

GENERATIONS



The Newsletter of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society
Founded 1988

Volume 10 / Number 6

June / July 1998

For the June meeting of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society:

"And Ruth said, 'Entreat me not to leave thee or to return from following after thee, for whither thou goest, I will go, and where thou lodgest I will lodge, thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.'" Ruth 1:16

◆ *"Whither Thou Goest: Tracing Your Female Ancestors"*

◆ Presented by Shirley Hodges

◆ Tuesday, June 23, 1998

◆ 7:00 pm

◆ B.E. Henry Building, 615 South Marshall, Marshall, MI

The B.E. Henry Building is located at the edge of the Calhoun County Fair Grounds in Marshall. From E. Michigan Avenue turn south on Exchange Street just before the GAR Hall. Exchange Street turns into South Marshall. The B.E. Henry Building is on the left a block past Ketchum Park. It is air conditioned and handicap accessible. We will hold our meeting in the upper level.

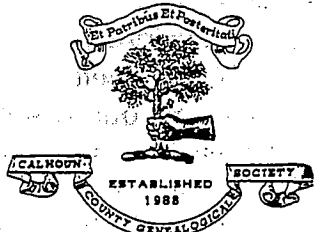
WHERE IS YOUR FEMALE ANCESTOR HIDING?

Shirley Hodges, CCGS member and popular genealogy speaker, will be presenting a topic that will benefit beginners as well as the more advanced genealogists. Shirley will give us some ideas on where that elusive female ancestor may be and how to find her. Learn about family relationships as they relate to migration patterns. As a case study, she will talk about Myra Maybelle Shirley (AKA, Belle Starr). She will also be taking questions from the audience.

Remember! The Calhoun County Genealogical Society does not hold meetings during the months of July and August. Our monthly meetings will start up again in September 1998. Take the summer months to visit family and friends and tour a cemetery or two!

1997 - 1998
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The Calhoun County Genealogical Society is a non-profit, federally tax-exempt, State-Chartered organization. Individuals, libraries or societies may apply for membership. Annual dues beginning September 1 is \$12.00. All members receive the CCGS newsletter Generations which is published six times a year.

Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the VFW Hall located at 800 E. Michigan Ave., Marshall, MI. *unless otherwise specified.* The public is cordially invited.

Research Materials Available from the
Calhoun County Genealogical Society

The 1877 History of Calhoun County, MI
(reprinted) (over 350 pages, printed on acid-free, archival paper and is hard-cover, library-quality bound, includes every name index.)
\$55.

Cemeteries of Eckford Twp, Calhoun County, MI (110 pages) \$10.00

Clarence Township Cemeteries in Calhoun Co., MI (Clarence Center, Dryer, Hunt, Krenerick and Nichols) (66 pages, over 2,100 names) \$7.00

Transcriptions of Cemeteries of Convis Twp., Calhoun Co., MI (35 pages, over 1,000 names) \$6.00

Every Name Index for Generations, the Newsletter of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society, August 1988 - June 1995 (48 pages over 2,800 names) \$5.00

Beginner's Guide to Family History Research
by Desmond Walls Allen and Carolyn Earle Billingsley (46 pages) \$9.00

Bentley Corners Cemetery Clarendon Twp., Calhoun Co., MI (14 pages) \$6.00

Marriage Records of Calhoun Co., MI 1836-1890 (248 pages) \$18.50

St. Joseph Cemetery Clarendon Twp., Calhoun Co., MI (25 pages) \$6.00

Transcriptions of the Gravestones in the Rice Creek Cemetery Lee Twp., Calhoun Co., MI (49 pages) \$6.00

MI residents must add 6% sales tax. All prices include shipping. To order please send a check payable to:

Calhoun County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 777
Marshall, MI 49068

Cemetery Searching

By Sandy Redmond

With the bright, sunny skies and the fragrance of early summer flowers, thoughts of cemetery research keep running through my head. In my personal family research, I find nothing quite as rewarding as a cemetery visit to search for the tombstone of a long-gone ancestor. Cemeteries are marvelous keepers and tellers of history. Many facts and clues can be deduced or suspicions confirmed from a single visit. Very personal stories and circumstances can emerge from the inscriptions, quality of the stone and the engravings, etc. And as anyone who has read Ron Bremer's World's Funniest Epitaphs knows, even cemeteries are not void of humor. This article is a combination of personal experiences and suggestions on making your cemetery research more fruitful and enjoyable.

