



Generations

Newsletter of the
Calhoun County Genealogical Society
Founded 1988

Volume 7, Number 4

MAY, 1995

WHAT:

Calhoun County Genealogical Society Meeting

WHERE:

V.F.W. Hall, 800 E. Michigan Ave., Marshall, MI

TOPIC:

"Researching Your German Ancestors"

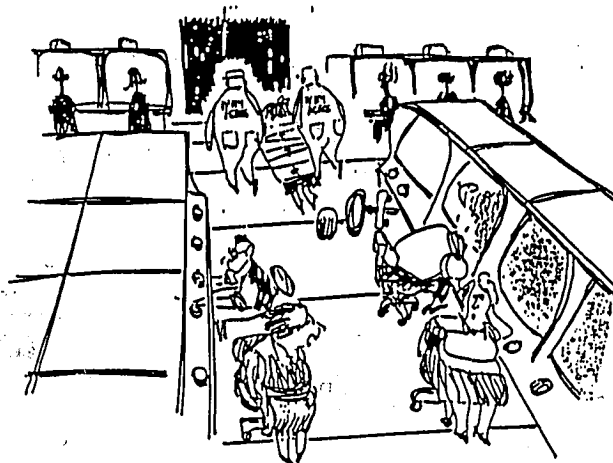
SPEAKER:

George Evans of Grand Rapids, MI

Mr. Evans, a retired engineer, is the President of the national organization of Palatines to America, a genealogical society for people researching German ancestry. Surnames that he has researched which were a part of the 1710 Palatine immigration to New York include Fuchs (Fox), Nellis and Schultheiss (Shults). He belongs to and is active in many genealogical societies including Herkimer Co NY Historical Society, Palatine Settlement Society and the Palatine Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

WHEN:

Tuesday, May 23, 1995 at 7PM



"Anyone who says genealogy is fun has either never done genealogy or never had fun."

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CEMETERY PROJECT: RUTH KAISER

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517 857-2747

NOTICE

Items for the AUG 1995 NEWSLETTER must be received by the 29th of JUNE 1995. Please send your queries and other items of interest. Mail to: CCGS C/O ALBION PUBLIC LIBRARY, 501 S. SUPERIOR ST., ALBION MI 49224.

LIABILITY

Your Editors try to keep errors out of the Newsletter. If errors do occur we can not be held responsible. Often we are printing other peoples research. When possible we print the items as received.

MEETING CANCELLATIONS

If meetings are to be canceled due to weather conditions, we will try to get the notice out to the public. Feel free to call any of the officers or board members listed in the Newsletter.

NOTICE

A special thank you to all our readers and the support given by one and all. Pat and Val will be ending their Editorship of the Newsletter as of the May 1995 issue. We are certain that the Newsletter will continue to be a vital part of the Society with its new Editors.

WHEN YOU GO HUNTING
BRING ONE BACK

When you go ancestor hunting and visit a library, ask if their card catalog is computer accessible. if it is, they will have an access sheet with the phone#, emulations, parameters, and hours of access.

Bring a couple back - one for you and one for US.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May, to me, has always been Genealogists' Month. It contains Michigan Week, begun "To foster and promote an awareness of Michigan's history and culture," which gives us a chance to share our pride in this wonderful state we live in. And it contains Memorial Day. This is the day when the rest of the country does what genealogists do all year, visit the graves of our loved ones.

First, Michigan Week. Michigan is totally unique. No other state's populace carries its map around with them. Hold up your left hand with the back facing you. Now, with your right hand, point about midway just above the wrist – that's where we are right now. Our hand is shaped like a map of lower Michigan, isn't it?

French explorers discovered Michigan in the early 17th century, Sault Ste. Marie was its first permanent settlement in 1668, and Cadillac established what would be Detroit in 1701. In 1774 we became part of the Quebec Territory, in 1783 part of the United States, in 1787 part of the Northwest Territory, in 1800 part of the Indiana Territory, in 1805 a territory ourselves, and in 1837 the 26th State. By 1840 nearly half the land in our lower peninsula was settled by our ancestors from New York, New England, and Germany. Our Michigan heritage is fascinating.

My maternal great great grandparents came to Michigan from Pennsylvania in 1838, settling in the Comstock area, where my great grandfather was born. My own grandfather was born in Battle Creek, my mother in Omer, and I was also born in Battle Creek – making me a fifth generation Michigander – and proud to be.

