



## Western Michigan Genealogical Society

C/O Grand Rapids Public Library

111 Library Street NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503-3268

<http://www.wmgs.org>

Newsletter--Spring 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 March 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	<a href="mailto:koole2@comcast.net">koole2@comcast.net</a>	(616) 691-7986
Vice-President	Bill Simmons	<a href="mailto:wmgen@aol.com">wmgen@aol.com</a>	(616) 540-1765
Treasurer	Marlene Fabbro	<a href="mailto:mfabbro@umich.edu">mfabbro@umich.edu</a>	(616) 530-8232
Recording Secretary	Janet Jensen	<a href="mailto:JanetJ6690@aol.com">JanetJ6690@aol.com</a>	(616) 874-8035
Corresponding Secretary	Lucy Read	<a href="mailto:LRead49503@aol.com">LRead49503@aol.com</a>	(616) 458-9117

### ~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*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! Come join us!

#### March 4, 2006

Speaker **Ann Prins**, from the Herrick District Library in Holland will be presenting "**New and Old Resources at Herrick**".

#### April 1, 2006

**James Moses**, Chairman of the First Families of Ionia County, will be presenting "**Strange facts in the Census**".

#### May 6, 2006

"**So Your Female Ancestor Has No Surname**" will be presented by **Karen Klugman**, Professional Genealogist, President of the Ford Genealogy Club and an active D.A.R. member.

#### June 3, 2006

**Special Note:** The meeting will take place at the Alpine Community Building at the intersection of 7 Mile Road and Baumhoff Avenue, about 2 miles west of Alpine Avenue. The **Alpine Historical Commission** will be presenting the program.

#### July & August, 2006

No Meetings.

**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 Library at:

616-988-5400.

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**Ancestry Library  
Edition/Ancestry.com  
Thursday  
March 30, 7:00-8:45pm**

Ancestry is a subscription genealogy database that is provided the Grand Rapids Public Library through Michigan Access. Ancestry has grown into a powerful tool and can be of great benefit in your genealogical research. Learn some techniques to help you search this helpful database.  
Teacher: Sue Irvine

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**Heritage Quest  
Wednesday  
April 26, 1:00-3:00pm**

Heritage Quest is an on-line database for genealogy researchers. This database is available for "in-house" use only. Learn how to access Heritage Quest from the library and how to search and print census records, PERSI, books, and selected records from Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application files.  
Teacher: Denni Peterson

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**Cemeteries - A Family Affair  
Saturday  
April 22, 1:15-3:00pm**

Steps to locating your ancestor's final (maybe) resting place. Held in the VanderVeen Room, 3rd Floor.  
Teacher: Wanda Schlotter.

**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 Writing Group holds supportive meetings for those genealogists who want to learn more about and exchange ideas on organizing and writing their own family history. Each meeting takes time to informally discuss questions relevant to each person's work, provide helpful, non-judgmental feedback on current writing projects and have fun learning about each other and our research. We also try to have a presentation to kick our creative juices into gear. Join us at 7:00-9:00pm., the third Tuesday of each month, except December, June, July and August. Meetings are held at:

**Aquinata Hall, at the Dominican Center  
2023 E. Fulton Street, Grand Rapids.**

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 returning from warmer climates for the summer? 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\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

### April 1, 2006-Lansing, MI

The Library of Michigan is pleased to offer this free genealogy seminar, designed to introduce researchers to a particular topic of interest. Each session will highlight specific genealogy resources available online the Library of Michigan.

You may register by e-mail at:

librarian@michigan.gov

Or by phone at:

(517) 373-1300

See website for seminar details:

[http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17447\\_18618\\_18621-109001--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17447_18618_18621-109001--,00.html)

### April 8, 2006- Kalamazoo, MI

Kalamazoo Genealogical Society presents their Spring Genealogical Conference. The featured speaker will be John Konvalinka, a dynamic lecturer with impressive credentials. The Conference will be held at the Fetzer Center at Western Michigan University.

