



Generations

Vol. 16 No. 3
January-February 2004

serving Calhoun County, Michigan, family history researchers since 1988

President's Message

When I accepted the office of President, I stated that I would like to see more member participation. I have since taken a good look at the accomplishments of our Society, and realized that our member participation is, indeed, bountiful. It has taken literally hundreds of hours of work by our members to make this such a successful and well- respected organization.

Article II of our Bylaws states the purpose of our Society:

- A. To gather and preserve information of genealogical value.
- B. To encourage the deposit of such information in suitable depositories.
- C. To aid genealogists in the study of family history through the exchange of knowledge.
- D. To publish and promote Calhoun County and other genealogical materials.

Well, we have done all of the above. But, yet, there is still so much to be accomplished. And, since we are dealing with history, it will never be done. This will continue to take member participation, and a lot of it. We should all be very proud of our contributions to our passion- Genealogy. This is our Legacy.

Judy Groat, President

January 27, 2004 Meeting

Members seem to love the Show and Tell evening, and January 27, 2004 is when it is scheduled. Come to the meeting prepared to 'tell all' about your summer finds and to enjoy stories of other searchers! Maybe you will have a special hint to share, or an anecdote for us to laugh with you about.

Also on the agenda will be the local distribution of the microfilms of the Pioneer Certificate Applications and proofs. Over 6,000 records were filmed. The program will be open to new ancestors until the certificates and seals run out.

Pioneer Certificate Update

The microfilms of the 134 Ancestor files completed by September 2003 have been returned to the Society and are awaiting distribution to the various local libraries as well as Allen Co. Public Library, National DAR Library, LDS at Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Battle Creek LDS Family History Center. The films have been given to the Library of Michigan. Also on the microfilms are additional unclassified ancestor papers and one file pertaining to a Hillsdale County ancestor. Microfilming was done by CSC Group of Michigan at Lansing, MI. Cost of the microfilming was covered by the application fees plus a portion of the fees from the Expert in Residence Seminar given with Willard Library, Burnham Brook Center, Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce and the Sojourner Truth Committee in 1997. Curt B. Witcher, Manager of the Historical Genealogical Department of Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN was the featured speaker.

Prior to the microfilming, all birth records of living persons were pulled from the file folders. Anyone who wishes to have these returned may request this by mail as follows:

Send a self addressed stamped envelope (SASE)

to: Calhoun Co. Genealogical Society
Vital Record Return
P. O. Box 879
Marshall, MI 49068-0879

include: Ancestor's name
Original applicant's name

The records are stacked without identification, so it may take some time to locate the proper ones for return. Please be patient as worksheets will have to be checked to help with this procedure. Any records not returned by December 2004 will be shredded and discarded.

MGC DELEGATE'S REPORT

The MGC Seminar on 18 October 2003 was well attended. The three different sessions of lectures were well planned and had a wide range of topics...three choices for each of the three sessions. After the lunch period the entire group was assembled in the Forum Area and I had the privilege of presenting the LUCY MARY KELLOGG AWARD to Mary Lou Duncan of the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research/ The Irish Genealogical Society/ The St Andrew's Society (Scottish)/ and the Washtenaw County Society. She has worked hard for all of the Genealogy Community for more than 30 years and has abstracted, indexed and published materials for the use of genealogists. She has lectured in Ireland at a large gathering of genealogists on "How to locate relatives in the United States".

I have served as the chairman of this Awards Committee for about 3 1/2 years as part of my representing our Calhoun County Genealogical Society. All delegates are supposed to help with committee responsibilities.

The Delegate Meeting normally held in November was cancelled as the Forum was requested for a State meeting and there was no other room available.

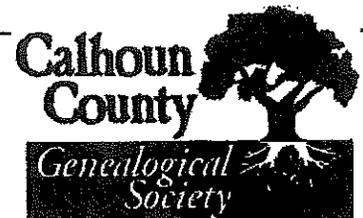
Marlene Steele

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.

CCGS is incorporated under the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act. Individuals, libraries or societies may join. Annual dues for the year beginning 1 September are \$12. Memberships are accepted year-round; dues received after 1 May 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 Gifford Schultz Educational Service Center — CISD building, 17111 G Dr. N., 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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CCGS e-mail list: Send a message to calhouncountygss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with the word "subscribe" as the subject.

Member: **National Genealogical Society ■ Michigan Genealogical Council ■ Federation of Genealogical Societies**

Calhoun County Genealogical Society Membership List December 31, 2003

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Honoring Our Ancestors, As Time Goes By...

by Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak - 12/30/2003

As New Year's Day approaches, it seems a good time to reflect on the past.. but sometimes we need a little help doing that! I thought it might be fun—and with a bit of luck, helpful—to poke around the Internet looking for tools that help us understand or remember how it was “way back when.” So here's a collection of sites that, in one way or another, provide perspective on the past.

How Much Is That Today?

Some popular genealogical documents include dollar figures. Passenger arrival records may tell us how much money Grandma had in her pocket when she arrived at Ellis Island. A will might inform us of the sum our great-great-great-grandfather left his wife to subsist on when he passed away. Or we might find land records with purchase values. But how much is that in today's terms? Were our ancestors wealthy, middle class, or just scraping by?

The [EH.net calculator](#), which compares the purchasing power of money in the U.S. (or colonies) from 1720 to any other year (including the present), can help you find an answer. And by the way, that \$25 Grandma brought with her in 1902 would be worth \$522 today.

What Was it Like Back Then?

