

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

While participating at a recent genealogy open house event, I had a chance to meet with officers from several of our neighboring Genealogical societies. Since I consider myself still new to the ways of genealogical society leadership, it was a good chance to swap notes and compare the offerings of our society with our peers. I'm glad to say that in many respects the Calhoun County Genealogical Society is very much in line with our fellow societies—from the perspective of membership level, dues rates, newsletter offering, meetings and speakers, and committee activities.

One area I see the CCGS could improve is from the involvement of our membership in the activities of the various committees and in the leadership board of the society. Since we are coming into the end of our membership year, now is a great time to consider joining our board or participating in one of our committees. As I mentioned in my last President's Note, there will be openings on the board for both our Recording Secretary and Correspondence Secretary positions.

Our committees would appreciate assistance as well. If you have a talent for writing, then our newsletter, publications and website may be a way for you to express yourself. The Records Preservation committee and Cemetery Transcribing committees are both actively working on their respective projects and can always use a hand. If you want to help by conducting genealogical investigation, then there is work to be done verifying Pioneer Certificate applications and responding to the inquiries that the Society receives. If you are interested in a more professional genealogical experience, consider representing the CCGS as a delegate to the Michigan Genealogical Council in Lansing.

At our membership meeting in September, a report will be given by each of the committee chairpersons, so please attend the September meeting if you want to learn more about our activities. We hope to see you there!

*-Chris Rau, President CCGS*



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## MICHIGAN HISTORY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Due to our state's financial situation, a key resource for genealogy and family historians is in danger. Michigan Legislators are determining where to make budget cuts and the Library of Michigan is in their

sights. Some cuts have already been made or planned including new reduced hours for the library. Key personnel have left taking positions in other departments, libraries or retiring. Budget planners have made contacts with other

libraries to discuss taking on part or all of the library collections. This is a concern for the future of the collections and the access to the general public (Us).

You can help! Contact your State Legislators and express your view.

To present a united front, please see the MGC website at <http://mimgc.org>. This site gives more details on the subject and suggests ways to help.

# MEMBER PROFILE—VALERIE RADEE

Now retired, Valerie Radee was a Home Economics/ Life Skills teacher for 37 years mostly for the Albion Schools and is one of our CCGS founding members. She has taken turns as our Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Membership Chair and even co-editor of the *Generations* Newsletter with Pat Geyer between 1992 and 1995. Her time with the newsletter was before common computer usage and she can remember cutting and pasting to generate it. Her talk of this really makes me appreciate the advancements with the computer.

Her lessons at Albion included a seg-

ment on Family Heritage and students were asked to generate their family tree. Sometimes this was a tough assignment. Several students were being raised in single parent households and did not have access to the other parent's information.

Valerie's Calhoun heritage from the Albion area included the Radees and Bunde/Bundays (Origins-Pommern, Prussia). From the Homer area her family lines included the Hendersons and Peppets. Ancestor William Peppet was a photographer in Homer.

Her research has taken her to many locations including a trip to England. LDS films have been a huge help al-

lowing her to access church and civil records from Germany locally. On these films she has seen many of the Albion area families and would like to see a wider use of the films in family research.

She continues to do research and often assists others with theirs. She was working with me on my husband's line as we worked on her profile. Thank You, Valerie, for all of your contributions to CCGS and our area's heritage.

***Valerie is our 1st MEMBER PROFILE. Prepare your profile. I'll be looking for someone for our next newsletter soon!***

## 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.

### President

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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.

**Calhoun County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 879, Marshall MI 49068-0879**

[MichiganCalhounGene@yahoo.com](mailto:MichiganCalhounGene@yahoo.com) - <http://www.rootsweb.com/~micalhou/ccgs.htm>

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

## CCGS ON FACEBOOK



**A**re you using facebook?

CCGS now has a facebook page. Facebook is an online social networking website. If you aren't using it now, you may want to be soon. Besides personal communication with friends, games (as if genealogist's have time for these), quizzes of all kinds, connecting on causes, etc., businesses, organizations and groups are joining to communicate with their membership. AND it's free to join!

Once you are a member of facebook, search on "Calhoun County Genealogical Society" to find our page and become a fan. Tell your family and friends you do not need to be a CCGS member to be a fan of the page. By being a fan of the facebook page, you will get news feeds about the happenings of our organization.

