

PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

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Midland Genealogical Society Programs for 2005 - 2006

Meetings are scheduled on the third Wednesday of the month as usual but we will be at three locations and times.

Programs for the meetings are as follows.

November 16 Researching Scottish Records By Richard Michael Doherty of Troy Michigan

January 18 Researching Ontario Canadian Records by Earl Ebach

Tentative For Feb or Mar or Apr Beyond the Obituary By Bobbi Schirado

May 17 Annual Meeting

Salt in the Saginaw Valley

- When one thinks of the history of
 the Saginaw Valley, the lumber
 industry quickly comes to mind.
 However timber wasn't the only
 natural resource harvested in
 this area. While seemingly unknown to most, salt was also
 plentiful here and very much
 connected to the lumber indus-
 - The salt springs in the Michigan Territory were first discovered by wild animals and were used as salt licks. The Indians also used the springs as a source of salt-sometimes bartering it as a trade item with other tribes. When white settlers began to arrive, they formed some of their earliest settlements near salt springs in the southeastern part of the state. They needed salt for preserving food, curing meat, and tanning hides.

The majority of early settlers relied on salt shipped from New York. Since salt was an important state resource, an article to the state constitution provided a section of land including each salt spring be granted to the state for use as the legislature saw fit. When Michigan was granted statehood in 1837, congress gave it the right to choose 72 sections as state salt lands.

A state geological survey was organized by the legislature at its first meeting. Dr. Douglas Houghton, the first state geologist, examined the salt springs and reported on the 72 sections

he selected. A year later, funds were authorized to improve the state salt springs. The drilling of wells began, but later they were abandoned. Salt lands were then leased to individuals on a royalty basis, which proved unsuccessful.

In Midland County, a well was drilled by the state in June 1838 to produce salt. It was situated near the Salt River a half-mile below the mouth on the bank of the Tittabawassee When a boulder was River. struck at 139 feet, the well was abandoned because it prevented deeper drilling. Another well was begun in July of 1838 near the Grand River in Grand Rapids. This well reached 661 feet and produced salt in the 1840s before being abandoned.

To encourage the manufacture of salt, the state legislature passed The Salt Bounty Act in 1859 exempting all producing salt properties from state taxes. The act also provided a ten-cent per bushel bounty on all salt when 5,000 bushels were produced. The bounty revived the salt industry.

The natural brine salt industry in the Saginaw Valley was closely tied to the lumber mills. The first commercial producer of salt in the state, The East Saginaw Salt Manufacturing Company, used scrap wood from local sawmills to fuel its

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November 2005

Notes from the President

My, how time flies when we're having fun. Just got a notice from Walt that it's time for another issue of PIONEER RECORD.

How goes your research? Ours has slowed to a near stop. We have so many dead ends, we feel like we're in a genealogical maze with no exits. One thing that keeps me hunting though, is the communication I receive from folks who have found my online queries. I have postings in message boards at Ancestry.com and Rootsweb.com for nearly all our surnames, and even a few geographical areas where we have lots of connections. Those queries generate three or four responses a month from folks who are usually just seeking information, but who occasionally provide me with tidbits to further my own research.

An example: Sharon, from Bellingham, WA wrote to me a couple of weeks ago looking for information on her husband's RARICK family. She gave me some basic information and then I began checking some things out. I have a mountain of corollary data on that family, and I have several folks in my mailing list who are detailed researchers. Between what I had, what I found in the on-line resources, and what my other correspondents provided, we were able to move Sharon's line back three more generations.

I love working on new lines. That's one reason I enjoy working in the genie room at Dow Library. There've been several times when patrons have come in looking for a start on their family histories. It's usually fairly easy research, and we often move three or four generations very quickly. They're delighted with the progress, I've had some fun working on something that actually made progress, and it keeps my research skills honed for the serious stuff I'm doing on my dead ends.

As I was looking for information for Sharon, I was taken back to the 1860 US Census for Yates Co., NY, where my RARICK line starts, and where my dead end, William D. Rarick, lived. I just plugged in RARICK in Yates Co., to see what I'd find. I'd found William D. there before and had him properly logged in my database, but I'd never noticed that he's living next door to a family in which Gerit Rarick is living. That's the closest I've ever come to a potential link between William D. and the host of other Raricks living in Yates in the 19th century.

