

# Generations

Vol. 14, No. 6 ■ July/August 2002 ■ the newsletter of the Calhoun County (Michigan) Genealogical Society



## CCGS officer nominees sought

**O**fficer elections will be held at the society's annual meeting Sept. 24. Besides the offices of president, vice president, treasurer, recording secretary and corresponding secretary, CCGS has committee chairs and others to carry out worthwhile projects. Tasks such as membership promotion, cemetery transcriptions, Pioneer Certificates and publications are carried out by appointment or volunteers.

It takes many hours to carry out the work of an active society, but many volunteers make light work! Please consider sharing your time and talents, and call a board member listed on page 70 to volunteer.

Because the September meeting is traditionally the society's annual business meeting, the program will be brief. Dean France has agreed to bring his Calhoun County memorabilia for members to enjoy. ■

## Introducing a new leaf on the world family tree

*Generations* editor Sue Stuever Battel and her husband, Bob Battel, became parents with the birth of Adele Lynn Stuever Battel on 3 August. With her own web site, Addy has already started the next generation of genealogists. Her early birth caused the late publication of this issue, for which we apologize. ■

— Anita Stuever

### FOCUS THIS ISSUE:

#### *The U.S. military and its conflicts*

In this issue you'll learn how to find your elusive Union veteran. Inside you'll find articles about the gems of information you can find in draft cards, how war changed the lives of our ancestors, military monuments and exhibits in Calhoun County and women in the military.

Coming themes are **"Organizing the overload and documenting your research"** and **"Computers in genealogy."** 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. ■

## Where do I start?

## Finding a Union veteran

by Sue Stuever Battel, editor, and Anita C. Stuever, president

**O**ur ancestor Theodore Bruennemann was living in Canada when he was recruited to serve in the great Civil War. He was promised a U.S. land bounty for the service. Theodore enlisted eagerly and fought for the Northern cause. After the war, he was awarded 160 acres in St. Clair County, Mich. Because of a mistake in Army records — or an officer who wanted to Anglicize the German surname — his name was changed to Brennan when he was mustered out.

Or so goes the family lore. It makes a great story, but genealogical research has proved almost all of it false. Our great great grandfather was living in St. Clair County on the purported bounty land when he enlisted in the army as Peter Brennan.

How did we learn that the only truth to the story is that he served in the Civil War? By research that included the following resources. You can use the same sources to learn about your Union veteran of the Civil War.

### Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System

<<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>>

Click on SOLDIERS to search for a soldier by name. The database, maintained by the National Park Service, contains names of 4.2 million Confederate and Union Soldiers. The result gives first and last name, regiment, company, side (Union or Confederate), soldier's rank at enlistment and discharge, any alternate names and a microfilm number. You can click on the regiment number shown to read a regimental history and, from there, obtain a list of everyone in the regiment.

*continued on page 74*



# Willard Library acquires World War I draft registration cards for Calhoun County



**W**illard Library has acquired microfilm of the World War I Selective Service Registration Cards for Calhoun County.

According to Local and Family History Librarian George Livingston, all males in the United States — citizens and aliens born

between 1872 and 1900 — were required to complete draft registration cards. The cards often contain vital family information.

The cards, produced in 1917–1918, include many men who never served in the military. Although not military service records, these records show eligibility for the draft of up to 23 percent of the population.

Since the 1890 federal census was destroyed, tracking ancestors

in this time period has been difficult. Because the cards often required detailed answers to questions of parentage and family origin, draft registration cards can be a goldmine of information about your relatives in the last quarter of the 19th century.

Visit the Local and Family History Room at Willard Library in Battle Creek to investigate these important tools in family history research. ■

## 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

Vol. 15, No. 1

### Date

September/October 2002

### Articles due

Aug. 1

### Theme

Organizing the overload and documenting your research

Vol. 15, No. 2

November/December 2002

Oct. 1

Computers in 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 ■ MichiganCalhounGene@yahoo.com**  
**<http://www.rootsweb.com/~micalhou/ccgs.htm>**

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

## 26 German Prisoners of War buried at Fort Custer

**F**rom 1943 through 1946, Fort Custer in Augusta, Mich., housed several German Prisoner of War Camps. Many of the 4,000 prisoners worked on area farms and vineyards.

Fort Custer National Cemetery has graves of 26 German soldiers. Sixteen of the men died as a result of an accident 31 October 1944, when a truck returning prisoners from a work detail collided with a train at an unguarded railroad crossing at Blissfield, Mich. The other 10 died of natural causes while prisoners of war at Fort Custer.

In 1953, American Legion Post #54 included the 26 German POW graves in their annual memorial service to honor those who died in defense of their country. Eventually the United War Veterans Council became sponsor of the event, held the third Sunday in November, on Germany's *Volkstrauertag* or Day of National Mourning.

Oskar Menzel, senior member

of the local German-American community, organized the *grabwache* or grave honor guard, which stands guard at the graves in one-hour intervals on Volkstrauertag.

The annual Battle Creek Volkstrauertag Service is the only one of its kind outside the memorial services held in Germany.

Following is a list of German POWs buried at Fort Custer National Cemetery, as transcribed from their gravestones. Date of death, rank and date of birth are included if available.

