

President's Message

Maybe it's just coincidence, but the CCGS has been "reaching out" lately and the results have been exciting.

On March 9th, Cindy Wilson and I represented the Society at an open house event organized by the Duck Lake Genealogists. We set up a display at the Clarence Center town hall alongside other local historical and genealogical societies. Although the turnout was light, there was some serious genealogical discussion and we even managed to sell some of our publications.

More recently, on March 28th, the CCGS collaborated with the Helen Warner Branch of the Willard Library of Battle Creek for a "Library Lock-In." The library closed at 5 p.m. and reopened just for genealogists from 6-10 p.m. Free coffee kept the researchers energized, while we took advantage of the unique resources of the Library. It was a enjoyable evening and one that I would like to replicate at

some of our county's other institutions. For his work in organizing the event, I'd like recognize George Livingston making the evening so successful.

Another way the CCGS is reaching out has been spearheaded by Ann Heisler, our newsletter editor. For those members who have been interested in receiving the newsletter by email, our pilot program has been rolled out and you may very well be reading this on your computer monitor. To encourage our members to help us save on postage, we are offering a \$3 discount on dues for the 2007-2008 membership year (starting in September) to those who would rather receive the newsletter electronically. Beginning with the 2008 membership year, dues will be increasing to \$15 for those who prefer a paper copy.

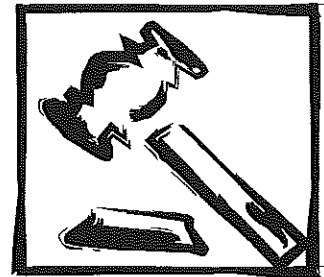
In the near future, we have the following meeting topics scheduled. In April, our theme is "Getting Organized." This topic was

chosen in direct feedback from you by the recent survey taken by Jim Jackson. Since we are presenting this topic in-house, please come to the meeting with your best tip ready for discussion. The April meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the evening of the 22nd, at the Gifford Schultz CISD building in Marshall.

In May, our featured presenter will be Renee Breitback, who will be discussing the analysis of handwriting. Renee encourages members to bring in examples for analysis, preferably in the form of longer pieces (signatures are not representative samples!). Our May meeting will be held at the Gifford Schultz CISD building on the evening of the 27th, at 7:00 p.m.

As always, we encourage you to "reach out" as well and attend our meetings--we hope to make them great opportunities for you to become better researchers.

- Chris Rau
President CCGS



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HIGHLIGHTED LOCATION —

Marshall: Grandmother's Treasures

I hope you are as lucky as I have been. On April 21, my grandmother would have been 99 years old. She passed away last April 10 days before her birthday.

Years ago, I was helping my mom clean out a closet and we went through some of my grandmother's collection of family items. From there I was hooked. Grandmother had found her heir to all her treasures. AND she did have

treasures! I have scanned thousands of pictures, newspaper articles and documents. Sifted through letters, books, family bible pages and autobiographies and I'm still finding more.

During the last few years of my grandmother's life she had dementia and the stories became jumbled but she still remembered me and that I was researching family. She used to tell me "I should have

talked to those people when they were alive." I would answer the tease with "I wasn't alive then." But with all her treasures, sometimes I feel they come alive and talk to me through them.

I am dedicating this issue to my grandmother and her Marshall treasures. I hope you don't mind. Enjoy and think of ways you can share your treasures!



Identifying Photo Subjects

What would you do with the photos on this page? Top left was labeled "The Maypole Dance." Top right labeled "The School Play." Bottom left labeled "The Grant Party" and bottom right labeled "Bama Robinson and grandkids." The pictures were in an album of pictures assembled by your great-grandparents who died over thirty years ago. The next generation, your grandmother and her siblings, is gone. Now what?

Some people might just throw them away. Some may save them even though they don't know any connections—just in case. Some (like me) may begin investigating. I'm a sucker for these kinds of puzzles.

I believe that all four of these pictures are from Marshall. My grandmother was in Marshall for a lot of her early life. In the bottom left picture (The Grant Party), I can identify my great-grandmother, grandmother and I would guess her baby brother in

the front middle. Because of the age of the baby, the clothing worn and leaves on the trees, I'm guessing this photo was taken about Aug/Sep of 1911. Anybody know the Grants or anyone else from the photo?

