



WMGS Newsletter

Fall 2013



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.

September 7, 2013, 1:30pm

Peggy Brumbaugh

Topic: State of New York Research

The State of New York can be a real challenge to genealogists. We often have to get creative in our effort to find information and records in this state. It helps to know the "New York equivalent" of Michigan courts, towns, and villages. Some of the topics this presentation will address are New York's colonial history, location of vital records, immigration and naturalization records, land deeds, Internet resources, and networking.

October 5, 2013, 1:30pm

To be announced

October 11-12, 2013, 1:30pm

2013 Got Ancestors?! Seminar

See the insert for information about our 2013 Got Ancestors?! seminar featuring Thomas MacEntee

November 9, 2013, 1:30pm

NOTE: 2nd Saturday

To be announced

Dec 7, 2013, 1:30pm

To be announced

Mini Classes

Mini Classes are held in the Grand Rapids Public Library from 12:15 to 1:15 in the Adult Computer Center. They are free to the general public.

September 7, 2013

Introduction to Laptop Computers

Presenter: GRPL Education Staff

October 5, 2013

Introduction to Family Tree Maker Software

Presenter: Bill Grinstead

November 9, 2013

Using the Flip-Pal Portable Scanner

Presenter: Bill Grinstead

December 7, 2013

Introduction to FindAGrave

Presenter: Bill Grinstead

Michigan Genealogical Council news

For the latest news from this council, check the Michigan Genealogical Council website. The summer issue of their newsletter includes:

- ★Tips for using the seekingmichigan website
- ★PRONI online valuation revision books, useful substitute for the destroyed nineteenth century census records.
- ★The FamilySearch site has over one billion records; indexing help is still requested.
- ★Searchable name index of Michigan Death Certificates from 1921-1952 now available on FamilySearch site
- ★Work is continuing on the Census Substitute Project for material from 1884-1894.
- ★Article on finding wills

For those with Canadian roots, note that the 1921 Census of Canada has been released by the Library and Archives Canada.

The 1921 census is currently being transcribed and indexed. Censuses taken before 1921 are available on their webpage.

WMGS Family History Writers' Workshops

**September 17, October 15, November 19,
December 17 at 1:30 to 4:45 p.m.**

Dominican Center, 2025 Fulton St East

The Writers' Workshops are designed to help and support each other's desire to write about our families with a kind eye and lots of humor. Everyone is welcome.

September: Empty Nest

October: Times when you were frightened or terrified

November: Pictures of Heirlooms and the stories behind the object

December: Our traditional celebratory pot luck - Bring a dessert or salad you've always wanted to make

The workshops are held at the Dominican Center on the corner of East Fulton and Lakeside Drive. Please call Sister Michael Ellen Carling at 616-514-3231 (home) or 616-514-3340 (office) if you are attending for the first time. You may park in the Dominican Center parking lot on Lakeside Drive. Use the lower entrance on the east side of the large portico. Go down the steps or down the cement ramp to enter the building. The receptionist will direct you to the room.

Library of Michigan

With the transfer of much of the Library's purely genealogical materials to the Archives of Michigan, the web content formerly found at the michigan.gov web pages will now be found at Seeking Michigan (seekingmichigan.org). For those of you able to visit the Michigan Library and Historical Center, Michigan-related materials, including some vital records, cemetery transcriptions, county and local histories, and plat maps, remain at the Library of Michigan and can be accessed during the Library's business hours, Mon-Fri, 10am to 5pm.

Seeking Michigan, a freely available website founded by the Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan in 2009, includes:

- ★ Digital collections, including nearly 1 million Michigan death certificates (1897-1920) from the Library of Michigan's collection, state census records (1827- 1894), Civil War service records, and more.
- ★ Genealogy research guides, including Getting Started, Immigration & Naturalization, Military Records, Vital Records, and Michigan county guides.
- ★ Indexes to naturalizations for more than 30 Michigan counties.
- ★ A Michigan County Clerks directory, complete with contact information and holdings overview.

MCG October Seminar, Oct 26, 2013 Archives of Michigan in Lansing

Check the Michigan Genealogical Council website <http://MiMGC.org> for information on this event.

The featured speaker, Lou Szucs from Ancestry and the state of Illinois, will present "Hidden Treasures at Ancestry.com" and "Midwestern Treasures".

The War of 1812 Bicentennial Events Michigan was a key battleground in the "Forgotten Conflict"

Upcoming Events:

Michigan's 1812 replica sloop "Friends Good Will"

The sloop made famous in Oliver Hazard Perry's message to William Henry Harrison following his victory in the September 1813 Battle of Lake Erie leaves the Michigan Maritime Museum in South Haven, on a six week Great Lakes cruise. Highlights include an August 30-Sept. 2 Amherstburg, Ontario stop. More info at the Michigan Maritime Museum website.

