



WMGS

Newsletter

Winter 2012/2013



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 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.

December 1, 2012

Civil War Clothing

Bill and Glenna Jo Christen's presentation will be an overview of the clothing (from undergarments to outerwear and shoes and headwear) worn by citizens of the United States between 1860 and 1865. They will be bringing some examples of original garments from their collection of men's and women's clothing of the 1850 to 1875 period. They will discuss how the clothing was constructed and worn. For the genealogist they will provide some dating clues that may help in identification of clothing passed down from ancestors or seen in old photographs.

If anyone wishes to bring what they believe to be nineteenth-century clothing, Bill and Glenna will be happy to help identify it. They can also offer advice on conservation and preservation of the garments.

January 5, 2013

Establishing Kinship Using Family Reunion Announcements

Patricia Bravender will present a program at the January meeting based on her article in the spring 2012 issue of *American Ancestors*, "Establishing Kinship Using Family Reunion Announcements." She will discuss how reports of family reunions in local newspapers are important and often overlooked sources of family history that can provide valuable information about family members and relationships. Pat will describe how she used family reunion announcements to link members of her own family and will give tips to help you find family reunion records for your own family.

February 2, 2013

African American Genealogy

It's Black History Month! Come celebrate with a program offering resources, tips and pitfalls to avoid in researching African-American Ancestors. Presenter Jessica Trotter has been researching her family for the past sixteen years—and during that time she's come across some fabulous resources, made a few colossal mistakes, and still made progress—if not always the way she intended.

WMGS Mini Classes

Mini Classes are held in the Grand Rapids Public Library from 12:15 to 1:15. See the description below for the location. They are free to the general public. Mini Classes are held on the same day as the monthly WMGS Programs.

December 1, 2012

Going to Salt Lake? What to Expect

Vander Veen Room, 4th floor

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah has the largest genealogical collection in the world. Five floors containing over 2.4 million rolls of microfilmed genealogical records; 727,000 microfiche; 356,000 books, serials, and other formats; over 4,500 periodicals and 3,725 electronic resources can be a little overwhelming. Karen McCombs will help you plan ahead to get the most out of your trip.

January 5, 2013

To be announced later on our website

February 2, 2013

To be announced later on our website

December Sales Table Discount

The WMGS Sales Table will offer a 20% discount off your entire purchase if you are a member of WMGS

-OR-

a 10% discount off your entire purchase if you are NOT a member of WMGS.

This holiday discount will only be available at the December 1, 2012 membership meeting.

WMGS Family History Writers' Workshops

December 18, 2012
January 15, 2013
February 19, 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. Everyone is welcome - newbies with fresh ideas, and seasoned vets whose pens have been in the trenches for some time. Those who attend are encouraged to bring several copies of something they are currently working on, but it's certainly not a requirement and everyone is invited to participate in the discussion. Everyone is welcome to bring their latest writing project rather than the suggested topic for the meeting.

December: Food from My Roots. This is a Potluck. Group members bring a dish to pass and we share remembrances and friendship.

January: An incident from your childhood where your behavior caused some negative repercussions. How did you survive the resulting wrath from parents, teachers or friends?

February: My favorite class or activity in high school.

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 wish to attend. This gives her an estimate of the number of chairs to set up. She's also the person to call if you have any questions or need more specific directions. 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 Beginner Computer Classes

The December class is the fourth in a series of classes for beginning genealogists. Assignments will be given at the end of each class to prepare the participant for the next class. At the end of these classes, participants will be able to identify ancestors, marriages, children, birth and death dates, burial locations, residences and much more. Most of the databases used for this class are free to the user or accessible at the Main Library. No computer is required, as class computers will be provided.

You may attend the following classes even if you missed the first three. If you would like a copy of the current assignment call Bill at (616) 240-1579.

December 13, 2012 **Basic Census Records** **Using Heritage Quest**

6:45-8:45 p.m. Adult Computer Lab, GRPL

Census records are essential tools for genealogy research. In this class you will learn how to use census records in your genealogy research using Heritage Quest. Michigan residents with a valid driver's license can access Heritage Quest for free from home.

January 22, 2013

Basics of Ancestry.com Database

Ancestry is an online subscription genealogy database that is provided to the Grand Rapids Public Library free of charge through a donation from WMGS. Ancestry has grown into a powerful website and can be of great benefit in your genealogical research. Learn some techniques to help you search for information. Basic computers skills are required for this class. 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.

February 19, 2013

Using Family Trees on Ancestry.com

In this class you will learn how to use Family Trees created by other researchers to find clues about your family. This class will be held in the Grand Rapids Public Library, Adult Computer Training Center, Lower Level from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.

