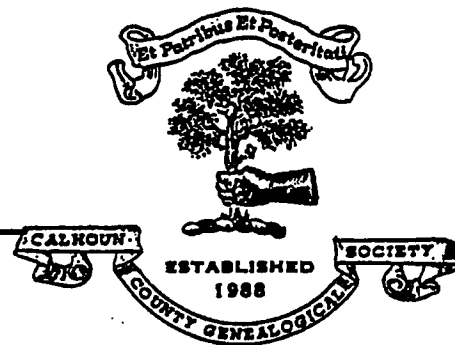


Generations

Volume 12, Number 6 ■ June/July 2000 ■ the newsletter of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society



Homer's Blair Farm to be focus of June 27 meeting

See how the Homer Historical Society has preserved part of our agricultural past

An important part of Calhoun County history is preserved at the Blair Farm in Homer, a historical farm museum. On Tuesday, June 27, 2000, participants in the Calhoun County Genealogical Society meeting can witness this passageway to history for themselves.

The meeting will start promptly at 7 p.m. in the barn, but guests are invited to arrive a few minutes early to walk the grounds.

During our meeting program, a tour will be conducted and questions answered by Christine Miller and other members of the Homer Historical Society.

The Blair Farm was once owned by pioneer and Homer's first doctor George W. Blair. It was donated in 1974 to the Homer Historical Society by Dr. Blair's granddaughter, Maude Blair, who was a lifelong educator. Maude lived at Blair Farm during summers while her sister, Bess, lived there all her life.



NEXT CCGS MEETING:

**Tuesday, June 27, 2000
Blair Farm**

M-60 one mile east of Homer
(north side of road),
park in front of the barn.

Since the museum is open limited hours, this is an exclusive opportunity to see history come alive. Don't miss this exciting chance!

Find the Blair Farm one mile east of Homer on M-60. It is located on the north side of the road and visitors are asked to park in front of the barn. ■

New Ellis Island family center to feature immigrant database

A new American Family Immigration History Center is scheduled to open this year in the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. According to *American History* magazine, the center will feature an extensive database of 17 million immigrants who entered the country through Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924.

Volunteers from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints have spent 2 million hours transcribing ships' passenger lists stored on microfilm at the National Archives and Records Administration.

The system will eventually offer, at the touch of a button, 11 categories of information, such as the name of the ship on which the individual sailed, point of origin and nationality.

The History Center is a collaboration between the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior. ■

Research materials available from the Calhoun County Genealogical Society

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

Cemeteries of Eckford Twp. Calhoun County, MI. 110 pages, more than 2,100 names, \$10.

Clarence Township Cemeteries in Calhoun Co., MI. Clarence Center, Dyer, Hunt, Krenerick and Nichols, 66 pages, more than 2,100 names, \$8.

Transcriptions of Cemeteries of Convis Twp., Calhoun Co., MI. 35 pages, more than 1,000 names, \$6.

Every-Name Index for Generations, the newsletter of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society. August 1988–June 1995, 48 pages, more than 2,800 names, \$5.

Marriage Records of Calhoun County, MI, 1836–1890. 248 pages, indexed, \$18.50.

Clarendon Twp. Cemeteries, Calhoun Co., MI.

Bentley Corners (East Clarendon), West Clarendon, St. Joseph and Cooks Prairie, 188 pages, \$15.

Lee Township Cemeteries, Calhoun Co., MI.

Lee Center, Partello and Rice Creek, 75 pages, \$8.



Tekonsha Township Cemeteries, Calhoun Co., MI. Riverside, Windfall and MacFadden, 221 pages, available soon, price TBD.

Michigan residents please add 6 percent sales tax. All prices include shipping. To order, please send a check payable to:

Calhoun County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 879
Marshall, MI 49068

Calhoun County Genealogical Society

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 1999–2000 year beginning Sept. 1 are \$12. Memberships are accepted year round. All members receive the bimonthly newsletter *Generations*.

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at the B.E. Henry Building, 615 S. Marshall St. in Marshall, unless otherwise specified. Programs are free and open to the public.

