



PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

Volume 32 No. 4

MIMGS.ORG

April 2012

In This Issue

Michigan's Battles in the War of 1812	1
The Presidents Letter	2
Editorial Comments	2
Membership	3
1940 census	3
Books For Sale	3
Civil War Rendezvous	7
Nominations Committee Report	8
Coming Events	9
US Census 101 and other news	9
Member Profile	10
Looking Back in Midland County	11
MGS Officers & Society Information	12

Midland Genealogical Society Programs for 2011 - 2012

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

Programs for the meetings are as follows.

April 18, 2012 7:00 pm Library Lounge
"Ephraim William, A Midland Fur Trader - A First Person presentation" by Kyle Bagnall

May 16, 2012 6:00 pm "My Family Secret:
An exploration of Genealogical Surprises" by
Nancy James. Annual Meeting and Potluck to
be held at the Carriage House on Cook Road.

MICHIGAN'S BATTLES IN THE WAR OF 1812

BY YVONNE L ASHWORTH

Events leading to the War of 1812

There were multiple causes for the War of 1812 which induced conflict between the United States, Britain and the Native Americans. British trade restrictions due to the war with France was causing shortages and Americans were suffering. The British were also supporting the Indians against expansion. Conflicts with the Native Americans had pre existed for several years, evidenced by a speech given by Secretary William Eustus on 8 October, 1811 who told the Indians that it was beyond the control of the US that shortages existed due to British trade restrictions, and that they (the tribes) were receiving the goods agreed upon by treaty. He further added that they, like the white man, needed to learn to increase their cultivation of the land and plant sufficient crops to supply for their people, and learn to do without at times, as were the white man. He added that they also needed to "beware" of Tenskwatawa, the brother of Tecumseh, as he had already caused the death of many braves in many different tribes. Tecumseh had already recruited many tribes to join him in war against the white people, and his brother had spread hatred by telling them that the settlers would attack their children, the elderly and feeble in order to gain lands for expansion. He encouraged them to cease drinking or eating anything that the white man had taught them to consume. Tecumseh would tell his people that the hunting grounds were being depleted by the white man

who wished to control, procure or destroy everything which belonged to the tribes, impressing upon them that a Confederacy of Nations was necessary to save the red peoples and that building alliances with all tribes, they could control the land between the Great Lakes and Mexico, thereby preventing expansion of the white people further west and south. In his closing statement, he said, "Brothers, we must be united, we must smoke the same pipe, we must fight each others' battles, and more than all, we must love the Great Spirit. He is for us. He will destroy our enemies and make all his Red children happy." In 1811, Tecumseh had picked Detroit, St. Louis, Chicago and Ft. Wayne for attack. Upon

learning that the Indians were making such plans, the United States sent 1200 troops to OH. With Tecumseh away to speak to the Creeks and the Seminoles in the South, General Harrison marched on Tenskwatawa's village where a battle would commence on 7 November, 1811 at Tippecanoe on the Wabash River, in Indiana. Tecumseh's brother would be wounded at this battle and initially thought dead. His shoulder was shattered and his braves faced defeat, eventually losing faith in "the Prophet" known as Tenskwatawa. Upon

(Continued on page 4)

The President's Letter

Spring is here – time for field trips maybe! Many genealogists are reluctant to plan road trips when the winter weather is so unpredictable, but now it's time to start planning for the research trips you have been putting off.

We still have a couple of great meetings coming up for the society and some new projects in which you can volunteer to be involved locally. Bob Mass needs some proofreading volunteers for a giant on-line index project he and Ora Flaningham have been working on. The Family Search organization is spearheading the indexing of the 1940 federal census which will soon start

appearing online at Ancestry.com for free searching. Jo Brines is coordinating the volunteers there. She has half a dozen willing workers but can certainly use more. This will be a grand tool for all of us when it is completed.

