



PIONEER RECORD

September 2003

Volume XXIV, No. 1

MGS MEETING ** SEPTEMBER 17

The first **Midland Genealogical Society** meeting of the fiscal 2003-04 year will be held Wednesday, **September 17**, in the **Lounge** of the **Grace A. Dow Memorial Library** starting at **7:00 pm**.

The program "**Computer Programs Useful in Genealogical Research**" will be presented by MGS member **Walter Bennett Jr.** Many MGS members use various software to assist in their research. What programs are best suited? Which programs provide reliable information? What are the costs involved? There are obviously many questions. Perhaps the program will have answers for you – if not, there will follow a question and answer discussion.

Please come and enjoy a very interesting and informative presentation.

The normal business of the society will be conducted after the presentation as well as special reports. A proposed amendment to the MGS Bylaws will be discussed and voted upon. Refreshments will be served at the end of the meeting.

Please **RENEW** your **MEMBERSHIP** before, during or after the meeting.

LETTERS FROM BRITISH COUSINS A VIEW OF WW II ERA HISTORY

We have recently discovered more than 60 letters and cards written to my mother and brother from cousins living in **London**, England during **WW II**. Their contents

relay the devastation, courage, love and faith in God that persons displayed during the **bombing** of London.



These letters are quite unique. As seen in the above envelope, the letters were **censored**. Delivery was 3-4 weeks by ship. Sometimes letters did not arrive because the ship was sunk.

Many of us lived through the war – perhaps as a member of the armed forces or as a civilian. In the states we remember the rationing, restrictions and war bonds as well as the all-out war effort to produce planes, ships and weapons. In Britain they experienced the horror of constant bombings resulting in loss of life and property.

Hopefully when you read the excerpts from some of the letters in the article on pages 8-14, you will be reminded of times past and be thankful.

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Jo Brines



To Brines



MGS PROGRAM COMMITTEE 2003-2004

The **MGS Program Committee**, led by **Nancy Lackie**, has been busy assembling a series of programs for the fiscal year 2003-04. The Committee assisting Nancy includes **Floyd Andrick**, **Terry McCane**, **Walter Bennett Jr** and **Joan Somerville**.



The programs for the first three meetings (balance of 2003) have been set.

September 17 – “**Computer Programs Useful in Genealogical Research**” by **Walter Bennett Jr.**, MGS member;

October 15 – “**The Circumstances of Pomp**” by **Wilma Diesen**, MGS member, past President and Secretary;

November 19 – “**Tour of New Historical Society Museum**” by **Gary Skory**, Director of Midland County Historical Society.
The November 19 meeting will probably be held at the Carriage House Meeting Room in the Midland Historical complex.

The programs for the 2004 meeting are still being arranged and negotiated. The **January** program appears to be on American Indian genealogical research with speaker to be announced. In **February**, MGS member Quita Shier will present a program titled “Warriors for the Union”. In **March**, MGS member Floyd Andrick will present a program on how to do oral genealogical research. The **April** or **May** meeting will have a speaker from Lansing who is an expert on using Township records for tracing family histories.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS

Ralph Hillman

The following amendment to the **Bylaws, ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS**, is proposed:

The first paragraph will now read: “The officers of the Society shall be President, Program Chair, Membership Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and two delegates to the Michigan Genealogical council. **One or more persons may be elected to the office of President, Program Chair, Membership Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and/or Historian provided that the specific duties of each of the co-officers as defined in ARTICLE V, are agreed upon and placed in the minutes of the first board meeting following their election.**”

The proposed change is highlighted in bold and underlined.

The proposed amendment must be brought to the floor during the September meeting, and must be approved by two-thirds of the members present in order to take effect. It is open to amendments that diminish the amount of change, but not to amendments that increase it or introduce new changes (Robert’s Rules, 10th Ed., 2000, p. 576).

ED’s Note: Please see MGS Annual Meeting – May21, 2003 Summary on page 15. Pertaining to the above, the **Treasurer** should **not be included** because of the co-sharing complications and logistics of the office.

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2002-2003

The collection of **MGS membership dues for 2003-2004** will conclude at the **September 17th MGS meeting**. The **MGS Treasurer and Membership Chairs** have been collecting dues since last May, 2003, although there has been no specific request. If your dues are not paid by the end of September, this may be the last ***Pioneer Record*** you will receive. Dues may also be paid by mail to: Membership Chair, **Midland Genealogical Society**, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640. Dues for an **individual** are **\$14.00** ; for a **family** they are **\$17.50** .

MGS MEMBERSHIP REPORT - Loretta Waters, Chair

As we approach the first **MGS** meeting of the year, we have only 22 paid memberships for this fiscal year 2003-04 (July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004). As we ended FY2002, **MGS** had 112 memberships (90 single and 22 household).

So we are looking forward to a flood of **membership renewals** at the first meeting of the year, **September 17th**. **PLEASE renew** - you won't be disappointed. Historically, the September meeting has been when most members choose to pay their dues for the new season. This has resulted in long lines, and confusion as impatient people leave their money on the table assuming we will know who left the cash. This year, we have a **new chair**, who begs to remind you that she does NOT know who you are yet. In order to avoid the rush, it would be very helpful if you would consider paying your dues **BEFORE** our first meeting. You can either mail your dues with your membership form to:

Loretta Waters, 4110 Washington St., Midland, MI 48642-3567



Or mail it to/or leave it at the "in box" in the Genealogy Room at the library. That address is on the enclosed form. Loretta would deeply appreciate your help. A "**Membership Application**" is included in this issue of the PR for your convenience.

Midland Genealogical Society lapel pins arrived this summer. They look like the logo on our pamphlets, with white background in the center, pale green in the outer ring, and gold lettering. In July, the board voted to offer these pins as a service to our members, rather than think of them as a fundraiser. As a result, they will be available for only **\$5** each. They will be available for sale at the **end of the September 17 MGS meeting** and at all subsequent meetings.

