

# PIONEER RECORD

# Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

Volume 30 No. 2

www.rootsweb.com/~mimgs/

November 2009

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# Midland Genealogical Society Programs for 2009 - 2010

Meetings are scheduled on the third Wednesday of the month unless otherwise noted..

Programs for the meetings are as follows.

# November 18, 2009 meeting 7:00 Library Lounge

"The Lively Family Massacre in Indiana", video about an Indian attack on a family.

# January 20, 2010 meeting 7:00 Library Lounge

"Podcasting"

# February 17, 2010 meeting 7:00 Library Lounge TBD

March 17, 2010 meeting 7:00 Library TBD

# The Chronicles of America

By Gloria Kundinger

"What is black, white, and 'red' all over?" This was an old riddle from forty or fifty years ago. The answer, of course, is a newspaper. Newspapers have existed in the United States since the early 1700s. By the 1800s, it was not unusual to find a local weekly newspaper in many of the small towns that sprang up from the wilderness only five or ten years earlier. If the town grew to a large city, the newspaper usually evolved into a daily one. Sometimes the town may have grown large enough to have more than one paper in existence during the same time period.

Most genealogists would agree that a newspaper is a very valuable aid in their research. Newspapers give us a glimpse of past happenings in the lives of our ancestors. Like family stories, they put "flesh on the bones" of those long gone. Looking through microfilm of old newspapers is very time-consuming. Yet much family information can be found by searching old news.

If your ancestor was a prominent person in town or was involved in some other newsworthy event, a story about him or her might be found on the front page of the local town paper. In the late 1800s, the front page of small town papers listed city and township election winners, farmers who were granted their land patents, or citizenship, and men chosen for jury duty. News of less prominent citizens can be

found in the local area news. In the late 1800s the local news was usually listed in a column of one or two sentence paragraphs. It told of steamship arrivals, visitors in town, a birth or death, the price of a bushel of potatoes or wild blueberries being plentiful, and other interesting tidbits.

If your relative resided in a village or small town near a larger city you may find him mentioned in the paper of the larger city. It was common for the larger paper to print a column several times a month with the name of the village in its heading. There you may find news of births, visitors to area families, parties, showers, weddings and who may have attended from out-of-town, sons in the service, who was ill, and who "motored" to a larger city on business. These columns would appear in the larger paper several times a month in the mid 1900s or sporadically whenever the rural reporter sent in the news. Sometimes bad weather was a determining factor as to when the news arrived from an outlying area in the late 1800s or early 1900s.

In the mid to late 1900s the society page of a larger city paper gave much family information even if the family wasn't a

(Continued on page 4)

#### **The Presidents Letter**

For as long as I can recall we have had a loaded treasury. We recently tried to have a seminar but we were far from rich enough to sponsor a multi-day, full function, statewide affair. What else could we do? Collectively we need to come up with projects or purchases to aid genealogy in Midland County. The cemetery, obituary and current marriage project required extensive labor but the publishing of the resulting books covered their cost within a few years of the printing.

Projects to gather church records and township records have been suggested. Both would again be labor intensive, but not costly. Other societies and organizations are putting tombstone photos on the web; a good project, but still not money intensive.

A worthwhile small project that was discussed would be to reprint a few copies of our completed genealogy

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books on high quality paper and have them hard bound for our genealogy collection. Some of the current copies in use for these few years are already a bit shabby.

On a personal note: My brother and I are planning a trip to Germany and Poland in April/May. We will be visiting our ancestral homes Schleswig-Holstein (Kappeln area) and northwest Poznan (Posen). We will be making two small diversions to photograph churches, etc in a few towns for friends. I would consider other request if they were **GENE TOONS** close to our routes through Pommerania, eastern Brandenburg, West Prussia and Posen.

MGS President, Bob Mass

#### **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

Welcome to new-return member Fran Hartnagle. We are glad to have Fran back. We still have some members who have not paid their dues for 2009-2010. Please let me know if you do not plan to renew your membership. It will save me phone calls.

Remember to support the NARA project with your monthly donation to the NARA jar at the meetings.

Linda Fisher, Membership Chair

# by Wendell Washer



Fell off the family tree.