Turning Point: The War of 1812

on display through May 2014 at
Harbor Springs History Museum
349 E. Main Street, Harbor Springs, MI

"Turning Point: The War of 1812 from the Native American Perspective" was produced in collaboration with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

Southeast Michigan War of 1812

Historic Sites Tour - 10am to 4pm October 13
Detroit Historical Museum

[Currently sold out; contact the Historical Society of Michigan to be added to the wait list].

Remembering the Forgotten Conflict International War of 1812 Symposium

Monday, October 14, 2013 - 8:30am-4pm
Detroit Historical Museum

Genealogy Guides now available at the Grand Rapids Public Library: Illinois * Indiana * Ohio * Wisconsin

In the works are:
Native Americans * Latinos/Mexicans

Have you ever wondered where your family might have been? Who might be lurking in your family tree? If so take a look at the new Genealogy Guides at the Library. Available to anyone coming to the Local History Department, they will soon be available on the Genealogy page of the Library.

More Genealogy Shows on TV

"Genealogy Roadshow"

Scheduled to debut at 8pm Monday, Sept. 23, on PBS, the show uncovers fascinating stories of diverse Americans in Detroit, Austin, San Francisco, and Nashville. Each individual's past links to a larger community history, revealing the rich cultural tapestry of America.

History Detectives

A documentary television series on PBS that started in 2003. A group of researchers help people to seek answers to various historical questions they have, usually centering around a family heirloom, an old house or other historic object or structure.

Who Do You Think You Are?

Now on TLC, more celebrities are given the opportunity to research their family trees with surprising and often unexpected results.

Family Tree

New comedy series on HBO

Finding Your Roots

Finding Your Roots with Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., a PBS-TV series that explores race, culture and identity through genealogy and genetics, might have a new season.

Next "Lock-In" October 25, 6-10pm

A Grand Rapids Public Library *free* after-hours program just for genealogists!

Learn how to use the microfilm reader/scanner/printer, save images, and take advantage of free copying and printing during the event. Use the time to search databases—we will have plenty of computers available or bring your own laptop.

This is a great opportunity for people who are new to genealogy to get help from members of WMGS. As always, printing is free and

Ancestry.com and Fold3.com are free.

Registration at www.grpl.org/register is normally open 30 days prior to the event.

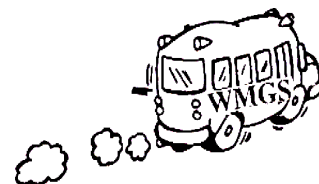
This is a very popular event with a long waiting list. If you register for this event and later learn that you are unable to attend, PLEASE call the GRPL to let them know you won't be attending and give someone else the chance to attend.



Picture from July 2013
Lock-In



Western Michigan Genealogical Society's
**Bus Trip to Fort Wayne's
Allen County Public Library**
--- Note: – Staying at GuestHouse Inn Fort Wayne ---



Tuesday - Wednesday, Nov 12th & Nov 13th, 2013

\$120=Single, \$92=Double, \$82=Triple, \$78=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)
Nov 12 th	7:30	AM	Leave Meijer (next to I96 and 28 th St near the "K" marker)
Tuesday	8:15	AM	Leave Ionia and I-96 (behind Corner's Landing Restaurant)
			Pickup near Lansing/Charlotte (I96/I69)- 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 GuestHouse Inn Fort Wane (260 483-0091)
Day #2	7:00	AM	Wakeup Call – Continental breakfast included
Nov 13 th	8:30 - 8:40	AM	Luggage loading and transportation to library
Wednesday	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 the REMODELED GuestHouse Inn Fort Wayne at 3017 W. Coliseum Blvd., continental breakfast, and library transfer.

<http://www.guesthouseintl.com/hotels/fortwayne> phone 260-483-0091

*The motel does not have an elevator. Please indicate floor requirement.

(Allen County Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN 46802, <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/> Phone: (260) 421-1200)

*WMGS member? You will receive a coupon worth \$5 towards next year's membership or towards any purchase at the WMGS Sales Table.

*We need 36 bus riders to make this trip a reality.

\$15 deposit guarantees your place on the bus. Please send your deposit or at least an email by Oct 12th.

*Balance should be paid by Nov 1. Please 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

\$120=Single, \$92=Double, \$82=Triple, \$78=Quad

Fort Wayne Trip Tues – Wed Nov 12th and 13th, 2013 Registration Form

Room type: State law requires all rooms non-smoking. Is first floor a requirement? Yes ☐ No ☐

NAME: _____ Phone# (____) _____

Cell# (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____ City, State, Zip _____

Pickup Point: Circle one: **Target** **Meijer** **Ionia** **Lansing area** Roommates: _____

(Note: if choosing Lansing area, you must call Sue at (616) 889-0042 to arrange a pick-up location near I69 and Lansing)

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



2013 MERIT AWARD NOMINATION FORM

WMGS recognizes that it takes the contributions of *many people* for our society to reach its goals. Each fall we ask our members to nominate the names of those who have significantly given of their time, talents and energy toward our purpose of preserving and making available for genealogical research the records of our ancestors; encouraging and assisting members in genealogical research; promoting the exchange of knowledge and encouraging the deposit of genealogical records in established libraries and archives.

