

GENERATIONS



The Newsletter of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society

Founded 1988

Volume 10 / Number 4

February / March 1998

**Calhoun County Genealogical Society
10 Year Anniversary 1988 - 1998**

"Genealogical Hints and Anecdotes"

***Featuring Members and Guests of the Calhoun County
Genealogical Society***

Tuesday, February 24, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.

VFW Hall, 800 E. Michigan Ave., Marshall, MI



Come share your favorite genealogical idea or tell us the story of the "big one that got away". This is the meeting to network with other genealogists and history enthusiasts to share experiences and learn from others. Be prepared to participate in the discussion or sit back and listen to the rest of the group. There is something for everyone at this meeting. This program is free and open to the public.

"Battle Creek's Historic Oak Hill Cemetery"

***Featuring Richard Rowe
and***

Michael Martich

Tuesday, March 24, 1998

7:00 p.m.

***VFW Hall, 800 E. Michigan Ave.,
Marshall, MI***

Learn the stories behind this historic cemetery. Oak Hill Cemetery began in 1844 on ten acres of donated land on South Avenue.

Richard Rowe and Michael Martich will tell us more about the history and the significance of this Battle Creek landmark.

Many of us have ancestors buried in Oak Hill Cemetery. Or, if you are still searching, this program will be of help in your search.

CCGS Officers and Board Members

President: **Nancy Hibiske**
 (616) 962-3498 (H)
 (616) 961-2500 (W)

Vice President: **Sandy Redmond**
 (616) 729-5258 (H)
 (616) 961-3159 (W)

Treasurer: **Michelle Rastoskey**
 (616) 671-4733 (H)

Recording Secretary: **Timira Volstromer**
 (616) 781-1205 (H)

Corresponding Secretary: **Terri Plotas**
 (616) 965-4452 (H)

Membership Chair: **Ilene Woodman**
 (616) 962-1667 (H)

Publicity Chair: **Brenda Cornish**
 (517) 629-4861 (H)

Program Chair: **Sandy Redmond** (see above)

Archivist/Historian: **TBD**

Cemetery Project: **Ruth Kaiser**
 (517) 857-2747 (H)

Immediate Past Presidents:
Jo Peck
 33879 Harvest Way
 Wildomar, CA 92595-9122
Marlene Steele
 (616) 963-0226 (H)

Pioneer Certificate Chair: **Verla Potts**
 (616) 781-8594 (H)

Newsletter Editors:
Sandy Redmond (see above)
Nancy Hibiske (see above)



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

NEW!

Cemeteries of Eckford Twp., Calhoun County, MI \$8.00

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

LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT GIFT?

How about a copy of The 1877 History of Calhoun County Michigan? What better gift than the gift of history and the people who lived it. The order form is included in this issue of Generations. Fill out the form and send it in with your check to arrive before March 1st, 1998 in order to get the pre-publication price of \$42.50.

The Calhoun County Genealogical Society was established in 1988 with four specific goals in mind:

To gather and preserve information of genealogical value; to encourage the deposit of such information in suitable depositories; to aid genealogists in the study of family history through the exchange of knowledge; and to publish and promote Calhoun County and other genealogical materials.

Membership Benefits

- ◆ Subscription to the CCGS newsletter "Generations," published 6 times annually
- ◆ Annual CCGS Membership List containing the names of members and the surnames being researched
- ◆ Membership card - sometimes necessary for access to some research facilities
- ◆ Ancestor Charts - members are encouraged to submit their ancestor chart for publication in the newsletter. These charts are also made available in local libraries for other researchers.

Membership is on an annual basis beginning September through August. Late membership will include previous issues of newsletters from the current membership year. Annual dues are \$12.00.

For more information regarding the society or ordering publications please contact Sandy Redmond at 616-729-5258

The 1877 History of Calhoun County Michigan

Originally published by L. H. Everts, antique copies of this beautiful history have become increasingly difficult to find. Because of the significant historic value of this work, the Calhoun County Genealogical Society has decided to have the book reprinted, and offer it for public sale. Over 350 pages, the History contains 212 written pages of history and biographical sketches, with an additional 108 pages of illustrations "descriptive of its scenery, palatial residences, and public buildings, fine blocks, and important manufactories" as well as portrait sketches of many early county residents. In addition, this republished volume includes an *every name index*, reprinted here with permission of the compilers, CCGS members Susan Udell and Marcia Udell. The book is being reproduced on acid-free, archival paper, and is hard-cover, library-quality bound.

