



# 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 2007**

## 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 August 2007, your membership has expired! Renew now to keep up on the latest WMGS news!

## 2007 WMGS Officers

President	Mindy Koole	koole2@comcast.net	(616) 691-7986
Vice-President	Marcia Shears	u08554@hotmail.com	(616) 458-1221
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

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.

## ~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*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**, with the business of WMGS, followed by the speaker. Admission is free and everyone is welcome! Refreshments served after the speaker.

### September 8, 2007

"**Researching Your New England Ancestors**" will be presented by **Derek S. Davey**, Professional Genealogist. Need help in researching your New England ancestors? Come to learn what is available in local Michigan, New England and on-line sources. Please bring questions to the meeting. .

### October 6, 2007

**To be announced.**

### November 3, 2007

"**German Ancestry**" will be presented by **Donald M. Heider**. Material that will be covered starts with United States census working the family back from information on the census. Coverage will also include Germany timeline, meaning of surnames, occupations, areas of migration, methods and ports for travel to the United States

### December 1, 2007

**To be announced.**

**Free WMGS  
Genealogy Classes**

**GRPL-Main Branch Classes**

Before you sign up for any of the WMGS class you must be able to use a mouse and understand basic computer principles. You may want to take a Grand Rapids Public Library basic computer class.

Contact the Library for a schedule of their computer classes.

**Wednesday, October 3**

1:00pm-3:00 pm

**New England Ancestors**

In this class you will learn how to access their online resources for cemetery records, court and probate records, census lists, vital records, gazetteers, newsletters and more.  
Instructor: Nancy Myers

**Saturday, October 13**

1:15pm-3:00pm

**Census Records**

Learn the importance of these records and how to find and use them.  
Instructor: Denni Peterson

**Wednesday, October 17**

1:00pm-3:00 pm

**Genlias and Zeeuws  
Archief - Netherlands**

This class will teach you how to access these databases in English, locate abstracts of vital records and make copies.  
Instructor: Nancy Myers

**Wednesday, October 17**

7:00pm-8:45 pm

**Ancestry.com**

Learn techniques to help you search on Ancestry.com.  
Instructor: Sue Irvine

**Kent County Marriage Index Complete!!!**

Western Michigan Genealogical Society would like to thank the following volunteers for their many hours of transcriptions and hard work. From their efforts, the Kent County Marriage Index is available online for millions to access worldwide!

**THANK YOU!**

Evelyn Sawyer  
Ann Ed  
Betty Johnson  
Beverly Summers  
Carla Gaunichaux  
Chris Owen  
Christy Bogeld  
Dean Wickes  
Debbi Mann  
Diane Teelander  
Jan Stypula  
Jeri Landheer  
Joanie Welke  
Judy Vezzehi  
Judy Wilson  
Karma Hunt  
Trenna VanderWoude

Kay Paskiewicz  
Kayleen Pawloski  
Kimberly Houtman  
Linda Stopker  
Mary Huizen  
Melissa LaRue  
Mindy Koole  
Nancy Myers  
Nancy Philips  
Pam McKinley  
Pat Dobbins  
Roger Moffat  
Roxann Wilkerson  
Steve Butman  
Sue Irvine  
Terry Start

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

**<http://www.accessgenealogy.com/>**

A free, resource site for everything from cemetery, census and bible records to old love letters, military and world genealogy data organized by country.

**<http://www.netronline.com/frameset.asp?StateID=24>**

Links to available Michigan state & county Tax Assessors' and Recorders' offices. Online public records may include copies of deeds, parcel maps, GIS maps, tax data, ownership information and indexes. Some Recorders' offices have marriage and birth records available online.

**Free**  
**WMGS Genealogy**  
**Classes-continued**

**Wednesday, Oct 31**

1:00pm-3:00 pm

**Ancestry.com**

Learn techniques to help you search on Ancestry.com.

Instructor: Sue Irvine

**Wednesday, November 7**

1:00pm-3:00 pm

**Heritage Quest**

Learn how to search databases and print copies.

