



Generations

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Serving Calhoun County, Michigan, family history researchers since 1988

President's Message

As outgoing President, I thank you all for your support and interest in our Society. We have a mission statement, it is as follows: The purposes of this society shall be:

- 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
- To publish and promote Calhoun County and other genealogical materials.

With the help of many of our loyal members, we have been able to fulfill our Mission Statement. We have many projects in process, so we need your continued help and support.

I have enjoyed working with the board members the past 6 years and will continue on as Immediate Past President. What a great bunch of people.

Thank you for your support and positive energy as we continue on as a strong Society, fulfilling our Mission.

I wish you all a great rest of the summer, and get out there and visit an ancestor's grave site or perhaps where they lived.

See you in September.

Judy Groat, President

October 24 meeting:

So your Female Ancestor Has No Surname? Presentation by Karen Krugman. Researching female lines doesn't have to be difficult. This talk contains 12 different places you can search to find your female ancestors surname. Karen has been doing genealogy since 1988, 7 of those professionally. She is the author of 4 books on family history. She currently resides in Birmingham with her husband Mark and their dog Spike.

September 26 meeting :

Deciphering Old Handwriting. Peggy Brumbaugh's interest in genealogy began in 1972 when her grandmother's cousin published a book of his family history. She began serious genealogy research in the 1980s, which has taken her on many wonderful adventures to old family homesteads, spooky cemeteries and archives full of old dusty books. The spark to learn how to decipher came from her grandmother's cousin's book which contained photocopies of old records which she could not read. While still a teenager, she went to a library and found a book on deciphering. Once she was able to read the old documents, she was hooked, not only on genealogy but on deciphering. It has been her passion since and she is eager to share her secrets and insights.

NEW BOOKS AT HELEN WARNER BRANCH, WILLARD LIBRARY

McDonnell, Frances. **Aberdeen Obituaries 1748-1854**. West Bend Books, 2000.

Pelletreau, William S. **Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Family History of New York**. 4 vols. Clearfield, 1907, 1998.

Dobson, David. **Scottish Highlanders on the Eve of the Great Migration 1725-1775, the People of Argyll**. Clearfield, 2005.

Dobson, David. **A Directory of Scots in Australasia, 1788-1900**. Willow Bend, 1998.

Bunnell, Paul. **French and Native American Marriages, 1600-1800**. Heritage Books, 2004.

Neimeyer, David. **Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, Depositor Signature Care Entries for Washington, DC, 1865-1868**. Willow Bend, 2000.

Michigan Maritime Museum **Maritime South Haven, 1900-1950**. Arcadia, 2004.

White, Barnetta. **Quest for Enslaved Ancestors: the extended family of Griffin Fountain of Virginia and North Carolina**.

Tack, Phyllis. **Family of Leon and Mable Tack**. 2000.

I had always known the names of my great-grandfather's siblings from grandma's notes, which noted that Maggie died young. Always assuming this meant she had been a child, I was surprised to find her name beneath a picture of an adult when a visit to a third cousin where the family had lived produced a large mat with small ovals of each of great-grandpa's siblings, his parents, and two small children of a widowed sister with the names written in beneath.

Taking this surname to the library the next day, I found an article in a county history book that gave the names of the four children she had before she died young. A trip back to the township cemetery where the rest of the family was buried revealed her tombstone. I had been sitting on her grave as I recorded the information on her parents. Margaret had been trying to speak to me it appears.

An even stranger occurrence was the situation involving ancestors in Germany. Dad's cousin had looked up records in the small local church and sent the birth record of a great-grandmother, which listed her parents' full names. Then he found a marriage record for that couple, again with their full names. Then he found the woman's death record --two years before the birth of her daughter.

It took me several years to convince him (his English was limited and my German nonexistent) that something was not right because he knew he had copied accurately. What he found surprised us both.

