



WMGS Newsletter

Fall 2014 - Our 60th year!



WMGS Program Schedule

These programs are held in the Grand Rapids Public Library in the Ryerson Auditorium, beginning at **1:30 pm** with WMGS business, followed by the speaker. Free admission — 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 presentation. Books and supplies may be purchased from the Sales Table before and after the program.

6 September, Saturday ***Common Sources in Uncommon Places*** **Presenter: Karen Krugman**

Think you've looked everywhere for that marriage date or birthdate? Think again. This talk can help you locate dates in some uncommon places. Karen has been researching since 1990 (professionally since 1998). She enjoys the challenge of Lineage Society research, and has been speaking to genealogy groups in the metro Detroit area as well as other areas of Michigan & Ohio since 2002.

4 October, Saturday ***Using the Grand Rapids Public Library*** ***catalog for genealogy research*** **Speaker: Tim Gleisner**

Tim will show you the ins and outs of the GRPL Catalog and databases and how to use them to get the best out of your genealogical research.

10-11 October, Friday-Saturday ***Got Ancestors Seminar, Dick Eastman***

See attached flyer for this exciting seminar in celebration of our 60th anniversary

8 November, Saturday (note: meeting is 2nd Saturday) ***Becoming American: Research with*** ***Naturalization Records***

Presenter: Kris Rzepczynski

Although one of the most important tools in family history research, naturalization records can often be very difficult to locate. This program will explore naturalization records, the many tools available to assist you in your research, and successful strategies to locate citizenship records, utilizing both online and print resources.

WMGS Mini Classes

Free Mini Classes are held in the Grand Rapids Public Library from 12:15 to 1:15pm in the Adult Computer Center.

6 September, Saturday ***FamilySearch Indexing*** **Instructor: Jeff Coltrin**

FamilySearch Indexing is a volunteer project established and run by FamilySearch, a genealogy organization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The intent of this class is to provide an overview of how to index names on the Family Search Indexing site so they are available on-line as part of family history research.

4 October, Saturday ***Genealogy Scrapbooking*** **Instructor: Linda Guth**

A genealogy scrapbook album is wonderful way to document your family's history and create a lasting gift for future generations. Many of the family tree software reports don't include all of the documents and pictures you've gathered together. This class shows one way to present it all in an interesting format.

8 November, Saturday **TBD** (Second Saturday rather than the first)

Have *YOU* considered volunteering for the WMGS Board?

WMGS has leadership opportunities! 2014 is an election year for WMGS officers. Chairperson Mary Alt is accepting names for the slate of nominees. Positions open: President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary. Although we don't have term limits per se in our bylaws, we strive to prepare the right people to move into these key leadership positions. The Election is held at our October Membership meeting.

Questions? Willing to volunteer?
Email Mary Alt (altm7@aol.com)

Upcoming WMGS Education Classes

*These classes are held in the Grand Rapids
Public Library, Adult Computer Training Center,
lower level from 6:45 to 8:45pm*

9 September, Tuesday ***How to use Family Search*** **Instructor: Joyce Offhaus**

The FamilySearch website includes an online family tree application that allows patrons to collaborate with others to build, share, manage, and preserve their family histories online. Joyce Offhaus will show you how to use the website, record your living memories, and search for your ancestors.

9 October, Thursday ***Polish Research***

Research your Polish family history by exploring genealogy and family history databases, historical records, maps, documents, cemetery burials, records from Polish churches, and more.

Merit Award Nominations now being accepted through September 6 Who will you nominate?

The 2014 WMGS Annual Merit Award Nominations committee is accepting Members' submissions for this year's awards through September 6, 2014. Do you have a nominee for one or more of these awards?

Ken Gackler Award Of Merit
Volunteer Of The Year Award
Shirley M. De Boer Education Award
Communications Award
Ago Award - Individual
Ago Award - Organization

Please take a few minutes and visit this page to learn more about the awards, past winners, and to send us your vote.

http://wmgs.org/award_nominations.htm

August Cemetery Walk at Oak Hill a great success!

The WMGS blog has pictures

[http://wmgs.org/blog/2014/08/
our-day-at-oak-hill-cemetery](http://wmgs.org/blog/2014/08/our-day-at-oak-hill-cemetery)

Genealogical Meetings around the State

28 September, Sunday, 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm
*"Methods for Identifying the German Ancestors
of American Immigrants"*

"Finding and Using German Church Records"

The Genealogical Society
of Washtenaw County

Dr. Michael Lacopo

Education Center Auditorium, St. Joseph Mercy
Hospital Campus, 5305 Elliott Dr., Ypsilanti, MI

6 October, Monday, 6:30pm
Comstock Park Library
*"The History of Comstock Park
from 1837 to the Present"*

David Weir

Enjoy pictures and stories from the past
presented by former Comstock Park
High School teacher and "Village Historian"
David Weir.

19-25 October, Sun thru Sat
Washington DC bus trip
Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society
check www.mikvgs.org for more details

20 October, Monday, 7:00pm
"Probate Will Not Be The Death of You"
Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society
Harold Henderson

Bowler hats, mustaches and murder: Criminals of bygone era populate historic mugshot book

Another place to look for those interesting characters in your family - mugshots from the Grand Rapids Police Department criminal booking ledger found at the Grand Rapids city archives.

