on the internet for researchers to explore for free.

**Teacher:** Bobbi Schirado

**Ancestry.com Class**

**Wednesday**  
**October 25, 2006**  
**1:00 pm**

**OR**

**Monday**  
**November 27, 2006**  
**7:00 pm**

Hands-on class. Bring some of your own research to explore changes being made to Ancestry.com. Instructions include use of Ancestry.com from the Library and home.

**Teacher:** Sue Irvine

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*WMGS News\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

**WMGS would like to thank all of the volunteers that have helped with projects! Without the help of the many people, that have given extensive hours, WMGS online databases and indexes would not be what they are today! Our volunteers are greatly appreciated!**

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**Thank-you!!!**  
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**We Still Need Help!**

Please call or email if you are able to help with any of the following on-going projects.

**Sue Irvine**

WMGS Past President & Volunteer Coordinator

Phone: **616-889-0042**

Email: **sjirv@yahoo.com**

**Surname committee**

We need help typing the 4-generation charts into a PAFF format on your computer. We give (mail) you a chart and you type it onto your computer. The information can be sent by computer – or put on a disk. Paff is LDS's free program and I'll help you learn how to use it at your home or mine.

**Manuscript Committee**

We need your help making an all-name Excel type file of the names in each of the manuscript files. Want to learn excel?

Give me a call.

**Genweb Projects**

Evelyn Sawyer and Mindy Koole hand out packets at the WMGS monthly meetings to be entered into a computer and uploaded for the Kent County Genweb. We would be happy to help you learn any of those skills. We're but a phone call away.

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**WMGS Genealogical Writing Group**

The WMGS Writer's Group will meet **Tuesday, September 19th** at **7:00** at **Aquinata Hall** at the Dominican Center at 2023 E. Fulton Street, Grand Rapids.

We are a support group for all who wish to write about their ancestors' lives.

This year, we are using an article in the *National Genealogical Quarterly* to help us focus. "Developing Family Narratives from Leads in Sources: The Case of James W. and Nancy Parberry," (Volume 94, No. 1, March 2006 page 23-27) illustrates some of the characteristics every good family story needs to make it interesting to the reader. For the first meeting we will talk about **DESCRIBING THE SETTING.**

If you plan to attend, it is helpful but not required to let Sister Michael Ellen Carling know you will be there.

Phone: **(616) 643-0206**

Or Email: **mecarling@grdominicans.org**

## Attention Snow Birds!

Are you leaving for warmer climates for the winter? Please let WMGS know so you won't miss out on the latest newsletter.

Be sure to include the date your address will change or the date when you plan to return.

You may email the Society at:

**Membership@wmgs.org**

or write to:

**WMGS-Membership  
Western Michigan  
Genealogical Society  
111 Library St. NE  
Grand Rapids, MI  
49503-3268.**

## WMGS Website

WMGS maintains a website at

**www.wmgs.org**

The website has a number of free, searchable databases available.

WMGS also sponsors the **Kent County GenWeb** site at:

**<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mikent/>**

The GenWeb site includes many indexes transcribed by WMGS volunteers.

## ~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*Upcoming Events\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

### October 14, 2006-Lansing, MI

Genealogical Seminar presented by the Library of Michigan and the Michigan Genealogical Council.

**9:00 am - 4:45 pm**

**Location:** Michigan Library and Historical Center  
Everyone will receive a map when you arrive in the Rotunda of the Historical Center. It will show locations of all presentations in the building.

**Pre-registration is required (capacity-225) by 1 Oct. 2006**

You **must pre-register** for any sessions you plan to attend

For additional information, see MGC website  
[www.rootsweb.com/~mimgc](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mimgc)

### September 22-24, 2006-Bay City, MI

The Bay County Historical Society and Museum will be the local host for the Historical Society of Michigan's State History Conference this year as we explore the history of the Bay City area and topics to everyone interested in Michigan history, historic preservation and operating historical sites.

A detailed schedule and conference flier is available on the HSM website at [www.hsmichigan.org](http://www.hsmichigan.org).

For more information contact HSM at:

[hsm@hsmichigan.org](mailto:hsm@hsmichigan.org)

Or call Toll Free

(800) 692-1828.

### January 8-12, 2007-Salt Lake City, UT

The courses planned for the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy are:  
American Records and Research: Focusing on Localities,  
Midwest Research: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin, Irish Research: On and Off the Internet,  
German Research: Germany, Switzerland, Austria,  
Migration: America on the Move, Effective Software Use of Genealogy, Advanced New England Research: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Producing a Quality Family Narrative, Problem Solving: Specific Help for your problem ancestor.  
Applications will be available in May.  
<http://www.infouga.org>

## Share Your Research!

A "Show and Tell" table is available for those attending the monthly meetings, to display the projects on which you are working.

Bring your family charts, scrapbooks, photos, etc. Perhaps your display will help you to connect with others researching the same lines or areas.