The 1877 History of Calhoun County Michigan is available for a pre-publication cost of \$42.50 for orders received by March 1, 1998. After March 1, the cost will be \$50.00. Shipping and handling is an additional \$5.00. Michigan residents must add 6% sales tax of \$2.55 prepublication, and \$3.00 post-publication.

If you desire, a gift acknowledgment card can be provided - please indicate that you would like a gift card on your order form.

The anticipated ship date of the 1877 History of Calhoun County Michigan is April, 1998.

Order Form for other publications available from the Calhoun County Genealogical Society.

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 County, MI (14 pages) \$6.00

Clarence Township Cemeteries, Calhoun Co.,
MI (Clarence Center, Dyer, Hunt, Krenierick
and Nichols) (66 pages) \$7.00

Transcriptions of the Cemeteries of Convis
Township, Calhoun Co., MI (35 pgs) \$6.00

NEW: Cemeteries of Eckford Township, Calhoun
Co., MI AVAILABLE JANUARY 15 \$8.00

Every Name Index for Generations the Newsletter
of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society,
August 1988-June 1995 (46 pgs,
over 2800 names) \$5.00

Marriage Records of Calhoun County, MI
1836-1890 fully indexed by bride & groom
(248 pages) \$18.50

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

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

TOTAL (S&H included above)
Michigan Residents add 6% Sales Tax
GRAND TOTAL

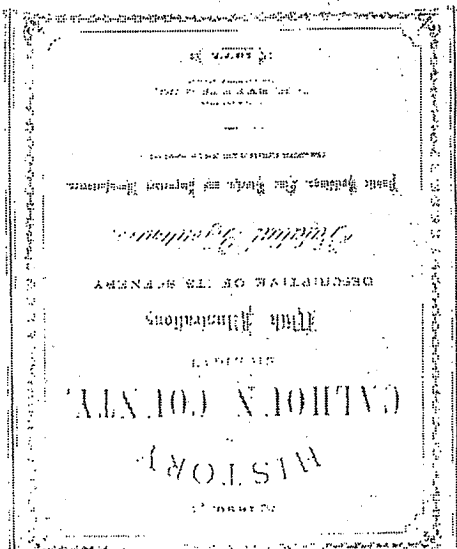
ORDER FORM - 1877 History of Calhoun County Michigan

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 PHONE NUMBER _____

WOULD YOU LIKE A GIFT ACKNOWLEDGMENT CARD?
 Pre-Publication Cost (orders rcvd by March 1, 1998) \$ 42.50
 Post-Publication Cost (orders rcvd after March 1, 1998) \$50.00
 Michigan Residents-6% sales tax (\$2.55 pre-pub, \$3.00 post)
 Shipping and Handling \$5.00
 GRAND TOTAL _____

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER (DUES, \$12.00) _____

Mail your order to:
 Calhoun County Genealogical Society
 Attn: Book Sales
 P. O. Box 777
 Marshall, MI 49068



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

The Calhoun
 County Genealogical
 Society is pleased to
 ANNOUNCE
 THE REPRINTING OF



THE 1877
 HISTORY OF
 CALHOUN
 COUNTY
 MICHIGAN

PIONEER CERTIFICATE UPDATE

Congratulations to the most recent recipients of Pioneer Certificates:

Carlene I. (Burlingame) DeMaso, Paula I. (DeMaso) Bule, Gregg T. DeMaso, Brad A. DeMaso and Carla L. DeMaso-Johnson for Jonas ROTHERICK

Albert J. Barnes, Robert V. Barnes and Kathryn R. Barnes for James BARNES

David H. Eddy, Donald D. Eddy, Susan M. (Eddy) Warren and David V. Eddy for John CHIVVIS

Leo F. Brown for Lord BROWN

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



COUNTY HISTORY UPDATE

If you live anywhere in the Calhoun County area you may be seeing green! Informational brochures regarding this project - printed on green paper - have been distributed throughout the county and beyond to libraries, historical societies and businesses. Area schools and colleges have been approached. Genealogical societies and libraries with historical/genealogical collections in Michigan and the surrounding states have also been approached. Nearly 2,000 brochures have been mailed out and at least a dozen area publications have done feature articles about the project.

