



WMGS Newsletter

Spring 2014



WMGS Program Schedule

These programs are held in the Grand Rapids Public Library in the Ryerson Auditorium. Meetings begin at 1:30 pm with WMGS business, followed by the speaker. Admission is free — 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 programs.

1 March 2014, 1:30pm

Wendy Batchelder

Topic: How to Date Photographs

How to date photographs from the entire Victorian era (from the civil war on...) - the fashions, hair, jewelry, and photo settings. She will bring pictures representing each era and the fashion discussed, books, and actual antique clothing of her own to show (examples through the 1920's). She encourages those who wish to bring photos of their own for everyone to view.

Wendy Batchelder has worked at the Grand Rapids Public Museum for over 8 years and has studied Victorian fashion history for many years.

5 April 2014, 1:30pm

Carolyn M. Baker

Topic: How to Become a Part of DAR

Interested in DAR, Daughters of the American Revolution, but have questions about this historic and vibrant organization? The speaker will give answers to these questions and offer suggestions to help you make your decision.

Carolyn Baker is currently Regent of the Grand Rapids DAR chapter, The Sophie De Marsac Campau Chapter, and NSDAR.

3 May 2014, 1:30pm

Donna Odom

Topic: Family History vs. Genealogy

Anxious to document your family's past, but not sure whether you want to do genealogy or a family history? In this presentation Ms. Odom will review the difference between the two and offer suggestions to help you make your decision.

Donna Odom is founder and executive director of the Southwest Michigan Black Heritage Society. She retired from the Kalamazoo Valley Museum in 2010.

Mini Classes

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

We currently do not have any mini classes scheduled as we are looking for a new education coordinator to be responsible for the genealogy education programs of the Society. Here is another opportunity for you to participate in our Society. Please contact Don Bryant at president@wmgs.org.

WMGS Family History Writers' Workshops

Tuesdays - 18 March, 15 April, 20 May, 17 June
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.

March: Neighbors through the years

April: How has research changed since you first started; what do you like or dislike about the changes?

May: Describe the house you lived in that you liked the best

June: Your greatest success

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.

2014 WMGS Writing Contest

It's not too late - you have until March 28, 2014 to submit your story for the Topic: **My Brick Wall**
Check the WMGS website for the guidelines.

The Ships To America

Most immigrants came to America by ship. Before they sailed, they had to get to a seaport that could accommodate giant ocean-going ships. Immigrants came from Asian cities like Canton, China, and slaves were brought in from West African ports. But most immigrants before 1965 came from Europe. This list shows the major ports from which Europeans left.

- *BELGIUM – Antwerp
- *DENMARK – Copenhagen
- *ENGLAND – Liverpool, Southampton
- *FRANCE – LeHavre, Marseilles
- *GERMANY – Bremen, Hamburg
- *GREECE – Piraeus
- *IRELAND – Londonderry (Derry), Belfast, Galway, Dublin, Cobh (Queenstown)
- *ITALY – Genoa, Naples, Trieste
- *NETHERLAND – Rotterdam
- *NORWAY – Bergen, Stavanger
- *SCOTLAND – Glasgow
- *SICILY – Palermo
- *SOVIET UNION – Odessa
- *SWEDEN – Goteborg
- *TURKEY – Istanbul (Constantinople)
- *YUGOSLAVIA – Rijeka (Fiume)

From the Roscommon County Genealogical Society newsletter

Genealogy: A hay stack full of needles.
But it's the threads I need.

Grand Rapids Public Library Computer Classes

Blogging 101
15 March, 1-3pm

Have you thought about starting a blog but aren't sure where to begin? Tips for creating, maintaining and marketing your own blog will be provided. Then think of helping WMGS with our blog. Class is repeated on April 3rd.

22 March, 1-3pm
Internet Security 101

Knowing how to protect your computer against virus attacks and how to safeguard your personal information - a better understanding of basic Internet security.

Skype 101
31 March, 7-8:30pm

Want to connect with your relative in another state or chat with a friend overseas for free? Join us and learn how to connect with this revolutionary, videoconferencing service.

