



# WMGS Newsletter

Spring 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 p.m., starting with WMGS business and are 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 2, 2013

#### **Irish Genealogy**

Maureen Nelson will highlight helpful websites and archives in Ireland and Canada and ways to continue the search of the Irish in Michigan. In March, we celebrate St. Patrick's Day and Maureen loves all things Irish, so you might hear a couple of interesting stories from trips to Ireland.

### April 6, 2013

#### **Found a Hollander in Your Ancestry?**

There's a very good chance that you have because between 1820 and 1900, 340,000 Dutch emigrated from the Netherlands to the United States, with the majority settling in Michigan. By 1880 the total number of Dutch in Grand Rapids in 1880 was approx. 4,000. By 1900 one-third of the Dutch-born in the USA lived in Western Michigan where they totaled 40% of the population. Janet Sheeres' presentation will focus on some of the basic structures of Dutch genealogy, and the pitfalls Americans incur when researching their Dutch roots in Dutch records. We'll look at the various parts of the Dutch Civil Registry and church records and the difference; and also briefly touch on Dutch genealogical databases available on the Internet.

### May 4, 2013

#### **Getting Around the Brick Wall**

Jim Jackson will be our speaker for May. We all reach the end of the trail on some of our branches. As Churchill said, "Never, never, never give up!" By trying variant spellings, little used sources, and having just a little luck, you may break through that wall. How about really analyzing the sources you already have? There may be hidden clues there. Don't forget boundary changes through the years - are you really looking in the right place? And don't overlook finding aids and resources that are available for free on the internet.

## 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 2, 2013

#### **Solving Brick Walls in Family Research**

We all have them—those annoying brick walls that pop up just when we're making progress. This class will focus on those brick walls and the common techniques used to work around the lack of progress in research.

### April 6, 2013

#### **Protecting Your Computer Data From Loss**

Losing your data to a hard disk failure, lightning, theft, or accidental dropping of your laptop is no laughing matter. The data on your computer represents many hours of labor and cost to you. Jeanessa Fenderson will review options for protecting your data from these types of losses.

### May 4, 2013

#### **GEDCOM Files - What's the Mystery?**

Every owner of genealogy software has heard or read of GEDCOM files. Bill Grinstead reviews the nature of GEDCOM files, their purpose, structure, and how you can utilize the power of data transfer to expand your family history research.

## WMGS Volunteer of the Year Nominations

Our Annual Volunteer Appreciation presentation will be done during the Members Meeting in April. This year we would not only like to recognize all of our amazing WMGS volunteers but we would like to present one of those individuals with a special certificate, 2012 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR Award. To do that we need your help. Have you observed one of those individuals going above and beyond, or possibly, have you observed someone else doing things for WMGS that has not been recognized and should be? Please submit their name and the reasons why you think they should receive an award to us. You can do that by filling out the Volunteer of the Year Nomination form at [wmgs.org](http://wmgs.org) or in this Newsletter. Submit it electronically, turn it in at the March membership meeting or send it to the following address: Mindy Koole, 9217 Wabasis Shore Dr, Greenville, MI 48838. The deadline for submission is March 2 so don't delay- submit your nomination today!

## WMGS Family History Writers' Workshops

March 19, 2013

April 16, 2013

May 15, 2013

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.

## WMGS Family History Writing Contest

Do you have a great story about your family? Any stories of struggles, immigration or "black sheep"? That story may be a winner! Why not share your story? The Western Michigan Genealogical Society Writing Contest provides the opportunity for researchers to share special family stories with fellow genealogists. The stories may be historically or ethnically important, humorous or just plain interesting. Writing a family history story will preserve it for future generations.

In addition to helping genealogists to identify their lineage, WMGS wants to encourage everyone to preserve and share their ancestors' stories. The purpose of this Contest is to recognize unpublished genealogical writing by awarding winning authors with substantial prizes. The winning entries will be published in *Michigana* starting in the 2103 July/August/September issue. Before publication the essays will receive the same editing used for all other submissions to *Michigana*.

The contest deadline is March 15, 2013. For information about the rules and prizes visit [www.wmgs.org](http://www.wmgs.org).