The 1877 History of Calhoun County was first published by L. H. Everts of Philadelphia. Original copies of the History, if found at all, are usually in battered condition and/or prohibitively expensive. The board of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society felt strongly that the historical and genealogical information in this work warranted the efforts of having it republished. We are so excited about this project! It ties *perfectly* with the four goals of the Society: 1) to gather and preserve information of genealogical value; 2) to encourage the deposit of such information in suitable depositories; 3) to aid genealogists in the study of family history through the exchange of knowledge; 4) to publish and promote Calhoun County and other genealogical materials.

In this issue of *Generations* you will find a (very) abbreviated example of the type of material in the 1877 County History by referring to the "History of Convis Township" article. For those of you who haven't had the opportunity to order your copy, we are including an order form in the back of this issue. Take advantage of the reduced pre-publication rate by placing your order by March 1, 1998.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING PRE-PUBLICATION SALES

(ORDERS PLACED BY MARCH 1, 1998)

THOSE ATTENDING THE APRIL 28TH MEETING OF THE CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY WHO HAVE ORDERED AND PAID FOR THEIR COPY OF THE HISTORY PRIOR TO MARCH 1, 1998, MAY PICK UP THEIR COPY OF THE HISTORY AND SAVE THE \$5.00 SHIPPING AND HANDLING FEE. If you have already placed your order and paid the Shipping and Handling fee, we can refund the \$5.00 at the April 28th Meeting only, and you may pick up your copy at that meeting. If you have not ordered your copy of the History yet but plan on doing so, please indicate on your order form that you would like to **pick your copy up at the April 28th meeting**, and it is not necessary to pay the \$5.00 shipping and handling. Feel free to contact Sandy Redmond at 616-729-5258 for clarification.

HISTORY OF CONVIS TOWNSHIP

Convis in the central township of the northern tier in Calhoun County. The eastern parts of sections 6 and 7 are exceedingly hilly. In the southwest considerable land lies low, and is marsh, while the southern portion is mainly level. The pioneers of the settlement found the land heavily timbered, and entered, when possible, what were denominated "oak openings," a characteristic of which was the absence of underbrush, thereby rendering them more easily susceptible to cultivation. The Town enjoys a reputation for fine fruit. Lake and stream diversify the landscape and irrigate the soil. Battle creek cross the township at the northwest corner, and a branch of Indian creek traverses the eastern sections. On the northwest lies Mud lake; to the north is Acklèy; Kingdom and Garfield are in the northeast, and Lane's and Potter's in the southwest. The grazing in the township is notably good, and sheep raising constitutes one of the main sources of revenue. Farmers, in some instances, have large flocks. James WALKINSHAW is a heavy wool-grower; he has a flock of over four hundred sheep, together with a fine lot of cattle. E. H. BROWN owns from three to four hundred sheep, and W. GOSS has a large flock.

Fine timer and fertile soil attracted settlement, and families moved in from other parts of the State, while some were emigrants from Europe. A furor of emigration became prevalent, and thousands poured into the State from all quarters. The closing record of many a New Yorker ends with the phrase "went to Michigan," and the majority of those who settled in this locality were from the Empire State.

The pioneer of Convis was Sanford CHAFFEE, who, with his family, located in the spring of 1835, on section 3. James LANE, William NEWMAN, and Paul MOSS were the next pioneers. LANE came directly from England. Six weeks were occupied on the passage; a day or two passed in New York, and then the westward journey was begun. The emigrants reached Marshall November 5, 1835, and there remained pending land entry and the erection of a log house. His entry was on section 27. About December 1, the habitation being made ready, the family moved in and took possession.

Paul MOSS was engaged to convey Mrs. LANE, her child, and a few household goods and needed provisions. LANE went in advance to kindle a fire, but found the interior of his rude structure filled with snow, which it was his first care to remove. These primitive accommodations served until the completion of a substantial log house. House furniture was in keeping with circumstances. Bedstead and table were made of tamarack poles from the swamp. Chairs, unfinished, were purchased at a cost of six shillings each, from a Mr. LUCAS, of Belleview. After 16 years' sojourn in the log house, removal was made to a large frame structure, in which a tavern was kept until 1862.

William NEWMAN came to Convis, from England, some time before his family, which consisted of two sons, men-grown, and one daughter. One of the young men was accidentally killed by the unexpected falling of a tree which had lodged against another and gave way while he was underneath. MOSS settled on section 26. Of a family of five, but one, George, is now living; he resides in the township.