For those who would like to purchase a pin, but cannot join us at meetings, they can be ordered **for mail delivery**. Due to an anonymous donation of postage stamps, shipping will be only \$1.00 (to cover the cost of a little padded envelope). Please send orders, accompanied by a check for **\$6** made out to **Midland Genealogical Society**, to:

Midland Genealogical Society
Grace A. Dow Memorial Library
1710 West St. Andrews
Midland, MI 48640-2698

A complete **membership list** will be published in the **November 2003** issue of "**Pioneer Record**". At that time, please read your information carefully and notify us of any incorrect or missing information, especially your e-mail address.

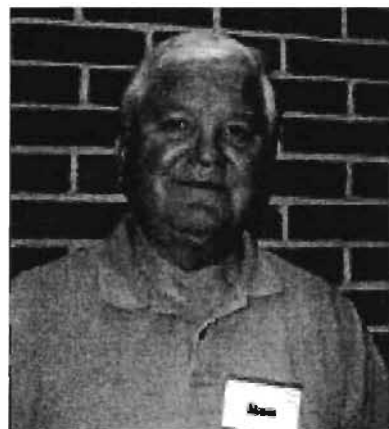
I can be contacted at: <ljh2o@chartermi.net>.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Ron Snyder, Treasurer

The present **MGS** fiscal year begins 1 July 2003 and ends June 30, 2004. There obviously has not been much financial activity this summer other than the paying of dues.

As of **1 August 2003**, the account balances are: Operating Checking: **\$1479.11**; Money Market: **\$3881.47**; and CD: **\$2500.00**. Thus total **MGS** assets to date are **\$7860.58**.

The **budget** for the fiscal year **2003-04**, which was approved at the **MGS Annual Meeting** on 21 May 2003 is presented on page 5. The table also includes a summary of the income and expenses for the past fiscal year.



PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The actual and budgeted amounts are based on income and expenses for both operating and money-market accounts of the MGS. Most items are self explanatory. The budgeting process is complicated by the MGS book and pin sales since costs are absorbed in one year while sales may occur for several years. The 2003-04 Budget was approved by the MGS membership at the May, 2002 annual meeting. Questions concerning the finances will be answered at the Sept. 17, 2003 meeting.

MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL REPORT

Kathy Bohl and Colleen Bennett, MGC Delegates

The **National Genealogical Society** honored **Carole Callard**, genealogy specialist at the Library of Michigan, with the **2003 P. William Filby Prize** for Genealogical Librarianship at it's annual conference in Pittsburgh on May 30, 2003.

The following announcements were made: **Michigan Death Records** have been filmed by the Utah Genealogical society and will be posted on the LDS website. The **Historical Society of Michigan** is requesting nominees for its annual History awards in the following categories – Restoration & Preservation; special programs; local societies; professional service; media; and business & institutions. Contact Executive director Larry Wagennar at <wagennar@hsmichigan.org>

MGC is sponsoring a **FREE seminar** on **Saturday, October 18, 2003** at the Library of Michigan in Lansing. This all day seminar is part of Family History Month activities. Reservations are required. Further details are given on page 17 and the in the form included with this issue of the **Pioneer Record**.

Books Added to Shelves of Midland Room, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library During Period: April, 2003 - August, 2003

Farmington Township Cemeteries 1824-1998	Hudson Mowhawk Genealogical & Family Memoirs
FGS/Lancaster 929.577438	Reynolds 929.3747
Farmington Township Obituaries – Vol 1 & 2	Soldiers of the Revolutionary War Burled in
FGS/Oakland 929.577438	Vermont 929.3743
Nutmegger Index: to Non Alphabetical Articles & Subject to the CT Nutmegger – Vol 1-28	Revolutionary Soldiers in Kentucky 973.34
Ullmann 929.3746	Mayflower Source Records 929.37448
Monroe County MI Birth Records –Vol 1 929.377432	Descendents of Signers of the Declaration of Independence - Vol 1 Pyne 973.313
Virginia Historical Indexy Swem 929.3755	Greenville, SC – Index of Land Acquisitions, Patent Land Survey 1770-1820 929.3757
The Barbour Collection Vol 20,47-5 929.3746	Presque Isle Co., MI Cemeteries – Bearinger & Belknap Townships – Vol 3 & 4 929.5
Gazeteer of the State of New Jersey 917.49	
Founders & Patriots of America – Index 369.12	

ANNUAL REPORT TO GRACE A. DOW MEMORIAL LIBRARY

July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003

Jo Brines

For the year beginning July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003, there were about **1800 visitors** who signed the registration book. We (volunteers) actually counted over 1100 people using the references, equipment, etc. while we worked. Two groups of people visited, including 12 visitors from Isabella County and a group from the DAR workshop, both occurring on a Saturday.

Some visitors were from **51 different Michigan cities** beyond the Midland County area. Other visitors came from 16 different states plus a man from Germany who was in this country for a 100th consecutive family reunion in St. Clair County (with MGS member Ruth Ann Casadonte).

Volunteer hours given by the regulars and/or subs totaled approximately **800**; plus hundreds of uncounted hours given by our unnamed, unofficial volunteers.

YULE SEA (Especially for us computer "freaks")

Eye half a spell checker, it same with my pea see.
It plainly marks four my revue, mistakes I cannot sea.
I've run this poem threw it, I'm shore your pleased too no.
It's letter perfect in it's come, my checker tooled me sew.

It makes shore I due things write, as sure as knight an day.
Four, you'll never no when spell checker will help you two
sum weigh!

From: Kinship Tales, volume 11, No. 2 (Reprint from Sterling Heights Gen. Soc., Vol. XI, No. 1)

NATIONAL GENEALOGY SOCIETY CONFERENCE IN THE STATES

Pittsburgh, May 28-31, 2003

Ralph Hillman, CGRS

As usual the annual conference of the **National Genealogical Society** was well attended with some 2,000 persons in attendance. It is easy to see in such an event that **genealogy is a passion** for many people. With five lecture periods each day and each lecture period having nine simultaneous sessions, there were many choices to be made. General topics included Census Records, Methodology, New Approaches, Immigration, Ethnic topics, Pennsylvania and Ohio Research, Migration, Repositories, and Church Records. In addition there were workshops for various genealogical computer programs, land platting, abstracting, and data collections at Ancestry.com.

