



WMGS *Newsletter*

Fall 2008

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 stamped in the Library. Refreshments are served after the speaker's presentation. Books and supplies may be purchased from the Sales Table before and after the programs.

September 6, 2008

It's a Wonderful Time to Begin Your Polish Research

Ceil Wendt Jensen is an author and a Certified Genealogist who has documented her Polish ancestry back to the 17th century. Ceil will use examples from her personal research to show us new ways to locate and to use records, internet databases and archives to begin and continue our Polish research.

October 4, 2008

To be Announced

Check the Upcoming Events section at wmgs.org in the future for more information about October's program.

November 1, 2008

Magnifying Brick Wall Clues

Join us at Calvin College's Prince Conference Center for presentations by Lisa A. Alzo and Michael John Neill.

Visit <http://wmgs.org/seminar.htm> for more information

WMGS Mini-Classes

Mini-Classes are held in the Grand Rapids Public Library's 4th floor Conference Room from 12:45 to 1:15 pm. Mini-classes focus on how to locate and use specific resources at the GRPL. Admission is free.

September 6, 2008

Ruth VanStee will show you how to use the GRPL's Bajema Collection to enhance your research.

October 4, 2008

Sue Irvine will show you what's available in the WMGS Manuscript Files and how to search the files.

November 1, 2008

No mini-classes will be held due to the Magnifying Brick Wall Clues seminar at the Prince Conference Center at Calvin College.

Beginner's Class

November 15th at 1:15 p.m.

GRPL, 4th floor, VanderVeen Center

This is a not just a class for new beginners to genealogy, but for anyone with questions about where to go next in their research, what to do with what you've got, or how to climb over that brick wall. Many Society members have volunteered to meet on a one-on-one basis at different times. You will be able to make arrangements for one-on-one assistance at this class. Come with your research and your questions.

Family History Writer's Workshop **August 19 and October 14 at 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.** **Dominican Center, 2025 Fulton St East**

The writer's workshops are designed to help and support each other's desire to write about our families. 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) 643-0206 (home) or (616) 643-0225 (office) if you wish to attend. You may park in the Dominican Center parking lot on Lakeside Drive. Use the main entrance under the large portico and go up the steps. The receptionist will direct you to the room. Our next scheduled meeting will be October 14, 2008.

WMGS Needs YOUR Help

WMGS is accepting nominations for **President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer** for our October election. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please send an email to newsletter@wmgs.org. All of the positions are volunteer.

The following non-elected positions are open: **Volunteer Coordinator**. If you are interested in this position, please contact Mindy Koole at (616) 691-7986.

The next project that WMGS is working on is an index of the **Kent County Death Records** from 1867 to 1929. We need your help in typing this into a database. The index will appear online on our databases site as it is completed. If you would like to work on this project see Roger Moffat before or after the monthly meetings, or contact Roger by eMail at DataMaster@wmgs.org. See <http://data.wmgs.org/Projects/DeathIndex/> for more information.

Michigan Events

September 14 and 28, 2008

Oakfield Pioneer Heritage Museum Open House

The museum will be open from 2 to 4 pm. It specializes in the history of Oakfield township. The museum is located at 11009 Podunk Avenue, ¾ mile south of M-57.

September 20, 2008

Eaton County Heritage Conference

Eaton County will hold a half-day conference at the Sunfield United Brethren Church in Sunfield, Michigan. Shirley Gage Hodges will be speaking about preserving your family history and heirlooms in the morning. Lunch will be provided at the Sunfield Coffee House. Afternoon tours of the Sunfield G.A.R. Hall, Mapes Furniture, The Sunfield Sentinel, Welch Hardware and the Sunfield Coffee House have been arranged. Please register by September 10. For more information and a registration form please visit the website below.
mimgc.org/pdf/EatonCountySeminar2008.pdf

September 20, 2008

Muskegon Cemetery Tour

The Muskegon county Museum will offer a tour of the historic Evergreen Cemetery where participants will learn the meaning behind the elaborate headstones and the history of the families buried there. The tour is limited to 30 people and will begin at 10 am. Please make reservations by calling (231) 722-0278.