Our goal in starting this page is to keep you up to date with the latest from our membership and to get our membership to grow. The site currently has links to the CCGS website and the Library of Michigan, a discussion on the State cutbacks and the affect on the Library of Michigan, and information on how to join CCGS.

Soon we will be adding more! CCGS facebook page will be updated when our Marengo Cemetery Transcription Book is completed. It will keep you updated on upcoming meetings and events. Our plan is also to add links, photos and notes on Calhoun County related information.

So, get connected! Join facebook and then become a fan of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society on facebook. AND remember to tell your friends and family!

Facebook © 2009

## NEXT NEWSLETTER FOCUS—HOMER AREA



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

Starting our 22nd year, our first newsletter will feature articles about the townships and communities surrounding the village of Homer.

Did you know that in the early 1830's Homer was originally called Barneyville? What do you

know about the village of Homer and the surrounding area? PLEASE SHARE!

If you have something you can contribute, please get to me as soon as possible so I can add it to the next newsletter.

- Ann Heisler, *Generations* Editor

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).

**\*\*\* REMEMBER: IF YOU CHANGE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, YOU NEED TO SEND THE NEW ADDRESS TO MICHIGANCALHOUNGENE@YAHOO.COM TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE YOUR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS. \*\*\***

## ALBION FAMILY CONNECTIONS

**J**ohn Gay ( 1802-1888), was a Calhoun County pioneer. Migrating west with his siblings and parents from Warren, Herkimer County, New York to Mt. Morris, Livingston County, New York. He settled temporarily in Hillsdale Michigan in 1835 and then moved to Calhoun County in 1837 where he purchased 120 acres of land in Sheridan Township in 1839.

John was the eldest of 11 children. His father, William Gay Sr., (1778-1840) was born in Connecticut; his mother, Sarah (Sally) Bonesteel (1785-1867) was born in New York. Both William and Sarah Gay are buried in Evergreen Cemetery Hillsdale County, Michigan.

Sarah Bonesteel Gay was related to the Cornell family through Mary Ann Wood Cornell, the wife of Ezra Cornell. Mary Ann's mother, Mary Bonesteel Wood (1790-1878) was one of Sarah's younger sisters. Several of Ezra Cornell's family -- his mother, father and 3 sisters -- lived in the Albion area.

A website provided by The Cornell University Library called the [Ezra Cornell Papers](http://historical.library.cornell.edu/ezra/), is a wonderful site to research Ezra and his family and read his personal and professional documents. The site <http://historical.library.cornell.edu/ezra/> also contains interesting letters from or to Mary Ann Cornell from family members. In addition, some of the documents relate to business or family correspondence in and around Albion, Michigan. A majority of the collection is searchable with original documents scanned for viewing.

One letter in particular was written in 1853 by Mary Ann Cornell to her family in DeRuyter, New York as she and Ezra traveled to Michigan to visit relatives. In the letter, Mary Ann Cornell recalls a trip to Albion and then Hillsdale to find "Aunt Gay".

Traveling into the woods of Michigan must have been a long and arduous and sometimes frightening journey dur-

ing pioneer times.

Here is the transcribed letter -- none of the wording has been changed nor have the spelling errors been corrected -- Ezra Cornell Manuscripts Box 14 (reference page 448 folder 14-8); printed with permission by the Cornell University Library.

*Chicago, September 10, 1853*

*My Dear Children*

*I promised in my letter to Molly<sup>1</sup> to write you soon and now I will try and fulfill that promise. I believe you had a sketch of our journey as far as Albion<sup>2</sup> from your Father<sup>3</sup> so I will not give you a history of that but will try and commence where he left off. We arrived in two weeks ago yesterday since which we have been visiting around there. One week ago yesterday I was calculating to go to Hillsdale<sup>4</sup> with M.B.<sup>5</sup> and Mother<sup>6</sup> to find Aunt Gay<sup>7</sup>, but Emma<sup>8</sup> was taken sick in the night before we had to start and I had to give up going and we prevailed on Phebe<sup>9</sup> to go in my place. They started from Albion about seven in the morning and supposed they had no more than an easy days work to perform, but they found that their thirty mile journey was a long one. They rode until dark and could not hear anything of the folks they were in pursuit of and then they began to try to find lodgings for the night but no one would keep them and they kept on and finally came to a piece of woods that they had to go through and it was so dark when they got in the wood that they could not see anything they said but one bright star to be guided by to know what direction to take. They finally met three men, Phebe said she supposed they were highway robbers and should have thrown her pocketbook at them if she had have had it with her but she did not and so they did not rob her of course, but they stoped and inquired of them about the folks they were in pursuit of and they told them where to find Wm. Gay<sup>10</sup> and they were then about five miles from there so they went on and finally got there about ten o'clock at night, found them all a bed, they got up and mustered round and got them some supper and made them comfortable as they could, and the next day they succeeded in finding Aunt Sarah<sup>7</sup>. Monday they*