Scheck, Johann, 6/22/1944, Ober GR ...  
Aissen, Arthur, 9/29/1944, Soldat ...  
Janoszek, Frank, 10/1/1944, Cpl ...  
Patsch, Johann, 10/16/1944, Cpl ...  
Rinde, Hans, 12/22/1944, GEFR ...  
Marschollek, Wilhelm, 5/10/1944, Grenadier ...  
Ludwig, Kurtz, 6/8/1945, Grenadier ...  
Wadle, Alois, 9/15/1945, Stabsgefreiter ...  
Allmann, Phillip, 10/31/1945, OGEFR ...  
Allmer, Frantz, 11/16/1914-10/31/1945, OGEFR ...  
Auer, Ferdinand, 10/31/1945,

SGEFR ...

Baumgartner, August, 1/29/1911-10/31/1945, OGEFR ...  
Becker, Hans, 12/12/1907-10/31/1945, O SOLD ...  
Berghofer, Norbert, 10/31/1945, OGEFR ...  
Beckman, Anton, 12/29/1908-11/1/1945, OBWN ...  
Acker, Karl, 1/1/1920-11/3/1945, GEFR ...  
Ackerman, Richard, 10/31/1945, FW ...  
Ahrens, Ernest, 10/31/1945, GEFR ...  
Arnold, Rolf, 10/31/1945, SOLD ...  
Bernock, Kurt, 10/31/1945, OGEFR ...  
Arzbeger, Karl, 10/31/1945, OFW ...  
Bialetzke, Heinz, 10/31/1945, UFFZ ...  
Behring, Kurt, 10/31/1945, OGEFR ...  
Beiersdorfer, Paul, 10/31/1945, SOLD ...  
Vogler, Rudolf, 11/26/1945, GEFR ...  
Ensgraber, Jasef, 6/20/1946, SOLDAT ...

Fort Custer National Cemetery is on Dickman Road 5 miles west of Battle Creek. Cemetery officials invite correspondence addressed to:

Fort Custer National Cemetery  
15501 Dickman Rd.  
Augusta, MI 49012  
(269) 731-4164 ■

— from the Bundesland (Germany) e-mail list, bundesland-L@rootsweb.com

## 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. ■

# War as a catalyst of change

by George G. Morgan

**W**hile sitting around with some genealogist friends, I got involved in a discussion about events that changed people's lives. In considering many possibilities, we finally agreed that war is perhaps the greatest catalyst for change, both for individuals and for society as a whole.

As you research your ancestors, it is important to put them and their life events into historical perspective. This means evaluating where they were located geographically at all times during their lives, the political and social climates in which they lived and the uncontrollable and irrevocable series of events that swept them up. Let's consider the more important effects wars had on our ancestors and their families.

## "War is hell"

William Tecumseh Sherman is attributed the quotation, "War is hell." Consider the many armed conflicts throughout history, the damage they wrought and the suffering and death they brought with them. War is a terrible thing, often considered desirable or necessary before the fact, much feared during the event and much regretted afterward.

Many armed conflicts have taken place throughout U.S. history, regardless of whether war was declared. Most of us have ancestors who participated as combatants or whose lives were influenced. The most frequently remembered conflicts are the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the War Between the States, the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. There have been many other such events, however.

Relations between settlers and Native Americans produced tensions resulting in many battles, beginning in Jamestown (1622–1644), followed by the Yamasee War (1715–1716), the Cherokee Uprising in the Carolinas (1760–1761) and the many Indian Wars 1811–1858 and 1865–1900 (including three Seminole Wars in Florida). The war for Texas Independence (1836), the Mexican War (1846–1848), the Philippine Insurrection (1899–1902) and other military engagements included American troops. A review of America's military conflicts in James C. Neagle's book, *U.S. Military Records: A Guide to Federal and State Sources*, is enlightening in terms of the sheer numbers and scope of all these military actions.

Considering the number of conflicts, it's no wonder that the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has amassed such a huge collection of military service records, pension files, bounty land papers and other militaria. It's no surprise that genealogists comprise the largest contingent of users of NARA materials. All of us with ancestors involved in wars and armed conflicts justifiably want to obtain copies of those precious records.

## Effects of war on our ancestors

It was not just our antecedents who were involved in wars as soldiers and sailors. Our society in total was affected. Men, women and children, young and old, and from all strata of society were affected. The effects on people were both positive and negative, but few people were left unchanged. Let's consider some effects of armed conflict on our ancestors, and ask ourselves some questions.

## Destruction of property

The first casualty of war is usually property. Homes and businesses are destroyed and personal belongings are lost, leaving people homeless and/or without the means to support themselves and their families. Food and provisions, crops and livestock are lost to destruction or appropriation by the government or troops. As a result, people may have to subsist on meager supplies, or may become refugees to escape fighting, hunger, personal danger or death.

Did *your* ancestor migrate because of war? Did *your* ancestors suffer hunger, starvation, personal danger or injury caused by war?

## Death in battle

The death of combatants in battle is an obvious danger. Innocent bystanders and ordinary citizens often became victims, too. People fled in advance of armies, taking all they could carry, to avoid death. In some cases, they died anyway. In others, they may have traveled so far and made a new life in another place, that later it seemed pointless to return.

Did any of *your* ancestors or family members die because of war? Did any of *your* ancestors flee the possibility of death?

## Disease, pestilence and death

War brings with it illness and death. Poor sanitation becomes common when people must focus on survival. Ignorance about how to prevent and treat diseases, wounds and other medical problems, coupled with a lack of medications to treat them, resulted in untold deaths. Yellow fever and malaria carried by mosquitoes, viral diseases carried by fleas and other insects, typhoid fever, diphtheria, measles, smallpox

and chicken pox, amoebic dysentery, influenza and other diseases killed many tens of millions of people through the centuries.

