



WMGS Newsletter

Spring 2011



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.

March 5, 2011

Nineteenth Century Photographs—Photos in the Family Album

Maureen Taylor "visits" us via video conferencing to help us find clues in our photographs. Shiny metal daguerreotypes, brilliant blue cyanotypes and wacky candid snapshots are full of clues about your family if you know how to read the evidence. Extensive case studies show you how to uncover details in family photos and tell their story even if you know who's who. You'll learn about the types of photographs used in the 19th century, how to study clothing clues and a whole lot more from The Photo Detective, Maureen Taylor.

April 2, 2011

Family Finder DNA Testing

Keith Calkins will help us explore the exciting field of autosomal DNA and what it can do for the genealogist. He will start with a quick review of Y-DNA and mtDNA testing followed by a discussion about autosomal DNA testing and inbreeding coefficients. His great-grandparents were first cousins. He'll show us how he calculated the inbreeding coefficient and how he used it in his genealogical research.

May 7, 2011

Oral Histories

Why are oral histories as important as the dates and places of significant events? Join us at our May membership meeting when Donna Odom will tell us how oral histories benefit our research and the research of future generations. She will teach us how to prepare for the interview, research, conduct the oral history, perform follow-up tasks, document and archive the oral history.

Mini Classes

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

March 5, 2011: *Biography & Genealogy Master Index – online access*

April 2, 2011: *Document Preservation and Storage*

May 7, 2011: *GEDCOM files – What's the mystery?*

WMGS Beginner Computer Classes

The following beginning computer classes will be held in the GRPL's Adult Computer Center on the Lower Level from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.

March 24, 2011: *Biographical and Genealogical Master Index Database*

April 28, 2011: *Footnote.com Databases*

May 19, 2011: *Defining, Editing & Using GEDCOM Files*

WMGS Beginner Classes

April 9, 2011

Land Records, Session 1

Karen Blumenshine will show you where and how to search for land records. There will be time for questions at the end of the session. 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the 4th floor VanderVeen Room in the Grand Rapids Public Library.

May 14, 2011

Land Records, Session 2

Karen Blumenshine will show you how to map legal descriptions and provide additional information on how to search for land records. There will be time for questions at the end of the session. 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the 4th floor VanderVeen Room in the Grand Rapids Public Library.

Great Lakes Events

March 10, 2011

501(c)(3) Compliance for Non-Profit Groups

Mark Bowers will discuss the requirements non-profit groups must follow to maintain their 501(c)(3) status. The presentation is part of the MGC Delegate Meeting held at 1:00 p.m. in the Forum of the Library of Michigan and Historical Center, Lansing. The presentation is open to the public.

March 10, 2011

Single Dutch Immigrant Women and Their Work in G.R., 1880-1900

Grand Rapids Historical Society monthly meeting, Gerald R. Ford Museum, 303 Pearl St., NW at 7:00 p.m. Janet Sjaarda Sheeres shares her research about the hundreds of single women from who emigrated from the Netherlands. She will offer insight into their occupations, living conditions and why they came here.

March 18-19, 2011

Irish & Scots-Irish Genealogy: Part One

The Allen County Public Library will hold a 2-day mini-course to help participants with little or no experience in Irish records understand the sources and techniques that lead to success. The Mini-Course will be taught by Steve Myers.

April 3, 2011

Antiquarian Book & Paper Show

This is the place to look for anything that was ever printed on paper: books, magazines, post cards, documents, maps, cookbooks and more. The Antiquarian Book & Paper Show is the largest book and paper show in the Midwest, averaging over 70 exhibitors and one million old, rare and collectable book and paper items for sale. Admission is \$4.50. The show runs from 9:30 AM to 5 PM at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

April 8, 2011

GRPL Lock-In

The Grand Rapids Public Library will hold their next Lock-In on April 8 from 5:30-10:00 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, Footnote.com and NEHGS are free. Registration at www.grpl.org/train 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.

April 8, 2011

Kalamazoo Public Library Lock-In

The Kalamazoo Public Library at 315 S. Rose St., Kalamazoo will offer a Lock-In with access to GenealogyBank, Ancestry and New England Ancestors subscription databases, Kalamazoo County vital records, instruction on using microfilm readers, scanners and printers. Parking is free in the Library lot. It will run from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Visit www.kpl.gov/genealogy/lock-in.aspx or phone 269-553-7842 for more information. Registration begins March 21.

April 16, 2011

Civil War Re-enactment

Michigan will kick off its celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War with a Civil War Re-enactment. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Michigan Historical Center (home of the Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan) at 702 W Kalamazoo St, Lansing. Tents, scrimmages, guns, and food prep demos will be located in the vacant lot next to the Archives/Library. Inside the Library/Museum/Archives building will be the Grand Opening of the Sesquicentennial Civil War Project with period costumed docents. The event Sponsored by the Archives of Michigan, re-enactors, and the Civil War groups.

April 30 - May 1, 2011

Spring Into the Past with a Tour of West Michigan's Small Museums

The Tri-Rivers Museums once again invite you to visit them this weekend from 11am to 5 pm. Many of the museums will have special displays or events commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. A list of the participating museums can be found at www.ioniahistory.org/tri-river-group.html.

