Founding and Growth of the GSWC 1974-2024

Formative Years 1974-1977

Genealogy Section of the Washtenaw County Historical Society. Joined MGC. Small library at Muncy home. Meetings in homes and elsewhere. Washtenaw County Oral history project. First publication. First cemetery reading.

Expansion and Outreach 1977-1983

Incorporated as GSWC. Tax-exempt status. Meetings and Library at WCC. Research Committee formed. Workshops. SIGs. Cemetery readings. Newsletter – Tombstone Connection, then Family History Capers. Publications. Logo. Brochure. Surname index cards project – index cards, then ancestor charts.

Let's Get Moving 1983-1987

Meetings at UM Business School on Hill Street until 1986, then Concordia College through April 1987, then WCC starting in May 1987. Library remained at Hill Street. Family Bible Records. Cemetery readings. SIGs. Participated in Michigan Death Records project. Publications. Capers name index. Library of Congress assigned ISSN to Capers and purchased a complete set.

Bring Your Clipboard 1987-1990

Workshops. Cemetery readings. Reprinted Chapman's 1881 history of Washtenaw County.

Computers and the Internet 1990-2010

Cemetery readings. Publications – cemetery books and indexes to published local histories. Workshops – Everton Road Show, featured speakers giving multiple talks. GSWC web site (1997). Meetings changed from WCC to SJMH Ann Arbor (2000). Library temporarily relocated to Huron Towers (2002). Library moved to Family History Center in Saline (2004). Celebrations for 25th anniversary (1999) and 30th anniversary (2004). Last GSWC picnic (2001?).

Building Our Brand 2010-2020

A blog, briefly (2010). GSWC merch. EasyNetSites web site (2011). Archived copies of Capers and News-Pages on web site. Facebook (2012). Paypal. Volunteers every Thursday at Vital Records. Last large group cemetery reading (2012?) Refreshments d/c at meetings (2013). Celebrated 40th anniversary (2014). DNA SIG formed (2017). Katherine Willson presented on the 1918 influenza epidemic (Feb 2020).

Online Meetings 2020-2024

Zoom meetings. Google Drive for reports and speaker-related data. German SIG formed (2020). Ireland-UK SIG formed. Library moved into storage (2022). First hybrid meeting (Dec 2022). Celebrated 50th anniversary (2024).

Created by Janet Tarolli for the 50th anniversary celebration of the founding of GSWC 19-May-2024