



WMGS *Newsletter*

Winter 2008/2009

WMGS Program Schedule

The December program will be held at the Grand Rapids Public Library in the Ryerson Auditorium. The meeting will begin at 1:30 pm, starting with WMGS business and will 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 in the Library. 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.

December 6, 2008

Researching There When You Are Here

Most people do not live in the same place as their ancestors. Karen Krugman will give you viable ways to search and locate the records and information you are seeking about your ancestors who lived elsewhere. All of Karen's ancestors live outside of Michigan. She will use her experience to help you make your offsite research a success. Bring a notebook & pen, you'll want to take lots of notes!



The January and February programs will be held at Park Congregational Church (across the street from the GRPL main entrance) **while the ceiling in the Ryerson Auditorium is repaired.** The meeting will begin at 1:30 pm, starting with WMGS business and will be followed by the speaker. Admission is free and everyone is welcome! You can park for free in the Library parking lot if you have your ticket stamped inside the Library. You can also park in Park Congregational Church's parking lot for free. While you hold down the button at the entrance gate, speak into box and say that you are attending a church function. Either the gate will open or an attendant will come out to open it for you. Refreshments will be served after the speaker's presentation. Limited books and supplies may be purchased from the Sales Table before and after the January and February programs.

January 3, 2009

Fraud in Family History

Suzanne Carpenter will use a real example of how fraudulent information found its way into other researchers' genealogy and history work. She will explain why it is important to verify the information we receive from others and how to verify that information. Remember that we will be meeting at Park Congregational Church.

February 7, 2009

Subject and Speaker to be Announced

Watch www.wmgs.org for information about February's topic and speaker. Don't forget that the meeting will be held at Park Congregational Church.

Family History Writer's Workshops

November 18, 2008; January 13

and February 10, 2009 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 our 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 Death Certificates Online: Coming Soon!

The State of Michigan Archives, in conjunction with the Library of Michigan, are in the process of scanning the microfilmed Michigan death records currently housed at the Library of Michigan. When the project is complete you will be able to search for death records from 1867 to 1920 by searching for the deceased's name as well as their death date, location of death and their father's name. A small number of death records have already been placed online. The website also contains photographs of past governors, Michigan Civil War records and photographs, photos of Michigan lighthouses, old photographs, Michigan sheet music, WPA property inventories, maps and more. Go to www.seekingmichigan.org to look at what's already available.

Welcome Our New Board Members

WMGS would like to thank to following people for volunteering to fill the following board positions:

Surnames Chairperson: Judy Wilson
Volunteer Coordinator: Shirley DeBoer
2009-2010 President: Don Bryant
Education Coordinator: Bill Grinstead

Genealogy Classes at the Grand Rapids Public Library

You do not need to register for the classes below. Seating and computer availability will on a "first come, first served" basis. The classroom is open 10 minutes before the class is scheduled to begin. All of the classes are held in the Adult Computer Center, Lower Level.

Ancestry

February 25, 2009 at 7:00-8:45 pm

March 18 and March 25 at 1:00-3:00 pm

The dates for the Ancestry class are tentative. Please check the WMGS calendar to verify the dates and times or call the GRPL at (616) 988-5400 .

Ancestry 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 in your genealogical research. Learn some techniques to help you search. Basic computer skills are required for this class.

Genlias and Zeeuws Archief

Nov. 20 at 1:00-3:00 pm

Genlias and *Zeeuws Archief* are online databases for locating vital records in 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 1700s. This class will teach you how to access these databases in English, locate abstracts of vital records and make copies. Basic computer skills are required

Classes for beginning computer, job hunting, Emailing, using the internet, word processing and grant seeking are also offered at the Grand Rapids Public Library's Main branch. For class descriptions and schedules, go to <http://www.grpl.org/perl/events.pl?search=class%20>

Sales Table Coupon

This coupon is good for a 10% discount off entire purchase for non-WMGS members

-OR-

a 20% discount off entire purchase for WMGS members.

Valid only at December 6, 2008 meeting

Useful Websites

WMGS Database Updates

WMGS maintains several searchable databases at <http://data.wmgs.org/>. All of the databases are free to search.

