## GENERATIONS



The Newsletter of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society
Founded 1988

Volume 9 / Number 4

February / March 1997



- "Identification and Preservation of Old Photographs"
- ▶ Tuesday, February 25, 1997
- ► 7 p.m.
- VFW Hall, 800 E. Michigan Ave., Marshall, MI
- ► Featuring guest speaker JOHN CURRY, Archivist of the State Archives of Michigan



As Archivist at the State Archives of Michigan, John Curry is responsible for the largest photographic collection in Michigan - numbering over 350,000 items. A native of Lansing, Mr. Curry graduated from Michigan State University, the University of Chicago and holds a Masters of Library Science degree from Western Michigan University. He was a founding member of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing in 1955 and served as President and trustee. He is currently a trustee of the Turner-Dodge House, the Friends of the Capitol and the Lansing Public Library. He is a former trustee of the Historical Society of Michigan, the Michigan Archival Association and the American Guild of Organists.

The CCGS meeting March 25, 1997:

# "Interviewing and Oral History" featuring guest speaker Sandy Redmond

Learn interviewing techniques, how to preserve the interview information and how important oral history can be to uncovering your family history.

7 pm at the VFW Hall, 800 E. Michigan Ave, in Marshall, MI

**CCGS Officers and Board Members** 

President: Nancy Hibiske

(616) 962-3498 (H) (616) 961-2500 (W)

Vice President: Carol Slattery

(616) 963-6988 (H)

Treasurer: Dave Ruble

(616) 968-1480 (H)

Recording Secretary: Cheri Ruble

(616) 968-1480 (H)

(616) 969-2210 (W)

Corresponding Secretary: Kathy McManus

(616) 961-2797 (W)

Membership Chair: Sandy Redmond

(616) 729-5258 (H)

(616) 961-3054 (W)

Publicity Chair: Brenda Cornish

(517) 629-4861 (H)

Program Chair: Carol Slattery (see above)

Archivist/Historian: TBD

Cemetery Project: Ruth Kaiser

(517) 857-2747 (H)

Immediate Past Presidents: Iohn Strickland

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Marlene Steele

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Pioneer Certificate Chair: Verla Potts

(616) 781-8594 (H)

Newsletter Editors: <u>Sandy Redmond</u> (see above)

Nancy Hibiske (see above)



The Calhoun County Genealogical Society is a non-profit, federally tax-exempt, State-Chartered organization. Individuals, libraries or societies may apply for membership. Annual dues for the 1996/1997 year beginning September 1 are \$10.00. Starting the 1997/1998 membership year annual dues will be \$12.00. All members receive the bi-monthly newsletter Generations.

Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the VFW Hall located at 800 E. Michigan Ave., Marshall, Ml. unless otherwise specified. The public is cordially invited.

## Research Materials Available from the Calhoun County Genealogical Society

(New Publication!!)

Clarence Township Cemeteries in Calhoun Co., Ml (Clarence Center, Dryer, Hunt, Krenerick and Nichols) (66 pages, over 2,100 names) \$7.00

<u>Transcriptions of Cemeteries of Convis Twp., Calhoun</u> <u>Co., MI</u> (35 pages, over 1,000 names) \$6.00

Every Name Index for Generations, the Newsletter of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society, August 1988 - June 1995 (48 pages, over 2,800 names) \$5.00

Beginner's Guide to Family History Research by Desmond Walls Allen and Carolyn Earle Billingsley (46 pages) \$9.00

Bentley Corners Cemetery Clarendon Twp., Calhoun Co., MI (14 pages) \$6.00

Marriage Records of Calhoun Co., MI 1836-1890 (248 pages, indexed) \$18.50

St. Ioseph Cemetery Clarendon Twp., Calhoun Co., MI (25 pages) \$6.00

<u>Transcriptions of Small Cemeteries in Clarence Twp.</u>, <u>Calhoun Co., Ml</u> (24 pages) \$6.00

<u>Transcriptions of the Gravestones in the Rice Creek</u>
<u>Cemetery Lee Twp., Calhoun Co., MI</u> (49 pages) \$6.00