#### From The Editor . . .

Please note the list of new books added to our collection. Pease come to the library and view our latest. When visiting the gene room at the library, please remember to sign the register so that we can validate our existence there. It is a shame about the talks of closing libraries to make cuts on budgets. We still need our libraries. I do feel that libraries could be made selfsupportive or supplemented with tax dol-

I recently returned from a trip to Europe. This was quite an experience. It was my first time in the air. I enjoyed seeing how another part of the world lives. This trip was of a religious nature and not for genealogy.

Please note that many of our research facilities around the country now have reduced hours for our precious research time. Please remember to check their web page or call ahead to get their available times and days.

There is a new business in Niles, Michigan that sells genealogy products and services. Their website is www.mybiographystore.com.

Please note that the membership list was not included in this issue. It will be sent via email to all members with an email address. Others will be mailed. If you fail to receive yours, please let me know.

Walt Bennett Editor

#### **MEMBERSHIP DUES 2009-2010**

The collection of MGS membership dues for 2009-2010 has concluded. The MGS Treasurer and Membership chairs have been collecting dues since August 2009. If your dues are not paid this will be the last Pioneer Record you will receive. Dues may be paid by mail to: Linda Fisher, Midland Genealogical Society, 3772 N M-30, Sanford, MI 48657. Dues for an individual are \$14.00; for a family they are \$17.50.

# Changes at the LDS Family Research Center in Salt Lake City

"For those readers familiar with the Library, they have replaced their microfilm printers with a computer network based system that uses scanners. Images can now be saved directly to a flash drive or printed. Copying to a flash drive is free and printed copies of the documents cost only five cents (10 cents for 11x14 copies). Previously they cost 23 cents. A 2GB flash drive can be purchased at the Library for only \$9.00. The network system also supports printing from the Internet be it genealogically relevant material, e-mail boarding passes.

The Library subscribes to the library version of Ancestry.com, Footnote.com, Godfrey Library, FindMy-Past.com and other fee-for-service Internet sites. I took advantage of the Footnote.com site to copy naturalization records for a number of people in my family history. Rather than print them, I copied them to a flash drive (and backed up the data on the laptop I brought along). For someone who claims his "genealogy is done," I came home with 37 documents, mostly from Footnote.com."

By Gary Mokotoff, editor of the ezine "Nu? What's New?"

# **Library of Michigan Hours**

The **Library of Michigan** hours are 10 am to 5 pm Monday—Saturday. Web site at www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan. For information call 517-373-1580.

They are closed Nov 26-29, Dec 24-27 and Dec 31-Jan 3 for the holidays.

The **Michigan Archives** reference desk hours are 9am—1pm, Monday, Thursday, 1pm—5pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Their website is at www.michigan.gov/archivesofmi. For more information call 517-373-1408.

The **Michigan Historical Museum** hours are 9am– 4:30pm Monday—Friday, 10am-4pm Saturday and 1pm-5pm Sunday, Their website is at www.michigan.gov/museum. For more information call 517-373-3559.



# 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.)

A collection of "Some Midland Michigan County Records" have been compiled and extensively indexed by Ora L. Flaningam. It is available in PDF format on a compact disc from the Midland Genealogical Society. The collection is mainly out of print books from our society, Harold Moll, and Ora Flaningam. Included are: "Midland County Cemetery Records" 1981, "Midland County Michigan Census 1850-1894 (1983), "Midland County Michigan Obituary Index 1872-1927 (1994)", "Midland Pioneers", vol 1 (1999) & vol 2, "Midland County Michigan Probate Index 1850-1900", Early Saginaw Valley History", Bethany Indian Mission 1843-1855", Bethany Indian Mission 1851-1868", "In the Wilderness With the Red Indians", "Account Book of Charles H. Rodd", "Indian Build a Birch Bark Canoe", and Index to First Families of Midland County". The cost of this CD is \$25 shipping included in US.

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

prominent one in town. Family reunions listing those who attended, engagement announcements, wedding and baby shower articles, wedding write-ups, and club happenings are a few of the articles that may be found on that page. News of confirmations and graduations may also appear there or elsewhere in a larger city paper.

Sometimes the social happenings of neighboring small towns will also appear there. Unless you know approximately what month and year these events took place, they may be hard to locate. Sometimes these happenings are the "gems" discovered by accident while searching that paper for a totally different obituary or wedding.