## WMGS Beginner Computer Classes

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

### Other Online Databases for Genealogy

There's more to online genealogy than Ancestry.com. Participants will learn what it takes to conduct genealogical research through an understanding of genealogy database software, and techniques for locating and organizing family history information. Key online databases such as Rootsweb, FamilySearch and the WMGS databases will be explored. Join Bill Grinstead to learn about these other online databases that can provide you with records and information that aren't on Ancestry.com. 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.

Tuesday, April 16, 2013

### Dutch Heritage Databases

WieWasWie and Zeeuws Archief are online databases for locating vital records in the Netherlands. Zeeuws Archief is the official database for the Province of Zeeland and contains over 5.3 million records. WieWasWie is an official Dutch database with records from all provinces. Dutch vital records exist from at least 1811, but there are some records dating back to the 1700s. This class will teach you how to access these databases, locate abstracts of vital records and make copies. Basic computer skills are required. This session will be held in the Grand Rapids Public Library, Adult Computer Training Center, Lower Level from 6:45 to 8:30 p.m.

## WMGS Evening Class

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

### Pre-1912 Grand Rapids Street Name Changes

Did you think that Grand Rapids only changed street names in 1912? The first street name change in Grand Rapids occurred in 1857. East Bridge Street was changed to Michigan Street in 1909. Learn about the history of Grand Rapids street name changes prior to 1912 to pinpoint where your ancestors **REALLY** lived. Barbara Vander Mark will share her extensive research of this subject with us.

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.

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2012

WMGS recognizes that it takes the contributions of *many people* for our society to reach its goals. 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. Just write their name below with a brief reason for your nominating that individual. Important: Please complete the Submitter information.

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Because: \_\_\_\_\_

### Submitter (Member) information:

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your email or phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominations accepted through March 2, 2013. Award recipients will be recognized at the April membership meeting.



Western Michigan Genealogical Society's

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

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

**Tuesday-Wednesday – April 23-24, 2013**

\$116=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 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7:30	AM	Leave Meijer (next to I-96 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 I-96 and I-69 if 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 24 <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 20<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 should be paid by April 20<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

\$116=Single, \$88=Double, \$79=Triple, \$74=Quad

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**Fort Wayne Trip Tues – Wed April 23-24, 2013 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

## Saturday, March 16, 2013

### **WMGS Tour of the Archives of Michigan**

The Archives of Michigan is now open on Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm! The Archives has planned a special day for members and friends of WMGS. The Archives will open early at 9 am to give them time to make research badges for the new researchers and take us on a tour. When the doors open to the public, you'll be ready to start your research. Before you go, visit their website at [www.michigan.gov/archivesofmi](http://www.michigan.gov/archivesofmi). Click on the Collections & Services link to get to the Archives of Michigan Circulars. The circulars will show you some of the records that are kept at the Archives and the information you need to request those records. Some of the most popular records are prison records, state census records, State Land Patents and Naturalization records. If you are planning on attending, watch our website for information on how to register. This will help the Archives make sure there are enough staff members to help us.

## Saturday, April 13, 2013

### **A Day with Paula Stewart-Warren**

The Genealogical Society of Monroe County's Annual Spring Seminar will be held Saturday, April 13th in the Administration Building of the Monroe County Community College, Monroe, Michigan. They are thrilled to welcome Paula Stuart-Warren! The topics Paula will cover are: Deeds in the Courthouse: More than Land; Your Anytime Library: Success in the Virtual Stacks; What Next? Developing Step by Step Research Plans; Tho' They Were Poor, They May Have Been Rich in Records. The cost is \$23, plus an additional \$7 for a box lunch (or you can visit a local restaurant). Visit [gsmcmi.org](http://gsmcmi.org) for more information.

## Friday, April 19, 2013

### **GRPL Lock-In**

The Grand Rapids Public Library will hold their next Lock-In on April 19, from 6:00-10:00 p.m. Come to the Local History and Special Collections department for a 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 and use the Library's WiFi network. Volunteers from WMGS will be on hand to answer your genealogy questions or solve Ancestry and Heritage Quest problems. Network with other genealogists – you never know what you might find! Registration is required—visit [www.grpl.org/register](http://www.grpl.org/register) or call 988-5400. 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.

