

President's Message

by Alex VanZanten

President's Note: Let's All Share and Learn

Now that the holidays are over, the trees and the decorations are put away, it is time to get back down to business. I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays as much as we did. We had 15 here for Christmas, which is about half of our family. I hope that you were able to spend time with family and that you were able to hear new family stories to add to your family history.

During this season sometimes it is good to keep to yourself and allow your thoughts to just develop. It allows you to think and develop ideas and actions. However, the down side with genealogy is, it does not allow you to interact and learn from others. We have a great opportunity coming on Tuesday, January 28 at 7:00 at the LDS Church in Marshall, 16036 Old US 27 North, to be able to

learn and share our knowledge with our up-coming Show-and-Tell Session. Be sure to come with ideas to share - you might want to come prepared to take notes.

Just a reminder, as you are doing your searches there are many great resources such as, the local libraries, the LDS Family Research center, and the Allen County Public Library (www.acpl.lib.in.us) in Fort Wayne, Indiana. They have a genealogy link on their home page. During the fourth week in February, we will have our lock-in at the Helen Warner Library Branch in Battle Creek.

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, January 28 – I hope all of you will be able to attend.



Put 7 p.m. Friday, February 28th on your calendar and join us for our February 'Lock In' meeting at Helen Warner Branch of Willard Library, 36 Minges Creek Place, Battle Creek, Michigan. George Livingston, Local History Librarian, will be our host as we spend an evening at the library. There is no charge for this event. The library will be closed to the public during this time. Feel free to invite a friend and join us for a night of research and fun, door prizes will be given out. We ask that you RSVP by Wednesday, February 26th to Brenda Leyndyke at 269 275-0462 or brae957@gmail.com so we can plan for your arrival. I hope to see you there.

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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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Calhoun County Genealogical Society

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Become a CCGS fan on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CalhounCountyGenealogicalSociety>

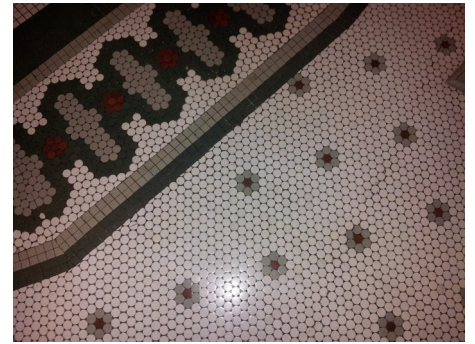
CCGS e-mail list: Send a message to calhouncountygss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

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



We enjoyed a tour of the old Grand Trunk Depot. Built in 1906 it was an active Train Depot until 1971. The building was renovated in 1989. The WK Foundation via a grant allowed the Community Action Agency to purchase and renovate the building for office space. They have preserved the features that made the Depot unique and have made it possible to undo the office space additions if desired.

They have the faux marble columns, the floor tiles, and the ticket booth. They have retained the stained glass windows, and the fireplace. They have also saved the original water fountains, even though they are no longer functional.



James Tanner wrote this in his blog.

Flash Drive Disaster -- Genealogists Beware!!!

A common sight at FamilySearch Centers and other places frequented by genealogists is the researcher with a flash drive around his or her neck on a lanyard. I'm also fully aware that many genealogists use their flash drive as a primary backup device. This is not all bad since flash drives are reliable and relatively secure ways to store data files. However, there is a setting on all flash drives that can make saving files subject to risk of losing all of the data. This problem was called to the attention of the missionaries and volunteers at the Mesa FamilySearch Library by one of the directors, Adrian Kuzdas in a memo. Adrian formerly worked for Microchip Technology as the vice president of Microchip's Security, Microcontroller and Automotive Division and has first-hand knowledge of the flash drive manufacturing processes. According to Adrian,

To boost performance on flash drives, the manufacturers provide the ability to cache memory between the drive and your host PC. Although this performance advantage is something most people would never need, there is a setting to allow it and it creates a potentially hazardous situation.

Manufacturers typically don't enable this feature on drives they sell and leave that procedure to a knowledgeable user, but lately I have seen flash memory devices come right out of the blister pack from the manufacturer with that feature enabled..... very very risky.

When caching, the drive hangs it all out there for the PC to rapidly edit, but doesn't write all the data back until you do a formal eject (you all do that don't you??). Well, if there is a power glitch, or somehow you pull the drive out of the PC without the proper ejection sequence, guess what... the data WILL be corrupted (and generally not recoverable if you leave the host PC and move on).

I have been cautioned in the past to make sure that my flash drive was properly ejected before removing it from the computer. However, I have read a number of articles that give the opinion that removing the flash drive, as long as it was not in use, was perfectly okay. Apparently, those who wrote these articles were unaware of the problems caused by a premature removal of the flash drive. In fact, it is likely that some of the problems that we have experienced at the Mesa FamilySearch Library relate to this very problem. This occurs when a patron complains that they have lost the data that they thought they were saving to their flash drive.

I usually check my flash drive before I leave to make sure that all of the files that I've copied, or thought I had copied onto the flash drive, are still there. Adrian suggests the following procedures:

Check your drives to disable this feature:

- 1) Insert the drive into the PC
- 2) Click on My Computer or Computer and find the drive
- 3) Right click on the drive letter and left click on Properties (might take a moment)
- 4) Left click on Hardware and left click on Properties
- 5) Left click on Policies (some drives won't have this... that's good... you're done!)
- 6) Make sure Enable Write Caching is not checked. Some drives will have a check box indicating that checking the box DISABLES write caching, then you want that box checked. Whatever it takes to assure that Write Caching is disabled!
- 7) Click OK

You are now MUCH MUCH safer with your data, but as always, be sure to back up anything you don't ever want to lose. This is good sense common practice for all electronic media.

