

## President's Message

by Alex VanZanten

. It has been a privilege and a learning experience to have been the president for the last year. We have had many interesting and informative events this past year and the coming year looks to be even better. Look in the newsletter for the upcoming calendar of events.

On Sunday, August 24 from 1:00 - 4:00, we will have our lock-in at the Helen Warner Branch of Willard Library. Reservations are required so you will need to call 269-968-8166.

Genealogy techniques have changed over the last few years with the explosion of the use of technology. As an organization we are trying to keep up with the latest search advances and try to provide our members with the tools they need to be successful. As a result of the surveys we did we will have field trips as well as trainings.

We will be holding our September board meeting on Tuesday the 16th. at

7:00 at the LDS Building in Marshall. Everyone who is interested in the future of the organization is encouraged to attend - especially if you are interested in holding an office or being on a committee in the coming year. Our annual meeting and elections will be held on September 23rd. at 7:00 at the LDS Church in Marshall, followed by a time to get all your research questions answered by a fellow genealogist.

At this time I want to thank all those who have been on the board and headed up committees this past year. All your efforts have made the society the success that it is.



### 2014-2015 Slate of Officers

President: OPEN  
Vice President: Brenda Leyndyke  
Recording Secretary: Darlene Stange  
Corresponding Secretary: OPEN  
Treasurer: Art Adams

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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.

### President

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**Open**

### Nominating Committee Chair

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### Website Committee Chair

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## Calhoun County Genealogical Society

PO Box 879, Marshall MI 49068-0879 • MichiganCalhounGene@yahoo.com • <http://www.rootsweb.com/~micalhou/ccgs.htm>

**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.

The program survey we conducted last year showed that people are interested in using the internet for genealogy. CCGS board members decided a good way to help our readers is by sharing some of the best websites for genealogy. The first Top Ten list is a general list of websites that every researcher should know about. All websites presented on the Top Ten List will be free.

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 grave-stone. 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.







Join us at this years Lock In. Members will be there to assist you in your research and George Livingston will available to answer questions and to help you.

An excellent line up of programs is planned for the 2014/2015 year. The Program Survey results guided the program choices this year. All meetings are free and open to the public. The programs with an \* will be held at our usual meeting place of LDS Church, 16036 Old 27 North, Marshall, Michigan. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month, except August, December and July. Please take note of the change of date for the Helen Warner Branch Library Lock In. Let's make this year's attendance one of the best. The programs planned offer something for everyone, from the beginner to the more experienced researcher. Invite a friend and join us as we explore our family history this year.

**August 24 (1-4p.m.) Helen Warner Branch of Willard Library Lock In.** Meet at Helen Warner Branch Library, 36 Minges Creek Place, Battle Creek, MI. Spend a Sunday afternoon in the closed, just for attendees, library. Meet fellow genealogists and research with other attendees. Calhoun County Genealogical Society members will be available to help you with your research. Registration is required by calling the library at 269 968-8166.

**\*September 23-7 pm. Annual Meeting and Ask a Genealogist.** The society will be holding its' annual meeting with board of directors elections. After elections, we will be having an "Ask a Genealogist" session. Whether you are just starting out in genealogy or have been researching for years, bring your burning questions and CCGS genealogists will be available to answer them.

**October 28-7 pm. WMU Archives and Regional History Collections Tour.** Archivist Sharon Carlson will provide our group with a tour of the new WMU Archives and Regional Collection Library. We will be meeting at the new Charles C and Lynn L. Zhang Legacy Collections Center, 1650 Oakland Drive, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

**\*November 25-7pm. Battle Creek Regional History Museum.** Our area is rich in history and will soon have a place to exhibit it. Join Bob Holderbaum as he shares the vision for this Calhoun county area attraction and what collections will be a part of it. Join us to hear the breaking news about this local history resource.

#### **December— No Meeting**

**\*January 27-7 pm. Annual Show and Tell.** Bring your latest success story, research find, family recipe, genealogy tip, tech gadget, newest resource, etc. and share with the group. This is a great opportunity to learn from others in a laid back and relaxing atmosphere.