For details see their website at:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mikvgs/upcoming.htm>

### March 18, 2006-Mishawaka, IN

South Bend Area Genealogical Society Michiana Area Genealogical Fair 2006 at Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library in Mishawaka, IN  
Information: William H. Minish 574-277-1183

or WHMinish@aol.com

[www.rootsweb.com/~insbags/index.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~insbags/index.htm)

### April 20-22, 2006-Saginaw, MI

Michigan Historical Preservation Network presents "Preservation in the Real World, The Realities of Urban and Rural Preservation" at their Annual Spring Conference. Learn the basics of preservation, issues facing rural and urban communities, in-field sessions by skilled preservation trades-people and special tours.

Castle Museum in Saginaw, MI

Information: 517-371-8080 or Finegood@mhpn.org

Website: [www.mhpn.org](http://www.mhpn.org)

### June 7-10, 2006- Chicago, IL

The National Genealogical Society will hold the 2006 Annual Conference "They Passed This Way" June 7-10, 2006 in Chicago, IL. The Conference will include more than 140 lectures, workshops, luncheons and networking events. For more information see the

NGS website at:

<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/2006Chicago.cfm>

For a Conference brochure call:

1-800-473-0060

## 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.

## Courtesy Call

Remember, your research is as important to you as the next person's research is to them. Be courteous of those at the Library, County Courthouse or Township Office.

Please keep in mind that while you may have all day, others may have traveled long distances or are limited on the time they can spend on their research.

Share machines, counter space and books, you never know if the person next to you might be the descendant of the long lost relative you are searching for!

## Genealogy Proverbs

*"As each generation moves farther from its immigrant beginnings, it longs to unearth roots and examine, in the most personal of ways, the origins of identity."*

**Lini S. Kadaba**

*"To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root."*

**Chinese Proverb**

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

### June 23-25, 2006-Richmond, VA

Palatines to America 2006 National Conference and Annual Meeting. Speakers include: Sandra Luebking, Dean Rohweder, Daniel Bly, Jane Swan, Maureen Taylor and Thomas Jones.

Held at the Richmond Marriott Hotel in Richmond, VA

For registration/fees or more information contact:

RalphKroehler@prodigy.net

Or Write:

Ralph & Marge Kroehler, 6910 N. Rockvale, Peoria, IL 61614.

Website: <http://www.palam.org/events.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\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

<http://friendsofallencounty.org/>

Are you planning to take the WMGS Bus Trip to Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, IN, April 25 & 26, 2006? Check out the Friends of the Allen County website to help plan your research!

[www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-18835\\_18895\\_38271--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-18835_18895_38271--,00.html)

The Michigan Genealogist can now be accessed online. This will take you directly to the site to access the Michigan Genealogist Winter 2006 and Summer 2005 publications in a .PDF format.

<http://feniansirishpub.com/activities.htm>

Would you like to learn to play the Irish Fiddle, Tin Whistle or a Buttonbox? Maybe adding to your Irish genealogy research is more your area of interest. Check out Fenian's Irish Pub, located in Conklin, MI. This website gives details for times activities are held, registration and contact information.



# Western Michigan Genealogical Society



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

April 25 & 26, 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)
Apr 25 <sup>th</sup>	7:30AM	Leave Meijer (next to I-96 and 28 <sup>th</sup> St near the "K" marker)
Tuesday	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
Apr 26 <sup>th</sup>	8:40AM	Transportation to Library
Wednesday	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 Tuesday night and a continental breakfast Wednesday. There is no elevator at the motel. Please indicate floor requirement.

We need 35 people to make the trip a "go". I will call as soon as 35 people have signed up. PLEASE let me know ASAP that you intend to go (even if you don't send money early.) The trip will be cancelled if there is not enough interest by April 1<sup>st</sup>. 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)**

A deposit of \$15 must be made by April 1st. Balance must be mailed by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Make checks payable to WMGS.

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

**Ft. Wayne, IN - Allen County Public Library April 25 & 26 2006 Tuesday & Wednesday**

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** **Meijer** **Ionia** Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Roommates \_\_\_\_\_

**\$93-Single**

**\$71-Double**

**\$64-Triple**

**\$60-Quad**

SURNAME INDEX TIME: Ready for another SURNAME INDEX? Please include a list of your surnames with your deposit. We'll create a surname index list of those on the bus trip.



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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**

\_\_\_\_\_