

President's Note: Participating in your Society

by Jim Jackson, President

■ The Calhoun County Genealogical Society is greatly saddened by the loss of one of our very active members, Ann Heisler. Ann was the editor of this newsletter, among many other roles. Please see page six of this newsletter.

Our new vice-President Dave Eddy is the focus of this issue's Member Profile. Dave grew up in Calhoun county, is a member of several local organizations and brings much knowledge of the local area to our Society. This is the first chance for some of our members to get to know him better, although some members know him already.

If you have an interest in volunteering for our Society, please contact Sandy Redmond or myself. Contact information is located on page 2 of this newsletter. Opportunities are available

for a wide range of interests, and time commitments also vary. We want the mutual experience to be beneficial, so let us know your skills and amount of time available. The board meets at the CISD building the third Thursday of each month except July, August and December. You will receive more than you give.

To continue our newsletter, besides the immediate need for an editor, we are always in need of articles for publication. This is your newsletter. While I understand that your family history is not quite finished, it is always a good time to send in a branch of your complete tree. You might even benefit from our readers who might provide the clue to get you over a particular challenging brick wall.

Jim Jackson, President CCGS

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New at Willard Library

Willard Library is pleased to announce the addition to its Local History resources at the Helen Warner Branch of two new university-quality microfilm reader-scanners that initiate a new day for microfilm researchers. These ScanPro devices are, of course, computer-based, and using a program called PowerScan, provide a researcher with a wealth of options to enhance the images of old, often dark, tiny, out-of-focus, poorly contrasted microfilm and expedite the discovery of nuggets buried therein.

Further enhancing searches, these devices allow, in addition to simple printing, instantaneous scanning to email or scanning to data stick devices. If you love looking for history on microfilm, you will find them to be awesome. Stop in to the Branch at 35 Minges Creek Place, Battle Creek, and let me show them to you.

George Livingston, Local History Librarian

New at Willard, Continued

Ford, Carol Lee. *Genealogies of Rhode Island Families from Rhode Island Periodicals*, 2 vols. 1983.

Mitchell, Gordon. *Hastings Reminder/Banner Obituary Index*, 2003-2010.

Bockstruck, Lloyd DeWitt. *Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants Awarded by State Governments*.

Taylor, Sprague. *Tahquamenon Country—a look at its past*.

Lucas, Silas. *Marriages from Early Tennessee Newspapers 1794-1851*. 1958

Bankston, Carl L. *Encyclopedia of American Immigration*, 3 vols. 2010 "Providing both ready-reference features and in-depth information, these 533 articles discuss ethnic groups, historical events and eras, the lives and work of prominent immigrants, the 50 states in reference to the set's topic, and the most diverse U.S. cities. Overviews represent one-third of the articles; they are often augmented by

definitions, brief significance summaries, black-and-white photographs, and data. Further-reading suggestions are provided and cross-references noted. The seven appendices include a listing of relevant U.S. Supreme Court rulings, a time line of U.S. immigration history, and a filmography. The variety of indexes, which list individuals, court cases, laws and treaties, and more, will facilitate the investigation of even the broadest topics. A solid starting point for projects on any aspect of American immigration."

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 a nonprofit organization recognized as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. Individuals, libraries or societies may join. Annual dues for the year, beginning September 1, are \$18 for members choosing to receive *Generations* through postal mail or \$15 for members electing to receive the newsletter via e-mail. Memberships are accepted year-round; dues received after May 1 will pay for membership for the following year. Members receive *Generations* newsletter six times per year. General meetings are held at 7 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