September 27, 2008

Family History Festival

Save this date if you have ancestors that lived in the Detroit area. Watch www.dsgr.org for more information.

October 18, 2008

Celebration of the Book GRPL 10 am to 8 pm

This is an annual, daylong event that celebrates and promotes the culture and history of the book. It also provides a venue to highlight the area's mosaic of educational, literary and literacy programs.

WMGS members Shirley M. DeBoer, CG and Bobbie Schirado will present *Creating a Family History* at 2:30 pm in the VanderVeen Center. Shirley is the author of *Research in Michigan*. She will discuss the procedure she used to prepare her book's guide and highlight particular sections. She will also briefly share methods for researching, organizing and documenting your family history. Bobbie Schirado is the editor of *Michiganana*. She will present creative ideas to ensure that family stories are passed down to future generations. She will also suggest places where additional background information may be found as well as illustrate how a large project can be divided into smaller, manageable sections.

October 18, 2008

MGC Family History Month Seminar

The Michigan Genealogical Council will present a seminar at the Library of Michigan with sessions about using HAL, subscription databases, Michigan death records, Genweb, resources at the Library of Michigan, naturalization records and tips for deciphering old handwriting and conducting Michigan research.

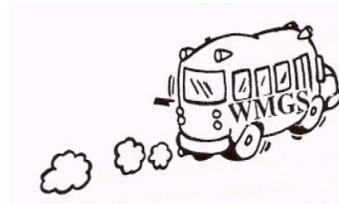
The seminar will also feature displays by MGC members and sample publications.

The cost is \$17 without a lunch and \$25 with a cold lunch buffet. Please register before October 10.

Visit the website below for class schedules and descriptions, the lunch menu, and the registration form.
www.mimgc.org/pdf/MGC2008seminar.pdf



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



--- Note:- Staying at Motel6 ---

Tuesday - Wednesday – Oct 14-15, 2008

\$88=Single, \$71=Double, \$67=Triple, \$64=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)
Oct 14th	7:30	AM	Leave Meijers (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)
	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 Motel 6 (260) 482-3972
Day #2	7:00	AM	Wakeup Call – Walk across parking lot to restaurant for breakfast
Oct 15 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 Meijers I-96 drop off area
	10:30	PM	Arrive at Target on Alpine

Trip includes: roundtrip motor coach transportation, lodging at Motel 6 at 3003 Coliseum Blvd. West, and library transfer. Breakfast is NOT included – Liberty Diner (¢) is across parking lot – (Allen County Library also has a nice café) Allen County Library will be having special classes throughout October (Family History Month). Please check their website for those events.

- *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. A \$15 deposit guarantees your place on the bus until the bus is full. Please send your deposit or at least an email by **Sept 10th**.
- *Balance must be paid by our October regular meeting. 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
 \$88=Single, \$71=Double, \$67=Triple, \$64=Quad

 Ft. Wayne Trip Tues – Wed October 14-15, 2008
 Room type: Smoking ___ Non-smoking ___ Is 1st floor a requirement? Yes ___ No ___

NAME: _____ Phone# (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____ City,State,Zip _____

Pickup Point: Circle one: **Target** **Meijers** **Ionia** Roommates: _____

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

Magnifying Brick Wall Clues

Saturday, November 1, 2008
Prince Conference Center at Calvin College
1800 East Beltline SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan

REGISTRATION

*NOTE: Registration fee includes buffet lunch and all class materials. Parking is free at the Prince Center.
For class schedules, lunch menu and speaker biographies go to <http://wmgs.org/seminar.htm>*

PLEASE register online at <http://register.wmgs.org/>

You can pay online with PayPal or by printing out your completed online registration form and mailing it and a check to: WMGS Seminar Registration, Roger Moffat, 3020 76th St SE, Caledonia MI 49316-8398. Please make your check out to WMGS. If you DO NOT have Internet access, please use the form below and mail it with your check to the address above. WMGS will be unable to refund registration fees after October 15, 2008.

