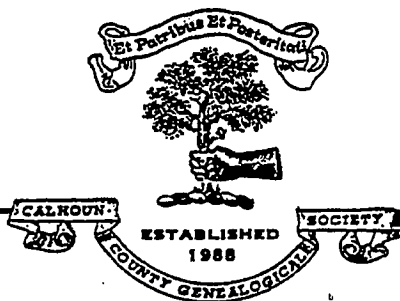


# Generations

Vol. 14, No. 1 ■ September/October 2001 ■ the newsletter of the Calhoun County (Michigan) Genealogical Society



**Sept. 25 program**

## Introduction to the State Archives

**M**aking genealogy come alive with a case study of a Civil War veteran from southwestern Michigan, our speaker will trace the veteran's life through various records held at the state archives. State Archivist David Johnson will focus on records of value to genealogists as he enlightens CCGS members about how to use the state archives Sept. 25.

David is archivist for the State Archives of Michigan, located in the Michigan Library and Historical Center in Lansing. With documents dating back to 1792, the State Archives of Michigan houses much of Michigan's record heritage.

David was appointed by the governor to the Michigan State Historical Records Board, which facilitates cooperation among historical records repositories and information agencies within the state.

With David's visual presentation and the society's new speaker system, everyone is sure to enjoy the September program kicking off the new membership year. ■

**Oct. 23 program**

## Surveyor to speak about using maps in research

**L**ocal surveyor Michael A. Groat, PS, will present a program at the Oct. 23 CCGS meeting about old maps and plat books of Calhoun County. He is a state-licensed land surveyor with Groat Land Surveying Co. in Marshall.

Attendees will hear a brief history of early surveying and mapmaking and receive instruction on how genealogists may use plat books and maps in their research.

Michael will show a 4x5 foot canvas wall map of Calhoun County dated 1858. It shows the

## Migration is issue's theme

Look for these special migration features:

My Ellis Island experience.....	3
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13 reasons our ancestors migrated .....	8
A 1753 ship contract.....	9
How our ancestors got to the pond .....	10

## Return trip to Allen County library planned for Oct. 27

**T**he Calhoun County Genealogical Society is offering another chance to take advantage of the resources of the country's second largest genealogical library. After the success of the February trip, the next trip to Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Ind., allows an extra hour for research.

The bus will leave the parking lot of Bill Knapp's Restaurant in Battle Creek (just off I-94 at the Capital Avenue exit) at 8 a.m. At 8:20 a.m. the bus will pick up passengers at the Kmart parking lot in Marshall (near the Michigan Avenue

*Continued on p. 4*

platted townships. He will also show plat books of the county from 1873, 1894 and 1916.

Michael, who happens to be the son of CCGS member Judy Groat, earned a degree in land surveying from Ferris State University in 1990.

He has been active in the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors and has been president and treasurer of the southwest chapter. He has also served on the planning and zoning board of Marengo Township. ■

# KCC offers four-week beginning genealogy course

## CCGS member Sandy Redmond is instructor

**S**andy Redmond will once again teach a beginning genealogy course through Kellogg Community College. Classes begin Oct. 4.

Students will learn how to get started in genealogy, using basic recordkeeping forms, organizing research, searching the home for genealogical cues

and learning where to find information. Sandy will also cover vital records, census research, city directories, newspapers, using maps and atlases, military records, cemetery research, using the Internet for genealogical research and computerized recordkeeping.

Sandy is a dynamic presenter with years of genealogy research experience.

Classes meet Thursday evenings, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Oct. 4–25. They will be held in the Mawby Center on the KCC campus in Battle Creek.

The course fee is \$30. For more information, call KCC at (616) 965-3931, ext. 4134. ■

## 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.

The CCGS is a nonprofit, federally tax-exempt, state-chartered organization. Individuals, libraries or societies may apply for membership. Annual dues for the year beginning Sept. 1 are \$12. Memberships are accepted year-round; dues received after May 1 will pay membership for the following year. Members receive the newsletter *Generations* six times per year.

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at the B.E. Henry Building, 615 S. Marshall St. in Marshall, *unless otherwise specified*. No meetings are held in July, August or December. Programs are free and open to the public.

### President

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### Vice President

**Carlene DeMaso** ■ (616) 964-8570 ■ [c.demaso@prodigy.net](mailto:c.demaso@prodigy.net)

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### Recording Secretary

**Brenda Cornish** ■ (517) 629-4861 ■ [bcornish@albion.edu](mailto:bcornish@albion.edu)

### Corresponding Secretary

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### Program and Publicity Committee Chair

**Carlene DeMaso** ■ (616) 964-8570 ■ [c.demaso@prodigy.net](mailto:c.demaso@prodigy.net)

### Cemetery Transcription Committee Chair

**Ruth Kaiser** ■ (517) 857-2747 ■ [Ruthmary46@yahoo.com](mailto:Ruthmary46@yahoo.com)

### Archivist

**Julia Miller** ■ (517) 629-3852

### Pioneer Certificate Chair

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### Hospitality Chair

**Gloria Huff** ■ (616) 979-4818

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**Sue Stuever Battel** ■ (616) 789-2848 ■ [SueBattel@aol.com](mailto:SueBattel@aol.com)

All are invited to submit articles to the *Generations* newsletter editors, according to the editorial calendar.