The most sought-after genealogical article in a newspaper is an obituary. It may be only a few lines as in an early 1900s paper or a nice column depending upon family prominence. We all have learned the names of brothers, sisters, or other family members, possibly when and where the deceased was born, and their spouse's name from an obituary. How good rural reporters were in getting their news articles to the small town paper sometimes determined whether an obituary was published or not especially in the early 1900s.

Fairly recent newspapers are a good source of birth records. These can be hard to find, if you do not know what month and year the person was born. In the 50s, 60s, and 70s, most papers listed baby names usually within the first week of the following month. The list could be quickly checked to see who was born the previous month. If a name is found then

the papers from the previous month will yield the date. Usually the names appear in the listing with the first born for that month listed first and not alphabetically. So if a baby's name appears towards the end of the list, start searching the papers from the end of the month first.

Some papers now list the baby's name and birth all in one announcement making them harder to find if you do not know the month and year of birth. Other papers do not list recent births at all. Searching for births tends to be very time-consuming.



Another source of family news might be the "Looking Back in the Vicinity" column. This column contains small bits of news from five, ten, twenty-five, and fifty years ago. Again these are genealogical "gems" found more by accident while looking for something else. Once discovered, however, the actual, more-detailed event can be found in the original paper.

With its report of area ball teams from Little League to high school, the sports section is a very good place to look for hometown heroes. Many a relative has been involved in sports from deer hunting, fishing, to bowling and will be mentioned for a trophy buck or fish or for playing on a winning bowling team. Usually these articles include pictures.

Like people, newspapers will reminisce about the past year usually in the last paper printed for that year.

Here a listing, by month, of the year's events will be found along with the date it appeared in the paper. This listing was common in the 50s and 60s. A necrology could also be found during this time period. It is a list of obituaries by month that appeared in each paper. This list is rather helpful when searching for a relative who died before the mid 60s that is not listed in the Social Security Death Index.

Unfortunately many area newspapers are going the way of the horse and buggy. Considered a relic from the past by some people, they are being replaced by news on-line or headlines e-mailed to computer in-boxes instead of out-door mailboxes. It just isn't the same as reading the news with breakfast or out on the porch.

Some papers that haven't been phased out are now printing the paper only three days a week. Obituaries are printed but sometimes it is after the service. To be timely, they have to be gotten online or from the television news. With fear over birth announcements and identity theft and fewer daily papers in existence, it seems like the present age will no longer leave as much of a newspaper genealogical trail as they did in the past.

Since they reported the actual event when it happened, old newspapers are the records of an area's history. They give us a feel for what has past and a glimpse of the time-line in which our ancestors lived. Anyone who has hunted an old newspaper for an obituary to learned more about a little-known relative can appreciate the value of old newspapers. No longer black, white, and "read" all over; but gray, yellowed, and sometimes hard to read, they draw us into the life and times of our ancestors.

# The Life of a U-Boat Commander

It was suggested that I write an article on my recent trip to Europe. Although, my trip was not on a family tree nature, I did find some interesting information. My trip was to Medjugorje located in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Dubrovnik in Croatia. This area was once part of Yugoslavia until the end of the war in the 1990's when the country was divided. On the return flight, I was flying Croatian Airlines and I found an article of interest on a famous Croatian, whom many persons probably do not recognize as being from that country.

I'm sure that most of you are familiar with the 1965 movie, "The Sound of Music", in which Christopher Plummer played the part of Georg von Trapp, a retired naval officer of the imperial and royal monarchy of Austria. At that time, Croatia was under rule of Austria.

Georg Von Trapp was born in Zadar on April 4, 1880 and spent part of his childhood in Pula, where his father, August Ritter von Trapp was transferred. August was also a naval officer and died when Georg was four years old. At that time, Pula was the main Navy port of the Austrian-Hungarian monarchy.

Georg attended maritime high school and the Maritime academy in Rijeka and graduated in 1898 acquiring the title of cadet. His father, August, had also graduated from the same academy. Officers were taught good manners, dancing and how to play the violin. Rijeka was at the peak of its commercial and industrial glory at the time. About half of all the industries in Croatia were located in Rijeka. A sugar refinery was opened there in 1754 and had employed about 1000 people. In 1858, Rijeka had 12 shipyards, a large paper factory and the biggest tobacco factory in the monarchy.