I've done a lot of that lately... taking a new look at old notes from genealogy trips, and finding all sorts of stuff that I'd either overlooked or forgotten. Maybe your dead-end is hiding in the stuff you have already collected. One never knows...

Yours for creative research. *Bob Snyder, president*

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2005-2006

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.



Mom, how come our names aren't on the screen?

From The Editor . . .

I have been reading quite a bit lately on the genealogical DNA projects. These are projects in which you volunteer to contribute a DNA sample gathered from a swab kit that they will send you for swabbing your mouth. The information is then posted in databases on the internet. The purpose is for tracking migration of various families throughout the world.

These databases are also being used for other purposes. Law enforcement are using these web sites to determine surnames from DNA samples gathered at a crime scene.

A 15 year old boy recently used the project to locate his biological father who was a sperm donor. This news may be unsettling for men who donated prior to the DNA science becoming fully appreciated.

FamilytreeDNA.com is running 2400 projects to trace particular surnames and has a database of more than 50,000 DNA signatures.

I would be interested in hearing if any of you have contributed to the DNA projects. I would like to know your experiences, what was requested of you, and what knowledge you gained from this, I would like to do a report on the various projects for an upcoming newsletter. All information contributed would remain anonymous,

Walt Bennett

Editor

kettle evaporating process. When technological improvements replaced that process with a grainer (or shallow tank) and open pan processes, sawmill scrap was burned to make steam for the sawmill. The salt companies operated the grainer by using exhaust steam from the mill. A salt factory using an evaporation process was known as a "salt block."

In 1860, The Bay City Salt Manufacturing Company drilled a brine well in Bay County. The Portsmouth Salt Manufacturing Company started production the following year. Shortly the salt industry spread throughout the area. There were 23 companies operating in the Saginaw Valley by 1862. The salt industry grew into neighboring counties of Huron, Gratiot, Isabella, and others. Michigan was rated number one in the U.S. in salt production from 1880 until Presently Michigan 1892. ranks fourth in the U.S. with Wayne County having the state's largest mining operation.

As lumber mills moved northward, the salt blocks in this area were closed since they depended on the mills for their fuel. Some also moved north. In 1872, a salt block was opened in East Tawas. Several more were constructed in Tawas City, Oscoda, and AuSable. They all had a short lifespan and died out before the turn of the century.

In 1890, an extraction process for producing chemicals from brine was developed by a young chemist, Herbert Henry Dow. Drilled in the 1870s, an old salt well in Midland was reactivated by Dow. He proved that his new process worked. After several years, he organized the Dow Chemical Company and produced bleach from the extracted chlorine. A vast array of other products followed making Midland the site of the huge Dow chemical complex.

The lumbering era may be gone from the Saginaw Valley; but in another form, the salt industry survived. Uncoupled from its dependence on the lumber mills,

it has evolved from the production of common salt into a chemical industry known world wide for its many products.

Sources

Middlewood, Esther A., "Salt," *Michigan History Magazine*, Vol. 65, 1981.

DEQ, "Salt: a Michigan Resource," www.deq.state.mi.us/documentsdeq-glm-rim-geology_salt_Brochure.pdf.

Library Users

If you are in the library or using the computer, please come into the gene room and sign-in. We do keep a count of people using the genealogical resources and this would add to the room usage.



BOOKS FOR SALE

The following books, published by the Midland Genealogical Society, are available for sale at any 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 11 inches.

Midland County Obituary Index (#2) - 1928-1950. The book consists of about 8,000 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 ½ by 11 inches. Note: Both Obituary Books (#1 & #2) are available as a package of \$35.00.

Midland County Obituary Index (#3)-1951-1982 This book consists of 30,900 entries including about 4000 maiden names covering 22 years extracted from Midland Daily News. The 387 page, 8½ by 11, soft bound book consists of two volumes A through L and M through Z. The set costs \$40 plus \$5 postage and handling.

Midland Pioneers, edited by Ora Flaningham. 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. (Out of print, 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.

Reference Sources for National Biography

By Sherry Irvine

Biography is a significant part of what family historians do; research leads to gathering and writing details of the lives of ancestors. The close connection came to mind recently when dipping into my copy of a single-volume concise biographical dictionary.