Instructor: Nancy Myers

**Thursday, November 15**

7:00pm-8:45PM

**Ancestry.com**

Learn techniques to help you search on Ancestry.com.

Instructor: Sue Irvine

**Saturday, November 17**

1:15pm-3:00pm

**Historical Societies**

A source of valuable genealogical research materials.

Instructor- Wanda Schottler

**Genealogy**

Genealogy begins as an interest,  
 Becomes a hobby;  
 Continues as an avocation,  
 Takes over as an obsession,  
 And in its last stages,  
 Is an incurable disease.

--Author Unknown

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

**October 20, 2007**

**21st CENTURY TECHNIQUES FOR THE GENEALOGIST**  
**"I DIDN'T KNOW THAT" - SEMINAR**

Library of Michigan

702 West Kalamazoo St., Lansing, Michigan

9:00 - 9:30 **Registration**

9:30 - 10:15 **Opening "Session"**

Welcome to the Seminar - Charles R. Leap, Seminar Chair

A Library of Michigan overview of collection - Randy Riley, Library of Michigan  
 Archives of Interest to Genealogist - Archive Staff

10:30 - 11:15 **Second Session**

- B Highlights of Heritage Quest & Ancestry Library Edition - Kendel Darragh, Library of Michigan
- C Researching U.S. Federal Census Records - Edwina Morgan, Library of Michigan
- D The Intelligence Reform and Real ID Acts: Effecting Changes to Vital Records  
 Glenn Copland, State Registrar of Michigan
- E Michigan's Early Military Forces Prior to Civil War - Sam Pardee

11:30 - 12:15 **Third Session**

- F Effectively Using the Periodical Source Index (PERSI) Charles Hagler, Lib of MI
- G Sources: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly - Cindy Grostick
- H Finding Your Ontario Scots - Joanne Harvey
- I Township Sources - John Castle

12:00 - 2:30 Museum of Surveying Traveling Exhibit  
 (in Rotunda) - Ms Lisa Jacobs

12:15 - 1:15 **Lunch**

(the pre-paid lunches may be picked up in Rotunda and eaten in 11:30 session room)

**Exception:** Forum Room people eat in lunchroom.

1:15 - 2:15 **Fourth Session**

Genealogist of the Year Award

- J Featured Program – Public Land Surveys in Michigan - Norman C. Caldwell, PS

2:30 - 3:15 **Fifth Session**

- K Citizen Military Training Camps and Civil Conservation Corp. - Sam Pardee
- L Highlights of Heritage Quest & Ancestry Library Edition - Kendel Darragh, Library of Michigan
- M Digital Resource Solutions from Home - David Votta,, History/Archives CADL
- N "Wish I Had Thought of That" - Procedures for the 21st Century - Charles Leap

3:30 - 4:15 **Sixth Session**

- O Researching Your Polish Ancestors - Kris Rzepzynski, Library of Michigan
- P What About Other Programs in Your Computer for Genealogy? - Ken Howe
- Q Irish Resources, Basic and Beyond - Mary Lou Duncan
- R WWI and II Sources - Cindy Grostick
- S Library Tours - Limited to 20 persons each tour

4:45 Seminar closes

5:00 Building closes

Family History Month Event is sponsored by the Michigan Genealogical Council and the Library of Michigan.

\$17 without lunch. - \$25 with lunch.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mimgc/special.htm>

**"Focus On A Source"**  
**New WMGS "Mini-Classes"**

**Time: 12:45 to 1:15 pm**  
**Prior to the Regular WMGS**  
**Saturday membership meetings.**  
**Grand Rapids Public Library, Fourth**  
**Floor Conference Room**

**September 8, 2007**

The Kent County School  
Records  
Presented by  
Lisa Christensen,  
WMGS Member

**October 6, 2007**

The Official Record of the  
War of the Rebellion  
Presented by Don Bryant,  
WMGS Member

**November 8, 2007**

Veterans and Veterans  
Home Records  
Presented by Wanda Schottler, WMGS  
Member

**WMGS Website**

WMGS maintains a website  
at **[www.wmgs.org](http://www.wmgs.org)**

The website has a number  
of free,  
searchable databases avail-  
able.

