

President's Message

by Brenda Leyndyke

President's Letter-September 2015
Summer is behind us and it is time to turn to fall events. I hope that one of those fall events on your calendar is the Calhoun County Genealogical Society's meetings. The society has a great line-up of speakers and programs for the coming year. I hope to see you at our meetings.

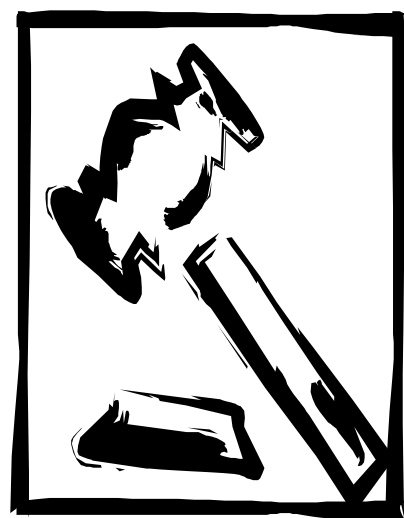
In addition to our regular monthly meeting programs, the board has decided to try a couple of new things that will hopefully add to your enjoyment. The board thinks it is time to do a little outreach into the community. The Calhoun County Genealogical Society will have a table at the Homer Fall Festival, held at Blair Farm in Homer, Michigan on September 26th. We hope if you are in the area, you will stop by and see what CCGS has to offer. As the year progresses we will be looking for more opportunities to share what our society has to offer to Calhoun County residents.

Also, the board would like to offer newsletter queries as a benefit of membership. Each CCGS member will be allowed to submit two

newsletter queries a year. These queries may be submitted by email to MichiganCalhounGene@yahoo.com or by mail to CCGS, P.O. Box 879, Marshall, MI 49068. Please include a specific question you would like answered, your ancestor's name, some brief information that you know about the ancestor and contact information that you would like replies to go to. Your contact information will be published in the newsletter for people to reply directly to your question.

As you can see your board has been hard at work to make your society a better experience for you. If you have any suggestions or comments that you would like to share, please feel free to contact me by email at brae957@gmail.com.

Brenda Leyndyke



2015-2016 Slate of Officers

President: Brenda Leyndyke

Vice President: OPEN

**Corresponding Secretary:
Stephanie Tobolski**

Recording Secretary:

Darlene Stange

Treasurer: Art Adams

President's Message:	1	Upcoming Events.....	5
Slate of Officers.....	1	Calender of Events.....	6
About CCGS.....	2	Homer Fall Festival	6
Member Queries.....	3	Membership Application.....	7
Maureen Vire and Gloria Huff	4	Upcoming Speakers	8
Willard Library Lock In.....	5		

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

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>

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

Member Queries

CCGS will be offering its members the opportunity to include two queries for publishing in this year's newsletter. Queries can be submitted to MichiganCalhounGene@yahoo.com or by mail to CCGS, P.O. Box 879, Marshall, MI 49068. Here are a few tips for successful query writing:

Ask a specific question about one individual or couple per query.

Clearly state your question at the beginning of your query, followed by any facts.

Example Only: Seeking obituary for James SMITH, who was born 2 February 1910, in Marshall, Michigan and died 10 December 1981, in Battle Creek, Michigan. James Smith was married to Ann JONES in 1933. James and Ann Smith had one son, John.

Use individual names instead of pronouns (he, she, they) to avoid any confusion about who you are talking about.

Use abbreviations sparingly. You may know what the abbreviation means, but a reader may not. Include only the information pertinent to the query. The reader won't want to hear family stories.

Keep it simple, clear, concise and specific.

Include your contact information. An email address will give you the fastest reply. Consider creating a new email address for this purpose if you are concerned about giving out your regular email address.

Member Queries

If you can help, please respond directly to the writer and copy your reply to CCGS P.O. Box 879, Marshall, MI 49068 or MichiganCalhounGene@yahoo.com.

Slate for Board of Directors

The September 22, 2015 meeting will be the Calhoun County Genealogical Society's annual meeting. Members will be asked to vote on the election of officers. The slate of officers for 2015-2016 is:

President: Brenda Leyndyke

Vice President:

Recording Secretary: Darlene Stange

Corresponding Secretary: Stephanie Tobolski

Treasurer: Art Adams

Nominations from the floor and write in candidates will be accepted at the meeting. The Vice President position is an important one that needs to be filled. The duties of the Vice President include presiding over the meetings in the absence of the President and Chairperson of the Programs and Publicity

Maureen Vire & Gloria Huff



Maureen places a record under the glass and films it. After the rolls are sent to be processed and then returned to Battle Creek, she will go through the finished film and make sure the images are all clear before the paper originals are destroyed.

Maureen Vire and Gloria Huff were microfilming files from the final box of Probate Records when Darlene Stange stopped by on June 16, 2015. They had already gone through the records, flattening and sorting them and returning them to the proper folder in preparation for filming.



CCGS Members Gloria Huff and Maureen Vire present Willard Library Head of Reference, Matt Willis, with the finished Probate Records microfilm at the August Genealogy Lock-In held at the Helen Warner Branch Library.

Gloria Huff recording miscellaneous files for the Index.

Willard Library Genealogy Lock-In a Success

Willard Library, in cooperation with the Calhoun County Genealogical Society (CCGS), hosted a Lock-In at the Helen Warner Branch in August. CCGS members volunteered to assist almost 50 attendees with their research.

