

# GENERATIONS



*The Newsletter of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society*  
Founded 1988

Volume 11 / Number 4

February / March 1999

*For the March meeting of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society:*

## ***"What's In a Name??"***

- Presented by CCGS member Shirley Hodges
- 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 23, 1999
- VFW Hall, 800 E. Michigan Ave in Marshall, MI

Join us for an interesting presentation on *names*. Shirley will tell us about the history of naming patterns and why we have the names we do. Naming traditions, nicknames, etc. will also be discussed.

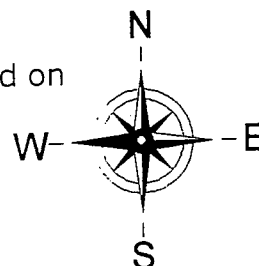
Shirley is a native of Michigan and has been actively doing genealogical research since 1967. Her genealogy programs have enlightened and entertained many societies in Michigan plus she was a speaker at the Great Lakes Conference in Fort Wayne, IN; the Ontario Genealogical Society Seminar '95 in Chatham; Seminar '96 in Thunder Bay; Seminar '98 in London, Canada and the 1997 Ohio Genealogical Society Annual Conference held in Cleveland.

Shirley is past president of the Eaton County Michigan Genealogical Society and the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Courthouse Square Association, Inc. (CSA) which is a foundation formed for the preservation and rehabilitation of the 1885 courthouse in Eaton County, Michigan.

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\*\*Please note!\*\*

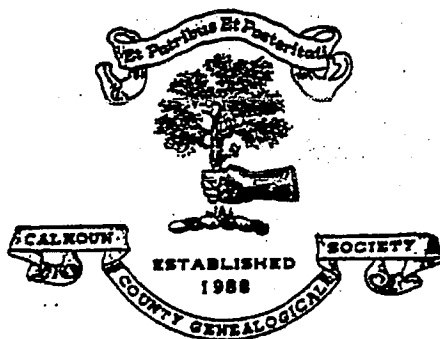
The Calhoun County Genealogical Society April meeting will be held on

- Wednesday, April 28, 1999 at 7:00 p.m.
- Our special guest speaker will be Morris Thomas
- "Using Land Records in Genealogical Research"
- Location B.E. Henry Building, 615 S. Marshall, Marshall, MI



## CCGS Officers and Board Members

President: Sandy Redmond  
(616) 729-5258 (H)  
Vice President: Nancy Hibiske  
(616) 962-3498 (H)  
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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 for the 1998 /1999 year beginning September 1 are \$12.00. Memberships are accepted year round. All members receive the bi-monthly newsletter Generations.

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*. Programs are free and the public is invited.

## Research Materials Available from the Calhoun County Genealogical Society

The 1877 History of Calhoun County. MI (reprint)  
Over 350 pages, printed on acid-free, archival paper and is hard-cover, library-quality bound, includes every name index. \$55.00

Cemeteries of Eckford Twp. Calhoun County. MI  
(110 pages, over 2,100 names) \$7.00

Clarence Township Cemeteries in Calhoun Co.. MI  
(Clarence Center, Dyer, 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 County, MI 1836-1890 (248 pages, indexed) \$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 the above publications please send a check payable to:

(new address)  
**Calhoun County Genealogical Society**  
P.O. Box 879  
Marshall, MI 49068

## president's ponderings

I have recently had the privilege of doing research for a woman in California whose ancestors were from Calhoun County. It has been a fabulous learning experience. Because her ancestors don't appear in documents such as vital records, census, county histories and tax rolls, we have had to use records that are not traditionally thought of as key to genealogical research. One of the challenges has been to convince the record holders of the various documents that there *is* material of genealogical value in the records they are safeguarding. My client's grandfather was placed in the care of the State Public School in Coldwater as a five-year-old in 1909. In trying to discover his parentage, the search has involved digging through old probate files, Justice of the Peace docket books, Circuit Court calendars, rolls (and *rolls!*) of newspaper microfilms, and city directories. Understanding the various court divisions and legal terminology has been an additional challenge. While searching at the State Archives of Michigan in Lansing, I found a document in the Ingham County Circuit Court papers that helped greatly and that has been excerpted for you here. While there may be some differences from county to county, the divisions of Circuit Court and the terminology for the documents created should be mostly the same.

