

CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The regular meeting of the CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY was held on Tuesday 22 June 1999 at 7 p.m. with 40 guests and members present at the B.E. Henry Building in Marshall.

President Sandy Redmond opened the meeting with announcements about upcoming meetings and needing help with the newsletter. If anyone has any ideas or materials to be included in the newsletter please contact Sandy. Then Ruth Kaiser spoke about the work the cemetery committee has been doing and that the Clarendon Township book is finished and Lee Township is almost completed.

Then Pat Geyer, a member of our society spoke to us about "Writing your Family History". Pat has written two family books, the first one was on her husband's family and she learned a lot about how to put the book together and how to get it published which helped her with her second book on Sheldon Wight and his diary from the Civil War. Some of the helpful hints she talked about were to keep a notebook and file folder for each family, to tape record all the oldest members of your family then transcribe their stories. Try to find photos of the ships that your ancestors arrived on or maybe property that they once owned or lived on to include in the book. She then talked about how to get your book ready to publish. Talk to whoever you are going to have publish your book, decide on the binding whether it is to be paper, leather or vinyl and how many of the books to be printed. Get each page camera ready and design a title page, check on margin sizes, copyright laws, and obtain a Library of Congress number. She also suggested including clipart on your pages and that Barnes and Noble is one place to find these items.

There is no regular meeting for July and August. To start the next year in September will have Kathleen Strang, head of the Local History Room at Willard Public Library in Battle Creek presenting the recent projects they have undertaken.

Timira R. Volstromer, Recording Secretary

CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The regular meeting of the CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY was held on Tuesday 25 May 1999 at 7 p.m. with 30 guests and members present at the B.E. Henry Building in Marshall.

President Sandy Redmond started the meeting by reading several articles from area newspapers dealing with genealogy. The first one being about the Mormons putting their genealogy records online. It made front-page news! This websites address is: www.familysearch.org. The second article dealt with the state being remapped for the first time since 1815. She also announced the speaker for next years Eaton County Genealogical Society's Workshop is to be George Schweitzer. The date is May 6,2000.

President Sandy then introduced Laura Randall from Battle Creek who is a consultant with Creative Memories. She spoke to the group about the importance of preserving memorabilia safely. The "magnetic pages" picture albums from the 1960's to the 1980's are the worst things we could do to our priceless photos. These albums contain PVC's, lignin, solvents and acids. All these things are very damaging. The older black page albums are also very high in acid and will deteriorate and harm your photos. She showed us her products and how these albums can preserve our memories and family history for generations to enjoy. Some tips for creating albums are to store them in rooms where you live, not in attics or damp basements. Also, store your negatives separately from your albums so if something happens to your albums your negatives will be safe. Avoid using ballpoint pens to label photos on the back. The ink will eventually bleed through to the front of the photo, ruining the image. A neat poem that says it all about family albums:

I sit before some photographs of people I don't know.
Mom said, "They are your relatives," But that was long ago.
She used to get the album out and put me on her knee.
Then pointing, with a story line tell family history.
The captions used were all her own, each time developed new.
We never thought to write them down before her life was through.
I see some family features now: I have begun to care. Since Mom is
Gone, I cannot ask, "Whose picture is that there?"
If you have photos in a book without a caption,too. Go get a pencil
And label them, or you may wonder, "Who?"

Mary F. Heisey

The last regular meeting of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society for the 1998-1999 year will be held at the B.E. Henry Building in Marshall on 22 June, 1999 with society member Pat Geyer speaking about "Writing your Family History".

Recording Secretary-Timira R.Volstromer

CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The regular meeting of the CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY was held on Tuesday, 23 March 1999 at 7 p.m. with 60 guests and members present at VFW Hall in Marshall.

President Sandy Redmond opened the meeting with announcements about the many upcoming seminars, workshops and book fairs in the next two months. She also asked for volunteers to form a nominating committee to fill open officers seats this next fall. We are losing all but our president and membership chair so we will need a vice-president, recording and corresponding secretaries and a treasurer. Sandy Redmond introduced the night's speaker Shirley Hodges. Shirley began her talk telling about how she enjoys doing research on women. In particular the women whom participated in the Civil War. "What's in a name". In the USA each era has had it's own naming patterns. Pilgrims names were traditional usually after saints and they named their children differently to reflect their virtues or experiences. For example: Mercy, Faith, Pleasant, Temperance, and Deliverance.