James N. Jackson

(269) 288-1655 • jjacks01@yahoo.com

Vice President

Dave Eddy

(269) 962-4877 • morningmayor@comcast.net

Recording Secretary

Patricia Teachout

(269) 965-6598 • patteachouts@yahoo.com

Corresponding Secretary

Sandi Hartnell

(269) 986-3070 • hartnellsl@comcast.net

Treasurer

Art Adams

(269) 781-8019 • acadams1938@aol.com

Past President

Christopher Rau

(269) 962-6761 • csrau@comcast.net

Programs and Publicity Committee Chair

Dave Eddy

(269) 962-4877 • morningmayor@comcast.net

Membership Promotion Committee Chair

Marcie Telfer

(269) 963-3899 • matelfer@comcast.net

Records Preservation Committee Chair

Maureen Vire

(269) 962-0964 • MVire53@aol.com

Publication Committee Chair

Anita Stuever

(269) 969-4197 • anita@stuever.us

Cemetery Transcriptions Committee Chair and Pioneer Certificates Committee Chair

Verla Potts

(269) 781-8594 • V.Potts@att.net

Generations Newsletter Editor

Open

Hospitality Committee Chair

Open

Seeking Leadership Committee Chair

Sandy Redmond

(269) 275-1959 • sandyredmond@earthlink.net

Michigan Genealogical Council Delegates

James N. Jackson

(269) 288-1655 • jjacks01@yahoo.com

and

Open

Webmaster

Sandy Redmond

(269) 275-1959 • sandyredmond@earthlink.net

All are invited to submit articles to the **Generations** editor. Permission is granted to reprint articles unless otherwise noted. Please give appropriate credit to the source. Copies of pages from back issues of **Generations** are available for \$1.00 for the first page and \$.50 for each additional page.

NOTE: Newsletter copies from 1998 to 2007 are also available on the internet at

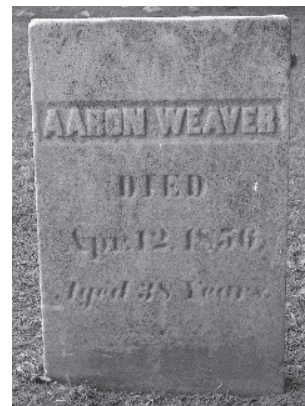
http://www.rootsweb.com/~micalhou/generations_images.htm

PO Box 879, Marshall MI 49068-0879 • MichiganCalhounGene@yahoo.com • <http://www.rootsweb.com/~micalhou/ccgs.htm>

June Meeting Features Local History

The City of Marshall has received a second National Scenic Byways Grant for improvements to three local museums and the promotion of the State designated History Heritage Route (Marshall's Territorial Road). The route is located within the National Historic Landmark District and within the Main Street program area. One of the Museums being improved is the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Hall. **Martin Overhiser**, the City's Project Manager, will review the improvements being completed to the 1902 GAR Hall Civil War Museum. This building is owned by the Marshall Historical Society and also houses the Local History Archives. **Jennifer Wood**, an archives consultant, is advising the Society on how best to store, organize, and catalog the historical records in the collection. She will also speak at the Calhoun County Genealogy Society meeting at the Gifford Schultz Educational Service Center—CISD building, 17111 G Drive North, Marshall at 7:00 p. m. Tuesday June 28.

Remember—No CCGS meetings held during the months of July and August. Summer is a great time for cemetery research!



CCGS Election of Officers, Leadership Positions Still to be Filled

At the September meeting of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society we will hold our annual election of officers. All of our officers are returning, with the exception of our treasurer Art Adams who has reached the end of his term. The 2011-2012 slate of officers therefore is as follows:

President—Jim Jackson

Vice President—Dave Eddy

Recording Secretary—Pat Teachout

Corresponding Secretary—Sandi Hartnell

Treasurer—Sandy Redmond

Membership—Marcie Telfer

We are urgently seeking someone to take over as editor of our newsletter, Generations.

CCGS has room on its board for more leaders. We are looking for a **delegate to the Michigan Genealogical Council**. In addition, we need someone for **Chair of the**

Hospitality Committee.

The **Making Connections Committee** provides research and aid to genealogists. The **Promotion of Genealogy Committee** carries out projects that promote genealogy, such as the Pioneer Certificate project.

With no staff, volunteers are the lifeblood of our society. It takes many hours to carry out the important work of an active society, but many volunteers make light work.

Officers and committee chairs attend monthly board meetings to make important decisions for the society. It's rewarding to have a hand in carrying out worthwhile projects, meeting people and having fun in the process.

The board meets in Marshall on the third Thursday of the month. Please consider sharing your time and talents. Please contact President Jim Jackson at (269) 288-1655 or jjacks01@yahoo.com ■

Did you know? Calhoun County Histories Available Online

Thanks to the Michigan County Histories Project of the Michigan Council of Libraries, the complete texts of several published county histories are available on the internet. Fully searchable, these histories are great resources for researching Calhoun County right from your own home. For a link go to www.rootsweb.com/~micalhou/history.htm Examples include:

Biographical Review of Calhoun County, Michigan, Hobart and Mather, 1904

1830-1877 History of Calhoun County, Michigan, L. H. Everts, 1988.

Portrait and Biographical Album of Calhoun County, Michigan, Chapman Brothers, 1891. ■

Technology Tip: Finding Your Family's Inventions

By Anita C. Stuever

Do you have an inventor in your family history? You can find out whether your ancestor received any U.S. patents by using a computer connected to the Internet and Google's new United States Patents Search feature. You no longer have to pay a patent lawyer or patent-research service. Larry Randall explains how, using the example of a Springport, Michigan, inventor, Clarence Heisler.

