

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

As the 150th anniversary of the first shots at Fort Sumter grows near, Michigan has begun commemorating the Civil War. Recently, I attended Michigan's Civil War Sesquicentennial Conference, held in response to Gov. Granholm's executive order to commemorate Michigan's role in the American Civil War.

No money was appropriated for commemorating the Civil War, so volunteers will be relied on to participate and communicate about events. For more information about Michigan's participation in the sesquicentennial, go to <http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>. To learn about the nationwide commemoration, see <http://www.civilwar.org/150th-anniversary>.

This year, the Michigan Historical Museum will display artifacts pertaining to events that led up to the war. The display will evolve through the next four years until it commemorates the end of the war and Reconstruction. Regimental flags, removed from the capital and repaired, will be displayed in rotation to avoid light damage, so plan to visit often. Admission to the museum, at 702 West Kalamazoo Street in Lansing, is free. The museum is in the Michigan Historical Center, the same building as the Library of Michigan and Archives of Michigan.

Michigan History magazine, beginning with the January/February issue, will publish articles in each issue about Michigan in the Civil War. If you are interested in this subject, a subscription may make

a nice gift to yourself.

The Archives of Michigan has completed the first phase of a project to digitize every government-related Civil War record in its collection. All images are now online. This does not include records of veterans after the war, but Michigan is way ahead of other states in providing this record group to the public. To access the records, go to seekingmichigan.org, then go to the bottom of the SEEK column and click on SEARCH ADVANCED. Construct a search by combining up to four search criteria and selecting collections to search. Collections include Civil War Photographs, Civil War Service Records and Civil War Manuscripts, among others. Soon all of the Civil War records will be in one section.

The G.A.R. Hall in Marshall is one of only two Grand Army of the Republic halls in Michigan. The building houses the Marshall Historical Society's archives and artifacts from the Civil War (making up the majority of the displays), Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, as well as Marshall memorabilia. It's open on Saturdays, June through August.

The Bicentennial of the War of 1812 will also be commemorated over the next few years.

Let us know how you'd like our society to participate in these observances and recruit new members who have not yet heard about what CCGS has to offer.



-Jim Jackson, President
CCGS

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UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Interesting monthly meetings coming up:

Our January meeting is our annual sharing session with a new element. As always, our members and guests will be sharing their success stories, brick walls and interesting family lore. We will also be conducting a used book sale. Bring your duplicates or pre-read books, limited to genealogy, history, etc. to donate to our Society, then bring home new books to take their place on your shelf.

Our next meeting will be on FRIDAY, February 25 (7-9pm), our annual "Lock-IN" at the **Helen Warner Branch of the Willard Library**. Come use the resources. Space is limited. Registration is required by calling the Local History Department at (269) 968-8166, ext. 602. Leave a message for George Livingston.

March 22 will be "We keep the records of your life". Linda Hughey from the Calhoun County Clerks office will discuss what county records are available in Marshall, how to access them, and make your visit to any Courthouse more productive.

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UPCOMING SCHEDULE (CONTINUED)

On April 26, Mary Strouse will discuss "Using FamilySearch.org", a free collection of records, resources and services. This is one of the most heavily used genealogy sites on the Internet.

On May 24 we'll join the sesquicentennial of the Civil War observance with author Mark Hoffman. He will discuss his book "My Brave Mechanics: The First Michigan Engineers and Their Civil War". The Engineers and Mechanics initially formed in Marshall, and camped at what is now the county fairgrounds. This would be a great opportunity to bring some

non-genealogy friends that have an interest in American History.

On June 28, we will return to **Albion District Library** where Mary Houghton will present "Writing Stories on Your Family."

Mark your calendars and invite your friends! All monthly meetings are free.

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 a nonprofit organization recognized as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. 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.

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

NEWSLETTER FOCUS—UPDATES FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

Usually I set the focus of my newsletters around a specific location. I am using this issue to include articles from all around the county. Some of the articles were received from members after I closed out a newsletter about a location or did not fit into that newsletter

and some are new.

My goal with the CCGS Newsletters has been to keep you informed about our history and resources for use in your genealogical research. I have wanted to do this by assembling your articles and adding a few of my own. Your involvement is KEY. Please send me what

you can. And when we get my replacement, PLEASE send them the articles, too. Help us help keep you informed of all things Calhoun County historical and genealogy related.

