

**CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
JACKSON L.D.S. CENTER**

Thirty-one members and nine guests met at the Jackson L.D.S. Center for the November 15, 1994 meeting of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society.

Jo Peck, President opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The following announcements were made:

The November Newsletter is the last one members will receive if they are not current with their dues. See Pat Shirey, Treasurer, to pay your dues for 1995.

There will be no December meeting.

The January 24, 1995 meeting will be at the VFW Hall in Marshall, and will be a program about Val Radee's and Pat Geyer's trip to England.

Members were requested to sign in on two logs, one for the church's records, and one for the Society.

Jo dispensed with further business.

Ramona Short introduced the evening's speakers, Mrs. Laura Byers, Miss Marlene Byers, and Mr. Roy Hagg. The membership was divided into three groups and rotated between the speaker's areas.

Mrs. Byers: Computer research and Vital and Census Statistics.

A film on How to Research Censuses listed seven steps: 1) Identify all you know about your ancestor. 2) Select a census year to search. 3) Select a census index or Soundex. 4) Find family member on index or Soundex. 5) Find the film number, recording the county, enumeration district, page number. 6) Find your ancestor on the film records. 7) Microfilm the record and evaluate the information.

Mrs. Byers also demonstrated the use of the in-house computer proceeding from the Main Menu through the process of locating an ancestor on the IGI system.

Miss Byers: Library.

Marlene showed the location of various types of references in the library. The LDS Church library contains partial indexes of various types, family histories, help books for countries and languages, state histories, military records, cemetery records, many periodicals with a "Parsi" index, many county directories, notebooks of indexes to the censuses, and research outlines. There are also many books on microfiche on file.

Mr. Roy Hagg: Microfiche files and how to read them.

The extensive microfiche files were explained and Mr. Hagg showed us how to read the subject files. He explained what to do with them after finding a needed subject file. He gave us a rundown on the various kinds of subjects the church has, including our Calhoun Co. Birth Records on permanent loan donated by Val Radee. Included are the card catalog files from which to order a film on loan.

The meeting adjourned (reluctantly) at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Potts, Recording Secretary

CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
V.F.W. HALL, MARSHALL, MICHIGAN
January 23, 1995

The regular meeting of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society was opened by the President, Jo Peck. A large crowd of 63 persons was on hand, nearly half being guests. The visitors were asked to stand and introduce themselves and were welcomed by the members. The following cities were represented at the meeting: Battle Creek, 27; Marshall, 17; Albion, 5; Jackson, 4, Springfield and Union City, 2 each; Homer and Athens, 1 each; and two who missed signing the roster.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: February meeting will be at the V.F.W. Hall with Marlene Steele as speaker on Infotel computerised information. March meeting will be at Charlotte with the Eaton County Genealogical Society at the 1885 Historical Courthouse. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Julia Miller for her work with the cemetery committee. Papers were circulated for anyone to sign if interested in a possible trip to Salt Lake City or a computer user group.

PROGRAM: Pat Geyer and Val Radee reported on their Elderhostel Genealogical trip to London, England. The trip was under the auspices of the University of London with instructors from Brigham Young University. They stressed the importance of having a goal and of doing as much research as possible here before trying to search in a foreign country. The main repositories in England are St. Catherine's, British Public Records Office, and Somerset House. When one's research goes back prior to 1837 (and has been done!), the Society of Genealogists has the records. The Parish name (church home) is required in order to search their records. Parishes were required to maintain birth, death, and marriage records from 1538 on, and these records are kept in Latin. Also one must join the society. Several books were recommended and the July-August 1993 issue of the Genealogical Helper was recommended for its article on where to purchase books. The Public Records Office has an LDS Room where they are microfilming census records, being up to the 1891 census. Val and Pat passed out stacks of information sheets they had obtained in London.

Val and Pat answered questions and showed their books while punch, coffee and cookies were served.

Respectfully submitted,

Serald J. Totts
Recording Secretary

Next mtg. Charlotte - Court House (old)

CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
March 28, 1995
Eaton County 1885 Historic Courthouse
Charlotte, Michigan

President Jo Peck opened a brief meeting at the Eaton County 1885 Historic Courthouse building at 7:00. Jo introduced our speaker, Shirley J. Hodges, President of the Eaton County Genealogical Society, and board member of the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society. Mrs. Hodges invited members to their June 10th Workshop "Ideas for Climbing Over the Brick Wall". The speaker will be Jean M. White of Glendale, Arizona. She also offered members the opportunity to participate in the April 8th trip to Allen County Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, saying there were a few seats left on the bus. Papers for these and for the Michigan Library Family Day had been placed on a table in the assembly area.

