

CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
23 June 1998, B.E. Henry Building, Marshall, MI  
"Whither Thou Goest: Tracing Your Female Ancestors"  
Presented by Shirley Hodges

The regular meeting of the CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY was held on Tuesday, 23 June 1998 at 7p.m. with 56 guests and members present.

President Nancy Hibiske opened the meeting by announcing a new book available from the AAUW called "Women of Albion". Then she introduced the evening's speaker Shirley Hodges-President of the Eaton County Genealogical Society.

Shirley spoke about how women give up their identity and accept their husband's family when they are married which makes them elusive in tracing their family trees. The role of women in history was limited. Few had legal and or business matters, guardianship was usually given for females who had no male benefactor; they gave up their maiden names which were sometimes given to their children as middle or first names, usually listed in writings as Mrs. John Smith which made it even harder to trace their names.

Before 1850 there were about 3 generations per century. Average age for men was 20-24 years of age and woman was 16-20. Births occurred at 2 year intervals and childbearing occurred until age 45. Families migrated together, children were named after grandparents, woman were the center of the family, they were under their husband's control. Woman often took jobs as hat or dressmakers, midwives, nannies. By the 1860's women went west either by herself or by invitation. Do a timeline for each event in their lives: birth, marriage, children's births, death and research all possible relationships: daughter, sister, dau-in-law, aunt, mother, mother-in-law, friend, employee, student, church member, teacher, neighbor. Use family group sheets they are essential when trying to do research on a female ancestor. Start writing stories about your female ancestors and yourselves. She ended the talk by reading a poem titled "Grandma and the Family Tree".

There is no meeting in July or August. The next meeting of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society will be held at the Burnham Brook Center in Battle Creek on September 15, 1998 featuring Leland Meitzler and the Heritage Quest Road Show presenting "Armchair Genealogy" and "Your Ancestor was not destroyed in the Courthouse Fire".

Submitted by,  
Timira R. Volstromer, Recording Secretary

# CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



25 November 1997 ♦ VFW Hall Marshall,MI

The regular meeting of the CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY was held on Tuesday 25 November 1997 at the VFW in Marshall,MI. President Nancy Hibiske opened the meeting with an announcement of no regular meeting in December and the next meeting in January to be held on the 25th with featured speakers Sandy and Nancy on the topic of "If These Walls Could Talk". Then a letter was shared with the 30 people present for the meeting by Sandy Redmond that she had received from Curt Wichter. He thanked the society for having him be the guest speaker at our October seminars and it gave helpful tips for the future of the CCGS society. Ruth Kaiser reported that Eckford cemetery readings are done! Verla Potts announced that Pioneer Certificates are still coming in and have received 161 so far and that Willard Library now has a Rainbow reader available that is very helpful for people with poor eyesight and/or help in reading handwritten letters,etc. Also, Steven Healy of Athens is researching military cemeteries and especially interested in Fort Custer. Hand-outs from Curt Wichter's 4 talks are available. Then, Sandy Redmond talked about the reprinting of the 1877 Calhoun County History book by Windmill Publishing and that pre-publishing sales will take place as soon as possible for Christmas gifts.

Our guest speaker Chris Czopek spoke next on the topic of Photography - up to and including the Civil War especially in Marshall. J. Hodge set up the first studio in Marshall newspaper building in 1846. In 1852, there were over 10 studios in Marshall and the first female photographers in Marshall and probably in MI and the USA - Mrs. Carley and Mrs. Emerick started their businesses. Mr. Czopek stated there is a reward for any pictures made by them or any diaries/writings about them. By 1858 it cost \$500 dollars to do photo business in Marshall and most of the studios were on the top floors of buildings in order to cut out skylights for needed light. Almost all of the businesses were located on the north side of State Street( which is now called Michigan Avenue ) and in the block where the Bogar Theatre is today. Mr. Czopek mainly talked about the daugerrotypes which was invented in France in 1839. In 1840, Samuel Morse set up the first school of photography in the USA. Daugerrotypes were last made around the Civil War because the cost of supplies especially mercury needed to make them went up due to mercury needed for weapons. Daugerrotypes were available in different sizes- deluxe or full size which contained the silver hallmark or symbol of the company that made the plates, 1/2 plates, 1/4, 1/6, 1/9 (economy ). They always came in some kind of case, some were even plastic. They came to be known as Union cases. These types of photos should be kept in cold, dry places and should especially be kept away from heat because this lightens the image and mercury evaporates. Certain chemicals can bring back the image if done by professionals. A neck brace that was a C-shaped piece of metal was used to help people hold still for about 20 seconds because if they even blinked the picture had to be taken over, that is why people looked so stiff. Can you image trying to hold a smile for 20 seconds! Chris also talked about 4 different ways you could date a daugerrototype. Hand-outs were available by Chris for the Society which included all the U.S. hallmarks.