Issue	Date	Articles due	Major theme
Vol. 14, No. 2	November/December 2001	Oct. 1	Old-Time Occupations
Vol. 14, No. 3	January/February 2002	Dec. 1	Beginning Genealogy

Permission is granted to reprint articles unless otherwise noted. Please give appropriate credit to the source. Copies of individual pages from back issues of *Generations* are \$1 for the first page, 50 cents for each additional.

**CCGS ■ P.O. Box 879 ■ Marshall, MI 49068 ■ [www.rootsweb.com/~micalhou/ccgs.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~micalhou/ccgs.htm)**  
CCGS e-mail list: Send a message to [calhouncountygsgs@onelist.com](mailto:calhouncountygsgs@onelist.com) with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.



## The Olympic

ADD TO YOUR ELLIS ISLAND FILE

Associated Passenger  
Demoso, Arturo

Date of Arrival  
November 12, 1913

Port of Departure  
Southampton

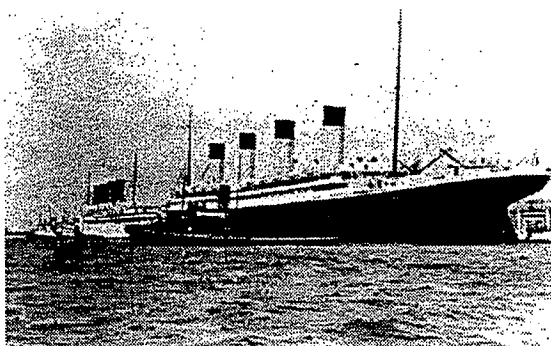


Photo: Frank O. Braynard Collection

Built by Harlan & Wolff Limited, Belfast, Northern Ireland, 1911. 45,324 gross tons; 882 (bp) feet long; 92 feet wide. Steam triple expansion engines, triple screw. Service speed 21 knots. 2,764 passengers (1,054 first class, 510 second class, 1,200 third class).

Built for White Star and Dominion Lines, in 1911 and named Olympic. Southampton-New York, WWI troopship, Trans-Atlantic (1920-24) service. Largest liner in the world 1911-12. Sistership to Titanic. Transferred to Cunard White Star line, British flag, in 1935. Laid up in 1935. Last remains broken up in Scotland in 1937. [644]

from [www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org)

# My Ellis Island experience

by *Carlene (Burlingame) DeMaso*,  
CCGS vice president

**I**t was exciting this past May to arrive at Ellis Island and finally view my husband's father's name on the American Immigrant Wall of Honor.

About three years ago we received a mailing telling about the wall and the proposed American Family Immigration History Center. We sent in the \$100 fee to have the name of Arturo Luigi DEMASO placed on the wall.

In May after doing a rubbing of the name, we headed for the history center to see if we could find Arturo's immigration records. We paid a \$5 fee upon entering the center and received an access card, which activated one of the 41 available computers. It provided access to the database and other software. Each session is 30 minutes long, but by the time you actually start inputting data there is about 20 minutes left. After going through the process a second

time (total spent now \$10) with no success, I decided it was better to wait until I got home to access the web site.

One of the problems I encountered is that almost none of the names of places or people were spelled correctly, so one has to be creative in entering the names when initiating a search. Another problem is that the search program does not allow you to enter all information you might have about an ancestor at one time.

I did find a great web site that solves that issue. It searches and links to the official Ellis Island site. Why couldn't this have been done with the program initially? The web site is: <http://sites.netscape.net/stephenpmorse/ellis.html>

Once your ancestor's name has been found you will learn his or her residence, arrival date, age, sex, marital status, ship name and port of departure. You can enlarge a scanned

image of the original ship's manifest and see more information such as their destination and a description of their physical characteristics. You may print a picture and a history of the of the ship on which they traveled (like mine, above).

After several attempts I found the record of Arturo, as well as my husband's maternal grandfather and grandmother. With the web site mentioned above I found my friend's grandmother on the first try!

Even though my efforts were not successful while on Ellis Island, there is nothing like the feelings one has riding on the ferry past the Statue of Liberty, setting foot on Ellis Island and entering the Great Hall that teemed with thousands of our ancestors seeking a better life.

One could not help but reflect about our responsibility to preserve the freedoms and principles upon which this great nation was founded. ■

# Officers to be elected

**W**ith the new membership year comes time to elect new officers of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society. A committee has nominated the members listed on the ballot at right. For each office, one member will be elected to a one-year term beginning Sept. 1. A member may hold the same office no more than two terms, and can serve no more than six years in all offices combined.