WMGS also sponsors the  
Kent County  
GenWeb site at:

**[http://www.rootsweb.com/  
~mikent/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mikent/)**

The GenWeb site includes  
many indexes transcribed  
by WMGS volunteers.

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

**October 20, 2007**

**Celebration of the Book**

Grand Rapids Public Library  
Main library - 111 Library St NE  
Grand Rapids, MI

A celebration of all things literary.

Over 35 featured authors  
including Bich Minh Nguyen, Jacqueline Carey, Bob Tarte.  
Children's programs, publishing tips, musical performances, book  
sales and more!

Special appearance by New York Times Bestselling Author Eric  
Jerome Dickey.

Western Michigan Genealogical Society presents a session at  
3:30pm in the VanderVeen Center for the Book, on "Creating a  
Family Legacy".

Is there a favorite relative, a gathering place or special event story  
that you would like to share with your descendants? The legacy  
could be a family history, a short story or a photo album or  
scrapbook. This session will introduce you to the resources that  
the Grand Rapids Public Library has to help you research,  
document and preserve your family legacy.

WMGS has been helping members to create family legacies since  
1955 and offer free meetings and classes to help navigate the  
Library's resources, WMGS Society members Shirley M. De Boer  
and Janet Jensen will share their methodology of research, writing,  
illustrating and scrap booking of family legacies.

Come with a curious mind ....leave with ideas.

**For more information call**

**616-988-5400**

**or visit**

**[www.grpl.org](http://www.grpl.org)**



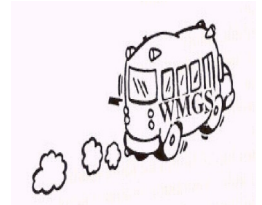
# Bus Trip to Ft. Wayne

## Allen County Public Library

Their NEWLY RENOVATED LIBRARY!

Tuesday-Wednesday – Oct. 23-24, 2007

\$91=Single, \$71=Double, \$64=Triple, \$61=Quad



Transportation by **Great Lakes Motor Coach**

**No smoking on coach.**

Day #1	7:00 AM	Leave Target on Alpine NW (North of I-96)
Oct 23	7:30 AM	Leave Meijers (next to I96 and 28 <sup>th</sup> St near the “K” marker)
Tuesday	8:15AM	Leave Ionia and I-96 (behind Corner’s Landing Restaurant)
	9:30ish	Refreshment Stop
	10:30 AM	Arrive <b>Allen County Public Library (REFURBISHED BUILDING)</b>
	9:00PM	Bus transfer to Best Inns of America Motel (219) 483-0091
Day #2	7:00AM	Wakeup Call – Motel serves a continental breakfast – free
Oct 24	8:40AM	Transportation to library
Wednesday	6:00PM	Depart from Allen County Public Library
	6:30PM	Stop for quick meal near Auburn, Indiana
	10:00PM	Arrive at Ionia drop-off area
	10:15PM	Arrive at Meijers 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 when we arrive and continental breakfast Wednesday.

\*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 will again do a surname list for bus riders. Please email surnames 1 week prior to trip.

\*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 September 20th. Balance must be paid by our October 6th meeting.

Make checks pay able to **WMGS**.

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

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

\$84=Single, \$67=Double, \$62=Triple, \$59=Quad

### **Ft. Wayne: Tuesday & Wednesday October 23-24, 2007**

\$91=Single, \$71=Double, \$64=Triple, \$61=Quad

Room type: Smoking \_\_\_\_\_ Non-smoking \_\_\_\_\_

Is 1<sup>st</sup> floor a requirement? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Pickup Point: Circle one: **Target Meijers Ionia**

Roommates: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation and other trip information can be confirmed by email at:

\_\_\_\_\_



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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.