The 1700's began the tradition of two given names like Johan Peter, Johan Sebastian or Johan Frederick. From 1650-1860 the use of biblical names were common especially Sarah, Rachel, Mary, Ruth, Isaac, Joseph, Jesse, Moses.

Naming patterns had pitfalls. Sometimes children were given non-traditional names, or named after a highly respected neighbor or famous American. And sometimes the first child in a second marriage was named after the deceased spouse.

From 1900-1922 Mary was the most popular female name and Helen second. In 1924, Shirley peaked due to Shirley Temple's popularity. But in the South, Shirley could be a man's name and Southern women were named after flowers or gems: Daisy and Pearl are a few examples.

Some other tidbits she gave on naming patterns were if one child has a biblical name almost all will, children were given the same name of another child that died young, slightly different names is helpful when researching a relative, nicknames in place of real name is confusing in documents. Sometimes-male names were abbreviated as noted in this little poem:

My Father calls me William
My sister calls me Will
My mother calls me Willie
And my fellers call me Bill
By Eugene Field

Try to think of all the nicknames that you have been given!

The next regular meeting of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society will be held at the B.E. Henry Building in Marshall on 28 April 28, 1999 at 7p.m. with Morris Thomas speaking about "Land Records in Genealogical Research".

Recording Secretary-Timira R.Volstromer

CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The regular meeting of the CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY was held on Tuesday, 24 November 1998 at 7 p.m. with 30 guests and members present.

Vice-President Nancy Hibiske opened the meeting with updates about upcoming meetings and times. Then President Sandy Redmond introduced Margaret Parker who is Historian of the DAR and her daughter who is head of tourism for the city of Marshall. They gave a brief description of the building and it's history then a video was shown to the audience that was filmed during the archeological dig done on the site of the old privy site. The video was very interesting and comical due the men who were doing the digging. You could tell that they thoroughly enjoy every aspect of the job including finding "privy dirt". They unearthed quite a few undamaged bottles, china and old doll heads and some of these items are on display at the Governor's Mansion.

There was a Christmas Tea held in December at the Mansion that was decorated for the holidays to help raise funds for the ongoing restoration put on by the DAR. President Sandy then presented a check to the DAR from the CCGS to help with the restoration costs.

The next two meetings held by the society in January and February were in conjunction with Willard Library so no official business was conducted. Both programs were engaging and informative and held in the Miller Stone Building in Battle Creek. In January, Lorraine Coleman Johnson talked about collecting oral histories in a very delightful and funny way. She said to start with your own personal experiences. Document your memories first like interviewing yourself. Then in February Pierce Roberts gave a talk on the Battle of Chickamauga-1863.

The next regular meeting of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society will be held at the VFW in Marshall on 23 March 23, 1999 at 7p.m. with Shirley Hodges presenting "What's in a Name".

Recording Secretary-Timira R.Volstromer

CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
27 October 1998 VFW Hall, Marshall, MI
Civil War Graves Registration Project

The regular meeting of the CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY was held on Tuesday, 27 October 1998 at 7 p.m. with 40 guests and members present.

President Sandy Redmond opened the meeting by thanking the other officers for their support as she begins her new two-year term. She also talked about some of her goals for the society and upcoming projects/events. A concern was brought up about the newsletter not being received in a timely manner to some members. The newsletter is now bulked mailed and if anyone has anything that they would like included in the newsletter such as articles, announcements, etc. they are always greatly appreciated.