Daniel BEERS settled on section 24 during the spring of 1836, and about the same time Asahel HAWKINS moved with his family upon the same section. The latter was from Saratoga county, New York. He formed one of a party destined for Michigan, and save a temporary delay, caused by a break in the Erie canal, made the journey without difficulty. Gilbert KING, of Marshall, moved into Convis, made a brief stay, and removing into Ionia county there died. John KING, a brother to Gilbert, moved in 1835 from Tompkins, New York, to Marshall, and there resided until 1848, when he purchased eighty acres in Convis, where he has since resided.

In 1836 Convis received quite an accession to its population. Among the arrivals were Hiram and Elisha BRACE, Jess SMITH, George BENTLEY, T. J. VAN GEISEN, Jasper HAYWOOD, Philander BROOKE, Wessel SMITH, and Granville STOWE. During the year following settlement was made by B. AUSTIN, Ira H. ELSWORTH, William KINYON, Levi ROWLEY, Leach S. LOOMIS, Allen MATTISON, Nathan CHIDSTER, and Levi EATON. Of all these families, but one or two are residents of Convis, and but a few of the county. Increased numbers and extended area called for the organization of a new township. The matter was placed in the hands of General Ezra CONVIS, then a member of the State legislature. CONVIS died, and the business was presented by another member, who in honor of the general, proposed Convis as the township's name, a title by which the civil division has since been known. During the winter of 1836 and 1837, George and Joseph BENTLEY purchased the land originally entered by Gilbert KING—it was a quarter of section 36.

Ezra BRACKETT, in 1838, settled on section 34, and built a log house for his habitation. Upon his land was an Indian burial-place. Graves opened disclosed skeletons placed in sitting posture upon poles covered with wicker-work composed of twigs. The chiefs were buried in a style more formal, a framework being build about them. William GOSS, formerly of New York, was here an early settler.

QUERIES

Send your query to:

CCGS

P.O. Box 777

Marshall, MI 49068

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

All queries are published free of charge

HALLAM

James and Thomas HALLAM are in Clarendon Township, Homer post office, in the 1860 Federal Census. Both were born in England. Both working as Farm Laborer and Laborer. Were they brothers? What became of them? Does anyone have information about them?

Mrs. Henrietta Nichols
300 Greenglade Avenue
Worthington, OH 43085-2223
(614) 888-1236



KINGSBURY / RUNYON / AUSTIN

Seeking information regarding employment for Floy L. (KINGSBURY) RUNYON circa 1905-1912. She claimed "nurse" on her marriage license in 1912. Lived at Vicksburg, Plainwell, Cooper area, and Schultz-Barry County. first husband was William RUNYON, second was E.E. AUSTIN. Would like to know where she worked.

Also trying to establish Calhoun County residency circa 1835-1845 for Semion KINGSBURY who lived in Battle Creek area after selling Jackson County land and before purchasing land in Barry County. Several KINGSBURYS are known to have lived in the county...any help?

Michael R. Streeter
19071 Goldwin Avenue
Southfield, MI 48075

SMALLEY

I am trying to locate David B. SMALLEY who purchased land in Oxford Township, 1844 and 1845, and in Burlington Township in January 1850. On 7 November 1853 he sold his Burlington Township property and is believed to have moved to Union City. A search of Branch County indexed cemetery records and indexed newspaper accounts shows no reference to him. His wife's obituary in May 1887 indicated he died in 1854. Where is he? (NOTE! CCGS search turns up the following: No probate in Calhoun County. 1850 Federal Census, Michigan Calhoun County, Burlington page 221 shows David, Mary and seven children. 1860 Federal Census Michigan Branch County shows Mary W. in Union Township, page 810 and son Erastus L. in Jackson County, Parma page 350. *Index of Calhoun County Marriages 1836-1890* shows marriage of Erastus L. SMALLEY.

Sandy Wetter
21850 Gascony Avenue
Eastpointe, MI 48021



BURNETT / JONES / TERRY

William BURNETT of Albion wed Ida JONES, living in Detroit, in 1875. Need her parents. Family story says Ida's father and mother had a falling out and he took the child and threw the mother out. Any truth to the story? Believe she was a TERRY. Can anyone help me?

