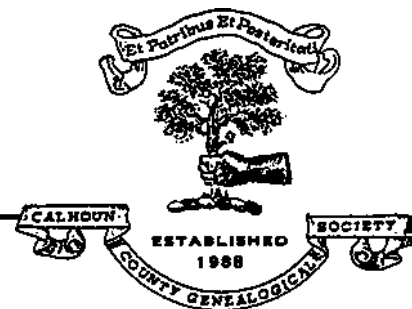


Generations

Vol. 14, No. 5 ■ May/June 2002 ■ the newsletter of the Calhoun County (Michigan) Genealogical Society



May, June meetings to feature Grange, Civil War soldiers

Everyone is welcome to the **May 28** CCGS program to learn about the Grange and records available for family researchers. Roland Winter will discuss his involvement with this family organization and show part of his collection of Grange memorabilia. Learn if your Calhoun County ancestor was a member of the local Grange and how to find out more.

Chris Czopek, a Civil War historian and CCGS member, traveled to the former Andersonville Prison to research soldiers from the Battle Creek and Marshall areas. On **June 25**, he will share what he learned on his October trip to Georgia. He has made some surprising discoveries and promises a few good stories.

Both meetings will be held at 7 p.m. at the B.E. Henry Building, 615 S. Marshall St. in Marshall. Programs are free and open to the public. ■

May 18 bus trip seats still available

Seats are still open for *this Saturday's* CCGS bus trip to the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Ind. — a major genealogical collection. Call Maureen Vire at (616) 969-9737 to reserve your spot. ■

FOCUS THIS ISSUE: *family reunions*

In the next issues we'll focus on the **U.S. military and conflicts**. *Have a story, tip or idea to share?*

Contributions are always encouraged. Write to: Sue Stuever Battel, Editor,
SueBattel@aol.com or 21174
F Dr. S., Marshall, MI 49068. ■



Willard Library announces arrival of 1930 federal census for Michigan

The entire 1930 Michigan Census, complete on 106 reels, is now ready for family history researchers in the Local and Family History Room of Willard Library, Battle Creek. This genealogical treasure was released by the federal government April 1 after the statutory interval of 72 years.

Although there is no name index yet for most states, including Michigan, the National Archives provides a geographic guide to enumeration districts. This aids in browsing an area and locating your ancestors. The March/April issue of **Generations** included an article about finding your ancestor in the census. ■

Confessions of a die-hard party planner

by Sue Stuever Battel, editor

I'm a bit ashamed of my obsession, but I'm sharing it in hopes that your family reunion will be all the better for it.

My obsession? Party planning. Just tell me the event and I'll dream up the perfectly festive affair. Or don't tell me and I might dream it up anyway.

This sometimes gets me into trouble. "How much do you think it will cost to have a hog roast for 100 people?" my husband asked innocently the other day.

"Why do you ask? What's going on?" I demanded. I sensed he was planning a party behind my back. He insisted the church council, of which he is president, just wanted to plan a simple picnic for our congregation's 40th anniversary. A simple picnic? No

way. Not if I'm invited. Just think of the possibilities!

I hear many people moan when confronted with the task of planning a family reunion or any other kind of party. But fill in the details below and your basics will be covered.

Theme

I start all my planning by thinking creatively about a theme. This is most fun if you can have other relatives join you for a brainstorming session over drinks or snacks. Themes don't need to be elaborate, but I do believe you must have one.

Choosing a theme doesn't have to be difficult. Celebrating a 50th anniversary? A



continued on page 62

A primer on British census returns

The first official national census for Britain took place in 1801 and for Ireland in 1821. They have been taken every 10 years ever since, except for 1941.

A 100-year rule means that information is not available until the first working day of the year after the 100th anniversary of the census in question.

As a census is a head count of the population taken on a specific night and information included in

the census has expanded over the years, it is a valuable source for tracing where ancestors lived. However, names of individuals were not recorded in the official returns for the first four censuses in Britain (1801, 1811, 1821 and 1831).

Genealogists will find the census for 1841 and later more useful, as they recorded more detailed information, including place of birth, occupation and

family relationships. It must be remembered that if a member of the family was not home on the night of the census, they might not have been recorded as living in that household. Information is only as accurate as was reported by the informant. ■

— *George Livingston, Willard Library
Local and Family History Librarian,
glivings@willard.lib.mi.us*

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, 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.

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

Issue

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Date

July/August 2002

Articles due

June 1

Theme

The U.S. Military and Conflicts

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.

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http://www.rootsweb.com/~micalhou/ccgs.htm**

CCGS e-mail list: Send a message to calhouncountys@onelist.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.
Member: **National Genealogical Society ■ Michigan Genealogical Council ■ Federation of Genealogical Societies**

Ready reference: Roman numerals

- I. one
- II. two
- III. three
- IV. four
- V. five
- VI. six
- VII. seven
- VIII. eight
- IX. nine
- X. ten
- L. fifty
- C. one hundred
- D. five hundred
- M. one thousand

The Roman numeral I, when it stands alone, is number one; when it is placed before another numeral it subtracts one; when it is placed after another numeral it adds one.