**COURT RECORDS.** There are three divisions of Circuit Court: **Chancery, Criminal and Law.** Chancery cases involve disputes for which a strict interpretation of statutes or common law provides no plain, adequate, and complete remedy. In these civil cases the court decides on the basis of conscience and equity. **Criminal** proceedings involve government prosecutions for violations of the State's criminal statutes. These infractions are often first heard in a lower court and then appealed to the Circuit level. **Law** cases include all civil actions based on statutory or common law, and usually concern litigation between two or more parties. Most such matters involve disputes over land, personal property, debt, and breach of contract.

The first type of record that is generated by each of these Circuit Court Divisions is the **calendar**. The calendar lists the case number, names of litigants and attorneys, judge involved, type of offense, legal action taken, and date of each proceeding. Indexes to the plaintiffs and defendants can be found at the front of each book. The second form of record included from each division of the court is the **journal**. This volume contains information about the court's daily activities, giving names of litigants, judges, and lawyers plus the transactions that occurred with respect to each case. The last type of record that is produced by all divisions of the court is the **common rule book**. This volume serves as evidence of the legal procedures followed in a case, and includes subpoenas, injunctions, and orders issued to or by the parties involved.

The **Chancery common order book** lists date plus the names of parties and attorneys. The action taken by these orders usually involves notices to appear, requests for copies of bills, reports of sale or amount due, and matters of pro confesso. Another type of record generated by the Chancery Unit is the **decree book**. This volume provides names of litigants and judge, the name of appointed commissioner or referee, date of action, sum awarded, and description of property to be sold or transferred. The last form of record unique to Chancery is that of **divorce proceedings and decrees**. These books yield such facts as names of parties involved, judge, date, grounds for action, name of commissioner or investigator, date and place of marriage, number of children, and decision. An index to names appears at the front of each volume of proceedings.

Like Chancery, the Law division of the Circuit Court offers certain distinctive records. The **special motion book** reveals court actions that have been requested by attorneys representing clients who have business before the bench. Included are such data as date, name of litigants and solicitors, requests for court action (i.e. discharge, vacating judgement, dismissal, order, etc.), and reasons for motion. Another example is a **witness book**, which provides date, names of attorneys, litigants, and jurors, witnesses for plaintiff and defendant, plus verdict reached. The last type of record, the **transcript docket**, offers date, names of parties involved, judge, events occurring, and results of actions taken.

### Court Records, Cont.

**CASE FILES.** The papers found in case files relate to the records previously described. The preceding volumes are more or less abstracts of or references to the documents contained in these files. Anyone seeking details on a particular case should consult the materials included in the appropriate folder.

The **Chancery unit** exercised jurisdiction in the determination of equitable rights, estates, and similar remedies. The types of cases handled were divorces, disputes over land and property, establishment of birth records, petitions for the correction of deeds and the discharge of mortgages, matters of partnership, foreclosure, receivership, guardianship, and contest of wills.

Kinds of cases found in the **Criminal** branch include breaking and entering, intoxication, larceny, murder, rape, vagrancy, adultery, and assault. Documents filed in the prosecution of **these crimes** are things like complaints, examinations, evidence, justices returns, petitions, pleas, subpoenas, warrants, transcripts of testimony, and reports.

The last fraction of the Circuit Court is **Law**. The types of issues considered by this unit includes attachments, bail forfeitures, chattel mortgages, contests of wills, debts, garnishments, habeas corpus, malpractice, replevin, and trespass. Examples of papers generated by such cases are assignment of errors, bills of cost, bills of particulars, bonds, briefs, declarations, depositions, inventories of property, notices, petitions, receipts, warrants, stipulations, subpoenas, and writs.



