

Generations

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**Serving Calhoun County, Michigan, family history researchers
since 1988**

President's Message

It all started on August 23, 2003.

That was the day that I was smitten by the Genealogy Obsession. The setting was a family reunion, much like any other. The weather was beautiful. About 150 people were milling around the back yard of our brave host. Kids were running amuck and swimming in the pool. The barbeques were manned and smoking away, and the food tables were spread with a mouth-watering feast.

On a side table was a collection of photographs and a scrapbook made by my great aunt. Inside were many family photos, including those of the patriarch and matriarch of the clan—my Great Grandparents. Intriguingly, their naturalization papers were also present.

As my sister and I leafed through these artifacts, we started talking with our cousins and other relatives, and a funny thing happened. Nobody really knew much about what had happened before Moses and Margaret Jones left Wales for the USA in 1925. There were a few stories, but hardly any names or pictures. My Grandmother, her sisters and brothers didn't have much to add either. Apparently, the past had been left behind in Swansea.

I took it upon myself to look into things. Recalling, a National Public Radio story about the United Kingdom 1901 Census having been released onto the World Wide Web, I went to work. With my scribbled notes from the naturalization papers, I was led to two families in Wales, and the names of another generation. From there I was firmly hooked.

My original purpose in joining the Society was simple. As a "new" genealogist I felt I had a handle on computer-assisted genealogy. The Internet has yielded far more family history information than one would ever have believed, but it is also clear that the traditional pursuits of family history hold more relevance now than ever. There is just too much incorrect information "out there." It is the strength of our society—the combined experience and wisdom of its membership—that can be a source for the techniques that we can all use to become better genealogists.

I welcome your participation and look forward to tapping your expertise in the coming year. Our November meeting will feature a program about the Mayflower Society, presented by Candice Whitney. And in January, we will feature an open-format meeting so be prepared to discuss your latest research, brick walls and interesting stories.

Chris Rau, President

November 28 meeting:

Candice Whitney will speak on becoming a member of the **Mayflower Society**. Candice will tell us about her search for records, including formal birth, marriage and death certificates, which helped her document her family tree to one of 26 Mayflower Pilgrims. She is a 14th-generation descendant of Englishman John Tilley and his wife, Joan Hurst who, with 100 others, sailed to America on the Mayflower in 1620.

A little aside; last **GENERATIONS** I reviewed the book **Mayflower** by Nathaniel Philbrick. Page 70 of the book has a mention of John Tilley and his brother Edward being part of a small contingent from the Mayflower that took part in one of the explorations on New England soil for the initial settlement site of the Pilgrims. Page 89 speaks of 13-year-old orphan Elizabeth Tilley and the death of her aunt and uncle, Edward and Ann.

February 27 meeting:

Mitch Lutzke, will speak on his book, The Life and Times of Kimber M. Snyder: A Soldier in the 78th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. This book traces the Snyder family from colonial Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania all the way to Albion, Michigan at the time of the Great Depression. What began as a quest to discover the details surrounding a court martial trial of an ancestor in the Civil War becomes a journey which takes the family through several counties in Pennsylvania all the way to Arkansas, back and forth through the Ohio Valley, and the Civil War. Original documents are used to dissect a controversial court martial for mutiny during the Civil War and later a federal pension officer investigation of a paternity case in order to qualify one of Kimber's sisters-in-law's for a veteran's widow pension. Mitch put in ten years doing the actual research on the book and has documented his work with over 100 sources and roughly 1,800 footnotes. Anyone interested in the Civil War or life in rural America will find his presentation very informative.

Mitch was born and raised in Albion, Michigan, graduated from Michigan State University in 1984 (BA degree, Telecommunications) and from Western Illinois University (1990, a second BA and a teaching degree in History).

If anyone would like to purchase his book before his presentation, let me know and I'll put you in contact with Mitch.

Editors Note: I received this from one of my genealogy "cousins" and thought you also might enjoy:

Church Bulletin Bloopers: Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

The **Fasting & Prayer** Conference includes meals.

