

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

When I was first elected to office in September 2006, at one of my earliest board meetings I raised the prospects of several large projects that could be conducted for the Society. The CCGS has a rich history of genealogical accomplishments, including seminars, research trips, books and other endeavors conducted by our previous leaders. However, the one place I felt that a difference could be made would be in obtaining Federal non-profit status for the Calhoun County Genealogical Society.

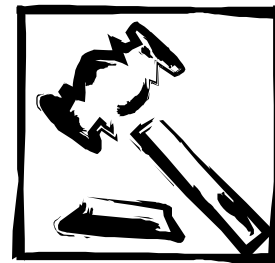
While the CCGS has been an incorporated Michigan non-profit corporation since 1990, we have never gone the final, extra step to get Federal non-profit status. Such an organization is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) exempt corporation. Becoming a 501(c)(3) corporation opens up a new set of advantages and benefits both for the organization and also for our membership. The Society benefits primarily include exemption from Federal income taxation, eligibility for certain grants and other benefits such as beneficial postage rates. The membership benefits include tax-deductible charitable contributions and other tax benefits for Society volunteers.

It has been a major undertaking, to say the least, in preparing our application but I am pleased to report that our paperwork was filed prior to the November membership meeting. What we can expect is that the IRS should confirm our 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit charitable organization before the end of 2009.

This accomplishment would not have been possible but for the dedication and hard work by the CCGS board and committee chairpersons. I would like to specifically recognize Anita Stuever, who took on the role of project manager and provided invaluable editorial services as we compiled detailed descriptions of the activities of our Society. I would be remiss in not mentioning the other key contributors to the project, including Verla Potts, Art Adams, Cindy Wilson, and Jim Jackson.

Look for confirmation about our "official" 501(c)(3) status in the January/February newsletter edition. We will also devote some space in the newsletter to information about what these changes will mean for our members and volunteers.

*-Chris Rau, President CCGS*



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## NEWSLETTER FOCUS—DUCK LAKE AREA!

What do you know about Duck Lake? It is the largest lake in Calhoun County and is located in the middle of Clarence Township.

My husband's family has a long told tale that you could walk from Albion

to Olivet without every leaving property currently or previously owned by Heisler relations. I don't know if it's true but the trail of the tale leads you along the east side of Duck Lake and along that path is a LOT of Heisler/Hisler/

Haussler property.

Jakob Haussler came to the United States in 1865 and joined his uncle Jakob in Washtenaw County. He eventually migrated to Calhoun County near Duck Lake. He had nine sons and all

were farmers. Somewhere here the surname changes and some of the families adopted Heisler while others Hisler. With nine sons and their farms the Haussler clan can cover a lot of ground.

## DUCK LAKE AREA GENEALOGY/HISTORICAL GROUP

A few years ago some local folks got together and attended the Riverside Cemetery tour hosted by Albion Historian, Frank Passic. We met for breakfast prior to the tour, at that time we agreed to meet to compare our research work on a regular basis.

We obtained use of the Clarence Town Hall and started to meet every month. We try to meet the second Sunday of the month at 1:00 p.m., It has worked really well. Our creed became, To collect and record genealogy and historical data in the tri-county area. Many of our ancestors had family connections in nearby Jackson and Eaton counties, Thus we ignore county lines.

So far, we have not organized, We have no treasury, Officers or Dues. We usually pick a family to research each month. Each meeting we have "Two Minute" introductions, in which everyone has a chance to report on their research findings. We always welcome visitors.

Our upcoming meeting dates (All start at 1:00 p.m.)

- DEC 6 2009 Regular Meeting, Clarence Town Hall
- JAN 10 2010 Regular Meeting Clarence Town Hall
- FEB 14 2010 Regular Meeting Clarence Town Hall

- MAY 6 2010 we will have our annual Open House, where we invite surrounding Genealogy and History groups and individuals to display their various items, both for show and sale. This is always a fun event.

