

MARION MEMORIES



Marion Area
Genealogy Society
Box 844
Marion, Ohio 43301-0844



November, 2008

2008 Officers

President

Steve Eckard
meeker1@hardinnet.com

Vice President

Maxine Marshall
Marshall255@verizon.net

Treasurer

Elsie Schnitzler

Recording Secretary

Lisa Carlyle
rcar43@verizon.net

Corresponding Secretaries

Juanita Callahan
jcallahan65629@roadrunner.com
Richard Bechtle
herb772@verizon.net

Trustees

Steve Beltz (3 yrs.)
Joyce Geissler (2 yrs.)
jag525@verizon.net
Judy Peterson (1 yr.)

Marion Memories Editor

Judy Peterson
JPeterson4238@wowway.com



Hello Everyone,

We had a very informative meeting in October. Thanks to Mary Jo Osborn, I now know where to go and get a copy of the DD214's that I have been looking for. She also told about what other records are held by the county recorder's office. I know where I am going to be found at least on one or two Fridays this winter.

The meeting was going good until I asked for volunteers for a Nominating Committee for officers for 2009. To make a long story short we are going to take nominee's from the floor in November. Now I want to be **Frank**, can I be **Frank**? Ok I am going to be **Frank**...Most of you know that we only have a few of the members come to meetings, I am sorry to say that these members are asked time and time again to hold an office. Most of them are getting burned out of having to hold an office. With that said, now here is the rest of the story....We have a lot of members who live out of the Marion area or out of state. It is kind of hard for them to hold an office and make it to the meetings. It is up to the one's who come to the meetings and one's who care about keeping MAGS alive and well in Marion, Ohio to keep the offices filled. If it was not for the dedication of some of our members, MAGS would have went to the wayside a long time ago. I have only been a member of MAGS for around 5 years. Been the president for the last 3 years and I am proud to tell people outside of our group, that **I am President of the Marion Area Genealogical Society**. I hope this little pep talk worked. I hope to see you at the next meeting. Come, help fill an office, maybe you will find your true calling, or at least help someone find theirs. One thing nice about our hobby is that we can tell people where to go...to find information on their dead ancestors!

Until next time, Steve

ANCESTOR CHARTS!

Don't forget to send us your five-generation chart to be checked against our database of **15,101** names we already have. If we find a match, we will send you the last address that we have on the submitter and include a copy of their chart. Send your chart to **Lisa Carlyle**, Family Records Chairwoman, MAGS, P.O. Box 844, Marion, Ohio 43301-0844.

MAGS Programs For 2008

All meetings begin at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday morning in the auditorium of the Marion County Historical Society unless indicated otherwise.

NOVEMBER 1, 2008 - Nancy Whitaker will talk on Arlington National Cemetery.

DECEMBER 6, 2008 - A luncheon will be held at The Prospect Street ME Church for an annual Christmas party. Reservations will be needed.

Submitted by Mary Lee and Maxine Marshall, Program Committee

Have you visited MAGS Online yet? <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ohmags>

Thanks to our 2007-2008 Webmasters **John and Marilyn Barnhart** for keeping us up to date!

WELCOME 2008/2009 MEMBERS!

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COVEY, EDVEY, GOODYEAR/ GUTHYHAR,
REED and **WHETSEL**

Marion Area Genealogy Society Meeting News, September 6, 2008

Sixteen members and one guest attended the September 6, 2008 meeting of the Marion Area Genealogy Society, held at the Marion Public Library.

Correspondence Secretary, Richard Bechtle announced that he had received an application for First Families from Doug Walker of Sarasota FL, whose ancestors had come from Ireland and fought in the War of 1812, and were involved with the Block House in Green Camp. The application was forwarded to Steve Eckard. Richard also stated that he plans to step down as Correspondence Secretary in 2009.

Memorials Chairperson, Maxine Marshall, announced that she has received the books ordered from Delaware County. *Abstracts of Obituaries, Deaths, and Funeral Notices 1821 - 1857* was purchased in memory of Carl Freshour. *Miscellaneous Abstracts of Delaware County, Ohio 1858 - 1874* was purchased in memory of Lucille Schwaderer. Both books will be placed in the Resource Center Library.

Newsletter Editor, Judy Peterson announced that the deadline for the newsletter will be October 15. She mentioned that she has received a few things from some out of town members, and it would be great if members would send in items early, instead of waiting until the deadline.

Maxine Marshall brought applications and information for members to join the Volunteers of Marion County Organization. The Volunteers of Marion County Organization reimburses a small amount of money for time and mileage seniors spend volunteering for local non-profit organizations. Maxine explained how to keep track of your

hours and mileage, and what will be reimbursed. Applications and information were handed out to everyone who was interested in participating.

