



Western Michigan Genealogical Society

C/O Grand Rapids Public Library
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-3268
<http://www.wmgs.org>

Newsletter--Winter 2007

Have you paid your WMGS membership?

To learn if your membership has been paid, please check on your mailing label. If the date is before December 2007, your membership has expired! Renew now to keep up on the latest WMGS news!

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* and leadership opportunities. Membership to the Western Michigan Genealogical Society advantages also include a use of the private files of the Society and publication of Members' genealogy online at <http://trees.wmgs.org/>.

Change of Address: (Temporary or Permanent) If you will be moving to a new address permanently, or going on an extended vacation, please notify WMGS before the address change occurs. Be sure to include the date your address will permanently change or the dates when you will leave and plan to return. You may email the Society at Membership@wmgs.org or write to: WMGS-Membership, Western Michigan Genealogical Society, 111 Library St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503-3268.

POSTMASTER: WMGS is a non-profit organization and is affiliated with the Michigan Genealogical Council.

2007-2008 WMGS Officers

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~*~*~*~*~*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**, with the business of WMGS, followed by the speaker. Admission is free and everyone is welcome! Refreshments served after the presentation.

January 5, 2008

"Your Questions Answered". Member submitted questions will be answered by a panel of experienced and informed genealogists.

February 2, 2008

*****Time change: 12:00-3:00pm*****

"Silent Auction". Genealogical materials to be offered in a Silent Auction format. Demonstrations will be held in the VanderVeen Room during the Silent Auction. *********If you would like to donate gently used and clean items such as books, magazines, maps, etc... Please bring them to the January meeting or contact a WMGS Board Member for drop-off. *********

**Free WMGS
Genealogy Classes**

GRPL-Main Branch Classes

Before you sign up for any of the WMGS class you must be able to use a mouse and understand basic computer principles. You may want to take a Grand Rapids Public Library basic computer class.

Contact the Library for a schedule of their computer classes.

GRPL-Main Branch
111 Library Street N.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-3268
616-988-5400
www.grpl.org

2008 Schedule

GenWeb

Learn to use the GenWeb sites to do your research.

February 26

1 pm to 3 pm

Instructor: Bobbi Schirado

Ancestry

Learn to use Ancestry.com to search for your ancestors.

February 27

1 pm to 3 pm

Instructor: Laura Schmidt

March 13

1 pm to 3 pm

Instructor: Laura Schmidt

Watch the WMGS newsletter and website for the **Beginner Classes** to be scheduled for March and April!

~*~*~*WMGS Program Schedule continued*~*~*~

March 1, 2008

Barbara Madison will present “**Who Says There Ain’t No Indian Records?**”

April 5, 2008

“**Family Health History**” presented by **Mary Teachout, MAT**. This presentation will focus on a simple and inexpensive genomic tool – the family health history. Learn what is important to include and how to use this information to decrease your and your family’s risk of chronic disease such as heart disease or diabetes.

May 3, 2008

Mark Bowden, Assistant Manager of the Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, will present “**Michigan and Detroit Genealogical Resources in the Burton Historical Collection**”.

This presentation will highlight some of the unique Detroit and Michigan genealogical materials held at the Burton Historical Collection including state censuses; birth, marriage and death records; city directories; yearbooks, church records; naturalization records, manuscripts, military records, and photographs.

June 7, 2008

To be announced.

~*~*~*Featured Websites*~*~*~

<http://www.mortalityschedules.com>

The Mortality Schedules - In 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 census enumerators were directed to secure in addition to the usually required census data, information as to all persons dying within the 12 months preceding the census taking. The mortality schedules usually included the date and cause of death. Some online transcriptions do not include all data found on the original mortality schedule images. Not all States, but hundreds of counties have been transcribed and placed online for **FREE** searches.



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If you, as a new or renewing member would be willing and able to hold an office, work on a committee or volunteer project, WMGS would appreciate it very much. You may indicate your area of expertise and/or special interests on this membership form. We'll be happy to call you about your desire to help. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New _____ Renewal _____

\$20.00 In the USA **\$25.00** Outside the USA

Make checks payable to: **Western Michigan Genealogical Society**

Date: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip + 4 _____ - _____

Your level of genealogy experience is (circle one): Beginner Intermediate Advanced

Do you use a computer to manage your research (circle one): NO YES

Send checks to: WMGS-Membership, Western Michigan Genealogical Society, 111 Library St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503-3268.