And Memorial Day. Originally established to honor those who died in the Civil War, it became a day when we honor those who died in all wars. Today it is a day we honor the memory of all of our loved ones who have died, visiting the cemeteries and placing flowers on their graves. A yearly loving tribute to those who are still missed. As genealogists, we know these cemeteries well, where everyone is buried.

This year, perhaps, begin a new family tradition. Include your children and grandchildren, as you usually do, but this time reminisce about the grandparent, or aunt or uncle, at whose grave you stand. Tell them stories about the grandmother they never knew, or the grandfather they only remember as an old man.

Then take them back to your home and show them photographs of those people when they were young. And tell them more stories. Maybe take them through the house and point out the various pictures hanging on your walls, telling stories about them. Show them pictures of the house where you were born, or their mother grew up. A beautiful little daguerreotype of their great great great grandfather who shares a family characteristic with them. The possibilities are endless.

And they will remember the cemeteries and your stories. They will also remember who the people in the pictures are. And the houses. And at some future date, they will share these memories with their children and grandchildren, telling your stories to them, for future generations yet to come. Don't you remember the stories your grandmother told you?

It's all part of genealogy. It's all part of Michigan Week, because it is surely promoting an awareness of Michigan's history and culture. And it's all part of Memorial Day, honoring the memory of our loved ones who have died, and keeping bright the flame of our memories of them.



EATON COUNTY 1885 HISTORIC COURTHOUSE

In March the CCGS members journeyed to Charlotte to visit and learn about the 1885 Historic Courthouse and its genealogical holdings. Shirley J. Hodges, President of the Eaton County Genealogical Society, informed the members and guests of the preservation of the Courthouse building. She told of finding the ORIGINAL records in the building (already microfilmed for county storage) and of saving these records from being burned. Volunteers worked for several years during daytime hours as special sessions on Monday nights. Records have been indexed. Indexed card catalogues are being computerized. Types of resource materials were explained.

The building also contains microfilm and microfiche readers and many library resources. A recent donation is the 40 volume Michigan Pioneer Collection with one index and Vol. 27 missing which the Society hopes to replace. The original Probate Packets are boxed and placed in the vault room. There are ten volumes of servicemen's records. There are Civil Defense Cards filled out in World War II. There are jail records, chancellor records, census microfilm, the IGI fiche, cemetery record books, plat maps.

Mrs. Hodges suggested that researchers ask about what special collection the Society might have available when doing research in Charlotte for Eaton Co. or even Barry County.

The Eaton County Genealogical Society is to be commended for all the work done in sorting, indexing and storing these records.

Submitted by Verla Potts Recording Secretary

1595-1995 THE 400th BIRTHDAY YEAR OF POCAHONTAS

Eloise Murray, our Archivist, is helping her Grandchildren celebrate their proven connection to this famous lady. Eloise writes "Pocahontas was born in 1595, daughter of Powhatan, the American Indian Chief of the Allanaoughkomouch. In May, 1607 three ships brought 104 settlers to the Virginia coast. The colony was a private venture funded by investors of the Virginia Co. of London. John Smith was one of the leaders of the venture.

Pocahontas was gentle and humane, and became a friend to the struggling English Colonists. She protected, helped and rescued them. In 1613 she converted to Christianity and was given the name of Rebecca. Shortly after this she became the wife of John Rolfe, secretary to the Governor. A son was born in 1615.

In 1616 she visited England with her husband and was graciously received by Queen Anne, wife of James I. She was in the 22nd year of her life. She died at Gravesend, Kent while preparing to return to her native country, and was buried at St. Georges' Chapel of Unity on March 21, 1617.

In 1887 Wyndham Robertson, a former Governor of Virginia, and a descendant compiled the family tree of Pocahontas and John Rolfe. From his work I can trace the ten generations from them to myself. God bless family historians and genealogists!"

Do we have other descendants of John Rolfe and Pocahontas in our Society?

1995 CEMETERY PROJECT PLANS

Ruth Kaiser, chair (517/857-2747)

Cemetery sleuthing is an obsession for many genealogists. The older cemeteries are intriguing because often the records are incomplete. Even the stories in back of these missing records are fascinating. One clerk reported that an estranged wife of a sexton destroyed his records. We have many in the county who haven't been checked and published since the DAR readings about 50 years ago.