In the summer time we have various activities including visiting the area cemeteries.

*Submitted by Larry Randall. Larry has submitted articles for the Springport Signal Weekly, Eaton County Genealogical Society's Quest newsletter, The N-News and The Farm Show magazines. Larry is a member of the Eaton County Genealogical Society and now is a new member of our Society.*

## 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 September 1 are \$18.00 receiving postal newsletters and \$15.00 receiving electronic newsletters. 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. General meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Gifford Schultz Educational Service Center—CISD building, 17111 G Drive North, 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. Permission is granted to reprint articles unless otherwise noted. Please give appropriate credit to the source. Copies of the individual pages from back issues of *Generations* at \$1.00 for the first page, \$0.50 for each additional page.

**Calhoun County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 879, Marshall MI 49068-0879**

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Organizational Member of National Genealogical Society—Michigan Genealogical Council—Federation of Genealogical Societies



## BOARD MEMBER PROFILE—RECORDING SECRETARY

Submitted by Sandi Hartnell—  
CCGS Recording Secretary

I am a very new member to the Calhoun County Genealogical Society, having joined this past January. I have retired from my county and state government career as a court administrator. My most recent position was district court analyst for the Michigan Supreme Court. When President Chris Rau asked for volunteers I thought it would be a great way to meet other genealogists. I didn't seriously think my offer would come to anything, but I've found volunteering to be rewarding.

My husband and I bought a very large historical home in Marshall in 1982. Somehow my parents decided that if I owned an old house, I should become the family historian. Over the next few months I inherited all the rudimentary (or not so rudimentary) genealogies that various persons on my paternal and maternal sides had created. My grandmother's twin sister had proved her lineage for the DAR to Caleb Lyon of Rehoboth, MA and

Woodstock, CT. That meant all I had to do was gather information back to my great-grandfather.

I was intrigued by what appeared to be a connection to Queen Elizabeth of England. As often is the case, it wasn't simple to unravel. It appears to be true, but the connection goes so far back that I think I'm a cousin to Prince Charles 27 times removed. I guess I won't inherit anything and I can forget, at least for the time being, the royalty connection of this family.

I also discovered my mother's cousin had already proved her lineage to Johann Frantz (Francis) Winemiller of York Co., PA. This is the branch that I have chosen to explore, it being one generation closer to me than the Lyon connection. Pouring over my great-aunt Lyon's lineage really intrigued me and I was infected with the bug. For the past 17 years I've researched off and on, tracking a myriad of family lines. With assistance from 'cousins' in England and LDS microfilm of Bishops Tran-

scripts for my Dorset County, England, villages, I have images of baptisms, marriages, and burials taking my Hartnell family back into the 1690's.

At present, I'm writing a genealogy and history of the Hartnell family originating from the parents of three children baptized in Bradford Peverell, Dorset, between 1693 and 1699. Thanks to Rootsweb message boards, e-mail, websites, and Face Book, I've connected with family in England, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, as well as the US. The descendants of these three children have been generous to provide family stories and photos of their grandparents and great-grandparents for inclusion in the family history. It is an exciting project. Sometimes I wonder if I'll ever be finished; there is always "one more" loose end to track down. I'm sure you know what I mean.

**MEMBER PROFILE.** *Prepare your profile. You may be next. I'll be looking for someone for our next newsletters soon!*

## NEXT NEWSLETTER FOCUS—MEMBERSHIP ISSUE



IN SEARCH OF . . .  
Information about People, Places  
and Things from our membership.

Our January/February issue will be information about our membership and will contain information about our 501 (c) (3) status. For our March/April I'm looking for information on .

On your membership form you are encouraged to submit a five-generation ancestor chart and/or a query to be published in *Generations*. If you have submitted a chart, query or article for our newsletter, it may not be immediately used. We are limiting our newsletters due to rising costs AND our newsletters are usually theme based.

