

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

2009 is shaping up to be a pretty poor year from an economic standpoint. Every week seems to bring more stories about the faltering of the economy, especially here in Michigan. One way the recession is going to hit close to home for the Michigan genealogy community are the cuts which have been proposed for the state budget.

Back in January at her state of the state address, Governor Jennifer Granholm announced her intention to eliminate the state department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL). The HAL is an important resource to family researchers because both the Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan fall into its jurisdiction.

The Michigan Genealogical Council has been encouraging Michigan genealogists to contact their legislators to prevent the outright elimination of these resources. The CCGS agrees that the Library of Michigan and Archives are too important to squander. Please contact your state representatives and senators to express your support for the Library and Archives.

From a related standpoint, back in the November 2008 issue, I discussed some of the necessities the CCGS was facing due to a budget shortfall. At the time, I mentioned three means by which the CCGS was to address a shortfall: Increasing membership, controlling costs and raising income.

We have had some success with increasing our membership, despite having trimmed our membership roll "grace period" to

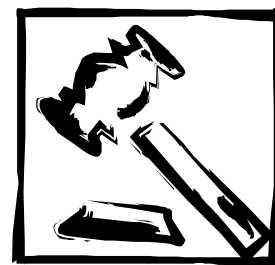
save on printing costs. Our membership chair Ilene Woodman gets special credit for her efforts here.

From a cost controlling standpoint, the CCGS has not been as successful. While we are now delivering the newsletter electronically to nearly 25% of the membership, printing and postage costs have still increased beyond our anticipation.

From an income standpoint, we did institute a modest dues increase last year. Our book and newsletter publishing efforts will require funding that will require the society to dip into our strategic reserves. For this reason, we are considering hard choices--another dues increase or decreasing the quantity of our newsletter editions. Your feedback to the society is important, so please communicate with the board if you have suggestions for us in this regard.

Finally, we are closing in on another board election. Several of our officers are term-limited so we will have openings on the board for Correspondence and Recording Secretaries. Please do consider notifying the board if you are interested in one of these positions, or in serving on our Election subcommittee.

-Chris Rau, President CCGS



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NEWSLETTER FOCUS—RAILROADS IN CALHOUN COUNTY!

A big population boom for Calhoun County came with the building of the railroad. Several of my ancestors worked on or for the railroad and maybe some of yours. The railroads boosted the

area's commerce and brought visitors from all over the nation and the world.

Thousand's came by train to take part of the health reform of the Battle Creek Sanitarium or

the Cereal Manufacturing boom. Huge demonstrations sending off to war area troops or even bigger returns occurred at the area train stations. Calhoun County was part of a scenic railroad

trip from New York to Chicago.

In this issue you'll find more about the railroad and it's history with Calhoun County.

*-Ann Heisler,
CCGS Generations Editor*

BOARD PROFILE—PAST PRESIDENT

Judith (Judy) Groat:

When I retired about 12 years ago, I decided to try to find out who my great grandfather was. It didn't take long for me to be hooked. I found several direct ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War and was able to join the Daughters of the American Revolution. I became a member of CCGS about the same time.

I held the office of Corresponding Secretary and President in CCGS and met many wonderful new friends in the Society.

My husband Gus and I have taken

several genealogical trips. One memorable trip was to Herkimer, New York. I was doing some research in the Historical Building and Gus decided to go for a walk. He came back and told me that he found this quaint little church and cemetery in it's yard. Would I like to see it? We walked across the street and in the church yard there was a sign giving the names of many of the people buried there, because their names were no longer readable on their stones. There were several of my ancestors buried there from the 1700's. So, Gus's walk proved more fruitful than my 'research' in the Historical Society.

What I love most about genealogy is

putting stories and pictures with the dates and places, and bringing life to these ancestors of ours.

Board profile articles have been intended to give you an understanding of those among us that have stepped up to help us in a leading role. Judy is the final member of our current board. Thanks to all of our board members for their contributions to our organization!