Did any of *your* ancestors succumb to disease as a result of war? Did any of *your* ancestors sustain a wound or injury, or suffer from a disease resulting from war? If so, what effect did that have on him or her and the family?

### **Changes in government**

Most wars have been fought for land, power or authority. Americans are keen on fighting for their freedom and for the freedom of other oppressed people. Native Americans lost much in conflicts with white settlers and the federal government.

Wars and conflicts irreversibly altered governments in the North American continent. Spanish, French, English and Mexican governmental control of territories was relinquished, colonies were settled, states were formed, counties were organized and boundaries changed over time. Our understanding of these jurisdictional changes is essential to locating records of our ancestors.

Did *your* ancestors live in a place where governmental control changed during their lifetime?

### **Persecution**

Religious freedom has been a driving force for millions of our ancestors. Pilgrims and Puritans come to mind as people who left Europe for the New World to exercise their religious beliefs without persecution. These are not the only such groups. Many Huguenots suffered from economic persecution and ultimately migrated to the New World. The Mormons (Latter-day Saints) migrated westward across North America in search of a place to practice their religion. Jews from all over Eastern and Central Europe migrated to escape persecution and death. Other religious groups, often entire congregations who had settled

in one area of the United States, sometimes pulled up stakes and moved. Often the move was caused by fear of armed conflict.

Did any of *your* ancestors migrate to escape persecution that may have resulted in armed conflict?

### **Changes in societal structure**

It is often said that war changes everything. With the changes effected by wars, the fiber of American society and culture have changed forever. The American Revolution resulted in the formation of the United States; the Civil War freed millions of slaves and changed the entire economy of the southern states. World War I ended the United States' isolation from world politics; World War II opened the way for women in the workforce and laid the foundation for the Civil Rights movements of the 1950s and 1960s. The resulting economic boom in the United States opened the way for higher education to veterans through the G.I. Bill, and the building of suburban tract housing allowed millions of people to purchase their own homes for the first time. The changes in all areas of our society were extraordinary.

Was *your* ancestor influenced by societal changes during or following a war?

### **Mobility and relocation**

War exposes people to new places, new people and new ideas. Before their participation in the military, most servicemen and servicewomen had seldom traveled far from their birthplace. Military service exposed them to many new experiences and people from other areas. The grass on the other side of the fence — or rather on the other side of a fence far away — began to look very green indeed. Once they had traveled to other places, often a desire was kindled to travel to, or even relocate to,

another area they had visited. So migration accelerated. Following the Civil War, city populations burgeoned as huge migrations of rural residents began. After World War I, fear of new places and reluctance of the common person to travel reduced migration. Following World War II, the vacation industry exploded, and relocation to seek better employment opportunities, in places they saw during the war, became commonplace.

### **What does this mean to your research?**

I have described a few common effects of armed conflict. It's important to look at your ancestors as more than names on a pedigree chart or in a database. They were active participants in events of their time, experiencing the events themselves or observing them.

Your research should include not only the names and dates of your ancestors' lives, but also a study of history at local, state, national and global levels to understand the events and circumstances that influenced their lives. Certainly a local skirmish with Indians, a border raid by Pancho Villa and his band, invasion of the British army at Yorktown, or sending a family member to war in Europe, the Pacific or another place had a distinct effect on our ancestors and their families. By becoming a student of history, as well as a student of your own family history, you'll gain insight into your ancestor's lives and perhaps into their motivations. Consider your own ancestors, and the places and times in which they lived. Then learn more about history and bring your ancestors into real focus. ■

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## Finding a Union veteran,

*continued from p. 69*

### Michigan Family History Network Civil War Files

**<<http://www.mifamilyhistory.org/civilwar/default.asp>>**

Several databases and links to many off-site resources are listed here.

A special enumeration of Civil War veterans was taken for the 1894 Michigan state census and the index is searchable from this web site. The results give name, township and county. Using that information, the actual census microfilm can be viewed at a library.

Veterans who were collecting a pension in 1883 are listed in the 1883 Michigan state pensioner's index, also available from this web site. The index lists name, certificate number, post office, cause (injury or other reason for receiving pension), monthly rate, origination date and county.

### National Archives and Records Administration

**<[http://www.archives.gov/research\\_room/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/index.html)>**

Military service records from 1775 to about 1916 can be obtained by submitting NATF Form 86. To get the form (up to five copies per request), provide your name, mailing address, form number requested and number of forms you need. Make the request in an e-mail message to [inquire@nara.gov](mailto:inquire@nara.gov) or in a letter to the National Archives and Records Administration, Attn: NWCTB, 700 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001.

The form will arrive in the mail and give instructions for proceeding. You'll probably need to consult other resources in this list so you can fill in the information requested. You can still submit the form if you don't know all the information asked, but as much as possible is always best — especially if your ancestor has a common name.

With NATF Form 86, you can request military service records, pension records or both. Each has a fee. If your budget allows for only one, request the pension records to get the most genealogical information.

### Veterans and Widows Census

Civil War veterans or their widows were enumerated in 1890. A few northern Michigan counties are indexed online by the Michigan Family History Network (web address at left); more are being prepared. The information is also available at libraries. ■

## Put a face with a name

**T**he Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has launched a campaign to collect a picture of each of the 58,226 men and women whose names are inscribed on the wall in Washington, D.C. It will be a permanent online photo collection at <http://www.thevirtualwall.org>. If you have a picture of a soldier whose name is on the wall, you may post it. For more information, contact Mariah French at [mfrench@vvmf.org](mailto:mfrench@vvmf.org) or (202) 393-0090, ext. 22. ■  
— *Reunions Magazine*, Spring 2002



## Women in the military

*by Anita C. Stuever, president*

**O**ur forefathers weren't the only soldiers who served in the military. Some of our foremothers served, too. In special women's branches of the military, 350,000 women did more than support their men from the homeland. And that's not counting the women who served in the army and navy nursing corps.