I figured he had copied a number wrong in trying to read the old script. Turns out there were two couples by exactly the same names that married about 10 years apart (in a village of about seven farms). The older person would still have been of an age to have given birth to my ancestor, but obviously this wasn't the case. Additional information from other documents helped straighten it out. It reminds me to keep searching when something doesn't seem to be quite right.

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 14 Sept. 2005, Vol. 8, No. 37.

ERROR correction: in last month's *Generations* Family Tree, a first name was spelled incorrectly. **Arcrah Ann Bournes** (wife of John Ballantine) should have been spelled **ACHSAH Ann Bournes**. Thanks to Chuck Harthy for pointing this out.

Old Time Diseases

Mormal = Gangrene
 Morphew = Scurvy blisters on the body
 Mortification = Gangrene of necrotic tissue
 Myelitis = Inflammation of the spine
 Myocarditis = Inflammation of heart muscles
 Necrosis = Mortification of bones or tissue
 Nephrosis = Kidney degeneration
 Nephritis = Inflammation of kidneys
 Nervous prostration = Extreme exhaustion from inability to control physical and mental activities
 Pemphigus = Skin disease of watery blisters
 Pericarditis = Inflammation of heart
 Peripneumonia = Inflammation of lungs
 Peritonitis = Inflammation of abdominal area
 Petechial Fever = Fever characterized by skin spotting
 Phthiriasis = Lice infestation
 Plague = An acute febrile highly infectious disease with a high fatality rate
 Pleurisy = Any pain in the chest area with each breath
 Podagra = Gout
 Polio = Potter's Asthma, Fibroid Pthisis (Chronic wasting away or another name for tuberculosis)

BOOK REVIEW

Think you know everything about Thanksgiving? Pilgrims? What about the difference between Pilgrims and Puritans? Do you know why the Pilgrims wrote "The Mayflower Compact," a document many consider to mark the beginning of what would one day be called the United States? Did you know that there was more than just the Mayflower that left England with Pilgrims? Did you know that they were not heading for anywhere near where they landed? This surprised me most. Did you know that less than half of those aboard the Mayflower were Pilgrims?

While I didn't think I knew everything about Pilgrims and Thanksgiving, I felt I knew plenty. After reading *Mayflower, A Story of Courage, Community, and War* by Nathaniel Philbrick (Viking Press, 2006), I've discovered I barely knew anything. *Mayflower* is the best read I have had this year. A book of history with notes, sources and a bibliography, it reads like a novel. I couldn't wait to get to the next chapter and found it very hard to put down. Fascinating, fully developed characters. The motives, trials and tribulations, successes and failures of all groups involved with the Mayflower sailing and the subsequent establishment of Plymouth Colony and Massachusetts are fully developed and easily understood. I highly recommend this book as a source of true reading entertainment, and as a means of gaining a greater insight not only of why someone leaves the place they know of as home to go to an unknown land.

LOCAL

The Knockers will meet with Miss Harriet Fletcher tomorrow afternoon.

An epidemic of suicide and insanity seems to be sweeping over Battle Creek.

Next Monday being pension day G. A. R. hall will be open for the execution of vouchers.

The railroads have carried away 212,000 persons from San Francisco since the earthquake.

The woman's Auxilliary of the Christian church serve supper from 5:00 to 7:00 o'clock this evening.

This is the month of brides and sweet girl graduates. Bridegrooms and boy graduates cut no figure whatever.

Carl Miller, the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Miller, who has been seriously ill with appendicitis, is reported much improved.

According to Hoken we are to have all kinds of weather this month, in that it will not differ from the thousands that have preceded it.

The members of the Presbyterian church and congregation will have a picnic supper in the church parlors Monday at 6 p. m.

You may not have noticed it, but Marshall is enjoying a quiet boom. There are hints of several pieces of good luck are coming our way.

The banquet which the G. D. T. was to have tendered the K. I. G. this evening, has been postponed one week. It will occur in the parish house.