Officers and board members

President
Sandy Redmond ■ (616) 729-5258

Acting Vice President
Nancy Hibiske ■ (616) 962-3498

Treasurer
John Baker ■ (616) 781-3045

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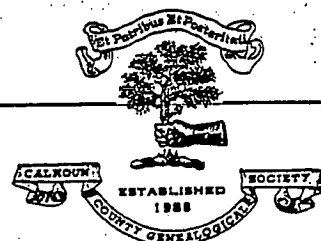
Cemetery Project
Ruth Kaiser ■ (517) 857-2747

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Pioneer Certificate
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Newsletter Editor
Cyd Pierce ■ (616) 763-9991

Newsletter Assistants
Sue Battel ■ (616) 789-2848
Anita Stuever ■ (616) 789-9402



Genealogy *gems*

Library of Michigan houses wealth of genealogy sources

Serving Michigan since 1828, the Library of Michigan in Lansing boasts a collection now totaling more than 5.6 million items stored on more than 27 miles of shelving. Those shelves contain vast resources for genealogists.

Abrams Historical Collection

One of the largest genealogy collections in the United States, more than 100,000 books, microforms, compact disks and Internet resources provide a wide array of materials for those researching their ancestry.

Census records beginning in 1790 are kept for states east of Iowa, as well as eastern Canada. Soundex census indices begin with 1880 data.

Also in the collection are U.S. city directories, county histories, more than 20,000 individual and collective family histories, land records, maps and

atlases, military records, 250 genealogical and historical periodicals, as well as vital records and indices for Michigan.

Another 12,000 titles are found in the extensive genealogy and local history microfiche collection.

The Michigan Collection

The Library of Michigan offers current and historical Michigan materials in all subjects. You may use books, periodicals, maps, videos and microfilms of newspapers dating back to the 1800s. Read the full text of several Michigan newspapers for recent years on the CD-ROM network. You can also view digitized Michigan maps by touch screen in the IMAGIN Map Center.

The Library of Michigan is located at 717 W. Allegan St. in Lansing. Visit the web site at www.libofmich.lib.mi.us or call (517) 373-1300. ■

Allen County Library seeks additions to collection

submitted by Shirley Hodges

The genealogy division at the Allen County Library in Fort Wayne is always looking for resources to improve their collection. Contributions of the following items would help fellow genealogists.

- Church directories. Directories with photographs are ideal, though even those listing only names are helpful. If you don't have an extra copy, perhaps your church would donate one.
- Directories for clubs or associations.
- Reunion booklets from high school, military or other groups.
- Award ceremony booklets.
- High school yearbooks.

To contribute items, you may give them to Shirley Hodges for delivery to the Allen County Library. Reach Shirley at (517) 629-2345, Shirley.Hodges@ssc.msu.edu or 14850 23 Mile Rd., Albion, MI 49224. ■

Michigan Genealogy Council Update

There is no need to give your Social Security number when researching records for genealogical purposes, according to the Michigan Genealogical Council. Marlene Steele, CCGS delegate to the council, says that five counties have reportedly been requiring Social Security numbers.

The next meeting of the MGC is scheduled for July 13. ■

Our society boasts members in 15 states.

The greatest number of members live in Battle Creek (55), followed by Marshall and Albion with 18 each. Approximately 25 others live in nearby communities, including Bellevue, Olivet, Athens, Galesburg and Homer.

Honoring our pioneer ancestors

It's not too late for descendants of early county residents to be certified Calhoun County Pioneers

by Verla Potts, Committee Chair

If your ancestor lived in the county before 1921, honor them by applying for a Calhoun County Pioneer Certificate. You may receive a certificate suitable for framing designating your ancestor as a Pioneer, Settler or Builder, depending on the date of settlement.

To date, few applications have been received, so the Pioneer Certificate Committee and the CCGS board have decided to accept applications for microfilming until the end of the year.

Applications postmarked on or before Dec. 31, 2000, will qualify for the microfilming portion of the project.

Applications postmarked between Jan. 1, 2001, and Dec. 31, 2002, will be eligible for certificates but not microfilmed.

The application form and instructions are included with this newsletter. We hope to receive hundreds of applications within the next few months.