*came home and brought Aunt with them, glad enough to get back I can assure you, we left Albion for the west Thursday eleven o'clock arrived at Michigan City<sup>11</sup> about five where your father had some business to attend to and we stopped over until five yesterday when we left for Chicago arrived here about half past six stoped at the Matteson House where Mr. Cobb had provided comfortable quarters for us and here we are now. How long I shall be from Albion I cannot tell. I left both the children at Phebes with Jane<sup>12</sup>, Mother was up to south Albion when I left she seems to be enjoying her visit first rate.*

*Mary<sup>13</sup> is going to school with Kitty<sup>14</sup> and is so much taken up with it that I don't know as she will be willing to go home, Emma was well when I left and I hope will keep so, write me at Albion as soon as you receive this and tell me where Molly is and how she is enjoying herself whether her sisters are there and when they are coming to Michigan and if Molly is coming with them. I think of nothing more and will close with my love.*

*Ever your affectionate Mother. M. A. Cornell<sup>15</sup>.*

1. Molly \_\_\_\_\_
2. Albion, Michigan
3. Ezra Cornell 1807-1874
4. Hillsdale, Michigan
5. Martin B. Wood, brother of Mary Ann Wood Cornell
6. Mary Bonesteel Wood
7. Sarah Bonesteel Gay 1778-1867
8. Emma Cornell
9. Phebe Cornell Wood 1816-; wife of Martin B. Wood and sister of Ezra Cornell
10. William Gay, 1803-1857 son of Sarah Bonesteel Gay
11. Michigan City, Indiana
12. Jane Cornell, youngest sister to Ezra Cornell 1831-
13. Mary Emily Cornell, daughter of Mary Ann and Ezra Cornell 1847-1935
14. Kitty \_\_\_\_\_
15. Mary Ann (Wood) Cornell

Submitted by Margaret Gay Williams  
September 7, 2008

PART 4 OF 4: MEMOIRS OF BETTY JANE (RUNDLE) HAGERTY  
--GROWING UP POOR ON THE FARM --BUT HAPPY--

*This article is part 4 of a sharing story written by Betty Jane Hagerty .*

One last early memory has had a big influence on my life... In the fall of 1934 my Mother and I would walk to Marengo to the house of one of my best friends (still is), Margaret (McClure) Marshall. Her family had electricity and a radio! And that year we went there many days to listen to Ty Tyson and Harry Hileman announce the Detroit Tigers baseball games.

In 1934 they won the American League pennant and lost the World Series to the St. Louis Cardinals. But in 1935 they won the pennant and their first World Series from the Chicago Cubs. I was hooked on Tiger baseball and have been ever since! In fact, I love baseball-- from the big leagues down to the sand lot -- it's great!

When I was fourteen I entered Washington Gardner High School in Albion. The Perrines went to high school and college in Albion. I rode to school with them going to Albion instead of Marshall where most of my Marengo friends went. My sister Ione had also gone to Albion before me. As it turned out I also got to associate and make friends with kids from many ethnic backgrounds. Anyhow, I loved high school. I took as many subjects as I could cram into a six hour schedule (except math); including Gym and Swimming, History, Civics, World History, American Literature, English Literature, Speech, Thespian class, French, Economics, Typing, Chemistry -- and some I've probably forgotten, plus library methods and working in the school library, participating in every play we ever had, and a member of and holding

office in French Club, Latin Club, Thespian Club and the National Honor Society.