Starting in the next CCGS newsletter, we will be changing this article to a MEMBER PROFILE. I will be finding a member among us that I can present to you. CCGS is about sharing!

CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The purposes of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society (CCGS) are:

- 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.

CCGS is incorporated under the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act. Individuals, libraries or societies may join.

Annual dues for the year beginning September 1 are \$18.00 receiving postal newsletters and \$15.00 receiving electronic newsletters. Memberships are accepted year-round; dues received after May 1 will pay membership for the following year. Members receive the newsletter *Generations* six times per year. General meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Gifford Schultz Educational Service Center—CISD building, 17111 G Drive North, Marshall, unless otherwise specified. No meetings are held in July, August or December. Programs are free and open to the public.

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All are invited to submit articles to the *Generations* newsletter editor. Permission is granted to reprint articles unless otherwise noted. Please give appropriate credit to the source. Copies of the individual pages from back issues of *Generations* at \$1.00 for the first page, \$0.50 for each additional page.

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Organizational Member of National Genealogical Society—Michigan Genealogical Council—Federation of Genealogical Societies



UNCLE ARTHUR

By Arthur C. Adams, CCGS Treasurer

My great Uncle, Arthur Curtis Adams, (b.1870, d.1924) was kind of childhood hero to me. I was named after him AND he was an ENGINEER for Michigan Central Railroad. My Father and Aunt Charity adored him as children. He must have been both generous and loving. Arthur inherited a lot of land in the Marengo area as the older son of the family and was quite prominent in Marengo Village society. He was killed in a spectacular accident in 1924 while behind the controls of a

Railroad Engine.

The crash occurred in Parchment, near Kalamazoo, when the train struck a car that stalled on the track. He died before I was born. His widow, Belle Adams sent me cards at Christmas and for my birthday when I was young. I can visit the cemetery in Marengo village and see most of my ancestors as well as one grave listing Arthur C. Adams as its occupant.

For many years I heard of him through my father's memories but one day when I was a young

adult I was talking to Arza Sears, an old time resident of my home village of Marengo Michigan. The conversation drifted to older, deceased, relatives from the Marengo area and when I brought up Arthur he said, "I have photographs of the accident he was killed in, would you like them". Arza was a telegraph lineman and was assigned to make repairs in that area. A professional photographer was there and was taking orders for photographs of the wreck so he ordered them. This chance acquisition is one of my favorite finds.



A. C. Adams train wreck 1924
Parchment Michigan



A. C. Adams Train wreck 1924
Parchment, Michigan



Aunt Charity
Aunt Charity

Arthur C. Adams
Arthur C. Adams

Dad
Palmer e. adams
Palmer E. Adams

DUES ARE INCREASING. TO COVER INCREASED PRINTING COSTS, YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES WILL INCREASE BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER 2009 TO \$18.00/YEAR FOR POSTAL MAIL *GENERATIONS* NEWSLETTER AND \$15.00/YEAR FOR ELECTRONIC *GENERATIONS* NEWSLETTER. YOU CAN AVOID THE INCREASED FEES BY PAYING EARLY. DUES FOR APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 ARE AT THE 2008 RATE (\$15.00/YEAR POSTAL MAIL AND \$12.00/YEAR ELECTRONIC).

THE LUXURY OF A TRIP THROUGH CALHOUN COUNTY

Considered a luxury trip, the railroad trip from Chicago to New York included many scenic views on the way including its route through Calhoun County. "... Its route to Detroit is across the loveliest and richest portion of the lower peninsula of Michigan, perhaps the most fertile in its resources of all the states in the Union. No other state has such varied industries, so many prosperous cities and towns, and none has better educational facilities nor more refined social environments."

This is quoted from an article about the route written in 1895. At that time the trip through Marshall was similar to the picture below. This picture is also from the article and is captioned "Bird's-eye View of the Marshall Water Power Located within the City Limits. Showing the fine Water Power and Sites Offered by the City for Manufacturing." Marshall sure has changed since 1895!

