

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

President's Message

Dear Members,

It is a great honor to be serving you, the Calhoun County Genealogical Society, as we celebrate our 20th Anniversary year. Founded in 1987, the CCGS has served our community and membership well as a source of knowledge, inspiration and acumen in the field of genealogy. Though the faces of our members may have changed to some extent over the years, there is still a familiar camaraderie to be found at our meetings. Indeed, it is our greatest strength that we involve and garner the support of the many talented and dedicated researchers who make up our Society. I would like to applaud the work of our predecessors and our committees as we move forward.

CCGS members include some of the best and brightest family researchers to be found in our area. In our twenty years of existence, we have grown from a handful to nearly 140 members, many from points outside of Calhoun County and Michigan. I've often been impressed with the level of discussion shared during our meetings. Also, thanks to the diligence of our programs chair we have been able to bring in many superb guests over the years to share with us across many fascinating topics.

Genealogy is a vast industry with an impossible amount of literature and resources available. We believe in the value of this information, and the CCGS continues to have a strong involvement in the collection and preservation of the historic and genealogical information of Calhoun County. The Internet will serve us well as it provides new avenues to share our collected historical resources with the rest of the world.

I am convinced that it is our membership, guests and resources who provide the relevance for our Society, especially in this age where armchair genealogists can use the Internet so effectively. Through the experience and guidance of CCGS members, our Society can provide a great "next step" for people who are new to our hobby. And so, in our 20th Anniversary Year, I can speak for the leadership of the Society in saying that we will recommit ourselves to serving you, our members and community.

We also want to recognize and celebrate our past accomplishments, while laying the groundwork the future. So, this year our programs slate will include an overall theme of involvement and celebration. Involvement means you, dear reader! If you are interested in getting participating, we have openings for you in several of our active committees. Come to our January meeting for an update on our committee activities. All of our efforts are being led and accomplished by volunteers just like you. Why volunteer? For me, it is the chance to learn from a diverse group of bright and motivated individuals. In closing, in keeping with our Involvement theme we will kick off 2007 by having our traditional Sharing meeting. Bring your interesting stories and questions!

-Chris Rau

President, CCGS

written by census enumerator Mary Ames Atkins

at the end of the 1880 Salem, Massachusetts census, Enumeration District 240: "A thorough, patient, faithful canvass, which I have prosecuted in spite of dogs, an ignorant post-master, pitiful penny-a-liners (livers?), "bad whiskey," a too sadly frequent assurance that my employer was "a meddlesome fool," and long journeys, often with no one to enumerate for great distances."

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 3 Jan 2007, Vol. 10, No. 1.

January 23 meeting:

Have you made a big breakthrough in 2006? Did you leap over some brick walls or cleverly figure out where your grandmother was hiding in a census? Has some kind soul provided you with help or information about your family? Dazzle us with your brilliant sleuthing or uncanny luck.

This is our annual "potluck" meeting. No need to bring a dish to pass; just pass a long a genealogical sleuthing experience. Great time to learn a few new ideas that might help in this years search.

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.

MY OLD SCHOOL-ROLLS AND SCHOOLMATES OF HALF A CENTURY AGO

By A. D. P. Van Buren

List of pupils in the summer school of 1840, in the Luther Olds' district, in Battle Creek township:

Calvin Austin George Austin
Adeline Austine, now Mrs. David Olds in California
Edward Berger
Sarah Berger, now Mrs. Simpson Howland of Howlandsburg, Kalamazoo county.
Charlotte Berger, now Mrs. A. B. Simpson of Battle Creek.
Nancy Martin, now Mrs. John Van Woert of Battle Creek township.
Betsy Martin, now Mrs. B. Larmour of Battle Creek.
William Martin Henry McCamly
Nancy Stewart Jane Thornton
Lydia Thornton, Mrs. Henry Berg
Mary Olds, afterwards Mrs. N. Hunt, since died.
Harriet Olds, afterwards Mrs. Emory Hunt, since died.
Melissa Olds.