### web tip

Shirley Hodges shared the following observation about doing internet searches for genealogy:  
**PLEASE NOTE: IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO ENTER YOUR SEARCH CRITERIA IN BOLD. IT IS USED HERE ONLY FOR CLARITY.**

You may find you will have much better results if you do the following. Try and qualify your search queries. Each search engine may have their own unique way of searching, but I find this works for most of them. The one that I am using for my example is Alta Vista, which I really like. Their address is: <http://swissnet.ai.mit.edu/alta-vista.html>. If I type **hodges** in the search area it turns up 127,120 hits. If I type **hodges genealogy** it turns up 158,320 hits. If I type **hodges+genealogy** it turns up 29 hits. If I type **Shirley+J+Hodges** it will turn up only 6 hits. This gives me only web pages that have information about me on them and does not bring up all other Hodges listings. **Hodges+Family+Newsletter** will turn up only one hit, which is the newsletter that Clarence and I publish.

This will enable you to search for specific individuals or families. The + is the magic touch in this case. Do not put spaces between the words, only the + sign. Try it with your family and see how it works!

### History of Le Roy Township

*Below is an excerpt of the "Le Roy," now "Leroy," Township history as found in the 1877 History of Calhoun County. Originally published in 1877, the Calhoun County Genealogical Society had the History republished in March of 1998. See page 2 of this newsletter for information on how to order a copy.*

The name "Le Roy" for the township was suggested by Mrs. David C. FISH to Silas KELSEY, who circulated the petition for the division of old Athens, not, as has been erroneously stated in a recent publication, for the reason that Mr. FISH and family came from a place of that name, for we are assured by this venerable couple that they were never in or ever heard of a place called Le Roy prior to the naming of the township. The origin of the name is this: Mrs. FISH was under the impression that her son, whom she had named Le Roy, was the first birth in the township. However, as there has been considerable dispute as to the priority of the births of Le Roy FISH and Charles E. BAKER, we have taken extra pains to ascertain the facts, which we submit as follows: Charles E. BAKER, born June 17, 1836; Le Roy FISH, born August 26, 1836.

Ira CASE came in 1835, and located a farm on section 7, but did not settle on it till February, 1837; David C. FISH made a permanent settlement on section 1 in 1836; Heman BAKER and wife, in the spring of the same year, on section 7; Timothy KELSEY, the summer following, remaining in the house of Ira BAKER until the next year; Jonathan SPRAGUE, with his six sons and two daughters - namely Philetus, Levi C., Argallus, Thomas, Vedder, Caleb M., Hannah and Ruth - came during the year 1836, and located on section 2, a short distance northeast of the present residence of the Rev. Thomas SPRAGUE, the only one of the family remaining in the township; Wright J. ESMOND came in the same year, and settled on section 1.

In 1837, several families came in; among others, Dudley N. BUSHNELL, wife, and two children, who arrived June 12, accompanied by Silas KELSEY, who had been in the township as early as 1835, but had made no permanent settlement. Deacon John H. BUSHNELL came within a month of his brother; T. B. BARNUM came during the year, and settled on the banks of Lake Copanocon, on section 14, where he has since resided; John E. MULHOLLAND settled on section 2 the same year, and also Isaac HISCOCK, who came in and settled on the farm now occupied by his son, Seth E. HISCOCK, on section 4; Thomas WILSON came in and kept bachelor's hall for nine months, and was afterwards joined by his large family. John E. ROBBINS arrived the same year, and settled on section 12; and Jeremiah DRAKE on section 25; Polydore HUDSON, who had formerly resided some years in Battle Creek, removed to Le Roy, and settled on section 1 in 1837; Harlow BURDICK took up his residence on section 10 in the spring of the same year.