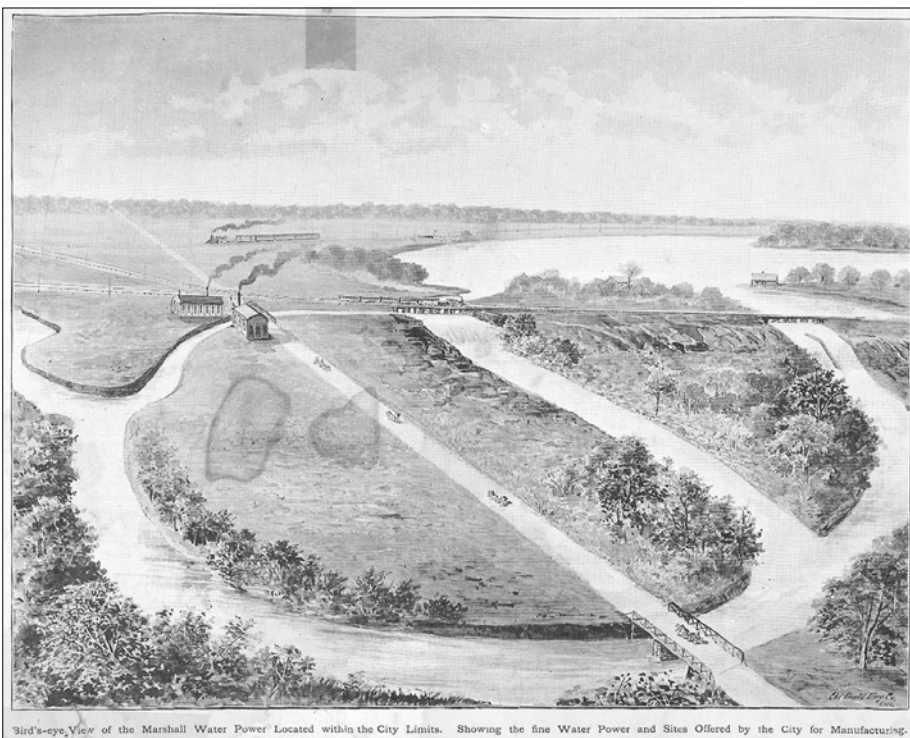
The following is an excerpt on the accommodations of this trip.

"... Following a "Great mogul"

locomotive will be found a buffet library car, the forward portion of which is devoted to baggage. A spacious apartment is the library, well lighted and furnished with luxurious easy chairs in which to chat or read, or watch the passing panorama while discussing after-dinner cigars. There are also well-furnished desks, where telegrams and letters may be written *en route*, and a library of well-selected books and periodicals in the custody of the porter, from whose catalogue the passenger may select. Nor must the buffet be forgotten, from whose mysterious depths are produced luncheons and light meals of surprising variety, daintily served upon delicate china. In a compartment of this car, the ubiquitous barber holds forth, and adjoining is a veritable bath-room, in which one may take his customary bath while going at the rate of fifty miles an hour.

Following this car are palace sleeping cars, one of which, perhaps, is a private compartment car representing the ideal mode of conveyance. The space in these cars is divided into elegant private rooms—five on each side—running along the side. Each compartment is provided complete with toilet arrangements, lavatory with hot and cold water, electric bells and a handsome gas chandelier."

Travel has changed some over the years!



"Bird's-eye View of the Marshall Water Power Located within the City Limits. Showing the fine Water Power and Sites Offered by the City for Manufacturing."

SOURCES:

"Sights and Scenes Along The Michigan Central Line." Headlight [Chicago, Ill.] June, 1895

NEXT NEWSLETTER FOCUS—SURROUNDING ALBION

IN SEARCH OF...
Information about People,
Places and Things from the
communities around Albion



For our final issue of the CCGS 21st season, our next newsletter will feature articles about the townships and communities surrounding the village of Albion.