ISGS \$10,000 War of 1812 Pension Match Challenge

The Illinois State Genealogical Society announced the ISGS \$10,000 War of 1812 Pension Match Challenge. ISGS will MATCH any contribution (up to the first \$10,000) made to the Preserve the Pensions project before December 31, 2012. For instance, if you donate \$100, the ISGS will match your contribution for a total of \$200! In addition, Ancestry.com has announced it will also match ALL ISGS contributions which would mean any contribution you make will actually be QUADRUPLED! Your \$100 contribution would become a \$400 contribution! Any size contribution is welcome! A \$10 contribution equals about 80 pages of Pension files digitized as part of the Preserve the Pensions project.

The goal of the "Preserve the Pensions" campaign is to raise the \$3.7 Million needed to digitize the War of 1812 Pension Application Files that are currently stored in the National Archives and make them freely available online. There are over 180,000 Pension files that total over 7.2 million pages! The National Archives gets over three thousand requests per year to photocopy these records and this hard use is taking its toll on the original documents. By digitizing these documents we could halt further damage to these historical documents. The pages are being digitized as funds become available and some of these files are already viewable by visiting <http://go.fold3.com/1812pensions/>.

To make a contribution via Pay Pal or for more information visit our web site at <http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=268>. Or mail a check, made payable to Illinois State Genealogical Society (Put "War of 1812" on Memo line), to: Illinois State Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 10195, Springfield IL 62791-0195.

Make a Tax Deductible Donation to WMGS

Please consider making a tax deductible donation in support of genealogical research, education, and preservation in West Michigan. The Western Michigan Genealogical Society is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law when no goods or services are given in exchange for the contribution. A check made payable to the Western Michigan Genealogical Society is the simplest way to financially support the Society and its activities. For convenience, we offer a secure online donation form that you can use with your credit card or a PayPal account at www.wmgs.org/donations.htm.

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*.

Rules:

Eligibility: All family historians and genealogists, except the *Michigana* Editor and judges, are eligible to enter. There is no entry fee and membership in WMGS is not required.

Deadline: Entries will be accepted between January 1 and March 15, 2013.

Length: Stories should be between 1,500 and 2,000 words in length. Indicate that you have researched the events by citing your sources as endnotes, and attach copies of the documentation. Family group sheets and pedigree charts should be included if pertinent. The citations, family group sheets, charts and documents are not included in the word count.

Formats: Entries may be emailed or presented in a paper format. When emailed, PDF or Word formatting is preferred. Photographs or digital copies should be in tiff or jpeg files at 300 dpi. Email your submission to rhischirado@gmail.com with *Michigana* Contest written in the Subject Line. If submissions are mailed, please double space on one side of standard letter size (8½ x11") paper. Number each sheet and make sure your name is on it. Include copies of all photographs and supporting information. Mail to: WMGS, Grand Rapids Public Library, 111 Library St NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503-3268.

Identification: Be sure to include the story title, your name, mailing address, phone number, and approximate word count. This information will be only used to identify and notify the winners.

Notification: The Judges' decisions will be announced at the April 2013 Membership Meeting. Winners do not have to be present to win. Prize winners names and entries will be published in future issues of *Michigana*. By submitting articles, authors are giving WMGS permission to publish their material, however, copyright is retained by the author. Entries may not have been previously published. Judges' comments will be provided upon request. All prizes may not be awarded.

Prizes

1st prize: \$100 cash and 1 annual WMGS membership
2nd prize: \$75 cash and 1 annual WMGS membership
3rd prize: \$50 cash prize only
4th prize: \$25 cash prize only

Michigan Events

November 27, 2012

Hastings Public Library Genealogy Club

Join the members of the Library's Genealogy Club to ask questions and learn some of the secrets of tracking down your ancestors. Club members maintain Barry County records and other local materials at the Library and actively seek to enrich these holdings through contributions, original indexing work, and purchases. Cemetery records and newspaper indexes are a key part of these holdings. 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Hastings Public Library, 227 E. State St, Hastings, Michigan. Club members will also be available for help on January 22 and February 26 at 6 to 8 p.m.

December 12, 2012

Introduction to GRPL Library Resources

This Adult Computer Class is designed for those who already have a working knowledge of computers and some experience with using the mouse. GRPL offers a wide-variety of electronic resources from research databases to access to the Michigan Electronic Library catalog (MELCAT). Find out how to search GRPL's Evergreen catalog and place holds, access ebooks, request items through MELCAT and surf GRPLpedia, the library's in-house wiki. The class is 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Main Library.