Honoring your ancestors — what a wonderful way to spend your summer! ■

TIPS for timely certification

- Read the instructions carefully.
- Complete the application form entirely, leaving no blanks.
- To draw attention to special data, underscore, preferably with red pencil. Do not use highlighters, as some brands or colors reproduce in black on some copiers.
- Submit copies only — not originals — of documentation.
- Mark source materials with the generation number.
- Identify your sources with all relevant information, such as location of record, microfilm number or box number, newspaper name, date, page and column.
- Be careful when extracting court records. The extraction must be exactly as the record — as if you were going to certify it yourself.
- Primary sources are preferred and help speed your application.
- If only secondary sources are available, more than one source should be submitted to bolster the application.
- Include information for every generation.
- Copies of appropriate records for living individuals must accompany the application. Records for living individuals will not be microfilmed, however.
- Mail to the new CCGS address: P.O. Box 879, Marshall, MI 49068.

HELP WANTED

"Volunteer Tree Trimmer"

A volunteer is needed to work with the Pioneer Certificate Committee on the society's All-Name Index. The database has been completed through Ancestor File Number 99.

The successful candidate will have access to Microsoft Access software. Compensation will be self-satisfaction and a pat on the back.

Please call Verla Potts at (616) 781-8954 to be part of this important project.

Calhoun County Pioneer Certificate

Calhoun County Pioneer Certificate is a project of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society (CCGS). Its purpose is to honor and collect data about the early residents of Calhoun County, Michigan and their descendants. This information will be a valuable addition to the history of the county and will provide a source of genealogical information for future research.

Descendants of early residents are invited to apply for a Calhoun County Pioneer Certificate. Certificates will be given in three categories according to earliest settlement of the applicant's ancestor and will be of frameable quality.

Eligibility: Applicants must prove descent from an early Calhoun County resident. Each ancestor in the direct line must be proved.

The seal on the certificate will be based on the year that the ancestor first settled in Calhoun County. The categories are:

Pre-1861	Pioneer.	Gold Seal
1861-1890	Settler.	Silver Seal
1891-1920	Builder.	Printed Seal

Applicants need not be residents of Calhoun County or members of CCGS.

Instructions: The Calhoun County Pioneer Certificate Application form may be requested from CCGS-Pioneer Project, P.O. Box 879, Marshall, MI 49068. Please include a #10 self-addressed, stamped envelope. The application should be completed following one direct line. It should be either typed or carefully printed in black ink.

A non-refundable fee of \$10.00 must accompany the completed application form and proof of descent. Additional certificates for descendants of the same applicant may be requested at the same time for a fee of \$5.00 each. These descendants **MUST BE PROVEN** (i.e. to obtain a certificate for your child you would prove his/her descent from you with a birth certificate or some other form of Primary Evidence). List names for additional certificates on the Application form. Attach additional sheets to the lineage chart if space is needed. All certificates will be mailed to the primary applicant.

Women must be identified by their maiden names.

Dates must be written as day month year (example: 1 Jan 1900).

Incorrect or incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant for corrections or additions.

Proofs: Descent shall be proven using primary sources. In the few cases where that is not possible, secondary sources, or preponderance of evidence may be accepted.

To ensure that the certificate is the result of credible genealogical research, the following **Primary Sources** are deemed acceptable: Vital Records (birth, marriage, death); Probate Records; Land Records; Tax Records; Census Records (state, federal); Military Records (state and federal); Church, Mortuary, Cemetery and Court Records, official School Records.

The inclusion of the following **Secondary Sources** is encouraged but may not be acceptable as proof of lineage: Bible records; obituaries and newspaper clippings; tombstone inscriptions; published family histories; published county histories; published biographical records; city and county directories; Atlas and Plat Books; unofficial School Records; private papers, diaries, journals and reminiscences.

All proof documents must show a complete source, such as author, title, year of publication, page number, Vol. number, type of document, and/or location of original document. (Example: for marriage: Vol IV, p. 307, #505, Calhoun County, MI.) All application forms and verifying materials will become the property of the CCGS. **Please Do Not Send Original Documents.** Send photocopies or other facsimile of pertinent materials. All copies must be clear and readable.

While not required, we encourage submission of additional information to give dimension to the subjects, such as a biographical sketch of the ancestor, family group sheets, etc.

Certificate eligibility shall be determined by a committee consisting of CCGS members. The committee's decision shall be final.