Albion was the starting location for CCGS. So, I'm going to return (sort of) to our roots by featuring the area around Albion.

The many farm communities, the German connections, the townships, the connections to neighboring counties, and more.

If you have something you can contribute, please get to me as soon as possible.

- Ann Heisler, *Generations* Editor

PART 3: MEMOIRS OF BETTY JANE (RUNDLE) HAGERTY --GROWING UP POOR ON THE FARM --BUT HAPPY--

This article is part 3 of a sharing story written by Betty Jane Hagerty.

Since “next door” neighbors can be half to a mile apart, I spent most of my time on my own for entertainment. So I did lots of reading, playing with my dolls, paper dolls, drawing, making things, even building “stuff” in my dad’s workshop (no power tools – just hand tools and scraps). I remember making some stilts once, and even concocted some ice skates out of a couple of tin cans and “skated” around the icy backyard. I did have one girlfriend who lived about one half mile away, and we played together a lot. They had some old, big lilac bushes in their front yard, with some open places in their center, which were like little “rooms” with bare dirt floors, and arched braches for walls and ceilings. With a few old blankets, boxes, dishes, etc, we had a great playhouse.

Having no electricity at our house until I was a junior in high school, we had no radio to listen to, but did have a wind up Victrola, with lots of records, and a huge old upright piano. So we did have music. Actually, when I was about 13 or 14, we got a battery operated radio – very large – with big dry cell batteries housed in a cabinet underneath the radio. We could only have it on for a limited number of hours at a time – but I did get to listen to the Saturday afternoon broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera – live! I also listened to “The Lone Ranger” and other “after school” programs – sponsored by Kellogg’s – and other cereal companies. And on Sunday evenings we all listened to “Amos and Andy”; Jack Benny – plus a few other special programs. I also remember at one time one station ran a series of Edgar Allen Poe mysteries, narrated (I think) by Orson Wells. That was Scary!

As I got a little older, I was able to get together with the kids of the two closest neighbors, the Youngs and the Perrines. Barbara Perrine was my friend who played dolls - and house with me. She was about four years older – but not much bigger than me, and we got along fine. She had two younger brothers; Eugene – a couple of years older than me, and David, who was a few years younger than me. The four of us played together more in the winter than in warm weather. Except that they had the longest swing I’ve ever seen, the limb the ropes were attached to must have been at least 12 to 15 feet from the ground. It was a great swing! But in the winter we would get together and skate on a small pond in a field just beyond our barn, or slide down one of several small hills around the yard. And I remember one period of a week or so one winter when the snow was very deep, and was so solid, with such a hard crust, that we could take Perrine’s cutter and horse and ride around their fields, right over the top of the fences – in some places.

Another recollection from when I was pretty small, maybe three or four years old, was the day that my mother and I walked to Marengo, then on up to the highway, (US 12- at that time) and to the inter-urban car that ran along the north side of the road, from Albion to Marshall. It might have gone beyond those two cities, but that’s all I can remember. You can still see in a few places, where the tracks used to be. It was powered by an electric “third rail” – between the tracks the car ran on. We were warned rigorously never to touch or step on the third rail, or we would die instantly. Now I never know of any person or animal being killed this way – but I wasn’t about to try it! Anyhow, this one day my mother and I rode the inter-urban (looked like a trolley car) into Marshall – there was a little boy about my age, with his



mom. I think I noticed him mostly because he was eating a chocolate ice cream cone, but also his skin was about the same color as the ice cream. And I’m pretty sure that was the first time I ever encountered a “colored person,” as they were called then. We did all of our business in Marengo at Erie and Margaret Lake’s country store, or in Marshall. Other than those two places, the only places I went at that age were friend’s houses around our area, and relatives in Lee Township or the Olivet area. So I was pretty limited in my scope of the world.