**\*February 24-7 pm. I'll See You Again, Lady Liberty.** Author Ernst Floeter of Grand Ledge, Michigan will be our guest speaker. Ernst will share his accounts of his boyhood in Nazi Germany and his time as a World War II German P.O.W. Ernst was a Prisoner of War held in Michigan, Illinois, and New Mexico. After the war ended, Ernst sailed from New York Harbor for Germany, but not before informing the Statue of Liberty that he would see her again. "I'll See You Again, Lady Liberty" is the title of Ernst Floeter's autobiography.

**\*March 24- 7 pm. Social Media for Genealogy.** Chicago based social media specialist, Kirsten Agnello-Dean will help you discover new ways to improve your genealogy research by using social media. Did you know that there are over 3000 Facebook Groups dealing with Genealogy and Family History? Learn about Facebook Groups, Twitter, Pinterest and more as it relates to your family research.

**\*April 28-7 pm. Researching Michigan Ancestors Online-** Kris Rzepczynski, Senior Archivist at Archives of Michigan, will share Michigan online genealogy resources as well as effective search strategies for Michigan research. Kris is one of our most requested speakers. He will share his vast knowledge of our home state and how to research in it.

**\*May 26-7 pm. Genealogy at Bentley Historical Library-**Karen Jania, Head of Access and References Services at the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library will be our guest speaker. Karen will share with the group the rich genealogy resources available at the Bentley and how to access them.

**June 23-7 pm. Computer Genealogy with Shirley Hodges-Location to be announced.** The number one most requested speaker this year was Shirley Hodges. Shirley, an Albion resident, is a local and regionally known speaker having spoken at numerous lectures, seminars and workshops. Her presentations are filled with information, examples, and humor. Shirley's presentation will

## CCGS MEMBERSHIP FORM

*Use this form to pay annual CCGS dues. Your membership expiration date is printed on the top line of your mailing label.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative email address \_\_\_\_\_

Surnames researching \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check if you would like to receive **Generations** newsletter by email in Adobe Reader (PDF) format instead of postal mail.

☐ Check to request a membership card.

**Save money on dues!** Pay \$18 to receive **Generations** newsletter by postal mail or only \$15 to receive it via email.

The membership year is September 1 through August 31, but new members are welcome at any time. Dues received between June 1 and August 31, 2013, will cover membership through August 31, 2014.

Your name, contact information and the surnames you are researching will be published in this Annual Membership and Surname Directory. To opt out of sharing your information with CCGS members, you may contact Membership Chair Marcie Telfer.

*Please make a check payable to Calhoun County Genealogical Society or CCGS and send it to Membership Chair*  
Calhoun County Genealogical Society  
PO Box 879  
Marshall, MI 49068-0879

*CCGS use:* Check number \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Date received \_\_\_\_\_ Paid-through date \_\_\_\_\_

## CCGS DIRECTORY CORRECTION FORM

*Use this form to correct information published in this directory. Please print your name exactly as you want it published. Below your name, complete only lines where changes are needed. Information will be saved for future editions of this directory.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative email address \_\_\_\_\_

*Please send to Membership Chair*  
MichiganCalhounGene@yahoo.com or  
Calhoun County Genealogical Society  
PO Box 879  
Marshall, MI 49068-0879

To request a searchable PDF file of this 2012-2013 Annual Membership and Surname Directory, please email Anita Stuever at MichiganCalhounGene@yahoo.com.

**Add** these surnames I am researching \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Delete** these surnames from my list \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*CCGS use:* Date received \_\_\_\_\_ Correction(s) made \_\_\_\_\_

## Generations

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

Don't forget the Willard  
Library Lock In - Call  
now to register. Don't  
forget to renew your  
membership!!

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## 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.

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

September 23— Time to renew your memberships for next year! Annual Meeting and Ask a Genealogist .

October 28— WMU Archivist Regional History Collections Tour

November 25— Battle Creek Regional History Museum

December—No Meeting!

January 27—Annual Show and Tell.

February 24—I'll See You Again Lady Liberty Author: Ernst Floeter

March 24—Social Media for Genealogy Kirsten Agnello-Dean

April 28—Researching Michigan Ancestors Online

May 26— Genealogy at Bentley Historical Library Karen Jania

June 23 - Computer Genealogy with Shirley Hodges

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