The Roman numeral X, when it stands alone, is number ten; when it is placed before another numeral it subtracts ten; when it is placed after another numeral it adds ten.

Source: Everton, Walter M., *The handy book for genealogists*, Herald-Journal Printing Co., 1949, p. 203. ■

Willard Library teaches Family History 101

Do you want to make sense of your family's history? Are you looking for a lost ancestor? Genealogy beginners who are Battle Creek residents can take a free class in how to put Willard Library resources and the Internet to work tracing your family history. Having some Internet skills or having taken the basic Internet class are strongly recommended before to this class. There is one hands-on lab session with this class to practice your new learning with guided assistance.

Wednesday, June 5, 12–1 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 5, 3–4 p.m.

Persons who have taken the Family History 101 session and lab and who would like additional assistance may call George Livingston, Local and Family History Librarian at 968-8166, ext. 598 to schedule a 30-minute session. ■

Top tips from our members

Michigan naturalization records available by phone

This issue's tip, from George Livingston:

The State Archives of Michigan is offering a new service. You can call them and get information about your ancestor's naturalization record! You are allowed a 15-minute call. There is no fee for five free copies. Call (517) 373-1408. For more information, visit <<http://www.sos.state.mi.us/history/archive/archive.html>> or write: Naturalization Records, State Archives of Michigan, 717 W. Allegan St., Lansing, MI 48918-1837, e-mail: archives@sos.state.mi.us. ■

CCGS publications

Bentley Corners Cemetery, Clarendon Township, Calhoun County, Michigan. No date: 14 pp., 459 entries, \$3.

[This information is included in *Clarendon Township Cemeteries* (below)].

Cemeteries of Convis Township, Calhoun County, Michigan. Austin and Porter cemeteries, transcribed 1995–1996. No date: 35 pp., 1,050 entries. \$6.

Cemeteries of Eckford Township, Calhoun County, Michigan. East Eckford and West Eckford cemeteries, transcribed 1996–1997. First ed. no date: 110 pp., 1,588 entries. Second ed. in preparation.

Cemeteries of Tekonsba Township, Calhoun County, Michigan. MacFadden,

Riverside and Windfall cemeteries, transcribed 1997. 2000: 221 pp., 3,669 entries. \$19.

Clarence Township Cemeteries, Calhoun County, Michigan. Clarence Center, Dyer, Hunt, Krenerick and Nichols cemeteries, transcribed 1996. 1996: 68 pp., 2,106 entries. \$8.

Clarendon Township Cemeteries, Calhoun County, Michigan. Bentley Corners (East Clarendon), Cooks Prairie, St. Joseph and West Clarendon cemeteries, transcribed 1993–1997. No date: 188 pp., 3,232 entries. \$15. [*Bentley Corners Cemetery* available separately (above)].

Generations, the newsletter of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society, Every-Name

Index: August 1988–June 1995. 1996: 48 pp., more than 2,800 entries. \$5, available free at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~micalhou/generations.htm>>.

Lee Township Cemeteries, Calhoun County, Michigan. Lee Center, Partello and Rice Creek cemeteries, transcribed 1989. No date: 75 pp., 1,414 entries. \$8.

Marriage Records of Calhoun County, Michigan, 1836–1890. Abstracted records with index. 1983: 248 pp., approx. 12,000 marriages. \$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. ■

Family reunions: Creating a living legacy

by Anita C. Stuever, CCGS president

When an old man or woman dies, a library burns to the ground,” says an

African proverb. A family reunion is an opportunity to connect with those men and women while the libraries are still open, to celebrate family members and to create a living legacy by sharing stories. A family reunion is our gift to one another.

“We’re all so disconnected now,” says Carole Callard, genealogy specialist at the Library of Michigan. “When family members move far away they don’t see one another. A reunion is a chance for people with a common ancestor to connect.”

When three of my sisters — Beth, Kathy and Sue — planned a family reunion two years ago, it was the first reunion for our generation. “We hadn’t been with our cousins except for a funeral or wedding in a long time,” said Sue. Since no prospects were in sight for a wedding, and we certainly didn’t want our next visit to be a funeral, we created an excuse to get together — a family reunion.

“We set out to create maximal fun with minimal work,” Kathy says. The reunion needed to have wide appeal, be convenient and offer affordable accommodations. After considering the people, their interests and geographic spread, we decided to host a casual weekend event centered on Marshall, Mich., where we live.

Fifty people — nearly everyone invited — participated for the entire weekend. “Seeing all the generations together was fantastic,” Beth says. “Our success came from planning around community

events. We offered a variety of accommodations at differing prices.” The sisters opened their homes and yards as free housing or camping space for many relatives.

The reunion was so successful the family is planning another — this time for both sides of the family. The invitation list is much longer, but more people are involved in planning. Our cousins planned their vacations around this year’s event—a celebration of my parents’ 50th wedding anniversary.

Following are some tips to help you plan a successful family reunion.

Begin early and be organized

Failure to plan far enough in advance is the major pitfall for reunion planners, according to Carole. She advocates determining the date and location a year in advance, then reserving facilities, food service and other necessities.

“Someone must be willing to coordinate the reunion and serve as a central contact point,” Carole says. She encourages planners to begin by consulting books, magazines or web sites on reunion planning.