SOURCE: Michigan Pioneer & Historical Society, Vol XVII 1910, pg 463-4.

Final School Exam - Eighth Grade 1895, Salina, KS.

U. S. History (Time, 45 minutes)

1. Give the epochs into which U. S. History is divided.
2. Give an account of the discovery of America by Columbus.
3. Relate the causes and results of the Revolutionary War.
4. Show the territorial growth of the United States.
5. Tell what you can of the history of Kansas.
6. Describe three of the most prominent battles of the Rebellion.
7. Who were the following: Morse, Whitney, Fulton, Bell, Lincoln, Penn and Howe?
8. Name events connected with the following dates: 1607, 1620, 1800, 1849, 1865.

SOURCE: Ingham County Genealogical Society, Vol 9 #2, p. 4.

What about the SSDI (Social Security Death Index) and identity theft?

Social Security numbers are never re-used, so when a person dies, their number is no longer usable by living persons because it is attached to the deceased person. A major way of preventing identify fraud is by methodically running financial, credit, payment and other applications against the Social Security Administration's Death Master File (known commercially as the SSDI) -- thus the financial community, insurance companies, security firms and state and local governments are better able to identify and prevent identity fraud. Moreover, the USA Patriot Act requires an effort to verify the identity of customers, including procedures to verify customer identity and maintaining records of information used to do so.

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 29 Nov 2006, Vol. 9, No. 48.