You can search the full text of U.S. patents from the Google Patents search home page, or visit the Advanced Patent Search page to search by criteria such as patent number, inventor and filing date. The database covers the entire collection of patents issued (about 7 million) and more than a million patent applications made

available by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) from patents issued from the 1790s through recent months.

Larry says to start by logging onto the Google Patents search engine at <http://www.google.com/patents>. Type Clarence Heisler in the box,

Some online patent search engines

Free Patents Online

<http://www.freepatentsonline.com>

Google Patents

<http://www.google.com/patents>

Lens Patent

<http://www.patentlens.net>

Patents.com

<http://www.patents.com>

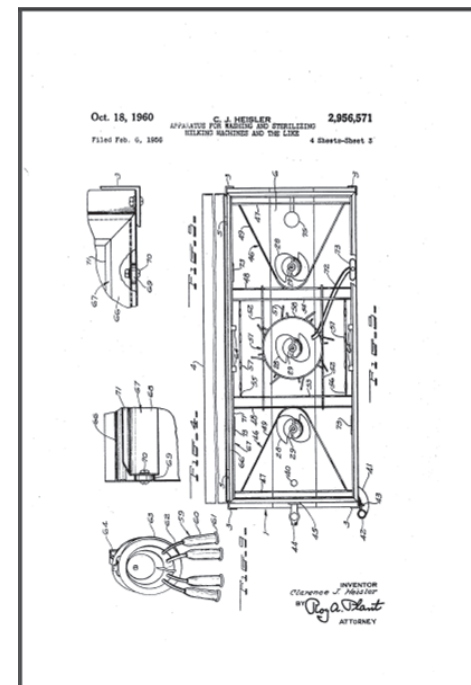
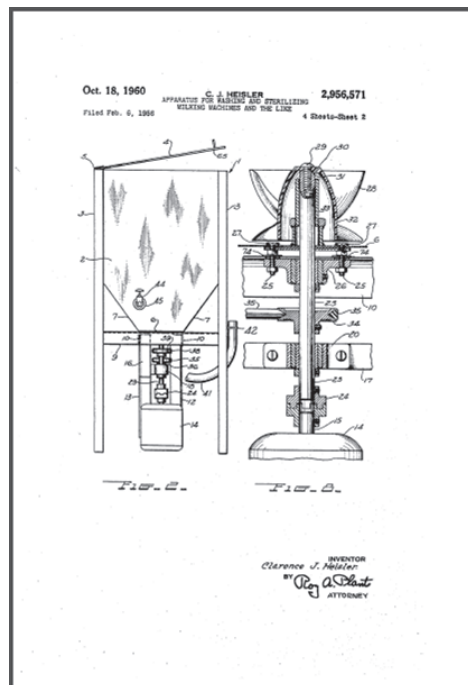
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

<http://www.uspto.gov/patents/process/search>

then click Search Patents. In this example, a list of seven inventions is returned, each with a link to the actual U.S. patent record. Larry clicked the HEISLER link, the third result. This returned the patent record for Heisler's Apparatus for Washing and Sterilizing Milking Machines and the Like, dated more than a half-century ago. From there, Larry could read and download the patent document, including illustrations of the invention.

According to Larry, Clarence Heisler was better known for excellent farming skills and his position as president of the editorial committee that published the book, *The History of Clarence Township: Then and Now*, published by the Clarence Township Historical Society in 1994.

A few pages from "Apparatus for Washing and Sterilizing Milking Machines and the Like," Patent Number 2,956,571, patented October 18, 1960, Clarence J. Heisler, Springport, Michigan



Inventions, from previous page

Clarence's farm was atop Courtright Hill, according to Larry. In earlier days, Larry says, "the hill was an obstacle feared by local threshing machine operators." He continues, "Their steam engines could not get enough traction in the sandy road to get up the hill. The next road north was through the Ponto Sinkhole, another scary stretch of road for operators of the heavy machines."

Clarence once told Larry, "If I didn't love farming so much, I'd go into inventing and manufacturing."

It takes only a few minutes to try Google Patents search, and you may be surprised to find multiple inventors in your family! ■

The History of Clarence Township: Then and Now, a hardbound 316-page book, 8½ by 11 inches, is available for \$25 from:

- Clarence Township Hall, 27052 R Dr N, Albion, MI 49224-9448, (517) 857-2288 or (517) 629-6977
- Lester Heisler: (517) 857-3332

Records Preservation Committee: Preserving for future generations

After donating 15 rolls of probate record microfilm to George Livingston at the Helen Warner Branch Library last October, we have continued to prepare and film more probate records. We are currently working to prepare file number 21-970, which is a record from the early 1930's. We have 16 boxes of files yet to complete which will take us through file number 23-785, as well as a box of miscellaneous files that were not previously filmed.