As I have mentioned in the beginning “the great depression” was quite an influence in my life. From the time I was almost six years old, until my last couple of years of high school; we were either deep into the depression, or trying to climb out of it. I was always aware as a young child, that there was a depression – it was talked about, read about, a part of everyone’s life. But, for me, it wasn’t a threat or an unhappy time. Since we lived on a farm, we always had enough to eat (and enough to share with relatives who lived in cities – and wouldn’t grow their food,) we had a home and all of the actual nuances of life. We even had a Model T Ford and in 1928 a model A Ford – brand new! I think it cost about \$200

(Continued on page 6)

CCGS NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

IN PROCESS: Seeking non-profit 501(c)(3) status with IRS. Soon to be submitted and completed!

CEMETERY TRANSCRIPTIONS: CCGS has been working on creating publications on the area cemeteries. Marengo Twp is almost ready. Plans are to have it ready to ship in September/October

2008. (It's taking a little longer to prepare. To be completed in the next couple months.) Cost will be around \$20. Remember CCGS Members get a 10% discount. Help us determine the number of copies to print by indicating your purchase interest on your new/renewal membership form. Thank you to those who have already expressed

their interest!

Also, being transcribed and expected soon is Hotchkiss/Marshall Township Cemetery.

WEB SITE UPDATES:

Pages are being updated for outdated text and links. Broken links are being corrected.

We have received for Calhoun County the following and will be adding or replacing pages for these items soon:

- Updated version of Dibeau Marriage Collection
- County Poor House Ledger transcribed
- Korean War Casualties
- Vietnam War Casualties

Plans are also being made to update the web pages for the *Generations* newsletter index and "back" issues.

(Continued from page 5)

and my dad drove it for about twenty years – and sold it for about what he paid for it – or more- I think.

We had no money to spend, really, and I know that my parents worried about the debts incurred to keep the farm going, to buy the necessary food and clothing, pay the medical bills, etc. We would charge food, work clothes, etc. at Erie Lake store, then when my dad harvested a crop, or sold some livestock, the bill got paid – probably about three or four times a year. I can remember when the bill was paid – my dad would get a can of pipe tobacco, my mom would get maybe a half dozen oranges and my sister and I would get ice cream cones – all compliments or Erie and Margaret.

I guess the reason we weren't threatened by the lack of money was because everyone I knew was in the same predicament. People shared what little they had, if necessary and for the most part, there was no stealing, certainly no killing for what others might have. (There weren't millions of guns in our country then either.) In fact, in the country at least and I think even in small towns – and maybe larger cities, people didn't even lock their doors. We didn't even have keys to lock our doors. We might lock our screen doors, just to keep someone from walking in

when we were sleeping.

One of the phenomena of the late 20's and early 30's was the "tramp". During this period, men would be traveling throughout the country, trying to find work. They would either "hitch-hike", or ride on freight trains (they were then called "hobo's"), stopping here or there to ask for work, or at least a meal in exchange for a chore or two, to get them on their way. My Mother always found something for them to eat – not usually asking them to do anything, and they were always most appreciative.

There were also other "travelers" during that period – the Gypsies. I think we heard more about them than saw them, but once in a while we would see them go along the roads in their horse drawn "gypsy wagons". They had quite a reputation for stealing (even children, we were told) and other mischief, but I'm not sure if this was true – or just stories passed along.

I also think the fact that I grew up during the depression kept me believing in Santa Claus longer than might have been true otherwise. (I really still believe). Because, even though I know my parents just didn't have any money – every Christmas morning, my sister and I would find our "hung stockings" full of candy, nuts, an orange, etc. – and at least one new doll, or other "store bought" gift, under the Christmas tree. One year I even re-

ceived a doll buggy! So, I know there had to be a Santa Claus. We always had a Christmas tree sometimes even a real tree – cut in the woods at the back of our farm, but often our "tree" was a couple of branches cut from a big pine tree, and arranged in a tub of rocks and dirt, to look like a "Christmas tree", when decorated, with the old collection of ornaments, it looked wonderful.