The **sermon** this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

Our **youth basketball** team is back in action against Christ the King Baptist this Wednesday at 8 PM in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

The **peacemaking meeting** scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

Remember in prayer the many that are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "Hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let just worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR AMATEUR

"GENIES"

- 1) Thou shalt be brief.
- 2) Thou shalt not complain about using microfilm. Thou cannot have the original documents.
- 3) Thou art perfectly capable of finding the bathroom on thine own.
- 4) Eateth not thy peanut butter cups in the Search Room, nor thy potato chips.
- 5) Honor the Archivist, and bring him/her chocolate chip cookies.
- 6) Thou shalt not put a death grip on the microfilm reader at closing time.
- 7) Thy spoiled unruly child shall never enter unto the Search Room, nay, not to the fifth generation, that my staff's sanity may be preserved.
- 8) Honor the Sabbath Day. Sitteth not down next to me at Burger King on Sunday morning as I peruseth the paper and telleth me all about thy family.
- 9) Thou shalt not bear false witness (thy grandmother was NOT a full-blooded Indian princess).
- 10) Thou shalt faithfully obey Commandment No. 5, lest the chances of thy locating that "critical" birth record be diminished.

Created by Anna Mae Maday, Historian for Saginaw Genealogical Society, Inc., sometime in August 2001. From SGS NEWSLETTER May2006, p. 434.

WOULD YOU WANT THIS JOB?

A letter from a census taker in 1865:

I am a census taker for the City of Buffalow. Our city has groan very fast in resent years and now in 1865, it has become a hard and time consuming job to count all the poophill. There is not many that can do this work, as it is necessarie to have an ejucashun, wich a lot of person still do not have. Ahnuther atribert needed for this job is good speling for many of the peepphill to be counted can harle speak inglish, let alon spel there names.

SOURCE: SGS Newsletter Vol 29 Issue 2 page 443 Oct 2006:

Old Time Diseases

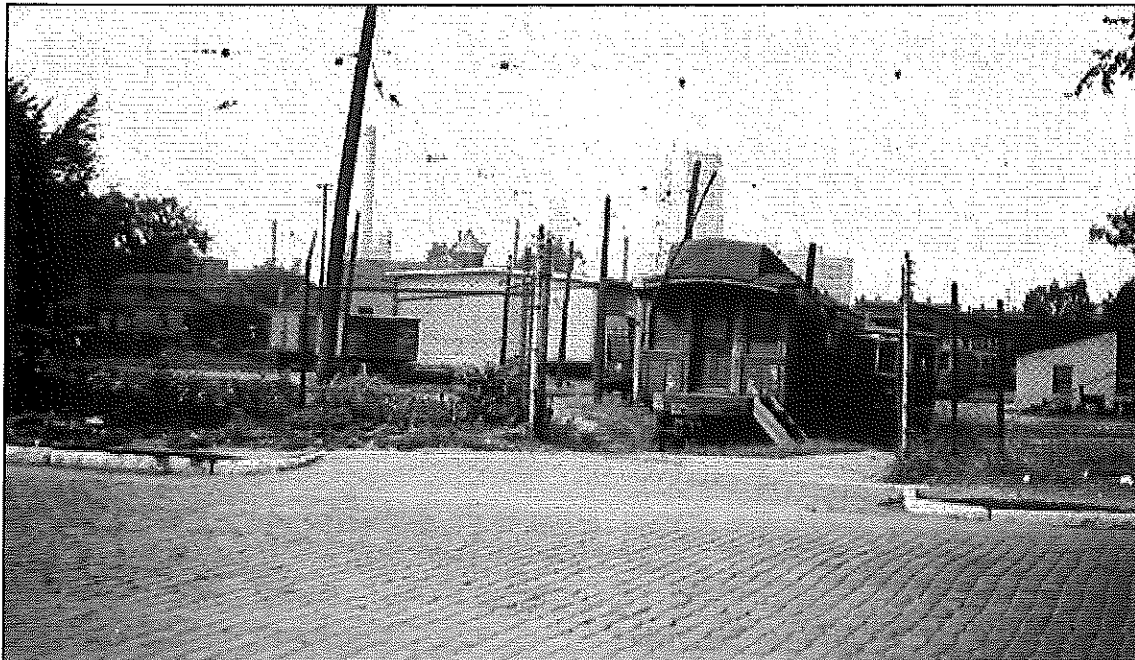
Impetigo = Contagious skin disease characterized by pustules.