My cemetery hunts have taken me from huge urban cemeteries in the heart of Chicago (*where my husband and I got locked in!*) to quaint country church yards. One of my very favorite is Calhoun County, Michigan's Abscota cemetery (Burlington Township), where my 4th great-grandparents, Sylvanus and Polly (WELLS) REED are buried. On their large and precariously tilted stone are the dates of their births and deaths (Sylvanus's death date is actually a year off!) and the inscription "And thus the aged lie together". That inscription may actually be a brash retort to Sylvanus's second wife, Mary (?) ABELS. Mary, who was about 20 years his junior, fought a bitter fight with Sylvanus's children over his will, which left the majority of his estate to Mary and her son James from a previous marriage. In the end it took the court four years (and a 175 page probate record) to declare his will valid and Mary the victor. The children though, seemed to have the final word on the tombstone: that while the earthly spoils may have gone to Mary, it was their mother Polly who lay beside Sylvanus in eternal rest.

The fact that Sylvanus's death date on the stone reads 1873 rather than the correct year of 1872 demonstrates that not everything should be considered a fact, even when it is literally "written in stone!" As with all genealogical research, the more evidence you have the better. Since Sylvanus's death certificate reads 1872 and preliminary probate action began shortly afterwards (in 1872), I can be certain the date on the stone is incorrect.

A recent vacation to Lexington, Massachusetts was highlighted by a trip to the Old Parish Church burying ground. This fascinating place was full of names from colonial American history. All of the stones faced west, were of incredibly durable slate, and had fascinating, almost Egyptian-like carvings. We certainly have nothing like it in our youthful mid-west.

To determine where your ancestor is buried, first narrow your search to the obvious: the last known location where your ancestor lived and probably died. For an ancestor who died during a time period when a death record should be available, check county records first. More contemporary death certificates, especially in larger cities, also served as burial permits and may list the undertaker as well as the interment site. Funeral homes can be additional sources of great information.

If you can't find records in the county where *you know* a person lived, make sure to check neighboring counties. The death certificate of my great-grandmother Rose Ella (HEATH) REED, for instance, is found in Branch County but she was actually a resident of Calhoun County. The reason: the nearest hospital was in Coldwater (Branch County), and she was taken there during her last illness. Finding the death certificate for her father, Andrew HEATH, was a little more unorthodox. I was frustrated because I knew he was living in Kent County at the time of his death, yet they did not have a death certificate for him. Referring to a Michigan atlas and *Ancestry's Red Book*, I wrote to the county clerks in each of the counties surrounding Kent. This "dart board" approach proved successful, as Newago County (bordering the NW corner of Kent) had his record. Seems they had journeyed just over the county line for a picnic, and he drowned while enjoying a spring swim.

(Continued next page...)

Cemetery Searching

By Sandy Redmond

(continued)

Census, tax, and land records are other sources that might confirm your relative "should" have died in a particular locale. Local agencies such as libraries, historical societies and of course genealogical societies can also be contacted. The DAR did some wonderful work transcribing cemeteries in the 1940's and are available in many libraries. Calhoun County Genealogical Society has printed several books with records of burials in Calhoun County. Sexton's records exist but are among the hardest documents of genealogical value to locate, as they were privately held and not in an official repository like a library or courthouse. It seems so many of these records were the victims of fires, floods, unintentional destruction, etc. I've even heard of a sexton whose angry soon-to-be-ex-wife destroyed all of his cemetery records in a spiteful act. Township officials should be able to tell you whether a particular cemetery is township or privately owned, and who to contact for records.