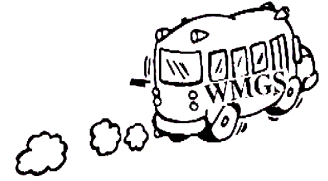
May 7, 2011

Lansing Family History Center Seminar

Day long free seminar with many speakers (speakers have not been announced yet.) Seminar is free. A syllabus may be purchased for \$20 when you pre-register. Pre-registration is due by April 10. The seminar will be held at the East Lansing Family History Center, 431 E Saginaw Highway, East Lansing. Doors will open at 8:30 and the seminar will begin at 9:00 a.m. For more information visit lansingfhc.org.



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



--- Note:-- Staying at Motel 6 ---

Wednesday-Thursday – April 27-28, 2011

\$94=Single, \$76=Double, \$70=Triple, \$67=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 27 st	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 pickup south of Lansing if there is enough interest—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	<u>Bus transfer to Motel 6 (260) 482-3972</u>
Day #2	7:00	AM	Wakeup Call – Walk across parking lot to restaurant for breakfast
Apr 28 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	<u>Arrive at Target on Alpine</u>

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) Many eateries are close to the library.

*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 1st would be most helpful. A \$15 deposit guarantees your place on the bus. Please send your deposit or at least an email by **March 19th**.

*Balance must be paid by April 15th. 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

\$94=Single, \$76=Double, \$70=Triple, \$67=Quad

Fort Wayne Trip Wed – Thurs April 27-28, 2011 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 Other** Roommates: _____

(Note: if choosing Other, you must call Sue at (616) 889-0042 to arrange a pick-up location south of Lansing)

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

WMGS Family History Writers' Workshops

Mar. 15, Apr. 19 and May 17 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.

March: Your favorite teacher in or out of school

April: Write about one to three inventions discovered during your life that had the most impact on you and why.

May: Your favorite TV programs in the 1950's, 1960' and 1970's

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 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

Seeking Michigan—What's Next?

The Michigan state censuses have been digitized and will be appearing online at SeekingMichigan.org soon. Not only were the census records at the Archives and the Library of Michigan digitized, but censuses from counties stored at other institutions were included in this project. Next will be the naturalization records. Records for 66 counties have been assembled. They are trying to collect records from the remaining 17 counties as well. There is also a plan to work through the rest of the vital records with Ancestry for marriage, divorce and death up to 1935.

Civil War Sesquicentennial

The approaching 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War (2011-2015) offers family historians the opportunity to honor and recognize those ancestors who lived during that momentous time. This year Michigana would like to include as much information as possible about your ancestors and their experiences before, during and after the war. We are looking for any stories, documents and photographs that you would like to share with our members. Please contact Bobbi Schirado at rhjschirado@gmail.com.

A sesquicentennial Civil War committee has been established to honor Michigan's Civil War Veterans. You can keep up to date on their activities by visiting <http://michigan.gov/michiganhistory> and <http://micivilwar.org>

The Eaton County Genealogical Society has created a certificate program for Civil War ancestors who were connected with Eaton County whether born, resided, enlisted, died or buried in Eaton County, regardless of the unit or state they served. Visit www.miegs.org for more information and an application form.

Volunteer at the Archives of Michigan

The State Archives is looking for volunteers for the registration desk. The archives are open from 1:00 to 5:00 M-F. Volunteers are requested to sign up in advance for two or four hour shifts. The Archives is offering free use of Ancestry while you volunteer.

HOLC Map of Grand Rapids

The Home Owner's Loan Corporation created a map of Grand Rapids in 1937 that assessed the long-term outlook of local communities based on the percentage of home ownership, turnover, age and types of buildings, economic stability, social status, crime rates and more. The map offers a picture of the economic and social structure of Grand Rapids shortly after the Great Depression. The map can be viewed at http://historygrandrapids.org/historical_map.php. Click on the Photo Essay button to learn more about HOLC maps.

Reading Old Handwriting

Two websites offer help on deciphering old handwriting in several languages. Roots Television offers a video of an interview with Carol Whitton that gives tips on reading old handwriting. The video is titled Tracing Your Family Roots: Old English and German Handwriting and can be found at <http://rootstelevision.com>. The second place to learn how to read old handwriting and foreign handwriting is at www.familysearch.org. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the Free Courses link. On the right side of the page will be a list of Research Courses. Click on the Reading Handwritten Records Series link to display a list of lessons to help you learn how to read Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Latin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Scandinavian and Spanish typeface and handwriting.

Renewal Reminder

Have you let your membership lapse? You can find out by looking at the mailing label on this newsletter. If the word EXPIRED appears in the upper right corner of the label, we have not received your dues for 2011 and you will miss the next issue of Michigana.

More Newspapers Online

The website <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov> is a project sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. It's goal is to digitize, index and publish American newspapers on the internet. Newspapers from Arizona, California, Washington DC, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Washington are currently available to search and view.

Google for Genealogists

Do you think you know every trick of the trade when you are using Google for genealogical research? You might be surprised by how many new techniques you can learn by watching the 1½ hour long webinar titled *Google for Genealogists*. It can be accessed for free at

http://www.millenniaincorp.com/_videos/webinars/2011-01-05-google/2011-01-05-google.html

The site allows you to download and print a handout as well as view the webinar on your computer.

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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PAID
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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

2010/2011 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		