This will be the fifth summer the CCGS has coordinated efforts to transcribe the tombstone readings of the Calhoun County cemeteries. The process includes seeking all existing records and comparing them with the stone inscriptions. Where there is a difference, both records are listed. A final proof is made, comparing all sources with the computer print-out. Each booklet includes an alphabetical listing and a list of the gravestone locations. The records for the completed cemeteries can be purchased by contacting the society. A listing is included in this issue.

Our first goal will be to proof-read the records obtained from Cook's Prairie and prepare the copy for publication. The last quarter of West Clarendon cemetery should be completed, proofed and published before the end of the summer. Then work on the large Clarence Center cemetery in Clarence Township can begin.

It is planned to have a work crew on Wednesdays who will be working on the West Clarendon Cemeteries. All who wish to help should call the project chair either Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning to check on details.

Robert Secrist has volunteered to contact those in the Battle Creek/Marshall phone area who have indicated an interest in volunteering. It is hoped that a second crew can begin work on a cemetery in the western end of the county. If you wish to be added to this list, please contact him at 616/964-0092 or 616/965-3931, Ext 2335. Several small cemeteries in Convis, Fredonia, and Eckford Townships are likely candidates.

By the time you receive this issue, the weather should be good enough to begin. Join the fun and do your bit to add to the genealogical records of Calhoun County.

SOCIETY TO MEET IN JULY AT AUSTIN CEMETERY IN CONVIS TWP.

On July 25, (the fourth Tuesday) you are invited to "visit the dead people" at the Austin Cemetery in Convis Township. It is located on 15 Mile Road between P Drive and Q Drive North. You are invited to bring a sack lunch and we can have a *Tail Gate Party* at 5 p.m. followed by a chance to transcribe the tombstone readings in this country cemetery. You are welcome to join the group later if this is more convenient for your schedule. Unless there is a tornado warning or steady rain, your cemetery project chair will be waiting for you. Let us hope for a beautiful evening to get together and serve other genealogists just as many have served us.

SCOUT TROOP TO CLEAN-UP CEMETERY

The society wishes to commend Matt Lykins and the Boy Scout Troop #172, led by Dan Lykins. Matt is working for his Eagle Scout award and has undertaken as a public service project to clean the Reed Cemetery in Sheridan Township. It is located east of 29 Mile Road on H Drive north on private land owned by the Collier family. It has long been neglected and will be another helpful addition to the history of Calhoun County.

It is Matt's responsibility to organize the arrangements for his project. His scout troop will assist, beginning the clean-up project at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 20. Several Calhoun County Genealogical Society members will join them to show how we prepare a listing of the tombstones for a cemetery, using crow bars, trowels and shaving cream, a transcriber's best friends.

100 Years Ago-1893

The supreme court of Michigan has decided that a married woman cannot collect the money she earns unless she can prove that she is her husband's agent. The earnings of a wife belong to her husband to do what he pleases with.

COMPUTERS AND CARD CATALOGS

The modern computer has become a necessity for storing and manipulating information; be it numbers or names. More recently, the computer has become famous for interacting with other computers via on line services such as Prodigy, local bulletin boards such as the Great Lakes Free-net and the world through the information superhighway. What does all this mean for genealogists?

It means possible access to many other people with the same family interests as your own. People who can assist in opening those otherwise closed branches to your family tree. People with unique information to flesh out the cold names and dates on your pedigree charts; or with whom you can share enlivening information. But today, this long winded discussion is about another and, perhaps, more practical aspect of the computer to the mobile genealogist.

The access to library card catalogs is now an option to those with modem assisted computers. Most major libraries have or are in the process of computerizing their card catalogs. The Library of Mich. and the Allen County library are but two examples. All of the card catalogs in the Detroit area are computerized and under the guise of Wayne State University.

Access to a card catalog from your home with all your formal and informal information handy can save wasted trips and make the time on site much more productive. I found a very important volume relating to an ancestor in the rare book room of the Detroit Public Library, and I found it while I was 130 miles away and the library was closed.

Such access requires a computer, a Hayes compatible Modem, and communications program such as PROCOMM PLUS. A Modem is an added feature in the form of a board that is connected to both your telephone and the wall module. This allows the use of the telephone or the computer.

During the computer use of the telephone line, the Modem takes the digital information from the computer and translates it into audio signals that can be sent over the telephone lines to another Modem which reverses the process thus creating communications between two distance parties via computers.