Jane Ratterman read an announcement from the Ohio Genealogical Society, inviting members to attend the Librarians Seminar in Mansfield on October 10

Members suggested that in the future, we schedule our meeting to be held on a different week than the Marion County Popcorn Festival. Some members had a difficult time getting to the meeting with so many roads closed for the 5-K run.

After the meeting, members spent time sharing stories of their recent genealogical discoveries, and trips. Members shared information about some of Marion County's Cemeteries, as well as some of the other names that the Cemeteries are know by. Members shared stories of their family's reunions. Some members were able to take research trips, and had exciting discoveries from other states to share. Members told stories of new findings in their own family research, or stories of helping other genealogists do their research.

Steve Eckard informed members that they can go to www.familysearch.org and go to the "Search Records" tab, and click on "Record Search Pilot", to find Ohio Death Certificates, Marriage Licenses and other items.

Lisa Carlyle shared a Web-site [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/deathcertificates] for Missouri birth, marriage, and death records. Lisa also typed up information on how to use the indexing program that comes in Microsoft Word, so anyone who has Microsoft Word can use its indexing program.

Lewis Caskey shared a research success story. He had found the name of the Church his ancestors (whom he had previously thought had come from Ireland) had been members of. So he wrote to Salt Lake City, Utah, and they sent him the records from that church. He discovered that his ancestors had actually come from Scotland, and was able to find an additional 5 generations back, by using the church records. Lewis said the records were very difficult to read, so he put the pages on a special computer screen, and changed the colors in the records. Members agreed that the records can be much easier to read if you change the color to orange, or pink.

Members discussed that often times, ancestors will come from Scotland, but sail to the US from Ireland, so records could mislead you to think they had come from Ireland. Countries over there are the size of our states, so you can cross from one country to the other, very easily.

Members had an enjoyable time sharing stories, and information with one another.

Elsie Schnitzler announced that there will be a work day on Tuesday, September 9, and Tuesday,

Marion Area Genealogy Society Membership Application

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

() Single - **\$10.00** () Joint - **\$12.00** () New () Renewal

Member of Ohio Genealogical Society () Yes () No

Surnames being researched:

1. _____ 4. _____
 2. _____ 5. _____
 3. _____ 6. _____

Payable by check or money order to:
 Marion Area Genealogy Society
 P.O. Box 844
 Marion, Ohio 43301-0844

Because of the Federal Privacy Act, please check whether or not we can share your address and/or telephone number with non-member **researchers**. They will be released only with the specific permission of the member. Our mailing list may be shared with OGS or other chapters for **information mailings only**.

Yes, I give my permission _____ No, I don't give my permission _____

Ohio Genealogy Society WIN/WIN PROGRAM

For each MAGS. member who decides to join Ohio Genealogy Society as a new member, OGS will donate \$5.00 to our society! This does not include OGS renewals.

For M.A.G.S. to receive the donation, you simply need to write "Marion Area Genealogy Society" on the membership application. For more information, or an application, please visit the OGS web-site at <http://www.ogs.org/> or contact MAGS.

September 23 at 9:30 am in the Resource Center Library.

President, Steve Eckard, announced that our next meeting will be Saturday, October 4, in the Auditorium at Heritage Hall. Our guest speaker will be Mary Jo Osmun, who will be giving a presentation on the records available in the Marion County Recorder's Office.

Lisa Carlyle, Recording Secretary

Marion Area Genealogy Society Meeting News, October 4, 2008

Twenty members and guest attended the October 4, meeting of the Marion Area Genealogy Society, held in the Auditorium of Heritage Hall.

Elsie Schnitzler announced that 7 volunteers attended the workday on September 9. They made 5 copies of the Prospect Funerals Directors Vol. 4 book, which need to be bound. Elsie took the master copy of the First Families of Marion County Index, and Deaths, Vol. 2, to the printer and had 5 copies made of each.

Five members attended the September 23 workday. Volunteers bound the 5 books of Death's Vol. 2. They decided the price for the Death's Vol. 2 would be \$6.00. Elsie took the master copy back to the printer, and requested 15 more copies, which she will pick up on the next workday, October 14.

They also copied and bound the Green Camp obituaries, donated to the society by Becky Oldham. This book is now available in the Resource Center Library.

Elsie also announced that Gale Martin, director of the Marion County Historical Society, offered several old courthouse and other record books to the Genealogy Society. Librarian, Jane Ratterman, recorded the books into the library's inventory, and has begun recording names of the infirmary records.

It was announced that The Historical Society Museum would be closed that day [October 4] due to lack of M.C.H.S. volunteers, therefore the Resource Center Library, which is located in the basement of the museum, would also be unable to open.

President, Steve Eckard, requested volunteers for a nominating committee (continued on page 40)

(continued from page 39)
to elect officers for 2009. No members volunteered for this committee; therefore, it was decided to take nominations from the floor at the next meeting.