Candidates are still needed for president as well as several volunteer positions. Important functions of the society, such as membership promotion, publications, cemetery transcription and Pioneer Certificates, are carried out by volunteers or appointees. Volunteering is rewarding! Please contact anyone listed on the masthead on page 2 and offer to share your time and talents. Come to September's meeting prepared to lend a hand. Many hands make light work! Volunteers are the lifeblood of our society—both important and appreciated.

Please complete the ballot at right and mail it to the election committee by September 15 or bring it to the Sept. 25 meeting. Feel free to write in another candidate's name. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting. The mailing address is *Election Committee, Calhoun County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 879, Marshall, MI 49068.*

## About the candidates

The following profiles were submitted by candidates.

**Judy Groat** has been doing genealogy seriously for four years. "When we retired," she says, "I needed to leave a legacy to our three sons and their families, or all might be lost in the way of our family's history. With five grandchildren, the families will grow and multiply, so this history needs to be saved." Besides tracing both her husband's family and her own, Judy has compiled a cookbook of family favorites, along with tidbits of history and other information. Judy has been keeping a journal since she married. She's even transcribing old handwritten entries into her computer, believing that the entries will become her legacy. "CCGS does a great service to the public and I feel honored to be a part of it," she

says. "I especially enjoy working on the cemetery project as I feel that this is something that needs to be preserved — and now, before more information is lost."

**Marcene (Marcie) Telfer** is a lifelong resident of Calhoun County. A teacher in the Harper Creek School District for the past 33 years, she currently teaches American history.

Marcie's interest in genealogy is relatively recent. Two years ago she responded to a request for information about her great grandmother in the Tekonsha newspaper. In the process of providing information about her family to a cousin researching her great-great grandfather, she got hooked. Her biggest problem so far — finding enough time to work on genealogical research.

Marcie has served as a deacon and elder of Westlake Presbyterian Church, president of the Autism Society of Kalamazoo-Battle Creek, secretary-treasurer and president of the Michigan Speech Coaches Association. A member of the Autism Society of America, she has also served on the board of directors of the Autism Society of Michigan. ■

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*Bus trip, continued from cover*  
exit off I-69).

Arrival time at the library is 9 a.m. Indiana time (8 a.m. Michigan time). Meals and snacks for the bus are on your own. We will depart the library at 5:15 p.m. sharp, and arrive back in Battle Creek at about 8 p.m. — in Marshall at about 8:20.

Cost is \$19 per person. Please mail your reservation form, found at right, to CCGS by Sept. 25. You need not be a member to participate.

The February trip was a sellout, so make your reservations early. A \$2 fee will be retained for cancellations made on or before Sept. 25. No refunds will be made after Sept. 25, unless a substitute is available.

To prepare for the trip, check out the Allen County Public Library's web site at [www.acpl.lib.in.us](http://www.acpl.lib.in.us). You can search the online catalog and prepare a list of books and other materials to research before arrival. To learn more about the Genealogy Department, go to [www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/index1.html](http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/index1.html). ■

# Time to renew your membership

Individuals, libraries and societies may apply for membership in the Calhoun County Genealogical Society. Annual dues for the 2001–2002 year, beginning Sept. 1, are \$12. Please make check payable to Calhoun County Genealogical Society. Although membership dues are accepted year round, you are encouraged to join or renew now to avoid missing issues of the newsletter *Generations*. Please check the expiration date on your mailing label. If the date is 9/1/2001, you have not renewed your membership.

## Calhoun County Genealogical Society Membership Application

☐ New    ☐ Renewal    ☐ Change of address

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_

Surnames you are researching \_\_\_\_\_

If you are willing to hold an office, work on a committee or volunteer for a project, please indicate your areas of interest/expertise \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Membership card requested    ☐ Membership card not necessary

☐ Check if you would like to receive *Generations* newsletter by e-mail in Acrobat Reader pdf format *instead of* by postal mail. Be sure to include your e-mail address above.

*Feel free to attach a five-generation ancestor chart and/or a query to be published in *Generations*.*

## Bus Reservation

Bus Trip to Allen County Public Library  
Oct. 27, 2001  
*due Sept. 25*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Select your pickup location:

☐ Battle Creek    ☐ Marshall

Enclosed is \$19 per person for the trip.

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make check payable to Calhoun County Genealogical Society.*

Mail to:  
Bus Trip, Calhoun County Genealogical Society,  
P.O. Box 879, Marshall, MI 49068

## Ballot

*Check one choice for each office.  
You may write in a name on the line.*

President

☐

☐

Vice President

☐ Maureen Vire

☐

Recording Secretary

☐ Marcie Telfer

☐

Corresponding Secretary

☐ Judy Groat

☐

Treasurer

☐ Dave Ruble

☐

Bring to the Sept. 25 meeting or mail by Sept. 15 to:  
Election Committee, Calhoun County Genealogical Society,  
P.O. Box 879, Marshall, MI 49068.