Applications, copies of proof of descent and a check or money order (\$10.00 for original application and \$5.00 each for any additional certificates) payable to the CCGS-Pioneer Project should be mailed to:

CCGS-Pioneer Project
P.O. Box 879
Marshall, MI 49068

We invite all persons to pursue their interest in family history research by joining the CCGS. A membership form has been included for your convenience.

We encourage you to make a copy of your Application and Lineage Chart for your own records.

Calhoun County Pioneer Certificate Application Form

Instructions: Fill in all blanks to the best of your ability. Print or type all information in black ink, surnames should be in CAPITAL LETTERS. A check or money order for \$10.00 (non-refundable) and \$5.00 for additional certificates must accompany the application. Application, copies of proofs and check or money order should be mailed to: CCGS-Pioneer Project, P.O. Box 879, Marshall, MI 49068.

A. Applicant's Name

_____ (as it will appear on the Certificate)

_____ (Street address)

_____ (City, State, Zip)

B. Name of your descendant(s) receiving certificate(s)

C. Name of Ancestor

(name of earliest ancestor who resided in Calhoun County, MI)

Birth	_____	Death	_____
	(date) (place)		(date) (place)
Baptism	_____	Buried	_____
	(date) (place)		(date) (place)
Married	_____		_____
	(date) (place)		(by: Rev., J.P., & name)
Married to	_____		_____
	(name)		
Birth of Spouse	_____	Death of Spouse	_____
	(date) (place)		(date) (place)

D. Where in Calhoun County did ancestor settle?

(city, town, village, township)

Emigrated from _____
(township) (county) (state, province/country)

Proof of Residency _____

Date of Earliest Residency _____

I understand that this information will be publicly available for future genealogical research.

(Signature of applicant) (date sent)

for CCGS use only

File Number _____ Name of Ancestor _____

Date Received _____ Date Returned, if applicable _____

Date Completed _____ Date Certificate Issued _____

Comments:

CALHOUN COUNTY PIONEER CERTIFICATE LINEAGE CHART

1. Ancestor's Name _____ was born on _____

at (place) _____ (county) _____ (state) _____

Died on _____ Place _____

Married to (spouse) _____

2. Their Child _____ married to _____

Born: _____ Place: _____ Born: _____ Place: _____

Married: _____ Place: _____ Died: _____ Place: _____

Died: _____ Place: _____

3. Their Child _____ married to _____

Born: _____ Place: _____ Born: _____ Place: _____

Married: _____ Place: _____ Died: _____ Place: _____

Died: _____ Place: _____

4. Their Child _____ married to _____

Born: _____ Place: _____ Born: _____ Place: _____

Married: _____ Place: _____ Died: _____ Place: _____

Died: _____ Place: _____

5. Their Child _____ married to _____

Born: _____ Place: _____ Born: _____ Place: _____

Married: _____ Place: _____ Died: _____ Place: _____

Died: _____ Place: _____

6. Their Child _____ married to _____

Born: _____ Place: _____ Born: _____ Place: _____

Married: _____ Place: _____ Died: _____ Place: _____

Died: _____ Place: _____

7. Their Child _____ married to _____

Born: _____ Place: _____ Born: _____ Place: _____

Married: _____ Place: _____ Died: _____ Place: _____

Died: _____ Place: _____

8. Their Child _____ married to _____

Born: _____ Place: _____ Born: _____ Place: _____

Married: _____ Place: _____ Died: _____ Place: _____

Died: _____ Place: _____

List sources of proof by generation (please number photocopied proofs to correspond to generation numbers):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

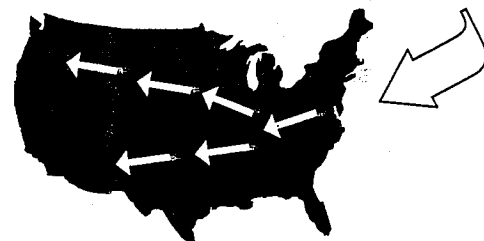
5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

Migrations to the United States and across the nation



Knowing what was happening during the settlement of our United States can provide valuable clues about our ancestors. These bits of history may help you determine when, where and why your pioneer ancestors made their way into and across America.

Why people left England

- Inflationary pressure on the feudal system caused social and economic dislocation.
- Political rivalry between a strengthened England and Spain.
- "Discourse of Western Planting" provided an intellectual rationale for colonizing Ireland and the New World.
- Religious upheaval in England.
- The success of Francis Drake led the English to see the New World as a land of riches.
- Development of joint stock companies provided an economic base for colonization.
- Failure of the Spanish Armada gave the English greater confidence.