Planning a reunion is too much for one person, says Beth. Form a committee, with each person choosing their involvement based on their talents and interests. “In our case, each sister planned one major event per day.”

Use a timeline to keep organized. Make detailed lists of tasks to be done, who is to do each, when it must be done and its status, from early planning to post-reunion wrap-up.

Determine the date, location, length and type of reunion

Reunions can take place at any

time, but holiday weekends give participants the luxury of an extra day or two. Choose the date and location a year in advance. A central location enables more people to attend. Reunion events may be formal or informal, and may span an afternoon, a weekend or more.

Location, location, location. Consider the many options:

- Family hometown or ancestral home
- Tourist attraction such as an amusement park, theme park or historic district
- Location of shared family interests in hobbies or sporting events
- Cruise ship, hotel or resort

You might choose a different location each time. Be sure each can accommodate guests of differing abilities.

Why not let others plan the entertainment? Check community calendars of activities. We planned our first reunion around a Festival of the Fifties, hot-air balloon championship, Independence Day parade and fireworks. The community provided a built-in selection of activities, with something for everybody.

What’s to eat? A reunion is not about food; it’s about people. Meals need not be complicated. “Ours was semi-catered,” says Kathy. “We bought prepared chicken from a restaurant. Meals that were quick to prepare and easy to clean up gave us more time to connect with others.”

Plan activities for all ages and ability levels, including intergenerational activities. Some families have a scavenger hunt,



photo exchange, videotaping of interviews with Grandma and Grandpa, exchange of genealogical findings or even tidying the grave sites of their ancestors. The Internet and the public library have abundant ideas for games and other activities.

Hold one major event that guests will not want to miss. Emphasize that if they cannot come for the duration, you want them to participate in that event.

Don't hold a reunion too often. Make it a must-attend event once in a blue moon, rather than something one can catch next year.

Develop a theme

A theme is memorable and helps tie everything together. Carry a theme throughout the invitations, recreation, decorations and mementos.

Our Brennan reunion took place on the verge of a new millennium, so we billed it the "Brennallennium" and had fun with the Stars Wars-type graphics my very creative sisters developed. T-shirts made for the Brennan matriarchs carried the Brennallennium logo and the words "Episode One." Cousins' shirts read, "Next Generation: The Saga Continues...."

This year's reunion is a Blue Ribbon Event, a good, old, country celebration of my parents' anniversary at the family farm. Plans include a hog roast, an ice cream social, decorations using farm products and farm tours. Guests will be given blue-ribbon nametags and the opportunity to participate in ag olympics. There's a calf-showing contest for the brave souls, bale throwing for the brutes, farm-equipment identification quiz for the city cousins, Stuever Farm trivia for old-timers and pedal-tractor races for small children.

Create a budget and plan for

financing the reunion

A misunderstanding over finances can spoil a reunion. The family must agree in advance on a budget and how the reunion will be financed. "Ask invitees to RSVP so the committee can estimate costs as accurately as possible." Many families cover costs by soliciting sponsorships, raffling a legacy quilt or selling meal tickets, family T-shirts or the family memory book.

When using hotels, let your guests make their own reservations (you won't be stuck with the bill) but help them save money by negotiating a group package.

Find everyone who should be invited

This is the greatest challenge, says Carole, because it's so important not to leave anyone out. Make a list of relatives and their families; write to those you know and ask them who else is in the family. Although the Internet provides many avenues to search for people, Carole says word of mouth remains the best way to locate relatives with whom you've lost touch or may never have known.

Carole believes the most important reunion function is to record and distribute names, addresses and phone numbers of family members to aid keeping in touch. Better yet, she says, preserve the memories of your reunions by publishing a family memory book. Schedule an organized photo session in addition to taking candid photos.

For our first reunion Sue produced a booklet with old photos, family trees, contact information, birthdays, anniversaries, and location of ancestral family homes, churches, cemeteries and birthplaces. It was a beautiful tribute to our grandparents and a valuable source of information.

Communicate early and often

Send preliminary invitations announcing the date and location as far in advance as possible. Excitement builds as you send periodic updates about the reunion and family members learn who is coming. We made it easy by using e-mail. Several free web sites provide a place to announce your reunion and list all the details. Use caution with the Internet, however, to keep names and addresses private.

Invitations should include maps showing the location of each activity, a schedule of group and optional activities, as well as times and locations of church services.

Because the Brennan descendants had planned carefully and communicated effectively, they were able to enjoy the reunion fully. The hosts and their guests will hold both visible and intangible memories for the rest of their lives. What better legacy can we offer our families? ■

WHAT IS A GENEALOGIST?