December 27, 2012

Night at Your Museum

The annual family-friendly fundraiser Night at Your Museum returns to the Grand Rapids Public Museum Thursday, December 27 from 6 to 9 pm. Based on the 2006 and 2009 movies, Grand Rapids Public Museum's Night at Your Museum will include Medieval knights duelling with swords, Native American performances of ceremonial dances in full regalia, and Civil War soldiers reenacting skirmishes. The Spillman Carousel will whirl to life throughout the evening, and guests can catch one of six scheduled planetarium shows. Guests will receive a souvenir flashlight and honorary security guard badge upon admittance to the dimly-lit museum. Tickets are \$20 per person, and include dinner. Proceeds benefit programs and exhibitions at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. Tickets will be available to the general public on December 4 by calling (616) 456.3977.

January 5, 2013

Archives of Michigan's First Saturday

Mark Harvey, State Archivist, has announced that the Archives of Michigan would offer researchers Saturday hours beginning Saturday, January 5, 2013. The Archives of Michigan will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Saturday, excluding state holidays. Materials in the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection and original primary source documents and manuscripts in the Archives collection will be available to researchers six days a week. There is no charge for parking on Saturdays. For additional information visit seekingmichigan.org/about/visit-us/archives.

January 10, 2013

Are We There Yet? 100 Years of Kent County Road Construction.

The Grand Rapids Historical Society will host a presentation by Tom Byle of the Kent Co. Road Commission. Tom will speak about the history of roads and streets in Kent County, from the evolution of the Indian trails to the highways of today as well as the equipment used to build and maintain the roads. The talk will be illustrated with photos from the 1920s and 1930s. The presentation will be held at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum at 7 p.m.

January 19, 2013

History Detectives

A day-long event at the Grand Rapids Public Library made up of six programs exploring various aspects of Grand Rapids history. Presented by area historians and members of historical and cultural organizations, topics are varied and reflect the unique heritage of West Michigan. Topics include: Michigan's Great Time Confusion (by David Smith); How Did Michigan Become the Tourist Empire of the Inland Seas; Saving John Ball Park's Historic Legacy; An Early History of Women in the Michigan State Capitol; Inside a 1950s Black Barbershop; and Powers & Ball: The Family, Furniture and Factories.

January 25, 2013

GRPL Lock-In

The Grand Rapids Public Library will hold their next Lock-In on January 25, from 6:00-10:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for people who are new to genealogy to get help from members of WMGS. As always, printing is free and Ancestry.com and Fold3.com are free. Registration at www.grpl.org/register is normally open 30 days prior to the event. 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.

January 26, 2013

DTE Ethnic Heritage Festival

The Grand Rapids Public Museum will once again offer a FREE day of celebration of music, dance, crafts and food representing the various ethnic groups that call West Michigan Home. Don't forget to visit the Civil War exhibit *Thank God for Michigan! Stories from the Civil War* while you are there. The museum will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

RENEWAL REMINDER

Now is the time to think about renewing your membership. Renewing before January helps us plan our yearly budget and minimize mailing costs by sending your *Michigana* with bulk mail. Look at the upper right corner of the mailing label on this newsletter to see if your membership expires this year.

If your label says **Expiration Dec 2012**: Fill out the MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION form in this newsletter and mail it with the appropriate dues to the address shown at the bottom of the form.

If your label says **Expiration Dec 2013** or later: If your mailing label shows that your membership expires December 2013 or later, you have already paid for 2013 and you do not need to do anything.

SeekingMichigan Store

Are you looking a unique Christmas gift? Take a look at SeekingMichigan's online store. It offers mugs, prints, photographs, t-shirts, pint sized beer glasses, greeting cards and jigsaw puzzles featuring historic beer labels, postcard images, maps and flags of Michigan. The best part about buying a gift here is that the profits from your purchase help to maintain the SeekingMichigan.org website and fund the filming of new records. Go to SeekingMichigan.org and click on the Buy link.

FamilySearch.org

The latest MGC sponsored project at FamilySearch Indexing is wrapping up. Volunteers have spent the past three months indexing and proofreading death certificates for the state of Michigan from 1921 to 1952. The completed index will be freely accessible online to the general public when the collection is published. The digital images will be accessible to active FamilySearch account holders once an authentication system is put in place on Record Search. No date has been set for the release of the authentication system.

Some probate records for Bay, Benzie, Branch, Eaton, Jackson, Lake, Lapeer, Leelanau, Manistee, Oakland, Oceana, Van Buren and Wayne county have been released at FamilySearch.org. Most of the collections contain estate files. This collection has not been indexed, however some counties have indexes within the books.

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 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

2012/2013 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		