



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 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 February 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

~*~*~*~*~*WMGS Program Schedule*~*~*~*~*

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 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.

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.

March 3, 2007

"**Coming to America: Research with Ships' Passenger Lists**" will be presented by **Kris Rzepczynski**, current Michigan Genealogy Coordinator at the Library of Michigan.

!!!*****PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE FOR APRIL *****!!!

April 14, 2007

Peggy Brumbaugh will present "**Deciphering Old Handwriting**". Peggy will be sharing her insights and secrets for reading old documents.

May 5, 2007

"**Just Dying To Get In There**" will be presented by **Karen Krugman**. This talk illustrates that a trip to the cemetery where your ancestor is buried can net you much more information than just birth and death dates.

June 9, 2007

"**Writing Your History**" will be presented by **Mary Rasch Alt**. Mary, author of "**Alpine Township in Photographs**", will show you how she created her book and how you can do a family or community history, too.

No Meetings in July and August

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 should have basic computer skills.

You may want to take a Grand Rapids Public Library basic computer class.

GenWeb

Learn to use the GenWeb sites to do your research.

Thursday, February 27

1 pm to 3 pm

Instructor: Bobbi Schirado

Ancestry

Learn to use Ancestry.com to search for your ancestors.

Wednesday, March 14

7 pm to 8:45 pm

Instructor: Sue Irvine

Thursday, March 29

1 pm to 3 pm

Instructor: Sue Irvine

Thursday, April 26

7 pm to 8:45 pm

Instructor: Sue Irvine

Heritage Quest

Learn to use Heritage Quest and all the website has to offer.

Wednesday, March 21

1 pm to 3 pm

Instructor: Nancy Myers

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

<http://www.lostcousins.com/>

The Lost Cousins website enables you to find other people who share the same ancestors - and it does this by comparing the information you enter about your relatives with the information that other members have entered. Basic membership is free. Just enter your ancestors and other relatives from the Canada 1881, British 1881 or US 1880 Census - then click the Search button!

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/oct01/kidsbooks.html>

A sampling of instructional and activity books to help children start exploring family history topics.

http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/RG/frameset_rhelps.asp?Page=./research/type/Form.asp&ActiveTab=Type

FamilySearch.org has a collection of online forms, including U.S., British, Irish, and Canadian census extraction forms, family group sheets, blank timelines, and more.

<http://www.weatherforyou.com/history/>

This site offers a look into weather of the past. Did great-great grandpa really get caught in a blizzard? Were the floods described in great grandma's journals as bad as she thought? Not only can you check today's weather history, but if there were remarkable weather events happening in the past, it is recorded here.

<http://129.177.171.80/cgi-win/WebMeta.exe?spraak=e>

Most of the materials in the Norwegian Digital Archives (DA) are based on original sources (protocols and documents) in the National and Regional State Archives of Norway. In addition you will also find some source material from local and regional government as well as some from private and foreign archives. Instructions on using the databases are included on the website.

**Free WMGS
Genealogy Classes
continued**

**Introduction to
Genealogy**

Beginners classes to help you get started with your family research.
Instructor: Wanda Schlotter

**VanderVeen Room 3rd
floor GRPL-Main Branch
1:15pm-3pm**

Saturday, March 17, 2007
Steps to get started with your family history.

Saturday, May 19, 2007
Preparing for research trips.

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

April 18 & 19, 2007-WMGS Trip

WMGS plans to sponsor the next trip to the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne April 18-19, 2007. The library will out of temporary quarters and back to their original location. The new, very large structure claims to provide even more genealogical materials. They are boasting new readers, printers and more computer access. A flyer will be provided in the next newsletter.

Contact Sue Irvine with questions.

sjirv@yahoo.com

616-364-9629

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

**CrossRoads of America
FGS Conference**

The next Federation conference will be held at the Convention Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana August 15-18, 2007.

It's well worth your time and money!