A BIG Thank-you for all of you that have sent in articles.

MEMBER PROFILE—MARLENE PLASSMAN

Born in Albion, I've lived in Calhoun County most of my life except for a year in Kalamazoo, a couple of years in Chicago, and another year in the Detroit area.

Growing up in Albion, I noticed that the two branches of my family were different in several ways. I probably first noticed it when I spent time with each of my grandmothers. First, I became aware that their cooking and the foods we ate were different and interesting.

One side of my family was of German descent, coming to the United States in the 1860s and 1870s. Some were founding members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Albion. The maternal side of my family came to Michigan from Arkansas via Indiana and other places, arriving here in 1929. The German members of my family were primarily farmers. The southern branch had been famers, tenant farmers and lumber workers. They came to Michigan to get work in the auto industry and/or related manufacturing plants.

One side of the family always had company — and usually had someone other than family members living with them. Many evenings they played music — guitar, banjo, piano, harmonica — and made a lot of noise. The other side seemed to think there was something wrong with noisy gatherings, card playing and boisterous socializing.

Religious backgrounds were also different. One side practiced the strict and rigid Lutheran religion and the other an easygoing Protestantism. Those on the German side typically were Republican in politics, while the southerners were Democrats who believed strongly in the union movement.

I wondered about the differences long before I had any knowledge of their backgrounds. Later in life, it piqued an interest in genealogy, which I began pursuing to help me figure out the reasons for these differences.

The Calhoun County Genealogical

Society was formed soon after I began my genealogy research. I became a founding member and, in the first year or so, I edited **Generations**. Most of the time I have been an inactive member, but have always enjoyed reading the newsletters and learning about our members and their research. The programs have provided me with research ideas and methods.

We all know that our backgrounds, environment and heredity have a lot to do with who we are. We also see how much our families change in personality and beliefs from generation to generation. It makes for lots of fascinating stories and insights into the world our ancestors inhabited — the world we inherited and will pass on to others.

— Marlene Plassman

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

TRIBUTE TO A CCGS FOUNDER—PAT GEYER

After founding member Pat Geyer died in 2010, we asked Valerie Radee to share her memories of her friend and colleague. Pat's husband Robert J. Geyer helped Val in this labor of love.

Patricia was born in St. Louis, Michigan, to Vern and Doris (Wilkinson) Wight in 1923. She spent her early childhood and teen years in Cheboygan. Her parents owned a jewelry store, inspiring her love of glassware, dishes and fine jewelry. Pat could always spot a bargain in a pile of “junk” at an antique shop or yard sale.

In school, she was involved in plays and sports, and took all the academic courses offered. Her relationships with former classmates continued throughout her life and she attended most of her class reunions.

Even though Pat lived in Albion more than 60 years, her love of the North Woods remained strong. She and her family spent as much time as they could in Luce County at their big old log cabin near Muskrat Lake, and later their cabin on Pike Lake. Pat collected logging memorabilia, and some pieces from her collection have been donated.

In the '40s, she attended Michigan State, where she met Robert John Geyer at a freshman-sophomore dance. That marked the beginning of a long-time romance and 56-year marriage.

Robert graduated from college in 1943 and promptly went into the service. He was stationed at Fort Bragg and was to be sent to Fort Sill for advanced artillery training. He had a 10-day span to come to Albion, so Pat drove from Cheboygan to Albion with her family. Pat and Robert were married at Salem United Church of Christ on 6 February 1944.

After the war, the Geyers settled in Albion, where Robert owned a lumber company. Three children — Linda, Pam and John — were born of their union.

In the fall of 1958, Pat and I started teaching vocational home economics in Albion. We worked together closely, not only planning classes, but also giving presentations throughout the state about our programs. We took many night classes together toward our master's degrees.

Pat loved to develop programs for those in need, and her work did not go unnoticed. She won an award from Corning that allowed her to travel to India and several other countries to learn about their home economics programs and the role of women in society.

We had to have fun, too. Saturdays would find us antiquing and shopping for china, often in Canada. Later, we traveled to research our genealogy interests. Pat was a gatherer of family history, interviews, mementos and anything related to family.

On one of our trips to Salt Lake City, the idea of forming the Calhoun County Genealogical Society was born. Twenty-three years later, the society is still going strong.