MI residents must add 6% sales tax. All prices include shipping. To order the above publications please send a check payable to:

Calhoun County Genealogical Society P.O. Box 777 Marshall, MI 49068



#### ANOTHER NEW PUBLICATION!!

We are proud to announce the publication of another new cemetery book. Ruth Kaiser, our Cemetery Project chairperson, and her unfailing group of volunteers have now published all the Clarence Township cemeteriwith the completion of Clarence Township Cemeteries with the completion of Clarence Township Cemeteries Calhoun co., MI (Clarence Center, Dryer, Hunt, Krenerick and Nichols). (See above)

#### CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY UPDATE

**Bylaws of the CCGS** 

The function of bylaws is to describe the relationship between the members of a society and the working groups formed within that society. It documents the basic rules of our society. In order to keep all Calhoun County Genealogical Society members current with our organization, we have included a copy of the bylaws in this issue of "Generations". Only one article of the bylaws was recently revised. As a membership, we voted at the September 24, 1996 meeting to revise Article IV-Dues by raising the annual dues from \$10 to \$12 beginning with the 1997/1998 membership year. Please review the bylaws and keep them for future reference.

**New Publication** 

It is hard to believe our Cemetery Project volunteers have already finished another cemetery transcription book. Clarence Township Cemeteries in Calhoun County (Clarence Center, Dryer, Hunt, Krenerick and Nichols) is available at CCGS meetings or through the mail. It contains over 2,100 names and has been proofed, checked and compared to be as accurate as possible. Not only do the volunteers transcribe the tombstones, they confer with burial records, death records, township and county records and even include burials where no burial marker is found. If you would like to get involved with this prolific group please call Ruth Kaiser at 517-857-2747. Please keep in mind that Ruth spends her winters in Florida (lucky!) so you may have to wait a few weeks until you can get in contact with her.

Genealogy & History Book Fair

Sunday, April 6, 1997 our society has signed up to be a vendor at the Genealogy & History Book Fair being held at the Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI from 10am to 4:30pm. This is a great way to sell our publications, make a little money so we may generate other society projects, encourage new memberships and generally hobnob with people with similar interests. Anyone interested in volunteering to work at our table for a few hours please give me a call at 616-962-3498. The last time we were vendors in September 1996 at the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society's Seminar in Lansing we did quite well selling our publications because we have such a wonderful selection and we also picked up a few new members.

**Our Tenth Anniversary** 

Do you realize that 1998 marks the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society? RORDRO

On A More Personal Level...

Now the score is Dogs 3, Genealogy 0. Instead of going out to find more ancestors I went out and found another dog. I just could not help myself. There I was at the Humane Society-Calhoun Area and this little black German Shepherd puppy jumped in my car. Honest Mom, that's how it happened....so I named him Helmet....and boy can he put away the puppy food....

Narcy M Hbiske President, CCGS

#### LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS AWARDED

At the November Board meeting of the CCGS, the Board unanimously voted to award Miss Hazel Miller and Sister Georgia Brown Lifetime Memberships and Certificates of Appreciation. These awards were given in recognition of the countless hours of work both of these excellent genealogists have done for the Calhoun County Genealogical Society and the genealogical community as a whole.

Their hours spent in the local history room at Willard Public Library doing research for those who could not do their own, answering queries and compiling indexes have made a significant and lasting contribution. Thank you Hazel and Sister Georgia!

#### MARSHALL LIBRARY

The Marshall District Library is in the process of planning a move to a new location. As genealogists, we are very concerned with the careful preservation of records. Our voices need to be heard regarding the need for a local history room in the new Marshall Library. CCGS members Pat Shirey (616-781-4470) and Pat Geyer (517-629-4506) have agreed to act as the spokespersons for the CCGS in delivering our input to the planning committee of the Library. Renwick Garypie is currently the head librarian and Mrs. Ann LaPietra is the head of the planning committee. Please contact Pat Shirey or Pat Geyer, or write to express your concerns to the Marshall District Library at 111 E. Mansion, Marshall, MI 49068 regarding the space allotment for a local history room and also the types of records that will be kept there.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

