



WMGS Newsletter

Winter 2009/2010



WMGS Program Schedule

The following programs will be held in the Grand Rapids Public Library in the Ryerson Auditorium. Meetings begin at 1:30 pm, starting with WMGS business and 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 inside the Library. Refreshments are served after the speaker's presentation. Books and supplies may be purchased from the Sales Table before and after the programs.

December 5, 2009

Taking the geek out of Geek (and you're left with "G! It isn't that hard after all")

Roger Moffat and Don Bryant will show us how to access and use some of the newer technologies to find data, ancestors and living relatives. There will be a demonstration of the WMGS Online Trees, extreme speed research, how to create your own blog, how to listen to a Podcast, how to read a blog by RSS feed, and what you can find at Roots TV.

January 2, 2010

Native American Research

Kevin Finney is the research and education director of Ancient Pathways Cultural Resource Group. He is a self taught expert in the life and history of Native Americans who lived in the Great Lakes area. Kevin will tell us about the lives of the Great Lakes Native Americans and where we can look to learn even more about them.

February 6, 2010

Footnote.com

Kris Rzepczynski, Library of Michigan's Genealogy/Michigan Coordinator will show us what can be found at Footnote.com and how to search for information, and how to save that information. Footnote.com is now available to use at the Grand Rapids Public Library's main branch.

Mini Classes

We will start having Mini-Classes again in January. The classes in both January and February will focus on Social Networking. The presenter will be Jodi Tyron, Health Sciences Librarian, Grand Valley State University. The January session topic is "Social Networking: What is it all about?" The February session topic is "Social Networking: How to setup an account" (software to be determined by January session attendees), with question and answer time. Both classes will run from 12:15 pm to 1:15pm, and take place in the downstairs computer lab. At the Grand Rapids Public Library.

If you have additional ideas for future topics, feel free to email your suggestions to wmgs@wmgs.org

❄️
December
WMGS Sales Table Coupon

This coupon is good for 10% discount off
the entire purchase for non-WMGS
members ❄️
-OR- ❄️
a 20% discount off the entire purchase
for WMGS members. ❄️

Valid only at the December 5, 2009
❄️ **membership meeting.** ❄️

Family History Writer's Workshop

December 15, January 19 and February 16 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 group provides constructive feedback and everyone benefits. December 15 is our annual "fun" meeting. We're having "Writer's Pot Luck." Everyone is welcome to bring a dish to pass, a copy of the recipe for that dish and a family history story about the food (if you wish.) In January we will be writing about occupations – your first job, favorite job worst job, etc. In February the subject will be cars – how or when you learned to drive, that special first car, an accident, etc. Everyone is welcome to bring their latest writing project rather than the suggested topic for the meeting. 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.

Great Lakes Events

December 3, 2009

Ada Historical Society Open House

Kick off your holiday season with a visit to the Ada Village and Historical Society. The Voices of Freedom will begin the evening at the Ada Covered Bridge at 6:00 p.m. From 6:00 – 9:00 pm, the museum will have greeting cards for children to color, a lighted tree display, cookies and refreshments.

January 14, 2010

Grand Rapids' Extreme Make-Over Circa 1955-1970

Don Bratt will bring back memories of the core city with interesting stories and photographs taken by his father, Hero D. Bratt. Gerald R. Ford Museum, Grand Rapids at 7:00 pm.

February 6, 2010

Ethnic Heritage Festival

The Grand Rapids Public Museum will host the annual Ethnic Heritage Festival. Learn more about your heritage, enjoy music and the museum exhibits for free.

March 11, 2010

Bonnets and Business:

Women and Work in Grand Rapids, 1890-1930

Gerald R. Ford Museum, Grand Rapids at 7:00 pm. Marcella Beck and Ruth Van Stee will discuss the way we look back on the roles of women in our history, with particular reference to their contributions to the economy in Grand Rapids. Concepts will be illustrated with interesting stories of specific entrepreneurs and surprising statistical data on the employment of women in the era between 1890 and 1930. Sponsored by the GR Historical Society and the Greater GR Women's History Council.

