



# WMGS

## Newsletter

Spring 2012



### WMGS Program Schedule

The following programs will be held in the Grand Rapids Public Library in the Ryerson Auditorium. Meetings begin at 1:30 p.m., 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 program.

#### March 3, 2012

##### **In Their Words**

##### **The Story of Annie Etheridge, Civil War Nurse**

Once of newspaper renown, few today know the story of this remarkable woman, who, at age twenty-one, volunteered to serve her country from 1861-1865 as a nurse. While other famous women of the Civil War, such as Louisa May Alcott, Cornelia Hancock, and Sarah Emma Edmonds published their memoirs, Annie's story was left to be told by newspapers, her contemporaries and those who knew her best – the soldiers in the Army of the Potomac. After extensive research, Bruce B. Butgereit brings to life the amazing story of Annie and shares the difficulty in putting together the pieces of one's life when incorrect information is repeated time after time.

#### April 7, 2012

##### **Collective Biography:**

##### **The Rewards of Prosopography**

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, prosopography is "a collection of...studies focusing on the public careers and relationships of a group in a particular place and period; a collective biography." Prosopography can help researchers discover relationships that aren't readily apparent. It will show you that women aren't always invisible in history. WMGS President, Don Bryant, will tell us more about prosopography and how it can be used to expand and enrich our research.

#### May 5, 2012

We are stilling working on the May program details. Check [wmgs.org](http://wmgs.org) in the future for speaker and topic information.

### WMGS Mini Classes

Mini Classes are held in the Grand Rapids Public Library from 12:15 to 1:15. The classes will be held in the Adult Computer Training Center on the Lower Floor. They are free to the general public. Mini Classes are held on the same day as the monthly WMGS Programs.

#### March 3, 2012

##### **An Introduction to the WMGS Surnames Database**

Judy Wilson will tell you all about WMGS' Surname Database: what it is, how to search for people and how to submit your own data. The database can be found at <http://trees.wmgs.org>.

#### April 7, 2012

*No Class Scheduled*

#### May 5, 2012

##### **Preparing for a Family Research Trip**

Thinking about going to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah? Our presenter will walk you through the entrance of the library and the interior as well as using the services of the library to further your research. A review of how to prepare for research at the library will be included.

##### **Bowne Township Civil War Veterans**

The Bowne Township Historical Museum in Kent County, Michigan has published a list of its Civil War veterans at [www.bownehistory.org/](http://www.bownehistory.org/)

The website contains an alphabetical list of its veterans and a link that downloads a file with additional information and pictures for each of the veterans listed.

## **WMGS Family History Writers' Workshops**

**March 20, 2012  
April 17, 2012  
May 15, 2012  
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. 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 workshops are held at the Dominican Center on the corner of East Fulton and Lakeside Drive. Please call Sister Michael Ellen Carling at 616-643-0208 (home) or 616-643-0225 (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.

## **1940 Census Update**

**April 2, 2012**

April 2<sup>nd</sup> is the big day. At 9 a.m. EST the 1940 Federal Census will be released online. Are you ready? Images of the census and maps will be available for viewing at [www.archives.com](http://www.archives.com) for free. You will be able to search by address, Enumeration District and geographic location on April 2, but not by name. Why? It can't be indexed until it has been released. That doesn't mean you won't be able to find your ancestors. If you know their street address you can identify their Enumeration District. Once you know the ED, you can browse through the images to find the right page. You will find a great program at <http://stevemorse.org/census/> that will help you identify an Enumeration District based on a street address or even a township.

Several organizations will be scrambling to create indexes as quickly as possible. If you would like to help FamilySearch create their free online searchable name index visit their website at <https://familysearch.org/1940Census>.

## **WMGS Beginner Computer Classes**

**March 22, 2012**

### **Family Tree Maker for Beginners Part II**

This is the second session of a two (2) session class that introduced the participant to the basics of using Family Tree Maker. Participants should bring their laptop with the Family Tree Maker Software installed. This class is most useful for the 2008 through 2012 versions of the software. This session will be held in the Grand Rapids Public Library, Adult Computer Training Center, Lower Level from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.

**April 26, 2012**

### **Family Tree Maker 2010 Questions & Answers**

Bill Grinstead will be available to answer questions you have about Family Tree Make 2010. The class will be held in the Grand Rapids Public Library, Adult Computer Training Center, Lower Level from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.