Mrs. Hodges informed the members and guests of the process whereby the Eaton County Genealogical Society obtained the many records they have for their preservation and care. The many volunteer hours spent in sorting and cataloging the original records has been extensive, with volunteers working each Monday night for several years. Among the records available are Probate Packets; Civil Defence Cards filled out during World War II which give personal descriptions, talents, etc.; servicemen's records in 10 volumes; jail records; chancellor records; a card index catalog which is being computerized. They have microfilm and microfiche readers and the census records and the IGI fiche. A recent donation is the 40-volume Michigan Pioneer Collection, missing only one index and Volume 27, which they hope to replace. Many other records are available, and Mrs. Hodges suggested that researchers always should ask what special collection they might have available.

Mrs. Hodges and the volunteers assisted those who had come prepared to do research. The vault room with the probate records was open and available. The library area and the reader areas were popular. The servicemen's/jail/chancellor book record room was open.

The Eaton County Genealogical Society served coffee and cookies. The evening was enjoyed by all those who attended this very special meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
V.F.W. Hall, Marshall, Michigan
April 25, 1995

BUSINESS MEETING:

President Jo Peck opened the meeting and announced sign-up sheets for Pioneer Certificate work committees. She called attention to the sales table and the Spring Special of \$5.00 for the Marriage Indexes. She introduced our new Newsletter editors, Sandy Redmond of Athens and Nancy Hibiske of Battle creek.

Ruth Kaiser has been very active since her return from Florida. She is setting up evening tombstone reading meetings as there had been interest shown. Call (517) 857-2747 if you are able to attend and to get location being worked on. She announced that an area Boy Scout troop will be cleaning up an old cemetery on May 20th. They need all the support we can give them. The cemetery is on H Drive North, east of 20 Mile Road in Sheridan Township. It is known as the Reasley Cemetery, and is a very small one. For our regular meeting in July we will have a special Cemetery Reading Night at Porter Cemetery in Convis Township to teach members how to do the reading. We will meet at 5:00 at the cemetery. More information will be forthcoming.

Pat Geyer paid tribute to Helen Radee who died April 21st. She was a Charter Member of Calhoun County Genealogical Society and was still an active member.

PROGRAM:

Jo Peck introduced our panel and moderator for our program of Hereditary and Lineage Society Records. John Strickland was moderator. Winnie Hartung represented the Mayflower Society and Florence Van Sickle represented the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Our third representative was unable to attend.

The panel discussed the requirements of these societies and the how-to of applications and proofs of lineage required. A sheet of sources was passed out. After each member gave her society's background our moderator, Mr. Strickland, called for questions from the floor.

Respectfully submitted,

Verla Potts

Verla Potts
Recording Secretary

CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
V. F. W. Hall, Marshall, Michigan
May 23.1995

BUSINESS MEETING:

President Jo Peck called the regular meeting to order. Guests were invited to introduce themselves and meet the members. Ruth Kaiser gave a short report on the Cemetery Project. Bob Sequist of Battle Creek is assisting with the cemetery reading project. Val Radee and Pat Geyer, our retiring Newsletter Editors, were honored with the presentation of gift certificates to Clara's on the River in Battle Creek. New editors, Nancy Hibiske and Sandy Redmond, were introduced.

PROGRAM:

Mrs. Peck introduced our speaker for the evening: Mr. George Evans of Grand Rapids, member of Pallatines of America and several other related societies. Mr. Evans had a handout of available publications relating to German research and referred to the classifications several times during the evening.

Mr. Evans began with necessary research to do in the USA before attempting a trip to Germany. The task of German research is to determine WHO was the immigrant ancestor, WHEN did he come to the USA, WHERE did he come from. It is important to translate his name back to the German or European language in order to find an immigrant in Europe or Germany. Many pitfalls were explained, and how to avoid them. Naturalization processes, churches and their records, books and newspapers and the Gothic script were all discussed. How to research German hamlets and towns and who had control of them, how important the history of Germany is in relation to genealogy, the roll of atlases and lexicons in researching, passenger lists, IGI, Locality logs, and various vital records lists were other topics covered. Where immigrants might have landed (till 1727, NY; till 1830, Philadelphia) was an important fact.

The program closed with questions from the floor.

The sales table was open, continuing our Spring Specials.

There were 62 persons attending the meeting, nearly half of whom were guests. Several guests expressed their pleasure with the program, and appreciated the open meeting.

Refreshments were served by Pat Shirey, Brenda Cornish, and Cheri Ruble.

Serla J. Potts
Recording Secretary

CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
VFW HALL, MARSHALL, MICHIGAN
JUNE 27, 1995

PRESIDENT JO PECK opened the regular meeting of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society at 7:10 p.m. on June 27, 1995. There were 42 persons attending the meeting. The 18 guests introduced themselves, giving their home location.

Cemetery Chairperson Ruth Kaiser outlined the forthcoming cemetery projects at Porter Cemetery each Wednesday daytime and Thursday nights. Help with proofreading at her home each Wednesday night would be appreciated. A handout showing the dates of future meetings and information regarding the cemetery locations and time schedules was passed out to those present.

Newsletter Editor Nancy Hibiske explained the Society Questionnaire which is available for all members to complete for file information.