PLEASE continue to submit these and submit them with your contact information. When they fit a future issue I will do my best to incorporate them and may need to contact you for further information.

Help me keep you informed, enlightened and entertained about things Calhoun County and Genealogy based.

- Ann Heisler, *Generations* Editor

# CALHOUN COUNTY RESIDENCE CHALLENGE

Our Society allows for us to honor our pioneer lineage to Calhoun County. This program looks for your oldest generation residing in Calhoun County. You fill out an application found on our website (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~micalhou/pioninst.htm>). You must provide documentation to prove the ancestor resided in Calhoun County and documentation to prove the applicant's (your) relationship. Mail the application, application fee and documentation to the address on the application. The application will be validated and an appropriate certificate issued. Recipients will be acknowledged in a newsletter and on the CCGS website. Pretty special!

Larry Randall, leader of the Duck Lake Genealogy/ Historical Group posed an interesting question. He

showed how he can claim his family has had nine generations **ALL** residing in Calhoun County. Is this a record?

I decided to try it with my family and also to try it with my husband's family. We don't live in Calhoun County but some of our cousin's do. All generations would need to live or have lived in Calhoun County. I was able to match it with my family but with my husband's lineage the closet I could get was seven generations. I have other combinations that work, but the most generations I can find is nine.

How about you? Can you find more generations all residing at some point in their lives in Calhoun County? The challenge is on!



## Larry Randall—9 Generations of Calhoun County Residence

#	Name	Residence Note
1	Lewis and Mary Benham	Buried in West Clarendon Cemetery
2	Lavina (Benhan) and Charles Chapman	Buried in North Clarence Cemetery
3	Frances (Chapman) and William Butler	Buried in North Clarence Cemetery
4	Lavina (Butler) and Byron Squier	Buried in North Clarence Cemetery
5	Frances (Squier) and Aulton Randall	Buried in North Clarence Cemetery
6	Larry Randall	Living in Clarence Twp
7	Steven Randall	Living in Lee Twp
8	Tiffany (Randall ) and Kevin Frost	Living in Lee Twp
9	Cydney Frost	Living in Lee Twp

## Ann Heisler Cousins—9 Generations of Calhoun County Residence

#	Name	Residence Note
1	Jacob and Elizabeth (Howden) King	Elizabeth buried in Hotchkiss Cemetery (Marshall Twp)
2	Selah and Almira (King) Stout	Buried in Hotchkiss Cemetery (Marshall Twp)
3	Charles Chester and Victoria (Jenks) Stout	Buried in Oakridge Cemetery (Marshall)
4	Claude and Clara (Whitted) Stout	Buried in Oakridge Cemetery (Marshall)
5	Eugene and Harriet (Stout) Purcell	Buried in Oakridge Cemetery (Marshall)
6	Claudia (Stout) Dean	Living in Marengo Twp
7	Rick Dean	Living in MarengoTwp
8	Tiffany Dean	Living in Marshall
9	Teagan Cole	Living in Marshall. Daughter of Tiffany Dean

# A DUCK LAKE GIRL IN THE GOLD RUSH



In the Nichols Cemetery on the West side of Duck Lake, are the graves of Andrew and Susan (Lincoln) Lamb. They were buried here less than one half a mile from their 1844 log home site. They left behind many children that settled here and their descendants are many and most are buried in the Clarence Center and North Clarence Cemeteries. One exception is their oldest daughter Martha. Martha was born in Wyoming Co or then Genesee Co, New York and came to Michigan when she was 5 or 6 years old. Their first stop was in Marengo Township in 1837.

Martha stayed with her parents until 1853 when she then was a young lady of 22 years old. She went west in the Gold Rush towards California with a group including a William Thornton and three Olds Boys from Battle Creek. Their parents and Grandparents are buried in the Cemetery East of the Airport on Territorial Rd.