March 29, 1997	<b>Third Annual Spring Family Book Expo</b> , Dutton Christian Middle School, 6729 Hanna Lake SE, Dutton (Grand Rapids), MI. Ten genealogy classes plus many vendors. For info 616-532-3867.
April 6, 1997	Genealogy and History Book Fair, Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, Ml. 10am - 4:30 pm. \$1.50 admission.
April 26, 1997	<b>Eaton County's 1997 Workshop</b> , American Legion Hall, 100 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI. Speakers include Shirley Hodges and Sandra Hargreaves Lubekin. For info 517-687-5327.
June 11-13, 1997	Palatines to America National Conference, Fort Wayne, IN. German genealogical research lectures. For info 514-236-8281.
Septemer 25-27, 1997	They Came from the Olde World - Europe, Michigan Genealogical Council's 1997 Seminar hosted by the Western Michigan Genealogical Society. For info WMGS, Grand Rapids Library, 60 Library Plaza, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

#### Article I - Name

The name of the Society shall be the Calhoun County Genealogical Society (CCGS)

#### Article II - Purpose

The Society shall be a non-profit organization. The purpose of this Society shall be:

- A) To gather and preserve information of genealogical value.
- B) To encourage the deposit of such information in suitable depositories.
- C) To aid genealogists in the study of family history through the exchange of knowledge.
- D) To publish and promote Calhoun County and other genealogical materials.

#### Article III - Membership

The membership of the Society shall consist of any person or organization interested in genealogy or family history.

The membership year shall be September 1 through August 31.

#### Article IV - Dues

The annual dues shall be \$12.00 effective beginning the 1997/1998 membership year payable by September 30.

Dues of new members received after May 30 will be considered a paid membership for the following year.

Any member delinquent after November 30 shall be dropped from the membership.

Only paid members shall be eligible to vote or to hold office.

#### Article V - Officers

The officers of the Society shall be the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

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Officers, the chairpersons of standing committees and the immediate past president shall constitute the **Executive Board**.

Officers shall serve for one year and are expected to attend the majority of meetings October through September. Officers may serve no more than two consecutive terms in the same office and no more than six consecutive years as an elected officer.

Candidates for all offices shall be nominated by a **Nominating Committee**. Ballots will be distributed by mail to all paid members no later than August 15 and must be returned no later than September 15. The installation of new officers shall take place at the fall annual meeting.

Should the office of the **President** become vacant, the **Vice President** shall become **President** for the balance of the term. Other vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the **President** with the approval of a majority of the **Executive Board**.

#### Article IV - Duties of the Officers

The **President** shall preside over all meetings, appoint standing committee chairs and, when required, shall appoint special committee chairs. All chairpersons shall be appointed with the approval of Executive Board. The President shall be empowered to disburse funds in the absence of the Treasurer. The President shall be an ex officio member of all committees without the right to vote. The President shall represent the Society at Michigan Genealogical Council meetings and seminars.

The Vice President shall preside over meetings in the absence of the President and shall be a member of the Program Committee. The Vice President shall perform other duties as assigned by the President.

The **Recording Secretary** shall keep records of all meetings of the Society and of the Executive Board.

The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence with members, other groups and individuals. The Corresponding Secretary shall maintain a current list of genealogists who are willing to do research for others. The Corresponding Secretary shall be a member of the Membership Committee.

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The **Treasurer** shall collect all dues and monies, attend to all disbursements and have charge of all funds of the Society. The Treasurer shall be responsible for dues notification. The Treasurer shall have the authority to disburse the funds of the Society.

The **Executive Board** or a subcommittee thereof shall audit the financial books of the Society. The financial books of the Society shall be presented to the audit committee in August and the results presented at the fall annual meeting. All Executive Board members shall attend the majority of meetings of the Society called by the President.

All officers shall deliver to their successors at the fall meeting all monies, accounts, records, books, papers or other property belonging to the Society.

#### Article VII - Committees

The standing committees of the Society shall be Membership, Program, Publicity, Publications, Cemeteries and Archivist.