Members and guests introduced themselves, and guests were given an opportunity to share who they were researching, and where they were at, in their research. Members enjoyed sharing conversation and stories with the guests in attendance.

President, Steve Eckard, educated members on a disease called "Milk Sickness" which was the cause of death for several of his wife's ancestors. Milk Sickness occurred when a cow would eat milk weed while it was flowering. The flowers were very poisonous. When someone would drink the milk or eat the beef from a cow which had been eating the milk weed flowers, they would become sick.

After the meeting, Marion County Recorder, Mary Jo Osmun gave an informative presentation on the records available in the recorder's office. She shared stories with members and told members how much it means to her to be our County Recorder.

She told members of her background in the recorder's office. She stated that she began in the Recorder's Office thirty years ago. She worked under Viola Osmun, and later JoAnn Schmidt. She was appointed as Marion County Recorder in December, 2003.

Mary Jo Osmun educated members on the history of the Recorder's office. She informed members that in 1787 the Northwest Territory was formed from land north and west of the Ohio River. In 1803, Ohio became a state, but the state constitution did not provide for a recorder's office. The first state legislature mandated that a recorder be appointed to each county by the judge of common pleas. In 1829 the Recorder's office became an elected position. Then, in 1936, its four year term was established.

The Recorder's Office is responsible for recording, maintaining, and archiving records that pertain to real estate. These records must be recorded and indexed in a manner which allows them to be easily accessed. Records held in the Recorder's Office include deeds, mortgages, military records, power-of-attorney's that effect real estate, government liens, and financing statement's which pertain to real estate, to name a few.

Their records date back to 1822, with records from Delaware County. Marion County was formed in 1824. They have City and County Directories back to 1903, Old Church Registry, Roster of Ohio Soldiers, 1861 – 1866, Roster of Ohio Soldiers and Marines, WWI, 1917 and 1918 Veterans' Grave Plat (by the WPA), World War II Honor Role, etc.

They have a few plats from other counties, such as New Winchester, Whetstone and Winnemac.

They also have information on village name changes, such as Green Camp/Berwick, Kirkpatrick/Latimberville, Martel/Three Locusts, Meeker/Scott Town, New Bloomington/Bloomington/Agosta, and Prospect/Middleton.

If you come in to do research, there office staff is very willing to stay with you and help you with anything you are looking for. The Recorder's Office is located in the basement of the new county building at 222 West Center Street in downtown Marion.

Elsie announced that there will be a work day on Tuesday, October 14, and another the following week, Tuesday, October 21, to prepare and mail the November newsletter.

President, Steve Eckard, announced that our next meeting will be Saturday, November 1, in the Auditorium at Heritage Hall. Our guest speaker will be Nancy Whitaker, who will give a presentation on the Arlington National Cemetery.

Lisa Carlyle, Recording Secretary

At the Resource Center



The Resource Center is located in Heritage Hall, 169 East Church Street, Marion, Ohio. The Resource Center is staffed from 1-4 P.M. every Saturday, March through December, or by appointment. **Call first to make sure a volunteer is there!** The telephone number is (740) 387-4255.

Jane Ratterman, Resource Center Librarian, has taken several copies of the Grand Prairie Cemetery books to the cemetery where they can be purchased from the office there.

New Books:

Delaware County, Ohio Abstracts of Obituaries, Deaths, and Funeral Notices 1821 - 1857

Miscellaneous Abstracts of Delaware County, Ohio 1858 – 1874

Miscellaneous Green Camp Obituaries.

CORRECTION!

The **Ancestry.com** web site now have the Richwood Gazette on line for the years 1872 - 1977. This is the free search program. You no longer have to register to use it.

Submitted by Maxine Marshall

Queries



When sending queries to us, please include as much information as possible for the person that you're researching. The correct names, dates and location are very important to any search. Sometimes, when possible, a five generation chart would be helpful. The fee for all mailed requests for MAGS members to conduct a research is \$10.00 for each family name researched plus the cost of copies. There is a limit of three(3) surnames. Copies are .15 cents for Xerox copies and .10 cents for microfilm copies. Copies obtained from the courthouse such as deeds, wills, etc. cost from twenty-five cents (.25) to three (\$3.00) depending upon what courthouse office provides the copy.

Certified copies of birth and death records from 1908 to present are certified copies at fifteen (\$15.00) each. No non-certified copies from Health Departments are available in Ohio.

If we can be of service to you, please remit the proper fee for research. We will bill you for the copies when the research is mailed to you.

TRAVIS, Mary

Birth: abt. 1830; Death: March 1887, Sioux City, Iowa.
Marriage: Sept. 10, 1848, Marion Co, Ohio to Jared Morgan **HORD**

Seeking information on Mary, her parents and places of birth, Civil War pension papers.