The Women's Army Corps (WAC) was established in 1942 for auxiliary noncombatant duty in World War II. Organized originally as the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), the name was changed in 1943.

Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) was a group of U.S. civilian pilots under contract to the Army in World War II. WASPs served as test pilots, ran training missions and ferried new aircraft. Congress disbanded the group in 1944. In 1977 WASPs were granted military status and eligibility for veterans' benefits.

During World War I, women were accepted into the navy for the first time, and about 11,000 enlisted. Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) was established as a unit of the U.S. Navy

in 1942 during World War II. Women who enlisted in WAVES were commissioned in the Women's Reserve of the U.S. Naval Reserve. Their work included air traffic control, naval air navigation and communications. Recruiting continued until 1945.

SPAR, the Women's Reserve of the U.S. Coast Guard, was named for the Coast Guard motto, "Always ready," *L S(emper) par(atus)*. SPAR was formed during World War II and disbanded in 1946.

The Marine Corps Women's Reserve (MCWR) was established during World War I and reinstated during World War II.

But don't bother to check for military records if your ancestor was a mother at the time in question. The services prohibited the enlistment of women with children. They also avoided placing women in positions where they might give orders to men and prohibited overseas duty as long as they could.

In 1948, with the passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, the WAC, WAVES and MCWR were made integral and permanent components of the appropriate armed services unit, as well as the reserves. ■

# World War II draft cards hold gems

by Michael John Neill

**M**any genealogists are familiar with World War I draft cards, which are available at Willard Library in Battle Creek (see page 70). There are also draft cards from World War II, some available to the public.

Draft cards available publicly are from the fourth registration, in 1942. This included men born from 28 April 1877 to 16 February 1897. Cards are organized by state and filed with the appropriate regional branch of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

Records have not been micro-filmed but can be seen at the branch. I needed cards for Illinois, so I visited the NARA branch in Chicago.

A card I really wanted was not in the collection. My wife's great grandfather "disappeared" from Chicago about 1921. I hoped to find his name on an Illinois card. The birth year I had was about 1888 — the middle of the draft registration period. He did not appear on an Illinois card, and my "brick wall" stands tall. He either moved or died before the 1942 registration.

I did find draft registration cards for three ancestors. I learned:

- My great grandfather weighed 210 pounds at age 60.
- My wife's great grandfather worked for the Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric Company.

Some birthplaces listed were as specific as city and state, but others listed only county and state. In some cases, the village of foreign birth was given, but many foreign birthplaces were listed only as a country. Creating genealogical data was not part of the war effort. Had any "difficult" immigrant ancestors been required to register, I would be certain to get their card, as it may contain a specific birthplace.

## What do the cards contain?

The cards asked for:

- Name
- Place of residence
- Mailing address
- Telephone number
- Age and date of birth
- Place of birth
- Name and address of someone who will always know your address
- Employer's name and address
- Place of employment or business
- Signature

The card asks for the registrant's physical description, including:

- Race (White, Negro, Oriental)
- Height
- Eyes, hair, complexion
- Other physical characteristics that may aid in identification

Three surnames I looked for were unusual enough that I could copy all cards for those names. I found cards for all my great grandparents' siblings of an appropriate age.

All cards were identical, but the degree of detail provided varied. Occasionally, additional comments were written on a card.

## Who will always know your address?

The "person who will always know your address" is particularly helpful. I could assume many were the registrant's spouse, based on the name and address. In some cases, *wife* was written on the card. Other familial relationships were sometimes noted for the person who would always know the registrant's address.

## Why use draft registration cards?

Draft cards can be helpful:

- If you know a male ancestor was the "right age" and living in 1942, but are uncertain of the exact location (you need the state).
- If your male ancestor's specific birthplace is not known.
- If you've "lost" a male relative during the World War II era.

To find a card, you need to know:

- The individual's name
  - The state of residence
- You need other details to distinguish individuals with the same name. These details include:
- Approximate date of birth
  - Potential cities/towns of residence
  - Occupation
  - Names of likely next of kin
  - Physical characteristics

You can't grab the first John Smith card you find and assume he is your relative. Compare and contrast other information about the registrant with information already known about an individual.

## Try all locations

My great grandfather's brother was working in St. Louis, Mo., at the time of draft registration. He registered in Hancock County, Ill., where he was born and reared. This shows that one should consider other possible locations.

## Need their occupation?

If you need to learn your ancestor's occupation or employer, his draft card may help.

## National Archives: NAIL

A limited number of World War II draft cards have been digitized and are available in NAIL, the National Archives Information Locator, <[http://www.archives.gov/research\\_room/nail/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/research_room/nail/index.html)>.

Regional branches of the National Archives are shown at <<http://www.archives.gov/facilities/index.html>>.

If you're stuck with a male ancestral problem during the early 1940s, World War II draft cards may help. A woman may have had a problem with your male ancestor, but draft cards aren't likely to help with that! ■

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# Civil War monuments in Calhoun County

*Compiled by George F. May; published in 1965 by the Michigan Civil War Centennial Observance Commission, <<http://suwcn.org/mi/mcwm.html>>*

Boulder with a bronze tablet, in Victory Park, on the **Concord Highway between Albion and Jackson**. The memorial was erected by the E.W. Hollingsworth Post 210, GAR, in 1925, in memory of the men who fought in the Civil War. The tablet bears the names of Civil War officers from the area.