When you've determined which cemetery your ancestor is buried in, you'll want to gather up a few supplies to take with you. In the trunk of my car is an umbrella (it always rains when you want to tombstone-hunt), a soft brush for cleaning off stones, a small bucket, shaving cream, a squeegee, rags, and a clipboard (for taking notes). Some debate exists on the shaving cream approach as far as possible damage to the stone. On really worn stones, slathering on shaving cream and using a squeegee to remove the excess is a truly amazing way to bring out the inscriptions. If you need to use shaving cream, wash off any residue when you're done. Some people prefer to make rubbings of the stone, and include these in their collection of family memorabilia. I also like to take my camera. People at the local one-hour photo always snicker when I bring in a roll of film. I can't imagine what they find so amusing about 36 shots of tombstones.

Finally, sketch out a drawing of the cemetery showing the location of the grave(s) you have located. Make note of the cemetery driveways, large monuments, mausoleums, etc. While you think you would never forget, after a while your mind jumbles up one cemetery with another, and it's difficult to re-locate a stone.

The quality and size of the stone, its location in the cemetery, the detail and amount of decoration and inscription are information on the financial and social conditions of our ancestors. Besides filling a blank on our family group sheets, finding, seeing, and touching the stone that has been placed in memory of the people who make up our history is quite a thrill. It is physical evidence of their existence beyond a paper record. For two years I had been on a mission to learn more about my 4th great-grandparents Eleazer and Betsy HEATH. In my search I discovered Eleazer and Betsy were the parents of 11 children; Eleazer was a minister, and they had emigrated from New York to Ashtabula Co. Ohio in 1836. I became fascinated by this man and his family. Determining the names of his children, whom I fondly referred to as "The 11 Lost Children of Eleazer Heath" became my mission! The more I uncovered, the more I felt like family. One long weekend I went to Ohio with the goal of locating as many tombstones of this family as possible. After determining the cemetery where Eleazer was buried, I set off to find their graves. Naturally it was raining! I found several Heath stones, recorded them, and kept moving until I finally located Eleazer and Betsy's stone. Standing there with my umbrella schlepped over my shoulder, my camera down inside my jacket to keep it dry, soggy papers in my shaving-cream covered hands, I suddenly felt an incredible chill go up my spine as I read "Rev. Eleazer Heath" carved on the stone. This was my *grandfather*! A pioneer, a father of 11, a man of God. What an incredible thrill to finally find his final resting place, to stand there and touch the stone that had most likely been placed there by one or more of his children.

Good luck to you in your search for your ancestor's final resting place. Enjoy your summer of cemetery searching.

QUERIES

Send your query to:

CCGS

P.O. Box 777

Marshall, MI 49068

e-mail: siredmond@aol.com

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~micalhou>

All queries are published free of charge

***When contacting CCGS by e-mail
please include your U.S. Postal (snail)
mail address or phone number too.
Not everyone is on the Internet!***

DOWNS

My second great-grandparents, Lemuel L. and Harriet DOWNS were residents of Calhoun County, MI. Lemuel L. DOWNS died 10 November 1859 in Michigan and Harriet DOWNS died in Wisconsin 02 March 1875. They were both buried in Oakridge Cemetery in Marshall, MI. James Townley DOWNS, my great-grandfather, lived in Marshall, MI for 57 years. He and my great-grandmother Lucy Balcom DOWNS and their family lived on Mansion Street. I am hoping to learn more about the DOWNS family and would appreciate any information you might share with me.

Theta Downs Carter
3471 South Ammons Street
#12-6
Lakewood, CO 80227
303-980-1638

TAFT

I am looking for proof of birth for Lucy H. TAFT born 07 August 1840 in Battle Creek, Calhoun County, MI. She is the daughter of Aaron and Sarah (?) TAFT.

Joanne Bortniak
2109 NE 138th Street
Vancouver, WA 98686-2713

JONES

I am trying to locate the parents of James Riley JONES born April 1845 Painesville, OH. He enlisted under age and possibly was living at home. He enlisted first in Co. H 17th MI Inf. in 1862 from Marshall City and then in Co. B 6th MI Calv. in January 1864 from Clarendon where he was a farmer. He was living in South Saginaw by 1870 and moved to New York State around 1873 or so. Can you assist me?