Next Bus trip to Ft. Wayne — March 25-26
Allen County Public Library
see page 4 for details

Pioneer Certificate

Do you have Pioneers who settled in Kent County? Check the WMGS website for information about our Pioneer Certificate.

To qualify for a Pioneer Certificate, an applicant must be directly descended from an ancestor who settled in Kent County as follows:

Pioneers (Prior to 1841) Gold Seal

Settlers (Prior to 1881) Silver Seal

Early Family (Prior to 1921) Blue Seal

Historic Michigan Travel Guide New Edition (6th)

The Historical Society of Michigan released a new version of its popular *Historic Michigan Travel Guide*. Designed to expose readers to the wide variety to heritage travel destinations in the state, the sixth edition contains 50 percent more listings than the publication it replaces. With so many history museums and historic sites — 475 of which are included in this guide — there's always something new to see, learn, or experience in regards to our state's colorful history. The guide features museums both big (the Grand Rapids Public Museum and the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing) and small (Blair Historical Farm in Homer and the River of History Museum in Sault Ste. Marie).

The pocket-sized publication-measuring 8.5 inches high by 4.25 inches wide lists more than 475 institutions and attractions and includes key information including contact information, operating hours, admission fees, and exhibit highlights. Specifics such as the availability of onsite parking and accessibility are also addressed.

The Historical Society of Michigan, the state's oldest cultural organization, was founded in 1828 by territorial governor Lewis Cass and explorer Henry Schoolcraft.

From the Michigan Genealogical Council
Winter 2014 Newsletter

**Save the date for the October 2014
Annual Seminar**
A Celebration of our 60th anniversary
Dick Eastman will be our speaker at
~ 2014 Got Ancestors ~
Friday and Saturday, 10-11 October

Genealogical Meetings around the State and the Nation

10 March, 6-8pm

Historical Society of Michigan
The Air War Over the Pacific and Muskegon's Ike Kepford
John Stephenson and Don Goodman
USS Silversides Submarine Museum, Muskegon MI

12 March, 11am

The Saugatuck Douglas Historical Society
Last Stop Saugatuck: Interurban train. *Norm Krentel*
Old School House History Center, Saugatuck MI

15-16 March

39th Annual Kalamazoo Living History Show
Largest, nationally recognized juried show in the Midwest
devoted to pre-1890 original or reproduction living history
supplies, accoutrements, and related crafts
2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo MI

17 March - 7:15 pm

Western Wayne County Genealogical Society
Around the World (of Eastern European Genealogy) in 80
Minutes - *Jan Zaleski*
Livonia Civic Park Senior Center Building
15218 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI

18 March - 7:00 pm

Farmington Genealogical Society
The ABCs of School Records, *Ceil Jensen*
Farmington Library, 23500 Liberty Street, Farmington MI

27 March - 7:00 pm

Dearborn Genealogical Society
Exciting Developments in Ireland and Northern Ireland
Online Research, *Richard Doherty*
Cherry Hill Baptist Church, 1045 N Gulley, Dearborn Hgts

28-29 March

Historical Society of Michigan
Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference
Has sessions on aspects of southeast Michigan history
Best Western Sterling Inn in Sterling Heights

29 Mar, 8am-3:30pm

Genealogical Society of Monroe County
Annual Spring Seminar
Kurt Witcher
Monroe County College

5 April

Indiana Genealogical Society Annual Conference
Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne IN

30 April - 3 May

Ohio Genealogical Society Statewide Conference
Kalahari Resorts, Sandusky, Ohio

1 - 4 May

Ontario Genealogical Society
St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada

7-10 May

NGS 2014 Family History Conference
Virginia: The First Frontier
Richmond, Virginia

14 June - 10:30am

Detroit Society for Genealogical Research
Whither Thou Goest: Tracing Your Female Ancestors
Shirley Gage Hodges
Explorer's Room, Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward
Ave, Detroit, MI

20-22 June

65th Annual Upper Peninsula History Conference
Hosted by the Schoolcraft County Historical Society
Manistique, Michigan

18-19 July

Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar
Finding Your Family in Canada
Reading and Understanding Old Documents
Michael Leclerc
Michigan Historical Center, Lansing, MI

Opportunities

WMGS has opportunities in society leadership, education, accounting, and social media. Although we don't have term limits per se in our bylaws, we do need to prepare for the future by aligning the right people to move into some key leadership positions. Our goal is to make sure transitions are smooth and we have plenty of time to train and prepare you.

