



# WMGS Newsletter

Winter 2010/2011



## 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.

### December 4, 2010

#### Michigan Biographical Index

Jim Jackson presents the evolution of [www.michlist.com](http://www.michlist.com) and what is to come. This site started with about 500,000 military records, then county and local resources were added. More records are added every day and the site is updated every few weeks or so. Jim will include some tips to better understand his organization process and how to get the most from this site.

### January 8, 2011

#### DearMYRTLE Webcast

If your New Year's Resolution is to gain control of your genealogical data and finally get organized, your first step to success will be to attend our January meeting. Our speaker will be DearMYRTLE, a well known genealogy instructor, speaker, Podcaster and blogger. Her topic will be "THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT: Three Months to Better Organization." She'll provide us with easy and practical methods to organize all that data we've collected during the summer. DearMYRTLE won't be at the Library, but we will be able to watch her presentation live on a projection screen and we will be able to ask her questions at the end of the presentation.

### February 5, 2011

#### The Story of Richard Johnson

Robert May has been researching the Lemmon Slave Case for 10 years. To supplement his research he needed to explore the life of Richard Johnson, an escaped slave who helped his brothers and sister migrate to Canada, fought in the Civil War, was a member of the GAR and resided in Virginia, Ohio and Michigan. Robert will share his research on Richard's life, Richard's involvement in the Lemmon trial, Richard's ancestry and his slave owners' families.

## 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.

**December 4, 2010:** *An Introduction to Photo Enhancement Software.*

**January 8, 2011:** *Family Tree Maker 2010: Creating and Using Reports.*

**February 4, 2011:** *Family Tree Maker: Fixing Your Data Library*

## WMGS Beginner Classes

### January 13, 2011

#### Dutch Heritage Databases

Learn how to find information about your ancestors by searching Dutch websites containing vital record information. The class will be held in the GRPL Adult Computer Center on the Lower Level from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.

### February 17, 2011

#### Ancestry Databases

Learn how to effectively search for information using the Library's Ancestry.com database subscription. The class will be held in the GRPL Adult Computer Center on the Lower Level from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.

## WMGS Family History Writers' Workshops

**Dec. 14, Jan. 18 and Feb. 15 at 1:30 to 4:45 p.m.**

**Dominican Center, 2025 Fulton St East**

Please note the new December date...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.

- December: This is our "Foodie" potluck meeting. Make a dish from a recipe that you've had for a long time and always wanted to try, but for some reason never have.
- January: Games we played when we were young.
- February: Favorite past or current magazines

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

# Great Lakes Events

**Now through January 2, 2011**

## **RACE. Are We So Different?**

Western Michigan University and the RACE Exhibit Initiative of SW Michigan have brought the RACE exhibit to West Michigan at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, 230 N. Rose St, Kalamazoo. Admission is free. The RACE exhibit explores the biology, experience and history of racial identity in the U.S. More information is available at <http://raceexhibit.org/>.

**January 13, 2011**

## **Gathering for Change: The GR&I Railroad, Reform and the Women of Bay View**

Grand Rapids Historical Society monthly meeting, Gerald R. Ford Museum, 303 Pearl St., NW at 7:00 p.m. Mary Jane Doerr, author of *Bay View: An American Idea* presents a talk about the Bay View Methodist resort near Petoskey and its influence on the 19<sup>th</sup> century women's movement.

**January 14, 2011**

## **GRPL Lock-In**

The Grand Rapids Public Library will hold their next Lock-In on January 14 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](http://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.

**January 22, 2011**

## **History Detectives: Sleuthing Local History**

The Grand Rapids Public Library's G. R. History & Special Collections Department will host a series of presentations by members of local genealogy and history societies. Some of the topics will be Ramona Park, oral histories from Heritage Hill, letters and artifacts from the Civil War and the local suffrage movement. The presentations will take place in the auditorium on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## **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 4, 2010 membership meeting.

**February 5, 2011**

## **DTE Energy Foundation Ethnic Heritage Festival**

The Grand Rapids Public Museum once again hosts this day-long celebration of music, dance and food representing the various ethnic groups that call West Michigan home. The museum will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and admission to the museum and the Ethnic Heritage Festival will be free.