I attended **eighteen lecture sessions** during the four-day period. I generally pick topics of interest to me with speakers that I know are good, but I always select a few speakers that are new to me to check them out. Several traditional speakers were there, such as **Lloyd Bockstruck** of the Dallas Library, **Curt Witcher** of the Allen County Library, **Jim Hansen** of the Wisconsin Historical Society, **Kathleen Hinckley**, author of several guidebooks, **Elizabeth Shown Mills**, former editor of the NGS Quarterly, and **Jim and Paula Warren**, professional genealogists. A few new ones also caught my eyes this year: **Amy Johnson Crow** and **Stella Colwell**. I'll say more about them below.

There were two topics of special interest to me this year: copyright issues and genetics. **Copyright** was a hot topic for several sessions involving web-sites, publishing, and client reports. **Cyndi Howells** (CyndisList.com) in her talk on "**The Internet for Genealogy: Setting Straight the Myths and Misconceptions**" emphasized the necessity to ask before you copy something from someone's web page. "Just because it is your family doesn't mean you can copy the research and call it your own." Give credit where credit is due.

Sharon DeBartolo Carmack in her talk on "**Who Owns the Client Report?**" described the court case she and co-author Roger Joslyn were involved in when they produced a two-volume all-my-ancestor study for a client. He sued them because he mistakenly believed he owned the copyright on the study he commissioned. Copyright law – see www.loc.gov/copyright – states that only the author of a work can claim a copyright. In a "**work made for hire**" the employer can claim the copyright, but then the employee has all the benefits of employment including social security. In addition a preliminary agreement must be made that the work will be considered a work made for hire.

Another topic of interest to me was **genetics**. **Matthew Kaplan**, a doctoral candidate under Dr. Bruce Walsh, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Arizona, presented a talk on the **Y chromosome** for genetic matches between **males**. The **Y chromosome** is passed down from father to son and provides evidence for surname relationship for many generations. There are many surname societies that are utilizing this test to prove descent from a common ancestor. A similar test for **female** lineage is **mitochondria** or **mtDNA** that provides evidence of maternal ancestry for both males and females. **Donn Devine** and **Anita Lustenberger** described this genetic marker.

Amy Johnson Crow gave two lectures on research in **Ohio Records** and records available at the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus – see www.ohiohistory.org. This society has many records available on line. These include an index to Ohio prisoners during the Civil War, major Ohio documents (such as the Northwest Ordinance), images of photographic holdings, and scholarly articles on Ohio history.

Stella Colwell of England's Public Record Office, now called **The National Archives**, described records available online at their web site – see www.nationalarchives.gov.uk. The Historical Manuscripts division will be joining the National Archives and will provide access to many private collections of manuscripts including an index of manorial documents. The **1901 census** is online at the web site. If you have English ancestry, you must browse their web site for several exciting records now available. The National Archives only saves about two percent of the records generated over the past 1,000 years, but there are still ten million documents on one hundred miles of shelving at the archives at **Kew**.

This is just a sample of the several talks that were of interest to me. Of course the **exhibit area** was of interest also. Over one hundred exhibitors had books, CDs, software, and gadgets of all kinds to assist in genealogy. Many genealogical societies, national and regional, had booths to describe their services and publications. All in all it was a **fruitful experience**. If you have never been to a national conference, why not plan to attend one soon?

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

LETTERS FROM BRITISH COUSINS – A VIEW OF WW II ERA HISTORY

By Earl A. Ebach

We have recently discovered more than 60 letters and cards written to my mother and brother from cousins living in London, England during WW II. Their contents relay the devastation, courage, love and faith in God that persons displayed during the bombing of London.

My mother's father and mother immigrated to the U.S. in 1882, probably fleeing the plague that took three of their four young children. They settled first in Freeland, Michigan where my grandfather's father, brothers and sister lived and farmed. Within a year they moved to Saginaw where my grandfather could find employment. My mother was born in Saginaw. Most of my grandfather's family (surname Buck) had immigrated to the U.S., but my grandmother (surname Barrett) left behind her parents and two sisters and their families. She missed her family and corresponded with them regularly. When she passed away in 1933, my mother continued the correspondence, especially with two cousins, Sarah Barrett Martin Westley and Florrie Barrett Martin Lamb.

During the war years the mail was censored, so very little could be said concerning what was happening – but you can often read much between the lines. It is interesting to see how people talked – what they said in letters – British colloquialisms. For example: "queer" means sick or ill. The letters also relate the history of the times. The following are excerpts from many of the letters.

12 December 1933 Sarah

In answer to your letter I received this morning with the sad news of your Mother. We are all so thankful she did not lay & suffer for weeks as dear old soul she has had her time on this earth. She is far better off now. Its your loss but her gain. Please give our sympathy to Dear Uncle & all the rest of family.

My grandmother, Charlotte Barrett Buck, died 1 Dec. 1933.



Sarah's Grandmother – Harriett Barrett

5 March 1936 Sarah

Was surprised to hear how Uncle Dick had left his will. It hardly seems fair treatment after you have helped to keep things so long for your dear Mother and Father.

Sorry to hear that you are so queer. You take care of yourself. Hope when we get to warmer weather will be better.

Pleased you have a radio. As you say, its wonderful. The day of the King's funeral was great. Did you hear the new King speak last Sunday?

My grandfather, Richard W. Buck, died 16 Dec. 1935.
King George V died 20 Jan. 1936.
King Edward VIII assumed throne.

2 May 1936 Sarah

You do seem to be one of the unlucky ones. Trouble all around & bad health as well. Never mind dear one - cheer up. It's a long lane that has no turnings.

I know just how you feel about going to the cemetery alone, since sister Alice has been so queer, I go on my own, but like you, when I have finished the 4 graves which is Ma & Pa, Grandma & Grandpa - feel ever so much better.

