



WMGS

Newsletter

Spring 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 validated in the Library's main lobby. Refreshments are served after the speaker's presentation. Books and supplies may be purchased from the Sales Table before and after the programs.

March 6, 2010

Catholic Cemeteries in Grand Rapids

Could you have relatives who are buried in a Catholic Cemetery? Rose Mary Schuessler, Family Services Director, has personal experience with finding people in local and out of state Catholic cemeteries. She will share her personal experiences with us and present tips on finding our ancestors in Catholic cemeteries.

April 3, 2010

Going Off on a Tangent: A Demonstration of the Rewards Gleaned from Trivial Pursuits

Gail M. Snow, the author of Remarkable Ramona Park, will tell us about the discoveries she made while researching her book. She will discuss the resources she used, the techniques she used to locate those resources and how she compiled the information she found. Gail will explain how historical research can enhance our personal genealogical research.

May 1, 2010

Mothers, Daughters, Wives and Sisters

You don't have to go through a brick wall; perhaps you can go over it, around it or under it! Shirley M. De Boer, CG, will teach us varied techniques used in female research and essential organization that produces results. Case studies of given names, maiden names and married names will be discussed and illustrated using both traditional and Internet methodology.

Mini Classes

Mini Classes are held in the Grand Rapids Public Library from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. on the 4th floor in the VanderVeen Room.

March 6, 2010

Family Tree Maker

A short overview of Family Tree Maker will be presented followed by time for questions.

Class topics for April and May will be posted on <http://wmgs.org>.

Beginner's Class

April 10, 2010

GRPL, VanderVeen Room, 4th Floor

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Our next Beginner's Class will teach you where to look after family records to complete your generation charts and family group sheets. It will also include a brief discussion on citing online sources.

Genlias and Zeeuws Archief

May 13, 2010

6:45-8:45 p.m., GRPL

Adult Computer Training Center, Lower Level

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.

WMGS Volunteer Celebration

Heads up to all the individuals who volunteered for WMGS in 2009! Mark your calendars for April 3 and be sure to attend the 2009 Awards Celebration at our regular meeting in the Ryerson Auditorium. You will be receiving an invitation in the mail during March. We want to recognize your important work and say Thank You!

Great Lakes Events

Family History Television Programs

The Generations Project

If you have access to BYU Television (DishNetwork channel 9403), tune in each Monday night at 6pm to watch their new reality series that helps people find their roots. If you would like to be on the show go to www.byub.org/thegenerationsproject to fill out an application.

Faces of America

PBS is showing a series called Faces of America. Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr. uses the latest tools of genealogy and genetics to explore the family histories of 12 well known Americans. This series airs Wednesday nights at 8 p.m. on PBS. For information, visit their website at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/facesofamerica/>

Who do You Think You Are?

NBC-TV will present seven episodes in this series that explores the inspiring, surprising and sometimes tragic family history of seven celebrities. They will share their research strategies that could help you discover more about your own family. The first episode will air Friday, March 5 at 8 pm. For more information go to their website, nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/

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 17, 2010

Social Networking: Beyond the Basics

Did you miss the Mini-Classes about social networking? The GRPL will hold a class on Social Networking using Facebook, MySpace and Twitter. This class is designed for those who already have a working knowledge of computers and the internet. The class will be held in the Adult Computer Training Center in the Lower Level.

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/>

April 3, 2010

Learning More at the Library of Michigan

Listen to talks on using HeritageQuest Online, online newspaper research, Ancestry, Ontario research, Footnote and searching for vital records on the internet. The seminar will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Library of Michigan. The seminar is free, but you need to register in advance.

Go to <http://mimgc.org/calendar.html> and click on the Learning More at the Library of Michigan to go to the registration page.

April 8, 2010

The Masonic Secrets of Old Grand Rapids

This is your chance to see the 95-year old Masonic Temple in Grand Rapids. The evening will start with a presentation by John A. Wallsteadt and Michael C. Clark, and will be followed by a tour of the building, including the museum and the library. Meet at the Mason Temple, 233 E. Fulton at 7:00 p.m.

April 10, 2010

Genealogy Saturday at the WMU Archives

The Kalamazoo Valley Genealogy Society is sponsoring a day at the Western Michigan University Archives and Regional History Collection located in the East Hall on the campus of WMU in Kalamazoo, Michigan. There will be beginning genealogy sessions, demonstrations on how to use the microfilm machines, brick wall help, handouts, tours of the Archives and snacks. The event is free and open to the public. The Archives opens at 9 a.m. and the programs run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To learn more about the Archive collection at WMU, visit their website at www.wmich.edu/library/archives/

May 1 -2, 2010

Spring Into the Past Annual Tri-Rivers Museum Tour

Eighteen small museums located along the Flat River, Grand River and Thornapple River in West Michigan will once again host their annual spring tour. Each of the museums will be open from 11 am to 5 pm on May 1 and May 2.