MY OLD SCHOOL-ROLLS AND SCHOOLMATES OF HALF A CENTURY AGO

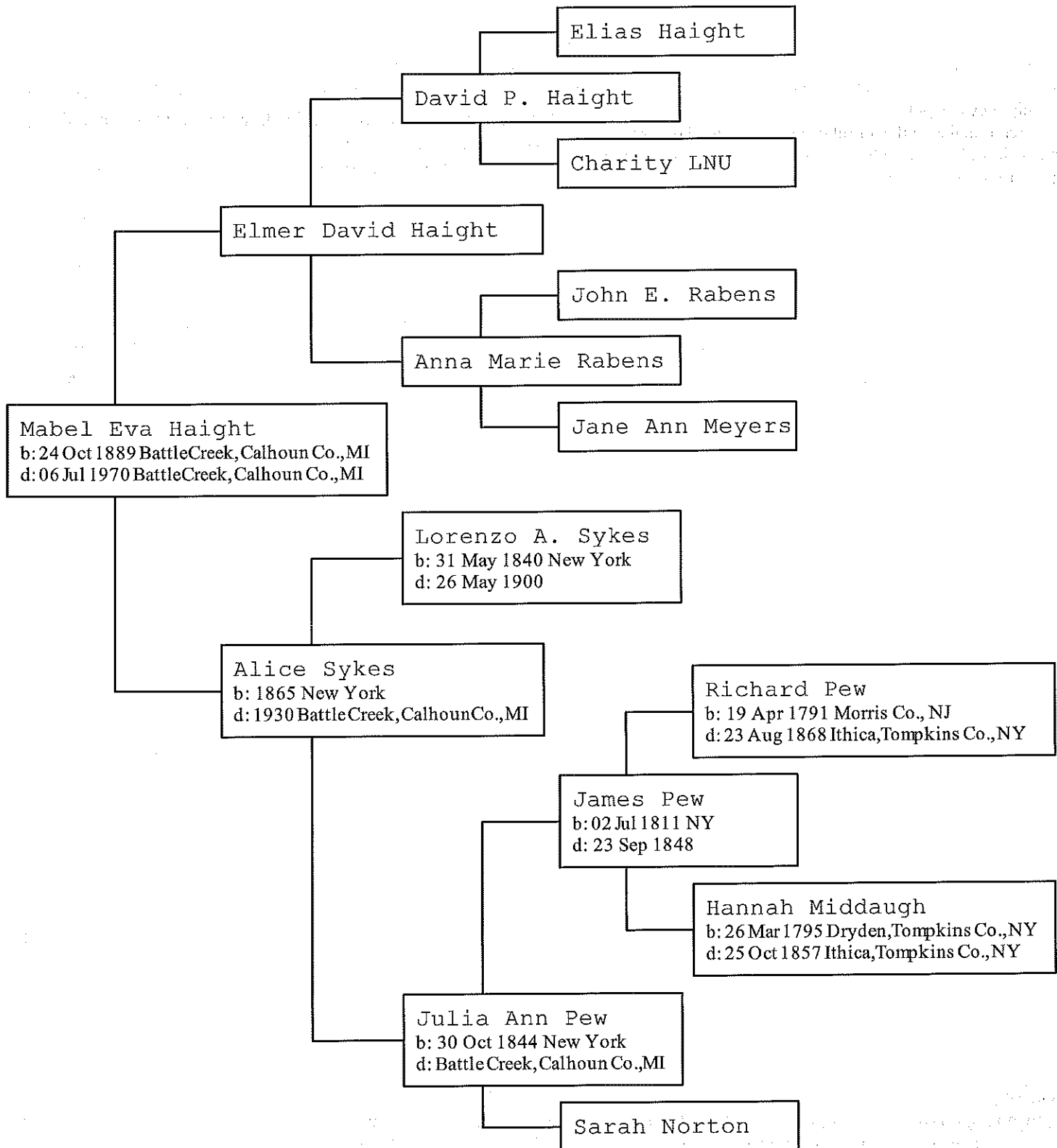
By A. D. P. Van Buren

List of pupils in the winter schools in Battle Creek, township 1846:

Harriet Crittenden	Sarah Weaver	Mary Hart
Edward Berger	Margarette Weaver	John Young
Sarah Berger	Samuel Thornton	Andrew Young
Charlotte Berger	William Thornton	Andrew Helmer
Simeon Seamans	Jane Thornton	John Helmer
Marie Seamans	Lydia Thornton	Standish Spencer
William Weaver	Nancy Stewart	Edwin Dickinson
Monroe Weaver		

SOURCE: Michigan Pioneer & Historical Society, Vol XVII 1910, pg 466.