I have always checked regularly for biographical sketches; in fact, I mark my start in family research with my first look into one of these dictionaries. My grandmother told fascinating stories of Cornish pirates, an elopement, and the unwanted stepsons sent to Canada. I took it all in, and about age twelve or thirteen my interest turned into action. Among my early finds in a library was an article about someone of the right surname in the Dictionary of National Biography (DNB). I carefully copied it out and sent it to my grandmother; I still have the letter and her encouraging reply written on the back.

About the DNB

The DNB first appeared as sixtythree volumes, published in the U.K. by Smith, Elder between 1885 and 1900. A three-volume supplement appeared in 1901-02 and all these volumes later appeared as a twenty-two-volume set---twenty-one volumes plus the supplement altogether in one. At this time the DNB included notable people who died up to 22 January 1901, the date of Queen Victoria's death, plus those who died in the intervening time to the supplement. Some entries omitted in the first edition were added. As the decades passed more supplements were published, covering the

lives of those dying in each ten-year period.

I like the DNB because so much is in it--not just lives of those in the British Isles. It recounts the lives of individuals through all of British history, wherever they were, at home and abroad.

The publisher, Oxford University Press as of 1917, issued a concise version and several years ago an edition on CD-ROM. Most recently the new edition of the DNB has been made available online. If you live near a reference or academic library this remarkable digital version of the DNB may be accessible. Another online option is within the British resources at Ancestry.com. The Ancestry version of the DNB contains the page images of the first twenty volumes and the supplementary volume twenty-two; the missing volume is for the last part of the alphabet, from the middle of surnames beginning with W.

Searching is flexible, by name, keyword, or by browsing selected sections. When you perform a name search read the list of results carefully, and if there are entries in the normal alphabetical sequence as well as in volume number twentytwo, be sure to look at both; they describe different people. Entries are informative, usually containing details about parents, spouse and children, education and occupation; some include opinion and commentary. Length varies from several lines to many pages.

DNB New Zealand

New Zealand has placed its Dictionary of New Zealand Biography online; some of the entries also appear in the Maori language. Each day the home page features a link to someone born on that day, a good way to randomly focus, eventually, on everyone in the dictionary.

The search tool for the DNZB is excellent allowing name searches. browsing and keyword searches. I input Canada and discovered about 5 percent of the 3000 entries have a reference. This site also includes material adapted from the "New Zealand Historical Atlas" (1997) in a section of the site called 'Our Land Our People.' There are snapshots of places, times and events presented in three themes and linked to the biographies. Finally this website allows you to save your findings, and for those who use information found in the DNZB there is correct source citation information at the bottom of each entry. Take a look; it is easy to navigate, interesting, and perhaps a lead to connections in a beautiful corner of the world.

Dictionary of Canadian Biography

The Canadian site offers nearly 8,000 biographical essays about people who died between 1000 and 1930. The biographies first appeared in book form, with the initial volume published in 1966. The free, online version is integrated into the website of Library and Archives Canada. There is a version in French.

The basic search tool presents a single field to input a name or other word(s) and the alphabet to initiate a browse; advanced search can also be selected. In this option the selection of details such as year of death, male of female, and occupation, progressively reduce the number of matching items. Playing about with the decade 1890 to 1910, I discovered the entries are made up of many times as many men than women, and lots of politicians, businessmen and lawyers. No surprise in that; even so, there

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is a real cross section of people and backgrounds. Mimicking what I tried at the DNZB site, I looked for New Zealand across the entire database and got fifty results.

Who. What and Whv Collections of national biography should be among standard genealogical reference checks. The people described are from all walks of life, originated in many places and worked or migrated to many others. Your Canadian family may have a New Zealand branch; or the British DNB could profile a connection of your Colonial ancestors. Facts are frequently detailed, providing vital information genealogical clues. Useful background emerges from biographical essays as well. Someone said history is made up of biography and, for genealogists, it certainly is. The lives of those around our ancestors are relevant, and often significant, as we research our family background.

Conclusion

This is only part of what is online in terms of biography, and only part of what is on the shelves of a reference library. Look up your names, search for connections based on time, place and what the history books tell you. There is an excellent chance that somebody worthy of a few lines in a mammoth collection of biographical sketches is part of your family's past.

Source: Ancestry Daily News, September 27, 2005

Due to wear and tear on the Midland County microfilm roll for the 1855-1894 marriage record, 1877-1894 supervisor record, the 1868-1927 marriage record index, the film has been replaced.