November 5 & 6, 2010

2010 Got Ancestors?! Seminar

Planning is underway for this year's Annual Seminar at Calvin College's Prince Conference Center. The speaker will be widely acclaimed national speaker, author and TV guest Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak. We're looking forward to hosting Megan on her first speaking engagement in Michigan. Megan has been in the spotlight in recent months with her research into Michelle Obama's multi-cultural heritage, including the slave girl Melvinia Shields, as well as tracking Barack Obama's roots to Ireland. Megan is the Chief Researcher for Ancestry.com. She is also involved with the US Army helping trace MIA soldiers from the Korean War, and is involved with the FBI in solving cold cases from the Civil Rights era.

Megan will give a presentation of her "Michelle Obama's Roots" talk at an event on Friday evening, and four of her popular lectures on Saturday. Megan's talks cover a range of topics, including *Trace Your Roots with DNA*; *Reverse Genealogy: Techniques for Finding Your Lost Loved Ones*; *Find That Obituary! Online Newspaper Research*; *Beyond Y-DNA – Your Genetic Genealogy Options*; *Cold Cases: Genealogists, Coroners and the FBI*; the story of Annie Moore – the first immigrant to arrive at Ellis Island; *Neglected History*; and one called *Cases that Made My Brain Hurt*

We're seeking your input to help us decide which lectures to have presented on Saturday. We have set up a Poll on our GotAncestors?! website with links to the descriptions of all of Megan's talks.

This promises to be a GREAT event, so save the dates – 5 and 6 November 2010, check out the website to vote in the Poll and watch for updates.

<http://GotAncestors.com/>

Family History Writer's Workshops

**March 16, April 20 and May 18 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. Our participants bring samples of their latest writing project to share with the group. In addition, we like to suggest different writing topics to give us fresh ideas and keep us writing about our families. If you're stuck on your current project or in between projects, write a story on the topic of the month and share it with the group.

March 16: Animals: Pets, domesticated or wild, and their relationship to your family's past or your past.

April 20: Vacations: Write about a memorable family vacation, weekend or a vacation of a lifetime.

May 18: Describe a verbal misunderstanding or an embarrassing moment.

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.



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



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

Wednesday-Thursday – April 21-22, 2010

\$94=Single, \$76=Double, \$70=Triple, \$67=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 21 st	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)
			Possible pickup south of Lansing if there is enough interest—call me
	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 22 nd	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 Meijer 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
 \$94=Single, \$76=Double, \$70=Triple, \$67=Quad

Ft. Wayne Trip Wed – Thurs April 21-22, 2010 Registration Form

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 Other** Roommates: _____
 (Note: if choosing Other, you must call Sue at (616) 889-0042 to arrange a pick-up location south of Lansing)

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

Attention WMGS Members

Check the mailing label on this newsletter. If the date in the corner is Dec 2009 you need to renew **NOW** to receive the next issue of *Michigana*.

Indexed Michigan Newspapers

Le Roy Barnett has compiled a list of indexes to Michigan newspapers. The list shows what items have been indexed, where the index can be found and either the call number or the website url. The list can be found at the url below.

www.h-net.org/~hsm/pdf/IndexestoMichiganNewspapers.pdf

2010 Census

You will be receiving your 2010 census form in the mail in mid-March. This year's census will consist of only ten questions:

- How many people live in this household?
- Are there any additional people staying here that were not included in Question 1?
- Is this residence owned, rented or occupied without payment or rent?
- What is your telephone number?
- List the name of each person living here, their sex, age, full date of birth
- Is anyone in the household of Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban or other Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin?
- What is each person's race?
- Do any of the people in this household stay or live somewhere else?

To view a copy of the form go to <http://2010.census.gov> and click on the See How the Census Works link.

Snowbirds with a primary and secondary residence will receive a census form at both residences in 2010. The form does not give instructions on how people with two residences should complete the form. You should only complete the form mailed to your primary residence (where you live for most of the year.) Here's what you should do.

- Write 'zero' for the number of April 1 residents and write "usual residence elsewhere" on the form sent to your secondary (winter) address and return it without completing the rest of the form. Do NOT answer question 10!
- The U.S. Postal Service will NOT forward the census form mailed to your primary address (summer.) If a form is waiting for you when you return to your primary address, fill it out. If you don't fill out the form for your primary address, a census taker will visit your summer address in May or June to collect your information.

The 2010 Census is much shorter than in past years because the Census Bureau is changing the way they conduct census taking. In addition to the decennial census we are all familiar with, they also schedule the American Community Survey every year. No household will receive this survey more than once every five years. This survey collects information about the current economic, housing and social circumstances in the U.S.

If you are interested in applying for a job with the Census Bureau, call 1-866-861-2010.

Don't forget to make a copy of your completed 2010 census form for your personal genealogical records.

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

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