If you haven't visited our Society's website lately, be sure to check out our new one . The address is MIMGS.org. If you are a Facebook user, you can also find us there. We owe Walt Bennett a big round of applause for all he does in that regard and for his work on audio-video projects for the Society. This has been in addition to his great stewardship of the Pioneer Record.

As I come to the end of my term as President of the Society, I want to thank everyone who has been so helpful during my tenure. I'm con-

vinced that genealogists are the most patient and helpful people in my acquaintance. Thanks to all of you for making life easier.

Wilma Diesen

"Why waste your
money looking up
your family
tree? Just go into
politics and your
opponents will do
it for you"

Mark Twain

From The Editor ● ● ●

I am sorry about this issue coming to you late. It has been a busy month for me. This issue contains several interesting articles. This year is the 100th anniversary of the War of 1812 so I thought that I would include an article about Michigan's involvement in the war. There is also an interesting article about the Civil War. I have included some articles about some new resources that have come up recently that I personally have found beneficial and I think that you may too.

Our membership committee is also working on some member profiles for publication in the newsletter.

I found it interesting to access the

1940 census that recently came on line. I was trying to get into the records within the first hour and was unsuccessful. I made a few more attempts throughout the day and still was not able to get in. The following evening, I had no problems with the system and found the records I was looking for. I did read that the government had severely underestimated the number of users to its site.

I would like to remind you that our May meeting will be held at the Carriage House which will be our annual potluck. Please bring a dish to pass as well as plates, utensils and cups. There will be a presentation following our regular order of business.

Have a great summer and we will see you in the fall.

Walter G. Bennett

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2010-2011

The collection of MGS Membership dues for 2011-2012 has concluded. The MGS Treasurer and Membership Chair have been collecting dues since early August. If your dues are not paid, this will be the last issue of the Pioneer Record that you will receive.

Midland Genealogical Society, PO Box 2421, Midland, MI 48641-2421. Dues for an individual are \$14.00; for a family they are \$17.50.

Membership

The new MGS web site www.mimsgs.org is eye catching, professional and attractive. It has links to connect the user to helpful resources as well as to the popular social network sites like Facebook, Twitter etc. This week on the Facebook link we attracted the attention of a young woman who is enthusiastic about joining our group. The social networks have captured the interest of a younger generation and hopefully our appearance on Facebook will attract folks to MGS.

BUT we need a president and a secretary to have a society ! Who will take the initiative to stand up and volunteer for the 2012-2013 year ?

Walt Bennett has done a fine job in designing our web site and we are grateful for his dedication

Help us by notifying us of any change in your address or e-mail address.

Membership Committee

Betty Bellous and Marion Berry

1940 US Federal Census

As most of you now know, the 1940 census was released to the public on April 2, 2012. The people responsible for its release had greatly underestimated its popularity. It was expected to draw about 100,000 hits a day. NARA reported 2.5 million hits in the first 3 hours.

"1940 census" is the #1 ranked "Hot Search" on Google Trends!

For those of you who haven't started searching the 1940 census the address is

<http://1940census.archives.gov>

This is a free site. The census is in the process of being indexed so you will not have name search capability for a while. What you do need is the State, County, City and street to start your search. Then you will look page by page.

I was unable to get into the site the first day as I had tried in the first hour. The next evening, I was able to get into the site and locate both of my parents.

Walter Bennett



B O O K S F O R S A L E

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 ½ 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.)

Midland County, Michigan Marriage Records 1855-1910 including Groom & Bride Indexes. The book is 8.5 by 11, soft bound, 320 pages. \$30.

A collection of "Some Midland Michigan County Records" have been compiled and extensively indexed by Ora L. Flaningham. 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 Flaningham. 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.

To ORDER A BOOK write: Midland Genealogical Society BOOK: P.O. Box 2421, Midland, MI 48641-2421.

(Continued from page 1)



Fort Mackinac

returning home from the South, seeing that his brother had been easily defeated by the Americans, Tecumseh sided with the British the following year in retaliation.