Because you want to talk to a distant computer you have to do some conforming actions generally in the way your computer sends out information. Sounds scary but it isn't. A communications program will guide you through the requirements, store them in a file, and access them for use when you tell the computer to dial the number.

One of those requirements is that your computer emulates a certain protocol so that the Host computer (the one you are calling) thinks it is an on-site terminal. One of the most common emulations is named VT100 and that is all you really need to know about its structure. Again, the communications program will prompt you into entering the matching emulation, store it in the file, and use it as required.

COMPUTERS AND CARD CATALOGUES---continued

The following information on calling Library of Michigan and Allen County contains some undiscussed items because their discussion could drive one to drink or at least seriously contemplate life in the faster but less technically oriented lanes. This information is provided by the Host sites, is prompted for by the communications program, stored, and called to use when required.

Library of Michigan 1-800-669-8779

The hours of computer access are 8AM to 6PM weekdays; 9AM to 5PM Saturdays and 1PM to 5PM on Sundays. This will probably be proven wrong by the first person reading this article. The Modem set up for accessing Library of Michigan is: emulate VT100; parity is even; data bits is 7; stop bits is 1; duplex is full; baud rate is 300-2400; and the help line # is 517-373-1363.

Now do you see why drink is better than knowledge?

Allen County 1-219-424-1330

The hours of computer access are 9AM to 9PM Monday-Thursday; 9AM to 6PM Friday-Saturday; and Sunday is 1PM-6PM Labor Day to Memorial Day. And the technical jargon is as follows: emulation is VT100; parity is none; data bits is 8; stop bits is 1; duplex is full; baud rate is 1200. I have no help line number for this library.

SIDEBAR: The information pertaining the hours of computer accessibility comes from dated info-sheets and they have been subpoenaed by Judge Ito.

When you reach the library the communications program will probably announce that connection has been made. This will be followed by a blank screen or possibly a garbled message at the top of the screen. Press enter twice and wait. The screen will develop into a friendly series of statements of welcome and question/prompts about what emulation(VT100) you are using and what you want to search.

If the screen continues to be garbled, i.e., a nonsensical array of letters and numbers and its message is beyond your secret decoder ring, then some element of the communications parameters is off. Disconnect the phone call. On my machine, the keystrokes ALT-H will hang up or break the connection. Then insure that such things at baud, parity, etc are the same as required by the Host computer.

If nothing seems to work, consider the possibility that the Host has changed parameters or experiencing difficulties. In this situation, get a bottle of Irish, a friendly member to the opposite sex and let the past worry about itself.

Submitted by John Strickland for this newsletter.



HELEN L. RADEE

We are saddened by the loss of Helen. She attended our meetings over the years and was always helpful with posters, visual aids, cookies or whatever was needed. She enjoyed and encouraged the search for family. She was Charter Member #6 of this Society. We will miss her. She died April 21, 1995 at age 87, a member of DAR, Eastern Star, Hospital Service League, Presbyterian Church, Homer and Albion Historical Societies.

**SOCIETY TO MEET IN JULY
AT PORTER CEMETERY IN CONVIS TWP.**

On July 25, (the fourth Tuesday) you are invited to "visit the dead people" at the Porter Cemetery in Convis Township. It is located on N Drive North between I-69 and Old 27. You are invited to bring a sack lunch and we can have a *Tail Gate Party* at 5 p.m. followed by a chance to transcribe the tombstone readings in this country cemetery. You are welcome to join the group later if this is more convenient for your schedule. Unless there is a tornado warning or steady rain, your cemetery project chair will be waiting for you. Let us hope for a beautiful evening to get together and serve other genealogists just as many have served us.

THE ELUSIVE CIVIL WAR SOLDIER

Need more help in locating information about your
Civil War Ancestor?

He's not listed in any of the standard sources or indexes?

You don't know where he lived at times?

All you have is a small reference in a family memory? or his obituary that gives reference to the soldier having been a member of a certain G.A.R. Post?

Maybe the name of the post shows up on a badge or ribbon worn by the veteran in an old photograph!

So what is a G.A.R. Post?

That phrase relates to the "Grand Army of the Republic", which is the formal name of the Veterans' group comprised of men who had served in the Civil War. The geographical area served by the various G.A.R. Posts can be determined by consulting the lists which are published in the HISTORY OF THE EASEL SHAPED MONUMENT (Principles and objectives of the Grand Army of the Republic. compiled by J. W. Carnahan, published in 1893.

