



Western Michigan Genealogical Society

C/O Grand Rapids Public Library
 111 Library Street NE
 Grand Rapids, MI 49503-3268
<http://www.wmgs.org>

Newsletter--Winter 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 November 2006, your membership has expired! Renew now to keep up on the latest WMGS news!

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

~*~*~*~*~*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.

December 2, 2006

Karen Krugman, Professional Genealogist, will be presenting "**Cemeteries – Just Dying To Get In There**", why you need to get into cemetery records and what can be found there. Locating cemeteries, headstones and other interesting cemetery tidbits.

January 6, 2006

Edwina Morgan will present "**Online Options: Accessible, Authoritative Genealogy**".

February , 2006

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

**Classes to be
announced at a
later date!**

To find classes taught by WMGS members or to keep updated, visit the GRPL website at:

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

Or visit the WMGS website at:

www.wmgs.org

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

The GenWeb site includes many indexes transcribed by WMGS volunteers.

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

<http://www.commoncorners.com>

The Western Michigan Genealogical Society wishes to make resources available to leverage the combined energy and passion within the historical & genealogical community of West Michigan. We focus on the eight county area including Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo and Ottawa counties.

Many smaller historical or genealogical organizations don't have the resources for a presence on the web that they can direct and have input. Our resources are not unlimited, but hopefully we will be able to have a positive impact on your organization!

How to request to have your organization or township information added: send an email to wmgs@wmgs.org. Subject line should be Common Corners Inquiry. Our committee will review and advise how WMGS can help based on the specifics of your request.

**[http://www.michigan.gov/cgi/0,1607,7-158-12540_13083-31058--
,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/cgi/0,1607,7-158-12540_13083-31058--,00.html)**

General Land Office (GLO) plat maps are derived from original surveyor notes of the State of Michigan. The survey was conducted in the early to mid 1800's. All documents pertaining to the original survey of Michigan can be found in the State Archives of Michigan.

<http://www.calvin.edu/hh/>

Calvin College Archives: Heritage Hall is expanding its genealogy collection and services. Presently, additional surnames are being cross-referenced from the genealogies of the collection. Of special note is the anniversary and death notices from the De Wachter (1867-1985) and the Banner (1866-present). We have genealogists available on Mondays and Tuesdays and staff on the other days of the week to assist patrons.

Archive hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (Sept-May); 8:00 am to 4:30 (June-August). Located on the second floor of the Hekman Library on the campus of Calvin College.

**Genealogy is like potato salad -
When you share it with others, it's a picnic!**

Author Unknown

Taken from: <http://genealogy.about.com/library/humor/bltaglines.htm>

Holiday Sale!!!

December 2, 2006 is the
time to save!

WMGS members receive
20% off

Non-members receive
10% off

Available at the Sales Table for
the December meeting
ONLY!

Bring this coupon to receive your
discount!

Thank You!!!

To the many volunteers
that have given vast
amounts of time!
Your hard work is
appreciated!

Western Michigan
Genealogical Society

~*~*~*~*~*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, Indiana

A National Conference is planned for FGS and Allen County Public Library August 15-18, 2007. This will be 4 days of lectures that you pick and chose from. This year's agenda is not yet set - but you can see the opportunities from viewing past conferences.

Check their website at:

<http://www.fgs.org>

This conference is CLOSE to us next year. We could attend. The WMGS board is toying with the idea of making a block of rooms available at Best Inns where rates are reasonable. The down-town rates are/will be posted from FGS's site. We're leaning towards car-pools for transportation . If you're interested, please contact Sue Irvine by or at the December meeting ASAP as motel reservations need to be made now.

Sue Irvine
616-364-9629
sjirv@yahoo.com

What to do on a cold winter day/evening? **VOLUNTEER!!! Volunteer!! VOLUNTEER!!!**

Volunteer Opportunities include:

- 1) Bring cookies to a meeting! (The most important of course!)
- 2) Do Obit Look-ups with the Search Committee - Mindy or Wanda send you an obit request. You do the look-up, make copies and return them to Mindy or Wanda to complete the process.
- 3) Type at home. WMGS will be happy to mail to you copies of lists, etc, that need to be typed. Word or Excel or a genealogy software program are some of the methods. We enter data from microfilm copies of lists into Excel format. We transcribe and/or type documents into Word. We place names from existing 4-generation charts into most any genealogy software programs. The end products are made available on our website or on the GenWeb site.
- 4) Volunteering at the Library. Reading through microfilm, creating an index for projects we're working on. (No computer involved.) Tuesday afternoon and/or evenings are working best for most of us. Volunteers can help on most projects anytime they are available.
- 5) Volunteering at the Library. Typing an index, from materials at the library, using a computer.
- 6) Display your labors, papers and artifacts at an upcoming meeting.

My "job" is to help you help! We need you! Depending on your preference, I'll do my best help connect members and friends with committee chairman that need help! Merrie DeVoe used to say "If each member donated one hour, imagine what we could do!" I agree. Please call me 616-364-9629 (leave a message and I'll call you back!).

Or Email me at sjirv@yahoo.com.
Sue Irvine.



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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.