Martha's husband, William Thornton, was good at a shell game and as soon as they got to Genoa, Carson Valley, Nevada, (then it was Utah Territory) he became known as Lucky Bill Thorington. It appears that the local people had gotten rid of the Mormons and their plural marriages, and were not too happy with "Lucky's" having two wives. In 1858 vigilantes hung Lucky Bill.

Early in 1990s a local resident in Genoa, Michael Makley, (a High School Coach), wrote a book called "The Hanging of Lucky Bill". At that time, many weeks of research revealed nothing about Martha Lamb, who she was, where she came from or how she got to Carson Valley.

Later Martha married David Olds and they moved to Inyo Co. CA. They lived to the early 1900s. Many of her descendants are to be found out there in that state. A copy of this 145 page book is in the Springport Library for all to read.

Submitted by Martha's Great Grandnephew - Larry Randall

## CCGS NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

**IN PROCESS:** Seeking non-profit 501(c)(3) status with IRS. Submitted and awaiting approval!

**CEMETERY TRANSCRIPTIONS:** CCGS has been working on creating publications on the area cemeteries. A sample was available for you to view of Marengo Twp at the June membership meeting. We are getting together pricing and determining the number to produce. Cost will be around \$20. Remember CCGS Members get a 10% discount. Help us determine the number of copies to print

by indicating your purchase interest on your new/renewal membership form OR at a membership meeting. Thank you to those who have already expressed their interest!

Also, being transcribed and expected soon is Hotchkiss/ Marshall Township Cemetery.

### WEB SITE UPDATES:

Pages are being updated for outdated text and links. Broken links are being corrected.

We have received for Calhoun County the following and will be adding or replacing pages for these items soon:

- Updated version of Dibeian Marriage Collection
- County Poor House Ledger transcribed
- Korean War Casualties
- Vietnam War Casualties
- Link to Facebook

Plans are also being made to update the web pages for the *Generations* newsletter index and "back" issues.

### NEWSLETTER:

Postage and publishing costs have forced us to look for cost

reductions in the newsletter. We are restricting the page size, added stapling and removed the fold to reduce costs. We have also pushed to complete the newsletter to hand out to members at the membership meetings to eliminate postage. AND we are encouraging you to get your newsletter electronically. Hopefully these savings will allow us to continue to provide the newsletter to you without further measures.

## JANUARY "SHOW & TELL"

In January our membership meeting will be our annual "Show & Tell" meeting. We expect you to come prepared to SHARE! This meeting is a chance for us to learn from each other. Come and tell us about your genealogical adventures.

Did you go on a trip searching a missing link? Did you find it in a special place? Did you find a box in a great-aunt's attic? What was in there? Were you contacted by a

distant cousin that found your database over the Internet? What did you share with them? Share it all with us!

Maybe you attended our session last year where Tammy Parsons showed us how to Scrapbook our Genealogy and you were able to create your own Scrapbook. Bring it and show us!

Maybe you found a new tool to use to organize your records or a new search site that lead you to new revelations. Bring us the

links and share how we may be able to use the tools in our searches.

Our membership is a great resource. It's a chance for us to share our knowledge and for us to enhance our abilities to improve our genealogical endeavors. Our January meeting is your chance to work through your "brick-wall" problems AND to share your success stories. I can't wait to hear and see all you have accomplished!

## CLARENCE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Children of Clarence Township currently travel to either Olivet in Eaton County or Springport in Jackson County to go to school. The winter picture below is a Springport busload from 1942. The other photo is a Springport busload from about 1948. Area families included on these buses include Austin, Blair, Burkwalt, Courtright, Favorite, Gifford, Hammond, Harmon, Heisler, Hisler, Hoag, Hubbard, Keeler, Kotch, Lake, Randall, Seger, Starks, and Watson.

Most of us have had relations tell us of walking or riding horses miles to get to a one room schoolhouse. Maybe you were one of the last of the children to attend a one room schoolhouse yourself. Prior to being bussed to Olivet or Springport, the Clarence Township children went to the schoolhouses defined on the next page. Some are gone now while others have been remodeled into a personal residence.