Pat and Robert traveled as much as they could. During their trip to Germany, Pat conceived the idea for her 1988 book, *The Schumacher-Geyer and Related Families of Albion, Michigan*. She typed the book on a typewriter. Friends helped with a computer-generated index. Robert made charts, and family members and friends helped in other ways. For the other five books Pat published, she mastered the computer.

Once Pat was finished with “the

Germans,” (her term) she started writing about her side of the family. In 1998 she published *Sheldon L. Wight: His Story*, which emphasized his Civil War diary and members of his 6th Michigan Cavalry. He was one of 53 soldiers who marched as a group from Salt Lake City to Detroit. Pat's book helps the reader understand what it was like to be one of those men.

In 2005, she published the book *McWethy...McWethey* about the family's migration from Massachusetts to Michigan and west.

Pat put all her time and energy into finishing her final book during 2009 and 2010. Health issues arose, but she finished her book and was able to see it published. She enjoyed a book party given by her husband, children, grandchildren and great grandchild.

Pat passed away 22 April 2010 in Albion. Her remains were buried at Riverside Cemetery in Albion.

Pat's book, *A Green(e) Family Branch: From Massachusetts to Michigan, and around the World*, is available for \$50. Orders may be sent to Robert J. Geyer, 601 Manor Drive, Albion, MI 49224.

— Valerie Radee and Robert J. Geyer



The following article was submitted by Charles O. Harthy. It is reprinted from a copy of the Homer Index, December 19, 1900. Permission granted by the Homer Index, Will Forgrave, Editor.

A BIT OF PIONEER HISTORY

— AN OLD "RATE BILL" OF 1844-5 —

UNEARTHED.

INCIDENTS RELATED OF EARLY SCHOOL DAYS

Many of the Pupils of the Original
School Numbered with the Great
Majority.

Any reference to the pioneer history of a particular community is of never failing interest to those acquainted with that locality. Upon this theory we publish below a "rate bill," showing the basis of taxation for every pupil attending school in district No. 4, township of Homer, in the winter of 1844-5. This is reproduced from a sere and yellow sheet of heavy foolscap, placed in our hands by Mr. Wellington Wagoner. The bill was drawn by the master himself, who collected his own pay, which amounted to the munificent sum of \$22.00 for three months' work. Three months was the minimum length of time which the law required that school should be taught during the year, and there were six school days in every week.

Instead of spreading a general school tax according to the assessed valuation of the property in the district, regardless of whether the taxpayer received any personal or direct benefit from the same, none but those who patronized the school were assessed, and then only according to the number of days the pupils attended. In this case the rate of assessment was only one and one-half cents per day. Following the names of the children are those of the parents and patrons of the school, with the number of pupils sent, indicated:

To the school inspectors of the township of Homer from Dist. No. 4, three months school taught by James Cross in the year 1844 and 1845:

AGE	NAME.	DAYS
13	Benjamin Fletcher	59
13	Edmond J. Champion	61
10	Angustus J. Champion	71
8	Lewis H. Champion	69 ½
15	Mary D. Champion	54
16	Powel G. Fisher	60 ½
13	Rachel Fisher	33 ¼
10	James H. Underwood	51 ½
6	Mary Underwood	31
13	Archillis Underwood	27 ½
8	Rebecca Fisher	60 ½
7	Mathhias Fisher	44
6	Catharine Fisher	60 ½
8	Roxane Fisher	60 ½
11	Phebe E. Fisher	22 ½
9	John Crandal	46 ½
11	Francis Thorn	19
9	Sylvester Wagoner	60 ½
11	Andrew Cool	41
12	Bryan Crandal	27 ½
13	Joseph Crandal	50 ½
12	Charles Mensch	29 ½
7	Amanda Crandal	48
16	Benjamin Mensch	39
15	William Hanson	41 ½
15	John Kern	51 ½
7	Lewis Underwood	44 ½
17	Susannah Sine	31 ½
17	Theadore Stookey	15 ½
15	George Simons	47
12	Volva Underwood	25
16	Mariah Stookey	7
6	Mariah Wagoner	1
18	Nancy Sine	29 ½
23	Josiah W. Hutchins	12
19	Horace L. Hutchins	5
5	Betsey Underwood	1

Philip Fisher	2
B. G. Fisher	3
John Fisher	4
Polly Champion	3
Christina Mensch	1
Peter Mensch	4
E. S. Underwood	6
Browning Colgrove	1
Jacob Cool	3
John Crandall	3
Salina Crandall	2
Joseph Thorn	2

(Continued on page 6)

DON'T MISS OUT!