Monument with a bronze tablet, in **Riverside Cemetery, on M-99, Albion**. The inscription reads:

In honor of the members of E.W. Hollingsworth Post 210, Department of Michigan, GAR. [A list of more than 200 names follows.]

Monument with statue of a Civil War soldier, in the **cemetery at Athens**. The inscription reads:

In honor of the brave men who from Athens bore some loyal part in the great Civil War. 1861-1865.

Mounted cannon in **Oak Hill Cemetery, South Avenue, Battle Creek**. The inscription on the attached plaque reads:

This gun was in service on the Cumberland during the battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac. Mounted here by Farragut Post No. 32, Department of Michigan, GAR, in commemoration of the heroic services of Union soldiers and sailors during the Civil War.

Boulder with a bronze tablet, on **Champion Street, at the rear of the GAR Hall, Battle Creek**. The inscription reads:

Dedicated to Farragut Post No. 32, Grand Army of the Republic, organized Nov. 5, 1881.

"Ever in the realms of glory  
Shall shine your starry fame;  
Angels have heard your story,  
God knows you all by name."

Erected by its auxiliary, Farragut Woman's Relief Corps No. 4, assisted by Byington Camp No. 55, S. of V. and Abbie R. Flagg Tent No. 21, D. of V. May 30, 1925.

Monument in **Monument Square, East Michigan, South Division, and South Avenue, Battle Creek**. The monument stands 35 feet high and consists of bronze figures of two Civil War soldiers with a flag, mounted on top of a granite shaft on which are placed a variety of carved figures, plaques and inscriptions. The monument was erected in 1901 through contributions from 208 firms and private citizens. The inscriptions read:

To honor those who fought by land or sea for the American Republic. In grateful remembrance of their love of country, courage, and self-sacrifice the citizens of Battle Creek place this monument. The national progress achieved by their arms is an inspiration for those who struggle for freedom and humanity throughout the world.

"We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this monument. Brave men, living and dead, have consecrated it by their struggles far above our power to add or detract." — Abraham Lincoln

They gave to the world undying proof of their heroism, loyalty and patriotism. These men fought that the nation might live. We owe to them the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and the uplifting of our country in dignity, strength and security. Their deeds and sacrifices are the pledge of the liberty, fraternity and enlightenment of the American people. Justice. Self Government. The Union. Freedom.

Boulder with a bronze plaque, at **Michigan Avenue and Exchange Street, Marshall**. It was erected by the citizens of Marshall and dedicated in 1911 during the reunion of veterans of the 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics in Marshall. The inscription reads:

1911. Rendezvous encampment, First Regiment Michigan Engineers, September to December, 1861. Left Camp Owen Marshall, Mich. for the front Dec. 17, 1032 strong, Col. Wm. P. Innis, comd'g. Served in Ky., Tenn., Miss., Ala., and Ga. Marched with Sherman to the sea. 1861-1865. Marshall honors them. ■

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## World War II memories displayed in Albion

**A** new World War II Memories exhibit is on display at Albion's Gardner House Museum. Articles, pictures and artifacts from the era have overfilled the room.

The museum, at 509 S. Superior St., is open Saturdays and Sundays 2-4 p.m. through September. The museum can be reached at (517) 629-5100, [history@forks.org](mailto:history@forks.org) or on the web at <<http://www.forks.org/history>>. ■