My grandmother Betty talked of Grandma Jane (Robinson). She wasn't really her grandmother. Grandma Jane was a step-aunt to Betty's mother Clara. When Clara's mother died, she was sent to Marshall to be raised by her Perrin aunts. Jane Perrin Davidson Robinson was one of those aunts. If I'm right, this picture includes Bama Robinson, my grandmother Betty (with bow in front), her 4 siblings and Drayton Davidson. It would have been taken in Marshall about spring 1918.

NOW for the tough ones. For both of the bottom photos, I used other pictures of these people to identify the ones I know. In the top two photos, I can't recognize

anyone for sure. Both photos look like they were taken at the same place and in the same timeframe. The Maypole is in both and it looks like some of the people are the same and similarly dressed. My next investigative step would be to show the photo to others and ask questions.

SO, here goes.... Anybody have a school photo that includes these students? Go back to your *Generations* Nov-Dec 2007 Issue and look at class picture on page 3. Do any of the children listed above look like a younger version of the ones from that class? Can you identify any of the above from any of your family photos?

So, I cheated (sort of) by using this newsletter to get my questions out. Emailing CCGS members, posting on web sites, mailing copies to family, checking libraries, etc. are other methods of getting the word out. Get it out and you may connect to other family members!



Then and Now

Pictures below copied from brochure, *Marshall "Gem City of Southern Michigan"* published by Marshall Business Men's Association; The Statesman Company, Marshall, Mich. (Year unknown)

Saved by my great-grandfather Claude Stout are Marshall Centennial Newspapers. One includes the following article that caught my eye. ENJOY!

LOOKING FORWARD

It is more than probable that when Marshall celebrates the two hundredth anniversary of her founding, all who participated in the Centennial celebration of 1930 will have vanished from off the face of the earth. The interval between 1930 and 2030 will witness many changes. In that far-off day a hundred years hence Marshall will have regained the proud distinction of being the largest city between Detroit and Chicago. It will not only be the largest city but it will also be the most flourishing. Of course long before that time Battle Creek will have been incorporated with the city limits of Marshall and the population will have been otherwise increased by means of judicious and far-flung advertising. Increased population naturally means increased industries.

The automobile will be looked upon as an antiquated vehicle even as the old-fashioned surrey and buggy are today. The airplane, greatly improved will be the popular means of locomotion and houses will be constructed with accommodations for airplanes on the roof.

The old-fashioned custom of serving three meals a day at home will no longer obtain, thus relieving housewives of much labor not to mention responsibility. The great question will be not "what shall we eat?," but "where shall we eat?." Everything will be done "out," even to the family quarrels which will be turned over to a capable lawyer.

There will be no trouble about seeing theatrical productions as it will be possible to sit comfortably at home and by means of television witness the very best plays.

The youth of a hundred years hence will be no better than the youth of today which could not be improved upon, reports to the contrary notwithstanding.

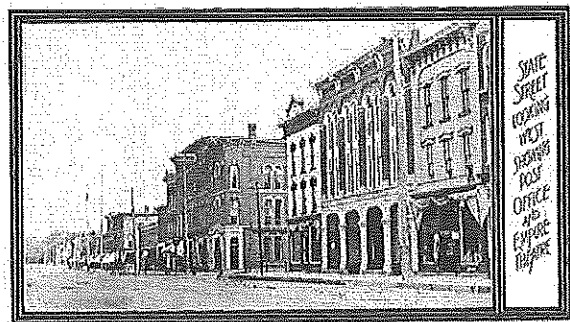
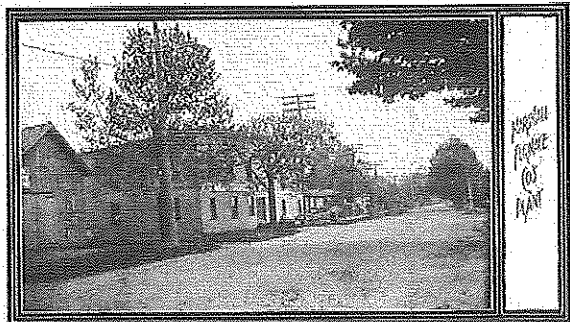
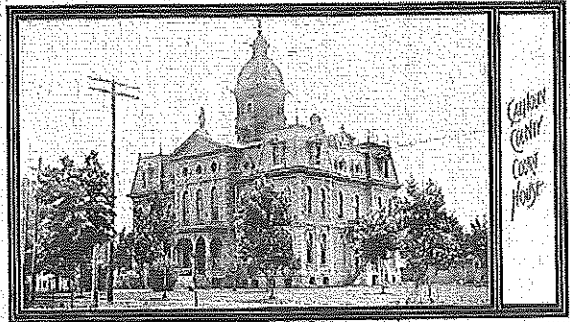
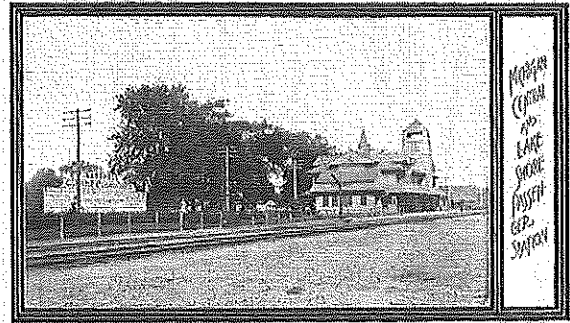
A hundred years hence there will no longer be a democrat party nor yet a republican but governmental affairs will be supervised by a commission, the members of which will be selected because of their fitness and not because they have a political pull.