Ken Jones
Town Historian
President Esperance Historical Society
jonesk@crisny.org

DUCK

I am trying to get information on Indians in our area including Jimmy DUCK, alias Chief DUCK. We have several stories we would like to verify. I've heard of a diary of a girl in the 1800's, a daughter of a surveyor between Olivet and Marshall, and also of a speech delivered in the 1800's at the Marshall Historical Society. Do you know where any of this information is stored? Thank you.

Lester Heisler
21179 27 1/2 Mile Rd.
Albion, MI 49224

*Mr. Heisler also sent the following information:
"You folks might not know, but a group of people in Clarence Township gathered our township history and published a book - Clarence Township Then and Now - that is for sale at \$25.00 in case anyone is interested. We are gathering further history, and if the younger folks join in maybe a second book will be published."*

Please contact him at the above address if you are interested.

**Old genealogists never die - they
just loose their census!!**

Flea Market Find!

Terri Plotas, CCGS Corresponding Secretary, came across a great find at a flea market. She found a copy of the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collection, Volume 17, 1890. Discovered at a reasonable price, Terri could not resist purchasing the book. The volume contains valuable biographical information on residents of Calhoun County, Michigan who died between 1889-1891. Some of the information includes extensive lists of family members, career information and religious affiliations. Biographies from Calhoun County include the following names:

Barnes, Wilsey B.
Bennett, Mrs. Abram Sr.
Brewer, Chauncey Marble
Chambers, Mary Cullom
Church, Mrs. Jesse E.
Clark, Benj.
Cronin, Henry M.
Eggleston, Mrs. Dr. Chas.
Faulkner, Thomas
Frink, Col. Norris J.
Garratt, Isaac
Gray, Josiah
Greenman, Mrs. Edward
Greves, James P.
Hendryx, Josiah R.
Hewitt, Hon. Wm F.
Hill, Hon. Samuel Worth
Hinman, Benjamin F.
Huston, Robert
Laraway, Mrs. Andrew J.
Lester, Zaccheus Mead

Lodge, Joseph G.
Mc Call, Mrs. Wm. R.
Morse, Allan
Murphy, Eliza
Murray, Alexander
Oakley, Phebe G.
Pearl, Wm. M.
Perry, Joab
Root, Putnam
Root, Mrs. Putnam
Rush, William
Simons, David Curtis
Smith, Joseph
Spaulding, Mrs. Harmon L.
Stringham, Mrs. Deborah P.
Van Valkenburg, Mrs. Leman
Wickham, William W.
Whitney, Joseph B.
Wilmarth, Lewis
Withee, Benjamin F.
Woolsey, Mrs. George S.

Terri will share the information found in this volume if you would please send the name of interest plus a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Calhoun County Genealogical Society, Attention: Name Search, P.O. Box 777, Marshall, MI 49068.

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The following transcription comes from a postcard found at a local antique mall recently:

Postmark: September 1, 1913, 3 pm, Seattle Washington
To: Mrs. Milton Dinger, Vicksburg, Michigan

My dear Parents: - Just a card, will send a letter soon; am not rushed for time, but have not enough to say to write a letter. Uncle came home, Sat. Night, left about 1 hr. 30 min. ago. Expects to finish in three weeks. He finished at Swan's Lake, Sat. P.M., but has gone to Sue's Spur, where he was first.

If it gets warm enough Arkie and I are going bathing at Albi Beach to-day. Bath house closes to-night. Sun is shining, that is good; Auntie was O.K. last Saturday P.M. Has Grandma P. Arrived home? Shall try and write to Bangor soon, but really I find my correspondence getting very far in arrears, by times. Hope you're better. Love to both, Lora.

How's my darling Peter? Wish I could just hug him for 1 hr.

HISTORY OF EMMETT TOWNSHIP

The following is a continuation of our excerpts from the 1877 History of Calhoun County. See the inside front page of this newsletter for information on how to order a copy of the reprinted edition of this book.

