

President's Message

by *Alex VanZanten*

I would like to start out by thanking everybody for attending our annual election meeting in September, and for the confidence you showed in me by electing me as your president. I want to thank Jim Johnson, our out-going president for the time and service he has given to the society. A big thank you goes to Sandy Hartnell for the wonderful job she has done as corresponding secretary. I also would like to thank John Baker for filling in as our treasurer the last few months. As most of you know, these jobs don't take a great deal of time, but it is through their efforts that we are able to keep this society going.

I would like to thank Brenda Leyndyke for taking on the positions of vice-president and programs and publicity. I would also like to thank Darlene Stange for agreeing to be the recording secretary and also a thank you to Art Adams for taking on the treasury position. We would also like to acknowledge Chelsea Johnson, she is one of the new librarians at Marshall Public Library, and she has taken the job of research for the committee. I was not sure we were going to be able to continue as a society until these people stepped up to take on these positions and we all appreciate their dedication and willingness to fulfill these positions. Remember this is our society and if we want to keep it going we need to support it!

Since this is our society we as your new board need your input as to

speakers, topics, personal stories, and road trips. Even though the internet has made our jobs easier and with so much more information quickly available to us, I still feel we can learn a lot from each other. This brings us to our upcoming October meeting which will be held on Tuesday, October 22 at 7:00 at the Albion Public Library, 501 S. Superior St., Albion. Jennifer Wood, the library's new historian, will be talking to us about what resources are available and how to use them. This will also be our 25th anniversary celebration! Yes, we will have cake!

At this time our November meeting plans have not yet been confirmed. We will hopefully be visiting the old Grand Trunk station in Battle Creek. That building now houses the Calhoun Community Action Agency. The address is 175 Main Street, Battle Creek. You can "google" Grand Trunk Station Battle Creek to see photos and a history of the building. Hopefully we will have final details at our October meeting and it will be on our web page as well. Our January meeting will be at the LDS Church building in Marshall and will be our Show-and-Tell meeting and February will be our Lock-In at the Helen Warner Library in Battle Creek with George Livingston.

We hope to see everyone at the upcoming meetings – please don't hesitate to invite friends that might be

interested in the meeting topics or genealogy in general.



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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 the following year's membership. Members receive **Generations** newsletter six times per year. 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. General meetings are held at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at the LDS Marshall Branch Church 16036 Old US -27, 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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Become a CCGS fan on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CalhounCountyGenealogicalSociety>

CCGS e-mail list: Send a message to calhouncountygss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

Organizational Member of **National Genealogical Society • Michigan Genealogical Council • Federation of Genealogical Societies**

CCGS 25th Anniversary

The Calhoun County Genealogical Society (CCGS) will be celebrating its' 25th anniversary on Tuesday, October 22nd at 7 p.m. during their regular meeting. Members and guests are invited to attend the meeting at Albion District Library, 501 S. Superior St, Albion, Michigan as we celebrate our anniversary. The Albion Library has been an important part of the society's history. Seminars and meetings have been held there throughout the past twenty five years.

The Calhoun County Genealogical Society's (CCGS) early history is tied to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah when six Albion researchers met while doing research at the library and decided that Calhoun County needed a genealogical society. CCGS was founded in 1988 with 11 founders and incorporators. There were 98 charter members of the CCGS.

The Founders of the CCGS were Patricia Geyer, Valerie Radee, Marilyn P. Hennon, Joan Von Holten, Margaret M. "Peggy" Sindt, and Martha Smith. The Incorporators included the six founders and Marlene L. Plassman, Helen L. Radee, Ramona Short, Mary T. Dunes and M. John Fox. In addition, the CCGS has four Honorary Life Members: Verla Potts, Ruth Kaiser, Georgia Brown(deceased) and Hazel Miller(deceased).

The society has grown to over 150 members throughout the United States. It has been instrumental in preserving the history of Calhoun County. The CCGS has sponsored numerous educational programs and research trips, published monthly newsletters and eleven genealogy related publications, maintained a website, awarded pioneer certificates and microfilmed records of early settlers and residents of Calhoun County.