# Famous Michiganian immigrants

*Name, fame, Michigan connection, birthplace, date.*

**Mathias J. ALTEN**; second-generation Impressionist painter; immigrated to Grand Rapids at age 17; Germany, 1871-1938.

**Robert HOPKIN**; painter (marine, landscape) and interior decorator; came to Detroit in 1843; Glasgow, Scotland; 1832-1909.

**Edward H. WHITE II**; master of science in aeronautical engineering from University of Michigan; San Antonio, Texas; 1930-1967.

**Edgar A. GUEST**; *Detroit Free Press* writer, humorist; Birmingham, England; 1881-1959.

**Harriette SIMPSON ARNOW**; wrote *The Dollmaker* and other novels; lived near Ann Arbor; Wayne County, Ky.; 1908-1986.

**David BUICK**; came to Detroit with family at age 2; began Buick Motor Co. in Detroit in 1903; Scotland; 1854-1929.

**Louis CHEVROLET**; inventor, mechanic, auto racer; designed first Chevrolet for General Motors in 1911; Switzerland; 1878-1941.

**Henry H. CRAPO**; Flint lumber business, Michigan state senator and governor; Dartmouth, Mass.; 1804-1869.

**Aretha FRANKLIN**; singer, grew up in Detroit; Tennessee; 1942.

**Henry Walton BIBB**; escaped slave and abolitionist lecturer, agent for the Raisin Institute, author of *Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Henry Bibb, an American Slave* (1849); lived in Detroit from 1842 to 1850(?); Shelby County, Ky.; 1815-1854.

**Lewis CASS**; governor of Michigan territory (1813-1831), U.S. senator from Michigan (1845-1857), presidential candidate 1848; Exeter, N.H.; 1782-1866.

**Robert CAVELIER (Sieur DE LA SALLE)**; explorer; France; 1643-1687.

**Brigadier General George Armstrong**

**CUSTER**; Army officer; lived in Monroe, Ohio; 1839-1876.

**Antoine DE LA MOTHE (Sieur DE CADILLAC)**, founded Detroit 1701, France, 1660-1730.



Gerald R. Ford Library

**Gerald R. FORD (Leslie KING Jr.)**; U.S. president (1974-77); grew up in Grand Rapids; Omaha, Neb.; 1913.

**Rosa PARKS**; seamster, "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement," moved to Detroit in 1957, received Congressional Gold Medal in 1999; Tuskegee, Ala.; 1913.



**Sojourner TRUTH (Isabella BAUMFREE)**; abolitionist, moved to Battle Creek in 1856, buried there; New York; 1797?-1883.

**Malcolm X (Malcolm LITTLE)**; civil rights activist; lived in Lansing as a youth; Nebraska; 1925-1965.

**Gordie HOWE**; Detroit Red Wings all-star player 1946-1971; Saskatchewan, Canada; 1928.

**Joe LOUIS**; heavyweight boxing champion; raised in Detroit; Alabama; 1914-1981.

**Tim ALLEN**; actor; grew up in Birmingham, graduated from Western Michigan University; Denver; 1953.

**Edgar BERGEN**; comedian, ventriloquist; grew up in Decatur; Chicago; 1903-1978.

**Jeff (Jeffrey) DANIELS**; actor; makes his home in Chelsea where he founded the Purple Rose Theatre; Athens, Ga.; 1955.

**James Earl JONES (Todd JONES)**; actor; grew up near Manistee, University of Michigan alumnus; Arkabutla, Miss.; 1931.

**Pat PAULSEN**; actor; produced and starred in performances at the Cherry County Playhouse, Traverse City; South Bend, Wash.; 1926-1997.



**George C. SCOTT**; actor; grew up in northwest Detroit and graduated from Redford High School in 1945; Wise, Va.; 1927-1999. ■

*Adapted from the Michigan Historical Center, <http://sos.state.mi.us/history/michinfo/people/people.html>*