## Saturday, April 27, 2013

### **Honoring our Ancestors Seminar**

The Charlevoix Public Library is hosting a full day of talks by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak. Megan will present Reverse Genealogy: Techniques for Finding Your Lost Loved Ones; Find That Obituary; Right Annie, Wrong Annie and Cases That Made My Brain Hurt. The lectures are being sponsored by the Friends of the Charlevoix Public Library. Registration begins on February 1. The registration fee for the full day will be \$50 and will include lunch. Or a half day for \$25. The registration form and more information can be found at [www.charlevoixlibrary.org](http://www.charlevoixlibrary.org).

## Saturday & Sunday, May 4-5, 2013

### **Spring into the Past**

It's that time of year when the Tri-River Historical Museum Network sponsors their annual open house featuring the museums and historical societies located along the Flat, Grand and Thornapple rivers. Learn more at [www.commoncorners.com/pdf/springintopast2013.pdf](http://www.commoncorners.com/pdf/springintopast2013.pdf)

## Thursday, May 9, 2013

### **Mugging for the Camera: Mug Shot Book 1897-1911**

We've all seen mug shots of today's arrested men and women. But what about those taken more than 100 years ago? Society President Gina Bivins of the Grand Rapids Public Museum will explore the lives and faces from mug shots taken at the turn of the century at the Annual Meeting and Banquet of the Grand Rapids Historical Society. She'll present some interesting stories of those faces from 1897 to 1911 from a mug shot book found at the museum.

Details about the location and cost of the dinner will be announced later at [www.grhistory.org/](http://www.grhistory.org/). The event is sponsored by the Grand Rapids Historical Society.

## Wed. – Sat., August 21-24, 2013

### **FGS Conference: Journey Through Generations**

Registration for this year's FGS Conference is now open! It may seem a bit soon to be thinking about the FGS Conference in August, but now is the time to start planning your trip. The 2013 conference will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana. It will have six tracks of sessions covering nearby states, Europe, genetics, technology, writing, migration and more. It will also have workshops, a Society Showcase, special hours at the Allen County Public Library. Early bird pricing is available until July 1. To learn more go to [www.fgsconference.org](http://www.fgsconference.org).

## Where's Genlias?

Many people researching ancestors in the Netherlands are mourning the loss of Genlias. The Genlias website was shut down January 1, 2013. Don't fret! It has been replaced by a new website called WieWasWie (Who was Who.) This website contains the same information as Genlias, as well as access to images of the original records, but can be a little intimidating to those of us in the United States because the website is entirely in Dutch. Don't let the Dutch language stop you from searching this amazing database. Here are a few tips to get you going again.

- The new website is [WieWasWie.nl](http://WieWasWie.nl)
- You can search the database without registering. You will have to register if you would like to download scans of the civil registers, population registers and church books.
- You can search for an individual by typing their name into the space in the blue box titled **Personen zoeken** (find people) and clicking the **Zoet** button.
- You can perform an advanced search by clicking on the [Uitgebreid zoeken](#) link in the blue **Personen zoeken** box.
  - **Achternaam** means surname
  - **Tussenvoegsel** is for prefixes like de-, vander-, ten- (**DeBoer**, **VanderVeen**, **TenBoer**, etc.)
  - **Voorna(a)m(en)** is the given name
- **Patronien** is the derivative of the father or mother's first name
- **Beroep** is the profession
- **Rol** is for terms like bride, groom, mother, father, child, etc.
- **Periode** is the time frame in years
- **Land** is the country within the Netherlands. Note: if you choose a country from the drop down menu you need to wait for the page to reload. Then you can make a selection from the region menu if you like.
- **Regio** is the region.
- **Plaats** is the place within a region.
- **Zoeken in** is a menu of documents you can search. **Alle documenttypen** searches all documents in the database.
- **Bevat** means contains
- The **Voeg een persoon toe** button lets you search for a second person. The **Verwijder laatste persoon** button lets you remove the second person from the search.
- The **Zoeken** button is the Search button.
- The dates are formatted day-month-year.
- To translate other terms which appear in the results, copy and paste them into Google Translate.

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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### 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

### 2013 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		