Jared stated Mary remarried in Iowa and died 1887 in Sioux City, Iowa

JoAnn J. **Kear**
3772 Historyland Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

MAGERS , George W.

1836 in Marion County, Ohio?
Res. Peter **MAGERS** 11-11-1798, Allegany Co., Maryland. Married Elizabeth **RAMSEY**, 9-2-1797, Brocke, West Virginia

Robert **LOVIN**
Box 333,
Hoxie, Kansas 67740
(785) 675-3158
E-mail: rel3891Keeeglecom.net

Researching: HOOTON/HOOTEN, MURPHY and DOUCE families:

Beverly SPRAGUE
4104 M.L.K. Blvd.
Anderson, IN 46013

Reminder:

It is time to send in **membership renewal dues**. Please help us to have a thriving, active society in 2009. We look forward to the release of a new publication, "**Marion County Deaths Volume 2**". This will also be the Charter year of inductees in the new "**Civil War Society of Marion County**". If you are interested in joining, contact Chairman Steve Eckard (meeker@hardinnet.com) for an application. We also hope to have the applications available on the Web-site (www.rootsweb.com/~ohmags) very soon. Applications must be submitted to Steve by December 31, 2008, to become a Charter member.

Thank you for your continued support!

The Marion Star, August 16, 2008

Der(r)inger family holds 100th reunion

LARUE - The Der(r)inger 100th reunion was held at the LaRue Community Park, LaRue, on July 27. Organizers deemed it a success as 75 descendants attended the milestone event.

All of the 2008 reunion officers were in attendance: Joe Derringer, president, Ed Boutwell, vice president and Sharon Surber, secretary/treasurer.

The descendants traveled from different parts of Ohio, Indiana, Virginia, Minnesota and Georgia. Several descendants attended for the first time; others who have not attended for 10-20 years were in attendance as well as the faithful ones who come yearly.

Multiple stories were told but one unique story stood out. Lona (Deringer) Schmidt and her sister, Carolyn (Deringer) Martinez were born and raised in Canada and knew only their immediate family. Last year, they started searching for their extended family. Carolyn sent out a letter and a 1912 family reunion picture circling her grandfather, father and uncle to several Deringers that she found on the Internet. Charles and Nancy Deringer of Ada and Glen Deringer of Bluffton received one of the letters and picture which they took to last years' reunion. It was the same picture that has been passed down through the (continued on page 42)

(continued from page 41) generations. Ironically, through Carolyn's efforts, members finally knew three names out of the 150 descendants in the 1912 picture.



Sharon Surber, the researcher of the Derringer family tree, contacted Carolyn and Lona to let them know they indeed found a relative through their efforts. They were so excited to find an extended family member. Both sisters wanted to come to the 2008 reunion but unfortunately, Lona, who is 72 years old, was the only one who made it. She drove 14 hours after getting off work at 12:30 a.m. to come to the reunion for one day. When the reunion day came, Lona didn't just meet one relative; she got to meet 74 relatives.

To celebrate the 100th reunion, a new family reunion sign was designed by Dan Derringer of Elyria and Joe Derringer of LaRue. The design was to merge the different spelling of the name which makes our heritage stronger. The new sign reads "SINCE 1908 DER(R)INGER REUNION OVER 100 YEARS."

Dale and Sharon Surber presented each descendant with an engraved ceramic coffee cup filled with candy. The cup was engraved "I attended the DER(R)INGER 100th Reunion July 27, 2008." Everyone enjoyed the keepsake.

Other gifts were presented to Jayden Marquis as the youngest descendant; Gertrude Everett as the oldest; Betty Derringer for having the most family members present and Chuck Derringer of Georgia for traveling the farthest.

Several families took pictures, collages and family books to help update the family tree which Sharon Surber has been working for the last three years. Any additional information would be appreciated and may be sent to derringerfamily@hotmail.com

Jim Derringer and his daughter, Jamie Craig took family pictures. Jim's wife, Betty Derringer and his sister, Judy Hahn, were their assistants.

The 2009 reunion will be held the last Sunday of July at the LaRue Park. (Courtesy of Sharon Surber)

The Marion Star, June 10, 2008

Parsell Family Holds 31st Reunion

UPPER SANDUSKY - The 31st annual Marion Van and Mildred (Quail) Parsell family reunion was held at Camp Trinity near Upper Sandusky on Sunday June 8. There were 80 family members and guests present.

Marion and Mildred were married Dec. 23, 1916, in the home of Irma Dell Quail, mother of the bride. They had six sons and five daughters on a Jackson Township farm. They are, in order of birth, Vernon Lee, Wayne Elijah, Donald Ray, Irma Arlene, James Edward, Lewis Benjamin, Karl Everett, Wanda Grace, Vera Lucille, Mary Martha and Estell Loretta. A son, George Wesley, died at birth. Wayne, Irma, Lewis, Vera and Estell were in attendance at this year's reunion.