MICHIGAN AND THE WAR OF 1812

There were three integral locations in the state of Michigan in which major battles occurred over an extended period of time, during the conflict with Britain and her allies. Fort Shelby/ Detroit, Fort Michillimackinac and Frenchtown, which is now present day Monroe, MI all saw action. Fort Shelby was built by the British in 1779. This Post was initially named Fort Lernoult. Upon being ceded to the United States in 1796 by the terms of the Treaty of Jay, it was renamed Fort Detroit by Secretary of War, Henry Dearborn in 1805. In August 1812, the fort was surrendered to the British by William Hull, General and later Governor of MI, who feared that by attempting to engage the British, and Indian onslaught would



Fort Mackinac

follow, via Tecumseh and his multi-tribe forces. Proceeding the Battle of Lake Erie on 10 Sep 1813, which the American's won decisively, the fort was again reclaimed and renamed Fort Shelby. While Detroit would remain under siege throughout the remainder of the war, the fort itself would remain under American possession for the rest of the war. Later, the fort would fall into a state of disrepair, and subsequently, it was dismantled in 1827. An excavation many decades later yielded 8000 artifacts which were turned over to Wayne State University for archiving/display. The former location is at the present intersection of Fort Street and Shelby Street in downtown Detroit.

THE SIEGE OF FORT MICHILLIMACKINAC AND DETROIT

The night prior to the siege of Fort Michillimackinac, a scratch force landed and mounted at least one one canon overlooking the fort. On 17 July 1812 mixed forced of British troops, Canadians and Native American's would capture the island of Mackinaw with one preemptive canon shot, before the islands inhabitants were aware that war had been declared. This attack would be one of the first engagements of the war, with no resistance from the Americans who were outnumbered and at a tactical disadvantage. The garrison was taken "prisoner" but was released on giving their parole not to fight for the remainder of the war. On 18 July 1812, Mr. Askin, Indian agent at St. Josephs Island wrote, " I am happy to have it in my power to announce to you that Fort Michillimackinac capitulated to us on the 17th instant at 11:00am-Cpt Roberts at our Head, with a part of the 10th RV Battalion -Mr. Crawford had command of the Canadians of about

200 men-Mr. Dixon, 113 Sioux, Foollavoines, and Waynebagans and myself, about 280 men. Ottawas and Chippewas not yet arrived" Nine days later, Gen. Hull would write the following to Secretary of War, Eustus," Last evening, two Chippewas arrived at my encampment(Canada) from Michillimackinac with the information that the British were in possession of the Post. They state that Mr Askin from St Josephs landed with 30 regulars, about the same number of Canadian's and 1000 Indians from Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and Green Bay". Shortly after the surrender of the fort, the islands inhabitants were forced to either swear an oath of allegiance to the United Kingdom as subjects or leave within a month, with no exceptions. The loss of Mackinac induced multiple Indian tribes to



Fort Mackinac

side with the British. It was the hostilities with these tribes in tandem with the British forces which influenced the US surrender at the Siege of Detroit. On 4 August 1812 a communication between Hull and Eustus foreshadowed the surrender at Detroit where Hull states "2000 savages will appear at Detroit". A second communication followed on 26 August 1812 where Hull would outline his reasons for surrendering at Detroit, injecting the fact that Tecumseh, Marpot, Logan, Walk-

(Continued on page 5)



Battle of Mackinac Island

inthewater and Split Log were British allies and he was trying to prevent a massacre of his troops and the citizens. Of interesting note, Lt Porter Hanks ,who surrendered Fort Michillimackinac , was killed by a canon shot at Detroit while awaiting a court martial for cowardice. After the Battle of Lake Erie, the Americans were able to cut off British supply lines to the fort at Michillimackinac forcing them to cut rations in half and subsequently caused severe shortages for the British that winter. In 1814, despite all efforts by naval forces and ground troops, the American's suffering heavy losses, abandoned their efforts to regain the control of the fort. It was left in the hands of the British until the end of the war when it was restored to American possession via the terms of the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the war.