Rose Fields
R.R. #3, Box 79
Concordia, MO 64020



CCGS BOOK SALES

CCGS will be selling our genealogy and cemetery books at two major functions: Sunday, April 5, 1998 at the Genealogy and History Book Fair, New Lansing Center, Lansing, MI and Saturday, May 9, 1998 at the Eaton County Genealogical Society Workshop. Any members who are going to the events and would like to volunteer to sell books, please call me at 616-962-3498 and we will get you set up. The more volunteers the merrier! Thanks! - Nancy Hibiske

🐞 🐞 🐞 CITE YOUR SOURCES 🐞 🐞 🐞

by Verla Potts, Chairman, Calhoun County Pioneer Certificate Project

As chairman of the Pioneer Certificate program, I am finding a definite problem with information being entered as proofs which is not wholly identified. It is important for your own information to keep track of the journalistic "five W's and an H", plus additional information regarding each piece of information acquired. WHEN did you see or copy the item and WHERE is it now? Did you acquire it at that time? WHO told you about this picture, WHERE was it taken, and WHAT is the story behind it? HOW did the owner receive the item? WHO now owns the item? You might relate WHY it is important in your family's genealogy.

These are examples for your own benefit and are not always what is needed for the Pioneer Certificate proofs. The committee looks at information with an eye to what a future researcher might want to find and to duplicate for himself or herself. Did this deed copy come from the Calhoun County Clerk's office...or is it an original...or from the Bureau of Land Management? Is the deed identified with Liber and Page numbers? Or have you a copy of the Index of the Original Land Owners as abstracted and where did you copy this...Albion? Lansing? Some other location? Is this census a Federal or State Census and is it fully identified with year, roll number, page, complete location? Did you list WHERE and WHEN you made the copy? If your paper is from a published book, have you included the title page?

I hope you can see our dilemma. We hope to have each pioneer file complete. These sources are needed in your own genealogy and can be easily integrated in most of the available computer programs. A printout of your family genealogy is a superb addition to your ancestor file, but DO REMEMBER, it is not acceptable as proof, especially if no sources are shown.

An excellent reference for learning how to cite sources is the Beginner's Guide to Family History Research by Desmond Wallis Allen and Carolyn Earle Billingsley. CCGS has the Second Edition of 1994 available for purchase. Many examples are included in this softcover manual.

I Can't Believe I Did That!

by Sandy Redmond

Regarding the article "Christmas Memories" in the December/January issue of *Generations*, my mother pointed out that I had made an error on my own genealogy! I should have let mom read the article before going to press because she pointed out that Howard Reed's father was Charles Howard (Poppy) Reed, and *his* father was Leonard Wells Reed.

🐞 🐞 🐞 **Free Film Series** 🐞 🐞 🐞 🐞

Willard Library in Battle Creek continues its free film series with "New England" at noon on February 26, 1998. This film on new England allows you to visit the historic land where the U.S. was born. This film is projected onto a large screen in the library meeting room. Call your friends, bring your lunch and coffee is provided. The program is free to the public. What a deal! Then, once you get to Willard Library, spend some quality genealogy time in the Local History Room.

🐞 🐞 🐞 **Get Your Order in Before March 1, 1998!** 🐞 🐞 🐞

Have you ordered your 1877 History of Calhoun County book yet? Get your order in before March 1st for the pre-publication price!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 24, 1998 Calhoun County Genealogical Society monthly meeting "Hints and Anecdotes". 7 p.m. VFW Hall, Marshall, MI

March 24, 1998 Calhoun County Genealogical Society monthly meeting "Battle Creek's Historic Oak Hill Cemetery". 7 p.m. VFW Hall, Marshall, MI

April 4, 1998 The Indiana Genealogical Society presents "Back Home Again in Indiana" with speakers James W. and Paula Stuart Warren. Indianapolis, IN. Info: IGS, P.O. Box 1050, Ft. Wayne, IN 46852-0507.

April 5, 1998 Ninth Annual Genealogy and History Book Fair. New and used books and related materials offered by over 25 genealogical and historical organizations as well as commercial dealers. New Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI \$2.00, children 13 and under free. For info: 517-332-0123 or e-mail at: curious@mail.sojourn.com <http://www.interloc.com/~curious1>. (The Calhoun County Genealogical Society will be a vendor at this event. If you are attending the event and would like to volunteer to help at our book sales table, please call any one of the CCGS board members listed on page 50 of this issue of *Generations*.)

April 14-16, 1998 The Ohio Genealogical Society's 37th annual conference with featured speaker Curt B. Witcher. Columbus, OH. Info: OGS, P.O. Box 2625, Mansfield, OH 44906-0625. 419-522-9077.