Fancy you think the King sounds like your Uncle Arthur.

King Edward VIII abdicated throne on 11 Dec. 1937 to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson. King George VI assumes throne.

31 March 1937 Florrie

How is your husband's neuritis? I hope better although unfortunately there doesn't seem any real cure for it, Alice went to hospital for treatment for it for months - she has had another spell of it - so altogether we are a poor old lot, We often have a good laugh when we are trying to help each other - that bucks us up & we carry on again.

The Strike must be awful in Michigan. It seems that everyone in all parts of the world are in a state of unrest.

22 April 1937 Sarah

I do hope we don't make shots & shells again. It is terrible. We think about it.

You will be sorry to hear Flo is very queer again. Think her job is to hard on her but --. Don't know what to do as she has got to live & her age is against her for getting work.

(continued on page 9)

LETTERS FROM BRITISH COUSINS – A VIEW OF WW II ERA HISTORY

(continued from previous page)

7 June 1937

Florrie

Sorry I have been so long in answering your letter but have been from home to a Convalescent Home as they said I must have a change of air before going back to work - I feel much better now.

I have started on my teeth today been to Hospital. Have to go tomorrow to start the extractions & have 14 to come out.

Although we live right in the heart of London we didn't see any of the wonderful sights regarding the Coronation. All we did was just to listen in. The weather was horrible. We haven't felt up to standing about or pushing in a crowd, so we have to avoid the hustle & bustle like you get on those occasions.

I hope to return to the shop very shortly now. Then I don't get much time as shop hours are very long - start at eight o'clock in the morning - we don't close till 8 at night - 9 o'clock on Saturdays - it takes me best part of an hour to get home so you see I don't have much spare time.

Coronation of King George VI on 13 May 1937.

2 August 1937

Florrie

I have had all my teeth out so find it a bit difficult to eat. Hope to have some false ones in about three months time. I think to most folk these days teeth are a lot of trouble.

I work in a Baker's Shop - bread & cakes are the chief things we sell.

Alice & I have been sitting in the Park all afternoon as it has been so lovely it seems a shame to stay indoors when it is so nice.

8 June 1938

Sarah

We shall be pleased when the countrys have

finished squabbling & settle down again in peace. I wonder if it will be in our time. One thing our loved ones are at rest of it all.

21 November 1938 Sarah

We all was very pleased when the scare was over. Think it upset everyone & all the business.

Everything seems quiet - no trade - no money. Let hope things will brighten up next few weeks.

British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain negotiated an Appeasement Treaty with Hitler avoiding war Sep 1938.

6 January 1939

Sarah

We cannot answer any questions in your last letter.

2 March 1939

Florrie

I didn't make a good start this year - have been home 5 weeks with Rheumatism & Larangitis - felling well again but have no voice.

It makes you think sometimes that it is nice to feel the ones that have passed on before us have been spared some very awful times, as all the news today is concerning the War & its problems. I don't read much of the Papers myself. I do think what is to be in Life for each of us will be. We can't alter it, so therefore I think it is up to everyone to make the most of there life & to help each other to be as happy & contented as we can in our homes & wherever we work. -- Certainly some folk seem more fortunate than others but we all have something to be thankful for.

Alice & I come home to our humble lttle home & feel quite satisfied as we are so happy together jogging along giving each other a helping hand.

We are very bucked to hear Cousin Jim is doing well, also that his daughter has

passed out for a Nurse. That must be a wonderful joy in life to really be a help to another soul in pain & suffering. I wish her God Speed in her new work.



Sarah's Mother – Emma Barrett Martin

10 September 1939 Sarah

I have not been well - its nerve trouble - so I came away for a rest & then my gents wrote & told me to stay as I was safer here out of London.

They can manage & look after the home. They have a good air raid shelter at home. I made it comfortable for them such as chairs, table & lamp. They had air raid warning last week & they went into it & felt safer.

We have a shelter where I am staying. They are very nice people so I am nice & comfy. I don't know where my girls are at present - they may have different jobs.

Will close - kind love to all from all of us. Don't worry - think of the One above & ask for his help to guide us.

Your dear Cousin.

(continued on page 10)

LETTERS FROM BRITISH COUSINS – A VIEW OF WW II ERA HISTORY

(continued from previous page)

Hitler invades Poland 1 Sep 1939.
Britain, with allies, declares WAR on
Germany 3 Sep 1939.

20 October 1939 Sarah

Pleased you are able to get radio reports as it helps us all so much getting the news. Only thing its to much for any of us. The only thing we can do is Pray & ask the Lord to give us strength & help us in these troublesome times.

I am still out of London about 60 miles out. Do not know when I am returning.

We know how you are keeping knowing you will not be able to give us any news. Do hope please God this will soon be over.

31 October 1939 Sarah

Just a few lines in case you did not get my last one as in these troublesome times we are not to sure.

The only thing we can do is to keep calm & look up to the one above for help.

Must not tell you any outside news so will close with love to all - from all your dear Cousins in England.

17 April 1940 Sarah

Yes you are right - it's something to be proud of to have a minister care for his people so long. We could do with a few more like him.

Where Flo is working they are reducing the Staff so she has to leave next week - everything goes wrong how ever much she tries. I told her not to worry as God always looks after his own.

6 June 1940 Sarah

We often speak about you & I said to your other Cousins - Well dear Emma always remembers us in her prayers & God is good.

21 June 1940 Sarah

Dear Richard -

Your Cousins & myself wish you every success and good luck. Hope all are well during these troublesome times. I am wondering what the end will be. Well all we have to do is to keep smiling & hope in the Lord. God bless you & keep you.

France surrenders 22 June 1940.
Bombing of Britain begins.

3 July 1940 Sarah

Just a line to let you know we are all well during these troublesome times. As you know I cannot tell you anything. Hope you & family are well. God bless you all.

14 August 1940 Florrie

Sarah isn't all well these days. We don't know what to make of her at all. She seems to be baffling the Doctor as well.

Times are very difficult to live in, but she does not appear to worry much about the war. But still you can never tell what is in anxious mind.