Georg Von Trapp

A metal foundry was established there in 1853 and was known as the Rijeka Technical Company. An English engineer Robert Whitehead came from Trieste and had the technology for the construction of steam engines. This company was also the inventor of the world's first topedo and the company name was subsequently changed to Torpedofabrik White-

head and Co. Whitehead's son married Austrian countess Agatha Breunner and purchased an estate near Zell am See. His eldest daughter Agatha fell in love with Georg von Trapp at the launching of the submarine *U-6* which she had christened and Georg later became commander of. Agatha and Georg fell in love at first sight and they met again at the reception on the terrace of the Continental Hotel built in 1880 to dance their first dance

In 1908, Georg completed his studies and returned from his cross ocean voyage which included a trip to Australia. From 1910 to 1913, Georg was posted on the submarine U-6, testing its various qualities in battle as well as the operation of the torpedo. On January 10, 1911, he married Agatha and his first son Rupert, was born that same year. The family lived in Pula, where Georg was working on creating the imperial submarine fleet. In 1912, the family moved into the magnificent villa Casa Trapp which was commissioned for them, located near Veruda. The next two children, Rupert and little Agatha was born in 1911 and 1913 respectively. This is where they were living when the first world war broke out. Maria Francesca was born in September 1914.

The next tree children(Werner

(1915), Hedwig(1917) and Johanna(1919)) were born in Austria, at Agatha's grandmother's estate near Zell am See. This estate was too confining for Georg, so in 1921 he moved the family to Klosterneuberg, where Martina was born that same year. The children fell ill with scarlet fever which took the life of their mother on September 3, 1922. By the end of the First World War, the monarchy no longer existed which also was the end of the imperial navy. Georg took his family to the Salzburg suburbs of Aigen and dedicated his time to raising his children properly. The family started to play music together. Georg hired Maria Kutschera from the Nonnberg Abbey to tutor the children. The couple married on November 26th 1927. Georg and Maria had three children, Rosemarie, born 1929, Eleonore (1931) born in Salzburg and Johannes(1939)born in Philadelphia. There were 10 children in all

The world financial crisis cost them a large part of their assets. Georg's first wife had inherited her father's fortune and the money was in a bank in England. After the death of Agatha, Georg had the money transferred to an Austrian bank. The Austrian bank went broke, so the family started performing to earn money.

Georg refused to join the Nazi Navy three times and refused to sing at the Fuhrer's birthday party. The entire family fled on foot to Italy, not to Switzerland as the film depicted. Later on, the family went to America. In America they continued performing. They bought land in Stowe, Vermont which I believe is a ski chalet still owned by the Von Trapp family. Georg died there on May 30, 1947 of lung cancer which was common among submarine crew members due to toxic gasses emitted. He is buried on the family estate in Vermont.

His father, August Ritter von Trapp and his mother, Hedwig Wepler are buried at the Pula Maritime Cemetery. August died in 1884 of typhoid fever. Georg also had a brother, Werner von Trapp who died during World War I in 1915, and a sister, Austrian Artist Hede von Trapp.

In 1935, Georg wrote a book in Ger-



The real Von Trapp Family singers

man titled "Bis Zum Letzten Flaggenschuss." A granddaughter whom Georg had never met, Elizabeth, daughter of Eleonora, translated the book, now called "To the Last Salute, Memoirs of an Austrian U-Boat Commander."

August Trapp was a naval officer who had been elevated to the Austrian nobility in 1876 which entitled him and his descendants to the style of "*Ritter von*" in the case of male and "*von*" in the case of female offspring. This would be the same as the Queen of England knighting someone so they become "*Sir*".

Some things you might not know about Maria. Her mother died when she was 2 years old. Her father left her with a cousin to raise her so he could travel. Maria was raised without siblings or other children in the home and raised as a socialist and atheist. It wasn't until she met a priest that her life changed and she moved to the convent. The family claims that she was not sent to the Von Trapp house to be a governess but to take care of one of the daugh-

ters who was bedridden with rheumatic fever.

Sources:

Croatia Airlines in-flight magazine Autumn 2009.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Georg\_Ludwig\_von\_Trapp

http://www.trappfamily.com/story/maria.