Why others entered the United States

- Black people were introduced, first as indentured servants, then as slaves, after 1619.
- Dutch and Swedish people were incorporated as New York and New Jersey became English colonies.
- Huguenots (French Protestants) settled after being forced to leave France.
- Lowland Scots settled in northern Ireland, then shortly after 1700 came to the English colonies, settled on the frontier and became known as the "Scotch-Irish."
- Germans, largely from the Palatinate, settled on the frontier at the same time as the Scotch-Irish and became known as "Pennsylvania Dutch."
- After 1750, Highland Scots were permitted to leave Scotland to settle in the colonies, with the promise they would never fight against the English Crown.

Movement within the United States

Static habits of colonial settlers

- Most colonists rarely moved more than 20 miles in their lifetimes, except for the Scotch-Irish, who moved often.
- New England religious and social attitudes discouraged much movement.
- Southern settlers from England found themselves oriented toward England economically, socially and politically. By 1776, more than 85 percent were still within 30 miles of the Atlantic coast.
- Pennsylvania Dutch people, who settled most of the frontier from New York south, rarely moved.

Surge of interest led to settlement of the West

- Exploration showed great desirability of settlement in Tennessee, Kentucky and the Ohio Valley after 1750.
- Establishment of military roads opened the Ohio Valley during the French and Indian War, after 1754.

- Development of the Cumberland Gap and Wilderness Road opened Kentucky.
- Indian trails of the Great Valley of the Appalachians brought settlers from Virginia and Maryland to Tennessee, while North Carolinians used river valleys to travel to eastern Tennessee.

The Revolutionary War encouraged western settlement

- Removal of Indians from desired land was often justified as part of the war effort.
- British policy, which often discouraged settlement west of the Appalachians, no longer applied.
- Individual states, especially Virginia and North Carolina, encouraged settlement to solidify their claims before 1778.
- Land speculation was rampant.
- Western land was used for land bounties given to Revolutionary War soldiers.
- The Treaty of Paris of 1783 ending the Revolutionary War almost doubled the area claimed by the United States.

Western movement escalated during the early national period

- The Northwest Ordinance of 1784 allowed the West to admit states.
- Legislation provided for the surveying and orderly sale of western land, 1785.

- Specific steps for establishment of territories, then states, were enacted in 1787.
- Challenges to U.S. claims to land north and west of the Ohio River by Britain, and in the far south by Spain, led to heightened American interest in Ohio and the "Yazoo Strip."
- Indian and British claims to the Ohio country were cleared in 1795. In Pinckney's Treaty, Spain guaranteed Americans the right to navigate the entire Mississippi River.
- Eli Whitney's invention of the cotton gin in 1793 made cotton growing commercially feasible. Southerners with land found a ready sale for it, at unheard of prices. Many settlers from the Old South clung to the traditional pattern of going almost due west, because of the great profits in raising cotton.
- Many Southerners chose to go up the Ohio River Valley, settling in southern Ohio, Indiana or Illinois, either because of their aversion to slavery or because they didn't like black people and the Northwest Ordinances forbade slavery. Most who left the south for the Ohio Valley probably did so because they were guaranteed exceptionally fertile land at no more than \$1.25 per acre.
- Between 1800 and 1810, many people abruptly departed New England for several reasons.

- Appeal of rich land in upstate New York newly free of most Indian claims.
- Appeal of land in the Ohio Valley, especially northern Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.
- People moving from New England to the Ohio Valley began raising agriculture products, making it difficult for New Englanders, with generally poor soil, to compete.
- The Embargo Act of 1807 destroyed the New England shipping industry and the economy sagged.
- Much of the traditional New England resistance to distant settlement faded.
- The introduction of steamboats made navigation of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers practical, enhancing the economy of the area west of New England.
- The Louisiana Purchase of 1803 almost doubled the United States, established new opportunities for Americans in the far west and enticed many to settle, grow cotton, trade, trap and explore.