**May 17, 2012**

### **Upload/Download to Ancestry/Rootsweb**

This class will cover transferring user data to these online databases as well as how to retrieve user ancestral data from these databases to your local laptop or desktop. A review of Family Tree Maker 2012 Tree Synch will be included.

The class will be held in the Grand Rapids Public Library, Adult Computer Training Center, Lower Level from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m

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## **2012 Michigan Notable Books**

Congratulations to Christine Byron, a librarian in the Grand Rapids History & Special Collections of the GRPL. She co-authored a book with Thomas R. Wilson titled *Vintage Views Along the West Michigan Pike: From Sand Trails to US-31*. Their book is one of the 20 books selected by the Library of Michigan as the 2012 Michigan Notable Books. For a complete list of titles, visit [www.michigan.gov/notablebooks](http://www.michigan.gov/notablebooks).



Western Michigan Genealogical Society's

## Bus Trip to Fort Wayne's Allen County Public Library

--- Note:-- Staying at GuestHouse International ---

**Tuesday-Wednesday – April 24-25, 2012**

\$115=Single, \$88=Double, \$79=Triple, \$74=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 24 <sup>th</sup>	7:30	AM	Leave Meijer (next to I96 and 28 <sup>th</sup> St near the "K" marker)
Tuesday	8:15	AM	Leave Ionia and I-96 (behind Corner's Landing Restaurant)
			Possible pickup near I96 and I69 is enough interest—call me
	9:30	ish	Refreshment Stop (donuts & juice at highway rest stop)
	10:30	AM	Arrive <b>Allen County Public Library</b> (260) 421-1200
	9:00	PM	Bus transfer to <b>GuestHouse International</b> (260) 483-0091
Day #2	7:00	AM	Wakeup Call – Continental breakfast included
Apr 25 <sup>th</sup>	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 REMODELED GuestHouse International, 3017 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.

\*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 24<sup>th</sup> would be most helpful. A \$15 deposit guarantees your place on the bus. Please send your deposit or at least an email by **April 7<sup>th</sup>**.

\*Balance must be paid by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Make checks payable to **WMGS**.

\*Please contact Sue Irvine with questions. (616) 889-0042 or [sjirv@yahoo.com](mailto:sjirv@yahoo.com)

Send registration to: Sue Irvine, 4215 Northgate NE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49525-1539

\$115=Single, \$88=Double, \$79=Triple, \$74=Quad

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**Fort Wayne Trip Tues – Wed April 24-25, 2012 Registration Form**

Room type: Smoking \_\_\_\_ Non-smoking \_\_\_\_ Is 1<sup>st</sup> floor a requirement? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Pickup Point: Circle one: **Target Meijer Ionia Lansing** Roommates: \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: if choosing Lansing, 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**: \_\_\_\_\_

# Michigan Events

## March 8, 2012

### **WWI, Women and the Rise of Grand Rapids Farmers' Markets**

Based on his thesis on civic agriculture and the institution of farmers' markets in Grand Rapids prior to 1920, Jayson Otto will tell the story of politicized urban women on city committees who organized the fight for fresh foods in the city. 7 p.m. at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. Free and open to the public.

## March 10, 2012

### **Muskegon Genealogy Workshops**

Do you live on the west side of Michigan and need help with your research or want to find out how to begin your search? The Muskegon Genealogy Society offers monthly workshops at the Hackley Public Library in the Local History, Genealogy & Periodical Department from 10:30-12:30 p.m. The next workshops will be held on March 10, April 14 and May 12.

## March 22, 2012

### **Women of the Ridge: Handling the Business and Politics of West Michigan Agriculture**

From the Peach Ridge Fruit Growers Association, formed in 1928, to Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan, organized in 1972, West Michigan women have overseen the business of marketing fruit and picketing price-gougers. Meet some of the players after Cindy Laug's fascinating presentation! 7 p.m. at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. Free and open to the public.

## March 23, 2012

### **Kalamazoo Public Library Lock-In**

The next Lock-In at the main branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. on March 23. Registration will begin on March 5. Call 269-553-7808 for more details. The Lock-In is the perfect time to utilize the unique resources at the KPL, get help and advice from staff members and to print and copy for free.