The first log house was erected by William BISHOP, who settled on section 6, in 1832 or 1833. He came in from Prairie Ronde, where he had formerly resided for some years, and where he married a daughter of Judge HARRISON, a well-known and prominent pioneer of the place.

Silas KELSEY, who came into the township as early as 1835, but did not effect a permanent residence until June 12, 1837, when he settled on section 7, where he has ever since remained, is accredited with having erected the first frame house in the township. It was a primitive affair, its dimensions being eighteen by twenty feet, and was erected in 1837. Chester W. COLE has the honor of having erected the first brick house in Le Roy, in 1850. It is now occupied by Warren SMITH.

The first male child born in the township was Charles E. Baker, son of Heman Baker, born June 17, 1836. He married Armenta, daughter of Fayette GOULD, and now resides in Champaign, Illinois. The first female child was Esther A., daughter of Martin COLE, born May 1, 1836. She married Charles PETERS, and now resides in Battle Creek. The first marriage was that of Nelson CARD and Susan COLE, May 7, 1837. Rev. Erastus L. KELLOGG performed the ceremony.

## LDS GENEALOGICAL DATA TO GO ON-LINE

The Family History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is working to make genealogical files accessible from a family history Web site. Elaine Hasleton, a public affairs representative from the Family History Center in the Joseph Smith Memorial Building, said the Web site is in its developmental stages. The project is underway, however Hasleton said no set completion date has been given.

The ancestral files of the LDS Church will most likely be accessible from the site, said Craig Foster, a spokesman for the family history center's public affairs projects. Foster said the details of what other files and information will be accessible from the site is not final.

"We are all excited about the future for family history," said Jana Darrington, 21, a senior from Mesa, Ariz., majoring in family history. "Making a Web site for family history seems like a logical thing for the LDS Church to do. It would be a dream to be able to work out of my home. I can work for as long as I want, whenever I want."

As the department assistant for the Harold B. Lee Library's family history department, Darrington said many people have asked about the possibility of family history files going online. "This will make things much more available for the patrons and make genealogy work widely known," she said. Darrington expects the number of people going to family history centers to naturally decline once the files become available from home. "But I'm sure the elderly who don't feel comfortable using the Internet will still make use of the facilities," Darrington said.

Lynda Cameron of Provo visits the HBLL Family History Center at least once a week, sometimes more. "Making a Web site for family history seems like a logical thing for the LDS Church to do," Cameron said. Cameron is originally from Australia, where her father, Keith Williams, still resides. She said they are both working on genealogy for their family continents apart. "This will really open information up for my father and make things more available for everyone," Cameron said. "It would be a dream to be able to work out of my home. I can work for as long as I want, whenever I want."

Darrington also mentioned that this new project with family history will introduce many non-members to the LDS Church. "There are many people who work on family history that are not Mormon," she said. Many of them already use LDS family history departments, and with the future Web site many more will become familiar with the LDS Church, Darrington said.

This story is copyrighted by <http://newsnet.byu.edu> and Brigham Young University. For more news see newsnet at <http://newsnet.byu.edu>.

**UPDATE:** Beginning about March 1st, possibly a few days later, the LDS Church will release a beta test of Family Search on the Internet for about a 3 week trial basis at: <http://www.familysearch.org>

### IMPORTANT!!!

#### NEWSLETTER

While Nancy and I have thoroughly enjoyed the last 3 years as editors of this newsletter, we find ourselves ready to "pass the torch" and need for a volunteer or two to come forward, and take over the newsletter. PLEASE CONTACT EITHER OF US to discuss what is involved. Your help is greatly appreciated.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Even though the September election of officers may seem a long way off, we need to establish a committee to nominate officers for the upcoming term. Several of the current officers will have reached the limit of their terms, as established in our by-laws, at the end of this year. Those of you who are interested in seeking an office and/or working on the nominating committee please contact any of your current officers.