*Gardner House Museum*



## When was the draft in effect?

### American Revolution (1775–1783)

Conscription from time to time in individual states to meet quotas

1792 Militia Act: free, white males, 18–45, to train and serve militia

### War of 1812 (1812–1815)

Volunteers served

### Mexican War (1846–1848)

Volunteers served

### American Civil War (1861–1865)

1862 Militia Act to draft 300,000 men, but implementation suspended

1862 Confederate states Conscription Act drafted men 18–35

1863 Enrollment Act covered all men 20–35 and unmarried men 35–45

### World War I (1914–1918)

1917 Selective Service Act registered all men 21–31 on three dates; last registered all men 18–45

### End of WWI to 1940

No U.S. conscription

### World War II (1941–1945)

1940 Selective Training and Service Act registered men 21–36

1947: 1940 act expired; draft ceased

1948 Selective Service Act inducted men 19–26 (some WW II exemptions)

### Korean War (1950–1953)

Selective Service Act extended to 1951

1951 Universal Military Training and Service Act lowered draft age to 18

### Vietnam War (1965–1975)

1963 deferred fathers and married men

1965 marriage exemption ended

1967 Military Selective Service Act extended to 1971 draft of men 18–35

1969 draft lottery held 1 December

1971 men required to register at 18

1973 draft ended

1980: registration for 18-year-old men ■

# Index to grantor deeds

## January 1870 through August 1872

The Calhoun County Index to Grantor Deeds indicates persons who sold real 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 is being 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
6	1870 Jan 12	Ann W.	HOLT	L71	243
6	1870 Jan 12	Jonothan	BARKER	L71	249
6	1870 Feb 5	Caleb	FULKERSON	L71	336
6	1870 Feb 22	Mary Jane	CRANSON	L71	392
6	1870 Feb 19	Charles	KILLAM	L71	389
6	1870 Mar 4	John	DOE	L71	436
6	1870 May 9	John W.	ALLEN	L71	677
6	1870 May 10	William	HOSKINS	L71	688
6	1870 May 14	John	MCLEAN	L71	701
6	1870 Jun 21	Amos	BIGALOW	L71	795
6	1870 Aug 4	Ezra	BROWN	L73	85
6	1870 Aug 9	Benjamin	WESTBROOK	L73	109
6	1870 Aug 13	Gurdon	WILLIAMS	L73	96
6	1870 Sep 14	Silas	WOOD	L73	218
6	1870 Sep 19	Elisha W.	ADAMS	L73	229
6	1870 Nov 5	William	BETTERLY	L73	380
6	1870 Dec 3	Gordon	EDMONDS	L73	473
6	1870 Dec 27	John	WISE	L73	528
6	1871 Jan 2	Humphrey A.	ROWLAND	L73	558
6	1871 Jan 18	Andrew P.	SMITH	L73	616
6	1871 Jan 27	Peter P.	HASBROUCK	L73	645
6	1871 Feb 14	Clinton	WRIGHT	L73	701
6	1871 Mar 11	Aaron	WEAVER	L73	788
6	1871 Mar 13	Robert	CHURCH	L73	795
6	1871 Mar 14	Helen	VAN WOERT	L74	2
6	1871 Mar 22	Stephen	ANDREWS	L74	30
6	1871 Mar 28	Clara	FROST	L74	48
6	1871 Apr 22	Albert V.	CUMMINGS	L74	147
6	1871 May 22	Elihu G.	KYLES	L74	237
6	1871 May 22	Henry	SNOW	L74	242
6	1871 May 26	Benjamin	DOOLITTLE	L74	258
6	1871 Jul 11	Bayze W.	BAKER	L74	368
6	1871 Jul 17	Moses	CLARK	L74	388
6	1871 Oct 2	Joseph	KING	L74	580
6	1871 Oct 4	Cornelius O.	SULIVAN	L74	592
6	1871 Dec 20	Alvin G.	MINER	L76	46
6	1872 Jan 13	William B.	MOORE	L76	138
6	1872 Jan 23	Norton B.	FISK	L76	165
6	1872 Mar 1	Reuben	MCWITTREY	L76	330
6	1872 Apr 1	James H.	WETHERELL	L76	456
6	1872 Apr 17	Norman	RUGG	L76	548
6	1872 Jun 7	John	SUTHERLAND	L76	759
6	1872 Jun 11	Sophia	LOHRMAN	L76	778
6	1872 Jun 22	John	LANSING	L77	13
6	1872 Aug 13	Kate L.	BUCKLEY	L77	133
6	1872 Aug 29	Catharine	KING	L77	171 ■

## Member query

*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.*

Searching for parents of Janet CROSS FINCH, d. Battle Creek 31 August 1903. Funeral services at home of son Ariel T. FINCH, 58 Stone Ave., Battle Creek. Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Battle Creek. No other CROSS or FINCH nearby.

Elizabeth Janet CROSS was b. 3 November 1813, Marcellus, Onondaga Co., N.Y.; m. Abel Willard FINCH abt. 1836, probably in N.Y. Abel b. 7 May 1812, Penn., to Samuel and Mary Polly (KING) FINCH. Mary Polly buried in Homer area.

1870 census, Abel and Elizabeth Janet (CROSS) FINCH in Walton Twp., Eaton Co. Abel d. 1877, buried in Lakeview Cemetery, Quincy.

After Abel's death, Janet moved to Albion. It's unknown why and when she moved to Battle Creek. Obituary in Battle Creek and Albion newspapers sheds no light on siblings or parents. Death record gives only date and place, birth and death.

We'll give \$50 to first person who finds parents' names with proof. Another \$50 to first person who produces verifiable photo of Janet.

We feel certain grandparents were Joseph and Abigail (WORDEN) CROSS, who d. Marcellus Twp., Onondaga Co., N.Y. Their sons were Christopher W., A.J., G.A., Thomas B., Joseph and Truman. Janet's first son was Joseph Truman FINCH b. 1837. Neither Joseph nor Truman appears in husband's ancestry three generations back. Neither Janet nor husband mentioned in FINCH folder in Albion Public Library.

Ray and Greta (Greenfield) McAdams  
rglmca@aol.com  
Cincinnati, Ohio ■

## Top tips from our members

**T**his issue's tip is from Carlene DeMaso, who transcribed a list of 320 men and women who gave their lives in the service of this country in World War II. The list comes from an article that appeared in the *Battle Creek Enquirer and News* 30 May 1946 and includes those who lived in Calhoun County at the time they entered service. The original article contained photos of nearly all the soldiers. Find the list of individuals on the next page. ■

### Michigan WWII list online

**A** new web site honors Michigan veterans of all branches of service who served during World War II. The Michigan WWII Honor List is being posted by the Michigan Family History Network.

The sources of the information were published in 1946 by the U.S. War Department, which notes that records and status of individuals may have changed since publication.

