WESTERN MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS

GOT ANCESTORS?! 2010 ARE THEY WHO YOU THINK THEY ARE?

FEATURING

MEGAN SMOLENYAK SMOLENYAK

AT THE

PRINCE CONFERENCE CENTER AT CALVIN COLLEGE

FRIDAY 5TH NOVEMBER - MICHELLE OBAMA'S ROOTS

This special programme is brought to you by the Western Michigan Genealogical Society in association with the Southwest Michigan Black Heritage Society.

Megan Smolenyak² shares how and why she researched the First Lady's ancestry and what she discovered along the way. The talk highlights Mrs. Obama's multi-cultural, seriously Southern (11 states), and Great Migration heritage, including the story of Dolphus T. Shields and his mother, Melvina McGruder, that was featured on the front page of *The New York Times*.

The evening will include presentations by Donna Odom of the **Southwest Michigan Black Heritage Society** and Don Bryant of the **Western Michigan Genealogical Society** and will conclude with Mini Desserts and Tea/Coffee.

SATURDAY 6TH NOVEMBER - ARE THEY WHO YOU THINK THEY ARE?

A full day with **Megan Smolenyak**² as she presents four educational and inspiring sessions. Learn how to connect with living relatives, take your research further with DNA, and hear about proven sleuthing skills from one of the best.

Reverse Genealogy Tracing Your Roots with DNA Right Annie, Wrong Annie Cases that Made My Brain Hurt

Vendors - Deli Delight Lunch Buffet - Network with other Genealogists - Door Prizes

Message from WMGS President – Don Bryant

New things to discover and old mysteries to solve are certainly part of the attraction to genealogy and family history research. **Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak** is an expert sleuth, loves solving mysteries and sharing her experience and knowledge.

Education is a life-long ambition for most of us. Our goals in producing this year's "Got Ancestors?!" program were to inspire and encourage you to stretch your thinking and discover new ways to think about your ancestors in the context of the world and times in which they lived.

We are stretching ourselves this year by trying new things. We are proud to join with the **Southwest Michigan Black Heritage Society** in presenting Megan's popular talk on **Michelle Obama's Roots**. This is also the first time Megan has made any presentation in the State of Michigan.

So come to be inspired. Come to network with other researchers and learn. Stretch yourself to a new and wider vision of what we all strive for – how to answer the question... **Are They Who You Think They Are?**

Got Ancestors?! Western Michigan Genealogical Society Celebrates Celebrates

REGISTRATION FORM

(use coupon code **web** when registering online)

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WMGS Members who attend the **Saturday** Seminar will receive a \$10 voucher in their registration package. This voucher can be used at the WMGS Sales Table, or can be used toward your 2011 Membership. Membership is \$20 per year for members living in the USA.

Please make cheque payable to **WMGS** and mail to: Got Ancestors?! Registration Roger Moffat 3020 76th St SE Caledonia, MI 49316-8398

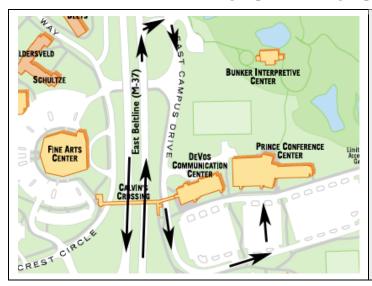
SCHEDULE



FRIDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2010				
6:30 – 9:30 PM	Michelle Obama's Roots Megan shares how and why she researched the First Lady's ancestry and what she discovered along the way. The talk highlights Mrs. Obama's multi-cultural, seriously Southern (11 states), and Great Migration heritage, including the story of Dolphus T. Shields and his mother, Melvina McGruder, that was featured on the front page of <i>The New York Times</i> .			
	Followed by Dessert & Coffee and Mix & Mingle . The evening is presented by:			
	Western Michigan Genealogical Society – http://wmgs.org/	Southwest Michigan Black Heritage Society – http://smbhs.org/		