## UPCOMING GENEALOGICAL EVENTS CALENDAR

### **March 10, 1999**

"Get off the Interstate: Stories, Dates and Places You Won't Find on the Internet" presented by Gary Sparbel, Portage District Library's genealogy librarian. This program will be a mix of humorous events collected while digging up family research, reasons to get out of the library to see the countryside, basic tips and questions and answers. Sponsored by the Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society at the Portage District Library. For more info: 616-345-3682 eves.

### **March 14, 1999**

The DAR is having a Workshop at the Library of Michigan on March 14, from 1:15 to 4:00 pm. We will meet in the Lake Ontario Room. Anyone who is interested can contact Dorothy Alzubaydi at 349-9823 or email at dja9565@juno.com.

### **March 15, 1999**

"What's New at the Archives" featured at the Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society monthly meeting at the Archive and Regional History Collections – Western Michigan University. 7 p.m. For more info: 616-345-3682 eves.

### **March 20, 1999**

"Michiana Area Genealogical Fair" hosted by the South Bend Area Genealogical Society. 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Ramada Inn, South Bend, IN.

### **March 27, 1999**

"Genealogy 101: Researching Your Family Tree" presented by Shirley Hodges at the Courthouse Square, inside the 1885 Eaton County Courthouse, downtown Charlotte, MI. This lecture gives participants an understanding of the importance of researching their family tree. 9:00 a.m. to noon, includes a break and refreshments. \$10 pre-registration is required. To register or for more info: 517-543-6999. Proceeds benefit the Courthouse Square and the rehabilitation of the 1885 Eaton County Courthouse.

### **April 11, 1999**

Tenth Genealogy and History Book Fair at the New Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Hall B, Lansing, MI. 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Admission \$2.

### **April 17, 1999**

22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Seminar presented by Genealogical Society of Monroe County, Michigan. Monroe Community College Administration Building, 1555 S. Raisinville Rd., Monroe, MI 48161

### **April 22-25, 1999**

Ohio Genealogical Society Seminar, Toledo Hilton and Dana Center, Toledo, OH. Keynote speakers are Dr. George K. Schweitzer and Dr. John P. Colletta. Contact: The Ohio Genealogical Society, 713 S. Main St., Mansfield, OH 44907, (419)756-7294; e-mail: [OGS@OGS.ORG](mailto:OGS@OGS.ORG).

### **April 22-24, 1999**

"Doing It Right: Getting the Results You Want Through Good Preservation" at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Conference of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, St. Mary Conference Center, Monroe, MI. For info: 248-625-8181.

### **April 24, 1999**

"Genealogy Resources in our Own Backyard" in presented by the Illinois State Genealogical Society in Springfield, IL. For info: ISGS, P.O. Box 10195, Springfield, IL 62791-0195

### **May 1, 1999**

Eaton County Genealogical Society genealogy seminar. For info: ECGS. 1885 Courthouse, Charlotte, MI. (see article in this newsletter)

UPCOMING GENEALOGICAL EVENTS CALENDAR, Cont.

**May 1, 1999**

The Indiana Genealogy Society in Fort Wayne, IN presents a double set of genealogy lectures. Two sessions in each of four time slots of feature six speakers. Henry Z. "Hank" Jones, Jr. Will conduct one of the sessions while the second will be conducted by Ryan Taylor, John D. Beatty, Margery Graham and Marie Goodrich. A short beginner session will be led by Dawne Slater-Putt. For info: IGS, P.O. Box 10507, Fort Wayne, IN 46852-0507.

**October 28-30, 1999**

Michigan Genealogical Council and Grand Traverse Area Genealogical Society, MGS Seminar at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City, MI.