Recent Additions to the Gene Room

Mayflower Families Volume 22 Wm. Bradford

Dating Old Photographs 1840-

More Dating Old Photographs 1840-1929

Chamberlin—The Chamberlin Family. Associated Families— Parker—Barnes—Winslow— Pangborn-Marcy-Wiltse

Clinton County Michigan Indigents Soldiers

Gratiot County, Michigan Indigents Soldiers

CD-ROM

Massachusetts Marriage Index

Probate Records: Middlesex & Essex Co.

Probate, Town & Vital Records

Vital Records 1600-1800

Inhabitants & Estates of the Town of Boston 1630-1800 and the Crooked and Narrow Streets of Boston 1630-1822

Records of the Churches of Bos-

Genealogies of the Families of Braintree 1640-1850

Bible Records from the Manuscript Collections of the NEGS

Vital Records of Springfield to 1850

Genealogies & Families of the Early Settlers of Watertown

Plymouth Church Records 1620-1859

Plymouth Co. Court Records

Upcoming Events

On February 18, 2006, the Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan is hosting their tenth anniversary seminar. The guest speaker will be Nora M., Hickey of County Cork, Ireland. For details, contact Sue Cromwell at 248-477-5846.



Web Sites of Interest

Keep up with Genealogy with a Blog

Reading GenealogyBlog is a fun and easy way to stay current with day-today events in the genealogical community. It's a bit like having subscriptions to dozens of newspapers, periodicals, and other publications with

each genealogy article marked and ready for your enjoyment whenever you're ready to take abreak. You'll find today's entries located at www. genealogyblog. corn.

Gathering of the Clans—Devoted to all things Scottish www.tartans.com/

Family Tree Magazine has published a list of genealogy sites for Kids. You can access this list at www.familytreemagazine.com/ articles/oct01/kidssites.html

Cinnamon Toast Genealogy offers many links to genealogical databases and web sites.

www.mycinnamontoast.com/Page 5

Top 12 Tips for Genealogical Research Success

George G. Morgan

Whenever I deliver genealogy seminars, I'm often asked, "What are the key ways I can be more successful in my research?" That question is nearly impossible to answer.

It depends on so many factors: where you are researching, at what period in time, which records you're seeking, what you're trying to prove/disprove, and others.

There are some strategies and methodologies that we can all apply. Some of these may seem like common sense, but I often find I have to stop and remind myself to

examine all the angles. I need to slow down and remember the essentials of research.

- 1. Research the entire family unit, not just your direct ancestor, to gain an understanding of family dynamics and each member's personality. The fact that a child is born in a certain sequence in the family influences his or her development and familial relationships.
- 2. Place your ancestors into context by learning about the history, geography, and social conditions of the places and times in which they lived. If you don't understand the place and times, the historical and social forces, and the influences of other people and events,

you won't really "know" your ancestor or family member.

3. Understand what records might have been created for and about your ancestors (and which types were not) and trace the current location of those records. History, again, plays an important factor. Consider the government in power at the time, the types of records it

caused to be created and why, and what may have happened to those records. Use historical maps so that you're looking in the right place at the right time

- 4. Take advantage of libraries and archives by mastering the use of their online catalogs and understanding the classification systems and organization of their collections. If you don't know how to immediately locate materials in these facilities, you can waste research time.
- 5. Continually expand and hone your Internet skills in the use of search engines, databases, directories, metasearch engines, message boards, email, mailing lists, people finders, and other tools. Seek out classes at colleges, universities, libraries, genealogical society computer groups, and at online venues such as the Genealogy Training Workshops at MyFamily.com.
- 6. Use all the resources available to you--books, magazines and journals, newspapers, microfilm.

electronic databases, and the Internet--and integrate their use to obtain complementary information. Use the resources you have in tandem to prove and refute information.

- 7. Develop and employ your critical thinking skills to evaluate every piece of evidence you find. Consider each fact for accuracy, credibility, authority of the source, primary vs. secondary source, original vs. derivative source, currency, and bias.
- 8. Learn to locate and use alternative or substitute records when the ones you want can't be located. When you hit a

brick wall, don't just collapse and cry that you've reached a dead end. Look for other available records and evidence that include the same or similar information. Sidestep to a sibling or other family member and research that person; move up another generation from them, for instance, and then connect

your way downward to the person with whom you are stalled.