## March 25, 2012

### **Genealogy on PBS Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. presents a ten part series that delves into the genealogy and genetics of famous Americans, combining history and science in a fascinating exploration of race, family, and identity in today's America. Professor Gates shakes loose captivating stories and surprises in the family trees of Kevin Bacon, Tyra Banks, Robert Downey, Jr., Sanjay Gupta, John Legend, Martha Stewart, Barbara Walters and Rick Warren, among many others. The first episode will premier on March 25 at 8 p.m. on PBS.

## March 31, 2012

### **35<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Seminar Genealogical Society of Monroe County**

This year Jana Broglin will present four classes titled Key to the Courthouse, Proof is in the Pudding: Using the Genealogical Proof Standard, Isn't that Special? (how to use the non-population censuses) and Defective, Dependent and Delinquent Population Schedules. The seminar will be held in the Audrey M. Warrick Administration & Student Services Building at Monroe Community College. The \$23 registration fee does not include lunch (you will need to bring your own lunch.)

## May 17, 2012

### **Four Corners of Kalamazoo County**

The Oshtemo Historical Society's monthly meeting will feature Tom Dietz of the Kalamazoo Public Museum. Tom will discuss the "Four Corners of Kalamazoo County," those small settlements that developed at major intersections in almost every township in the county, but are now often forgotten or have been overtaken by urban growth. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 West Main St., Oshtemo, MI. The meeting is open to the public.

### **FamilySearch 1940 Census Index**

Are you interested in helping FamilySearch create a free index to the 1940 census? They are seeking volunteers. If you haven't already signed up to index projects for FamilySearch you can start by visiting their website at <https://familysearch.org/1940Census>. Perhaps you'd like to help out but are afraid you'll have trouble. WMGS has a solution for you. In mid-March, WMGS will host a webinar. Roger Moffat will show you how you can help with one of the most important indexing projects of this decade – the 1940 US Federal Census! We'll post an announcement on our website once plans for the webinar are finalized.

### **Lydens' File Index**

This index was compiled by the research of local historians and newspaper editor Z. Z. Lydens. This research went on to form the basis for the book "The Story of Grand Rapids." This index covers historical topics on Grand Rapids for a majority of the 20th century. Use this index to find articles in early newspapers, such as the Evening Press and Evening Leader. Later, these papers became the Grand Rapids Press. This index covers roughly 1880s through 1956. The index can be searched online at the GRPL's website: [www.grpl.org/cgi-bin/lydens/lydensearch.cgi](http://www.grpl.org/cgi-bin/lydens/lydensearch.cgi)

### **Family Bible Needs a Home**

The family bible of John and Mary Morey has been found. John and Mary were married in Grand Rapids on February 9, 1863. The owner of this bible would like to give it to a descendent of John and Mary. Please contact Dean Morey at [deanamorey@aol.com](mailto:deanamorey@aol.com) if you are a descendent of John and Mary.

### **Michigan State Census Records**

We are one step closer to viewing the 1827 through 1894 Michigan State census records online. Ancestry.com has released the index on their website. You can search the database for free by name. The results will give you the person's age, birth place, residence and relationship to head of household (but it will not show the other members of the household.) When the project is completed, the images will be searchable and viewable for free at [SeekingMichigan.org](http://SeekingMichigan.org).

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

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

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**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:membership@wmgs.org)

or write to: WMGS – Membership  
Western Michigan Genealogical Society  
111 Library St NE  
Grand Rapids MI 49503-3268

## 2012 WMGS Officers

President	Don Bryant email: <a href="mailto:president@wmgs.org">president@wmgs.org</a>	Recording Secretary	Janet Jensen email: <a href="mailto:JanetJ6990@aol.com">JanetJ6990@aol.com</a> Phone: (616) 874-8035
Vice President	Marcia Shears email: <a href="mailto:U08554@hotmail.com">U08554@hotmail.com</a> Phone: (616) 458-1221	Immediate Past President	Mindy Koole email: <a href="mailto:koole2@comcast.net">koole2@comcast.net</a> Phone: (616) 691-7986
Treasurer	Marlene Fabbro email: <a href="mailto:mfabbro@sbcglobal.net">mfabbro@sbcglobal.net</a> Phone: (616) 530-8232		