Standing committee chairpersons shall be appointed in September and shall assume their responsibilities in October. The Program Committee shall plan programs for each meeting beginning in September following their appointment. The Program Chair shall be responsible for presenting the programs planned by his or her committee.

Special committees shall be appointed as necessary.

#### Article VII - Meetings

The meetings of this Society shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month unless the Executive Board votes to make an exception.

The Annual meeting shall be held in the fall as programs dictate. Meetings may be held around the county.

Special meetings may be called by the President.

#### **Article IX - Gifts**

Any item given to the Society shall become the property of the Society and shall be used as the Executive Board deems to be in the best interests of the Society unless alternate arrangements are made prior to the receipt of the gift.

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#### Article X - Publications

All publications compiled or written under the auspices of the Society shall become the property of the Society. All proceeds from the sale of such publications shall accrue to the Society.

#### Article XI - Michigan Genealogical Council

The Society shall maintain a membership in the Michigan Genealogical Council.

The President and another delegate shall represent the Society at Council meetings and seminars. The Executive Board shall name two alternates who will represent the Society in the event the delegates are unable to attend.

Expenses for representing the Society shall be reimbursed as deemed appropriate by the Executive Board.

#### Article XII - Amendments

Amendments to the bylaws shall be considered at the Annual Meeting or at a special meeting called by the President for that purpose and shall take effect upon the assent of two thirds of the members present and voting.

Notice of amendments to be acted upon shall be mailed to the members no later than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting or the special meeting called for that purpose.

#### Article XIII - Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order, revised, shall be parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not otherwise covered in the bylaws.

#### Article XIV - Dissolution

In the event that the Society should decide by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership to disband such items as are in its possession or custody shall be directed to suitable public repositories by the Executive Board.

September 1996

#### SOULES / DAVIS / HARRISON / HEATH

Would anyone have information on the ancestry of Mellie (SOULES) DAVIS b. 20 Jan 1866 near Climax, MI daughter of Martin V.B. and Werlinda (HARRISON) SOULES? How does Martin b. 1836 Ohio d. 1918 Climax Township connect to George SOULES (1st generation immigrant, 1620 Mayflower)? Questioning the middle initials V.B. also. (Van deBogart?)

Note: SOULE lineage printout from Ms. Bowerman available from Verla Potts, Pioneer Certificate Chairperson. Thoughts on the initials: Your Pioneer Certificate Chairperson Verla Potts has a great-great uncle, born 1834, named Martin Van Buren HEATH. Although Martin Van Buren's presidency was 1837 - 1841, he was well known politically, having held offices of New York State Senator, Attorney General of New York, U.S. Senator, Governor of New York, and under Andrew Jackson's presidency (1829 - 1837) he was Secretary of State, Minister to England and Vice-President. Since Martin V.B. SOULE was born in 1836 could he have been named for this Democrat?

A.L. Bowerman, MSLS, MA, Who's Who of American Women 1997-8 1820W 600N Howe, IN 46746



### A BIG THANKS TO OSTERMANN TAX SERVICE!

Ostermann Tax Service of Battle Creek, MI has generously donated time and know how to the Calhoun County Genealogical Society by doing our 1996 taxes at no charge! Even though we are a nonprofit group we do have to file an income tax return. We really appreciate businesses like Ostermann Tax Service for supporting our society.

### **QUERIES**

Send your queries to: CCGS P.O. Box 777 Marshall, MI 49068

#### **LEWIS**

The 1870 Federal Census for Battle Creek, Third Ward, shows my great grandfather, Morgan Milton LEWIS married within that year to Hattie, listing December as the month of the marriage. The index records for Calhoun County and Eaton County do not show their marriage being performed there. Can someone help me locate the place of this marriage? Thank you.