We have had a glorious summer this year. Sometimes it seems the only big ray of hope we have been given is the beautiful sunshine. Although really we have so much to be thankful for when we look around & see how some poor souls are suffering.

Lots of people are parted. My brother's boy has been away from home nearly a year -- his Mother is very anxious about him.

As you say, we can all remember each other in our prayers & trust God to bring us through the dark hours until at last we all once more enjoy Peace & what a wonderful day that will be. May it be sooner than even we dare expect.

"Blitzkrieg of London" (intensive bombing) from 7 Sep – 2 Nov, 1940.

21 October 1940 Florrie

We sure are having some strenuous times. Many sad things are happening. Sarah has not been able to get out. Alice is away from me as she was so ill when we had our house caught. It was such a shock it made her heart bad so she is staying with Kate.

I am still at home. I go over to my brother's shelter at night time. It is all very sad & awful for everyone to be at War & how we all long for Peace. I am sure you are very worried about us but it is nice to know you are praying for our safety. That is all we can do is to trust in God for our deliverance.

I am still out of employment.

Edie's husband has been home on 7 days leave. He joined in the Pioneer Corp.

I don't know if Sarah has told you but Will has been rendered homeless through the Air Raids but has started in another flat near us. But all they have worked for for years has gone in a night.

6 November 1940 Sarah

Who ever thought we should live in times like this.

Pleased to tell you I feel a little better. Doctor says its wrong time to have anything wrong with your nerves.

We can but Pray & trust for we are in God's hands.

Nov. 1940 - British defeat Italians in N. Africa

1 December 1940 Florrie

Thank you for your nice letter. I know how worried you must feel about us.

We have just been reminded on the Wireless to post early so I do hope you will get these few lines for Xmas.

Sarah's stepson's boy lost

(continued on page 11)

LETTERS FROM BRITISH COUSINS – A VIEW OF WW II ERA HISTORY

(continued from previous page)

his life in a Aeroplane when it crashed. Such a bright boy & only 20 years of age.

Edie's husband had joined up although he was over age & went through the last war.

My brother is living quite close to us, since he lost his home. Edie has gone to live with them, so we are all near one another. Thank goodness. Sarah, Kate & Minnie all live away from us.



British Cousins – Sarah & Alice

25 February 1941 Sarah

Florrie is ill in bed with Jaundice - has been thus for 5 weeks. Think when well enough she has to go to Hospital again.

I feel better but cannot get about much. I am just longing to get out in the fresh air. I cannot go out on my own as it is not safe for them that can hurry let alone those that just crawl along.

Bombing of London continued through May 1941. 41000 British civilians killed and 137000 injured.

5 November 1941 Sarah

Well dear one we have a lot to be thankful for after the terrible times we have gone through. I am still in the

anything so please remember us all in your Prayer.

Flo & Alice have gone to stay with Minnie which is 70 miles away. They have gone out of London for really it was terrible ordeal.

13 November 1941 Florrie

We are living with Minnie our other sister in the country 60 miles out of London for the time being. I am feeling much better.

We are all trusting we shall not have what we already experienced last year in London as it was all too terrible, but things are looking towards brighter times. Victory must be ours. We have heard your President many times on the Wireless - we always listen in.

We wish you all the Compliments of the Season & trust sincerely that for one & all we shall be nearer Peace & Order for all in the New Year.

2 January 1942 Sarah

Pleased to say we all had a quiet time in town - free from all bombs.

Flo tells me the Dr has certified her fit for work. I told her to take care of herself & try & get a easy job - she cannot be too strong yet.

I feel a bundle of nerves - never mind - God is good to all - no good moaning.

Dec 7 1941 - Japan bombs Pearl Harbor. U.S.A. declares WAR.

4 February 1942 Sarah

Sorry to say brother Will was very queer & under the Doctor. He has not been well since he was bombed out - he lost his business & his home - in fact everything. I think he has worried a good deal about it. Good thing they were in the shelter or else they would have

It will be nice when the gents come back.

Hitler attacks Russia.

7 May 1942 Florrie

Thank you. I have cashed the (money) order. I am sure you had to sacrifice something in these hard times to send the gift to me.

I think we might all say, God is our refuge in times of trouble as well as Peace. We shall do well to remember same.

13 May 1942 Florrie

These are sure very trying times to live in, but we must all do our duty & carry on till Victory is ours & Peace is proclaimed.

You must get quite a lot of correspondence to do these days, what with your sons & daughter away.

We do all wish & pray that War would end & everyone would be happy & enjoying life again.

Alice & I will be returning to London soon -- we have been staying here with this sister for 7 months -- we don't want to leave here as the country is so nice.

Our poor old home -- think of us having a good old clean up & making the most of the ruins again.

We are like you - glad to have the Wireless on to hear the news.

Four of our nieces have there husbands away.

30 August 1942 Florrie

In these distressing times we need to be our best & give our best & so make life worth living.

I have seen many of your boys around London. Of

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LETTERS FROM BRITISH COUSINS – A VIEW OF WW II ERA HISTORY

(continued from previous page)

course it is quite an experience for our Lads & yours to travel about as they are doing.

As you say, there is no need to write news these days as we hear it all on the radio. How dull we should feel without it.

I have only sad news to tell you of Sarah. She was taken worse a month ago with a seizure & has lain like that without being able to speak & at times doesn't even know anyone. She was removed to a Nursing Home & no one is allowed to see her only for a moment. --- It would be kinder to know she has been called Home to Rest.

We have been spared the bombing since we have returned to London, although our poor old house has no windows in yet. It is very dark & miserable - but we still have a lot to be thankful for.

Minnie just now fell, while putting her black out up & has hurt her leg & back, but no bones were broken. She cannot get about. She is 59 so she is getting on for a bad fall.

15 November 1942 Florrie

Sad news. Sarah passed away November 13th. She has been ill for a long time - absolutely helpless. We must thank God he has called her to rest. We shall all miss her. I am sure you will miss her letters

What a lot is happening today in the world. We have been listening to our Bells ringing today for our Victory in Egypt. So lovely to hear after there long silence. Sarah would have enjoyed hearing the bells today.

