



WMGS *Newsletter*

Spring 2009

WMGS Program Schedule

The March program will be held at Park Congregational Church (across the street from the main entrance of the GRPL.) The meeting will begin at 1:30 pm, starting with WMGS business and followed by the speaker. Admission is free and everyone is welcome! You can park for free at the Library (remember to have your ticket stamped in the Library) or in Park Congregational Church's parking lot. Use the Ransom street entrance. If the gate is down, push and hold the button at the gate entrance to speak into the box. Say that you are attending a church function. Refreshments are served after the speaker's presentation.

March 7, 2009

Seeking Michigan Death Records? A New Digitization Project

The Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan are digitizing their collection of Michigan death records from 1897 to 1920. A sampling of these records is already available for viewing at www.seekingmichigan.org. The microfilms have been returned to Library of Michigan and the remaining records should be appearing on the website soon. Join Kris Rzepczynski, Library of Michigan's Michigan/Genealogy Coordinator, as he shows us what will be available, how to navigate the new website, search for death records and see what's planned for the future.

The April and May programs will return to the Grand Rapids Public Library in the Ryerson Auditorium. The meetings will begin at 1:30 pm, starting with WMGS business and be 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 stamped at the Library information desk or the genealogy floor desk. Refreshments will be served after the speaker's presentation. Books and supplies may be purchased from the Sales Table before and after the December program.

April 4, 2009

Grand Rapids History and Special Collections at the GRPL

Tim Gleisner, GRHSC Supervisor, is one of the friendly faces you see on the 4th floor. Tim will tell us about his favorite items in the History and Special Collections that could help us fill in the gaps in our research.

May 2, 2009

Gram & Gramps Were from Canada eh?

Diane Oslund will tell us about some of Canada's Territorial and Provincial structure and history and tie it in with census and vital research strategies for our Canadian cousins.

Family History Writer's Workshop

March 17, April 21 and May 19 at 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Dominican Center, 2025 Fulton St East

The writer's workshops are designed to help and support each other's desire to write about our families. 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. 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) 643-0206 (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 main entrance under the large portico and go up the steps. The receptionist will direct you to the room.

Michigan Events

March 20, 2009

GRPL Genealogy Lock-in!

Come to the Local History Department for a free after-hours program, from 5:15 to 10:00 pm, just for genealogists! Arrive early because the building will be locked at 5:30 pm. Learn how to use the microfilm reader/scanner/printer, save images to a CD or flash drive, or take advantage of the free copying and printing during this event. Use the time to search the subscription databases using the Library's computers or bring your own computer and use the Library's WiFi network to search the Ancestry and New England Ancestors' databases for free. Members from WMGS will be there to help you with your research. Registration is required and seating is limited. Register at www.grpl.org/itrain, scroll to "Genealogy Lock-In" and click on the blue text showing the time of the event or call 988-5400 during regular library hours.

March 28, 2009

KVGS 2009 Spring Conference with Paula Stuart Warren

The Kalamazoo Valley Genealogy Society will host a conference at WMU's Fetzer Center, Kalamazoo, Michigan. Paula Stuart Warren will present: NUCMC & its Cousins: Keys to Lost Ancestral Records, Tho' They Were Poor, They May Have Been Rich in Records, Organizing and Your Genealogical Materials and Finding Ancestral Places of Origin. The cost is \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members (the registration fee includes a deli buffet lunch). Go to the 2009 Calendar at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mikvgs/ for more information.

April 4, 2009

Learning More at the Library of Michigan

A family history seminar introducing participants to the free Web research and online subscription databases available at the Library of Michigan will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. All sessions are free, but you must register in advance. Free parking is available on Saturdays at the Library's parking lot off Kalamazoo Street. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/hal, click on the Family History button on the left side of the page and click on link under the Announcements heading.

May 2 and 3, 2009

Spring into the Past...