Others welcomed to the reunion were Eugene Parsell and his wife, Janice, from Forest, son and daughter-in-law of Dale Parsell, Marion's brother. Eugene and Janice also had several of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren present.

There were three births reported since June 10, 2007, and one death; Elijah Joseph Parsell was born June 19, 2007, to Joshua and Ann Parsell, Carly Isabel Ward was born Oct. 19, 2007, to Sonny and Melanie (Thacker) Ward, James Logan Thompson born Feb. 7 to Jim and Joanna (Parsell) Thompson and James Edward Parsell died March 3, 2007.

Wayne E. Parsell was the oldest family member present and the youngest was his great-grandson, Elijah Joseph Parsell, son of Joshua and Ann Parsell.

The blessing for the meal was given by Joshua Parsell and all present enjoyed a great variety of delicious food



From left, Irma (Parsell) Stout, Estell (Parsell) Bowers, Wayne Parsell, Vera (Parsell) Hopkins and Lewis Parsell gather during the 31st annual Marion Van and Mildred (Quail) Parsell family reunion. (Photo courtesy of Janis Parsell)

and fellowship around the tables. Following the meal, individual family pictures were taken, an auction was held and games were enjoyed by children, family and friends.

A special presentation was also made during the afternoon. Vera (Parsell) Hopkins presented a quilted piece that she had made to her sister Estell to thank her for her 30 previous years' faithfulness in planning these family reunions. The piece presented was made to duplicate the pattern of the blue and white quilt that had been on Marion and Mildred's bed during their lifetime together.

Next year's reunion will be held Sunday, June 14, 2009, at Camp Trinity, Upper Sandusky

marionstar.com

September 10, 2008

A family affair Rengert four-day reunion a tribute to past and present

MARION COUNTY - The 100th Rengert reunion was held the weekend of Aug. 3 when Dane and Henrietta Rengert hosted it on their Marion County farm. The four-day event was enjoyed by more than 230 relatives.

Friday activities included a tour of Marion historical sites including the Harding home, Heritage Hall, the Huber Museum, the Depot, two murals in the downtown area and a tour of the Marion Cemetery. Following the tour, 60 Rengerts gathered on Rengert Road at the Shamrock Vineyard for a German twilight dinner. Providing entertainment for the evening was the Fringe Benefit Quartet. Special table floral arrangements were roses provided by Linda Ruehrmund.

Theme for the weekend was Rengerts Reunited. In attempting to do that, plans were made to visit three cemeteries, Berringer, Windfall and Glendale Union in Cardington, revisiting the Michael and Maria (Heimlich) Rengert's burial places as well as their five children and spouses as well as Michael's two stepchildren. A memorial was made and left at each gravesite, stating "Rengerts Reunited" and the date. A special memorial was read at each one and pictures of the offspring in attendance were taken with each tombstone. To help with family genealogy, a booklet was prepared containing their pictures, a picture of their monument, their obituary and a copy of their death certificate.

In addition to the cemetery, the group visited the barn of Lester Kramer which had been originally erected in 1845. He shared an 1845 photo of the barn raising. The basic structure of the barn is still evidenced today. Comparing the picture to today's structure was awesome. The children viewed it as a "lofty" experience.

Following a pizza supper at St John Lutheran Church,

Windfall, George Rengert, a Cardington High School graduate and retired professor, presented a slide show on his recent trip to Germany to find additional history on the Rengert ancestors. More than 100 were in attendance to hear him speak. He had several antiques which he dated as used by Michael Rengert in 1850s.

The Sunday events were hosted by Dane and Henrietta Rengert on their farm near Waldo. A white tent was shade for the white picnic tables adorned with bouquets of purple flowers and baskets of purple petunias. A parachute suspended in the back yard provided shade for the food tables. A pail of frogs was ready for afternoon activity.

The family gathered in the morning for a church service, which was led by Tim Himler, Tony Himler and Evangelist Ed Schneider from Alabama. Raina Rengert provided guitar accompaniment for the hymn singing. More than 100 attended this service. The offering for the morning was given to the Gideon International.

The crowd doubled for the picnic lunch that followed the church service. A wide variety of delicious food was spread under the parachute in a festive array. Brats, chicken and pulled pork sandwiches were provided with guests providing all the garnishing touches. The treat for the afternoon was homemade ice cream made by a friend of the Rengert family.

Activities of the afternoon included three-legged races, tug-of-war, corn toss, volleyball frog races and fun in and near the pond. A silent auction was held to help fund the event.