Submitted by,

*Jimina Volstrom*  
*Recording Secretary*

# CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



OCTOBER 28, 1997 ♦ DISCOVERY THEATRE, BATTLE CREEK, MI

The regular meeting of the CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY was held on Tuesday 28 October 1997 at the Discovery Theatre in Battle Creek, MI. President Nancy Hibiske introduced our speaker Curt Wichter who was to talk about "Historical Research Methodology" with 112 people attending. This was the last of his 4 talks which also included on Monday morning a talk about "Using the Internet for Historical & Genealogical Research" with 96 people attending at Willard Library. On Monday night at the Miller-Stone Building, Mr. Wichter spoke about "Civil War Research" with 82 persons attending. Tuesday morning at Burnham Brook Center he gave a talk on "Doing Effective Genealogical Research in Libraries" with 80 persons in attendance. These were all excellent programs and we are hoping to work with the Kellogg Foundation in another expert in residence program in the future.

Mr. Wichter began his speech about 7:10 p.m. and finished around 9 p.m. with a period for answering questions. Some of the more lasting comments were "Curt's Law of C's" - concise, complete, congenial, compensation, copy, and clear. Someone mentioned he needs to add another C for candy! Also, the "Don't Dive Bomb" theory - which basically means not to discard a genealogical source quickly without thoroughly searching it - example: Discarding a book/article after none of their surnames found in the index pertain to your research. He also spoke about citation analysis - document everything especially sources and contexting our research. And in review he stressed~~

**RESEARCH COMPLETELY, RECORD ACCURATELY, DOCUMENT THOROUGHLY!!!**

Hand-outs will be available from all the programs by Mr. Wichter presented in Battle Creek at the next meeting which will take place in Marshall at the VFW Hall on Tuesday 25 November, 1997 at 7 p.m. with guest speaker Chris Czopek speaking about Civil War Photography.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Timira Volstromer".

Timira Volstromer, Recording Secretary

# CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



SEPTEMBER 23, 1997 ♦ VFW HALL, MARSHALL, MICHIGAN

The kickoff of the regular meeting of the CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY was held on Tuesday 23 September 1997 at the VFW hall in Marshall, MI. President Nancy Hibiske brought the meeting to order to start the society's 10th year at 7p.m. There were 48 members present. Various officers gave reports of activities from the membership year 1996-1997. Cemetery Project updated by Ruth Kaiser and still needing volunteers to help with readings. Outgoing treasurer Dave Ruble gave oral and written reports of the societies finances. Cheri Ruble outgoing recording secretary gave written report. Membership chair Sandy Redmond gave the number of renewals and new memberships. Verla Potts reviewed the first year of the Pioneer Certificate which has produced 65 applications and 124 certificates, of which 82 were pioneer, 29 settler and 13 builder. Election of new officers by ballot count were announced by Verla also.

Marlene Steele was congratulated on her recent retirement from Willard Library and gave information from the MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL meeting she recently attended.

Reminder about DAR workshop 11 October from 10-3p.m. to be held at the Governor's Mansion in Marshall, public is invited, 3 women from the State DAR to be there, also generation charts available for \$1.50.

President Nancy gave details about our next meeting with Curt Wichter. Discussion about the different venues, dates, times and topics he will be speaking about were given. The Kellogg Foundation is providing lodging and publicity for this program.

President Nancy asked for suggestions/ideas for future projects/meetings for the upcoming year. It was suggested to purchase a sound system for meetings, rent an air condition location - June meeting, and look into reprinting the History of Calhoun County 1830-1877 with possibility of a grant from the United Arts Council to help with costs and printing the books with a nice binding, possible index and the use of acid-free paper. Also mentioned that Micky Rastoskey has indexed the death records from Farley's Funeral Home in Battle Creek, MI from 1861 to around early 1900's.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY will take place Tuesday, October 28th, 1997 at 7 p.m. at the Discovery Theatre downtown Battle Creek, Michigan. The topic is " Historical Research Methodology" featuring speaker Curt B. Wichter.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jimmie Volokov".