Inanition = Physical condition resulting from lack of food

Jail fever = Typhus
blockage of intestines
and lymph glands

Jaundice = Condition caused by
King's Evil = Tuberculosis of neck
Kruchhusten = Whooping cough

Lagrippe = Influenza



Badgley's old tannery,
built 1846 was located on
Lydia street, now East
Fountain, on the west bank
of the mill race.
←

Both photographs
courtesy of Willard
Library,
"Photographs from
Battle Creek History"
collection.

Peavey's tannery on Barney St. →

Nov. 19, 1880, fire destroyed old Peavey tannery now occupied by Hilton & Levit drying house. Loss about \$700.

1870 United States Federal Census:

Battle Creek Ward 2, Calhoun, Michigan

John Peavey age 66 born N. H.

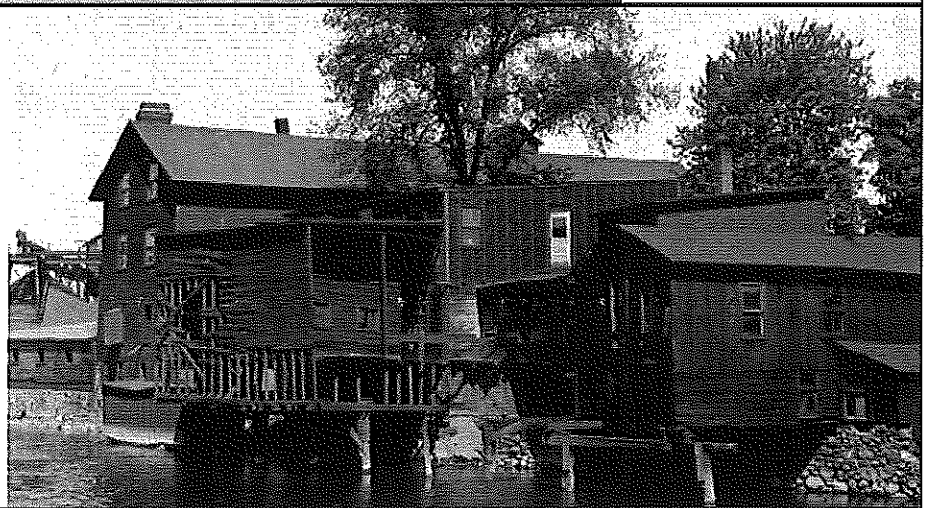
Occupation: Real Estate Agent

1880 United States Federal Census:

Battle Creek, Calhoun, Michigan

John Peavey age 76 born N. H.

Occupation: Hides & Wool



Known employees of Badgley's Tannery

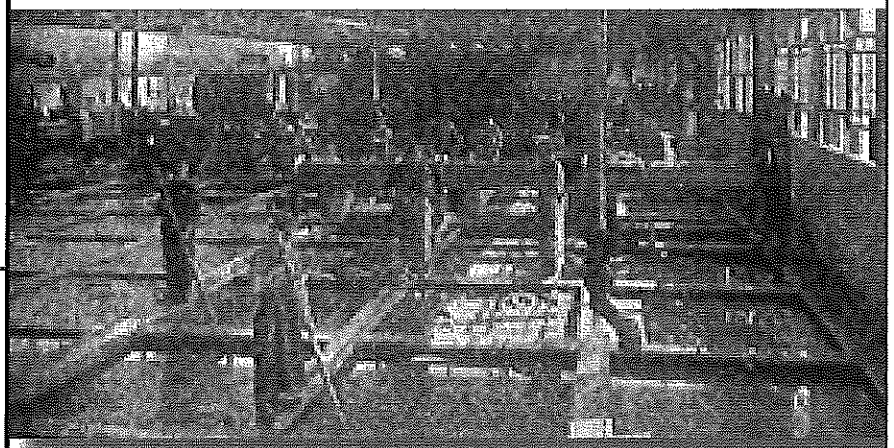
William Barber	Clark Bishop
Chauncey R. Woodford	Horace Fish
Grimes Snodgrass	Newton Snodgrass
Smith Benham	John Pursell
John Estelle	