A word to the wise and a warning to the unwise.

Improve Your Research Skills through Webinars

The recent cold weather we have been having throughout Michigan is the perfect time to stay inside and improve your research skills or learn more about genealogical topics through a webinar.

Webinar is short for a web based seminar. It may be in the form of a power point presentation, lecture, or workshop presented over the internet. There are a variety of geneawebinars (genealogy webinars) to choose from, so check one, or more out, you won't be disappointed.

The information needed to sign up usually includes your name, an email address to send you the link for the webinar, your state, and occasionally a non-personal question or two. Here are five free webinar resources:

Friends of the National Archives-Southeast Region: Webinars on a variety of topics including federal census, military records, DNA, using Library of Congress, and other record sources. Register at <http://friendsnas.org/webinarSch.htm>

Illinois Genealogical Society offers a variety of topics, free to all, that reaches viewers beyond Illinois. Upcoming topics include Dissecting 19th and 20th Century Compiled Genealogies; DNA Discoveries; Using Canadian Records to find Midwestern Ancestors; Organizing a Family Reunion; and more. Register at <http://www.ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=227> A brochure of upcoming webinars can be found at http://ilgensoc.org/upload/menu/2014_Webinar_Brochure.pdf

Legacy Family Tree Webinars may be the most well-known of webinar providers. They provide weekly, sometimes twice a week, webinars on a variety of topics. They cover using Legacy Family Tree software as well as topics on research of different countries, using newspapers, surname resources, technology and genealogy, google earth, best websites for genealogy, organizational tips, estate, wills and so much more. If you haven't attended a webinar before I would suggest starting here. Register at <http://www.familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php>

New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) offers free and open to the public webinars. One does not have to belong to the society to view them. Upcoming topics include Getting the Most from NEHGS; Ten Steps to Writing and Publishing Your Family History, and New England Resources at NEHGS. Register at <http://www.americanancestors.org/online-programs/>

Roots Magic is a genealogy software program. Roots Magic offers webinars on how to use their software. Many of their past webinars are available at their website for free. Although they do not have any upcoming webinars listed on their site, one will be busy for weeks watching older ones. View at <http://www.americanancestors.org/online-programs/>

So, grab your favorite hot beverage, sit back and enjoy an hour of genealogical education away from the cold, blowing snow. You won't be disappointed.

Annual Membership List and Surname list.

The Board has decided to postpone the distribution of the Membership and Surname Lists until the next newsletter due to the fact that we have quite a few members who have not renewed yet and we want to give them a chance to receive the lists. Enclosed in this newsletter is a membership form so if you have not renewed and wish to receive the newsletter and the lists please submit the form asap. Also, this is the last chance to make any changes to your Surname List.

The Board has discussed the value of the Surname List to the members. We will be distributing it this year, but we would like feedback as to how useful this has been to the membership. Please let us know if you use the list and would like to continue to receive it.

Notes of Interest

October, 2013 saw the opening of the **Charles C. and Lynn L. Zhang Legacy Collection Center**, formerly the WMU Archives and Regional History Center, at **1650 Oakland Drive, Kalamazoo, MI. (269 387-8490)**

The new building has 28,000 cubic feet of storage. Items of interest to genealogists include oral histories, census records, letters and diaries, photographic collections, books and many resources for the southwest Michigan area and beyond.

Hours for the Zhang Legacy Collection Center are

Tuesday-Friday: 8:00am-5 pm

Saturday: 9 am -4 pm

Sunday: Closed

Parking is in lot 108 near the Center. There are two metered visitor spaces. A Day Pass may be purchased at the Archives desk for other spots in lot 108.

Program Survey

Your board members would like to know how we can serve you better at the Calhoun County Genealogical Society. **A survey will be available to fill out at the January 28th regular meeting.** If you are not available to attend, but would like to take our survey, please contact Brenda Leyndyke at brae957@gmail.com or 269 275-0462 and she will see that you receive one. The results of the survey will be used for planning purposes. We want to hear what you think: the good, the bad and the ugly!

2014 Coming Events

MICHIGAN

April 26: Lansing Family History Seminar. Lansing Family History Center, 421 E. Saginaw, East Lansing, MI

July 18 and 19: Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar, Archives of Michigan. Michael Leclerc, Mocavo.com

Chief Genealogist will present, "Finding Your Family in Canada" and "Reading and Understanding Old Documents".

Oct 10 and 11: The Western Michigan Genealogical Society will host Dick Eastman for "Got Ancestors?" Seminar. <http://gotancestors.com>

MIDWEST

April 5: Indiana Genealogical Society Annual Conference. Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Professional Genealogist J. Mark Lowe will be the featured speaker. <http://www.indgensoc.org/conference.php>

April 30-May 3: Ohio Genealogical Society Conference, "Your Passport to the Past", Sandusky, Ohio. http://www.ogs.org/conference2014/OGS_2014_Conference_Itinerary.pdf

August 1 and 2: Midwestern Roots Family History and Genealogical Conference, Indianapolis, IN. <http://www.indianahistory.org/our-services/family-history/midwesternroots>

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 _____

Please send to Membership Chair

MichiganCalhounGene@yahoo.com or

Delete these surnames from my list _____

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

Generations

Calhoun County Genealogical Society
PO Box 879
Marshall, MI 49068-0879

Don't miss our next
meeting at Willard
Library!

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.

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. Be sure to register ahead, we must have your reservation in order to plan for the meeting.

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

April 29-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.

May 27—"Publishing Your Family History" by Jim Jackson

June 24 - "Family Reunion Scavenger Hunt" by Anita Stuever

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