Special recognition was given to the oldest woman present, Martha (Rengert) Butler of Friendship Village in Columbus; oldest man present, Lester Kramer of Marion; the youngest girl, Shelby Leann Cumston, 6-week-old daughter of Bill and Sabrina Cumston; and the youngest boy was Michael Schneider, 9-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Schneider of Alabama. Mrs. Marlene (Kenneth) Rengert of Las Vegas came the farthest and the couple married the longest was Don and Marjorie Demorest, 65 years. Other couples married more than 50 years were Don and Ruth Rengert, Don and Helen Schrote, and Dick and Lorainne Rengert, all from the Marion area. Alma Clunk had the most immediate family members present, totaling 24.

A Monday morning breakfast provided a time to reminisce over the weekend events. Among the 230 attendees at the reunion were 23 who traveled from other states; Marlene Rengert from Las Vegas, Nev.; Nancy Stevenson, Houston, Texas; Greg, Nancy and Britney Rengert, Navarre, Fla.; Ed, Shiraleen, Michael and Sarah Schneider, Huntsville, Ala.; Larry Kramer, Sarasota, Fla.; George and Arlene Rengert, Westchester, Pa.; Diane Ruth, Coppell, Texas; Tom, Kami, Presley and Corbin Rengert, and Trent and (continued on page 44)

(continued from page 43) Emily Kay Skinner, Houston, Texas; and Tom, Nina, Julianne and Jacob Schrote, Williamston, Mich.

Memorabilia from the weekend included family history calendars which included pictures of the original descendants and their families through the years, plus a picture of their family at the reunion, an engraved paperweight, the booklet of the gravesites and T-shirts with the Rengert Coat of Arms and Rengerts Reunited, 2008. CDs were also made available with pictures of the weekend's activities. A book of family stories, recipes and photos (including the 100th reunion) is to be available at the 101st reunion.

Reflections of the day were "We were proud to be a Rengert" and "The weekend was fast but the memories are long," complimented the committee planning the event which included David Rengert, president; Dane Rengert, vice president; Karen May, secretary; Rod Lester, treasurer; and Linda Ruehrmund, Pat McCorkle, Beth Higgins, Art Ruth and Cindi Baker.

Pictures can be seen and more information learned about the Rengert family by logging onto www.Rengert.org

(Courtesy of the Rengert family)

The Marion Star, August 28, 2008

Happy Birthday, Old Friend

It was 80 years ago that I remember my mother saving up enough money from her wages to take my sister, Helen, and me to the grand opening of The Marion Palace Theatre. She was 6 years old and I was 8. We didn't have much, but we did have a lot of love.

In going the short way from our apartment on West Center Street to the Palace, we didn't know what to expect. We had watched the building of the structure, but surely weren't prepared for the awesome sight inside. As my sister, Helen, says, the grand stairway was awesome, which we went up and down a lot of times in some of those years, long ago.

When we first saw the beautiful star-studded and gently flowing clouds overhead, we were very amazed, thinking maybe we really WERE outdoors. Then I saw the statues and wondered about the nudity. Mother said that is an ART form. Of course, being 8 years old, I didn't understand.

Over the years, I know my sister and I saw just about every show there. It was kind of our babysitter, while mother worked. Many vaudeville shows were presented. And we belonged to a Tom Mix group that met every Saturday morning. I remember there were so many kids

there we were out in middle of West Center Street waiting to get our prizes and to be admitted to the shows. We could hardly wait till the next week to see what was coming next in those "Cowboy Serials."

When I heard they were going to tear down the theater, it really broke my heart to lose such a beautiful structure, along with the many memories. I think the people of Marion owe a million or more thanks to the minds and hearts of the organization that saw a future in getting our Palace back into good form.

Some may take it all for granted but the many who support and have supported the regeneration of the Marion Palace Theatre, and especially the managers, need our heartfelt thanks.

As I attend some of the functions I sit and wonder at the many who attend, wondering if they realize how very many



mind boggling hours have gone into this beautiful piece of our history of Marion.

If possible, my sister and I will be there to help celebrate this grand occasion. Hope you will be there, too! Yes, as my sister said, "Happy, happy birthday, old friend."

Juanita Plotner Callahan is a resident of Marion and a member of MAGS.

My Ancestors were Early Settlers of Marion County, Ohio

I live in Indiana but have found that I have a definite Marion County connection. My family is very fortunate in that several of our ancestors had great foresight and recorded their memories of the family history many years ago. Some of this I would like to share with you.

John **Hooton** and his wife, Mary, came to the United States with their children from Lincolnshire, England, in 1822. They arrived on the ship "Thames" and were accompanied by seven other families from Lincolnshire, including the Vincent **Douce** family, the Henry **Hatfield** family, the John **Hinds** family, the George **Bayles** family and William and Michael **Welborne**--all of whom became early settlers of Marion County, Ohio.