[http://grpmcollections.org/index.php/Detail/
Object/Show/object_id/161710](http://grpmcollections.org/index.php/Detail/Object/Show/object_id/161710)

They also have fingerprint cards dating between 1913 and 1974, some of which contain mugshots. Check the article at:

[http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/
index.ssf/2013/05/
old_grpd_mugshot_book.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2013/05/old_grpd_mugshot_book.html)



Western Michigan Genealogical Society's
**Bus Trip to Fort Wayne's
Allen County Public Library**
Note: – Staying at Quality Inn, Fort Wayne---
**Wednesday - Thursday, Sept. 10th &
Sept 11th, 2014**



\$143=Single, \$106=Double, \$94=Triple, \$88=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)
Sept 10 th	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)
			Pickup near Lansing/Charlotte (I96/I69) - call me
	9:30	ish	Refreshment Stop (donuts & juice/coffee at highway rest stop)
	10:30	AM	Arrive Allen County Public Library (260-421-1200)
	9:00	PM	Bus transfer to Quality Inn, 1734 W Washington Center, Rd (260) 489-5554
Day #2	7:00	AM	Wakeup Call – FULL breakfast included
Sept 11 th	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 QUALITY INN, hot breakfast, and library transfer.

*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/> (260) 421-1200

*Benefit for WMGS members -- 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.

An email by Aug 10th is GREATLY appreciated. \$15 deposit guarantees your place on the bus.
Balance should be paid by Sept 2nd. 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

\$143=Single, \$106=Double, \$94=Triple, \$88=Quad

Registration Form -- Fort Wayne Trip Wed—Thurs Sept 10th and Sept 11th, 2014

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**: _____



FREE Old Maps Available

The New York Public Library (NYPL) has released an incredible collection of more than 20,000 maps with no known copyright restrictions. These maps can be downloaded in high resolution format for free.

The diverse collection includes 1,100 maps of the mid-Atlantic United States from the 1500s to the 1800s; 700 topographical maps of the Austro-Hungarian empire from 1877 to 1914; 2,800 state, county and city maps mainly of New York and New Jersey, 10,300 property, zoning, topographical and Sanborn fire insurance maps of New York city from 1852 to 1922 as well as 1,000 additional maps of the five boroughs and neighborhoods dating from 1660 to 1922. The collection can be searched by keyword. The website also has a tool that allows you to 'warp' (overlay) historic maps onto modern maps. Access is free.

<http://www.nypl.org/blog/2014/03/28/open-access-maps>

[From the Northville Genealogical Society newsletter]

From the Tuesday evening group - it is doubtful we would see something like this printed today.

"There is nothing a manly man admires more than a girlish girl or a womanly woman."

~Grand Rapids Herald,
18 February 1921 p.9

New to Genealogy? Tips on how to get started.

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Family_History_for_Beginners

<http://www.cyndislist.com/beginners/beginners-guides-hints-and-tips/>

Free Genealogy Books!

You can download 83,947 genealogy books free of charge: Several organizations have been digitizing old genealogy and family history books for several years. Perhaps the largest such collection is available in Archive.org's genealogy collection. Available items include books on surname origins, vital statistics, parish records, census records, passenger lists of vessels, and other historical and biographical documents.

Archive.org never charges for any of its holdings. You are free to read, download, print, and enjoy anything and everything available at Archive.org.

[from the MGC summer 2014 newsletter]

Websites of Interest

dmarie.com/timecap/

An "on this day in history" website with full coverage of 1875-2002.

familychartmasters.com

Many family historians wonder where to get a colorful, wall-size family chart printed. This is one place to ask that question.

nmfh.org

Country's largest collection of funeral service artifacts and features renowned exhibits on one of man's oldest cultural customs.

[from the MGC summer 2014 newsletter]

Also, for Michigan research, check:

<http://www.migenweb.net/migensoc.htm>

This site also includes a list of Michigan genealogical and historical societies.

*Genealogical pay dirt is discovering
the ancestor who was the family packrat!*

<http://blog.genealogybank.com/genealogy-humor-101-funny-quotes-sayings-for-genealogists.html>

WMGS Family History Writers' Workshops, third Tuesdays

16 Sep, 21 Oct, 18 Nov at 1:30 to 4:45 p.m.
Dominican Center, 2025 Fulton St East

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.

16 September: How would you like to be remembered?

21 October: What do you like the most about getting older?

18 November: What have you liked the least about getting older?

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.

Next GRPL "Lock-in"

17 October, Friday, 6-10pm
Grand Rapids Public Library
<http://www.grpl.org/events/>
➔ **Registration is required**

This **free** after-hours program is just for genealogists! Learn 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 — computers will be available or bring your own laptop and use the library's WiFi network. Also bring your questions about genealogy, Ancestry, Heritage Quest, and/or Fold3. Volunteers from WMGS will also be on hand. Registration required:

<http://www.grpl.org/register> or call 988-5400.

2015 WMGS Writers' Contest

Time to start writing!!

Your most "famous" or "infamous" ancestor

Sneak peek at the topic for the next WMGS Writers' Contest: "Who is your most famous - or infamous ancestor - and why." Watch for more info in the next newsletter and/or check wmgs.org within the next month or so.

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

\$20 in the USA

NEW _____

RENEWAL _____

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 _____
Please 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

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U.S. POSTAGE
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GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT NO. 209

CHANGE 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

2014 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	Immediate Past President	Mindy Koole email: koole2@comcast.net Phone: (616) 691-7986
Treasurer	Marlene Fabbro email: mfabbro@sbcglobal.net Phone: (616) 530-8232		