My parents, my Mother especially, always made much of all holidays and birthdays. The house would be decorated, and always gifts (mostly home made) even if only a home made valentine placed under a "turned – over" plate at the breakfast table. There was always a "birthday party" with cake and home made ice cream for each family member, and we usually gathered at our house, or an aunt and uncle's house for Sunday dinners and a fun afternoon with many cousins. Sometimes we would pack a picnic lunch and drive to the lake or park for a Sunday outing, even as far as Pokagon Park in Indiana!

So, even though "poor" in material things, we were rich in family, friends, and fun. And in my early years, it was a happy time and mainly free from fear and anxiety.

... to be completed in next "Generations" newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Calhoun County Genealogical Society

Name _____

Surnames you are researching _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

E-mail address _____

Feel free to attach a five-generation ancestor chart and/or a query to be published in *Generations*

- ☐ Membership card requested (please enclose SASE)
- ☐ Check if you plan on purchasing Marengo Twp Cemetery publication (Available Fall 2008 Cost about \$20)
- ☐ Check if you would like to receive *Generations* newsletter by e-mail in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format instead of postal mail

Include \$18 if *Generations* newsletter by postal mail and paying after September 1, 2009 OR \$15 if electronic *Generations*. If paying before September 1, 2009, \$15 by postal mail and \$12 electronic.

Please make your check payable to Calhoun County Genealogical Society or CCGS. Send to Membership Chair, Calhoun County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 879, Marshall, MI 49068-0879

2009-10 Election of Officers—September Meeting!

2008-2009 OFFICERS

President

Chris Rau served 2008-09, 2007-08, 2006-07, eligible for one more term.

Vice President

Jim Jackson served 2008-09, 2007-08, partial 2007, eligible for two more terms.

Treasurer

Art Adams served 2008-09, 2007-08, eligible for two more terms.

Corresponding Secretary (OPEN)

Cindy Wilson served 2008-09, 2007-08, 2006-07, 2005-06, has reached term limit.

Recording Secretary (OPEN)

Anita Stuever served 2008-09, 2007-08, 2006-07, 2005-06, has reached term limit. Previously President 2002-03, 2001-02.

Immediate Past President

Judy Groat served 2008-09, 2007-08, 2006-07. Immediate Past President is not considered an office, but is a member of the board. It does not count toward any term limits.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS (no term limitations)

Membership Promotion

Ilene Woodman

Records Preservation

Maureen Vire

Print Publications

Verla Potts

Web Publications

Sandy Redmond and Ann Heisler

Pioneer Certificate

Verla Potts

Newsletter Editor

Ann Heisler

Michigan Genealogical Council (MGC) Delegate

Jim Jackson

Cindy Wilson

Representative to Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS)

Jim Jackson

Hospitality

Vacant (no current need)

Making Connections

Vacant

Programs

Jim Jackson

Publicity

Jim Jackson

Generations

Calhoun County Genealogical
Society

**Serving Calhoun County,
Michigan family history
researchers since 1988**

CHECK US OUT ON ROOTSWEB!

[WWW.ROOTSWEB.COM/~MICALHOU/
CCGS.HTM](http://WWW.ROOTSWEB.COM/~MICALHOU/CCGS.HTM)

CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR

CCGS monthly meetings are typically held the fourth Tuesday of each month except July, August and December and are free and open to the public. Unless noted, meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the Gifford Schultz Educational Service Center—Calhoun Intermediate School District Building, 17111 G Drive North, Marshall.



28 ... April	“Sourcing-Who Needs It Anyway?”—Speaker Karen Krugman from Michigan Professional Genealogy
26 ... May	“www.footnote.com” - Speaker Kris Rzepczynski, Librarian, Library of Michigan
23 ... June	“Scrapbooking Your Genealogy” - Speaker Tammy Parsons
July	No Meeting.
August	No Meeting.

21st Year of Calhoun County
Genealogical Society!

2008-2009