The **Black Monument Company database** contains over 13,000 individual records for cemetery markers ordered from the Black Monument Company as well as nearly 2000 names from a brochure they published. The records list the purchaser's name, the date the marker was ordered, the cemetery it was sent to, the name on the marker and the dates on the marker.

The **West Michigan Newspaper database** was updated in November and now contains more than 805,000 entries. Obituaries from October were added as well as more engagements, weddings and anniversaries.

The **WMGS Manuscripts database** was added in September. It is a listing of surnames that appear in the manuscript file maintained by WMGS at the Grand Rapids Public Library. The database is not complete, but will be updated regularly.

The **Kent County Deaths database** now contains over 9300 names transcribed from an index to deaths in Kent County, Michigan between 1867 and 1929.

The **Kent County Marriage database** contains over 167,000 names transcribed from the Index to marriages recorded in Kent County, Michigan between 1845 and 1929.

Grand Rapids History in Images

The Grand Rapids Historical Commission has an online archive that allows you to search for photographs taken in Grand Rapids. You can search and browse their website for images of people, buildings, neighborhoods, occupations, streets and more.

www.historygrandrapids.org

Michigan Vital Records at Family Search

You can search and view Michigan birth records (1867-1902), death records (1867-1897) and marriages (1868-1925) as well as records from other states and countries at <http://pilot.familysearch.org>. You no longer need to have a login ID to use this site.

Census ED Locator

Do you know the street address of your ancestor, but can't find them in a census index? Go to www.stevemorse.org/census/index.html and search for the enumeration districts by street names for large cities in the 1900-1930 censuses.

Montcalm County Website

<http://www.montcalmhistory.com/> has information, history, photographs and maps for the villages, cities and townships in Montcalm county.

Ancestry Blog

Are you looking for some genealogy research tips? You can find tips, research guides and interesting information for free at the Learning Center at www.Ancestry.com and at the blogs at <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/>

11x17" Products

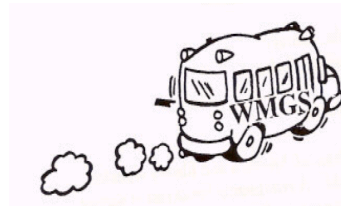
Do you need 11x17 inch products? 11x17.com sells 11x17 inch binders, tab dividers, sheet protectors, clipboards, boxes, report covers, and envelopes as well as 13x19 inch and 8.5 x 14 inch products.

Free maps of England

Stephenson Genealogy & Copy have put maps of England and Wales on their website. The maps were drawn by David E. Gardner, Derik Harland and Frank Smith. The website has an index to the cities on each map, the location on the map and a link to the map. Go to www.sgenealogy.com and click on the **FREE England Maps** link near the top of the page.



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 Meijers (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** **Meijers** **Ionia** Roommates: _____

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

Michigan Events

December 7, 2008

Holiday Open House at the Gerald R. Ford Museum.

The Gerald R. Ford Museum will offer free admission from 1:00-5:00 pm and will feature a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, holiday music and children's activities.

January 8, 2009

Tour of the 1908 D. A. Blodgett Home for Children

Join the Grand Rapids Historical Society for a tour and program about the D.A. Blodgett Home for Children. D.A. Blodgett Home, 920 Cherry St, SE, 7:00 pm.

February 7, 2009

Ethnic Heritage Festival

This year's annual festival will feature music, dance, craft demonstrations and vendors representing various groups that call West Michigan home. Admission to the GRPM will be free. Grand Rapids Public Museum, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.

February 12, 2009

Lincoln vs. Douglas

Jim Getty becomes Abraham Lincoln as he recreates Lincoln's historical debate with Tim Connors as Stephen Douglas. The debate will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Gerald R. Ford Museum Auditorium. Call the Hauenstein Center for reservations (616) 331-2770.

March 28, 2009

KVGS 2009 Spring Conference with Paula Stuart Warren

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.

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

2008-2009 WMGS Officers

President (2008) & Immediate Past President (2009) Mindy Koole
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Phone: (616) 691-7986

President (2009) Don Bryant
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Vice President Marcia Shears
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Immediate Past President (2008) Sue Irvine
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Recording Secretary Janet Jensen
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