

President's Message

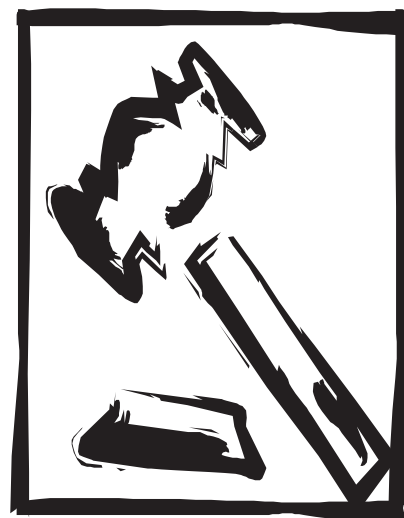
by Alex VanZanten

We started the year by celebrating our 25th anniversary in Albion by having an informative tour of their library - and the cake was good too! We had a great visit to the Grand Trunk Depot in Battle Creek, and learned a great deal from the various speakers at our regular meetings. The survey we conducted provided us with good insights and allowed us to make plans for future meetings.

Normally after our June meeting, we would not be scheduling activities until fall. After the great success of the lock-in at the Helen Warner branch of the library in Battle Creek, they requested that we move our lock-in to August to better accommodate the library's hours and to avoid the potential for bad weather. The lock-in will be Sunday, August, 24, 2014 from 1-4. Reservations will again be required. We will be sending out an e-mail reminder the first of August. If you do not have e-mail, you will need to call George Livingston at the library August 1st to make your reservations (269-968-8166).

Like any organization, we have many positions that need to be filled. We will have our election for board members at our September meeting. Along with board members, there are numerous committee chair positions that also need to be filled. No experience is needed, and you don't have to have vast knowledge of genealogy! Please think about ways in which you might be able to help and support the organization. If you

would like more information, or would be interested in any of the positions, please contact Alex VanZanten at 269-979-4393 or alexvz47@msn.com, or Brenda Leyndyke at 269-275-0462 or brae95@gmail.com.



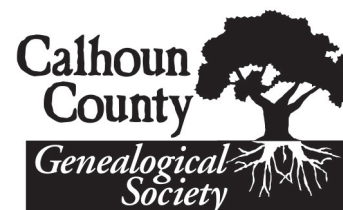
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Calhoun County Genealogical Society

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 for members choosing to receive **Generations** through postal mail or \$15 for members electing to receive the newsletter via e-mail. Memberships are accepted year-round; dues received after May 1 will pay for the following year's membership. Members receive **Generations** newsletter six times per year. All are invited to submit articles to the **Generations** editor. Permission is granted to reprint articles unless otherwise noted. Please give appropriate credit to the source. Copies of pages from back issues of **Generations** are available for \$1.00 for the first page and \$.50 for each additional page. General meetings are held at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at the LDS Marshall Branch Church 16036 Old US -27, 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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Calhoun County Genealogical Society

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Become a CCGS fan on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CalhounCountyGenealogicalSociety>

CCGS e-mail list: Send a message to calhouncountygss-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

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



Getting Started in Genealogy

Once you have found all the records from your own home and your parent's home it is time to look for other records and the internet is many researchers first stop. Researching your family history online can make one feel like they are on a wild goose chase. The internet is a wonderful tool to help you locate records and resources if you know where to look. We will provide you with a **Top Ten** list every issue that will help you find genealogy databases and information to further your family history research. Look for the Top Ten arrow in every issue and good luck with your searching.

Getting Started in Genealogy Websites:

FamilySearch.org-Free access to census, birth, marriage, death, probate records and much more is available through this website. Additionally, you can start a family tree, learn about record groups, and search the Family History Library, Wiki, and Books.

Cyndis List.com-A great starting place for your research. Cyndi's List is a list of links that researchers will find useful in their research. Don't know about railroad records, Germans from Russia, or Mennonites? Cyndi's List has internet links for all of these things. There are over 300,000 links for you to browse and best of all Cyndi's List is free.

USGenWeb.org-Researchers in the United States have found out how important research at the county level is. USGenWeb helps with your county level searches. Almost every county in every state is represented on this free website. Start at the home page, pick a state from the left column and find your county. Information varies from county to county but this is a great resource.

FindaGrave.com-This online worldwide cemetery database allows a researcher to see their ancestor's gravestone. Over 112 million records may be found here. Anyone can access the information, but if you want to add your ancestor information or photo, registration is required.

RootsWeb.ancestry.com-This website may be overwhelming at first. Begin your search by clicking on "Getting Started with Rootsweb" for more information. You will find transcribed records; genealogy data; birth, marriage, and death indexes; obituary daily time's index; surname message boards; help and more. Again, all for free.

AfriGeneas.com-A website devoted to African American Genealogy research. In addition to records and resources, one will find message boards, mailing lists, genealogy chats and more.

GenealogyTrails.com-Another state and county level resource for the United States. Historical data, maps, research tips, military data and more can be found here.

EllisIsland.org-From 1892-1924 more than 25 million immigrants entered the United States through Ellis Island. Upon registration, one can search for free to find their ancestor's record.