Our October program will inform participants about the local and family history resources available at the Albion Public Library, including a tour of the local history section. The public is welcome to attend our October meeting and help us celebrate 25 years of serving the genealogical community of Calhoun County.



CCGS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Use this form to pay annual CCGS dues. Your membership expiration date is printed on the top line of your mailing label.

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Email address _____

Alternative email address _____

Surnames researching _____

Save money on dues! Pay \$18 to receive **Generations** newsletter by postal mail or only \$15 to receive it via email.

The membership year is September 1 through August 31, but new members are welcome at any time. Dues received between June 1 and August 31, 2013, will cover membership through August 31, 2014.

Your name, contact information and the surnames you are researching will be published in this Annual Membership and Surname Directory. To opt out of sharing your information with CCGS members, you may contact Membership Chair Marcie Telfer.

Please make a check payable to Calhoun County Genealogical Society or CCGS and send it to Membership Chair
Calhoun County Genealogical Society
PO Box 879
Marshall, MI 49068-0879

- ☐ Check if you would like to receive **Generations** newsletter by email in Adobe Reader (PDF) format instead of postal mail.

- ☐ Check to request a membership card.

CCGS use: Check number _____ Amount _____ Date received _____ Paid-through date _____

CCGS DIRECTORY CORRECTION FORM

Use this form to correct information published in the current directory. Please print your name exactly as you want it published. Below your name, complete only lines where changes are needed. Information will be saved for future editions of the directory.

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Email address _____

Alternative email address _____

To request a searchable PDF file of this 2012-2013 Annual Membership and Surname Directory, please email Anita Stuever at MichiganCalhounGene@yahoo.com.

Add these surnames I am researching _____

Delete these surnames from my list _____

Please send to Membership Chair

MichiganCalhounGene@yahoo.com or

CCGS use: Date received _____ Correction(s) made _____

2013-2014 Calhoun County Genealogical Society Officers and Committee Chairs



Pictured are (front row) Maureen Vire, Glenda Peckham, Verla Potts, Anita Stuever, Janice Goodson, Brenda Leyndyke, Darlene Stange. (back row) Art Adams, Jim Jackson, Tom Peckham, Alex VanZanten.

We would like to welcome all the new officers to the Society. Alex VanZanten is the new president, our ex-vice president. Brenda Leyndyke is our new Vice President. Arthur Adams is the new Treasurer. Darlene Stange is our new recording Secretary.

We would like to thank the outgoing officers for their years of service. Jim Jackson will continue on the board as past-president and we appreciate his ongoing expertise. Sandi Hartnell will be missed as she did an excellent job as Corresponding Secretary. A Special thank you to John Baker for filling in for the remainder of last year's term as Treasurer.

Alex VanZanten

I was born in Battle Creek in 1947. I graduated from Lakeview High School in 1965. I have always been interested in my family history. After high school I enlisted in the Marine Corp and was stationed in California, where I lived for eleven years. While in California I joined the LDS Church and started working on my family genealogy. I started working for the LDA Church and moved to Utah in 1986. After retiring from retail (Fred Myer) I married my high school sweetheart and returned to Michigan.

My mother's parents moved from England to Battle Creek in 1909. My grandfather was Adamson Bell. My grandmother was a Flemming. My father's ancestors came from the Netherlands in 1847 with the Dutch that settled in the Holland, Michigan area.

I have been the Family History Consultant for the LDS Church and volunteer in the LDS Genealogy Library in Battle Creek. When Sandy Hartnell indicated that the CCGS needed a new place to meet I volunteered the LDS Church building in Marshall. Since I have the keys they made me the vice-president! I look forward to helping people who are as interested in genealogy as I am.

Brenda Leyndyke

My interest in genealogy began about six years ago when my father wanted to write an autobiography, but didn't know a lot about his family. I told him I would see what I could find out. Finding his father's WWI draft registration record was all it took and I was hooked.