Included are name, grade, branch of service and next of kin with address. The address of next of kin was used as the basis of where the veteran came from, but it may differ from where soldiers lived at enlistment. Records are searchable by county or veteran's name at <<http://www.mifamilyhistory.org/WWII/default.asp>>. ■

### Another source for World War II heroes

**I**f your relative died in service to the U.S. in World War II, but was not from Calhoun County, help is available.

According to Jack and Marianne Dibeau, information about their burial can be obtained by writing to the Army at the following address, giving as much information as you can, to help in the search:

Department of the Army  
U.S. Total Army Personnel  
Command (TAPC)  
Attn: TAPC-ALP-A  
2461 Eisenhower Ave.  
Alexandria, VA 22332-0405 ■

## Genealogy gems

### List of soldiers and sailors at 1884 Battle Creek reunion available

**T**he official register of soldiers and sailors who attended a Battle Creek reunion is available to genealogists. The reunion took place 19–22 August 1884, and was the sixth annual gathering of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Association of Southwestern Michigan. The record is available from the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University.

Soldiers' and Sailors' Association of Southwestern Michigan. Reunion (6th: 1884: Battle Creek, Mich.). Official register of the soldiers and sailors attending the sixth annual reunion at Battle Creek, Mich., on Aug. 19, 20, 21 and 22, 1884. Albion, Mich.: R.L. Warren, 1884.

For more information, send an e-mail message to [clarke@cmich.edu](mailto:clarke@cmich.edu) or call (517) 774-3352. ■



# WW II Calhoun County Gold Star Honor Roll



Guy Abbott Jr.  
Jack E. Adkins  
William L. Albert  
Richard Alexander  
Stephen A. Alexander  
George W. Allen Jr.  
James B. Allison  
Orin C. Allison  
J.D. Allred  
Floyd E. Andrews  
Lynford B. Austin  
Richard A. Austin  
Richard A. Babcock  
Clare W. Ball  
William D. Barnes Jr.  
Jack C. Batty  
Leo Bours  
Herman L. Bechstein  
LaVern Becker  
George H. Bennett  
Walter H. Bennett  
Alpheus F. Berlin  
John H. Bos  
Robert A. Bostater  
George Bouchard  
Thomas A. Bowden  
Joseph D. Brabant  
Gerald Brand  
Adell Braxton  
Clarice Brazee  
Robert S. Breher  
Robert Breiningier  
Vernon R. Brock  
Arthur J. Brown  
Everett L. Brown  
Robert L. Brown  
Thomas C. Brownfield  
Bill F. Bunch  
Robert H. Burgett  
Oscar C. Burnett  
Kearney D. Bushong  
Curtis A. Buskirk  
Aeil V. Byers  
Gerald O. Cable  
Lester W. Campbell  
Max Campbell  
Richard Lee Cantine  
Murl J. Carey  
Stanley L. Carrick  
Franklin G. Case  
Robert Casebeer  
James W. Casey  
Leroy A. Clutter  
Robert V. Cole  
Edwin F. Colon  
Quentin D. Cook  
Robert W. Cook  
John E. Cooper Jr.  
Robert S. Courtright  
Harold C. Craig  
Frederick N.  
Cryderman  
George E. Dean  
Charles D. DeForest  
Charles R. DeLong

James DeMaggio  
Lyle H. DeVault  
Robert Digby  
John Dilliner  
George B. Dolliver Jr.  
Jack McLaughlin  
Kenneth Donbrock  
Earl W. Down  
Reginald Drake  
Rollin E. Dukeman  
Harold Lee Eakins  
George W. Eckelbecker  
Arthur I. Ecklund Jr.  
William K. Edge  
Jerry Eisenhower Jr.  
Gerald A. Ellis  
Russel W. Elushik  
Paul I. Elyea  
Allen E. English  
Don B. Erwin Jr.  
George W. Erwine  
Raymond D. Everett  
Vergal L. Fales  
Irving L. Farley  
Johnnie Fields  
Francis C. Flaherty  
Carl P. Flannery  
Paul T. Fleece  
James Flynn  
Winthrop J. Ford  
Richard B. Franklin  
John B. Frazier Jr.  
Robert J. Freeman  
Dale L. French  
Glen Froelich  
Herman Fry Jr.  
Harold Gallihugh  
James K. Galloway  
Wilfred A. Gibson  
Joseph C. Gieske  
Robert Gill  
Lawrence C. Glass  
Clarence O. Gleason  
Claude R. Goddard  
Donald R. Goodrich  
Robert A. Grant  
Orval L. Green  
Leonard M. Griffiee  
Virgil R. Griffin  
Shirley C. Griffith  
Robert J. Halbert  
Claude E. Hale  
Wilbur L. Halstead  
Justin Hamilton  
Joseph F. Harmon  
William R. Harriman  
Paul L. Hartman  
Russell E. Hayden  
Homer L. Hazel  
Norval J. Henry  
Claud E. Hill  
Carl M. Hodges  
Harold E. Hogarth  
David A. Holmes  
Arthur E. House

Murry Houseman  
Jay M. Huff  
Erwin Guy Huggett  
Leonard I. Hughes  
Elton Hutchins Jr.  
Loren J. Hutchins  
Richard Imhoff  
George E. Ingram  
Lyle E. Inks  
Joseph Jarosz  
Richard Neil Johnson  
Arthur L. Joslyn  
Elvyn M. Kearns  
Richard D. Kellogg  
George B. Kimler Jr.  
Melvin King  
Richard E. King  
Jack E. Kirby  
Robert F. Knerr  
John R. Krauss  
John P. Krepps  
Ronald D. Kuzma  
George M. Laine  
Lawrence E. LaParl Jr.  
Richard Letts  
Milton A. Lewis  
Ralph E. Lindeman  
Donald Cole Lindsey  
Leo C. Long  
Chauncey C. Lowe  
John Ludlum  
John P. Mackey  
Neil B. Madison  
Dallas L. Malone  
Joseph D. Markusic  
Paul Marler  
Richard J. Marriott  
Russell Marshall  
Arthur H. Martens  
Arthur J. Mau  
Frank F. Maurer  
Harry J. Maxwell  
John McBride Jr.  
Lyle C. McCleary  
Chester McCreary Jr.  
Carl McGhee  
Cleon McIntyre  
Alvin G. McIver  
Richard McKee  
Dennis M. McKeen  
Evergard L. Wager  
Charles A. McLeod  
Donald J. McNeil  
Jack F. Mead  
Harold E. Metzger  
Albert A. Miller  
Clarence Miller  
Ellsworth W. Miller  
Arthur J. Mooney  
William A. Morgan  
Stanley L. Morley  
Edward C. Morse  
Wilfred Morse  
Robert D. Mosier  
Vincent E. Mouleski