Ancestors of Mabel Eva Haight



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

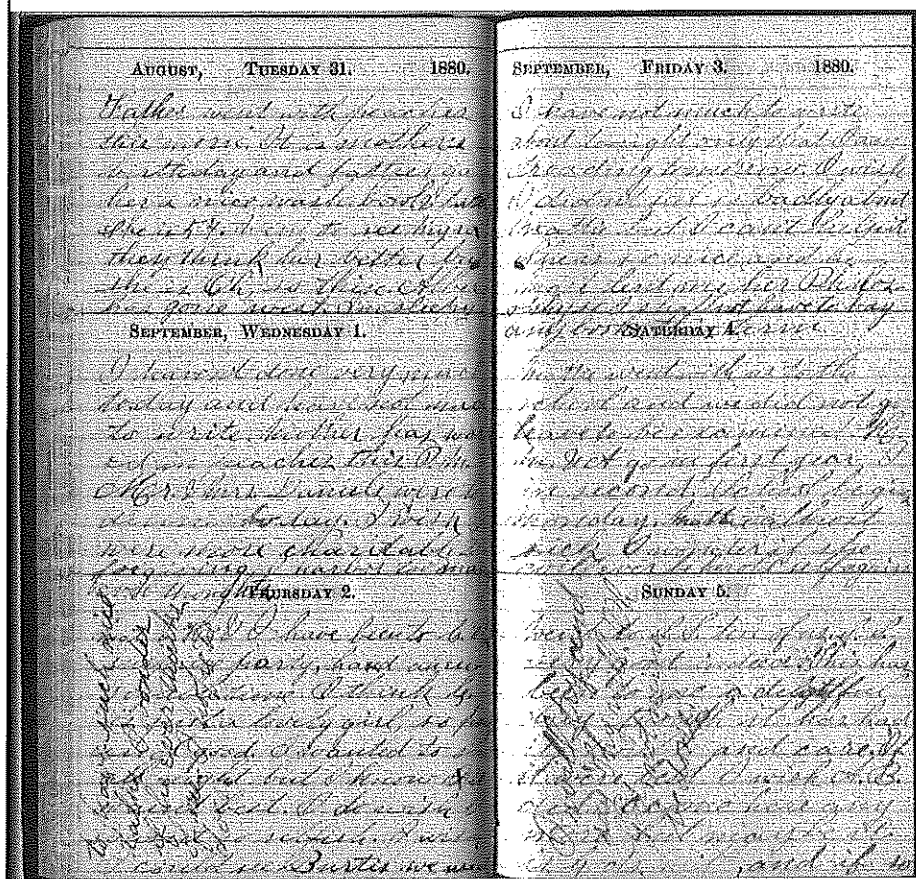
INFORMATION TAKEN FROM A DIARY GIVEN
TO SUSIE ERRINGTON, WITH THE INSCRIPTION

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

Sunday, September 5, 1880 Went to S. S. ten of us. S. S. very good indeed. This has been to me a delightful day though it has had its trouble and care. If it were best I wish A. B. did not come here any more but maybe it is God's will, and if so, I will try and say "Thy will, Oh God, not mine, be done." nothing written until Friday, September 24, 1880 I had sadly neglected this dear little book but hope it will forgive me. The weeks of school are gone and I begin to dread examination, but shall not dread it much for I think "All is Well". I am glad to be at home again. Good Night. Nothing written until Thursday, October 7, 1880 I have not recited once this week in Philosophy and I'm ashamed of my self. Stood 95 in History and that is good again. Tomorrow will be Friday night, am I not glad? Nothing written until Thursday, October 14, 1880 I have enjoyed this day so much. School was very nice. Mrs. R went away after school and staid (sic) to supper. I do wish I wasn't so selfish but we did enjoy it so. I sent my letter to May care of Etta Phelps. **END OF DIARY ENTRIES**

Tuesday, August 31, 1880

Father went with peaches this morn. It is Mother's birthday and father gave her a nice wash bowl & birthday. She is 54. Went to see Myra they think her better but she is OH, so thin. Albert is gone west. I'm sleepy. **Wednesday, September 1, 1880** I haven't done very much today and have not much to write. Mother has worked on peaches this P.M. Mr. & Mrs. Daniels were to dinner today. I wish I were more charitable & forgiving. I harbor too many evil thoughts. **Thursday, September 2, 1880** Mat & H & I have been to G. R.'s surprise party, had an enjoyable time. I think G is just a lovely girl, so fair and good. I wanted to stay all night but I know it wasn't best. I do wish I wasn't so selfish. I wish I could see Burtis we used to have such nice talks. I wonder if he ever thinks of me. I hope he does. **Friday, September 3, 1880** I have not much to write about tonight only that I am dreading tomorrow. I wish I did not feel so badly about Mattie but I can't help it. She is so nice and he - Mart lent me her Philosophy so I shall not have to buy any books this term. **Saturday, September 4, 1880** Mattie went with me to the school and we did not go leave to be examined. H, M & A go in first year, I in second. School begins Monday. Mattie almost sick. I wonder if she will ever be her old self again.



INSCRIPTIONS ON THE BACK INSIDE COVER

"KEEP THY TONGUE FROM EVIL,
AND THY LIPS FROM SPEAKING GUILE"

M. E. E.

(Mattie E. Errington, her sister)

"MAKE SOME ONE HAPPY EACH DAY"

SAMPLE PAGE OF THE DIARY SHOWING
THE DIFFICULTY IN TRANSCRIBING THIS
LITTLE GEM