The earliest settlements within the boundaries of the present township were made in 1831, the precise date of the first entry of lands being June 7 of that year. Jeremiah GARDNER located on section 14; Estes RICH, on section 12; Henry L. and Benjamin DWINNELL, on section 23; Daniel GUERNSEY, on sections 6 and 7; John V. HENRY, on section 13; and Michael SPENCER on section 14; all in 1831. Mr. DWINNELL came from Auburn, New York, from whence he started in April, 1831, taking the Erie canal from Auburn to Buffalo, and from thence to Detroit by lake, and from thence to their destination by teams. Mr. RICH moved to Bedford, and from there to Barry County, and finally in 1871 he moved to Kansas, where he is now living, a hale and hearty pioneer.

During the early part of 1831 an Englishman, named John BERTRAM, came into this section and country, and entered nineteen eighty-acre lots, and began a mammoth experiment on the English mode of farming. He was possessed of ample means but somewhat flighty ideas, and made a grand failure. Mr. Thomas KNIGHT, now a prominent resident of Emmett, remembers Mr. BERTRAM WELL. He informs us that Mr. BERTRAM never made any actual settlement or improvement on any part of his vast possession except in Marshall Township, where he erected, in the summer of 1831, the first frame house in the county. He returned to England after exhausting his means, and Mr. KNIGHT, who came over as his hired man, remains the possessor of a portion of his large property, which he has improved and made a fine, well-cultivated farm.

In 1833 Asa and Moses LOWELL came in and settled permanently in the township. The same year Stephen WARREN came in and settled on section 14, upon a portion of which his son, IRA A., still resides. The deed for this land bears date December 2 1833, and is signed by Andrew JACKSON.

Among those prominently identified with the early development of the township, coming into it in the year 1834, were Dr. Asahel BEACH, who became quite extensively known as the first physician in the township. He practiced his profession for about ten years, when he devoted his attention to farming, and subsequently removed to Battle Creek, where he now resides. Dexter DICKINSON also came in during this year, and settled on a part of the farm now owned by his son John.

Luther PHELPS came in this year. He was accompanied as far as Bellevue by his brother Asa, who came into the township, and settled on section 8, the year following. John HARPER came in this year and settled on a farm now occupied by John HOUGH. Tolman W. HALL, Esq., settled on section 7, in 1834, and erected the brick house now occupied by Daniel CAINE, in 1853. Esquire HALL is the more intimately identified with the history of Battle Creek, as the section on which he settled is a part of the present city, where he is now a respected citizen.

Among those coming in 1835 were Zebediah STILES, his wife, and three sons, and a daughter. Seth BYAM also located on section 8 this year, and B. HARPER on section 12. Jonathan JOHNSON, brother to Kenyon JOHNSON, came in during the year and located on section 22. In 1836 Jacob SPAULDING, wife, three sons, and two daughters came in and settled on section 29. His sons subsequently purchased farms themselves, and settled on the same. John A. remained on the homestead, Albert N. Settled on the same section, near the homestead, and N.L. on the west line of the same section. The daughters are married: Rachel L. To Erastus SMITH, and now resides in northern Iowa; Fannie C. married Francis NEWBRE, and resides in Emmett on section 32.

The first log house was erected By Estes RICH, in 1831. The first frame house was built by Roswell CRANE, in 1836. The first farm was opened by Benjamin T. and H.L. DWINNELL, in the fall of 1831. The first wedding celebrated in the township was that of Henry L. DWINNELL and Celista L. WARREN, December 18, 1834. The ceremony was performed by Benjamin F. DWINNELL, Esq., brother to the bridegroom. The first birth was that of Jane, daughter of John V. HENRY, who was born in the summer of 1832. The first adult deaths were those of Emily D. WHEATON, wife of Robert M. WHEATON, who died in the summer of 1834, and Stephen WARREN, who died Jun 11, 1835. An infant son of Mr. Warren's died December 24, 1833.

In 1833 a log school house was erected in the Spencer neighborhood, and that year Miss Cynthia MAYNARD, sister of Colonel MAYNARD, one of the early pioneers of Marengo township, taught it during the winter of 1833 and 1834. Miss MAYNARD subsequently married a Mr. ANTHONY, and moved to Johnstown, this state, where she since died. Miss Janette BYAM, now the wife of George W. ANGELL, of Battle Creek, taught school at an early day, in the old John V. HENRY tavern stand.

