



WMGS

Newsletter

Fall 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 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 8, 2012

WPA: Works Progress Administration

Cynthia Theusch will provide you with background and historical information on the WPA, also known as the Works Project Administration. Learn how the WPA program helped the nation and later provided resources for genealogists and local historians.

October 6, 2012

Horse Cars, Cable Cars, Steam Dummy Trains, Electric Street Cars and Interurbans: Riding the Rails in the Streets of Grand Rapids—1865-1935

Carl Bajema will discuss the people who managed and operated the cars and who made transportation in Grand Rapids happen. He is the co-author of *The Lake Line: The Grand Rapids, Grand Haven & Muskegon Railway*. This 2012 book contains "The Corporation Had a Soul" chapter devoted to employees who worked on the interurban railway and a four page roster of employees!!

October 12 & 13, 2012

2012 Got Ancestors?! Seminar

See the insert for information about our 2012 Got Ancestors?! seminar featuring Curt B. Witcher, MLS, FUGA, IGSF.

November 3, 2012

To be Announced

Our speaker and topic will be announced on our website at a later date.

Mini Classes

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

Sept 8, 2012: *Introduction to Laptop Computers*
12:15-1:15 p.m. Vander Veen Center for the Book

Oct 6, 2012: *Introduction to FindAGrave.com*
12:15-1:15 p.m. Adult Computer Center

Nov 3, 2012: *Using the Flip-Pal Portable Scanner*
12:15-1:15 p.m. Adult Computer Center

WMGS Family History Writers' Workshops

Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20 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. Everyone is welcome to bring their latest writing project rather than the suggested topic for the meeting.

Sept. 18: What I did on my Summer Vacation (Past or Present.)

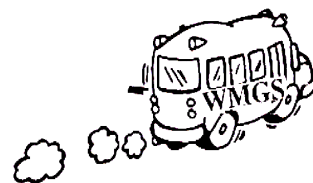
Oct. 16: The Scariest Person in my Family (the definition of "Scariest" is up to the writer.)

Nov. 20: A "Black Sheep" in my Ancestry.

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.



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



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

Wednesday-Thursday – November 14-15, 2012

\$122=Single, \$91=Double, \$81=Triple, \$73=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 14 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)
			Possible near Lansing/Charlotte (I-96/I-69)—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 International (260) 483-0091
Day #2	7:00	AM	Wakeup Call – Continental breakfast included
Nov 15 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 REMODELLED Guest House International 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.

*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 October 24th would be most helpful. A \$15 deposit guarantees your place on the bus. Please send your deposit or at least an email by **Oct 24th**.

***Balance must be paid by November 10th**. 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

\$122=Single, \$91=Double, \$81=Triple, \$73=Quad

Fort Wayne Trip Wed – Thurs Nov 14 & 15, 2012 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 Lansing area** Roommates: _____

(Note: if choosing Lansing area, you must call Sue at (616) 889-0042 to arrange a pick-up location near I-69 & Lansing)

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

FamilySearch.org

1940 Census Indexing is Complete

FamilySearch.org and the Michigan Genealogical Council would like to thank all of our volunteers who helped to index and arbitrate the 1940 Census. The information is being processed and the searchable database will be online by September. If you enjoyed indexing the census and would like to continue to volunteer, sign into the indexing software and check out all of the other great indexing projects that are available. Michigan county deaths are available and the current Community Project is U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Records.

Order Microfilm Online!

Yes it's true. Residents of Michigan can now order microfilm online and have it delivered to the Family History Center (FHC) of their choice. In the past, patrons had to visit their local FHC, fill out a form and pay in cash to order a film and return at a later date to view it. Now you can make one less trip by ordering the films from home! Search for the film by using the Catalog at FamilySearch.org (it's link is in the line below the Discover Your Family History heading.) Click on the film number and an Online Film Ordering page will appear. You will need to either login or create a new account by clicking on the blue Sign-In button. You will be able to select your local FHC by clicking a button in the Loan section. The cost for a Short Term microfilm is \$7.50. You will be able to pay by Credit Card or PayPal. You will receive an email confirming your order.

WMGS Beginner Classes

The Beginner Classes are a great way to get started with your research. All classes are held in the Grand Rapids Public Library and are free to the public. No registration is required.

Sept. 18: *Beginner's Introduction to Genealogy* by Wanda Schottler. 6:45-8:45 p.m. in the GRPL Adult Computer Center.

Oct. 30: *Using Genealogy Software to Start Your Research* by Bill Grinstead. 6:45-8:45 p.m. in the GRPL Adult Computer Center.

Nov. 12: *Organizing Genealogical Documents* by Bill Grinstead. 6:45-8:45 p.m. in the GRPL Vander Veen Center for the Book.

New at SeekingMichigan.org

At last! The State of Michigan census records are starting to appear at SeekingMichigan.org. The census images for Ingham and Newaygo counties for 1884 and 1894 are now searchable and viewable.

You will also notice that SeekingMichigan.org looks different. Searching for records will be a little easier. To learn more about the search page and new features, go to their Home page and click on the colorful slide at the top of the page to watch an informative 8 minute long video tutorial. Some of the new features include guides and indexes to the records housed at the Archives of Michigan, the ability to filter records when you have too many search results, and the ability to add a comment to a specific record.

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

2012 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		