# **Coming Events**

November 22. 2009 "Captain Ocskay, The Forgotten Hero" Holocaust Memorial Center, 28123 Orchard Lake Rd., Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334 11am-2pm. Sponsored by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Michigan. Captain Ocskay was reported to have saved 2,000 Jews in 1944/45. Members Free, Guests \$5. <a href="http://jesmi.org/">http://jesmi.org/</a>.

March 27, 2010 "Genealogical Society of Monroe County Seminar", Monroe County Community College, Building A., Monroe, Michigan. Paula Stewart Warren. <a href="http://gsmc-michigan.org/">http://gsmc-michigan.org/</a>.

August 18-21, 2010 "Rediscovering America's First Frontier", Federation of Genealogical Societies annual seminar. Co-hosted by Eastern Tennessee Historical Society and Kentucky Historical Society and will be held in Knoxville, Tennessee. For further inform a t i o n s e e www.fgs.org/2010conference/.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Jo Brines is looking for substitute volunteers for the genealogy room, maybe once or twice a month, primarily on Monday and Thursday 1– 4 PM. Nancy Lackee or Jo Brines can train or at least acquaint people with the room. Call her at 832-8312.

# **Another Library In Danger**

The Massachusetts Governor's office announced during an October 29 press conference that Governor Patrick is considering closing the state library of Massachusetts's to cut expenses. You can show your support for the library by signing the petition a t h t t p : // www.ipetitions.com/petition/ saveyourstatelibrary/. For those of you on facebook who would like to follow the developments of this, become a fan of "Save Your State Library!"

The state library has been open to the public since 1826. This library houses some wonderful collections as well at the Bradford manuscript "Of Plimoth Plantation".

# New Books in the Gene Room

"The great Migration – Immigrants to New England 1634-1635" volume 5, M-P

"Migration from the Russian Empire" – Lists of passengers arriving at U.S. Ports, edited by Ira Glazier, vol. 5 & 6, June 1889 – June 1891.

"In Search of Your German Roots" by Angus Baxter, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, updated, 2008.

"Early Ohio Settlers, Purchasers of Land in East and East Central Ohio" 1800-1840 compiled by Berry, 1989.

"The Supplement to Torrey's New England Marriages Prior to 1700" by Melinda Sanborn, 2003

"International Vital Records Handbook", 5<sup>th</sup> edition, 2009

"Iowa, Kansas, & Nebraska Civil War Veterans" – Compilation of Death Rolls by GAR, 1883-1948, by Dennis Northcott, 2007.

"Marriage Records of Ste. Anne Church, Detroit, 1701-1850"

"Marriage & Death Newspaper Notices of Wayne County 1809-1868".

"Elmwood Cemetery Register, Detroit," 1862-1874

"Genessee Co. Birth Records, published by the Fling Genealogical Society", 2004-2007, Vol. 4 1888-1894, Vol. 5 1895-1902, Vol. 6 1903-1906.

"St. Clair Co. Marriage Records" Book 1 1839-1857, Book 2 1857-1866, Book 3 Misc Dates from Jan 1843 to Dec 1893, Book 4 1887-1898.

"Southfield Township Cemeteries", pub 1989.

"St. Mary's Royal Oak Cemeteries", pub 1990.

"Birmingham & West Bloomfield Cemeteries", pub 1990.

"New Englander's in the 1600's" by Martin Hillick, 2006

"Female Index to Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England by James Savage", Index compiled by Patty B. Myers

"Local Court & County Record Retreiver", a national directory, 2007.

"Stories in Stone" a field guide to cemetery symbolism and iconography, 2004

"Inhabitants of Kent County, Maryland" 1637-1787 by Henry C, Peden, Jr., 2007

"Clan Donald" by Donald J. Macdonald of Castleton, 1978

"John Howland of the Mayflower", orig published 1990-1993 by Elizabeth P. White. Vol. 1 – Five generations through his first child Desire Howland and her husband Capt. John Gorham., Vol. 2 – Five generations through his second child John and his wife Mary Lee. These books were given in memory of Barbara Martin and Emily Brosier by the John Alden chapter of DAR.