...with a tour of West Michigan's small museums. From 11am to 5pm, you will be able to visit the following museums in West Michigan: Alton Historical Church Museum, Averill Historical Museum of Ada, Belding Museum, Bowne Township Historical Museum, Boston-Saranac Depot Museum, Cascade Historical Society, Charlton Park & Village (Hastings), Fallasburg Historical Village & School House, Fighting Falcon Museum, Flat River Historical Museum, Freeport Historical Society, Ionia County Historical Society, Lake Odessa Historical Museum, Lowell Area Historical Museum, Lyons Muir Historical Museum, Oakfield Pioneer Heritage Museum and Portland Area Historical Society. Download a brochure from the "new Pages" list at www.commoncorners.com. If your family came from one of these areas, take the opportunity to visit the museum. Each has an amazing collection that is focused on the families within that region.

May 16, 2009

Eaton County Genealogical Society Workshop

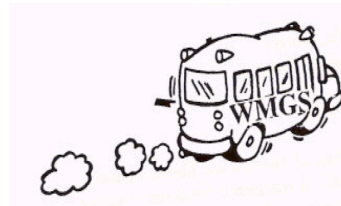
Rick Roberts will present two programs about using Legacy Family Tree and Family Tree Maker software and one program about the resources available at Global Genealogy (<http://globalgenealogy.com>.) Shirley Hodges will present a program titled, "The Importance of Preserving Your Family History & Heirlooms." The registration fee is \$35 and includes lunch. The seminar will be at Lawrence Avenue United Methodist Church, 210 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, Michigan. For more information visit www.miegs.org.

Family History Workshops In Muskegon

Monthly workshops are offered by the MCGS at the Hackley Public Library, 316 W. Webster, Muskegon from 9:30-11:30 am. MCGS members will help you with your research. Footnote.com, Ancestry.com and HeritageQuest.com can be accessed for free at the Hackley Public Library. The next workshop will be March 14. Go to www.genealogyMuskegon.com for additional workshop dates in 2009.



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



--- Note:-- Staying at Motel 6 ---

Wednesday-Thursday – April 22-23, 2009

\$92=Single, \$74=Double, \$68=Triple, \$65=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)
Apr 22 nd	7:30	AM	Leave Meijer (next to I96 and 28 th St near the “K” marker)
Wednesday	8:15	AM	Leave Ionia and I-96 (behind Corner’s Landing Restaurant)
	9:30	ish	Refreshment Stop (donuts & juice at highway rest stop)
	10:30	AM	Arrive Allen County Public Library (260) 421-1200
	9:00	PM	Bus transfer to Motel 6 (260) 482-3972
Day #2	7:00	AM	Wakeup Call – Walk across parking lot to restaurant for breakfast
Apr 23 rd	8:30-8:40	AM	Luggage loading and transportation to library
Thursday	6:00	PM	Depart from Allen County Public Library
	6:30	PM	Stop for quick meal near Auburn, Indiana
	9:45	PM	Arrive at Ionia drop-off area
	10:00	PM	Arrive at Meijers I-96 drop off area
	10:30	PM	Arrive at Target on Alpine

Trip includes: roundtrip motor coach transportation, lodging at Motel 6 at 3003 Coliseum Blvd. West, and library transfer. Breakfast is NOT included – Liberty Diner (¢) is across parking lot – (Allen County Library also has a nice café) Many eateries are close to the library.

- *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 March 1st would be most helpful. A \$15 deposit guarantees your place on the bus. Please send your deposit or at least an email by **March 20th**.
- *Balance must be paid by April 15th. 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
 \$92=Single, \$74=Double, \$68=Triple, \$65=Quad

 Ft. Wayne Trip Wed – Thurs April 22-23, 2009
 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** Roommates: _____

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

Genealogy Classes at the Grand Rapids Public Library

Ancestry Mar. 18 at 1:00-3:00 pm

Ancestry.com is an online subscription genealogy database that is provided by the GRPL free of charge. Ancestry has grown into a powerful database and can be of great benefit to your genealogical research. Learn some techniques to help you search. Basic computer skills are required for this class.

Heritage Quest Mar. 25 at 1:00-3:00 pm April 23 at 6:30-8:30 pm

HeritageQuestOnline.com is an online research site for genealogists that can be accessed for free at the GRPL or at home (in the state of Michigan.) The searchable databases include U.S. censuses, various books, PERSI, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, and the Freedman's Bank files. Learn how to search these databases and print copies during the class, then use your new skills at home. Basic computer skills are required. Anyone with a Michigan drivers license can now access Heritage Quest at home by going to www.mel.org, clicking on the purple MeL Databases link near the top of the page, scrolling down to the HeritageQuest Online link, clicking the link, and entering your Michigan driver's license number.