A full-time detective
A thorough historian
An inveterate snoop
A confirmed diplomat
A keen observer
A hardened skeptic
An apt biographer
A qualified linguist
A part-time lawyer
A studious sociologist
An accurate reporter
A hieroglyphics expert,
AND
A complete nut! ■

*Previously published in RootsWeb
Review: Vol. 5, No. 4, Jan. 23, 2002.*

Confessions, *continued from cover*
Golden Affair is a natural theme. Food is formal, décor is gold and images of wedding bells fill the scene. A casual family reunion in the country? *Country Connections* comes to mind. Use straw bales for seating, have a picnic-style lunch and dress in blue jeans and plaid shirts as you listen to country-western music. Games can include wheelbarrow races and horseshoe tossing. Planning a family reunion on a beach or in a wooded park? Take off on the *Survivor* television show with bandanas for nametags to identify each family “tribe” and silly “reward challenges” for little prizes. An “immunity challenge” could determine who gets to *avoid* clean-up duty.

Keep an open mind and think of all the possibilities. A good theme will suggest everything else for you — food, decorations, games, attire.

Place

A family reunion doesn't require an expensive banquet hall. We always hold ours at our family farm or in a relative's big backyard. The best idea I've heard yet is to hold it at a site important to your family — maybe a township hall close to your ancestors' family farm or business. If a nearby park is inexpensive and convenient for most people, by all means hold it there. Just be sure to plan for inclement weather.

Schedule

It's just about impossible to satisfy all of the people all the time. I have found that the best way to plan a family reunion is to do a quick check of coming weddings or other major events. If none are planned for the day I have in mind, I go ahead and set the date. There will always be someone who won't come, but sending a survey to everyone and trying to accommodate every schedule can become a waste of time. Something always comes up.

The key is to let people know the date well in advance (six months to a year) so they can make travel, vacation, lodging and other plans.

No matter what kind of reunion itinerary you plan, also let the guests know about it well in advance. More than once, I have shown up to what I thought was an open house to find out I had missed the program. If you plan an all-weekend celebration, break down activities for each day, each hour — even if free time is all that's on the agenda for that hour. If it's truly an open house format, where guests can come and go over a period of a few hours, say so on the invitation. Most likely, your reunion will have a basic schedule including lunch, games, family sharing time and maybe some special activities.

For each event I plan, I develop a play-by-play schedule that is shared only with the few people in charge. I get very detailed — down to the minute — especially if there is any type of formal program with people speaking or engaging in group activities. Otherwise, dinner might be ready before people can eat it, people might leave before the program and a plethora of other things can go wrong if you don't plan. My siblings always laugh at me for my extreme detail (toast at 12:05 p.m., lunch at 12:10 p.m., cake at 12:40 p.m.), but it helps events run smoothly. If something gets off track, I don't get upset about it, but it gives me a goal for which to aim.

Helpers

Think about each element of your party and where extra hands would be helpful. Who will keep the buffet line stocked with food? Who will monitor the kids swimming in the lake? Who will cut and serve the cake? Who will take the group photo? “Someone will take care of it,” isn't a good enough answer.

I'm not saying you're required

to develop a detailed duty roster and practice each task with military-like precision (as I demand of my seven siblings at our family events), but be prepared to recruit help. And if you don't? You'll end up doing it all yourself. And that's no fun.

So where do you get help? I have found that reunion attendees have no problem pitching in if asked. They may even be honored to be included, especially responsible young people. If it's a complicated task, phone ahead and ask for help. If it's something simple, recruit someone at the beginning of the party.

Food

I must admit — this one is easy when your brother-in-law is a gourmet chef. But I think potluck meals can be just as satisfying (don't tell David). Remember, good planning is crucial even with the simplest of meals. How will you keep it warm or cold? What if *everybody* brings a pot of baked beans and there's no main course? Does anyone require special meals? Who supplies the beverages, dinnerware and utensils? Where are the trash containers?

For a family reunion, my recommendation is to keep it simple. No one will miss the more expensive soda if there's plenty of lemonade. Cups and large coolers make less of a mess than cans. A five-meat deli tray isn't necessary if two choices will do.

Food can be part of the fun. I planned one event at which everyone took part in an old-fashioned corn roast. For more fun, read on.

Fun

Family reunions can be awkward, especially for the younger set, if the various branches of the family aren't already close. While a pick-up game of Frisbee can bring people together in a hurry, I have found that organized games go a long way to unite the different generations and family branches.

What works? Silly quizzes,

physical games if teams are evenly matched, bingo, scavenger hunts and more. The key — and the hardest part — is to get most everyone to participate. You probably have at least one fun-loving elderly uncle who can recruit his generation to play along. Make sure he knows ahead of time you're counting on him.

Be sure to have equipment on hand, too, for on-the-spot group games, such as volleyball. For a kid, nothing can be closer to torture than a family reunion where a group of adults sit and chat while kids who don't know each other well muddle around the fringes.

Decor

Most adults I have talked to about family reunions seem to hate this part the most. But kids love decorating. Gather a group, call them the "decorating committee" and everyone is happy.

On the other hand, if you enjoy decorating, keep your budget in mind and go for it. This, too, can be elaborate or simple. It can be as simple as choosing appropriate colors for the existing elements — table coverings, utensils, napkins and plates. Or you can get more festive with centerpieces and other additions. For that country-western affair, red bandanas come to mind. My parents hosted their 50th class reunion at their home and guests gathered near the garden pond for cake. The woman in charge of decorations brought potted herb plants for centerpieces. Everyone took one home and it was perfect for a garden party. Of course, tableware was in blue and gold, the school colors.