A typical tannery or TAN YARD would contain vats, lime pits, grainers ("graining" tools, a wooden wedge shaped tool, with or without a handle and a stick about two inches in diameter with the end carved with a smooth, blunt, rounded point. The first grainer was used to "ooze" the water out of the hide, the second to "work" every inch of the hide before it dries), bark-barn, bark-mill, gig-house (an outbuilding used for the storage and maintenance of horse-drawn carriages), shumac-house (the sap from certain sumac trees such as the quebraco tree of Paraguay were a major source of tannin) and drying-house.

Various owners of Badgley's Tannery.

Charles S. Gray & John Palmer
Gray & Hiram Dorman
A. D. Munger
Oakley & Wheeler
James W. Oakley
S. L. Badgley

SOURCES for this article include several websites found using Google searches; George Livingston @ Willard Library; Wikipedia; *Early American Technology* by Judith McGaw.



The **Calhoun County Genealogical Society** has received a transcription of a diary written by Susan Errington in 1880. Like most diaries, it is a "day in the life of" this young girl living in Muskegon, Michigan. While not exactly Calhoun County, it is none the less an interesting look at what life was like in our area at that time. *GENERATIONS* will print excerpts as space permits. We wish to thank Myra Herron for the time and effort she has given in transcribing this diary and for giving it to us. *Thank you, Myra.*

**THE YEAR 1880 FOR
SUSIE ERRINGTON
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN**

**INFORMATION TAKEN FROM A DIARY GIVEN
TO SUSIE ERRINGTON, WITH THE INSCRIPTION**

**"SUSIE ERRINGTON, A CHRISTMAS GIFT,
1879, MUSKEGON"**

Sunday, July 11, 1880 "A day of sweetest pleasure". We went S. S. and staid (sic) to class. Georgia R. was there. I wish I took the interest in religion that I once did. I'm afraid the "Paradise" is lost, though I want to press onward and upward! **Monday, July 12, 1880** I think the sky is brighter than it used to be and I know it is growing brighter still. The washing is all done and I mopped to please Helen. **Tuesday, July 13, 1880** M & I picked currants. Cousins E & B went away. F W & G R came. I'm sick. **Wednesday, July 14, Thursday, July 15, & Friday, July 16, 1880** Nothing written. **Saturday, July 17, 1880** M., F, W, & I went to Marshall today, pleasant visit. Mattie staid (sic). Phebe and Cousin Meda are pretty well. How thank-(ful) I am that I can see. **Sunday, July 18, 1880** We all went to church but M. H. went with Seymour. I did not like the sermon at all. Next Sunday will be Quarterly meeting. I want to go. **Monday, July 19, 1880** Next Sunday G. is going to be baptized and I am so glad but O, I wish Helen were too. I think H. needs a pilot and where can she find another? I am afraid she will back slide. My Father help her. **Thursday, July 22, 1880** I have just received a letter from Cousin A and it bore the news of little Allie Frazee's death. It seems so hard to so young but but (sic) I think it will be a glad release from pain. She died July 13. I hope she is at rest.