They Came Overland to Marengo Township, The "Most Beautiful Spot" They'd Ever Seen

Continued from the April / May 1998 issue of *Generations*.

We hired a man with a team and plow to carry us to our new home, and stay and do some breaking up for us. At that early day there were no crossings, and but few bridges, so that we were compelled to ford the streams and wade the marshes which were in our way. The country appeared more pleasant as we proceeded on our journey, but we were not as yet smitten with its beauty. Four o'clock in the afternoon of the first day brought us within three miles of Grass Lake, now called Leoni.

Ran Into a Marsh.

Here we found our progress impeded by quite an extensive marsh which looked like anything that driving loaded wagons over it, but it lay in our way, and having no inclination to turn back, not to go around, we attempted to ford it. We had not made more than half the distance across it when we were brought up standing, or rather sticking in the mud. There was a man in our company with his goods and family, ten in number, who had made a location adjoining ours. Thinking to lighten our load, we all got off and waded through, and happily escaped the venomous fangs of the massasaugas with which the swamps were then so thoroughly infested. After lighting up, our teamsters hitched four yoke of cattle to the end of the tongue of the foremost wagon, thinking to bring it out, but did not succeed. Totally unconscious of how far we were from human habitation or

assistance, eight o'clock in the evening found our teams mud bound, and ourselves perched upon high ground with our garments wet and bedrabbled with the soil of Michigan.

Heard Wolves Howl.

The monotony of our situation was broken occasionally by the howl of a hungry wolf, or the shriek of some startled night bird. We had about made up our minds to camp where we were for the night when, to our great joy, we beheld a man approaching with three yokes of cattle. We were not long in procuring his assistance to help us out of our difficulty. They hitched the seven yokes of cattle to the end of the wagon tongue, which brought those in front on hard ground. By this means our wagons were soon brought out. It was now quite late, but we were soon loaded up and on the move again, and reached Grass Lake House between 10 and 11 o'clock that night, very much fatigued. After taking some refreshments we retired to rest, and when the morning light dawned upon us, we found that nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep, had restarted us to our wonted vigor. We set out on our journey again with new courage, but before nine o'clock we found ourselves stationary in the mud again, and had to go half a mile for assistance. With the assistance obtained, we were soon on terra firma, and by 12 o'clock reached the small village of Jacksonburg, and put up at a hotel

kept by a man by the name of Blackman. Here we were treated very kindly, and regaled ourselves with green peas, new potatoes, the first of the season for us, which was quite a treat.

Creek Had No Bridge.

Our next obstruction was Sand-Stone Creek, which was not bridged. We had to drive into the creek and then follow up-stream a considerable distance before we could effect a crossing. We staid that night at Roberts' tavern and the next day took dinner at Blashfield's tavern, situated in a very pleasant place. If I remember rightly, there were but three houses between Jackson and Marengo. We intended to camp out that night, as we considered the distance too great to drive through. We thought of pitching our tent at the forks of the river, since called Abbott's stand, but when we arrived there, to our great astonishment, we found it already occupied by a party of Indians with their dogs and guns, papooses and ponies, strewn over the ground in every direction. As it was a beautiful moon-light evening we concluded to go as far as Squire Neal's, which was the first and only house at that time in Marengo.

To be concluded in the next issue of *Generations*.

RESTORATION OF THE D.A.R GOVERNOR'S MANSION

CCGS and D.A.R. member Phyllis Riley has been instrumental in the on-going restoration of the Governor's Mansion, and provides us the following report on the progress.

The Governor's Mansion, located on "Capitol Hill" at 612 South Marshall Avenue, is a Greek Revival structure built in 1839 by James Wright Gordon. At that time the residents of Marshall were optimistic, to the point of certainty, that their thriving village would be named the capitol of Michigan. The house was built for the express purpose of housing the executive of the state. In 1966, the home was given to the Mary Marshall Chapter, D.A.R.

Since 1966, the day-to-day maintenance of the house has been achieved by a series of auctions, yard sales, teas, and the D.A.R. Antique Show. The condition of the structure has reached a point where major restoration work must be done to preserve this historic dwelling.