Cousin Sarah Westley died 13 Nov. 1942.

Nov 1942 – Russian forces start counter-offensive in Stalingrad.

3 January 1943 Florrie

We have been staying with my Brother in his house. His wife has an ulcer in the stomach - she is out of the hospital now.

I paid a visit to Sarah's grave. We shall sure miss her for all her love & kindness to us.

I went to Church this morning & enjoyed the New Year's service very much. You were asking about the Tea in your last letter. We sure have to be very careful with our 2 oz ration a week but like most other hardships we have been able to overcome them. We find milk a big problem.

Shopping is very difficult for folks these days. Very worrying but if it is to bring us Peace as we all are praying for, we must not grumble but carry on.

How thankful we shall be when this awful Black Out is no more. I hate these dark nights -- all it seems is go to work & then come home & shut yourself in till you go back to work again in the morning.

14 March 1943 Florrie

These days are dark & dreary. So many sad & awful things are always happening. It is all very sad & sometimes we wonder how long it will be before Peace is established in our World again. I know we have much to be grateful of when we consider what some folk are going through.

We have been on rations now for some time but still we manage to get enough although it is very difficult to shop these days. It takes so long to wait to get things.

We don't go out in the evenings because of the Black Out.

Pleased with your photo. You look much like my sister Kate. She has been ill. She lives about 10 miles from us - has a very nice house & garden.

Our home is different - mostly ruins around us.

Will's son that was in that place has been transferred to Canada. We had been looking forward to meeting some of our American Cousins but trust they will all be kept safe in Africa. Kate's daughter's husband is in E. Africa. Edie's daughter's husband is somewhere else. How lovely it will be for all when loved ones are all at home again.

May 1943 – war ends in N. Africa.

2 July 1943 Florrie

I was pleased to hear from you, although I thought probably you had written & it had gone down.

I am more than thankful to say I am my old self again.

How lovely it will be when all the Boys can return to their own homes again & we can be at Peace with all.

We have been living more quieter of late -- thank goodness. I think we fare very well under the rationing scheme.

22 January 1944 Florrie

I was very pleased to receive your Xmas card, letter, photos & gift. I also received card & gift from Richard. To think that someone all those miles away & whom we have never seen has such kind thoughts for us.

My word this War seems to hang on although I suppose

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LETTERS FROM BRITISH COUSINS – A VIEW OF WW II ERA HISTORY

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we should be grateful for so many victories. We must continue to pray for Peace to end all the terrible sufferings.

We have a lot of your boys over here & it would have been very nice to have some of our Cousins over here.

Edie's daughter's husband was wounded in Africa & came home last year. Kate's daughter's husband is in E. Africa & is hoping to get home in February.

You, like us, manage on our rations although we have a little grumble now & again.

20 June 1944 Florrie

It seems so strange I haven't received a letter from you.

I have some sad news for you. My brother lost his wife last April with cancer. He has been very unlucky of late - he was bombed out & lost everything & now for his wife to pass away.

We had some lovely prayers in Church for all our boys & to keep them true & brave to the end. How lovely it will be again when Peace comes to all.

6 June 1944 – D-Day invasion of Normandy, France.

6 November 1944 Florrie

Dear Cousin Richard,

I was indeed pleased to receive your letter & snapshot (of your mother & her granddaughter).

I was sorry to hear your Mother was in poor health & in the hospital. As it is some long time since your letter we do trust she is fully recovered.

This wretched War still goes on. I do think we are all very weary of this awful strain. It is bad for our boys & yours - all passing through such

terrible times. We too seem to be very much in the front line with what we have to go through, but still I must not dwell too gloomily - surely the end must be in sight.

June & Sep, 1944 – V-1 & V-2 rocket attacks on London, last ditch effort.



Cousin Florrie and daughter Ada

30 November 1944 Florrie

Dear Richard,

I need not tell you what a shock it was when I received your Air Mail. I never thought your Mother was so ill when you wrote previous. I need hardly say how sorry we all feel for you in your sad loss. Please convey to your Father & the family our Deepest feelings.

I never thought when she wrote me last that it would be her last written message to me.

She was indeed a good Mother. Although we have never met, I felt through our letter writing that we were quite near to one another.

Will conclude now once again sending our love & sympathy.

My mother, Emma Charlotte Buck Ebach, died 16 Sep. 1944.

14 June 1945 Florrie

Dear Cousin Richard,

I trust this will find you well also the other members of your family.

Such a lot of things have happened since then, it is lovely to think we are Peace once more. We only hope that the War with Japan will soon come to a speedy end.

I am hoping to go for my Holiday with a sister next week, we all feel after the terrible strain of War we can do with some.

12 April 1945 – FDR dies.

7 May 1945 – Unconditional surrender by Germany.

2 December 1945 Florrie

Dear Richard,

It doesn't seem really that this will be our first Xmas with Peace, what a lot of us who have survived have to be thankful for. At times I think we are apt to forget & complain.

It really is good to live without so much danger & terrible things happening.

Times are not much improved regarding food, etc., but suppose in time things will get better. We are going to get extra rations for Xmas so that will help a bit.

My sister is busy preparing a Xmas Pudding with what fruit she has managed to get.

I hope you will have a happy Xmas. I realize home is not the same without your Mother.

6 Aug 1945 – U.S. drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan.

14 Aug 1945 – unconditional surrender by Japan

5 May 1946 Florrie

Dear Richard,

Hope you and the family are well. Thank you for the Xmas wishes and gift.

Am afraid most of our folk are still very War weary.

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LETTERS FROM BRITISH COUSINS – A VIEW OF WW II ERA HISTORY

(continued from previous page)

There seems so much still to put up with, what with rations & one thing or another.

We had a sad Easter as my Sister, who we stayed with in the country, passed away. She was so kind to us when we were bombed out.

There has been a lot of talk about our girls coming out to your country as Brides.