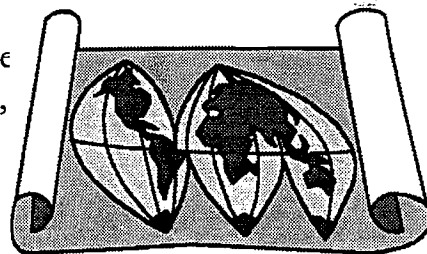
Tremendous settlement took place the first half of the 19th century

- The canal boom of the 1820s lowered the cost of east-west shipping.

- Changing Indian policy made land available, especially for cotton production in the south. By 1816, policy encouraged each Indian head of family to select 640 acres on which to live or move west of the Mississippi River. By 1826 policy forced Indians east of the Mississippi to move.
- The Adams-Onís Treaty in 1819 gave to the United States Spain's claim to Florida, as well as the land north of California.
- American settlement of Texas, beginning in 1823, led to Texas' independence in 1836 and admission to the Union in 1845.
- Development of the railroad encouraged westward movement.
- American interest in Oregon soared after 1841, with rapid settlement of the Willamette River Valley.
- Mormons, dispossessed from their homes in Missouri and Illinois, went first to Iowa, then made a major migration to the Salt Lake Valley in 1847, quickly expanding throughout the Great Basin.
- The War with Mexico ended, giving the Southwest to the United States.
- The discovery of large amounts of gold in California led to a major rush in 1849 and statehood in 1850.
- The Pacific Railway Act and Homestead Act in 1862 led to further settlement of the west.
- The census of 1890 officially declared there was no longer a frontier in the United States.

FACTS *to help you trace your ancestors' paths*

Rule of the harvest. Before the 1850s (and McCormick's reaper), families rarely planted more than they could harvest — between 15 and 25 acres per able-bodied person. Finding out how many acres your family cultivated will help you know how many people were in the household.



Importance of hardwood trees. In both the North and the South, conventional wisdom was that land covered with hardwood trees was the best, while grassland was to be avoided. Despite the great difficulty of clearing land covered with oaks and maples, that was the land most likely selected by your ancestors before the 1820s.

Families who made their living pioneer farming rarely moved unless they had enough means to live for at least two years, or had someone who would provide for them. It took two years to convert a hardwood forest into an economically viable farm. Few poverty-stricken people moved west, but a fair number moved east.

Most settlers before 1800, at least in the North, moved west during the winter, usually in January and early February.

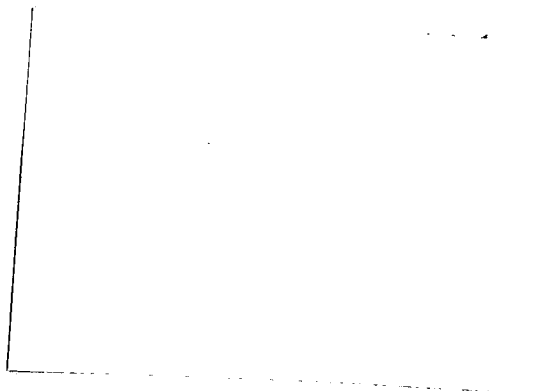
With a few notable exceptions, our ancestors moved almost due west, rarely deviating more than a few degrees north or south.

If your ancestors were in New England before 1700, expect them to have stayed close to the same site until 1800. By 1810, they most likely would have been in upstate New York, by 1820 in northern Ohio, Indiana or Illinois, and by 1850 perhaps in Iowa, Oregon, California or Utah.

Towns settled by New Englanders usually had streets running north-south and east-west while towns settled by Southerners often placed less emphasis on grid patterns.

Generations

Calhoun County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 879
Marshall, MI 49068



Calhoun County Genealogical Society **CALENDAR**

Programs are always free and the public is welcome. For more information, call Nancy Hibiske at (616) 962-3498. Meetings start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

June 27, 2000 **Blair Farm Tour** (M-60 one mile east of Homer, Mich.) Tour and learn about this historical farm museum, once owned by Homer's first doctor. Members of the Homer Historical Society will conduct the tour and answer questions.

July and August **No summer meetings.** See you on the research road!

No Computer Interest Group meetings in June, July or August. Submit suggestions for computer-related topics for the fall and winter sessions to Sandy Redmond at (616) 729-5258.

Have you subscribed to the CCGS e-mail list? We'll automatically send you meeting notices and other important information about the society. Send an e-mail message to calhouncountysg@onelist.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