During the past 6 months the Mary Marshall Chapter, D.A.R. has been able to begin this major restoration effort by tuck pointing the basement walls, paving an unpaved portion of the basement floor, building a new chimney, replacing the roof, soffits and fascias, and eaves trough, now in process. These efforts were financed by grants from community foundation and private donations.

The next portion of the project will be to restore the front and rear porches, including the four Doric columns on the portico porch. Future efforts will include period restoration of the interior rooms of the home.

The major restoration of the Governor's Mansion is totally dependent on the generosity of community foundations and private donations. Visit the Governor's Mansion and the D.A.R. Antiques show (located at the Marshall Middle School)

during the home tour (see below) and learn more about our endeavor. Questions regarding this restoration or the Mary Marshall Chapter, D.A.R., may be directed to Phyllis Riley, House Committee Chair, 148 W. Mansion, Marshall, MI 49068. The Mansion is open every Sunday May through September, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

*The Marshall Historical Society is pleased to present the **35th Annual Historic Home Tour.***

A total of 14 structures, including 8 private homes, will be featured. In addition, 4 local museums, the G.A.R. Hall, the Honolulu House, the U.S. Postal Museum and the Governor's Mansion, will be on tour.

*The tour takes place on **Saturday, September 12** and **Sunday, September 13, 1998.** Hours are **9-5 Sat., and 10-5 Sun.** Tickets are \$15 available in advance, children under 12 are free.*

Contact the Marshall Historical Society, P.O. Box 68, Marshall, MI, or call the Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-877-5163.



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A conference for the nation's genealogists

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**FGS/OGS Conference, P.O. Box 830220,
Richardson, TX 75083-0220**

Toll-free: 888-FGS-1500; e-mail: fgs-office@fgs.org

PIONEER CERTIFICATE UPDATE

Congratulations to the most recent recipients of Pioneer Certificates:

Phyllis Riley and Susan Jean King for *James Glover KELLOGG*

Michelle J. Rastoskey for *John W. POTTER* and *Reuben McWITTHY*

Pioneer certificate applications are available upon request from the society, or may be printed out from our internet site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~micalhou/>

AN HISTORIC DOCUMENT MAKES ITS WAY HOME

Remember that marriage certificate we told you about in the last issue of *Generations*? We are happy to report that it has made it back to the family. The following is from the Web page of Sharlene VanRooy, the lady from California who had purchased the document and personally delivered it to the family. The web page is located at <http://www.hollinet.com/~svanrooy>. The following is from Day 6 of their trip - you'll have to check out their site - it's a really neat idea.

"We got the grand tour of Wakeshma Township from Avis and Jim SMITH, relatives of the bride and groom. The church in the photo below is believed to be the church where John and Elener SWARTZ were married in 1873. The faded sign on the building said First Baptist Church, Wakeshma, 1807 so it certainly is possible. After our tour, Avis served a great big meal on old dishes that belonged to the SWARTZ family. She had used them only two other times, so I felt really honored. We had a great time with them.

A twenty minute drive up the road brought us to Ella SWARTZ HAVEN's apartment, granddaughter of the bride and groom and very spunky for 97 years old. Her younger brother Earl, 84 years old, was there as well, but he was doing a bit of napping. Her niece Gloria BURROWS, 62 years old, bought the wedding certificate. They were all very happy. Ella showed us her family photo album with some beautiful photos of the bride and groom as they grew and had their own family. Well, that portion of our vacation is over now and the certificate is back where it belongs."



LAPORTE FAMILY REUNION PLANNED

The descendants of Isaac LAPORTE (wives Margaret Blakely and Rachel Lamb Johnson) will be celebrating their 75th Family Reunion at Milham Park in Kalamazoo on Sunday, July 12, at 12 noon.

A catered dinner is planned for Sunday at noon with a family group picture to precede the meal. They will also be having a get-together on Saturday, July 11, at 6 p.m. in the conference room at the Airport Holiday Inn, 3522 Sprinkle Rd., Kalamazoo.