March 27, 2010

Genealogical Society of Monroe County Seminar

Paula Stuart Warren will speak about Major Midwestern Archives and Their Records, Newspaper Research, New York State and Sources You May Not Have Encountered. Registration forms and more information will be available soon at <http://gsmc-michigan.org/>



SAVE THESE DATES

APRIL 21 AND 22, 2010

WMGS organizes bus trips to the Allen County Public Library several times each year. The Allen County Public Library has one of the largest genealogical collections in the U.S. The trip includes roundtrip motor coach transportation from two Grand Rapids locations, one night lodging at a hotel and transfer between the library and the hotel. This trip will give you two full days of research at the library and somebody else gets to do the driving! If you have never been to the Allen County Public Library, go to www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/ to find out what you've been missing. Watch future newsletters and our website, www.wmgs.org, for a signup sheet and more information.

NOVEMBER 6, 2010

We are already working on our next seminar. We are tentatively planning on scheduling the next seminar on November 6, 2010. Details about the speaker and the venue will be posted at <http://GotAncestors.com/> and will be printed in the Spring 2010 Newsletter.

Comments and Pictures from Our 2009 Seminar

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's banquet and seminar. Photographs of this year's banquet and seminar can be viewed at <http://GotAncestors.com/>

Here are some comments from our attendees: More than I expected • Food was wonderful and speakers very interesting • Wonderful food • Nice healthy lunch • I learned so much in each lecture to give me a new direction to search • Planning for a research trip – wish I'd heard it before • Got great tips in each session • Great and interesting experience • Really enjoyed the vendors • Vendors had great selections • Thank you so much for the efforts of all involved • A day well spent • The seminar exceeded my expectations I thought it would be redundant fluff • The conference was well organized and run. Had a great time • Great value for the price of admission. • Thank you so very much for such a valuable door prize. In all of my life this is the first time that something like this has happened to me. I do believe I am still in shock but hopefully not as much as I was Saturday at lunch. • It was a great conference - I enjoyed all the Sessions and it was nice to meet the "Genealogy Guys" in person.

To Roger and Lisa - Thank you again for a great time in Grand Rapids last weekend. The tour of the area, the great food, the conference, and your great hospitality were all very much appreciated. We'll have some terrific memories.

Please let Don, his wife, and all of the members of WMGS know how much we enjoyed ourselves. – George and Drew.

Tidbits

Researching German Surnames

www.tr62.de/names/default.html has a great website that has a tutorial on German surnames. <http://christoph.stoepel.net/geogen/en/Default.aspx> will map the occurrences of your surname in Germany and Austria. This site could help you identify the area where your ancestor lived.

Free Webinars at Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com offers free seminars that can be viewed on your computer. All webinars are free. Go to <http://learn.ancestry.com/LearnMore/Webinars.aspx> to see what is scheduled for the future and to view old webinars. You will find presentations about features on Ancestry, DNA testing, European research, NYC research, Family Tree Maker 2010, Canadian Historical Censuses and many other topics in the archived webinars.

Roots Television

Roots Television celebrated its 3rd anniversary this year. This is a great place to go to view videos on every genealogical topic you can imagine. To see a list of programs and topics go to <http://www.rootstelevision.com> and click on Program Guide. Subscribe to their newsletter to keep up to date on the latest videos available for viewing.

The Genealogy Guys

Did you enjoy listening to Drew and George speak at the 2009 seminar? You can learn more by listening to their weekly podcasts, including the podcast that was recorded during the 2009 Seminar. It's as simple as going to <http://www.genealogyguys.com/> and clicking on the gray **POD** (🔊) icon next to the title. A new page will load and the podcast will automatically start playing. You will also find the show notes listed below the podcast's title along with links to the websites mentioned during the podcast.

History of Muskegon Co., Michigan

"A Proud Legacy"

The Muskegon County Genealogy Society has recently published Volume 1 of a series detailing the history of Muskegon County's lumbering era and Great Lakes shipping. The hardcover book with 336 pages, family and historical photographs and index sells for \$65. For more information or to purchase a copy, go to www.genealogymuskegon.com. The MCGS is also accepting 400 word family histories for Volume 2.

Locating Living People

There are two great websites that can help you locate living people. ZabaSearch.com is a searchable database that will list the person's name, addresses and month and year of birth. The list includes people with unlisted phone numbers as well as people living in group homes. www.veromi.com is a searchable database that lists the person's name, their age and potential relatives (spouses, parents, siblings.)

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

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| 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 |