Backup plans

Once I have the basic scheme for a party outlined on paper, I go back to each part and think of the "what ifs." What if it rains? What if the caterer doesn't show up? What if the electricity goes out? With the

dozens of things that *could* go wrong at your reunion, chances are something will. If you're prepared, it's no big deal and no one will even notice.

Invitation

Now that your family reunion plans are well under way, it's time to tell people about it. With a quick-print copy shop in nearly every town, it's easy to create an attractive and informative invitation to your well-planned event.

For family reunions, I typically send two invitations. The first is a simple postcard at least six months prior, giving the date, location and my phone number and e-mail address for people who want to contact me. On the postcard, I might hint at the event theme to get people talking. If I'm missing the addresses of any relatives, I ask for them at this time. I also encourage people to spread the word.

Next I send the official reunion invitation. I err on the early side, yet not so early that people will forget about it. Depending on how far your guests will be traveling, consider sending this four to six weeks ahead. I give all the details on this invitation.

There is probably someone in your family who is good with the computer, scrapbooking or rubber stamping. Consider recruiting them to create the invitation. Be sure to give plenty of notice, though, so the invitations make it out on time.

The final step is to enjoy the fruits of your labor — have a laugh with that favorite aunt, meet some new cousins and lead the way in making sure everyone has a good time.

As for that church anniversary party ... ruby is the gem for 40th anniversaries, so I'm thinking we paint the church red ... no ... we'll dress like it's 1963, the year the church was founded. Oh, maybe my husband's hog roast is good enough — as long as all the details are in place. ■

Stop procrastinating! Organize your family reunion in 2002

A gentleman at a genealogy seminar recently told me he has wanted to organize a family reunion for a long time. He had read my book, *Your Family Reunion: How to Plan It, Organize It, and Enjoy It*, and though he felt the information was well-written and easy to follow, he was afraid he had waited too late to start working on a reunion for 2002.

What qualifies as a reunion?

Anytime a group of family members gets together to share time and information, that qualifies a reunion. However, the term "family reunion" usually evokes a mental image of a huge group of family members in some sort of a formally organized event. That does not need to be the case. Every family gathering, regardless of size, will involve some planning, communication, and organization. Smaller reunions require some of this work, and larger reunions typically require even more of this preparation.

What is most important is that family members have the opportunity to build relationships and share information. You get the people together and supply the opportunity to communicate, and a great deal will happen all by itself.

The size and scope of your family reunion are the most important factors determining whether you can or cannot quickly organize the event this year. You certainly want to make sure that everyone who wants to attend the reunion can do so.

A small reunion can be an intimate affair, ranging in size from just a few people to perhaps twenty or twenty-five family members. An event this size can usually be organized and managed quite simply by one to three people and can typically be organized

continued on page 67

Make hunting for your past a fun family affair

by Sue Stuever Battel, editor,
and Anita Stuever, CCGS president

We were planning activities for a long weekend celebration of our parents' 50th wedding anniversary. Because we were bringing together both sides of the family and people of all ages, we wanted an activity that would serve as an icebreaker and allow all generations from all locales to have fun together. As genealogists, we also wanted to introduce everyone to some family history without boring them with charts and dates.

We found the perfect solution. The Great Stuever/Brennan Scavenger Hunt of 2001 was born. Our photo scavenger hunt got people out to all parts of the community to sites that are meaningful to the family. Instead of gathering prescribed items, teams were required to take photos of their team doing something that showed some understanding of our ancestors.

Making the maps needed for the hunt was a good opportunity for us to track important places in our family's past — farms and homes, churches, schools and more. Once we had marked about 25 sites on the map, we chose nine to include in the scavenger hunt.

We called ahead to ask the owners of certain places for permission to use their property for the hunt. We photocopied the maps and rules, and purchased disposable cameras. We weren't sure how many people to expect, so we bought extra cameras and let people use them over the weekend. If available, instant (Polaroid-type) cameras could be used as an alternative.

The rules for our photo scavenger hunt were simple.

Everyone on the team had to be involved in each picture, so if they weren't taking the photo, they had to be in it. Of course each group needed a legal driver and a vehicle. Because of our concern for safe driving, we de-emphasized time and gave no award for being the first team to finish. They simply had to go to the right place and do whatever the instructions told them to do — as creatively as they could.

We let the teams determine the order in which they would visit the places. Although we had driven to the sites in advance to estimate how long it would take, we were surprised that every team made it to all nine sites in the two hours allotted.

Our photo-taking instructions were purposely vague. We wanted to make sure each team had enough latitude to get creative when it came time for their photo opportunities. Then we asked them to do some crazy things:

- Milk the concrete cow at the family farm.
- Conduct class outside the old Island School.
- Perform a cheer for Capac High by the old school bell.
- Form a human steeple at the Catholic church where our Irish ancestors were members.
- Act out the Protestant Reformation, commemorated on the cornerstone of the family church.
- Find a headstone bearing one of our surnames at a tiny old country cemetery.
- Demonstrate a farming method that could have been used on the original farmstead at the time of immigration.
- Prove that you've "got the beet" in a sugar beet field on the farm.