- 9. Document every piece of information you find using complete and accurate written source citations. You will come back to these sources over and over again. They are every bit as important as the data that they document. Just like you see on Antiques Roadshow, source citations are the provenance of your data.
- 10. Use the facts you have compiled to develop a timeline of data and life events for your key ancestors or those for which elude you. Learn to read your ancestor's life chronologically like a biography to better understand him or her.
- 11. Prepare in advance for every genealogical research trip. Define who and what you want to research, where the materials you want are located, and set up appointments to meet with people who may be able to assist you.
- 12. Periodically re-read all of the materials you have compiled for an individual in chronological sequence. Each time you do so, you will view the person's life story more clearly. If you focus on these essential tips for your research guidance, your success rate will improve. And the better you understand your ancestors, you'll be amazed at how many of your brick walls crumble away.

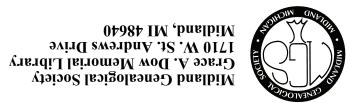
Source: Gems of Genealogy/ Bay Area Genealogical Society Oct/Dec 2005

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| N 0002-0002 | STREET ADDRESS | ACCOUNT OF SCHILL DI. | 980 E Noves Dr | 4010 Woodlawn St | 1190 W Stewart Rd | 3273 Patterson Rd | . ! | 1710 W St. Andrews Rd. | 32280 Avondale St. | 1098 W. Brooks Rd. | 8100 Jefferson, Apt. 1418 | 4608 W. Wackerly St. | 1555 S. Sasse Rd. | 205 Morning Mdw. Way | 515 E. Ashman St. | 5003 Barto St. | 5701 Sturgeon Creek Parkway | 13341 N. Carefree Ct. | 4434 E. Wise Rd. | 5901 Sturgeon Ave. | 4300 Castle Dr. | 2101 Bayliss St., Apt #22 | 1734 S. Smith's Crossing Rd., Rt. 10 | 3811 Chestnut Hill Dr. | P.O. Box 383 | 5104 Nurmi Dr. | 1119 Jeffrey Drive | 606 Linwood | 2808 Scarborough Ln. | 1407 E. Sugnet Rd. | 30 Brown Ct. | 3282 Lakeside Dr. | 400 E. Main St. Apt. 323 | 201 Seminole Ct. | 4406 Orchard Dr. | 6500 Whittlesey Blvd., #1009 | 4610 Andre | 4501 Arbor Dr. | 1895 Mack Rd. | 3227 E. Stewart Rd. | 4915 Tucker St. Apt. 3 | 3706 Applewood Rd. |
| | FIRST NAME Gary & Donothy Allen | Carly & Coloury Allen | Floyd Margery S. | Doug & Appe | Doug & Anne Sidnev & Orene | l oie | Lois | Melissa | Thomas R. & Germaine | Patricia S. & Walton M. | Betty | Walter G. | Walter L. & Colleen M. | Marion | Elva | Roger & Kathy | Emmy | Thomas | Marcia | Mary | of O | Shirley | Mary J. | Richard F. "Dick" | Betty J. | Ruth Ann | Douglas Peter | Daniel E. & Mary M. | Roland E. & Colleen C. | Phyllis M. | Janet E. | Robert F. | Yancey J. "Jack" | Wilma | Bob | Douglas M. | Earl & Faye | Jacob & Mary | Mary Ellen | Ora | Barbara | Bruce "Bud" A. |
| | LAST NAME | | Andrick | Annlandth | Appliegam Babcock | Baker | Daker | Barnard | Barrett | Beasley | Bellows | Bennett | Bennett | Вету | Blymyer | Bohl | Bork | Bowen | Brandle | Branson | Brines | Brown | Bruce | Burow | Carr | Casadonte | Clason | Collins | Crane | Cronkright | Crozier | Dennett | Dickert | Diesen | Dostal | Dudewicz | Ebach | Eichhorn | Fike | Flaningam | Fox | Geisert |

Midland Genealogical Society

Gross Record



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Pioneer Record us published quarterly (Sep., Nov., Feb., & Apr.) by the Midland Genealogical Society. Queries are free to members and should be sent to: PIONEER RECORD, Midland Genealogical Society, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640. We welcome genealogical material which would be of interest to the general membership. Articles to be included in PR should be submitted to the above address by the 15th of August, October, January and March.

Information about Midland Genealogical Society

The MGS meets on the 3rd Wednesday of Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr. & May at 7:00 PM 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 Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640.