Researching my family history led me to become the author of three family history blogs:

1. **Journey to the Past:** a blog I created to record my journey as I research the ancestors of my eight great grandparents, all who settled in Michigan. Journey to the Past blog was selected as a 2013 Top 40 Best Genealogy Blog by Family Tree Magazine.
2. **Journey to His Past:** a blog I created to record my husband's family history.
3. **Journey to My Past:** this is a newly created blog where I am participating in a blog writing series, "The Book of Me, Written by You", which will explore my personal history.

During my non-genealogical time, one will find me with my husband, Kirk, being empty nesters in Battle Creek. We are the parents of two adult children: Kirsten, a singer and actress in Chicago, and Travis, the director of student ticket sales at University of Florida, in Gainesville, Florida.

My past professional life included being a Home Economics teacher in Marlette, Michigan, a substitute teacher at local schools, a Nutrition Educator for the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program and a stay at home mom-the best job ever.

I look forward to helping the society grow in my role as Vice President. If there are any suggestions for topics or speakers that you would like to see at our meeting, please let me know. My email address is: brae957@gmail.com.

Darlene (Palmiter) Stange

I have always been interested in family history. My Grandma Palmiter was an only child who lost her mother when she was only 21. She was especially attached to her three aunts on her mother's side and was forever talking to me about her family, the Dotys, Richardsons, and Walkinshaws.

Several years ago I began researching the Palmiter family. My Grandfather and his father operated the Palmiter Dairy at 553 Maple Street (N. E. Capital Ave.) by Piper Park from 1922 to 1946, when they sold it to Ashley Dairy. They also had a farm on 14 Mile Road in Convis Township that had been in the family since the 1850s. Both Grandma (Richardson) and Grandpa Palmiter grew up in Convis Township, and when I looked at Plat Maps and Census Reports for Convis Twp. I learned that there were Dotys, Richardsons, Walkinshaws, Palmiters, and Gibbs farms in Convis Twp. Many are buried in Austin Cemetery, Hicks Cemetery, Bellevue's Riverside Cemetery, and Oak Hill Cemetery.

My oldest Michigan ancestor was Enos Palmiter. He was a minister and farmer who moved to Convis Twp. from Ohio in the 1850s. Now that I am retired, I want to research Convis Union Methodist Church records to find out if he had been a minister of that church. I also want to obtain a Pioneer Certificate and will work on that this year. Enos's father was Joshua Palmiter, a soldier in the Revolutionary War. Joshua is buried in Cuyahoga Co., Ohio. I need to secure proof of this relationship so that I can become a member of the DAR.

Work responsibilities kept me from attending CCGS meetings last year, but I retired in September and am looking forward to serving as Recording Secretary this year.

Arthur Adams

I previously served a four year term as treasurer of CCGD. I am 75 years old and have been in the Albion/Marshall area all my life. I am widowed and have 5 step children who really aren't children any more.

Generations

Calhoun County Genealogical Society
PO Box 879
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Next Meeting is Oct
22nd. 25th Anniversary
meeting

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 LDS Marshall Branch Church at 16036 Old US-27 N, Marshall MI.

October 22 - 25th Anniversary Celebration! We will be meeting at Albion District, Library 501 South Superior St. Jennifer Wood the Historical Librarian will discuss the holdings in the History Room.

November 26 - Tour of Battle Creek former Grand Trunk Railroad Depot at 175 Main St.

December—No Meeting

January 28, 2014 Show and Tell by our members. Back to our regular location and a chance to share success stories and break-down brick walls in your research.

February 28 Lock-in at the Helen Warner Branch of the Willard Library in Battle Creek.

March 25- Making the Most out of Family Tree-Learn about Family Search's Family Tree. Presenter: Glenda Peckham

April 22-What's in Your Genealogist's Research Bag?-Our panel of experts will share their must have research tools for a trip to a cemetery, library, archive, family interview or genealogy road trip.

Have ideas for future programs? Please contact Vice President Brenda Leyndyke, whose contact information is on page 2.