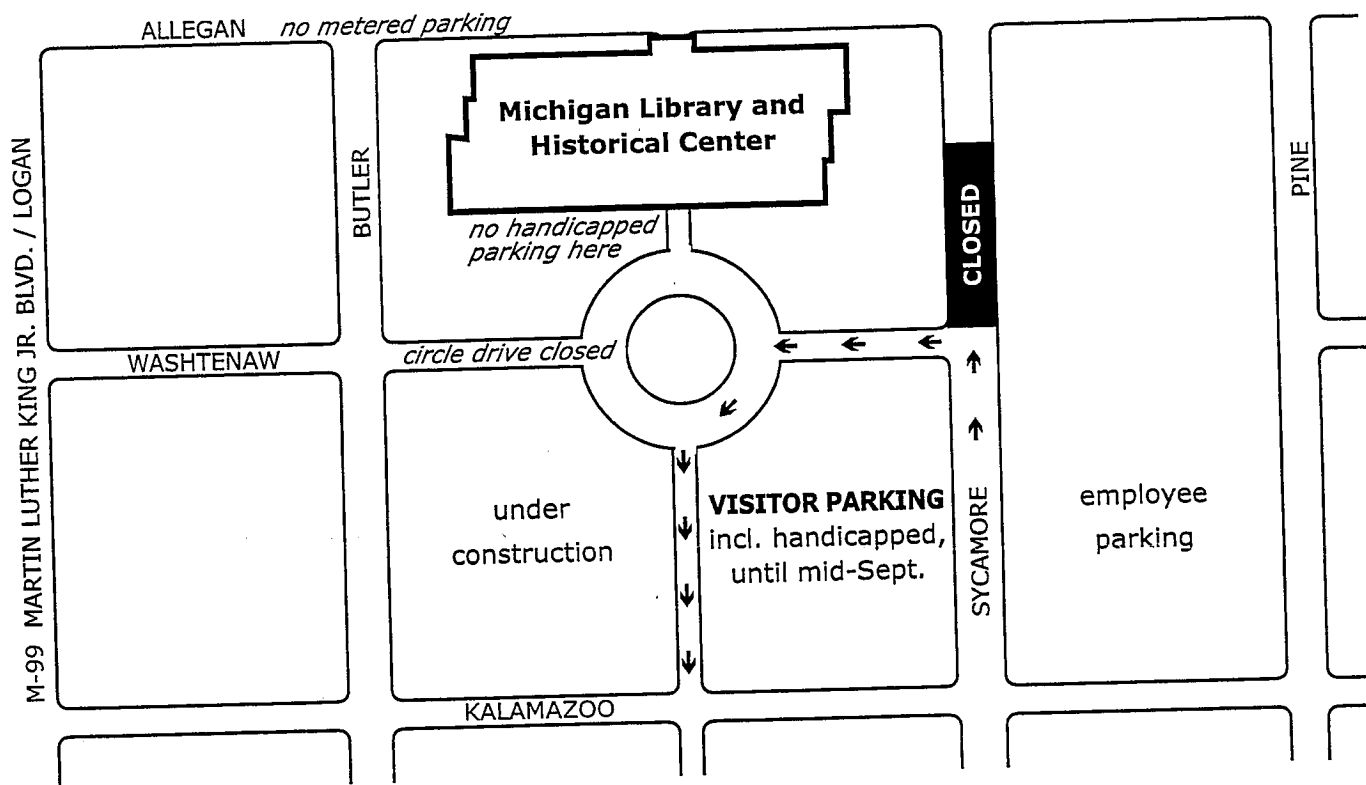
# Plan ahead for Library of Michigan parking

**I**f you're planing a trip to the Library of Michigan, be prepared for some construction around the center and its parking lots. To call ahead about parking availability, phone (517) 373-1300.

The good news is that I-496, a major route to the Library of Michigan, is now open after a full summer of construction. Note that the library will be closed Monday, Sept. 3, for Labor Day, and Sunday, Sept. 30.

Visitors to the Michigan Library and Historical Center should use the temporary visitor parking area off Kalamazoo Street, adjacent to the usual visitor lot. Parking is free Saturdays and Sundays. When construction is completed, this area will revert to visitor and assigned employee parking.

Metered parking is also available on a few streets surrounding the library. ■



## Top tips from our members

### Family reunion photo scavenger hunt

**This issue's tip, from Anita Stuever:**

We included several activities to incorporate genealogy into our recent double-family reunion. One big hit was the Great Stuever/Brennan Scavenger Hunt of 2001, a photo scavenger hunt by car. We gave each team a disposable camera, a map of the hometown and map of the general area (four or five townships). On the maps we had marked 25 sites important to the history of the Stuevers and/or Brennans. Sites included homes,

farms, schools, cemeteries, churches, places of employment and the local museum. We also gave each team a list of nine scenes with rules and instructions to take a unique photo at as many sites as possible in the time allowed. The assigned "photo opportunities" included the teams

- Performing a cheer by the old school bell
- Acting out the year of the Reformation, commemorated on the cornerstone of the family church

*Continued on p. 11*

# 13 REASONS *our ancestors migrated*

**T**he decision to migrate "was fraught with risk and danger, and meant leaving many things behind," says George G. Morgan in *History* magazine on Ancestry.com. It "might also mean never seeing parents, siblings, other family members and friends again. It was a very big decision!"

In his June 2, 2000, "Along Those Lines" column Morgan lists 13 of the most common reasons your ancestors may have migrated.