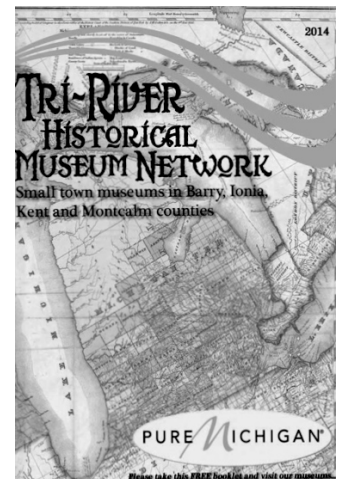
Please consider how you can serve. We need your help to fill these openings. Call or email Don Bryant directly if you have questions or want more details about these areas:

616-283-4256 or
president@wmgs.org.

Tri-River Historical Museum Network Invites you to Discover West Michigan's Small Museums

Spring into the past and tour some of the finest small museums in West Michigan. The Tri-River Museum Network, (18 area historical societies), is planning its 7th annual museum tour Saturday and Sunday, May 2 & 3, from 11am - 5pm; admission is free during this event.

Bring your family and friends to take a look into the past to see what life was like before all of today's modern technology. Keep this booklet handy for year 'round reference as you travel around West Michigan. A copy of the brochure is at <http://commoncorners.com>





Western Michigan Genealogical Society's

Bus Trip to Fort Wayne's

Allen County Public Library

--- Note: – Staying at GuestHouse Inn Fort Wayne ---

Tuesday - Wednesday, March 25th & March 26th, 2014

\$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)
Mar 25 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	<u>Bus transfer to GuestHouse Inn Fort Wane (260 483-0091)</u>
Day #2	7:00	AM	Wakeup Call – Continental breakfast included
Mar 26 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	<u>Arrive at Target on Alpine</u>

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 Mar 3rd.

*Balance should be paid by Mar 17. 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 Mar 25th and 26th, 2014 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 _____

**Next "Lock-in"
at the Grand Rapids Public Library
April 11th - the 5th anniversary!**

➔ Registration is required

The History and Special Collections department is holding another **free** after-hours program 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—there will be plenty of computers will be available or bring your own laptop and use the library's WiFi network. Also bring your questions about genealogy, about Ancestry, about Heritage Quest. Volunteers from WMGS will also be on hand to help.

Paying It Forward

Every Tuesday evening, barring holidays and snowstorms, 2 or more people meet at the Grand Rapids Public Library downtown to work on WMGS projects, and answer out-of-town genealogy requests. They also help people get started on genealogy research or find new sources of information. Can you help?

As the Tuesday group continues to record marriages, anniversaries, death and funeral notices in past issues of Grand Rapids papers, our eyes occasionally are caught by interesting tidbits from the past, such as those in the next column.



Says Buffalo Bill Was Born in Italy

Bologna, Italy - Folks out in Scott County, Iowa, where "Buffalo Bill" — I. William F. Cody — was born in 1846, will be surprised to learn that Fascist newspapers have discovered he was not born here at all and really was an Italian named Biovanni Tambiani, born in the town of Barrigarezzo, about 1840.

The newspaper Resto Carlino published the discovery Sunday. It said that heirs of the United States army scout and Indian fighter now are living in Compiano, near Parma, and intend to bring suit "to recover a large fortune which he left in the United States."

Grand Rapids Press, March 8, 1937

FAMILY REUNION.

Was Held in the Cemetery So
All Could Be Present.

Decatur, Ind., Oct. 16. —Members of the Corry family from Ohio and Indiana held a novel reunion in the cemetery near this city today. Their reason for choosing this wierd spot for their meeting was that all members of the family, both the living and the dead, might be present. An elaborate program, consisting of speeches and songs, was prepared and carried out. Dinner was served on the ground, and sitting between the graves of departed friends, they partook of their midday repast. After dinner the time was spent in renewing the ties of friendship and love.

Grand Rapids Herald, Oct 17, 1896

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

Current 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		