Monday, July 26, 1880 Hattie and Helen have finished making "wedding" cake. Mother, father, H, M & I have picked 7 chickens and mother is dressing them. Ella sent H a little table, Seymour gave her a beautiful butter knife. **Tuesday, July 27, 1880** (The following was entered, then crossed out.) What a busy, busy day! We have done lots of work, the girls have trimmed the rooms, we have made cakes, pressed the chickens and done lots of things. Ede bit Edith A and frightened us dreadfully (sic), but she feels better. **Monday, August 2, 1880** Nothing written. (According to her notes in the Memoranda pages, this is the date that Miss Bertha Alldrich was married.) **Tuesday, August 3, 1880** (Evidently, this is the Tuesday that should have had the entry from July 27, but it differs slightly.) What a busy, busy day. We have done lots of work. The girls have trimmed the rooms and they look very nicely. Tomorrow O tomorrow and I shall possess a new brother. (According to her notes in the Memoranda pages, this is the date that Miss Ella Hamilton was married.) **Wednesday, August 4, 1880** O I have sadly neglected this little book during the past few weeks so I will write what I can remember. We have lived through our first wedding..... (According to her notes in the Memoranda pages, this is the date that her oldest sister, Hattie, was married to Seymour.) **Thursday, August 5, 1880** ...and with no worse mishaps than a broken tumbler. But, O, is so lonely! Perhaps Mattie will come home today, and then it will not be so bad. Frank..... **Friday, August 6, 1880** (her brother Franklin)...has traded his wood for a new drill, drag teeth, harrow and I don't know what all. Getting for housekeeping we tell him. H and I are making over my old brown plaid for Georgie a school.... **Saturday, August 7, 1880** ...dress. We think it will look nicely. Frank & I staid (sic) at Aunt Maria's Saturday night while J & M went to Mr. Huchings. We had a pleasant visit..... **Sunday, August 8, 1880** ...visit. We had a very small S. S. but a very good one. I stayed to class meeting and enjoyed it much. I walked back with Mrs. Blinn. She said..... **Monday, August 9, 1880** ...Arthur was not as faithful in religious things as he used to be. She does not think H. Brown's influence is good. Mrs. B. thinks Frank is a very nice boy and so do I. **Tuesday, August 10, 1880** Hattie and Seymour (evidently the newlyweds) have been running back and forth all day and the house is emptied of its substance. The organ is gone and I miss it much. It is hard work to be patient with the girls away. **Wednesday, August 11, 1880** Mother & M went the Missionary meeting at Mr Kellogg's. The next one is to be at Mr. Ackerson's. Aunt Melissa stopped here for some sweet apples. Georgie's dress is all done but the belt. **Thursday, August 12, 1880** I was sick this morn and did not dress till after eight, therefore have not done much and have not much to write. Georgie's dress is completed, I believe and is very pretty. H & S (Hattie & Seymour) were here a minute this morning. **Friday, August 20, 1880** I have just received a letter from Miss Thiboult. I hope she will come here next week. Miss H Gordline is married. I don't know what ails the female woman. I am afraid A. Bird is trying to get Mattie back again. I do hope she won't go to him. **Saturday, August 21, 1880** I sent my card by J. F. Father & Mother have gone to Marshall. I have got a cold, Mattie knows something she won't tell us! And H & I are a little spunky. **Sunday, August 22, 1880** Mattie & Arthur (Bird) have made up and I don't know wheather (sic) to laugh or cry. I think I may do both. I enjoyed the S. S. very much. H & S were here to dinner. **Monday, August 23, 1880** Washing is done. M & I have been to see Myra. Poor girl, she is so sick, and I am afraid she will not get over it. She looks very badly. **Tuesday, August 24, 1880** I went for Miss Thiboult and she is just as nice as ever and looks so nicely. We went to the lecture and enjoyed it much. We had a nice ride home. **Wednesday, August 25, 1880** We have enjoyed the day so much. We visited Hattie this P. M. Miss T. is so nice. Poor Myra is worse and they have sent for the Dr. I am so afraid she will gone (sic). **Thursday, August 26, 1880** We quilted and visited with Miss Teaboult. A.M. ditto P. M. and visited with Mrs. & M. Francis. Miss T & I went to ride, called on Myra. She was a little better. Went round square, enjoyed it much. **Friday, August 27, 1880** Miss T is gone and I am sorry. I expect to go to Muskegon Monday and if Miss T had waited we could have gone together. I dread going alone but think I can. It seems selfish but I guess it is all right and hope it will prove so. I wish Mattie were here.