Google.com-a good search engine can be your friend when researching your family. Try researching your ancestor's name+ genealogy or family history and see what comes up. Google also has maps, a translation helper, books and more.

FamilyTreeMagazine.com-If you are looking for free charts and forms this is the place to go. This mostly free website will lead you to how to and getting started articles and more.

GOLDEN RULES OF GENEALOGY



"SPELLING DUSN'T COWNT"

1 Back in the day folks couldn't spell and many could barely write, so how a name sounds is more



important than how it's spelled. Use wild card or Soundex searches to help find variant spellings of names.

ASSUME NOTHING

2 Check all your facts, don't assume that any particular document is right or wrong, and always try to find other independent sources to corroborate your facts as much as possible. Verify, verify, verify. For instance, don't assume that:

- your ancestors were married
- census information is accurate
- vital (or other) records were correct
- your ancestor's life events were recorded
- ancestors had the same name as their enslaver

USE DISCRETION

3 **Never lie** in your genealogy reports, but use discretion when reporting family information, especially when it involves living relatives.

ALWAYS DOCUMENT YOUR SOURCES, NO MATTER HOW MUCH THEY CONTRADICT ONE ANOTHER

4 Over time, you will compile more data and those once seemingly contradictory pieces of evidence may prove to be just the pieces of the puzzle you need to prove or disprove your theory. Be consistent as you cite your sources.

There are standard citation formats, but even if you just make up your own format for listing your sources, be consistent with it. You want your descendants to be able to retrace your steps, so you always cite your sources.



MOST DATES ARE APPROXIMATE

5 It's okay to state that someone was born "abt. 1845," or died "May 1915" if you don't have an exact date or where various documents have different dates. Which date is "correct?" They all are.



IF UNSURE, SAY SO

Future researchers will thank you for being honest if you simply say that you cannot prove a specific fact, yet you "suspect" such and such is true. Don't fudge the facts. Ever.



YOU CANNOT DO IT ALL ONLINE

7 Yes, we love doing research online and there's nothing better than using the computer to find new sources, view digital images of original documents and even connect with relatives. For genealogists, the internet will never replace the wonderful work of libraries, county courthouses, archives, and historical societies. Do as much as you can online,



then turn off your computer and hit the bricks!

JUST BECAUSE IT'S ONLINE DOESN'T MEAN IT'S TRUE

8 The internet is a wonderful thing but it's filled with oodles of bad information. Don't make the mistake of believing anything you find online at face value. Verify against other sources, even if you paid for the information you found online. Consult the original source whenever possible.

PASS ALONG YOUR RESEARCH

No matter how many decades you spend researching your family, your research will never be done. Plan on passing along your research to the next generation's



researchers. Leave excellent notes, cite all your sources, explain your shorthand ... in essence, leave your research the way you'd have liked to have found it.

DON'T DIE WITH YOUR STORIES STILL IN YOU

10 Giving credit to Dr. Wayne Dyer for his "Don't die with your music still in you," we want to remind you to tell the stories as completely and as accurately as possible. Genealogy isn't about just doing research. Genealogy is about telling the stories and ensuring that your ancestor's legacies live on for generations to come. Without the stories, the research won't do anyone much good. The legacy of your ancestors rests in your capable hands. Doing the research is fine, but always remember that you have been chosen to **tell their stories**.



DNA IS NOT A TRUMP CARD

11 DNA is just one of **many** possible sources of information you can use to verify or deny a relationship. Human error occurs when the results are transcribed, thereby providing false information. DNA results should **always** be used in concert with other sources.

ANYTHING YOU POST ONLINE WILL BE "BORROWED"

12 You need to accept the fact that any family information you post online will be "borrowed" or outright stolen, and you will probably not get credit for all your hard work. This is the nature of the beast... the internet. Get over it.

SPREAD THE WORD

You have our permission to use/publish these Golden Rules as much as you like. Just give us credit for them, okay?

GotGenealogy.com
PO Box 10805
Oakland, CA 94610-0805
(510) 333-6933

Research Report By Chelsea Johnson

CCGS Research Request, May 2014

I received a copy of a letter in late May from member Juanita Raymond, seeking information on some of her ancestors – the Howard family of Albion, Michigan. She was particularly interested in photographs of Stanton Howard and his immediate family members.

In researching the request, I found several mentions of the family in census records, as well as death certificates and grave sites through Seeking Michigan and Find a Grave. I also found an extended history of the family published in one of the turn-of-the-century county histories. I was unable to find any photographs of Stanton, but contacted Jennifer Wood at the Albion Library in the hopes that the Albion local history collection might have additional resources on the Howards.

I emailed the information I was able to find to Juanita at the end of May, and also sent a letter at the beginning of June to confirm that she received it.

New product to clean headstones -Provided to Jim Jackson

Dick Eastman had a link to <http://d2bio.com/> that is a product to safely clean headstones, used by the VA to clean Civil War headstones at National Park Battlefields. Thought this might be made into an informative article for the newsletter so that permanent damage may be prevented by well-meaning volunteers at our local cemeteries.