Are your CCGS dues paid? If you received a printed copy of this newsletter, check your label and locate the date. Your dues are paid thru this date. If you receive your dues electronically, your cover Email will indicate if your dues are past due.

Don't miss out! To continue getting Generations Newsletters, get your dues in soon. Membership renewal forms were sent in the

previous two newsletters or you can print from the following webpage: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~micalhou/MembershipForm2010.pdf>.

If you have paid and we missed it, please write Membership Chair, Calhoun County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 879, Marshall, MI 49068-0879 with your payment information (date and check number) and we'll track it down.

(Continued from page 5)

Samuel Thorn 2
John Kiefer 1

E.F. CHAMPION, Director.

PHILIP FISHER Moderator

Of the above "young ideas" three are living in Homer, L. H. Champion, Mrs. Eslow and Sylvester Wagoner. Others have never left the community where their childhood was passed or even the roof tree which sheltered them in infancy. Some are scattered through this and adjoining towns while others are in remote parts of the nation. Of the feminine portion who are living, Mrs. T. E. Eslow resides in this city; Rachel Fisher Eastman lives in Eckford, Mary Mensch in Homer; Rebecca Yinger died nearly forty years ago; Catherine Thompson lives in Toledo; Roxane Wing in Concord; Phoebe F. Abbott, deceased; Frances Thorn Yinger, South Litchfield; Amanda Crandal Sutton died in Hillsdale county several years ago; Mariah Stookey is the relict of the late Dr. Saxton of Concord and lives in Jonesville; Mariah Wagoner is the wife of Jackson Penoyer of Pulaski; Nancy Sine Hoyt lives in Gratiot county and Susannah Sine changed her name to Mrs. Cornelius Fisher and still lives in this township.

Time has dealt lightly with the girls, but death has made many a vacant place on the benches "on the boys' side." Byron Crandal died of consumption within the following year; A. C. Champion died in Chicago about a year ago; Benjamin Mensch, Wm. Hanson and the two Hutchins boys crossed the continent in search of the glittering mammon and perished in the wildernesses of California. Theodore Stookey met his death in the logging camps of northern Michigan and George Simons was one of an ill starred party of excursionists who went out from Chicago for a pleasure trip on Lake Michigan and were caught in a gale which sent the boat and its cargo of human freight to the bottom. Chas. Mench died last week and an ac-

count of his death can be found in another column.

Mr. L. H. Champion, who at the time was an eight year old "kid" in short pants and roundabout, difficult as it may be for our readers to imagine how he would appear in such a costume, chasing butter flies and bumble bees, was interviewed by the INDEX regarding the above document and to him we are indebted for the foregoing facts. His early recollections are very vivid and he has related to us several interesting facts concerning his school days and the experiences connected with the early history of the community.

The schoolmaster, James Cross, worked the farm now owned by E. N. Lincoln of Pulaski and taught school winters at the seat of learning which occupied the site of the present Fisher school house. The master was often detained over night at the house of some of the settlers living near the school house by the undue familiarity of panthers, which at that time frequented this part of the country, which was covered by an unbroken primeval forest, plentiful in wild game and roamed by beasts of prey. Bears and wolves were as common as rabbits and excited no particular fear among the settlers. Mr. Cross did not dread an encounter with Bruin but he did draw the line on panthers. He was considered a good teacher, his ability being measured by the amount of corporal punishment administered during the term. As Mr. Champion expressed it, "If I wasn't licked every day I didn't think I was being used well." An elementary spelling book served for both reading and spelling by the primary class while the older ones "elocuted" from the "Old English Reader" and learned to "figger" from Daboll's "rithemetick." The pupils were furnished pens by the master, who was as adept in the manufacture of them from the quills of a goose. He kept a large flock of these useful birds and brought quantities of their quills to school, making them into pens, after having first tempered the points in hot oil. Mr. Cross was the first supervisor in the township of Pulaski. He afterwards removed to Montcalm county, where he died some 25 years ago.

CCGS NEEDS YOU!

Ideas—Lot's of ideas. We have a lot we want to do but we need help to make things happen. Things like our programs and presentations, newsletters, cemetery publications, updating and adding to our website, setting up trips and other ideas take volunteers to organize and execute them.

