

President's Message

by Brenda Leyndyke

I am a delegate and corresponding secretary for the Michigan Genealogical Council. One of the things I like about being a delegate is that I get to hear what is going on at the Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan. Then, I report that information to our society.

There are a lot of good things going on in the Michigan genealogical community. Some things are happening in the background and some are available for you to partake in. First, the 1941 Michigan death certificates are available for your use at Seeking Michigan.

Next, for users of the physical records at the Archives, new requisitions include records pertaining to Maine. As I mentioned at my presentation on New England Roots, Maine is a tough state to research. Hopefully, these new materials will help those with Maine ancestry. To see what is available, use the online Answer catalog at <http://35.8.7.98/search~S37>. Other news from the archives is about county histories. They are a great way to research the area where your ancestor lived. The Archives of Michigan has "The County Histories of the Old Northwest" (IN, IL, OH, WI, PA, and NY) series. This record group had never been individually catalogued. It is now, thanks to the Archives staff. It can be found in the Answer catalog of the Library and Archives of Michigan. There are over 1700 histories, with 750 counties new to the catalog.

The Archives of Michigan has some of Michigan's state Sanitarium records at the Archives. A death certificate of the person you are researching is required to access this collection housed at the Archives.

The digitization of the Michigan Naturalization records is complete. It was available for indexing through Family Search, but had to be pulled due to the complexity of the records. I

indexed a few of the records and one thing I can say is that no two records are alike. There wasn't a standardized form when the records were recorded. The staff at the Archives of Michigan is working with Family Search to solve the unique problems of indexing this group. Once these problems are solved, indexing will be available through Family Search. 100's of thousands of images are scanned and will need to be indexed. This is a huge project that will take a while to finish. The latest news on this project, as well as tutorial videos, can be found here: <http://seekingmichigan.org/naturalization>

As if the above isn't enough to keep you busy there is one event you will want to consider going to that is held every year: the Family History Seminar at the Lansing Family History Center, 431 E Saginaw Hwy, East Lansing, MI 48823. This seminar will be held Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 9:00 to 3:15. This FREE seminar is well attended with great speakers known throughout the genealogical community. Registration is required. Registration and schedule of classes can be found here: <http://lansingfhc.org/index.html>. If you are looking for other events in Michigan, check the Michigan Genealogical Council's website at mimgc.org.

I hope as the weather gets better you are able to participate in some of the great offerings that Michigan has to offer to genealogists.



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

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

Upcoming Events

April 25-Society Showcase. Area historical and genealogical societies will present ideas for local research. Learn what is available from their collections to further your research.

May 23-Meet at The Gardner House Museum, 509 S. Superior St., Albion, to tour this National Register of Historical Places museum and learn about the history of Albion.

June 27-Yankees in Michigan. WMU professor, Brian C. Wilson, will discuss the Yankee, meaning those migrating from New England areas, impact on Michigan, including migration patterns, early settlement, and more.

Congratulations to George Livingston

Congratulations to George Livingston, Local History Librarian, at Willard Library, Battle Creek, Michigan on his retirement. Anyone who conducts local research knows what a valuable person George was at the library. Best wishes to George as he starts this new phase of his life.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FEBRUARY 28 CCGS PROGRAM AT BATTLE CREEK BOOKS

Battle Creek Books was the destination for the February 28 Calhoun County Genealogical Society meeting and program. President Brenda Leyndyke began the meeting by asking each person present to relate a story, if they had one, of the book or research item that was particularly memorial for its aid to their family research. Most everyone had one that they were excited to share.

Next we were introduced to Jim Donahue, owner of Battle Creek Books (www.battlecreekbooks.com, Facebook/battlecreekbooks) for a talk on various books available in his store, both new and used, on local history, local authors, a historical book of local maps, Oak Hill Cemetery and more.

We were given information from Mark Lambert of the Battle Creek Historical Society. He has a business called Plough & Shear Bindery. For a free estimate on book repairs or hand bindings, contact Mark at markhlambert@hotmail.com or 269-339-6246.

Be sure to join us Tuesday, March 28, for this month's program, Getting Around the Brick-wall. James Jackson will provide tips and tricks for breaking down the brick-walls in our research.



In Other News

Recently, two new genealogical societies have been formed: Clarkston Area Genealogical Society, Clarkston, Michigan and Benzie Area Genealogical Society, Frankfort Michigan. If you have ancestors in these areas, please consider joining their societies.

Recently, the CCGS board of directors met and has decided to conduct a by-laws review. Our board meetings are open to members who would like to attend. If you have an interest in this review, please join us Tuesday, April 18th at 7 p.m. at the Marshall LDS Church, 16036 Old 27 N in Marshall. The focus of our review will be to look at term limits for board positions and changes to chairperson positions. The by-law provisions will be presented for review in May and voted on in June. If you have any suggestions for review, please contact President, Brenda Leyndyke at brae957@gmail.com

We are looking for two good people! Would you like to be involved in helping the Board of Directors find volunteers to fill positions that will be open on our board, next year? The Treasurer and Recording Secretary positions will be open due to term limits. We are looking for two people to serve on a nominating committee. This is a short term project. Contacting members asking to serve are conducted in May and then the committee presents the slate of officers at our annual meeting in September.

OR if you want to serve in any of the open positions, we won't need a nominating committee. The Treasurer's position needs someone familiar with Quicken or Excel and comfort dealing with financial transactions. The Recording Secretary takes the minutes of the September annual meeting and the monthly board meetings. If you would like to see a complete job description for these positions, please contact President, Brenda Leyndyke at brae957@gmail.com

Another review that the board would like to conduct is a newsletter review. The cost of publishing a newsletter is the largest part of our budget. Our membership numbers have been declining over the past few years and the board is looking for ways to reduce costs. One of the changes the board will be looking at is fewer newsletters per year. If you have any suggestions for containing costs, please let President, Brenda Leyndyke know at brae957@gmail.com

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

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

April 25 -Society Showcase

May 23 - Meet at Gardner House Museum, 509 S Superior St, Albion MI

June 27 - Yankees in Michigan, WMU professor Brian C. Wilson

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