School photos reprinted with permission from Larry Randall and Lester Heisler.



Springport School Bus # 5 Riley Starks driver. Mostly Clarence Township students. Brookfield Twp.



# CLARENCE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

as of March, 2006

## SEGER

Built on the south west corner of Base line and 29 1/2 Mi Road. Moved to W Dr North west of 29 1/2 Mi Road- a home.

## BELL

29255 S Dr. North Corner of 29 1/2 Mi Road. Owned by a retired School Teacher.

## KOPP

29 1/2 Mi Road and N Dr North  
Moved 1/2 Mile west- a home.

## KELLOGG

28 Mi Road at M Dr. North. Still standing, In need of repairs- vacant.

## DAVIS

26 Mi Road at L Dr. North  
Privately owned, made into a home.

## CLARENCE CENTER (East Brick)

Was on the corner of 27 1/2 Mi Road and S Dr North. All gone, nothing remains. Cemetery nearby.

## NICHOLS (West Brick)

26 Mi Road and R Dr North  
Being restored.

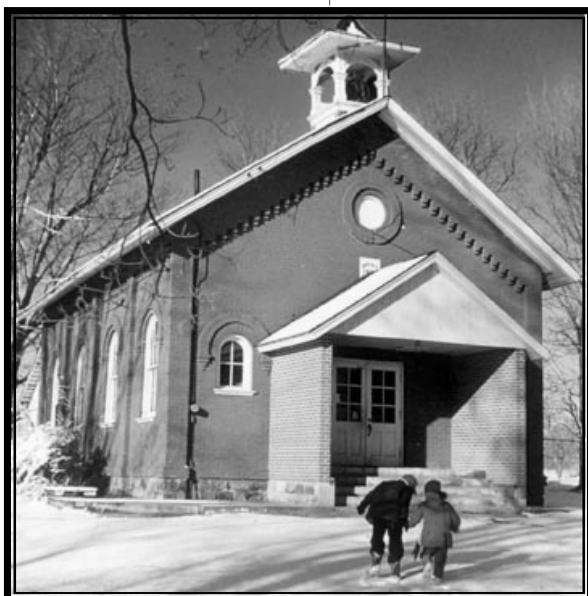
## HUNT (North Brick)

Present site of the East half of the North Clarence Cemetery.

## DUCK LAKE SCHOOL

Built by the Munroe family at the north end of Duck Lake, a registered historical site

Source: Larry Randall



Above left: Clarence Center School

Above right: Bell from Bell from Hunt School

Lower right: Bell School class of 49-50 going on field trip to Kelloggs in Battle Creek Spring 1950.

- Bottom Row: Kenyene Dowding, Darold Woodward, Dana Towns, ? Sparks
- Middle Row: Keith Wood, Kenneth Towns, Eloise Piepkow, Shirley(?) Sparks
- Back Row: Charlotte Hisler (Teacher), Jean Heisler, Judy Dowding, Philip Heisler
- Not Pictured: Alfred Taylor



## ***Generations***

Calhoun County Genealogical  
Society

**Serving Calhoun County,  
Michigan family history  
researchers since 1988**

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CCGS.HTM](http://WWW.ROOTSWEB.COM/~MICALHOU/CCGS.HTM)

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



- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 24 ... November | “Getting around the Brick-wall” by James Jackson  |
| December        | NO MEETING. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!   |
| 26 ... January  | “Show & Tell” by Members & Guests. Share your success stories and brick-wall problems.  |
| 26 ... February | “Lock-In at Helen Warner Branch—Willard Library”  |
| ** Friday **    | Our annual lock-in with free printing and genealogical help from Society members. Limited room. Registration required, call the Local History Dept at 968-8166, ext. 602, with George Livingston. |

22nd Year of Calhoun County  
Genealogical Society!

2009-2010