May 9, 1998 Eaton County Genealogical Society presents its Annual Workshop featuring key note speaker George K. Schweitzer "Revolutionary War Research" (in period costume!), "Obscure Sources" and "New York Research" (in Dutch costume). CCGS member Shirley J. Hodges will be speaking on "Little Known Facts About the Census". \$30 (includes lunch) until April 15 then \$40. Sheraton Hotel, 925 S. Creyts Road, Lansing, MI. (517) 543-8792. E-mail: ecgsoc@juno.com. Send \$ and registration to Susan Polhamus, Registration Chairperson, 5801 Ellendale Drive, Lansing, MI 48911. (The Calhoun County Genealogical Society will be a vendor at this event. If you are attending the event and would like to volunteer to help at our book sales table, please call any one of the CCGS board members listed on page 50 of this issue of *Generations*.)

May 29-31, 1998 The Ontario Genealogical Society presents Seminar 98 "From Settlers to Satellites" - three dozen lectures and workshops to choose from ranging from basic genealogy to advanced technology including local history and geography. University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. Info: Grosvenor Lodge, 1017 Western Road, London, Ontario N6G 1G5.

July 13-16, 1998 5th Annual Genealogical Institute of Mid-America - formal instruction and intensive studies with the choice of four courses: "Family History Research Principles, Standards and Sources, Part I and II", "American 18th-19th Century Periods" and "Germanic Peoples to America 1700-1900". \$320 includes one course, eight general sessions, comprehensive syllabus, three dinners, banquet and parking. Info: 217-786-7464. E-mail: slackjulie@uis.edu

August 19-22, 1998 "Immigrant Dreams: The Settlement of America" presented by the Federation of Genealogical Societies with The Ohio Genealogical Society and the Hamilton County Chapter, OGS. The Regal Hotel and Cincinnati Convention Center, Cincinnati, OH. Request a program and registration from: Immigrant Dreams, Federation of Genealogical Societies, P.O. Box 830220, Richardson, TX 75083-0220, phone/fax: 972-907-9727, e-mail: fgs-office@fgs.org.

CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

25 November 1997 ♦ VFW Hall Marshall, MI

The regular meeting of the CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY was held on Tuesday 25 November 1997 at the VFW in Marshall, MI. President Nancy Hibiske opened the meeting with an announcement of no regular meeting in December and the next meeting in January to be held on the 25th with featured speakers Sandy and Nancy on the topic of "If These Walls Could Talk". Then a letter was shared with the 30 people present for the meeting by Sandy Redmond that she had received from Curt Wichter. He thanked the society for having him be the guest speaker at our October seminars and it gave helpful tips for the future of the CCGS society. Ruth Kaiser reported that Eckford cemetery readings are done! Verla Potts announced that Pioneer Certificates are still coming in and have received 161 so far and that Willard Library now has a Rainbow reader available that is very helpful for people with poor eyesight and/or help in reading handwritten letters, etc. Also, Steven Healy of Athens is researching military cemeteries and especially interested in Fort Custer. Hand-outs from Curt Wichter's 4 talks are available. Then, Sandy Redmond talked about the reprinting of the 1877 Calhoun County History book by Windmill Publishing and that pre-publishing sales will take place as soon as possible for Christmas gifts.

Our guest speaker Chris Czopek spoke next on the topic of Photography - up to and including the Civil War especially in Marshall. J. Hodge set up the first studio in Marshall newspaper building in 1846. In 1852, there were over 10 studios in Marshall and the first female photographers in Marshall and probably in MI and the USA - Mrs. Carley and Mrs. Emerick started their businesses. Mr. Czopek stated there is a reward for any pictures made by them or any diaries/writings about them. By 1858 it cost \$500 dollars to do photo business in Marshall and most of the studios were on the top floors of buildings in order to cut out skylights for needed light. Almost all of the businesses were located on the north side of State Street (which is now called Michigan Avenue) and in the block where the Bogar Theatre is today. Mr. Czopek mainly talked about the daugerrototype which was invented in France in 1839. In 1840, Samuel Morse set up the first school of photography in the USA. Daugerrotypes were last made around the Civil War because the cost of supplies especially mercury needed to make them went up due to mercury needed for weapons. Daugerrotypes were available in different sizes- deluxe or full size which contained the silver hallmark or symbol of the company that made the plates, 1/2 plates, 1/4, 1/6, 1/9 (economy). They always came in some kind of case, some were even plastic. They came to be known as Union cases. These types of photos should be kept in cold, dry places and should especially be kept away from heat because this lightens the image and mercury evaporates. Certain chemicals can bring back the image if done by professionals. A neck brace that was a C-shaped piece of metal was used to help people hold still for about 20 seconds because if they even blinked the picture had to be taken over, that is why people looked so stiff. Can you imagine trying to hold a smile for 20 seconds! Chris also talked about 4 different ways you could date a daugerrototype. Hand-outs were available by Chris for the Society which included all the U.S. hallmarks.