New England Ancestors Databases April 8 at 1:00-3:00 pm

NewEnglandAncestors.org is the research site of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the oldest genealogical organization in the country. The databases can be accessed at the GRPL free of charge. The databases contain a wealth of information pertaining to the New England states (Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont) as well as other East Coast areas. 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 much more. Basic computer skills are required.

Genlias/Zeeuws Archief May 13 at 1:00-3:00 pm

Genlias.nl and ZeeuwsArchief.nl/english.htm are online databases containing vital records and other historical records from the Netherlands. Zeeuws Archief is the official database for the Province of Zeeland and contains over 5.3 million records. Genlias is an official Dutch database with records from all provinces. Dutch vital records exist from at least 1811, but there are some records dating back to the 1700's. This class will teach you how to access these databases in English, locate abstracts of vital records and make copies. Genlias and ZeeuwsArchief can both be accessed for free from your home computer. Basic computer skills are required.



Life History Club at Grand Rapids Community College

Because everybody has a story, but sometimes we just need help telling it...Let us help you. Join the Grand Rapids Community College Life History Club. The Grand Rapids Community College Life History Club is for individuals 45 and over who wish to learn about and explore life review, family genealogy, and other avenues of sharing their personal life history. Club members have the opportunity to participate in peer led quarterly sessions that include the sharing of tools, techniques, and ideas on how to document your family history and share your unique life story with others; networking and opportunities to share with others who have similar interests in life history, genealogy and life review; opportunities to receive peer input, support, and advice regarding your life history/genealogy materials; and light refreshments. Life History Club sessions are held quarterly from 1:00pm to 3:00pm on the second Tuesday of January, April, July, and October of each year in the Grand Rapids Community College, Applied Technology Center. A \$30.00 fee provides for twelve months/annual membership. For more information or to register contact Continuing Education at (616) 234-3400 or go to www.grcc.edu/continuingeducation

Attention WMGS Members

Check the mailing label on this newsletter. If the date in the corner is Dec 2008 you need to renew now to receive the next issue of *Michigana*.

Useful Websites

Index to the MISSAR

The Library of Michigan has an online index to applications to the Michigan Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. If you have an ancestor who fought in the American Revolution with Michigan ties, look at this database to search for applicants and search for their ancestors names. Go to <http://www.michigan.gov/familyhistory>, click on the purple "Genealogy" link on the left side of the page. A new list of links will appear under the "Genealogy" link. Click on "Michigan SAR Indexes".

Maps of Scotland

The National Library of Scotland has digitized old maps of Scotland at <http://www.nls.uk/maps>. The maps can be viewed for free. They include county maps, town maps, military maps and Ordinance Survey maps.

WMGS is on facebook

WMGS has a new facebook account that has some recent pictures from our activities. If you are already a facebook member you can join the WMGS group by clicking on the new link on the [wmgs.org](http://www.wmgs.org) homepage. If you are not a member of facebook, click the link on the [wmgs.org](http://www.wmgs.org) homepage and you will be directed to a page where you can create a facebook account.

New York Newspapers Online

www.fultonhistory.com has scanned many old newspapers from the state of New York. The newspapers be searched and browsed. To see a complete list of the newspapers that are currently on the website click the FAQ_HELP_INDEX button at the top right side of the page. This website is a work in progress. If you don't see a newspaper you are interested in, check back in March when more pages will be added.

The Global Gazette

The Global Gazette is an online family history magazine with lots of great articles about genealogy research. It specializes in Canadian genealogy, but also has articles about research in other countries as well. www.globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/index.htm

Plat Maps Online

Historicmapworks.com has old plat maps, city maps and county maps online. You can view a small map for free. To zoom in enough to read owner and street names, save or print the maps you must register and add a minimum of \$10 to your account. You will then be able to fully zoom in for free (as long as there is money in the account), print an image for 99 cents or save an image for \$9.99.

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 to 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

2009-2010 WMGS Officers

President	Don Bryant email: president@wmgs.org
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
Recording Secretary	Janet Jensen email: JanetJ6990@aol.com Phone: (616) 874-8035