Currently there are only three of us working on these records, so we are always looking for new volunteers or volunteers that once worked on the project and would like to help again. We meet in the basement of the Toeller building in Battle Creek on Tuesday mornings from 9-12 to work on the records, but we are willing to accommodate other schedules. You never know what you might find in the files as we have found everything from birth and death certificates to complete family trees. If a volunteer finds a file pertaining to one of their family members they may take the file after it has been filmed. This past year I found my second greatgrandmother's probate record and other volunteers have found files that relate to their family members. The files give you a good insight as to what things were like in the 1930's and we can't help but marvel at the prices of things as we search through receipts that are part of the files. It is our hope that in making these records accessible we may help someone else in their quest to find family members that have gone before them. If you are interested in helping with this project, you can contact me at mvire53@aol.com or 962-0964.

Maureen Vire, Records Preservation Chair

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

E-mail address _____

*Include \$18 to receive **Generations** newsletter by postal mail
OR \$15 to receive an electronic copy via email.*

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

The membership year is September 1st through August 31st but new members are welcome at any time. Memberships received after May 30th will extend through the following August 31st.

☐

Check if you would like to receive *Generations* newsletter by e-mail in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format instead of postal mail.

☐

Membership card requested

CCGS Use only: Check number _____ Amount _____ Date Received _____ Paid-through date _____

In Memoriam: Ann Heisler

We are very sorry to report that after a long and courageous battle against cancer that Ann Heisler has passed away. Ann was a vibrant spirit. She was an extremely dedicated volunteer for the Calhoun County Genealogy Society, working on several projects including cemetery publications, transcription projects and serving as editor of our outstanding newsletter. She was also co-coordinator of the Calhoun County MIGenWeb site. Ann was a computer whiz, and took many of our projects into a new level of technical proficiency. She will be greatly missed not only for her contributions to CCGS but for her kindness, her lovely smile, and her passion for excellence. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her husband Kim, her mother Peggy Parrott and the rest of her family and friends. Her obituary follows.

Ann Marie Heisler, 52, of Freeland, died at home with her loving husband and mother at her side, on May 4, 2011.

Ann was born in Lansing, on Jan. 17, 1959 to Peggy Jo Parrott and Charles Parrott. She was raised in Olivet and graduated from Olivet High School in 1977. On April 9, 1977 she married her sweetheart, Kim D. Heisler in Charlotte.

Ann was the former volleyball Coach for Merrill High School, Bullock Creek High School, Hemlock High School, Saginaw Heritage High School, Carrolton High School, Saginaw Arthur Hill High School, and Bay City Western



High School. She completed CAP training in 2009. Ann coached AAU and Club Volleyball at Valley Club, Saginaw Club and Hangtime Sports Club. She served at the secretary, coach and president of Southtown Little League Baseball and she also served District One Little League as Assistant District Administrator/Information Officer. Ann was a member of Calhoun County Genealogy Society.

Ann is survived by her husband, Kim of Freeland; daughters, Paula J. Heisler (Bobby Herbert) of St. Louis, MO, Rachel K. (David) Dice of Midland; son, Sgt. Kevin Heisler of Ft. Drum, NY; granddaughter, Isabel Dice; grandson, Braydon Dice; mother, Peggy Jo Parrott of Charlotte; father, Charles Parrott of Belmont; father in law and mother in law, Dewey and Shirley Heisler of Olivet; sister, Elizabeth (Michael) Beaudry; brother, Matthew (Melody) Parrott; brothers in law, Gregg (Susan) Heisler, Jeff (Christine) Heisler and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

A Funeral Service was held at 11:00 am on Tuesday, May 10 at Smith-Miner Funeral Home, 2700 W. Wackerly with Hospice Pastor Chris Lauckner officiating. Those considering an expression of sympathy may wish to consider the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association Scholarship Fund (MIVCA). Online condolences can be given at smithminer.com. Send your condolences: regrets@smithminer.com

Works in Progress: Members of Colgrove GAR Post #166 Marshall

The next issue of *Generations* will feature a list of veterans who were members of the local GAR post. In addition to the names of nearly 200 men who were on the roster, the list includes another 100 veterans who were not officially on the roll. Data includes year of birth, unit served in, death date and burial location, if known. Sample below:

NAME	YOB	DIED			UNIT	CEMETERY	TOWNSHIP
		M	D	Y			
Mead, Watson B.	1825	6	3	1896	MI 25, A	Oakridge Cemetery	Marshall Twp
Frink, Norris J.	1842	5	2	1890	MI 25, A	Oakridge Cemetery	Marshall Twp
Walters, Charles F.		8	24	1910	MI 2 Cav, M	Oakridge Cemetery	Marshall Twp

Member Profile: Vice President Dave Eddy

In this issue, CCGS is pleased to welcome Dave Eddy as the society's new Vice President.