So, how can you help? First, by inviting your friends and family members to join us. Spread the word about what CCGS has to offer and invite them to our FREE monthly presentations. Share your newsletters. Submit articles to be used in the newsletter to make it personal and inviting to your friends and family.

And next, volunteer! We need you! Our group is a volunteer organization. So, Volunteer! Help us help

you by helping yourself.

Our Bylaws call for a maximum of 6 years as an officer in any combination of positions. If members always served this term limit, then in our twenty-three years of existence, we would have about 20 members that could no longer be elected to an office due to this term limit. But anyone else can serve. We need you! Dave Eddy just volunteered for Vice President. Welcome Dave!

Besides officers our Executive Board consists of the chairpersons of Standing Committees. There are eight Standing Committees and several need to be filled. There are also several other ways you can help. Contact a board member and ask how you can help.

HELP NEEDED!

We NEED you! Please consider donating a little time to our society. We need the following help ASAP.

- Membership Chairperson
- Michigan Genealogical Council Delegate
- Newsletter Editor / Co Editor
- Newsletter articles
- Cemetery Transcription Committee Help
- Website page research
- AND more!

Contact a board member for more information.

SQUIER FAMILIES IN CLARENCE TOWNSHIP, CALHOUN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Including others with similar name spellings with relationship not known.

There are four generations of Squiers buried in two cemeteries nearby. Thomas and Caroline, Charles and Sarah are buried in the Clarence cemetery. Byron and Lovina and son Duane are buried in the Hunt Cemetery.

It appears that Thomas and Caroline (Howell) Squier moved here from Ingham County in their migration from New York state to Michigan. Like so many families, not much is known about their ancestors before 1800. Thomas was born about that time in N.Y. And his wife in 1804. The exact date of their move to Ingham county is not recorded, But their oldest child, Cynthia was born in N.Y. 1823. Records tell us that by 1838, Charles was born in Ingham county, Michigan.

In 1840 sons, Alvorus and Valorus were added to the family. It is interesting to note that there are conflicting records as to when these two were born. We

found an Ingham County record 1838-43 that shows a fellow named Thomas Squiers serving on an early township board with a Doctor Valorous Meeker. Just speculation.

Sometime in the late 1800s, Valorus' wife Jennie (Conley) and brother, Alvorus moved to Logan county, Colorado. Descendants are still to be found in and around Merino and Atwood. Valorus and Jenny were parents of two sons, Charles Elmer died young, His brother, Archie married a Michigan girl, Eva Pennington and they were parents of a large family of eight children.

Another son of Thomas and Caroline was Charles H Squier that married the widow of Civil War Veteran John Wise, Sarah A. (Lamb) Wise. Sarah and her Lamb family has been the subject in this column in the past. This couple were parents to four children, Of them we note that son Byron is mentioned earlier in this report.

The Riverside Cemetery record in Albion, MI has Ambrose Squiers as a son

of Thomas and Caroline Squiers. This is a strong indication that Ambrose was a Clarence Township son. Others of unknown relationship are Ida Adel Squires, She married Frank Purchis and left the Duck Lake area for Nashville, Michigan. Members of her family were known as "Cousins" to Byron. Others include Horton M. Squiers a Civil War Vet, Van Rensselaer Squier born in New York possibly named after a Dutchman that had ran for a high office in his natal state. Steven Squires that married Kittie Lightnier in Clarence Township in Aug 1887. George Squires married Charlotte Scott in Dec. 1856, They are buried next to Ida Adel and Frank Purchis in the Lakeside Cemetery in Nashville, Michigan. In December 1887 Alonzo Wise married Lovina Nichols, His mother was Betsy Squies. As usual, In our research We find more Questions than Answers.

*Article submitted by Larry Randall originally submitted to the **Springport Signal**.*

Generations

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

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

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.

23 ... November

“We Want You! U.S Military Records of the World Wars.” By Cynthia Grostick.

December

NO MEETING. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

25 ... January

“Show and Tell” By members & guests. Share your success stories and brick-wall problems. ALSO, Used Book Sale! Bring any genealogical or history based books and magazines that you can donate to the society. We will put them up for sale at this meeting. Somebody's discard may be another person's treasure! Proceeds will be used to support the society. Any unsold items will be distributed by the society to an appropriate organization.



23rd Year of Calhoun County
Genealogical Society!

2010-2011