There will be a special meeting of the common council at 7:30 o'clock this evening to provide for holding the primary election in Marshall June 12.

All the clergy of the county have been invited to attend a ministerial conference at the Christian church in this city next Monday at 10:00 o'clock.

Did-You-Know-Dept.

From George Livingston, Battle Creek Public Library

While researching an early settler, Elijah Trumball, who settled in western Battle Creek Township in the 1850s, I came across the Collier notation that he died in 'Willow Run.' I presumed that was the end of the local connection, since as we all know, Willow Run is in far Washtenaw County, near Ypsilanti. Not so, as it turns out. The Old Stone Jug connection Mr. Trumball (or Trumble) early in the 1860s built "a house on his first farm in Section 19 BC Township, one-half mile northwest of Renton Station on the Grand Trunk railway....Later on this man built a two-story mud house at the location on the Battle Creek and Climax road, about three miles out W. Territorial avenue. In many years past thousands and thousands of people have driven or rode in motor cars and horse-drawn vehicles across Goguae prairie every summer and have heard something more or less indefinite about the old Stone Jug. It is the intersecting point of five roads, an unusual condition, and the road bears a little to the south from the top of the hill. A few rods east of the road intersection is the "Willow Run." This little stream in the early days was heavily lined with willows, and every pioneer in the entire country knew where Willow Run was located....

When Trumble finished his house at Willow Run, it became a prominent spot in the landscape thereabouts. It was located in the steep bank between the points of intersection of the Climax and old territorial road leading west to Galesburg. The front faced toward the Willow Run bridge, due east...."

thank you, George

Final School Exam - Eighth Grade 1895, Salina, KS.

Geography (Time, one hour)

1. What is climate?
2. How do you account for the extremes of climate in Kansas.
3. Of what use are rivers: of what use is the ocean.
4. Describe the mountains of North America.
5. Name and describe the following: Monrovia, Odessa, Denver, Manitoba, Hecla, Yukon, St. Helena, Juan Fernandez, Aspinwall & Orinoco.
6. Name and locate the principal trade centers of the U. S.
7. Name all the republics of Europe and give the capital of each.

SOURCE: Ingham County Genealogical Society, Vol 9 #2, p. 4.

The **Calhoun County Genealogical Society** has received a transcription of a diary written by Susan Errington in 1880. Like most diaries, it is a "day in the life of" this young girl living in Muskegon, Michigan. While not exactly Calhoun County, it is none the less an interesting look at what life was like in our area at that time. **GENERATIONS** will print excerpts as space permits. We wish to thank Myra Herron for the time and effort she has given in transcribing this diary and for giving it to us. *Thank you, Myra.*

**THE YEAR 1880 FOR
SUSIE ERRINGTON
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN**

**INFORMATION TAKEN FROM A DIARY GIVEN
TO SUSIE ERRINGTON, WITH THE INSCRIPTION**

**"SUSIE ERRINGTON, A CHRISTMAS GIFT,
1879, MUSKEGON"**

Sunday, May 2, 1880 Cousin Chancy came last night, the funeral is to be today at two o'clock. The baby looks so sweet and nice. Just as if it were asleep. It is so hard sometimes to say "Thy Will Be Done".

Monday, May 3, 1880 Went to Mr. Hendrick's this morning for the key. School was not very nice today. I whipped Louie, kept Edna after school. I am only going to teach 3 weeks after this.

Tuesday, May 4, 1880 School on the bluffs this afternoon, went to Mrs. B's and got a slip of her Oxalis to take to school. I wish I knew how Cousin Addie & Mattie are. Only three days more this week.

Wednesday, May 5, 1880 I hardly know what to do with my school. Edna is so trying I must ask my Father to help me. I had a very pleasant time at Mr. Beals' tonight. Burtice saw me home. I like him.

Thursday, May 6, 1880 My shool (sic) was just lovely this morning. Had half holiday this P.M. Went to Little Black L. Had a nice time but was very tired. May came to visit my school.