**MAY 1, 1999 EATON COUNTY WORKSHOP**

The Eaton County Genealogy Society presents its Annual Workshop on Saturday, May 1, 1999. The keynote speaker will be Roger D. Joslyn. Workshop topics include: "Born in New York, But Where in New York?", "New York Probate Records," "19<sup>th</sup> Century Passenger Arrival Lists and National Records" and "A Sibling is a Small, Crawling, Animal – Help Among the Collaterals (having an ancestor in common but descended from a different line)". Vendors will be on-site. The cost of the workshop is \$30 for registrations postmarked by April 14 and \$40 for registrations postmarked after April 15 and includes lunch. It will be held at the Holiday Inn South, 6820 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, MI. For hotel reservations call 1-800-333-8123 and ask for the Eaton County Genealogical Society rates.

On Friday, April 30, 1999 a special Library of Michigan Tour and Research Day by Randy Riley will take place with tours of the library at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. (Note: Library of Michigan hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.)

The Eaton County Genealogical Society will also host "Tour and Research" at the 1885 Courthouse in Charlotte, MI Friday, April 30 from 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. (tour 7:00 p.m. Friday evening only), Saturday, May 1 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 2 1:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. To receive a registration form or for more information call 517-543-8793 or fax 517-543-6999. E-mail: [ecgsoc@juno.com](mailto:ecgsoc@juno.com)



**UPCOMING PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY WILLARD LIBRARY**

Willard Library and the Local History / Genealogy Department is pleased to present a program entitled **"Family History, Writing your Life's Story... For You, Your Children, and Your Grandchildren"** on Thursday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Willard Library meeting room.

What games did you play as a child? Do your children and grandchildren know where you met your spouse? Where was the first house you lived in and what was it like? Barbara Garypie will be the presenter. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Wayne State University. She is a certified Journal Consultant and an Elderhostel Lecturer on Life Story Writing. "Family trees are important; tombstones are important," Barbara comments, "but the stories, and the ones we haven't told yet, are what we need to give, too."



Willard Library and Operation G.R.A.D. are pleased to present Mr. Clint Roberts on Wednesday, March 24 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Miller Stone Building discussing the **Negro Baseball Leagues**. Mr. Roberts' expertise is major league baseball and the history of the Negro Leagues, having studied these leagues for seventeen years. He has gathered an extensive collection of memorabilia from the Negro Baseball Leagues that will be on display. The display will be open from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., followed by Mr. Roberts' presentation at 7:00 p.m.



## A LETTER FROM HOME

*The following letter was submitted by Verla Potts, great-granddaughter of Karl Vogt. The letter is to brothers Christian and Karl Vogt, who emigrated from Hochdorf, Germany, to the Marshall area. The letters are from various family members who had remained in Germany and took a turn writing a few lines. Christian was married to Frederika Walz. Karl later married Frederika's sister Anna after they arrived in the United States. Zaida (Mrs. Edwin) Vogt of Kalamazoo, translated the letter from its original German. Edwin is the grandson of Karl Vogt. Further translation and commentary was done by Cecily Davis Blackburn, granddaughter of Karl Vogt.*

*Hochdorf, Germany, June 15, 1856, to Christian Vogt, Marshall, Mich. N. A.*

God's blessing as greeting and Jesus as helper and the Holy Ghost as leader we wish you, dear children, as long as you live. We are well, God be praised, and if our letter reaches you in good health we shall be very happy. Dear children, I cannot refrain from writing to you because I have the opportunity of sending you a letter; otherwise I should have waited until I should have received the draft. Your letter was received on June 6, 1856 and today is the 15th of June and we still have not received the draft; but in case I do not receive the draft in two weeks I will write again immediately and tell you how things are. Dear children, I also wish to tell you how it was with us when I read your letter in which you said: we send you greetings and 40 guilders. Then we both wept, I and your mother, wept profusely and said: you work so hard for your money and yet you send us some. Dear children, you wrote and told us, we should come to you. I would already be with you but your mother does not want to, she is so afraid of the water and John Fr...., he does not want to go either; your mother says that by the time we were with you we would not have a thing left; then we would be a burden for you because both of us are nothing anymore. Dear children you write that we should answer every letter of yours; this I have done every time. I have received no letter since you wrote on July 18, 1855 and I answered that one. You write: we pay the postage on your letters and yet I have to pay 32 Kreuzer for each one, but I do it gladly. The merchant says, that you pay the postage as far as Havre, and from there to here a letter costs 32 Kreuzer. Since you wrote to the Mayor I have not received another letter from you until now, and I also answered this one. We also sent a bible and catechism to John Walz Zimmermann and have received no reply to inform us whether you received them or not. I also want to tell you that Jacob Schuh Alderward's son died two weeks after the dedication festival of our church in 1855.