The eight families first arrived in New York City, where the women and children stayed in a hotel while the men went to New Jersey to purchase the teams and wagons that they would need to travel west. In the evenings, it was written, the women "would walk around the brilliantly lighted streets of New York City and admire things." Soon, the men returned from New Jersey, with the head of each family having brought with him a team of oxen and a "prairie schooner".

The wagons had been built at a Wagon Smiths and were very strong. On top of each wagon, strips of wood had been bent and fastened to the sides of the wagon to support the heavy cloth that would protect them from the elements. The cloth had been daubed with pitch or paint to make it watertight. Each family then got into their wagon with their food and belongings and headed west, stopping in Marion County, Ohio. John and Mary Hooton apparently remained in Marion County for the rest of their lives.

One of John and Mary's daughters, Elizabeth, who had been born in England in about 1804, would later become my ggg-grandmother.

Meanwhile, my ggg-grandfather, John **Murphy**, who was born in County Kildare, Ireland, in 1798, had come to this country about 1814 and had been working on a plantation in Maryland. His job required him to travel to Ohio each fall to buy livestock to drive back to the Maryland plantation. Ohio must have made a favorable impression on him as he soon gave up his job on the plantation and moved to Marion County. Once there, he met Elizabeth **Hooton** and they were married in April of 1827. They lived near Claridon. Three children were born to them there: **Mary, Lucy and Joseph Murphy**.

Two of Elizabeth's siblings also married in Marion County. Her brother, Joseph **Hooton**, married Mary **Fields** in 1834, and Elizabeth's sister, Lucy **Hooton**, married Myron **Squires** in 1840.

About 1834, John and Elizabeth Murphy, along with their children, moved further west to northern Indiana. Four more children were born to them there. Family memoirs recall encounters with Indians, the 1850 trip of John Murphy and son, Joseph, to California for the Gold Rush, and, upon their return, the family's move westward again to Belvidere, Illinois, in about 1853. John and Elizabeth both died in Belvidere in the 1880's.

I have greatly enjoyed reading the accounts of my ancestor's early days in America. I have had the pleasure of traveling to Marion County on one occasion to conduct research and hope to return again soon to try to discover even more information on the Hooton (Hooten) and Murphy families.

Best regards,
Beverly Sprague
Anderson, IN
prairie@netdirect.net

CONDOLENCES to Vivian Griffin on the loss of her daughter, Joyce and to Ruth Anderson on the loss of her son, Cecil. Our prayers go out to them.

Submitted by: Maxine Marshall

Thieves Loot Cemeteries for Metal

(Aug. 19) — Ghouls have made a resurgence in cemeteries throughout the United States, prying plates and ornaments from headstones and selling them to scrap yards.

A rise in metal prices is driving the thefts, detectives say. Prices for copper, brass and bronze — metals that are commonly found in cemetery remembrances — have in some cases quadrupled in price in the past four years.

Because the metals can be hammered out of shape, the thefts are virtually untraceable. "It's disgusting," says Detective Kurt Fundermark of the Cape Coral (Fla.) Police Department, who is investigating the theft of 150 brass flower vases from grave sites in two cemeteries. "These thieves don't seem to care about their conscience. They don't care about right and wrong," Fundermark says.

In Delaware, someone removed 1,000 pound bronze gates from two mausoleums at the Riverview Gardens cemetery in Wilmington.

More than 200 brass urns were stolen from Rest Lawn Memorial Gardens and Sunset Memorial Park, both graveyards in Cumberland, Md. A married couple was recently charged in the case.

In Chicago last month, three men were charged with taking \$500,000 worth of brass urns and ornaments from cemeteries.

The thieves are often addicts seeking money for drugs, says Sgt. Jon Dudiak of the Allegany County Combined Criminal Investigation Unit in Maryland.

The prices make it worth it. Scrap copper is worth \$2.25 to \$2.40 a pound, up from \$1 to \$1.50 a pound in 2004; and bronze gets \$1.50 to \$2 a pound, up from 40 to 50 cents a pound in 2004, says Joel Nucci, owner of Calamari Recycling in Essex, Conn.

"There's definitely an uptick; you might call it a rash," says Bob Fells, general counsel for the International Cemetery Cremation and Funeral Association. "This seems to happen any time the price of metal goes up."

The National Cemetery Administration, which replaces stolen bronze markers on the grave sites of U.S. veterans free of charge, has done so 104 times this year, compared with 104 in all of 2007 and 70 in 2006.

"It's very troubling ... not just because of the marker that needs to be replaced but also because of the pain it causes loved ones and the disrespect it shows to veterans," spokeswoman Jo Schuda says.