Want to know what Grandma could have bought with that same \$25? Visit the [dMarie Time Capsule](#) and enter “01/01/1902” to learn that it would have purchased 625 loaves of bread (they were four cents each) —or that it only represented about four percent of the average income of \$681/year. Browse the other results to see that Theodore Roosevelt was president, that the new-fangled toy that year was the Teddy bear, and that as she absorbed the sights and sounds of her new homeland, Grandma might have heard the strains of “~~Woe~~ You Come Home, Bill Bailey?” or “Pomp and Circumstance”, both among the top songs for 1902.

What Did Our Ancestors See?

Perhaps you're curious to look at the world through your ancestor's eyes. Thanks to the [American Memory Collection](#) of the Library of Congress, now you can. This site offers more than seven million digital items from more than one hundred historical collections, and, as I discovered, a little experimentation can go a long way. For instance, I tried one of the more unusual names from my family—Nelligan—and was rewarded with a photo of Gertrude Nelligan from Chicago being weighted by county officials. I don't know what she did to merit this unwelcome

Honoring Our Ancestors: As Time Goes By...

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attention, but as it happens, a branch of my Nelligan's settled in Chicago, so now I'll pursue this possible lead. Another ancestor of mine worked as a gardener for the first mayor of Jersey City, Dudley S. Gregory, and typing in Dudley's name revealed handwritten correspondence with Abraham Lincoln. Yet another search for the small town of Piermont, New York, popped up some old photos. If you play with both personal and place names, there's an excellent chance you'll catch some glimpses of scenes and people that would have been familiar to your forbears.

Do You Remember?

What about your own life? Can you remember all or even most of what's occurred in your lifetime? If you were to make writing a memoir one of your goals for the new year, could you use a little help with memory prompters to bring back some magical moments from your past? If so, you're in luck because there are plenty of nostalgia-oriented sites.

One of my favorites is the Center for Life Stories Preservation, which has terrific pages for triggering memories and historical events and dates. Be sure to spend some time just browsing through, as it has plenty of entertaining and useful links you'll want to bookmark. You might also want to try the About.com Nostalgia site for recollections from 1941 to 1972.

How Old Was I When?

Need more help putting your own life into perspective? Then you might want to visit the Age Gauge and enter your own birth date. You'll quickly learn how much older or younger you are than assorted celebrities and how old you were when Kennedy was assassinated, man first walked on the moon, the Berlin Wall fell, or 9-11 occurred.

Remember the Old Days on the Internet?

And finally, although it's hard to believe, we already have occasion to be nostalgic about what used to be on the Internet. Fortunately, the Wayback Machine helps bring at least some of it back. I amused myself (but also made myself wince) by taking a peek at the early days of my own website. To see how far we've come, try entering www.ancestry.com and take a look at the October 26, 1996 version. You'll be impressed how far we've all evolved in cyberspace in less than a decade!

Back to the Future

While the New Year is a great time to look forward, we as genealogists know that there's always value in looking to our past. I genuinely hope that some of these tools will contribute to your research endeavors in 2004 and I wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year!

Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, author of *Honoring Our Ancestors*, *In Search of Our Ancestors*, and *They Came to America: Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors*, can be contacted through her website: www.honoringourancestors.com

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HELP NEEDED!

Newsletter Editor or Editors. Take a chance and try your hand at editing Generations. Some templates are on hand for use by the next GUEST EDITOR. You may decide you enjoy the challenge!



All are invited to submit articles to Generations Newsletter editor.

Upcoming National Events

- NGS Gentech04
(22-24 January 2004, St. Louis, MO)
- Indiana Genealogical Society Annual Conference (3 April 2004, Bloomington, IN)
- Ohio Genealogical Society
(22-24 April 2004, Wilmington, OH)
- Westchester County Genealogical Society
(8 May 2004 Dobbs Ferry, NY)
- Central Jersey Genealogical Club
(11 May 2004, Mercerville, NJ)
- Ontario Genealogical Society Seminar2004
(28-30 May 2004, Toronto, Ontario, Canada)

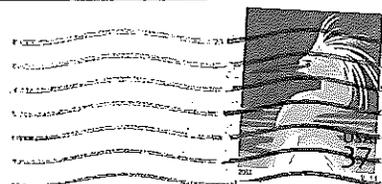
Calhoun County Genealogical Society **CALENDAR**

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 Gifford Schultz Educational Service Center-- Calhoun Intermediate School District building, 17111 G Drive North, Marshall.

- 27 January Our annual Hints & Anecdotes and Show & Tell meeting. Members have an opportunity to share their great finds from the past year. Distribution of the Pioneer Certificate microfilms to area libraries.
- 24 February Patty Parker, Marshall's first Tour Director (1995), will give history of Marshall: "Marshall, Defined by It's Losses"
- 23 March Guest speaker is Jo Ducheny. Jo and other members of the Egnatuk family went to Poland, Russia and Belarus this past summer. Jo will talk about the visit to the family's ancestral home and of their reunion with the family members still living there.
- 27 April "Michigan-Ontario Migration". Shirley Hodges will discuss the reasons why people migrated between Michigan and Ontario. She will examine reasons that encouraged people on both sides of the border to resettle. Emphasis will be given to factors such as employment and business opportunities, new transportation routes and cheap land.
- 25 May A tour of the new Helen Warner Branch Library in Battle Creek hosted by George Livingston, local and family history librarian of Willard Library. The meeting will start at the Minges Brook Racquet Club with an overview of the new library. We will then cross the road for the tour of the new branch's family and local history area.
- 22 June To be announced.

Generations

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