Now I want to write to Christian Haizmann too and tell him how I am getting along; I am getting along fine, am always well and I wish that my letter finds you in the best of health. I also want to write to you what happened to me; I also got a prince, just like Karl Vogt; you mustn't think that you are the only one who can do it; but he died when he was 4 weeks old. I was greatly vexed that you Karl Vogt, did not invite me to your wedding, for I really can get there more easily than the time you helped me. I am alone at home; my Jacob is married and lives in Nahlingsheim and my Hans..rgle is with ...(?). My Kretle's husband died and when I get married some day I don't want anyone either but you must be there. Greetings to Karl and Christian Vogt and their wives and children and old Johann Gottlieb Walz.

I, your brother John Frederick Vogt, wish to write you a few lines. I am always well God be praised, and I wish, if God wills it, that my lines will reach you in good health. You wrote me I too should come to you and that made me very happy, but I still lack the courage. I keep thinking that if I go to America I will bring nothing with me and that could not be good for me either. You say that you do not know whether I have a child or not; it is true that I do not have a child, but unfortunately I have had two, but they both died; a girl named Catherine and a boy named Karl; God give him the eternal joys of heaven. You wrote me you were very vexed that I left our parents;

## A LETTER FROM HOME, Cont.

I saw nothing but quarreling and strife, for mother and my wife did not get along together. If I could have done otherwise I would not have left our parents, but unfortunately and you must not think either that I am to blame for it. I also wish to tell you how it is with the Steinhauer rafesion: sometimes it goes well and then again not so well; it is a little better but still a bad Laher. Now I wish to close and greet you kindly my dear brothers Christian and Karl; I remain your faithful brother Johann Fredrich. Greetings also to your wives and children from me and my wife and to John Vetter and his son Christian and all of you.

Dear children, we, I and your mother send you a hundred thousand greetings and also to your wives and children and to John Voetter and his children. The letter which Johann Voetter wrote on the 1st of January 1856 did not arrive here; we know nothing about it. I shall write again in two weeks and tell you how things are.

### *SUPPLEMENT TO THE TRANSLATION OF THE JUNE 15, 1856 LETTER FROM HOCHDORF, GERMANY by Cecily Davis Blackburn*

In this Spring of 1956 I have fortunately become acquainted with a former (1935) resident of Heilbronn, the largest city in Wurttemberg, now Germany. Hochdorf is one of its many suburbs. This charming lady, Mrs. Hans Luitz, has kindly interpreted a few of the hard-to-understand phrases of the letter as follows: "Alderward" means a tavern-keeper; "Steinhauer rafesion" means, "Stone cutting profession," which was not too popular in that rugged mountain country. "Laher" means a "trade".

Both "John" and "Hans" are forms of "Johann". Mrs. Luitz also explains that "VOGT" and "VOGHT" are not the same name spelled differently. "VOGHT" has two syllables and is pronounced "Fo-ot-ht" but that "VOGT" is one syllable and denotes a political office, ranking "above the mayor" of the town.

Many, many of both the Vogt and Walz families still live in Heilbronn and it's suburb, Hochdorf, today, high up in the Alps on the shores of Lake Constance which separates Wurttemberg from Switzerland, says Mrs. Luitz. More than twenty beautiful cathedrals were to be found in Heilbronn before World War II, high up on the mountain sides, adorned with hand carvings, centuries old, with stairs leading up to them. But their spires served as beacons to destructive Bombers. Today all are gone!