NAME _____ - Early Registration
by September 30th \$15.00 _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ - Late Registration
Received by Oct. 15th \$20.00 _____
EMAIL _____ NO Registrations accepted after
October 15, 2008
PHONE _____

*Space is LIMITED - Register Early! Learn new research techniques and meet new cousins!
Carpool to Save Gasoline!*

Genealogy Classes at the Grand Rapids Public Library

Ancestry Sept. 11 at 1:00-3:00 pm Sept. 24 at 7:00-8:45 pm Oct. 23 1:00-3:00 pm Nov. 5 at 7:00-8:45 pm
Ancestry is an online subscription genealogy database that is provided by the GRPL free of charge. Ancestry has grown into a powerful database and can be of great benefit in your genealogical research. Learn some techniques to help you search. Basic computer skills are required for this class.

New England Ancestors Sept. 25 at 1:00-3:00 pm Oct. 15 at 1:00-3:00 pm Nov. 6 at 1:00-3:00 pm
New England Ancestors is the research site of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the oldest genealogical organization in the country. The databases contain a wealth of information pertaining to Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont as well as other "East Coast areas." In this class you will learn how to access their online resources for cemetery records, court and probate records, census lists, vital records, gazetteers, newsletters, and much more. Basic computer skills are required

Genlias and Zeeuws Archief October 9 at 7:00-8:45 pm November 20 at 1:00-3:00 pm
Genlias 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. Genlias 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 in English, locate abstracts of vital records and make copies. Basic computer skills are required

Heritage Quest October 29 at 1:00-3:00 pm
Heritage Quest is an online research site for genealogists. Searchable databases include US censuses, various books, PERSI, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, the Freedman's Bank files, and the U. S. Serial Set of government documents from 1789 to 1969. Learn how to search these databases and print copies. Basic computer skills are required.

Useful Websites

Michigan Genealogist Newsletter

The Library of Michigan publishes a useful newsletter four times each year. The newsletter lists new resources and upcoming events for researchers living in Michigan. The current newsletter can be viewed by going to (this should be entered as one line without a space between the "hal/ and Gene")

[www.michigan.gov/documents/hal/
GeneWebNewsletterSummer2008_242677_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/hal/GeneWebNewsletterSummer2008_242677_7.pdf)

Old newsletters can be viewed by going to www.michigan.gov/hal, clicking on the Family History button (near the bottom of the menu on the left side of the page), then clicking on the Michigan Genealogist Newsletter button from the Genealogy menu on the left side.

Muskegon County Genealogical Society

The MCGS has a new website at www.genealogymuskegon.com. The website contains information about MCGS, program schedules, databases and items for sale.

WMGS Members' Genealogy

Don't forget to visit trees.wmgs.org. Even if you aren't a member of WMGS, you can still search the WMGS Members' Genealogy database for your ancestors. The database contains information for over 14,000 individuals and contact information for the members who are researching these individuals. If you are a member of WMGS, and you would like to publish your genealogy on the internet for free, email your GEDCOM file to: DataMaster@wmgs.org.

Grand Rapids Public Library

Go to www.grpl.org for information about the special collections in the History and Special Collections Department. You will find descriptions about the collections, finding aids and research guides. Did your ancestor live or work in Grand Rapids? Check the new Grand Rapids Photo Archive page to see if a picture of your ancestor's workplace or street is online. Go to the Exhibits link to take an online tour of the diverse the material collected by GRPL's Archives.

Sampler Survey

Do you have a needlework sampler at home that was created before 1900? The Michigan Sampler Survey would like to preserve and present Michigan's needlework heritage. Their goal is to produce a publication and exhibit promoting the study of Michigan-made samplers, their makers and instructors. For more information on how you can contribute to this project visit

<http://www.commoncorners.com/sampler/>

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 to 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

2007-2008 WMGS Officers

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