Friday, May 7, 1880 School was pretty good, went to the month after school for my order. Had a nice time at the party, the wind blew dreadfully.

Saturday, May 8, 1880 Sunday. I have enjoyed this day so much went to church & S. S. I have been making an inventory of my life during the last few weeks, I am not advancing as much as I ought.

Sunday, May 9, 1880 I made a mistake and wrote in the wrong place for Sunday. My S. S. lesson today has shown me how empty my life is and how wrong it is for to call myself a Christian. I must ask my Father's help.

Monday, May 10, 1880 Rainy. I was almost discouraged last night. I am afraid it is more my fault than theirs usually. I wrote a letter for Miss Thiboult.

Tuesday, May 11, 1880 Cold but pleasant. School was nice though small. The harder I work the better the school. I mustn't forget to send Mattie that pattern. I am feeling happy for God is with me.

Wednesday, May 12, 1880 Beautiful day, school on the bluffs. Went to Mr. Hendrick's in the evening, enjoyed it much. Burtis's foot is getting on nicely.

Thursday, May 13, 1880 Another nice day. Someone entered the schoolhouse last night, nothing taken. Two nice letters from home, all well. What can I do for John and Owen Robinson.

Friday, May 14, 1880 Nice day, school bad, went to the head after school took the train for Muskegon, and at half after 7 was at Cousin Addie's. She is feeling better but her girl is sick. Mattie is all tired. May is going tomorrow.

Saturday, May 15, 1880 Bright day. Clarence is better. Cousin A prepared the breakfast. After breakfast May and I washed dishes. I made pies, then we went to have my dress fitted. I fainted. We had a jolly time at the lake, went on Lake Mich(igan). Climbed the bluff and got some Sand. Wasn't sea sick a bit neither was May.

Sunday, May 16, 1880 Another nice day. I got breakfast. Cousin A, M & I did the dishes. May, M & I went to church, were late. Had a good sermon, the church was so close it made me faint. The boys brought (sic) back with Mr. Collier's horse & wagon.

Monday, May 17, 1880 Pleasant. School went quite nicely. Mrs. Kraar wants me to stay nights with her this week because her husband is gone. I think I shall go but don't want to. Went to Mr. B's after school, had a pleasant call.

Tuesday, May 18, 1880 Nothing written.

Wednesday, May 19, 1880 Pleasant. School was just horrid for the forenoon. School on the bluffs in the afternoon and it was quite nice. Went to Mr. B's after it and applied for the winter schooled. Called on May. Pleasant call.

Thursday, May 20, 1880 Rainy. We have had a nice rain. I have learned today that my school had been a failure. I commenced wrong and have kept wrong. Only six days in which to make amends. I am going to Mrs. K's. I don't want to go but I think it is duty. I wonder if that is denying myself and bearing my cross.

Friday, May 21, 1880 Rainy all day, was going fishing but could not on account of the rain. Went down to Mr. Hendrick's and staid (sic) a while. Had a nice time upstairs with May. Burtis came home with me.

Saturday, May 22, 1880 Went to town with Mr & Mrs C, pleasant ride. May couldn't go. I bought some ribbon for her. Had a may party in the wood. Went downtown with M. Mattie is past tired out. I'm afraid she will be sick.

Sunday, May 23, 1880 Went to church & S. S. I don't think I shall ever feel at home there, though it did me could today. I feel almost discouraged of ever living a christian life or of being one of Christ's disciples. I wish I know how to go to (sic).

Monday, May 24, 1880 I have had no school today on account of the show. This morning I helped Cousin A. then went to see the parade. After the parade I went to see Allie Frasee, poor little girl. I am afraid she will never be any better.

Tuesday, May 25, 1880 Warm. I came to Black Lake on the train this morn and then walked to Lake Harbor. School was very good. After school I went fishing and caught three fish. May and Burtis went with me and we had a jolly time.