Since the writer mentions Grandmother Vogt's own father by name (Johann Gottlieb Walz) it seems to me that the letter must have been written by the father of the three brothers, Christian, Karl and John Frederick Vogt. Christian had married Grandma's sister, Fredericka, several years earlier and had preceded the Walz family to America:

This letter substantiates the fact that tremendous courage was required of people who finally decided to leave their home in the Old Country and migrate to America, wonderful though it seemed to be. "Mother fears the water" - sensible woman! And John Frederick states frankly that he "still lacks courage" - no conservative person could be a pioneer! "Two children have died" - infant mortality was so very high a century ago.

Both Mother and Grandma often protested about expressions found in my high school and college German textbooks, insisting that "that is 'Low German', not 'High German'". After vacations I shall ask Mrs. Luitz about this - evidently the mountain people have a different dialect than those of the lower areas. Mother could hardly understand the Dutch people when we lived among them at Holland, Michigan.

Thanks to Ilene Woodman for sharing the following funnies with us!

### **You know you're taking genealogy too seriously if...**

You are the only person to show up at the cemetery research party with a shovel.

To put the "final touches" on your genealogical research, you've asked all of your closest relatives to provide DNA samples.

You were instrumental in having "non-genealogical use of the genealogy room copy machine" classified as a federal hate crime.

Your house leans slightly toward the side where your genealogical records are stored.

You decided to take a two-week break from genealogy, and the U.S. Postal Office immediately laid off 1,500 employees.

Out of respect for your best friend's unquestioned reputation for honesty and integrity, you are willing to turn off that noisy surveillance camera while she reviews your 57 genealogical research notebooks in your home. The armed security guard, however, will remain.

You plod merrily along "refining" your recently published family history, blissfully unaware that the number of errata pages now far exceeds the number of pages in your original publication.

During an ice storm and power outage, you ignore the pleas of your shivering spouse and place your last quilt around that 1886 photograph of dear Uncle George.

The most recent document in your "Missing Ancestors" file is a 36- page contract between you and Johnson Billboard Advertising Company.

Ed McMahon, several T.V. cameras and an envelope from Publishers Clearing House arrive at your front door on Super Bowl Sunday, and the first thing you say is, "Are you related to the McMahons of Ohio?"

"A Loving Family" and "Financial Security" have moved up to second and third, respectively, on your list of life's goals, but still lag far behind "Owning My Own Microfilm Reader."

A magical genie appears and agrees to grant your any one wish, and you ask that the 1890 census be restored.



### **CAN YOU HELP?**

Dudley School in Battle Creek, MI is looking for an elementary social studies book titled Our Home and Our World. The book was published in 1943 and is authored by the Dudley School namesake Dessalee Ryan Dudley. The book was adopted for use by the Battle Creek Public Schools when it was published. Dudley School is looking for a copy of the book to complete plans for its "March is Reading Month" celebration. If you have a copy of the book or any information on it please call Katie Flook at Dudley School, 616-965-9720.

**Future Functions of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society**

Programs are always free and the public is welcome.  
For more information call Nancy Hibiske at 616-962-3498

**March 23, 1999** Shirley Hodges, CCGS member and respected genealogy expert presents "What's in a Name?" at the VFW Hall in Marshall

**Wednesday,  
April 28, 1999** Morris Thomas, Geography Professor, Lansing Community College, will present "Using Land Records in Genealogical Research." This meeting will be held at the B. E. Henry Building, 615 S. Marshall, Marshall, MI. *Note that this program will be held on Wednesday.*

**All meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the VFW Hall, 800 E. Michigan Ave., Marshall, MI unless otherwise specified.**

**THE CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
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*(please note our new address!!)*

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