1. Religious or ethnic persecution
2. Natural disasters
3. Famine
4. Economic problems
5. War
6. Political strife/turmoil/oppression
7. Following family and friends
8. Adoption
9. Slavery
10. Forced relocation of Native Americans

11. Criminal incarceration/deportment

12. Not a first son

13. Great financial opportunity

Morgan advises people, "Do more than just fill in pedigree charts for your ancestors. Learn all you can about their families. Research the history of the area in which your ancestor began his or her life, and try to determine when he/she moved. What factors may have influenced the decision to migrate? Where did the person(s) migrate to? Did they make multiple moves? Why? And finally, why did they settle where they did? Many of the answers to these questions may help you better understand your family and the values they shared and imparted to succeeding generations. Maybe you'll learn a little more about yourself in the process!" ■

*The full text of the article can be viewed at [www.ancestry.com/library/view/columns/george/1436.asp](http://www.ancestry.com/library/view/columns/george/1436.asp).*

## Member queries

*If you can help, please respond directly to the writer and copy your reply to CCGS Research Committee, P.O. Box 879, Marshall, MI 49068 or [vpotts1548@aol.com](mailto:vpotts1548@aol.com).*

Seeking information about Alex COURTRIGHT and his only known daughter Flora M. COURTRIGHT. Alex married Louisa (maiden name unknown). An Alex Courtright, with wife Sarah, appears in the 1870 census of Clarence Twp. No Courtright children were listed. If I found the correct Alex, I suspect Flora was not born yet.

Flora M. COURTRIGHT married John R. WILLIS. They had two children, John Floyd WILLIS b. 1893, and Hazel b. 1896. It is not known what happened to John R. Willis. I have a circa 1940 photo of Flora with Jim WARE, visiting family in Canada.

I found Flora nee Courtright b. 1876, d. 1953 in Hunt Cemetery, Clarence Twp., under three listings: EDICK, Flora Troop nee COURTRIGHT; TROOP-EDICK, Flora nee COURTRIGHT; and TROOP, Flora EDICK nee

COURTRIGHT. All death dates match, so I suspect all listings refer to the same Flora.

Eileen STAHL

[estahl@memlane.com](mailto:estahl@memlane.com)

P.O. Box 16, Dunmore, AB Canada T0J 1A0

■ ■ ■

Seeking obituary for Clara LINCOLN ROCKWELL NOBLE, lifelong resident of Marshall-Albion area who d. 1 March 1951, Branch County, and was buried at Riverside Cemetery, Albion.

Heidi CHANG

2810 Hwy 64 South

Morganton, NC 28655-8738

Telephone (828) 433-9810

■ ■ ■

Seeking parents of William and Harriet VANBRUNT JONES.

Julie A. LERKE

32 Old Hwy.

P. O. Box 234

White House, NJ 08888 ■



# A 1753 ship contract

**W**hat were the conditions on the ships that carried our ancestors across "the pond?" A shipping contract provides a clue. The contract that follows is for the Rowand, a ship of about 42 German passengers bound for Pennsylvania in 1753. The contract details how much food each person would receive, how their belongings would be handled and how much they'd be charged.

We, the undersigned, acknowledge to have agreed and contracted, according to the terms and conditions herein set forth, with Daniel HAVART of Rotterdam, in the following manner.

First. The above named Daniel HAVART shall provide and hold ready, a good, comfortable and well appointed ship, to take us, the undersigned, across the sea from Rotterdam to Philadelphia. To this end, the ship will be provided with permanent sleeping places between decks for each and every full grown person, that is to say, a so-called full freight, six feet long and one and one half feet wide, on both sides of the ship, made private and comfortable.

Second. The ship shall be provided with good provisions, that is, good bread, meal, meat with peas, rice, butter, cheese and everything else of such things, and they shall be provided to the undersigned from the day that we board the ship in Rotterdam until we arrive in Philadelphia, in the following manner, that is:

Sundays, a pound of meat with peas, rice or beans.

Mondays a pound of meal.

Tuesdays a half pound of bacon with peas, rice or beans.

Wednesdays a pound of meal.

Thursdays a pound of meat with peas, rice or beans.

Fridays a pound of butter, and a half pound salt cod with peas, rice or beans.

Saturdays six pounds of bread, a pound of cheese and a pea soup.

Further, a measure of beer per day, so long as it remains good, and also a measure of water, but after [the beer goes bad] two measures of water per day.

Also in the mornings at [six bells?], a fire shall be provided until evenings at six o'clock, for cooking, and to warm the sick and the small children, insofar as wind and weather will allow.

Also, for the care of the thirsty sick, two vats of vinegar and one vat of brandy will be included, as also spices, so that they will not be robbed of their health or their lives because of lack of these things, as also the necessary [medicines?].

The persons shall be charged according to their age; small children under the age of four are free; from four to fourteen years of age, they must pay half fare; and all those who have reached an age over fourteen years must pay the full fare in the following manner: All those who pay their entire, or at least half their fare in Rotterdam, may pay 7.5 pistole. Those, however, who can pay nothing, must pay a comparable fare of 8 pistole for their care.