Armed with a disposable camera, a detailed map and the cell phone number of someone who could help lost travelers get their bearings, 21 people split into five teams and went off in separate vehicles in search of family history. They were asked to turn in their cameras by noon. Lunch was waiting when they returned.

After we got the pictures from one-hour photo processing, the two of us left the party and acted as official judges. We gave teams points for photographing the right scene, involving all team members and being the most creative. But since it was all for fun, we pretty much picked the funniest poses as the best. And there was no shortage of funny photos.

One assignment was to photograph the team acting out an old-time farming method on our great great grandparents' farm. Our aunts appeared in a hilarious picture. They claim they were cutting wood; we think they were hula dancing.

More than one team used tree branches as props as they reenacted a class session at the old country school. They used them as switches and sent students to the corner for punishment!

The matriarchs of the family — four sisters — did their own version of the scavenger hunt. They went to the sites that were most meaningful to them, then went wherever they wanted. Presumably the places were from their childhood and the owners didn't mind them posing on the front porch!

We gave the Goschka family a special award for putting up with our dad. Dad has lived his whole life in the Capac area, so he joined the out-

of-town Goshkas to help their team navigate the map. After the photos were developed, we discovered that Dad had taken them to a completely wrong house. We felt lucky the owners didn't unleash the dogs on the strangers in their yard! Despite the blunder, Diane Goschka wrote to us later, "The scavenger hunt was one of the most fun events and got us out to see the community where the family grew up."

It was clear in the pictures that everyone had a blast. We posted all the pictures on bulletin boards for people to enjoy the rest of the weekend. Then we presented awards, giving each team some kind of a gag award. The winning team was granted the right to be first in line for dinner. Later, everyone was invited to take home any photos they chose; we kept the film and index prints.

We did run into a snag. One-hour photo developing is hard to come by in our rural area and, despite our planning, the closest store was backed up by several hours. One of our sisters ended up driving about 30 more miles to find someone who could develop our film on time.

We decided to let the teams determine the order in which to visit the places. Although we had driven to the sites ahead of time to see how long it would take, we were surprised that every team made it to every spot in the two hours allotted.

Our plan was to require teams to have at least one person from each of three generations on their team. But in all the excitement, people teamed up before we could say so. They were so excited about what was ahead, we just let them go! Teams ended up a little lopsided. One team had six people, while another had only three teenagers. It turns out that those details didn't seem to matter. No matter what the age or number of participants, each group had a great time. Better yet, their memories were captured on film forever. ■

Index to grantor deeds

April 1865 through December 1869

The Calhoun County Index to Grantor Deeds indicates deceased persons who sold property. The actual records are held by the Calhoun County Clerk and Register of Deeds, 315 W. Green St., Marshall, MI 49068, web site <<http://co.calhoun.mi.us/docs/documents.html>>. This information was transcribed by a CCGS member and is made available as part of the society's mission. A portion of the list will be printed in each issue of **Generations**. The complete index contains 1,312 names from Isaac C. ABBOTT to Charlotte A. ZIMMERMAN and spans April 1865 to January 1901.

Index	Recorded	Grantor's first name	Last name	Liber	Page
5	1865 Apr 29	James L.	FERGUSON	L58	271
5	1865 May 22	Nathan D.	GARNSEY	L58	355
5	1865 Jun 2	Miles R.	SHERMAN	L58	236
5	1865 Jun 26	Levant C.	RHIMES	L58	415
5	1865 Sep 15	Henry C.	PIERCE	L58	624
5	1865 Nov 29	Ambrose	EGGLESTON	L61	64
5	1865 Dec 6	Andrew J.	STIVENS	L61	92
5	1865 Dec 30	Reuben	PEW	L61	165
5	1866 Feb 13	Daniel	HUDSON	L61	263
5	1866 Apr 9	Zophar	SMITH	L61	442
5	1866 Apr 26	Simeon A.	STONE	L61	502
5	1866 Jun 19	Elihue	TALMADGE	L63	40
5	1866 Jul 6	Reuben	GRIDLEY	L63	95
5	1866 Aug 27	Wm. P.	GREEN	L63	150
5	1866 Oct 3	John H.	MOORE	L63	336
5	1866 Oct 22	Mathew	HALLADAY	L63	397
5	1866 Nov 9	Hiram	CAMPBELL	L63	457
6	1867 Apr 13	C.C.P.	BALL	L65	193
6	1867 Apr 16	James H.	FILKIN	L65	207
6	1867 Mar 8	William P.	WILLIAMS	L65	86
6	1867 Aug 14	Wm. W.	BALDRIDGE	L65	607
6	1867 Aug 28	Charles S.	SHEPARD	L65	579
6	1867 Aug 29	John	BANGHAM	L65	671
6	1868 Jan 22	Alfred	SAPHAM	L66	544
6	1868 Feb 21	Stephen P.	HALL	L66	657
6	1868 May 4	John	STEWART	L68	205
6	1868 Jun 10	Smith	ROGERS	L66	804
6	1868 Jun 22	Smith	ROGERS	L66	833
6	1868 Nov 19	Ruth	DOUGLAS	L68	552
6	1869 Feb 3	Thomas	FOLGER	L69	2
6	1869 Feb 27	Wm. Thomas	CARROLL	L69	63
6	1869 Mar 9	Ann	WALKINGTON	L69	85
6	1869 Apr 1	Ira	NASH	L69	154
6	1869 Apr 22	Leonard	CLEVELAND	L69	226
6	1869 May 11	Asa P.H.	KELSEY	L69	294
6	1869 May 28	Elisha	GILBERT	L69	361
6	1869 Jun 5	Christian	BOCHMAN	L69	402
6	1869 Aug 10	Stephen	BURLINGHAM	L69	587
6	1869 Sep 11	Catherine	VAN MIDDLESWORTH	L69	718
6	1869 Sep 17	Challon	BROADWELL	L69	735
6	1869 Sep 20	Robt. H.	WILSON	L69	745
6	1869 Nov 23	Walter	PEABODY	L71	95
6	1869 Nov 27	Orrin O.	ROGERS	L71	105
6	1869 Nov 30	Burr	HALL	L71	125
6	1869 Nov 30	John	McVICKER	L71	126
6	1869 Dec 24	Joseph	ROBIE	L71	201