Morgan Lewis Jones 186 Johnson Rd. Brevard, NC 28712 MLJEDJ@CITCOM.NET



### ANCESTORS A PBS Ten-Part Family History Series

The PBS series ANCESTORS has been airing on Saturday evenings at 5:30 pm on the following TV stations:

WKAR - channel 23 out of East Lansing, MI

WGVU - channel 35/52 out of Grand Rapids, MI

This series is dedicated to teaching genealogy and family history. Check out Ancestors on the Internet: http://kbyuwww,byu.edu/ancestor.htm

#### **ATHENS TOWNSHIP HISTORY**

Much of genuine historic importance and interest clusters around old Athens, for it was within its boundaries that some of the earliest settlements in the county were made. On the 3d of June, 1831, a party composed of seven hardy pioneers, namely, Warren NICHOLS, and Ambrose and Othorial, his brothers; Benjamin FERRIS; Alfred HOLCOMB; Isaac CROSSETT; Asahel STONE; and a Mr. BROWN - to the latter of who is accredited the honor of discovering the prairie - came into the township.

Warren NICHOLS was the first one to complete his house, which was a hewn log structure of rather pretentious proportions for those days, although the dwellings of the others, except Mr. BROWN, were contemporaneous with it. This was in the fall of 1831, and all went well with the little band of pioneers for a brief period - a very brief period indeed. Then a visitation came upon them that in its melancholy nature was sufficient to appal the stoutest heart, and to cause the strongest mind to stand in awe.

It was in the summer of 1832, at the close of a series of sultry days, that the little settlement was thrown into a state of profoundest consternation by the sad intelligence that a young daughter of Warren NICHOLS was down with the cholera. Within a brief period from its first appearance six persons had succumbed, and the tranquility of the settlement was disturbed by death, and the painful task of burying their dead became their sorrowful duty. The awful visitation was more keenly felt in the absence of that medical aide so requisite in such cases. The only doctor who visited the scene of the contagion was a Mr. WHITE, a student of Dr. BROWN, of Prairie Ronde. In speaking of him, Mrs. FERRIS, the widow of Benjamin F. FERRIS, who was present through the whole duration of the disease says, "He was so scared that he did not dare stay in the house only just long enough to deal out their medicine, which consisted of calomel and laudanum, administered in small doses. Then he came down to our house and stayed all night, dealt out medicine for himself, and gave us directions that if we heard him make any fuss in the night to get right up and give it to him."

The victims of the malady were Warren NICHOLS and wife, and three children - Margaret, Philena, and Phoebe - and Isaac CROSSETT. The NICHOLS family were interred on the farm now the property of A. C. WATERMAN, in the village of Athens; and Mr. CROSSETT was buried by Messrs. Alfred HOLCOMB and Benjamin F. FERRIS, on the place now owned by the widow of the latter, also within the limits of the village.

Mr. HOLCOMB relates how these pioneers came from their eastern homes, or at least how he and Mr. FERRIS came: They left Naples, Ontario County, New York, in the early part of May, 1831, and traveled to Buffalo by stage. Here they intended to take a boat to Detroit, but the ice had not all gone out of the foot of the lake, so they found it necessary to go to Dunkirk, a distance of thirty miles, in order to embark. This distance they walked, and then took passage on the old "Superior," the second steamboat that ever plowed the waters of Lake Erie, of which Captain Pease was the commander. On arriving at Detroit they each purchased a yoke of oxen, Mr. HOLCOMB getting the largest animals, for which he paid sixty dollars, and Mr. FERRIS for his forty-five dollars. Mr. HOLCOMB had a wife and two children, and Mr. FERRIS a wife and one child. They also purchased a good substantial wagon apiece, and started out of Detroit with buoyant hopes of the future.

Hiram DOUBLEDAY, from Italy, Yates County, New York, was among the early settlers. Peter BEISEL arrived about the same time, from Pennsylvania. A Mr. STODDARD was in the township at an early day, as a land speculator only, and never effected a permanent residence. Lot WHITCOMB came in 1832, from Vermont, and was a rare specimen of a genuine Yankee. He, in company with Peter BEISEL, built the first saw mill in 1835. In the spring of 1837 Francis A. MANN arrived. In 1835, Norton P. HOBART and Malin W., his brother, arrived. Salmon WALKER came in 1836 and settled on section 14, and Wm. R. WALKER, his half-brother, on section 11 the same year. Among the prominent settlers who arrived between 1836 and 1845 were Captain James WINTERS, who settled on section 5, in 1836; Erastus B. WOODWORTH and Hiram TUTTLE, who came in 1838; Deacon S. J. RUNDLE, on section 5, in 1841; Lemuel DAVIS, on section 8, same year; S. J. Vickory, on section 7, same year; Homer C. HURD, Alfred WEEKS, Joel P. MANN, Ashbel STILES, John B. DRAKE, Russell Alvord, John B. ROGERS, and John MOORE, and several others within the time period designated.