The family is inviting all descendants to come and join in this historic and wonderful event. Seventy-five years is a long time. A lot of memories have flowed under the bridge. We are asking all those who will join us to bring your pictures and memories to share with us either at the get-together on Saturday or Sunday at the picnic in the Park. For those interested in coming and need directions or information, please call David or Madolyn Richardson at (616) 963-9669. (e-mail: drich@net-link.net).

1998 CEMETERY PROJECT PLANS
Ruth Kaiser, Chair (517) 857-2747

Thanks to those who worked faithfully through last summer on cemeteries in Tekonsha and Marengo Townships. My helpers included Brenda Cornish, Virginia Hart, Julia Miller, Jackie Morris, Joan Pehrson, Verla Potts, Val Radee, Dave and Cheri Ruble, Ramona Short, Bill and Nancy Waugaman. I asked them to keep track of their volunteer hours but only one remembered and came up with a total of about 80 hours. This is strenuous work as we spend much of our time on our knees trying to decipher what is on the stones.

This year I am asking that the volunteers work on their own or with a small group. It takes two to determine what is the best transcription. I have written instructions for any who wishes to volunteer.

The daytime volunteers have worked the eastern end of the county to the Marshall area, currently working in Marengo Township. If you wish to work in this area, please contact Verla Potts at 616-781-8594. Dave and Cheri Ruble plan to work in the evening on the western side of the county. There are others in the Battle Creek area who may wish to join them. If you wish to help, please contact them at 616-968-1480 in the evenings.

I wish I could convince Val Radee to keep track of the hours she spends reading the Calhoun County Vital Records on microfilm. From 1868 to 1922, these records include valuable supplementary information on the cause and place of death, the birth state and parents' names. For a short period, the records also recorded the maiden name of the mother. Val has been concerned that there are still many people whose record has not been located.

Maybe the records of funeral homes in the area will reveal more names. Joan Pehrson has been working on the Farley Funeral Home records. Mickey Rastoskey is working on the Richard A. Henry Funeral Home records. This is another way you can provide helpful information.

It is interesting to learn about the history of the individual cemeteries and the township. I attempt to include whatever I can locate. Anyone who likes to do this kind of research would save my time by checking all our information for accuracy. We spend bad weather days checking the material in my database. This can also be done by those who don't feel able to work in the cemeteries. Contact me if this interests you.

Cemeteries in Progress. As soon as Val Radee is able to complete the vital records, I will be able to prepare the publication for Clarendon Township. I will spend my summer checking the diagrams of other cemeteries in progress. Lee Township needs a vital records review and a check of the Rice Creek map. This should be ready this summer and possibly Tekonsha and Marengo.

I will be leaving for a long-anticipated trip to the Northwest in October. I am not sure if all the cemetery diagrams will be checked before I leave. I will take along some of the information to work on while traveling. I look forward to working on my own family records while on the road. It seems to be the only way I can find some free time.

A Sampling of Area Summer Festivals

June 20, Strawberry Festival, Battle Creek, Contact Eleanor Boston, 616-965-2613

July 12, Blair Historic Farm Summer Social, Contact Joanne Miller, 616-789-2441

July 17-18, Athens Annual Homecoming, Contact Jerry Voss, 616-729-5331

Sept. 19, Albion Festival of the Forks, Contact Chamber of Commerce, 517-629-5533

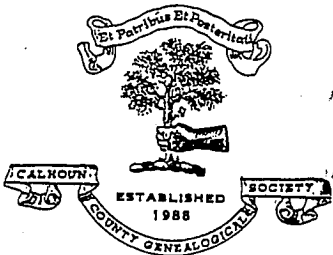
Future Functions of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society

June 23, 1998 "Whither Thou Goest: Tracing your Female Ancestor," presented by Shirley J. Hodges. **Meeting to be held at the B.E. Henry Bldg., 615 So. Marshall.**

July 1998 No meeting

August 1998 No meeting

September 15, 1998 Heritage Quest Genealogy Road Show. Featured speaker, Leland K. Meitzler. Mr. Meitzler will present "Armchair Genealogy" and "Your Ancestor was not Destroyed in the Courthouse Fire." More information and the location will be announced at a later date.



The Calhoun County Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 777
Marshall, MI 49068