President Sandy introduced John Obermeyer of the Sons of the Union Veterans to talk about the importance of grave registration for all Civil War veterans especially in Michigan. In 1860, the population in the United States was 30-40 million and 10 million of this population was men in the Civil War, so 1 out of 2 people will have an ancestor from the Civil War. We honor these veterans by how we act and grave restoration. Michigan has a large amount of Civil War veterans that came to live and die here. We also have a soldier's home in Grand Rapids. New York was the first state to account for all Civil War soldiers in 1870 and by 1905 Michigan had a full set of regimental histories available with an alphabetized index. Bill Lowe then talked about how they go out to a cemetery and any male born within a certain time frame is looked at as a possible Civil War veteran. They then research the names and if they find a veteran without a grave marker they see that one is placed. They will fix damaged or unreadable markers, too. They handed out 3 flyers, one about the history of the SUVCW, graves registration form and a list of publications available in the Willard Library on Civil War. They also had their computer set up to look up a veteran for members to see if they were listed in their records or not. If not they encouraged people to send them the grave registration form with their ancestor's information.

The next meeting of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society will be held at the VFW Hall in Marshall featuring Phyllis Riley on the topic of the "History and Restoration of Marshall's Governor's Mansion" on Tuesday 24 November 1998.

Relatively yours,

Timira R. Volstromer, Recording Secretary

*Without genealogy, the
study of history is lifeless.*

-- John Fiske

CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

15 September 1998 Burnham Brook Center, Battle Creek, MI
Heritage Quest Road Show featuring speaker Leland Meitzler

The regular meeting of the CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY was held on Tuesday, 15 September 1998 at 6 p.m. with 75 guests and members present.

President Nancy Hibiske opened the meeting by announcing the election of officers and ballots available at the entrance table and dates Curt Wichter will be at Willard Library. Also, it is time for membership renewal. Then President Nancy welcomed Leland Meitzler from Heritage Quest magazine who spoke about "Your Ancestor was not destroyed in the Courthouse Fire". Mr. Meitzler talked about how a lot of courthouses were destroyed by fire especially in the south and sometimes by other natural disasters like flooding or tornadoes and how to recreate or obtain information that was lost. First, he mentioned read your county histories and commented on what a great job the Calhoun County Genealogical Society did by having theirs reprinted. He stated that Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana has county histories for every county in the USA and Canada. County histories give a lot of valuable information for genealogists. Next, he said find out the date of the fire, are there later records that will help. Determine what records was destroyed, if any were destroyed, sometimes not all offices were burned.

Did the WPA do an inventory? Were lands records/deeds reconstructed? Sometimes when new courthouses were built old records were destroyed or moved to a different building.

We are a young country and sometimes county boundaries changed. Determine when your ancestor arrived in the area and whether he/she was living in an area that was formerly a part of an earlier, larger county. Check the parent/surrounding county records for your ancestors. Check for other local records such as church records, city directories, coroner's records, newspapers, tax records, voter registration, cemetery records, funeral homes- these records go back to the Civil War and school records which were sometimes consolidated to the state archives or destroyed.

He mentioned that the 1915 and 1925 Iowa state censuses are the best ever done because they give a lot of information/details such as church, military. And Canadian censuses give church denomination.

Leland then talked about what State records to look for. Do the State Archives have deposited copies of the county records? Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Virginia have state bounty land records. Check state prison, militia, hospital and soldiers homes records. Some men may have served the state in a number of capacities such as in times of war, in local disturbances, to track runaway slaves and in natural disasters. Also, check if the state kept a census or list of men of military age. And lastly he talked about checking the state adjutant's office for general land records at their website: www.glorerecords.blm.gov and mentioned Michigan is available.

Mr. Meitzler went on to talk about Heritage Quest and some of the things they are working on and projects in the future. At this time they are reindexing the entire 1870 federal census! Mr. Meitzler brought with him a large selection of books and materials on genealogy for sale, which was enjoyed by all. Our societies number of attendees at the show gained us a free subscription to Genealogy Bulletin and Mr. Meitzler also gave away many nice doorprizes. The Society sold rubber stamps related to genealogy as a fundraiser, which raised about \$75.00.

The next meeting of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society is 27 October 1998 at the VFW Hall in Marshall, MI. The guest speaker will be John Obermeyer of the Sons of the Union Veterans to talk about the Graves Registration Project.

Timira Volstromer, Recording Secretary

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-- John Fiske