Robert C. Myers, Curator of the Berrien Springs History Center presented, "Fading Photos: How to Identify, Scan, Restore, and Archive Historic Photographs" to those in attendance. Willard Library Head of Reference, Matt Willis, explained what historical resources are available at the library's website and in print at the Helen Warner Branch. The rest of the four-hour afternoon was spent researching; using the references and databases available at the library.

Thank you to Willard Library, Susan Schroeder, Helen Warner Branch of Willard Library Manager and Matt Willis, Head of Reference, for hosting a successful Lock In for family history researchers.



Researchers at Helen Warner Branch Library Genealogy Lock In.



CCGS Member, James Jackson, helps researchers at Genealogy Lock In.

Upcoming Events

October 9-10, 2015-**Got Ancestors? 2015** hosted by Western Michigan Genealogical Society with Guest Speaker D. Josh Taylor. To register and for more information: <http://gotancestors.com/>

October 11, 2015-**Surveying Michigan: 200th Anniversary Celebration at 2 p.m.**, Leslie, Michigan. For more information: <http://1815surveyingmichigan.weebly.com/>

November 7, 2015-**Eaton County Genealogical Society Bus Trip to Allen County Library**, Fort Wayne, Indiana. \$30. Pick-ups will be in Charlotte, Marshall, and Coldwater. The sign up flyer is here: <http://www.miegs.org/BusTrip2015.pdf>

November 14, 2015-**Michigan Genealogical Council Fall Family History Event featuring Paul Milner**, who will speak on Finding Your English Ancestors: The Big Four; A New Location: Steps for Quickly Getting Started; Finding Your Scottish Ancestors: The Big Five and Irish Emigrants to North America. The event lasts from 9-4 and is held at the Michigan Library and Historical Collection. More information can be found here: <http://mimgc.org/eventListings.php?nm=19> Registration is required and will be available soon.

Calhoun County Genealogical Society

2015-2016 Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise specified, meetings are held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS Church), 16036 Old 27 North, Marshall, MI. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of the month (except December, July, August.) All meetings are free and open to the public.

September 22-Annual Meeting. Elections and lifetime membership presentations. Probate Judge Jaconette will speak.

September 26-Homer Fall Festival. Look for our table at Blair Farm, Homer, MI.

October 27-Albion District Library. Meet at 501 S. Superior St. Albion, Michigan. Jennifer Wood will share with our group the latest news on Albion area resources and digitization projects.

November 24-Meet at Fort Custer and Tour Fort Custer Historical Society. Registration is required by calling 269 275-0462 after November 1st.

January 26-Beginning Genealogy. Learn about beginning your family history research and websites helpful to your research.

February 23-Marshall District Library. Meet at 124 W. Green St., Marshall, MI. Librarian Chelsea Johnson will give a tour of the library's local history collection.

March 22-Researching War of 1812 James Jackson will give an overview of the War of 1812 and provide research tips.

April 26-Seeking Michigan. Archivist Jessica Harden will show attendees how to get the most effective searches using seekingmichigan.org.

May 24-Get Smart! Brenda Leyndyke will present ways to improve your genealogical education by using free resources.

June 28-German Research Tips with Don Heider, a researcher of German ancestors here and in Germany. Don will provide tips and resources helpful in German research.

Join Your Society at Homer Fall Festival at Blair Farm

The Calhoun County Genealogical Society will have a table at the Homer Historical Society Fall Festival on Saturday, September 26, 2015, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Homer Fall Festival is held at Blair Historical Farm, one mile east of Homer on M-60. It is a great, family fun, festival filled with activities and demonstrations of what a day on a farm is like. There is no admission charge for the festival. Recently, the old Albion Township Hall found a new home on the farm. The exterior is finished and work is still being completed on the interior.

Other items of interest to see will include a unique collection of homespun, linen, wool and cotton coverlets showcasing different weaving styles, a soap making demonstration, a woodstove cooking demonstration, a working sawmill, and Civil War reenactors display. Antique farm machinery, antique engines and tools will be on display for visitors. The Blair Victorian Era farmhouse will be available for touring as well as a walk on the Blair Farm nature trail.

The recently published 250 page Homer area history book, "Ties to Homer" will be available for purchase. Handmade goods, garden items, Blair Farm apple butter and more will be available at the festival. Harvest soup, bratwurst sandwiches, baked beans, homemade pies and beverages will be available at the festival.

Entertainment will be provided by Homespun Strings with Janice Boden and friends at 11:00 a.m. and Uncle Carl's Dulcimer Club at 1:00 p.m.

You won't want to miss this day at the farm, just be sure you stop by and say hi to your friends at the Calhoun County Genealogical Society table. For more information, check the Festival Website out at <http://www.homermich.com/fall1.html>

Discover your roots. Link to the past.

Join Us

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Calhoun County Genealogical Society

Name _____ ☐ New Membership ☐ Renew Membership

Phone _____ Surnames you are researching

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

E-mail address _____

Feel free to attach a five-generation ancestor chart and/or a query to be published in *Generations*.

☐ Membership card requested (please enclose SASE)

☐ Check if you would like to receive *Generations* newsletter by e-mail in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format instead of postal mail.

*Include \$18 to receive *Generations* newsletter by postal mail OR \$15 to receive an electronic copy via email.*

Please make your check payable to Calhoun County Genealogical Society or CCGS. Send to Membership Chair, Calhoun County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 879, Marshall, MI 49068-0879

The membership year is September 1st through August 31st but are welcome at any time. Memberships received after May 30th will extend through the *following* August 31st.

CCGS Use only

Check number _____ Amount _____

Date Received _____ Paid-through date _____

Generations

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

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

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December-No Meeting

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May 24-Get Smart!

June 28-German Research Tips with Don Heider

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