### SPEEDING UP YOUR PIONEER CERTIFICATE by Verla Potts, Pioneer Certificate Chairperson

Each applicant naturally wants his or her **Calhoun County Pioneer Certificate** returned promptly - even "yesterday"! Your committee would like to oblige, but we need your assistance to effect this.

Here are some ways you can help:

PRINT or TYPE neatly. Applicant must fill out the form. Committee members cannot be responsible for transferring computer printout materials to the form. We have neither the knowledge of your family nor the time to do this properly.

**SOME OF** the first application forms do not have a space for the <u>residence year</u> of the first ancestor's county residence. We would appreciate the inclusion of this information.

PLEASE SIGN and date your application to indicate your understanding that the information will be available for future genealogical research.

FOLLOW instruction sheet for preparing and typing or printing the lineage chart.

IF REQUESTING additional certificates please include chart lines for your children's names with their proofs. Change the line numbers on the chart to correspond to the correct generation number for them.

Now, a bit about the **PROOFS**. Remember that what we need is to be able to follow from generation to generation showing a family member's birth, marriage, children involved, death and the locations of each fact. If a **NAME CHANGES**, we need to know why and how - is it adoption, marriage, divorce/widowhood and remarriage? Please document these stages. **EARLY BIRTH RECORDS** are likely to be from a family bible. Please include a copy of the bible's title page with publication date. Perhaps it will be a baptismal or christening record. Unofficial records can be <u>supplemented</u> with census records, or in some instances, marriage records. Microfilms of Calhoun County birth records from 1867 are available through the LDS Family History Centers.

BEWARE OF INDEXES - these are not the same as the record itself. Marriage Records of Calhoun County 1836 - 1890 by Beverly Lancaster and the CCGS is an index and gives dates only. Refer to the filmed marriage records as well. The Branch County Marriage Books are extracted with complete information.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE RECORDS: As well as identification of the generation of each paper, please identify the source of material on reverse. Who owns this bible and when was the copy made? What newspaper is this article from, roll number identification, location of microfilm? Where were the land records copied, Liber number, page number? CENSUS RECORDS: give the year of the census, roll number, state, county, township, page number and date census was taken. Household and family numbers if you wish. Where and when was the copy made? It is clear? If not clear it may be supplemented with an extraction sheet similarly identified. INACCURATE INFORMATION on your official record should be explained by attachment and if possible additional verification. HIGHLIGHER pens should be used as <u>underliners</u> rather than stroking over the information. The highlighted area does not photocopy well. Red pencil underliners are better - they don't record on photocopies.

Your committee will expedite the certificates based on the accuracy of included materials. Researching or letter writing slows the procedure.

To request an application for your Calhoun County Pioneer Certificate send an SASE to: CCGS, Calhoun County Pioneer Project, P.O. Box 777, Marshall, MI 49068

### Future Functions of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society

The public is welcome. For more info call Carol Slattery 616-963-6988

February 25, 1997

Mr. John Curry, Archivist of the State of Michigan Archives will be our

guest speaker. He will discuss "Identification and Preservation of

Old Photographs".

March 25, 1997

Sandy Redmond will talk on "Interviewing and Oral History" and its

importance in uncovering your family's story.

April 22, 1997

In keeping with the **Sojourner Truth 200th Anniversary 1797-1997** celebration, Michael and Dorothy Martich, Battle Creek historians who have done extensive research on the life of **Sojourner Truth**, will give a presentation on this remarkable woman who chose Battle Creek, MI

for her home.

All meetings start at **7pm** and will be held at the **VFW Hall, 800 E. Michigan Ave., Marshall, MI** <u>unless otherwise specified</u>.

THE CALHOUN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY P.O. BOX 777 MARSHALL, MI 49068