Program Chairman Ramona Short introduced our speaker, Jim LaLone of Lansing. Topic of the evening was "Basics of Researching Your Michigan Indian Ancestors".

Mr. LaLone passed out a bibliography of important references regarding Michigan Indians. He also gave out samples of various censuses taken of the Indian populations of Michigan throughout the years. There were examples from 1842, 1880, 1900 and 1908. A third set of handouts showed the seven generation lineage of three different families with name changes and variations. Mr. LaLone outlined the history of the Algonquin speaking Indians who ranged Michigan, the three main tribes being Ojibwa (Chippewa), the Pottawatomie, and the Odawa (Ottawa). He spoke on the sources of available information regarding Indians through their contact with French or English speaking whitemen; the Federal records available locally, regionally, or federally; the church records; the Draper Manuscripts interviews on microfilm; the censuses, Indian names and the White names; the heirachy, which varies according to time. Indian territories are treated as Sovereign Nations by the Federal Government. Michigan has seven Federally recognized reservations. Mr. LaLone also discussed stumbling blocks in researching Indian records.

After a question and answering period the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Serly J. Potts
Recording Secretary

CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
JULY 27, 1995
AUSTIN CEMETERY, CONVIS TOWNSHIP

July was a working month for the members of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society. Several members met at the Austin Cemetery in Convis Township, just north of Turkeyville, in order to learn about cemetery reading by actual experience. The members were paired off. Each pair had the requisite pencil, paper on clipboard, bucket to hold the putty knife, shaving cream, trowel, etc. Ruth Kaiser, Chairman of the Cemetery Project Committee assigned sections of the cemetery to each pair to "read" and record the pertinent information in the preferred form on the paper. Ruth, assisted by Bob Secrist, maintained contact with each group and monitored progress.

Members who had been able to arrive early for the session had a tailgate brownbag supper. Other members arrived at 6:30 or 7:00 as their time permitted. They started right in on the reading.

Those members attending enjoyed the evening. They worked until nearly dark before packing up their clipboards and supplies.

Other evenings have been devoted to researching the actual records at the Township Clerk's home. These records will be compared to the actual readings and any published listings available. This is a meaningful method of using a "rain day" to best advantage.

Help is always appreciated...call Ruth Kaiser at (517) 857-2747 to volunteer.

Respectfully submitted,

Serla Fotts,
Recording Secretary

CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
VFW Hall, Marshall, Michigan
September 26, 1995

President Jo Peck opened the regular meeting of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society with a welcome to the guests present. Each guest introduced himself or herself and gave a residence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Membership dues are due.

Val Radee and Pat Geyer are giving their talk on English Research at Eaton Rapids Genealogical Society, in October.

Ruth Kaiser will have a cemetery project meeting on October 12.

Mid-Michigan Antiquarian Book Sale, Lansing, October 15.

Family History Book Expo, Dutton, MI, October 14.

Annual Michigan Genealogical Council meeting at Treetop Resort in Gaylord, MI. Applications and information available on the table.

October meeting: Slide presentation of Cemetery Stones and Their Meanings by Shirley Hodges.

Annual reports will be recapped in the Newsletter.

Announcement of balloting results and introduction of new officers. Slate of officers elected is: Jo Peck, President; John Strickland, Vice President; David Ruble, Treasurer; Verla Potts, Recording Secretary; and Cheri Ruble, Corresponding Secretary.

Appreciation expressed to Pat Shirey and Ramona Short for their devotion to the society and the many hours of time they spent in performing their duties. Each was given a one-year membership.

PROGRAM: Jo Peck introduced the evening's speakers, Conrad and Ann Burton of Decatur, Michigan, whose topic was "The Draper Manuscripts". The Burtons invited us to attend the Decatur Book Sale.

Mr. Burton detailed the life of Mr. Lyman C. Draper who was born in New York State and died at age 86 in Wisconsin and became a "traveling information collector". His life was devoted to the process of interviewing people and collecting anything to do with events that was put on paper either through biographies, diaries, newspapers, histories, manuscripts, or through correspondence. He collected information for all area west of the Allegheny Mountains into the midwest. When he was the Secretary of the Wisconsin Genealogical Society he decided that the Society should collect material for the whole of the west. The time period the collection covers is 1750-1820.

Mrs Burton explained how to find and use this material. There are 50 series of information indexed by major location. She explained the Alpha group classifications and how to "site" the information needed. Five major indexes are: INDEX: covers people Mr. Draper was interested in. REVOLUTIONARY WAR: pension applications. ADDITIONAL PERSONAL DATA: everybody he corresponded with twice, employed, and obituaries, interviews. MAPS. REAL LIST: list on microfilm. The Wisconsin Society started to calendar documents of the 1820s and 1830s and these are indicated with an asterisk on the passout sheet provided.

Following a question and answer session the members and guests enjoyed cookies and cider or coffee.

Respectfully submitted,

Verla Potts
Recording Secretary