The normal dress for high school girls in the late thirties and early forties were dresses or tops and skirts with leather shoes. Cold weather tops were sweaters, pullovers or cardigans. A popular style that I loved included a wool skirt and a nice cardigan buttoned in back with a string of pearls. In warm weather a cotton dirndl skirt with a peasant blouse, white ankle socks and penny loafers or moccasins could be seen.

I graduated in 1941 and was Salutatorian of my class. I missed being the Valedictorian because of a B final grade in History. My teacher didn't really like me because I argued politics with her! The rest of my grades for four years were all A's. It got to be rather monotonous.

I dated a little in my junior and senior years. For the last event of our senior year, the Senior Dinner Dance held June 1941 at the Olds Hotel in Lansing, I accepted a date with Donald Orrie Hagerty. We both had full-time jobs that summer but continued to date. On one of those dates sitting in his parents' car on Albion Main Street Don gave me a small, but beautiful diamond ring. We were married the following year September 26, 1942.

So this brings me to the ending of my "influential" period, and to the Second World War. I graduated in June 1941 and December 7<sup>th</sup> of that year was when the bombing of Pearl Harbor took place. There was one continuing factor during a large part of that time -- the Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He served from March 4, 1933 to April 12, 1945, which was the day he died--three full terms plus a short time of



his fourth. So, from the time I was nine years old until I was almost twenty-two, President Roosevelt was a very large part of my life.

#### EPILOGUE

And always remember -- as my mother used to admonish me; "Clean up your plate - there are starving Armenians you know. "

I neglected to identify my family by name.

Father: Ellery John Rundle

Mother: Myra Josephine (Wetmore) Rundle

Sister: Ione Ora (Rundle) Fox

Maternal grandparents: John Clinton and Edith (Wales) Wetmore

Paternal grandparents -- Ellet and Ellen (Dedrich) Rundle (never knew them -- they died when my dad was about 9 to 11 years old.)

I also had three uncles, and an aunt on my mother's side; five uncles (plus one who died at age twenty or so who I never saw) on my dad's side and a lot of cousins. I also had a brother -- about a year or so older than me -- who was stillborn.

**Conclusion!**

## 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. We should have a sample available for you to view of Marenango Twp at the June membership meeting. We are getting together pricing and determining the number to produce. 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 OR at the June meeting. 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
- Link to facebook

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

### NEWSLETTER:

Postage and publishing costs have forced us to look for cost reductions in the newsletter. We are restricting the page size, added stapling and removed the fold to reduce costs. We have also pushed to complete the newsletter to hand out to members at the membership meetings to eliminate postage. AND we

are encouraging you to get your newsletter electronically. Hopefully these savings will allow us to continue to provide the newsletter to you without further measures.

### TRIPS:

CCGS is looking into a trip to Fort Wayne Allen County Library. Possible dates are end of October—first of November. Be on the look out for confirmation and further information.

If you have other interests, please contact a board member and express it. We are here for you!

## HELP WANTED!



Terms of service are up for our Recording Secretary Anita Stuever and Corresponding Secretary Lucinda Wilson. We REALLY appreciate all of their help over the years. They have been very dedicated volunteers but due to our term limits need to be replaced.



It's time for someone new to step in and contribute a few hours a month to help our organization. It really doesn't take much time and effort. Won't YOU consider giving back to our group?

The CCGS Board meets

the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7pm at the Gifford Schultz Educational Service Center—CISD Building except for months of July, August and December.

Briefly, the Recording Secretary is responsible for recording and reporting minutes of the board meetings. The Corresponding Secretary is responsible for communicating with members and outside organizations—responding to correspondence, etc.

Besides these two board positions, committee help

is needed. If you are good with a computer, or can do some research; if you can stamp mailings and run errands, consider volunteering. Contact a board member and let us know your skill and we will find a fit for you. Help is rarely turned away and is greatly appreciated. We are looking forward to working with YOU!



## 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 soon 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**

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CHECK US OUT ON ROOTSWEB!

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

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## 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.



23 ... June                      “Scrapbooking Your Genealogy” - Speaker Tammy  
Parsons

July                                No Meeting.

August                            No Meeting.

22 ... September              Annual Meeting, Election of Officers AND  
“familysearch.org”

27 ... October                  To Be Determined

21st Year of Calhoun County  
Genealogical Society!

2008-2009