10 ways to share family information at your next reunion

1. Assign each family line a color. Give members of that family line the appropriate color t-shirt, nametag or ribbon to wear to help them make connections with one another.
2. Compile a family scrapbook organized by major surnames. Place it in a central location and stay nearby to hear people's memories as they view the pages.
3. Print extra large family trees and ask attendees to highlight their own name.
4. Encourage people to make updates or corrections on the large family trees. (Hint, don't make the trees look *too* nice or people will be afraid to write on them).
5. Have the family tree printed onto t-shirts for everyone.
6. Make nametags for each participant with a photo of their direct ancestor on the tag.
7. Copy old family photos, documents and the family tree onto legal-size sheets of paper and use them as placemats.
8. Place a sheet of family-related trivia questions at each table and hide the answers on the back. Ask questions that pertain to each branch of the family and encourage people to quiz one another over lunch. Questions can be serious, such as, "From which country did the Luckhardt family emigrate in 1884?" or silly, "Which member of the family got his head shaved with sheep shears because he wouldn't hold still for a haircut from mom?"
9. Send each participant home with a booklet chronicling the family's history.
10. Compile a directory with name, address, phone, and e-mail of each participant. Distribute it following the reunion. ■

— Sue Stuever Battel



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.

Would like to correspond with anyone researching John and Philina ANSLEY family, moved from PA to Marengo, Calhoun Co., MI, in 1831. Children: Amanda (ANSLEY) BROWN, Helen (ANSLEY) CHAPMAN, George W., Homer and Ida (ANSLEY) WHITNEY.

Also researching George KNICKERBOCHER and Ann Sophia DUNCAN of NY and Calhoun Co. Ann's children: Electa m. George W. ANSLEY, Caroline C. m. ? SMITH, Frances J., Franklin and Mary E.

Beverly Rowley
5224 W. Rosewood
Spokane, WA 99208-3759 ■

Do you have the bug to reunite family? Try these web sites:

- Thinking about a reunion? <http://www.genealogy.com/genealogy/32_reunion.html>
- What should we do at the reunion? <http://www.genealogy.com/genealogy/34_reunion.html>
- Family-Reunion: <<http://family-reunion.com>> ■



Genealogy gems

Ancestry.com resources available free for Willard Library patrons through library web site

Making my day and hopefully every other thrifty genealogist's is the news that, with the generous support of the Talbert and Leota Abrams Foundation, the Library of Michigan has purchased statewide access for academic, public and K-12 libraries to the Gale Group's new AncestryPlus database.

Patrons of Willard Library can access the resource free from the library's computers and from the

library web site. Users will need to enter the bar code number from their library card.

The Gale Group and Ancestry.com have joined forces on this new online genealogy service for libraries. AncestryPlus integrates Ancestry.com's vast information resources, including more than 10 million images of the U.S. federal census forms, with the Gale Group's acclaimed genealogical references in a simple

Web interface.

This free access is now available at the Willard Library web page, <<http://www.willard.lib.mi.us/testhistory.htm>>. Click on "Ancestry Plus" under the Genealogy category. E-mail me, George Livingston, if you have any problems accessing it. ■

— George Livingston, Willard Library
Local and Family History Librarian,
glivings@willard.lib.mi.us