In order to deliver the passengers, with their baggage without further charges free to Philadelphia ...

The balance of the contract has not been translated. Each name on the list appended to the contract is followed by a number indicating the number of "freights" for which the head of family was charged.

The contract was signed March 23, 1753, by Daniel HAVART of Rotterdam and 42 German immigrants. It was translated by Brigitte Burkett in "Emigrants from Baden and Württemberg in the 18th Century" and provided by Sharon Cook Briggs through the Hesse Rootsweb e-mail list. ■

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## SHORT shots

Board member Judy Groat took a research trip to Germany in May. Although she had no luck finding the surname GROAT or GROTH in the records, she did find it on a bathroom wall. Of course she couldn't read the German handwriting surrounding it!

■ ■ ■

Yesterday is history.

Tomorrow is a mystery.

Today is a gift.

That's why it's called the present.

— Unknown

■ ■ ■

The Michigan Genealogical Council has a new web site: [www.rootsweb.com/~mimgc](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mimgc)

■ ■ ■

Member Sandy Redmond is the new state coordinator for MIGenWeb, a Michigan genealogy site on the Internet and part of the USGenWeb project. Congratulations and thanks for your volunteer work, Sandy! ■

# Over the pond? How our ancestors got to the pond

Genealogists are familiar with our ancestors' ports of departure, but in the days before trains, planes and automobiles, getting to the port city was a major ordeal. Ruth Kittner shared her knowledge of 19th century modes of travel in a recent post to the RootsWeb Baden-Württemberg e-mail list. Ruth's ancestors originated in the Baden-Württemberg area of Germany.

One didn't just show up and get on a ship, one usually wanted to go to a specific place in America. So people consulted timetables and charts to figure out when ships were leaving, whence and where they were going.

Many 19th century immigrants were the beneficiaries — or victims — of ticket agents. Agents representing various shipping companies visited villages, extolled the virtues of life in America

(sometimes with flagrant disregard for the truth) and sold tickets for specific ships and specific passage. There were no government agencies to monitor the scrupulousness of the ticket agents. Many sold more tickets than spaces available on the ship.

Emigrants had to proceed to the ship's port on their own, at their own cost. When they arrived — if they were lucky — the ship had not left without them, or was not overfilled. If it had left or was overbooked, they were out of luck and out of pocket. Furthermore, they had to pay for their own lodging and other expenses while waiting for the next trip.

If they were lucky and had

the money, emigrants could get a cart to take them and their belongings to a river. A cart could be anything from a hand-push cart (like a big wheelbarrow) to a hand-pull cart (a flat bed on three wheels with ropes at the front and handles at the back for pushing) to a wagon (with or without sides) pulled by oxen or horses.

The emigrants' goods — including bedding, clothing, pots, pans, utensils, tools and the baby — were loaded onto a

cart. It was pushed or pulled over hill and dale, through mud, dust, ruts and whatever else lay on the road. It was hard work. Most emigrants did not get to use the

best roads, which were reserved for the wealthy and tourists, but used common roads that often were little better than footpaths.

Travelers who had a great deal of money could take a post. It was an expensive way to travel, but the posts were well kept. Most belonged to the area sovereign. In the Holy Roman Empire a prince of posts and tours was "responsible" for standardizing fares and maintaining roads.

The German *landkutsche* (traveling post) carried eight

people, two of whom sat outside. Some vehicles carried only six. They traveled about eight miles a day, depending on road conditions and weather, and most did not change horses. The regulations for posting varied from state to state, and generally cost the equivalent of 30 kreuzer per mile.

Travelers could also hire a carriage, with which they could change horses. But the rates became so extravagant that generally the post roads and hired carriages were the domain of the wealthy, the nobility or the tourist.

Travel was extremely expensive, and extravagant rates were readily extorted. Although children and infants were given special fares, entire families might not fit in one means of conveyance.

Once they arrived at the river — if they were lucky and had the money — they could take a barge or canal boat most of the way to the port.

As a result of the high cost of barges, posts and other wheeled means, most 19th century immigrants followed the time-honored method of putting one foot in front of the other. This took a while, though, for people of all ages to walk and carry their belongings. Emigrants had to want to get here very badly.

Why didn't emigrants take the train? Germany began developing its rail system slowly in the 1830s and 1840s, picking up pace

after 1850. The first railroad was probably in Prussia, around Brandenburg. It probably went a couple miles and was a very big deal. It scared the wits out of the horses. Folk would stare, shake their heads and ask, "what is the world coming to?" or some 19th century equivalent.

Gradually train travel between selected cities (such as Frankfurt to Mainz to Cologne) was possible, but it was a long and slow process. Germany, despite its relative coherence under the Confederation, was still fragmented economically and politically. Even within sovereign areas, rail travel was slow to develop because finances and geological conditions made it difficult to build railroads.