We are still very short of things in England - our shops are empty. But I guess we have much to be thankful for when we think of some lands. Sometimes I think we expect things to get righted too quickly. It has been such an upheaval, no doubt it will be years for we see improvements.

My father, Nicholas J. Ebach, died 24 Aug. 1946.

1 December 1948 Florrie
Dear Cousin Richard,

As Xmas approaches I feel I must send a few lines to you. I trust all has been well with you & your brothers.

If you are still caring for yourselves I am sure you are quite experts at it now, but still miss your dear Mother very much.

Times are still difficult but guess we have a lot to be thankful for. At the moment we are experiencing some very foggy weather. It is very unpleasant to travel & causes many accidents.

16 October 1952 Florrie
My Dear Cousins,

I was glad to hear you were getting your house in order again & trust by now things are more easy for you.

As you say, so many things we had prayed for during the War have not come up to our expectations since the

Peace. People still seem so very selfish & greedy & don't seem to eager to work too hard. So life isn't so very pleasant for those that try hard. Goods keep so expensive it's a job to make ends meet for everyone.

We are very happy together here. My Sister and Brother we live together & share & so make life as best we can.

We have a lot of your folk in England & guess we shall have crowds more for the "Coronation".

You must still miss your Mother -- am sure when we have had good Parents they are always a real loss.

Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2 June 1953.

The above excerpts from letters written from London, England contain not only world history but also a great deal of family history. October 22, 1952 was the last letter received (or last letter discovered) from my mother's cousins in London. Obviously these cousins have passed away, but their children, or their children's children may still be alive. For the past 15 months we have been trying to locate a living descendent, with no success. We are convinced it is easier to get family history about dead relatives than it is about living relatives. This September, we will be visiting London, and also attending an Elderhostel program called "Researching Your British Ancestors". With a lot of luck we may be able to locate a living relative. In any event, we are optimistic.

Midland Family History Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

The **Family History Center** is located in the **LDS Church**, located at the corner of Sugnet and Eastman Roads. **Open hours** are as follows:

Wednesday & Thursday	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	

The **Midland FHC** has vital statistics on all **Michigan counties** except Wayne County. They have many worthwhile **data bases** available with a **volunteer** staff willing to assist researchers. We should all make more use of this wonderful research facility.

IMPORTANT WEB ADDRESSES

MGS WEB SITE

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mimgs/>

MIDLAND COUNTY GenWeb SITE

<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/mi/county/midland/>

MICHIGAN GenWeb SITE

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~migenweb/>

LDS Church Family History WEB SITE

<http://www.familysearch.org>

MAY 21, 2003 - MGS ANNUAL MEETING

The **Annual Meeting** of the **Midland Genealogical Society** was held on May 21 in the Lounge of the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library.

Kathy Bohl, delegate to the **MGC**, reported recent activities of the MGC. Senate Bill 0059, introduced by Senator George, will create an heirloom V.R. certificate program allowing people to obtain a certificate suitable for framing from the Michigan Department of Community Health. This bill may be of significant interest to genealogists. The MGC is co-sponsoring a free **Genealogy Seminar** on Saturday, October 18, 2003 at the Library of Michigan in Lansing.

Mary and Sheldon Levy, Membership Co-Chairs, showed a prototype of a **MGS lapel pin**

Dave Russell, Treasurer, presented a proposed **Budget for 2003-2004**. The budget was **approved** as presented. (see page 5 of this issue for a copy of the Budget)

Bob Mass, President, has been working on the **OBIT** Project. He indicated that several volunteers have been typing data into the computer. He requested a need for interested volunteers to proof read material that has been completed.

Ralph Hillman, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that filling a complete slate of candidates for the annual election of officers posed a challenging question this year. He posed the **question**: "Do our current Bylaws provide for a situation where more than one person fills an office?" In order to present a full slate of candidates for election to MGS offices, the committee presented a slate with two members as candidates willing to share the offices as Co-President and Co-Secretary. **Ralph**, therefore, **proposed an amendment** to the Bylaws to allow for the election of more than one person to fill a specific office. The proposed amendment is to **ARTICLE IV**, end of first paragraph, which will state, "**One or more persons may be elected to the office of President, Program Chair, Membership Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and /or Historian provided the specific duties of each of the co-officers as defined in ARTICLE V are agreed upon and placed in the minutes of the first board meeting following their election.**"

Editors' note: The above amendment to the Bylaws (page 3 of this issue) will be presented during the business portion of the September 17, 2003 MGS meeting.

The following slate of officers was proposed and elected:

Co-Presidents	Fran Longsdorf and Jo Brines
Program Chair	Nancy Lackie (Committee: Floyd Andrick, Walter Bennett Jr., Terry McKane and Joan Somerville)
Co-Secretaries	Janet Crozier and Gloria Kunderling
Treasurer	Ron Snyder
Membership Chair	Loretta Waters
Historian	Gale Hock
Delegates to MGC	Kathy Bohl and Colleen Bennett

Mary Branson, Program Committee Chair, introduced the speaker, **Tom Mudd**, a Saginaw Historical Preservationist. Tom is the son of the late Dr. Richard Mudd and a great-grandson of Dr. Samuel Mudd.

Tom's father devoted his life to researching the history of the Mudd family, as well as attempting to clear the name of his grandfather, Dr. Samuel Mudd. He "put together a massive book about the history of the Mudd family" that was more than 1000 pages in the early 1930's-1940's.

Tom, however, chose to focus his efforts on the **preservation** of the oldest **house** in both **Saginaw City** and **County**. The house was built in **1844**. Only three families have lived in the home. The first owner was Benjamin **Cushway**, a Frenchman, who was appointed community blacksmith by Gov. Lewis Cass in 1834. Benjamin served as blacksmith to the Chippewa Indians as well as to the settlers. He lived in the house until 1866. The second family to live in the house was the Jacob **Voigt** family. Jacob was born in British India. He started a water and feed business on Niagara Street. About 1920 the house was sold to an Italian family named **Nacarato**.