The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, a trade group, already urges its members to record sales and not to buy suspicious items, such as brass cemetery urns. Prices for copper and brass jumped by about a third in the past six months, says Bruce Savage, a spokesman for the trade group. But often objects such as urns are cut, (continued on page 46)

(continued from page 45) pounded and made unrecognizable, or buried under other metal items when they're dropped off at a scrap yard, only to be discovered later, he says. "We do not knowingly take these materials," he says.

Not all recyclers follow that advice, Fundermark says. In July, he arrested Kevin Kraft, 39, of Fort Myers, Fla., in the theft of the 150 brass vases. A scrap dealer bought the vases even though he had been alerted by police to keep an eye out for the items, Fundermark says.

Police want stronger laws to fight the problem. This year, 25 states introduced bills to regulate or increase penalties for violations related to scrap metal reprocessing and theft, the National Conference of State Legislatures says. Maryland state Sen. John Astle, a Democrat, has proposed a law that would force scrap dealers to report each sale and seller. "As long as there's a place for the thieves to sell their stolen property they're going to steal it," Astle says.

Ruth Shapleigh Brown, executive director of the Connecticut Gravestone Network, which monitors old burial grounds, says in the past thieves made off with angel statues, urns and gates and sold them as folk art or unique garden ornaments. Today, Shapleigh Brown says, the objects "are absolutely being mutilated. "It hurts the people who go to grieve for the dead."

New Legislation in Congress Aims to Help Preserve State and Local Records

Preserving the American Historical Record Act HR 6056 would establish federal formula grant program

Legislation was introduced in Congress May 14 that would make federal formula grants available to each state for the preservation of historical records held by state and local governments, historical societies, libraries and other organizations.

HR 6056, also known as the Preserving the American Historical Record (PAHR), was introduced by Representatives Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and Chris Cannon (R-UT). HR 6056 would provide \$50 million to states based on a formula that takes into account population and geographic size. If funded at the \$50 million level, PAHR would allow the State Archives, part of the Ohio Historical Society, to provide grant funding of more than \$1.65 million annually to Ohio's local recordkeeping institutions.

Ohio's local governments, libraries, genealogical societies, archival institutions and local historical societies would benefit tremendously by the enactment of PAHR. The legislation has been referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Ohio Congressmen Dennis Kucinich (D-Cleveland), Mike Turner (R-Dayton) and Jim Jordan (R-Urbana) serve on the Committee. Please contact your member of Congress to urge their support of PAHR (HR 6056) .

NEW LDS WEB SITES

The LDS church has made Ohio Death Certificates available on line, free of charge. If you go to <http://searchlabs.familysearch.org/> you can register, free of charge to use the site. In a day or two you will receive confirmation and you can then start using the site. You must sign in each time you use it but there is no charge. Several things are available on this site as you will be able to see but the most important to most of us are actual copies of Ohio Death Certificates from 1909 to 1954. Go down to Ohio Deaths and click to bring the site up. You can then enter the name of the person you want and follow instructions to get a copy. A little trick I found was that when the site comes up asking for a name, click on "Other Options". You leave the name of the deceased off and enter the parents name, using the Mother's maiden name. You will find children who died young and never appeared in any census. Another bonus of that is you will find daughters with their married name and sometimes name of their husband. Prepare to spend some time on the web with this site.

The LDS Family History Library also has begun the process of digitizing and making available on line ALL of the Family History books in their collection. So far well over 600 books are available. The Surname search page for this collection is <http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/> Run your surname and see what you get. There is so much on the internet now and if you go to actual records you can find a lot.

Submitted by Maxine Marshall

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Marion County residents are charged .065% (6,5%) sales tax.

All libraries and OGS chapters are tax exempt.

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MOVING? PLEASE SEND YOUR NEW ADDRESS TO MAGS.

November, 2008

Check Out This Gravestone Site,

It's **Ohiogravestones.org**. I looked at several counties and they have a lot of information. Probably most of us have pictures that we could send to add to it.

Submitted by Maxine Marshall

Book Memorials

Will our out-of-town members please inform your family that MAGS donates genealogical books to our own Resource Center in memory of a death of a member or a member's spouse; but we have no way of knowing of a death unless you or your family inform us of it.

Surname Card File

Did you know that MAGS maintains an ancestor card file in the Resource Center? If you haven't submitted any cards, please do so. If you have given in the past and have found more ancestors, consider sending in more cards. When two cards are found to have a common ancestor, each member submitting those cards will be notified.

Use only 3 X 5 index cards.

Only one generation to a card.

Got a Story?

We need more articles from our members! It can be on any topic and any length. It can be personal or historical as long as it is about Marion County. I would prefer receiving an e-mail that I can download; but I can use any typed article too.

Just mail them to me at: Judy Peterson, MAGS Editor
1535 Buckshot Court
Worthington OH 43085-1547