Submitted by,

Jimina Holstromer

Recording Secretary

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

Mrs. John Amsley, Pioneer, Tells of That Early Journey Over the Almost Unexplored Country to the Famed Lands of Michigan, the El Dorado of the West.

Away back in 1831 the people of the east were afflicted with what was known as the "Michigan fever." It, like the California gold fever that came some 18 years later, filled them with a longing to trek it off to the "wilds" of Michigan, there to make their home and reap fame and fortune.

Thousands came from the east in those days, and endured the hardships of the pioneers in establishing this commonwealth as one of the great ones of the nation. Among them were Mr. and Mrs. John Amsley who came from New York state, the long overland route, and settled in Marengo township - "the most beautiful place I ever beheld," as Mrs. Amsley recalled it in later years. Thirty-five years later she wrote of those early days and of her early journey with her husband across the youthful nation. It is her story here which is told - a story that is as fascinating as a novel, and even more so, because it is true.

Mrs. Amsley, long ago passed away, but recalled by the old settlers, tells her story in this matter:

They Got the Fever.

"In the year 1831, when the Michigan fever was carrying off hundreds to that country, my husband and myself, then residing in Pennsylvania, caught the raging epidemic. Being young, and possessing a good share of firmness, connected with more than common constitutions, we made up our minds that Michigan was the place for us. Having both lost our parents when quite young, we were left with no other fortune than to earn our bread by the sweat of our brows. Having been married only three years our capital, of course, was small. We made a vendue and sold all our house-hold furniture excepting a little salt dish and a few bed clothes. We were so carried away with the idea of moving to the far west, we scarcely thought but what the comforts and conveniences of life were the abundant products of that much extolled El Dorado. Two small trunks, a chest of carpenter's tools, and a little daughter 10 months old and \$300 in money constituted our earthly all. The third day of June we had everything arranged for our departure. And now, dear reader, if you ever

***They Traveled by Oxen in
Those Days, and Found
Friendly Hands to Greet
Them and Help Them
Along the Long, Long
Trail Westward from New
York State.***

gave the parting hand to beloved brothers and sisters, friends and acquaintances, and bade adieu to the home and scenes of your youth, your imagination can better paint the anguish of my heart than I can describe it with my pen.

Sadness in the Parting.

We hired a teamster to convey us 100 miles. We then took the steamboat across Cayuga lake. Not being used to traveling we saw many things to divert our minds, and call our thoughts from those we left behind. Having friends in Scottville, N.Y., we spent a week there very pleasantly. We attended meeting while we were there and heard a very deep and interesting discourse by the Rev. Mr. Cheesfuan. Little did we think it would be the last we should hear for a year to come. Having visited our friends at that place, we set out once more on our westward journey.

On the 19th of the same month we arrived at Detroit, and if ever I was thankful for victuals and drink it was then. As we knew nothing of the situation of the country, only what we had read and heard, we knew not what course to take; but it was our good fortune to form an acquaintance with a gentleman by the name of Gurnsey. He had traveled as far west as Battle Creek and selected a farm near that place. He liked the country very much, and advised us to go in that direction.

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

Future Functions of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society

Programs are free and the public is welcome.
For more info call Sandy Redmond (616) 729-5258

- February 24, 1998** "Genealogical Hints and Anecdotes." Bring your best story to share with the group!
- March 24, 1998** "Battle Creek's Historic Oak Hill Cemetery". Oak Hill Cemetery began in 1844 on ten acres of land on South Avenue. Richard Rowe and Michael Martich present the history of this famous cemetery.
- April 24, 1998** To be announced.

All meetings start at **7pm** and will be held at the **VFW Hall, 800 E. Michigan Ave., Marshall, MI** unless otherwise specified.



THE CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 777
MARSHALL, MI 49068

SANDRA REDMOND 7/98
363 N. CAPITAL
ATHENS MI 49011