I was born in Albion, the youngest of four sons to Hewitt C. and Edna E. (Bergstresser) Eddy, and graduated from Washington Gardner High School (Albion High School) in 1956. In 2005, I was named a Distinguished Alumnus.

Within days of high school graduation, I started working for the local radio station WALM. After 4½ years, WBCK in Battle Creek hired me as a staff announcer. I remained with WBCK for 48 years and still do some on-air work occasionally. I've also done a weekly Community Access Television program for more than 20 years.

I have been in the broadcast business well over 50 years. I've been called the "Morning Mayor" for many years, having hosted the Morning Show for 47 years.

I have traced my ancestors to the Rev. William Eddy, born in the 1500s. He was vicar of St. Dunstan's Church in Cranbrook, County Kent, England. Two of his sons arrived at Plymouth aboard *The Handmaid* in 1630. One son was Samuel Eddy, born in 1608, from whom I am descended. He and his wife lived in Plymouth, in what is now Massachusetts, for many years, eventually moving to Swansea, Massachusetts, where they are buried in The Olde Eddy Burial Ground.

Another great grandfather is William Chivvis, born in 1748 in Virginia. He joined the First Virginia Volunteer Corps in 1777 as a gunner. He served in the Battle of Monmouth,

New Jersey, under General George Washington, and at Fort Stevens, Virginia. He spent that horrendous winter with Washington at Valley Forge, and was discharged in 1780.

It was a great thrill to finally locate William's grave at Cypress Hills Cemetery on Long Island in 2010. He had been buried on the Island of Manhattan in 1823. Land became too valuable, however, so in the mid-1800s all the graves in the Old Dutch Reformed Collegiate Cemetery were disinterred in the dark of night, loaded onto a barge, taken across the East River and re-interred at Cypress Hills.

Through my interest in genealogy, I pieced together this fascinating story. Because of William's service in the Revolutionary War, I joined the Sons of the Revolution and now serve on Michigan's board of managers.

Other great grandsons of William Chivvis served in the American Civil War — including my great grandfather John Chivvis of Union City, Michigan. Through him and another great grandfather on my mother's side, Adam Porr, I joined the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) and served as commander of Camp #22 in Marshall.

The Chivvis family arrived in Michigan in the 1830s as pioneers in Calhoun County, appearing on the census rolls of Burlington Township in 1850.

The Chivvis-Porr-Bergstresser-Eddy families have been serving this country since before it became a

country. Our families have been represented in almost all, if not all, of the nation's conflicts.

More recently, two of my brothers, Max and Richard, served in World War II and two of my sons, Donald and David, in the Air Force. David recently returned from Iraq and continues his 25-plus years of active service in the Air National Guard. I served in the Michigan Army National Guard for eight years.

The family has long been active in Freemasonry, going back to the 1800s. My uncle, Charles Burdette Eddy, became the grand master of Michigan Masons in 1919. I was honored to receive the highest degree of Masonry in 2005. I'm a life member of the fraternity.

I've had the pleasure of being involved in many organizations, including the Battle Creek Community Foundation, where a fund was set up in my name to benefit the community. I am an amateur radio operator, former board member of the Humane Society, Rotary Club, past president of the Exchange Club, and member of the Union City and Albion Historical Societies, among other community activities.

My wife Sue Ann Barnes Eddy and I have a blended family of three girls, three boys, eight grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. We live in Battle Creek during the warm months and in North Fort Myers, Florida, in the winter. ■

— David H. Eddy

Generations

Calhoun County Genealogical Society

PO Box 879

Marshall, MI 49068-0879

*Spend time with your favorite
ancestor this summer—
transcribe a cemetery!*

Calhoun County Genealogical Society *Calendar of Events*

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.

The topics of our upcoming meetings have yet to be determined, but here are the dates so you can add them to your calendar!

July and August 2011—*No meetings*

September 27—*Annual election of officers*

October 25

November 22

December—*No meeting*

January 24, 2012—*Annual “Hints and Anecdotes” meeting*

February 28

March 27

April 24

May 22

June 26

Have a meeting idea? Please let us know what you would like to learn more about!