So great will be the improvements in flying that if one suddenly decides in the afternoon to dine and attend the theatre in Paris that evening it will be possible of accomplishment.

There are those who prophecy that before another hundred years have passed the congress will have ratified the London naval treaty. Too, the vision of peace will have been realized and the whole world will look upon war as a relic of the most terrible barbarism. There will not be a Volstead law because civilization will be so advanced there will be no need of one.

What with the marvelous strides being made in every line of human endeavor it is difficult to prophecy the future but it is a safe guess that if we of the present day could vision conditions in 2030 we would gasp and exclaim with bated breath, "it can't be possible!"

There's one thing you can bet, tho, they'll have no better bi-centennial in 2030 than was the Centennial of 1930, nor so good, for they won't have Harold Craig Brooks to pull it off for he'll be elsewhere and otherwise engaged.

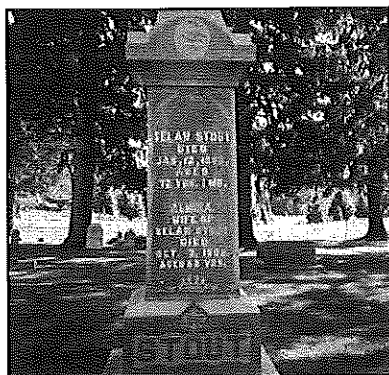


"Looking Forward." *Marshall Evening Chronicle* 5 July 1930, 1:3 (reprinted with permission)

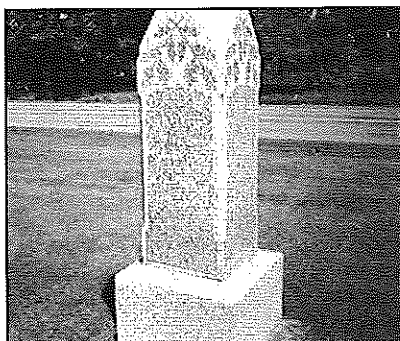
Cemetery Resources



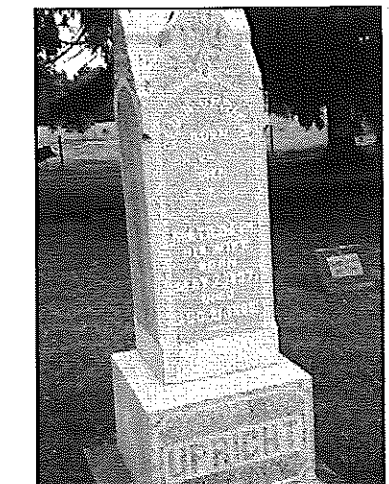
Calhoun County has over 75 cemeteries. From the small rural cemetery to the large city ones, these visual reminders of our ancestors are changing and deteriorating. Thanks to technology and many volunteers, slowly we are recording and saving these images of our heritage.



Care is necessary! Weather, poor stone quality, vandals, natural elements, and poor care are taking a toll. Many stones are covered with plant life and the engravings are hard to read. I remember an aunt talking of doing “rubbings” on gravestones in order to get the information from the engraving. This practice has also been determined to deteriorate the stones. I have heard of people cleaning stones with wire brushes or enhancing the engraving by adding shaving cream or other products. All of these can break down the stone. Also, some flat to ground stones are missing. They actually may exist but may have become buried underground over time. Vandals have broken some stones and they are in need of replacement or repair. Help is needed by all to preserve and protect these reminders of our ancestors.