Tom was instrumental in forming the **Saginaw County Historic Foundation**. With funds from this foundation plus grants from several **Midland Foundations**, the Saginaw County Historic Foundation purchased the house for the purpose of restoring and preserving the house for future generations to see, to enjoy, and to learn about the history of their community. The original location of the house was on S. Fayette Street. In 2001, it was moved to Rust Park near the Anderson Water Park in Saginaw. The original architecture of the home was referred to as Greek Revival. Much of the restoration of the house has now been completed through the efforts of Tom and other members of the community. It is now open to the public, during specified times.

MGS PROGRAMS FOR 2002-2003

Meetings will be scheduled at 7:00 PM on the third Wednesday of the month in the Lounge of the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library. Programs for the fall will be as follows:

Sept. 17, 2003 -

Walter Bennett Jr., MGS member, will speak on "Computer Programs Useful in Genealogical Research".

Oct 15, 2003 -

Wilma Diesen, MGS member, will speak on "The Circumstances of Pomp".

Nov. 19, 2003 -

Gary Skory, MCHS Director, will lead a tour of the "New Midland Historical Museum". The meeting will be held at the Midland Historical Complex.

No MGS Meeting in December

Jan. 21, 2004 -

"American Indian Genealogical Research" by TBA.

Feb. 18, 2004

Quita Shier, MGS member will speak on "Warriors for the Union".

March 17, 2004 - Floyd Andrick, MGS member, will speak on "How to Conduct Oral Family Histories".

April 21, 2004 - John Castle, Lansing, will speak on "Using Township Records"

May 21, 2003 -TBA

Refreshments & conversation will follow the program at all meetings

UPCOMING SEMINARS

Michigan Genealogical Council 2003 ABRAMS Genealogical Series

The MGC has sponsored a series of 6 Saturday workshops, each with a special subject, that focus on genealogical resources available at the Library of Michigan in Lansing. The first four meetings have been held and two remain.

October 4 Genealogy and the Internet
December 6 Polish Genealogy

Cost is \$10 per workshop. The 90-minute sessions begin at 9:15 am. For more details go to www.rootsweb.com/~mimgc~

Conferences, Workshops & Seminars

September 27, 2003 Grand Traverse Area
Genealogical Society Fall Seminar
Henry Z. Jones - Traverse City, MI

October 18, 2003 MGC FREE Family History Month
Seminar Library of Michigan, Lansing, MI
12 Sessions: 4 @ 9:30-10:30; 4 @ 11:00-12:00;
4 @ 2:30-3:30

Lunch with Speaker - "Clinton's Ditch: From
New England to Michigan on the Erie Canal"
Tours of Library & State Archives
FREE - but \$4.00 for packet and \$6.00 for LUNCH

Information & Form included with *Pioneer Record*

November 8, 2003 Western Wayne County
Genealogical Society Fall Seminar - George
Schweitzer, speaker
Livonia Senior Center, Livonia, MI
Contact: <Delpearl@aol.com>

BOOKS FOR SALE

The following books, published by the Midland Genealogical Society, are available for sale at any MGS meeting, at the Midland Genealogy Room, Grace A. Dow Public Library or by mail. Price of each book is \$20.00 plus \$3.00 for postage and handling.

MIDLAND COUNTY OBITUARY INDEX (#1) - 1872-1927. The book consists of 16,000 abstractions covering 55 years from the Midland Times (1872-1875), the Midland Sun (1892-1924) and the Midland Republican (1881-1927). The soft bound 238 page book is 8 1/2 by 11 inches. (50 copies remaining)

MIDLAND COUNTY OBITUARY INDEX (#2) - 1928-1950. The book consists of 16,000 abstractions covering 22 years from the Midland Republican (1928-1937) and the Midland Daily News (1937-1950). The soft bound 238 page book is 8 1/2 by 11 inches. Note: Both Obituary Books (#1 & #2) are available in as a package for \$35.00. (90 copies remaining)

MIDLAND PIONEERS, edited by Ora Flaningam. This book is a compilation of the most interesting genealogical, historical and humorous reprints from newspapers published in the Pioneer Record. The book is 6 by 9 inches, soft bound, 259 pages. (0 copies remaining, but orders being compiled at Genealogy desk)

To ORDER A BOOK write: Midland Genealogical Society BOOK; Grace A. Dow Memorial Library;
1710 W. St. Andrews Dr.; Midland, MI 48640



MGS OFFICERS 2002-2003

Co-Presidents Fran Longsdorf832-2838
pstrlongsdor@chartermi.net
 Jo Brines832-8312
 Program Chair Nancy Lackie687-5327
lacnan58@aol.com
 Membership Chair Loretta Waters832-1611
Ljh2o@chartermi.net
 Co-Secretaries Janet Crozier631-9653
jwcrozier@juno.com
 Gloria Kunderinger631-0969
gjkundin@yahoo.com
 Treasurer Ron Snyder631-0765
resnyder@chartermi.net
 MGC Reps Kathy Bohl839-9016
kbohl30265@aol.com
 Colleen Bennett832-8644
bennett_wl@juno.com
 Historian Gale Hock689-3703
hucksters@aol.com
 Hospitality Co-Chair Marcia Brandle .832-9430
mkbrandle1@chartermi.net
 Jane Doe 631-xxxx
jdoe@xxxxx.com
 PR Editor.....Faye & Earl Ebach...835-7518
faeae@chartermi.net

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INFORMATION ABOUT MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The **MGS** meets on the **3rd Wednesday** of Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr. & May at **7:00 P.M.** in the lounge of the **Grace A. Dow Memorial Library**, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640. Visitors are always welcome. Watch the **Midland Daily News** or local **Midland MCTV, Channel 5** for upcoming speakers, dates and times.

Membership dues are \$14.00 for single and \$17.50 for a couple and can be paid after July 1, but must be paid by Nov. 25, to continue receiving the **Pioneer Record**. Dues may be paid at any **MGS** meeting or may be sent to the Membership Chair, Midland Genealogical Society at the **MGS Room, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library**, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640.