A Member's Pedigree Chart: *Are you related?*

1 Loyal James Laird B: 25 Oct 1936 P: Battle Creek, Mich M: 29 Jun 1957 P: Marshall, Mich D: 24 Apr 1974 P: Battle Creek, Mich	2 Richard Eugene Laird B: 9 Apr 1915 P: Bliss Twp, Emmet Co., MI M: 1 Dec 1934 P: Battle Creek, Mich D: 30 Dec 1973 P: Battle Creek, Mich	4 Orville James Laird B: 4 Jun 1880 P: Barry Co, MI M: 19 Jan 1899 P: Barry Co, MI D: 2 Sep 1945 P: Battle Creek, Mich	8 Henry Marcus Laird B: 18 Jan 1855 P: Ohio M: 20 Oct 1875 P: Woodland Twp, Barry Co, MI D: 21 Feb 1913 P: Bliss Twp, Emmet Co., MI	16 James Laird B: Abt 1825 M: Abt 1850 D: 11 Feb 1890
Joyce Carol La Flame (Spouse of no. 1)	5 Edna May Wright B: 14 Oct 1881 P: Eaton Co, Mich D: 26 Feb 1925 P: Petoskey, Emmet Co, Mich	9 Clara Delphine Mallory B: 1 Feb 1859 P: Indiana D: 13 Dec 1936 P: Battle Creek, Mich	17 Rebecca Ewing B: 6 May 1827 D: 20 Nov 1912	18 John Dow Mallory B: 15 Jul 1822 M: Abt 1848 D: 27 Aug 1881
3 Margaret Lona Herr B: 5 Mar 1919 P: Battle Creek, Mich D: 6 Dec 1953 P: Battle Creek, Mich	6 Frederick Arthur Herr B: 11 Jul 1872 P: Mich M: 16 Sep 1896 P: Michigan D: 14 Aug 1926 P: Battle Creek, Mich	10 Charles C Wright B: 1857 P: New York M: 25 Dec 1880 P: Onecida Twp, Eaton Co, MI D: 1919 P: Emmet Co.	19 Eunice Davis B: 23/24 Feb 1828 D: 1 Feb 1917	20 Joel Wright B: 1831 M: 1850 D:
7 Caroline Susan Cornwell (Callie) B: 11 Aug 1882 P: Tracy, Iowa D: 2 May 1961 P: Battle Creek, Mich	11 Laura Estella Kent B: 1864 P: Onecida Twp, Eaton Co, MI D: 1920 P: Emmet Co.	12 Johann Martin Herr B: 18 Oct 1851 P: Atlantic Ocean M: 1 Sep 1872 P: Marshall, Michigan D: 18 Jan 1921 P: Pennfield Twp., CC, Mich	21 Harriet B: 1837 D:	22 William Porter Kent B: 1841 M: 7 Aug 1860 D:
14 Charles Joel Cornwell B: 23 Feb 1855 P: Section Hill, BC, Michigan M: 25 Aug 1875 P: Eaton Co., Michigan D: 30 Mar 1931 P: Level Park, CC, Mich	13 Emma Matilda Bishop B: 10 Mar 1855 P: Marshall, Calhoun Co, Mich D: 21 May 1919 P: Battle Creek, Mich	15 Marietta Demmons B: 27 Apr 1860 P: Walton, Michigan D: 4 Jul 1929 P: Level Park, Calhoun Co, Mich	23 Lydia Ann Eldred B: 1843 D:	24 John George Herr B: Aug 1809 M: D: 25 Jan 1886
29 Caroline Darrow B: 5 Jan 1832 D: 5 Apr 1897	30 John Demmons B: 1830 M: D:	31 Abigail Johnson B: 1830 D:	25 B: D:	26 William Bishop B: 14 Feb 1830 M: 26 Aug 1851 D: 23 Mar 1904
28 Thomas A Cornwell B: 2 Jun 1820 M: Abt 1848 D: 2 Jul 1897	27 Rhoda Annis B: 1832 D: Aft 1904	28 Thomas A Cornwell B: 2 Jun 1820 M: Abt 1848 D: 2 Jul 1897	29 Caroline Darrow B: 5 Jan 1832 D: 5 Apr 1897	30 John Demmons B: 1830 M: D:
31 Abigail Johnson B: 1830 D:	32 B: D:	33 B: D:	34 B: D:	35 B: D:

Procrastinating, *continued from p. 63*

within a short period of time. It can be complicated when out-of-town relatives are invited, but that may be simplified by having some or all of them stay in people's homes. There is also the advantage that meals and

other events may be held in someone's home, in a small rented hall, or as a barbecue in a park.

There is still time to organize a successful family reunion for 2002.

It's time to stop procrastinating and time to start doing some planning. It's not too late!

— *excerpted from an article by George G. Morgan, © 2002, MyFamily.com*

Generations

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

Inside:
Focus on family reunions

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.

- May 18 **CCGS bus trip:** Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Ind.
- May 28 **CCGS monthly meeting:** “The Grange, its Memorabilia and Records for Family Researchers” with Roland Winter.
- June 5 Willard Library: “Family History 101 — First Steps in Family History,” Battle Creek, free for Battle Creek residents, 12–1 p.m., (616) 968-8166
- June 22 Library of Michigan Abrams Genealogy Series: “Genealogy and the Internet,” Lansing, \$10, (517) 373-1300
- June 25 **CCGS monthly meeting:** “Calhoun County Civil War Soldiers at the Andersonville Prison” with Chris Czopek, a Civil War historian who visited the former Georgia prison to research soldiers from the Battle Creek-Marshall area.
- Aug. 5 Willard Library: “Family History 101 — First Steps in Family History,” Battle Creek, free for Battle Creek residents, 3–4 p.m., (616) 968-8166
- Aug. 10 Library of Michigan Abrams Genealogy Series: “Military Records and Resources,” Lansing, \$10, (517) 373-1300



Bus trip spaces still available!
Call Maureen at (616) 969-9737 to reserve your spot.