There was too much information on the web page to fit into the space available for the newsletter, but we are providing the link for anyone who wishes to check this out.

Florence Jean Wilson

We have some sad news to report regarding the passing of our colleague Florence Wilson.

Florence was an active member of the Genealogical Society of Monroe County and their delegate to the Michigan Genealogical Council for many years. She was most recently our Recording Secretary for Delegate meetings from July 2012-June 2013.

Please share this notice with any in your society who may have known Florence.

Florence will be greatly missed.

Cordially,

Tom Koselka, President
Michigan Genealogical Council

Florence Jean Wilson (Died June 4, 2014)

Florence Jean Wilson, age 80, of Dundee, passed away Wednesday, June 4, 2014 at the Ebeid Hospice in Sylvania, Ohio. Florence was born in Azalia, Michigan December 22, 1933, the daughter of Clifford and Florence (Pilbeam) Ambrose. She married Laurence W. Wilson February 1, 1957 at Marble Memorial United Methodist Church in Milan. Florence grew up in Milan and graduated from Milan High School in 1952. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in teaching and also her Master of Arts degree in education from Eastern Michigan University. She was certified in special education. She retired in 1993 from Ida Public Schools after 27 years teaching there, mostly in the elementary grades. At EMU she worked on the Agora Year Book during her junior year and was a member of the Beta Roe Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority. She also taught for 8 years in the Dundee Community School District. She received the Regents Scholarship to attend the University of Michigan to study nursing. After one year she transferred to EMU and became an elementary teacher. She was a active member of the Old Mill Restoration Committee and was the chief architect of the Dundee German Fest for 15 years. During 1994 she travelled to England on the QE2 and returned on the Concorde. She was the archivist for the Genealogy Society of Monroe County and was a past president. She was also the local genealogy society delegate to the State of Michigan Genealogical organization. She also planned and held many of the Wilson Family Reunions until 2009. Surviving are her husband Laurence of Dundee, many cousins and many friends. Friends may call on Sunday from 11 AM until 7 PM at the Cover Funeral Home, 297 Tecumseh St, Dundee (734-529-3156) Her funeral will be held on Monday, June 9, 2014 at 11:00 AM at the funeral home. Officiating will be Rev. Courtney Williams. Following the services cremation will be held. A memorial luncheon will follow the services at the Dundee Old Mill. Online condolences may be made at www.coverfuneralhome.com.

Upcoming Programs:

June 24th, 7 p.m.: Honoring Our Ancestors at Family Reunions: Finding the elusive great grandmother, military photo, place of origin or migration path is only part of what excites genealogists. Celebrating and sharing our discoveries is also a rewarding part of our passion. Anita Stuever will talk about creative ways to pay tribute to your ancestors at a family reunion or other gathering. You'll learn how to conduct a family history scavenger hunt and a cemetery program, make a family heritage quilt, display maps and old photos, and more. You'll gain ideas for sharing your heritage in fun ways to get younger generations involved. These activities help put life to the names, dates and old photos. Come to be inspired and get your creative juices flowing so you can devise unique ways to honor your own ancestors and share your heritage. **Our June meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at LDS Church, 16036 Old 27 North, Marshall, Michigan.**

Reminder: We will not meet in July. Our next meeting will be August 24th for a Lock In at Helen Warner Branch of Willard Library (see article in newsletter). Our September 23rd meeting will be held at the LDS Church, 16036 Old 27 North, Marshall, Michigan where we will be having our Annual Meeting with Elections and an "Ask a Genealogist" session.

If you know of anyone, yourself perhaps, that would like to share their expertise with our group at next year's meetings, please contact Brenda Leyndyke, Vice President at brae957@gmail.com.

Helen Warner Branch of Willard Library Lock In Exciting News!

Have you wanted to attend our annual February lock in at the Helen Warner Branch of Willard Library in Battle Creek, but the February date wasn't convenient for you? Put Sunday, August 24th from 1-4 p.m. on your calendar as the library has decided to schedule the lock-in away from a winter evening event.

The lock in is a time to learn more about the local history resources available at the Helen Warner Branch library. In addition, attendees use the online resources to conduct research and CCGS members are available to help with that research or to answer questions you might have.

This event is free to the public, registration is required. We will have more information on registration at a later date.

NOTE: Day and time changes.

Generations

Calhoun County Genealogical Society
PO Box 879
Marshall, MI 49068-0879

Don't forget no
meeting in July!

Calhoun County Genealogical Society *Calendar of Events*

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 LDS Marshall Branch Church at 16036 Old US-27 N, Marshall MI.

June 24—"Family Reunion Scavenger Hunts" By Anita Stuever

July - No Meeting

August 24 –Sunday Willard Library– Helen Warner Branch Lock-in

Note: Need to register with Brenda Leyndyke or with George Livingston at the Library. Also note the day change.

September— Time to renew your memberships for next year!

Have ideas for future programs? Please contact Vice President Brenda Leyndyke, whose contact information is on page 2.