By the 1870s, the German railway system was efficient, but could have been taken over by the military at any time, which would make civilian travel next to impossible. Military roads, many built by Prussians, ran through some provinces.

By the end of the 19th century, almost everyone going to a port traveled by rail. In 1886, second-class travel was approximately 3.5 cents per mile, third class about half of that. Trains whizzed by at about 25 miles an hour outside the cities. The train from Cologne to Brussels, for example, cost a little less than \$4, and took 5.5 to 6 hours by express.

With all the time and expense involved in traveling before the days of fast trains, planes and automobiles, our immigrant ancestors must have been passionate about wanting to come to the USA. It makes me even more curious about why my ancestors immigrated. ■

## CCGS publications

*The 1877 History of Calhoun County, MI* (reprinted). More than 350 pages, printed on acid-free, archival paper, and is hard-cover, library-quality bound, includes every-name index, \$55. Some slightly damaged copies are available for \$40 (damage includes a scuffed cover, pages stuck together, soiled edge, etc.).

*Cemeteries of Eckford Twp. Calhoun County, MI*. 110 pages, more than 2,100 names, \$10.

*Clarence Township Cemeteries in Calhoun Co., MI*. Clarence Center, Dyer, Hunt, Krenerick and Nichols, 66 pages, more than 2,100 names, \$8.

*Transcriptions of Cemeteries of Convis Twp., Calhoun Co., MI*. Austin and Porter. 35 pages, more than 1,000 names, \$6.

*Every-Name Index for Generations, the newsletter of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society*. August 1988–June

1995, 48 pages, more than 2,800 names, \$5.

*Marriage Records of Calhoun County, MI, 1836–1890*. 248 pages, indexed, \$18.50.

*Clarendon Twp. Cemeteries, Calhoun Co., MI*. Bentley Corners (East Clarendon), West Clarendon, St. Joseph and Cooks Prairie, 188 pages, \$15. Purchase the Bentley records only for \$3.

*Lee Township Cemeteries, Calhoun Co., MI*. Lee Center, Partello and Rice Creek, 75 pages, \$8.

*Tekonsha Township Cemeteries, Calhoun Co., MI*. Riverside, Windfall and MacFadden, more than 3,600 names, 221 pages, \$18.50.

To order, please send a check (U.S. funds) payable to Calhoun County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 879, Marshall, MI 49068. All prices include shipping. Michigan residents please add 6 percent sales tax. ■

## Genealogy gems

Holdings of our neighbors, the Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society, have been transferred to the Western Michigan University Archives and Regional History Collections. They can be accessed at the WMU library site [www.library.wmich.edu](http://www.library.wmich.edu).

*Photo scavenger hunt, continued from p. 7*

- Forming a human church steeple in front of the family Catholic church
- Demonstrating a farming method that would have been used on the original farmstead at the time of immigration
- Finding a headstone with one of our surnames at a tiny old country cemetery

Photos were developed in a few hours and results announced after dinner. Judging was based on creativity as well as taking the correct photos at the correct locations. The game appealed to young and old members of both sides of the family. They were able to choose locations to visit, learn a little family history and have a great time. ■

# Generations

Calhoun County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 879  
Marshall, MI 49068



Another bus trip to  
Fort Wayne library,  
Oct. 27 details inside

SANDRA REIDMOND 9/1/2001  
363 N. CAPITAL

ATHENS MI 49011

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## *Calhoun County Genealogical Society* **CALENDAR**

*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 the B.E. Henry Building, 615 S. Marshall St. in Marshall.*

- Sept. 18 CCGS board meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 25 **CCGS monthly meeting:** Featuring state archivist David Johnson, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 18–20 Michigan Genealogical Council seminar: "Inkwell to the Internet," Northfield Hilton, Troy
- Oct. 23 **CCGS monthly meeting:** Historical Plat Maps of Calhoun County, led by surveyor Michael Groat, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 27 **CCGS bus trip:** Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, Ind., departs Battle Creek 8 a.m.
- Oct. 27 Library of Michigan workshop: African-American Research Resources, Michigan Library and Historical Center, 9:15 a.m., (517) 373-1300
- Nov. 27 **CCGS monthly meeting:** With George Livingston, Willard Public Library, Battle Creek, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 1 Library of Michigan workshop: Military Records, Michigan Library and Historical Center, 9:15 a.m., (517) 373-1300
- Jan. 29 **CCGS monthly meeting:** Genealogy Hints and Anecdotes and Show and Tell, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 25 (Monday) **CCGS members may attend:** Presentations by Curt Witcher, Willard Public Library, Battle Creek, details TBA
- March 26 **CCGS monthly meeting:** "Ontario-Michigan Migration" with Shirley Hodges, 7 p.m.