**February 10, 2011**

## **Re-Examining the G.R. Public Museum**

The staff at the Grand Rapids Public Museum will explain their current plans for their facility located at the "old museum." You will have a chance to offer input and ideas to help shape their final plans. After the program, a behind-the-scenes walking tour through the Museum's collection storage area will be offered. GRPM, 54 Jefferson Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI at 7:00 p.m.

**February 21, 2011**

## **Research at the Waldo Library**

Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society monthly meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Portage District Library, 300 Library Lane, Portage. Sharon Carlson, Director of the WMU Archives presents, *What's at the WMU Archives and the Waldo Library and How to Find It*.

**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.

**April 27-28, 2011**

## **WMGS Bus Trip to Fort Wayne**

Fort Wayne, Indiana is home to one of the largest genealogical collections in the U.S: the Allen County Public Library. Twice each year, WMGS sponsors an overnight bus trip to Fort Wayne, Indiana. You do not need to be a member of WMGS to take advantage of these trips. The trips include roundtrip motor coach transportation from two Grand Rapids locations, one night lodging at a hotel and transfer between the library and the hotel. This trip will give you two full days of research at the library. While somebody else drives, you can read, plan, socialize with other genealogists or just sleep. If you have never been to the Allen County Public Library, go to [www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/](http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/) to find out what you've been missing. Watch future newsletters and our website, [www.wmgs.org](http://www.wmgs.org), for more information.

## Tidbits

### 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. Next year (2011) *Michigana* would like to include as much information about your ancestors and their experiences before, during and after the war as possible. We're looking for any stories, documents and photographs that you would like to contribute. Please contact Bobbi Schirado at [rhjschirado@gmail.com](mailto:rhjschirado@gmail.com).

### Free Webinars at Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com offers free seminars that can be viewed anytime on your computer. All webinars are free. Go to <http://learn.ancestry.com/LearnMore/Webinars.aspx> to see what is scheduled for the future and to view old webinars. You will find presentations about features on Ancestry, DNA testing, African American research, European research, NYC research, Family Tree Maker 2010 and 2011, Canadian Historical Censuses and many other topics in the archived webinars.

### Documenting Your Sources

Documenting your sources is an important task when researching your family history. It's easy to remember where you found your information when your family is small, but as you find more information the libraries and websites all blur together. Recording information about your sources and their locations will help you in the future with your research and will be extremely helpful to others when you publish or share your research. WMGS offers a single page guide to documenting sources to all new members. This guide is also available in the \$3.00 WMGS Beginner Package of sample forms and instructions. The WMGS Sales Table offers more comprehensive guides to citing sources called Evidence! and Quicksheet.

### Historical West Michigan Newspapers Online

GenealogyBank, [www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com), has old issues of newspapers from Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, MI online. GenealogyBank has the *Grand Rapids Press* from 1893 to 1922 as well as current issues back to 2000, the *Grand Rapids Herald* from 1898 to 1900, and the *Kalamazoo Gazette* from 1837 to 1922 and current issues back to 2005. A subscription to GenealogyBank is \$19.95 per month and \$89.95 per year. Their website can be searched for free.

### Grand Rapids Cemetery Database Online

The City of Grand Rapids recently created a searchable online database for people interred in the Fairplains, Oak Grove, Oak Hill (aka Valley City), Greenwood, Fulton Street and Woodlawn cemeteries. The database can be searched by full name, surname or the first few letters of a surname. Click on the name in the results page to see the death date and cemetery information. Start your search at <http://cemetery.grcity.us/>

### Back in Print

WMGS has recently published their revised 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the *State Land Patents, Kent County, Michigan*. It contains a list of land patents issued by the State of Michigan for property in Kent County (these are different than Federal Land Patents.) Soft cover, 114 pages, \$14. This unique book is available for purchase from the WMGS Sales Table.

## 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

### 2010/2011 WMGS Officers

President	Don Bryant email: <a href="mailto:president@wmgs.org">president@wmgs.org</a>
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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>
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