Examples of locations by county and town with their assigned numbers are:

Albion, Mi--E. W. Hollisworth, Post No. 210
Battle Creek, Mi--Farragut, Post No. 32
Bellevue, Mi -- J. B. Mason, Post No. 213
Coldwater, Mi--Butterworth, Post No. 109
Homer, Mi-- Gregg, Post No. 155

This book does show a complete list for all the states that had G.A.R. Veteran's groups.

QUERY

Peter OSTEMA, b. @Oct 1867, in the Netherlands, md. 8 Dec 1894, Battle Creek, Calhoun Co., MI, Nellie M. CLARK, dau. of Charles A. and Sarah (Rogers) CLARK. HIS residence was at one time Marshall, but they resided in Battle Creek until about 1907-08 and then they appear in Grand Rapids MI in 1913 to around 1924. Children; Sarah b., Aug 1894, Edwin Roy (or Ray) b., Nov 1897 and Nellie b., Jul 1898.

Do not have any death dates or place of burial for any of this family. Believe Roy (Ray) mar. Lena BUYS, @1925-26 in Grand Rapids MI. Nellie may have mar., Peter MELPOLDER, @1926-27. No information concerning Sarah. Any information would be appreciated.

Submitted by: MARLENE A. STEELE
26 CHARLOTTE ST
BATTLE CREEK MI 49017

QUERY

Marcus Smith, b. 1809 NY/NJ, m. 1833, Marengo NY, Sarah Ann Carmichael, b. 1813, NJ, dau. of Silas Carmichael and Nancy Lum. In MI by 1835, Jackson, Calhoun (Homer and Marshall), and Ionia counties.

Marcus d. 1880, Orleans, Ionia Co, MI. Chn: 1- Burton Welles Smith, b. 1833, m. Norwalk OH, Sarah Lowe, and d. 1902, Platte, SD; 2- Lydia Ann Hope, b. 1835, d. 1859, unm; 3- Silas C., b. 1836, m. Mary McVeigh, and d. 1902, Coral MI; 4- George, 1838; 5- Squire T., 1840-42; 6- Adelaide E. R., b. 1843, m. Nathaniel Sessions, Jr., and d. 1924, Carson City, MI; 7- Stoel Jefferson, b. 1846, Homer MI, m. Sarah Ann Neep, Nellie Bentley, and Mrs. Alice Scott, and d. 1925, Orleans MI; 8- Helen D. (Delos?), b. 1852, m. Fred Cutler Jr., and d. 1942, Muir MI; and 9- William Wheaton, b. 1856, m. Julia Gavitt, and d. 1934 Northville, MI.

Marcus may have had brothers Albert and William W. Smith (m. to Lydia Ann Hope). Was probably also related to Hiram Smith, Ansel Smith, and to a Welles family. Any information on any of these families welcome, especially parents and/or siblings of Marcus.

Kathy Cleary, 121 Elm Street, Portland, MI 48875

QUERY

Would you have any documentation on a Roswell Lord family that came to Calhoun Co. in the very early 1830's..This family came from Yates Co New York with in-laws, the Grahams.

Our ancestor, Lemuel L. Lord was born there 1831-1832.

I would appreciate any help on this problem.

Also, would you have the Unit that Groton Graham was with in the Civil War? He was killed in Tenn and left at home in MI wife and children.

*The Roswell Lord then moved to Ohio and Tazewell Co IL. J. Gerenz Kinney Lord
12 Twin Hills Road
Poughkeepsie, New York 12603*

**ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION:**

The public is cordially invited to attend.
Questions? Call Ramona Short at 517-629-2384

**FUTURE
MEETINGS:**

June 27, 1995

"Basics of Researching Your
Michigan Indian Ancestor?
Jim LaLone of Lansing is
the speaker.

July 25, 1995
5PM

Opportunity to participate in
the CCGS project of
transcribing & publishing the
cemeteries of Calhoun Co.

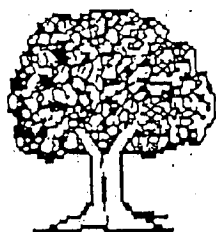
Aug. 26, 1995

Field Trip (details later)
to Fort Wayne Library

Sept. 26, 1995

"Accessing the Draper
Manuscripts. Speakers are
Conrad & Ann Burton of Decatur.

Calhoun County
Genealogical Society



c/o Albion
Public
Library

501 S. Superior St.
Albion, MI 49224