For those who haven't been to a conference, you choose to attend the sessions (speakers) that interest you most. Generally there are two sessions in the morning and two in the afternoon. You're not obligated to attend any particular talk, but many times the conference personnel like to know which you might choose so they can arrange room size to meet demand. Another big hit will be the vendor room, where you can look over an array of books and supplies. Some booths have giveaways. There are way too many choices.

(If you're smart- you'll leave that checkbook at home.)

WMGS would like to encourage as many people attend as possible! Car pools can be arranged for those interested. The rooms near the hotel are more expensive than those 10 minutes or so away.

Red Room Inns is holding 10 rooms for us at \$44 per night. We can designate up to 4 people in that room for that quoted price.

Please contact me for more details.

Sue Irvine – 616-889-0042 – sjirv@yahoo.com

For more conference information see:

fgs-office@fgs.com

Hope you can attend!

"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, Third
Floor Conference Room**

March 3, 2007

Source: The Francis Loomis Michigan Biography Index
Presented by Shirley M. De Boer, Certified Genealogist

April 14, 2007

Source: Tanguay's Dictionary of Quebec Genealogy
Presented by Nancy Myers,
WMGS Education Coordinator

May 5, 2007

Source: The Grantor-Grantee Index to Land Records
Presented by Karen Blumenshine, Office Manager at Title Quest

WMGS Sales Table

Available at all WMGS monthly meetings!

Don't forget that the monthly membership meetings are a great time to browse and purchase a wide selection of items to help you with your family history research. The Sales Table offers nearly 400 different items for sale

before and after the meeting. We sell books that cover a wide range of topics as well as old map reproductions, forms and charts.

WMGS Members receive a **10% discount** on all purchases from the Sales Table.

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 continued***~*~*~*~*

April 12-14, 2007-Columbus, OH

2007 Ohio Genealogical Society Annual Conference
"Along the National Road: Your Avenue to the Past"
The 2007 program includes a broad range of presentations for all skill levels. They have scheduled over 50 programs with many nationally known speakers. In addition, the program committee has attempted to include some new faces to the OGS Conference.

For a registration form go to:

<http://www.ogs.org/2007confform.pdf>

For more information, contact: Ohio Genealogical Society office:
Phone (419) 756-7294. Email ogs@ogs.org

-or-

The Conference Committee:
Email ogs2007@ogs.org

April 27-28, 2007-Ft. Wayne, IN

Indiana Genealogical Society presents it's 2007 Annual Meeting & Conference featuring Amy Johnson Crow, CG

More information can be found at:

<http://www.indgensoc.org/conference.html>

May 16-19, 2007-Richmond, VA

Welcome to the show site for the 2007 NGS Conference in the States and Family History Fair scheduled for 16-19 May 2007. The National Genealogical Society together with the Virginia Genealogical Society, the Fairfax Genealogical Society, and the Genealogical Research Institute of Virginia (GRIVA) will be hosting this year's conference which will bring together genealogists and family historians from around the country and beyond.

For more information and registration forms please see:

<http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/2007/>

Genealogy Humor

Genealogy: where you confuse the dead and irritate the living.

You live as long as you are remembered ~ Russian Proverb

Found at: <http://freepages.family.rootsweb.com/~families/halsey/humor.html>



Bus Trip to Ft. Wayne

Allen County Public Library

Their NEWLY RENOVATED LIBRARY!

Wednesday - Thursday – April 18-19, 2007

\$84=Single, \$67=Double, \$62=Triple, \$59=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 18th	7:30 AM	Leave Meijers (next to I96 and 28 th St near the “K” marker)
Wednesday	8:15AM	Leave Ionia and I-96 (behind Corner’s Landing Restaurant
	9:30ish	Refreshment Stop
	10:30 AM	Arrive Allen County Public Library (REFURBISHED BUILDING)
	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
Apr 19th	8:40AM	Transportation to library
Thursday	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 Thursday.

*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 March 15th. Balance must be paid by our April 7th regular meeting. 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

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

Ft. Wayne: Wednesday & Thursday April 18 & 19, 2007

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

Room type: Smoking _____ Non-smoking _____

Is 1st 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.