# More Than 400 Years of London Church Records

By Jana Lloyd 24 September 2009 Reprinted from Ancestry.com

Church records are one of our most important sources of information about the births, marriages and deaths of our ancestors. And before the 19th century, they are our only source of information on births, marriages and deaths—because churches were keeping records of important life events long before governments were.

In 1538, Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's Vicar General, issued an order that each parish in England keep a record of every baptism, marriage and burial it performed.

The UK government, on the other hand, did not start keeping vital records until 1837. (You can search indexes of most of the UK government's vital records since 1837 on Ancestry.)

Church records continued to be kept concurrently with government records, so they can also provide a good alternative source to consult for your family through the 1800s and 1900s. You may find a church record where no government record exists, and vice versa. Or one may compliment, add to or validate the other.

And now you can view a new collection of London parish registers on Ancestry.com that includes millions of baptism, marriage and death/burial records from more than 1,000 parishes in the greater London area—spanning the years 1538 to 1980. You can

• Browse through images of original records from 1538 through 1812 by parish and year.

- $\bullet$  Search baptism and burial records from 1813 through the 1900s by name, parish or year.
- Search marriage records from 1754 through the 1900s by name, parish or year.

Besides helping you locate your English ancestors, this extensive collection of records also showcases some fascinating pieces of London's history, including epidemics, marriage trends and important life events of celebrities.

A second Bubonic Plague in London in 1665 and 1666 killed 10,000 Londoners—20% of London's population at the time. All the individuals on this 1665 parish record were killed during the plague, as indicated in the far right column.

Londoners believed that "miasma," or bad smells, caused the disease, so many people carried herbs for protection. Other people applied the tail feathers of live chickens to boils; or they wore luck charms, dead toads and powdered "unicorn horns." Others believed smoking tobacco would prevent infection. There are even a few reported instances of children being whipped in school for not smoking.

The "Great Fire of London" in 1666 destroyed more than 13,000 houses, but is now thought to have curbed the spread of the Bubonic Plague since it killed off thousands of London rats and fleas, which were the true carriers of the disease

# 2. Marriage Trends

Yet another interesting dimension of social life in London that is covered in these records is the evolution of the marriage age, along with the numbers of marriages that increased during certain key points in London's history.

A note on this 1864 parish record

reads, "The parties presented themselves to be married without the consent of their parents and being minors were refused."

For many years the Church of England accepted marriages of girls as young as 12 and boys as young as 14, so long as there was parental consent. In 1763, the minimum age for marriage in the Church of England was set at 16, although you still had to get consent.

Another item of interest related to marriage is that you can see a considerable increase in recorded marriages in this collection after 1754, when Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act did away with common-law marriages and mandated that everyone had to be married in a church.

You can also see a considerable increase in marriages during the first year of WWI—marriages in the collection went from 63,540 in 1914 to more than 84,120 in 1915, a 32% increase. The believed cause is that couples wanted to marry before men went off to fight in the war

## 3 Celebrities

You'll find a number of famous people in this collection of London parish records. Below is a baptism record for Joseph Allerton Cowell—the great-grandfather of Simon Cowell, of American Idol fame, as well as the marriage record of Thomas Hardy, author of Tess of the d'Urbervilles. He was married to Florence Dugdee at St. Andrew, Enfield, on February 10, 1914.

With more than 400 years of London church records now at your fingertips, we hope you will have more success than ever at discovering the story of your ancestors' lives—or, at the very least—enjoy a walk back through the pages of London's varied and interesting history.

# **Looking Back in Midland County**

#### William Mixer

Taken from the *Portrait and Biographical Album of Midland Co. MI 1884* p. 180

William Mixer, residing at Midland City, is a son of William and Fanny (Dickerson) Mixer; and was born in Ellisburg Township, Jefferson Co., N.Y., Feb. 22, 1821. His minority was passed on a farm, attending school in the winter seasons. Attaining his majority, he left home, and having learned the ship carpenter's trade near Sackett's Harbor, he followed this for a number of years. About 1854, he came to Marine City, St. Clair County, this State, where he was similarly engaged for two years. At the expiration of this time, he rented a farm a mile and a half north of Midland City, but was soon after burned out, losing his household goods and clothing and part of his crops. In the fall of 1865, he came to Midland City and built a residence on Larkin Street, with four lots, where he still lives. He followed teaming for three or four years, then was appointed Deputy Sheriff, which office he held several years, and he is now Constable. For the last two years, he has been chiefly occupied in training horses, in which he is very successful.