Cemetery transcriptions and photographs are a record at a point in time but also have their challenges. Keeping them current and accurate are not easy. Taking clean, readable images, reading incipitions, and sometimes finding a stone take special skills and sometimes certain conditions. Notice the differences in the photos to the left. Lighting and shadows make a big difference. These were all taken on the same day and same cemetery. To help you in your research, the following web site has some suggestions and links to other sites that may help: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cemetery/michigan/howto.html>.



For links to Calhoun County cemeteries records online, go to <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~micalhou/cemetery.htm>. A special thank-you to all those that have transcribed or photographed Calhoun County cemeteries. For current printed cemetery publications from CCGS, see below. More transcriptions are being assembled.

Cemetery publications available from CCGS:

- *Bentley Corners Cemetery, Clarendon Township, Calhoun County, Michigan*
- *Cemeteries of Tekonsha Township, Calhoun County, Michigan*

Also, available from CCGS:

- *Marriage Records of Calhoun County, Michigan, 1836–1890*

To order your copy go to <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~micalhou/publications.htm> or contact Lucindia Wilson.

Ancestors of Elizabeth Jane Stout

Selah Stout
 b: 26 Nov 1809 in Monmouth County, NJ, USA
 m: 21 Jan 1835 in Tioga County, NY, USA
 d: 12 Jan 1882 in Marshall, Calhoun Co, MI, USA

Charles Chester Stout
 b: 03 Jul 1854 in Marshall Twp, Calhoun Co, MI, USA
 m: 14 Dec 1876 in Bellevue, Eaton Co., MI, USA
 d: 11 Mar 1910 in home, Mansion St, Marshall, Calhoun Co, MI, USA

Almira King
 b: 19 Aug 1814 in Danby, Tioga County, NY, USA
 d: 03 Oct 1902 in Marshall, Calhoun Co, MI, USA

Claude Selah Stout
 b: 25 Jan 1880 in Marshall Twp, Calhoun Co, MI, USA
 m: 12 Aug 1908 in Marshall, Calhoun Co, MI, USA
 d: 28 Jan 1951 in Oaklawn Hospital, Marshall, Calhoun Co, MI, USA

Philip W Jenks
 b: 05 Nov 1831 in Livonia, Livingston, NY, USA
 m: 01 Jan 1854 in Bellevue, Eaton Co, MI, USA
 d: 10 Mar 1898 in Bellevue, Eaton Co, MI, USA

Victoria Elizabeth Jenks
 b: 05 Mar 1856 in Convis Twp, Calhoun Co, MI, USA
 d: 04 Nov 1944 in Calhoun County Infirmary, Marengo Twp, Calhoun Co, MI, USA

Eleanor Eliza White
 b: 19 Oct 1832 in Medina, Medina Co, OH, USA
 d: 08 Dec 1912 in Convis Twp, Calhoun Co, MI, USA

Elizabeth Jane Stout
 b: 21 Apr 1909 in Marshall, Calhoun Co, MI, USA
 m: 02 Feb 1935 in Marshall, Calhoun Co, MI, USA
 d: 11 Apr 2007 in Eaton Community Hospice, Charlotte, Eaton Co, MI, USA

Enoch M Whitted
 b: 11 Nov 1828 in Pittsboro, Chatham Co, NC, USA
 m: 30 Oct 1851 in Rockville, Parke Co, IN, USA
 d: 07 May 1901 in Clinton, Vermillion Co, IN, USA

William Enoch Whitted
 b: 18 Nov 1857 in Clinton, Vermillion Co, IN, USA
 m: 16 Dec 1880 in Vermillion Co, IN, USA
 d: in MS, USA

Elizabeth E Hise
 b: 15 May 1832 in Rockville, Parke Co, IN, USA
 d: 21 Sep 1916 in Clinton, Vermillion Co, IN, USA

Clara Grace Whitted
 b: 14 Dec 1883 in Terre Haute, Vigo Co, IN, USA
 d: 24 Mar 1973 in Marengo Twp, Calhoun Co, MI, USA

Samuel O Hunt
 b: ABT 1836 in IN, USA
 m: 26 Oct 1862 in Vermillion Co, IN, USA
 d: 28 Jun 1864 in Civil War near Kencsaw, GA, USA

Cora Bess Hunt
 b: 18 Jul 1863 in Clinton, Vermillion Co, IN, USA
 d: 31 Jan 1895 in res of Charles W. Robinson, Marshall, Calhoun Co, MI, USA

Mary Ellen Washburne
 b: 22 Jun 1844 in Martinsville, Clark, IL, USA
 d: 20 Sep 1916 in Martinsville, Clark, IL, USA