Leston J. Muzzy  
Armen Narlian  
Floyd Nelson  
William S. Nelson Jr.  
Merle A. Nienaber  
Graydon E. Niles  
Marion F. Norman  
Harold W. Norwood  
Richard F. Nulf  
William S. Ogilvie Jr.  
Edward W. Orr Jr.  
Paul D. Orr  
Richard F. Osborne  
Merritt Packer  
Leonard R. Palmer  
Donald H. Parker  
Gloid A. Parker  
Nicholas Pavluchik  
Lawrence C. Peck  
Valterre Pellin  
C.B. Ross Pennock  
Donald A. Perry Jr.  
Walter Peterson  
Robert L. Phenis  
Willis D. Polling  
Albert L. Pollman  
Douglas B. Pongratz  
Harold M. Price  
Lewis E. Pulsipher  
Donald L. Racey  
Clayton R. Ray  
Robert W. Reid  
Thomas B. Renkes  
Maxwell L. Reynolds  
Manley O. Richmond  
Gordon E. Riede  
J. Clark Riggs  
Bernard J. Rinne  
William K. Robertson  
Donald W. Robinson  
George Robinson  
Norman W. Robinson  
Morris Rogers  
William B. Rogers  
Andrew C. Rome  
Clyde Sabin Jr.  
John D. Samulak  
Leland R. Sanders  
Charles E. Sapp  
Arthur W. Schenman  
William R. Schick Jr.  
Ralph Scroggham  
Lewis Sellers  
Floyd J. Shaw  
Owen H. Sheehy  
Charles P. Shields  
Robert Shields  
Hugh J. Shirlaw  
Homer L. Shook  
R.D. LaVerne Shore  
Charles M. Shull  
Kenneth M. Shultz  
Wesley Simmonds  
Leo F. Smith  
Leo P. Smith

Lowell D. Smith  
William L. Smith  
Carroll L. Smoke  
Calvin D. Snell  
Clifford J. Snodderly  
Charles W. Snyder  
Ernest W. Snyder  
Leo Sommers  
Robert H. Sovern  
Jack H. Spyker  
Robert F. Stick  
Harold Stroble  
Samuel L. Sulanke  
Richard Sykeny  
Stanley G. Tautphous  
Leslie D. Teegardin  
James E. Teeple  
Raymond L. Teeter  
Paul J. Terry  
James Tomak  
Lawrence A. Tooker  
Edward J. Torres  
George E. Turnbull  
Clayton O. Tyson  
Donald C. VanArman  
Arthur H. VanAuken  
Wesley R. Vandenburg  
Edgar L. Vanderlip  
Roy A. VanDorsten  
Harold F. Vincent  
Donald R. Wakefield  
Francis Walker  
Lewis Marle Walker  
Robert M. Walker  
Rolly Walker  
Frank A. Walkerdene  
Harold A. Wallace  
Leonard Walters  
John Vass Walton  
Allen L. Ward  
Gayle T. Wardle  
Floyd M. Welcher  
Edward Wells Jr.  
Eugene Whitcomb  
Gerald A. White  
Paul W. Wilcox  
Roy H. Wilemon  
Laddie J. Willette  
Woodson J. Williams  
Joesph K. Williamson  
Albert D. Winans  
Delbert R. Winans  
Peter L. Wines  
George A. Winter Jr.  
Harley J. Wiseman  
Perry C. Wiseman  
Russel G.  
Wolfersberger Jr.  
Donald W. Wood  
John A. Worden  
Robert F. Wright  
Donald B. Zaback  
Jack B. Zonker  
**Missing in Action:**  
Wendell S. Adams  
John R. Waite ■

# Generations

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

*Issue theme:*  
**U.S. military and conflicts**

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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.*

**No CCGS meetings in August** — *enjoy your summer research trips!*

- Aug. 24 Library of Michigan Patron Training Session: "Finding Michigan Vital Records," Lansing, 9:30 a.m., free, call (517) 373-5511 to register
- Aug. 28 Library of Michigan Patron Training Session: "Finding Michigan Vital Records," Lansing, 3 p.m., free, call (517) 373-5511 to register
- Sept. 24 **CCGS monthly meeting:** Annual business meeting plus the Calhoun County memorabilia of Dean France
- Oct. 12 Library of Michigan Abrams Genealogy Series: "French Canadian Resources," Lansing, \$10, (517) 373-1300
- Oct. 22 **CCGS monthly meeting:** "Organizing Your Genealogy Research" with Sandy Redmond
- Nov. 19 **CCGS monthly meeting:** "What's New at Willard Library" with George Livingston, local and family history librarian, Willard Library, Battle Creek, second floor meeting room; *note that November meeting is a week earlier than usual*