SATURE	SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2010		
8:30 – 9:00 AM	REGISTRATION		
9:00 – 10:15	Reverse Genealogy Although genealogy is at its heart the study of long-deceased ancestors, connecting with living relatives has become almost as important to many family historians. Some seek living kin in an effort to track down family photos; others do it to find family history playmates or DNA project participants. A few pioneers have begun exercising their skills to save lives – to locate potential donors or warn of possible medical dangers. Whatever the motivation, one of the most addicting aspects of genealogy is the thrill of finding distant cousins, or in some cases, parents, children, or siblings. But this "reverse genealogy" (working from the past to the present) has its own special challenges and requires the researcher to be part genealogist and part private investigator. This presentation covers proven techniques for tracing 20th century friends and relatives from the past to the present.		
	Break		
11:00 – 12:45 PM	Tracing Your Roots with DNA – an extended edition With amazing swiftness, "genetealogy" (the marriage of genetics and genealogy) is graduating from pioneering research to standard practice. But what is it exactly and how can we use it to further our genealogical endeavors? Come hear one of the co-authors of <i>Trace Your Roots with DNA</i> discuss her own and others' experience launching and managing a DNA project, including such considerations as test and vendor selection factors, privacy, and convincing others to participate. Surname studies using Y-DNA tests are a popular and obvious application of genetic testing for genealogical purposes, but are you aware of your other options? Come learn about mtDNA, SNP, BioGeographical and ethnic tests, as well as the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation and the Genographic Project, and determine if one or more of them is right for you.		
	LUNCH		
2:00 – 3:15	Right Annie, Wrong Annie An Irish lass, Annie Moore, tripped down a gangplank and into the pages of history in 1892 when she became the first immigrant to arrive at Ellis Island. But less than a century later, an Illinois-born Annie Moore had somehow taken her place and was celebrated in song, statue and literature. That all ended when some stubborn genealogists decided to use their sleuthing skills to seek out the right Annie. Come learn how she and her true descendants reclaimed their rightful place in history when their reunion was featured on the front page of <i>The New York Times</i> .		
	Break		
4:00 – 5:15	Cases That Made My Brain Hurt How could brothers also be uncle and nephew? How could the 1853 death of a toddler in Scotland help solve a Civil War history-mystery? And could there be any families with a pair of centenarians who knew each other and lived in four centuries between the two of them? Come and hear!		

THE PRINCE CONFERENCE CENTER AT CALVIN COLLEGE



The Prince Center at Calvin College is located at 1800 East Beltline SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Entry to the Prince Conference Center is from the northbound side of the East Beltline north of Burton Street. If you are travelling from the north you have to proceed south of Burton Street to make a U-turn to head north.

Parking is FREE.

The Prince Conference Center includes a hotel. If you wish to stay at the conference venue you can make those arrangements yourself. Contact the Center at 1-866-526-7200 and ask for a room for the WMGS Seminar. It's possible that you'll get a better discount if you are an AARP or AAA Member.

http://www.calvin.edu/prince/

OUR SPEAKER

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak (yes, that's her real name) is a genealogical adventurer who loves solving mysteries, making unexpected discoveries and pushing the boundaries of conventional genealogy. Since 1999, she's worn many hats in the family history world, including Chief Family Historian and spokesperson for Ancestry.com, the largest genealogical company in the world; creator of RootsTelevision.com, a pioneering online channel of free videos and winner of four Telly Awards; and founder of UnclaimedPersons.org, a volunteer group that assists coroners and medical examiners.

A popular writer, speaker and TV guest, she does all she can to get the g-word out there and inspire others in their quest for roots. Megan is a contributor to The Huffington Post, and was determined to be the most influential Twitter user on the topic of genealogy. Her most recent book is Who Do You Think You Are?: The Essential Guide to Tracing Your Family History, companion guide to the NBC series.

Megan's "greatest hits" include the following:

- Discovering Michelle Obama's roots, as featured on the front page of *The New York Times*.
- Correcting history by revealing the true story of Annie Moore, the first immigrant through Ellis Island, a story featured on the front page of *The New York Times*, and assisting in the discovery and identification of new photos of Annie Moore.
- Tracing Barack Obama's roots to Moneygall, County Offaly, Ireland.
- Providing a decade of forensic consulting services to the U.S. Army to locate thousands of family members of soldiers still unaccounted for from WWI, WWII, Korea and Southeast Asia.
- Helping Chris Haley, nephew of Alex Haley of Roots fame, use DNA testing to confirm the family's oral tradition about their ancestry and meet his Scottish cousins.
- Figuring out who would be king of America today if George Washington had been king instead of president.
- Using her sleuthing skills to help coroners and medical examiners locate the next of kin for unclaimed persons and establishing a group of volunteers to tackle this quiet epidemic.
- Uncovering a surprising connection between presidential candidates Al Sharpton and Strom Thurmond.
- Finding serial centenarians a pair of relatives who knew each other and lived in the 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries between the two of them (that's all the U.S. presidents except Washington and Obama!).
- Supporting more than 100 genealogical initiatives through her Honoring Our Ancestors Grants Program.
- Tracking down relatives of the sailors who lost their lives in the USS Monitor in 1862 to try to identify skeletons found in the turret.

(find out more at http://HonoringOurAncestors.com/)

You can stay up to date with the latest conference news at our website http://GotAncestors.com/ and by subscribing to the RSS feed from the "blog" at http://gotancestors.com/feed/ or click the link for "Entries (RSS)" at the bottom of any page on the website.