He was married in Jefferson Co., N.Y. to Miss Adeline Read, daughter of Samuel and Sally Read, and a native of Jefferson County. Three daughters have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Mixer. Hattie is now the wife of Rev. Benjamin Reeve, pastor of what is known as the Penoyer Farm Church (M.E.) at Saginaw. Addie is the wife of William Cook, a farmer of Midland Township. Blanche, who is still at home, is a teacher in the city schools.

Taken from *The Midland Sun* Fri., Oct. 28, 1898 p. 5

## City and Country

Next Monday is halloween. 'Bout time to bank up the house to keep J. Frost out.

The winds of the past week have nearly stripped the trees.

Miss Marion Wilson of Saginaw is visiting Miss Sarah O'Neil.

The bad condition of the roads makes campaigning an arduous task.

Ewart Gardiner of Saginaw was greeting Midland friends Wednesday.

Wm. Marrin returned Wednesday from visiting the street fair at Grand Rapids.

The Prudent Patricians gave a parlor reception at the home Mrs. D. N. Maxwell this evening.

Our country correspondence is unavoidably left out this week owing to supervisors' proceedings.

Licensed to wed: George Johnson, 25, and Avis Tebel, 22, Ingersoll; Edmund Brenner, 23, and Elize E Rowe, 16, Mills.

E. W. English of Bullock Creek Monday attended the funeral of his brother-inlaw, Rev. Wallace Vincent of Arenac.

The mayor has vetoed the resolution passed at the last meeting of the council, authorizing the purchase of a road machine.

The high school boys, notwithstanding the bad night, increased the piano fund some \$25 by their social last Friday evening.

Miss Belle Hitchcock, youngest daughter (of) D. W. Hitchcock, formerly of this city, was married at Baraboo, Wis., the 19<sup>th</sup> to Guy Dutcher.

Peculiarly pleasing paragraphs pertaining to pithy pointers patly put will be found in Reardon Bros. Mercantile Co.'s new advertisement.

By the artistic display of wares to be seen in our various business houses, Midland's merchants need take no back seat in window trimming.

We were this week shown the flower of a star cactus owned by Chas. Gunn, that was quite a curiosity. The leaves, petals, and where the stem joins the flower are all star shaped.

There were 15 deaths in Midland county during the month of September. Of these one each is credited to Edenville, Homer, Lee, Porter, and Coleman, 6 to Jasper and 2 to Mt. Haley.

A special meeting of the L. O. T. M. will be held Saturday afternoon at 2:30. Special business.

J. H. Anderson & Co. have commenced shipping potatoes. The price paid is  $25 \, \phi$  per bushel. See their advertisement elsewhere.

The deer season opens on election day this year which will give defeated candidates an excellent opportunity to take to the woods.

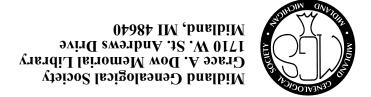
Dr. H. A. Jackson of Saginaw was in the city this week and will be here again on Tuesday, November 22. Attention is called to his advertisement in another column.

The marriage of Dr. Chas. Cochrane and Miss Avis Chapin took place in Saginaw Wednesday evening. A reception will be tendered them this evening at the home of Mrs. William Reardon. The *Sun* unites with a host of Midland friends in wishing the young couple a prosperous journey through life.

At a school meeting held in Porter township Saturday night warm words were used by Anson Wayne and James Whitman, resulting in the former hitting the latter over the head with a heavy wooden poker. Mr. Whitman's condition is serious, but it is thought he will recover. A warrant has been issued for Wayne's arrest.

Sunday, the 9<sup>th</sup>, Wm. Rabishaw of Mills township was walking alone the road with Henry Lacey, and when he came to the residence of Mr. Rowe, got into an altercation with James Rowe, aged 20. Several blows were struck and Rabishaw went down with Rowe on top of him. As Rowe got off from him, he grabbed Rabishaw by the feet and turned him over backwards, injuring the spine so severely that he died the 20<sup>th</sup>. A warrant is out for Rowe's arrest on the charge of murder, but he has not yet been apprehended. He is supposed to be hiding in the woods in that section.

France 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.