Current members may nominate persons for one or more categories. Just write their name in the appropriate lines below with a brief reason for your nominating that individual. Remember to complete the Submitter information at the bottom of the page. 2013 award categories are:

<p>Ken Gackler AWARD of MERIT Recipient: WMGS Member Nominations from Membership Selected by Board of Directors</p> <p>Our highest award, the Ken Gackler Award of Merit recognizes exceptional contributions of a WMGS member who significantly aided research or increased interest in genealogy over a period of years.</p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Because: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD Recipient: WMGS Member (non-Board) Nominations from Membership</p> <p>Presented to a non-Board Member who has shown extraordinary dedication, enthusiasm and energy in the pursuit of Family History.</p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Because: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Shirley M. De Boer EDUCATION AWARD Recipient: WMGS Member Nominations from Membership</p> <p>Given to a WMGS member who has provided outstanding service to the Society or the public in the areas of teaching, mentoring and encouraging quality genealogical research.</p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Because: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

<p>COMMUNICATIONS AWARD Recipient: WMGS Member Nominations from Membership</p> <p>Awarded to a member who has shown excellence in promoting family history in one or more medias; the internet, print, lecture, video, etc.</p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Because: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>AGO AWARD Recipient: Organization or Individual Nominations from the Membership</p> <p>The Area Genealogical Organization (AGO) award is presented to an organization or individual that is NOT necessarily a member of WMGS. It is designed to honor and recognize support, advancement, research, or service to the study or promotion of family history.</p>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Because: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

<p>Submitter information:</p> <p>My Name is: _____</p> <p>My Email address is: _____</p> <p>My Phone number is: _____</p> <p>Send form to:</p> <p>Attn: Awards Committee, Western Michigan Genealogical Society c/o Grand Rapids Public Library 111 Library Street NE Grand Rapids, MI 49503-3093</p> <p>You may make nominations in just one, or all categories.</p> <p>Nominations are also accepted online at www.wmgs.org for those who have internet access. You can view any other information here: http://www.wmgs.org/award_nominations.htm.</p>
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Nominations will be accepted through September 7, 2013. Recipients will be recognized at the October 2013 membership meeting.

Genealogy

Begins as an interest
becomes a hobby
continues as an avocation
takes over as an obsession
and in it's final stage
is an incurable disease.

New Enhancements at FamilySearch

FamilySearch International, a nonprofit, volunteer-driven genealogy organization, announced the release of significant new enhancements to its web services that allow visitors to collaboratively build their family tree online, preserve and share precious family photos and stories, and receive personal research assistance—all for free. Find out more at the FamilySearch website.

Genealogy Classes beginning Sep 19th - GRPL downtown

If you are thinking about or interested in the history of your family and having trouble getting started, then this announcement is for you.

Western Michigan Genealogical Society is conducting free classes that will show *you* how to get started in family research. Assignments given at the end of each class will help the participant prepare for the next class. At the end of these classes participants will be able to identify ancestors, marriages, children, birth and death dates, burial locations, living locations and more. Most of the databases used for this class are free to the user or accessible at the Main Library.

No computer required; class computers are provided.

Questions, please contact Bill at (616) 240-1579.

* Check www.wmgs.org for other *no-charge* classes*

Sep 19 Beginners Introduction to Genealogy

Oct 17 Using Genealogy Software to Start

Nov 20 Organizing Genealogy Documents

Dec 19 Understanding & Using US Census Records

2014 Classes

Jan 23 Basics of Ancestry.com database

Feb 20 Using Family Trees on Ancestry.com

Mar 20 Other Online Databases for Genealogy

**Adult Computer Training Center on the lower level
of the Library - 6:45-8:45pm**

If you, as a new or renewing member, would be willing and able to hold an office or work on a committee or project, WMGS would appreciate your help very much. You may indicate your area of expertise and/or interest on this membership form. We will be happy to contact you about your desire to help. Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

\$20 in the USA

US\$25 Outside the USA

Make checks payable to: Western Michigan Genealogical Society or WMGS

DATE: _____ PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP+4: _____

What is your level of genealogy experience? (circle one): Beginner Intermediate Advanced

Would you like someone to contact you about volunteer opportunities with WMGS? Yes No

Do you use computer software to manage your genealogy? No Yes _____

list the software you use

Send checks and completed form to:

WMGS Membership, Western Michigan Genealogical Society

111 Library St NE, Grand Rapids MI 49503-3268



Western Michigan Genealogical Society
c/o Grand Rapids Public Library
111 Library St NE
Grand Rapids MI 49503-3268

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT NO. 209

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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 in 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

2013 WMGS Officers

President	Don Bryant email: president@wmgs.org	Recording Secretary	Janet Jensen email: JanetJ6990@aol.com Phone: (616) 874-8035
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 Phone: (616) 530-8232		