### **Top 10 Indicators that you've become a GENE-AHOLIC**

*Author unknown*

1. You introduce your daughter as your descendent.
2. You've never met any of the people you send e-mail to, even though you're related.
3. You can recite your lineage back eight generations, but can't remember your nephew's name.
4. You have more photographs of dead people than living ones.
5. You've ever taken a tape recorder and/or notebook to a family reunion.
6. You've not only read the latest GEDCOM standard, but also you understand it.
7. The local genealogy society borrows books from you.
8. The only film you've seen in the last year was the 1880 census index.
9. More than half of your CD collection is made up of marriage records or pedigrees.
10. Your elusive ancestor has been spotted in more different places than Elvis!

## ~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*Upcoming Events continued\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

### August 15-18, 2007-Ft. Wayne, IN

Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Allen County Public Library will hold their conference

#### **"Meeting at the Crossroads of America"**

To be held at the Grand Wayne Center in Ft. Wayne, IN  
See their website for future details.

<http://www.fgs.org/2007conf/FGS-2007.htm>

### January 8-12, 2007-Salt Lake City, UT

The courses planned for the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy are:

American Records and Research: Focusing on Localities,

Midwest Research: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota,

Ohio, Wisconsin, Irish Research: On and Off the Internet,

German Research: Germany, Switzerland, Austria,

Migration: America on the Move, Effective

Software Use of Genealogy, Advanced New England Research:

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire,

Rhode Island, Vermont, Producing a Quality Family Narrative,

Problem Solving: Specific Help for your problem ancestor.

Applications will be available in May.

<http://www.infouga.org>

## ~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*Featured Websites\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

[www.castlegarden.org](http://www.castlegarden.org)

Castle Garden, America's first immigration center, offers a free database of information for 10 million immigrants from 1830-1892.

<http://fchsm.habitant.org/>

French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan.

This website offers information for memberships, news, meetings, chapters and research.

<http://www.sos.state.mi.us/history/archive/naturalization/pdf/kent/>

Search Naturalization records filed in Kent County, MI.

[http://envoy.libraryofmichigan.org/1870\\_census/Search.asp](http://envoy.libraryofmichigan.org/1870_census/Search.asp)

Search the Michigan 1870 census.



# Western Michigan Genealogical Society



## Bus Trip to Ft. Wayne, IN Allen County Public Library

November 1 & 2, 2006

Tuesday & Wednesday

\$93-Single, \$71-Double, \$64-Triple, \$60-Quad

Transportation by **Great Lakes Motor Coach**

**No smoking on coach.**

Day #1	7:00AM	Leave Target on Alpine NW (North of I-96)
Nov. 1st	7:30AM	Leave Meijer (next to I-96 and 28 <sup>th</sup> St near the "K" marker)
Wednesday	8:15AM	Leave Ionia and I-96 (behind Corner's Landing Restaurant)
	9:15ish	Refreshment Stop
	10:30AM	Arrive <b>Allen County Public Library</b> (260) 420-1200
	9:00PM	Bus transfer to Best Inns of America Motel (260) 483-0091
Day #2	7:00AM	Wakeup Call – Motel serves a continental breakfast – FREE
Nov. 2nd	8:40AM	Transportation to Library
Thursday	6:00PM	Depart from Allen County Public Library
	7:00PM	Stop for quick meal near Auburn, Indiana
	10:00PM	Arrive at Ionia drop-off area
	10:15PM	Arrive at Meijer I-96 drop off area
	10:40PM	Arrive at Target on Alpine

Trip includes: roundtrip motor coach transportation, lodging at Best Inns of America and library transfer. Best Inns provides cookies Wednesday night and a continental breakfast Thursday. There is no elevator at the motel. Please indicate floor requirement.

We need 38 bus riders to make this trip a reality. A \$15 deposit guarantees your place on the bus. Please send your deposit or at least an email by Sept. 27th. 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.

*Please contact: Sue Irvine with questions at: 616-889-0042 or [sjirv@yahoo.com](mailto:sjirv@yahoo.com)*

Balance must be mailed by **October 15th**. Make checks payable to **WMGS**.

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

**Ft. Wayne, IN - Allen County Public Library Nov. 1 & 2, 2006 Wednesday & Thursday**

Room type: Smoking \_\_\_\_\_ Non-smoking \_\_\_\_\_ Is 1<sup>st</sup> floor room a requirement? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Pickup Point (circle one): **Target** **Meijer** **Ionia** Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Roommates \_\_\_\_\_

**\$93-Single**

**\$71-Double**

**\$64-Triple**

**\$60-Quad**



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

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

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

**\$20.00** In the USA      **\$25.00** Outside the USA

Make checks payable to: **Western Michigan Genealogical Society**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Your level of genealogy experience is (circle one):    Beginner      Intermediate      Advanced

Do you use a computer to manage your research (circle one):    NO      YES

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