THE BATTLE OF RAISIN RIVER, FRENCHTOWN (NOW MONROE, MI)

This battle, the bloodiest of all battles ever fought on Michigan soil, began on 19 January and ended on 23 January,



Battle of Lake Erie

1813. In the dead of winter, Frenchtown was surprised by British troops and their allies. For four days the battle continued, culminating in the deaths of over 1000 Americans, most of whom were from the State of Kentucky. Tecumseh had left the Native American command to Chiefs Roundhead and Walkinthewater, both Wyandots. The commander of the US forces was Brigadier General James Winchester. At surrender, 80 plus wounded soldiers were left behind, the majority falling victim to violent deaths at the hands of triumphant Indians. The battle would come to be known as the "Raisin River Massacre" once word arrived of the bloody outcome. Of the few who were taken prisoner, they were sold to the British at Detroit, where the Indians were encouraged by the British to "commit depredations" against the Americans well into the Fall of 1813 per communications on 28 Oct 1813.

Michigan would continue to see small battles for the remainder of the war, its contributions many in the effort to defeat the British and her allies.

FOOTNOTES:

After the war, General Hull was court martialed for the surrender at Detroit, on three counts which included treason, cowardice and neglect of duty. The charge of treason could not be proven, but the other two charges were. He was ordered to be shot to death, however, President Madison did not concur with the sentence and simply discharged Hull from the Army.

Many of Hull's supporters felt his age was a contributing factor and that he simply had a nervous breakdown due to the stresses of responsibility for the Detroit area and the fort, along with the safety of the citizens and troops alike. Hull would live the remainder of his life in Newton, MA where he would publish two books trying to clear his name. Since then, multiple historians have agreed that Hull was made a scapegoat due to the embar-

assing defeat, and before his death, Hull was honored for his service with a dinner in Boston on 30 May 1825 where it was found that public sentiment had turned in his favor. Six months later he would pass away.



Fort Michilimackinac, Mackinaw Island

Tecumseh, who perished in battle on 5 Oct 1813, was interred for a final time in 1931 where he would be buried with a monument on the banks of the St.Clair River, at the junction of the main road to Walpole Island and River Road. (He perished at the Battle of Thames, near present day Chatham,Ontario).



William Hull

Landlocked Cemeteries

Sue Donovan is a member of the Genealogical Society of Monroe County and has been working on legislation to permit continued access to cemeteries, even as the land surrounding them is sold or the usage changed.

The House Committee report on this legislation is at <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2011-2012/billanalysis/House/pdf/2011-HLA-5404-3.pdf>. Please urge your representative to support this important piece of legislation. You may continue to track this bill at <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2012-HB-5404>.

Sue's letter is below.

All the best,
Tom Koselka, Corresponding Secretary
Michigan Genealogical Council
<http://mimgc.org>

Yesterday [March 16] I was in Lansing, along with Doris Blessing (member and trustee) and my former Pastor Lew Carlson, to testify before the House Committee on Local, Intergovernmental and Regional Affairs in support of HB 5404 introduced by Rep Dale Zorn (R) of Ida, Monroe County and co-sponsored by my Rep. Pat Somerville(R).

This legislation is to make it very clear in the Land Division legislation that no cemetery can be landlocked in MI, such as what happened at Potter. It is similar legislation to what we were working on 4 yrs. ago with Rep. Kate Ebli (now deceased).

Re. Zorn introduced me and then I read from my prepared letter. I had been asked to make 30 packets of info (incl. our group. background info, maps, deeds, surveys, letter to Ash T'ship re leaving access to the cemetery, info on other cemeteries in MI in similar circumstances and info from other states on how they are handling this issue plus our brochure and my business card). It took me hours and I only got two hours of sleep Wed. night but it was well worth it.

After I testified it was mentioned there was a rep from the MI Township Assoc, (MTA) and they support this, the MI Cemetery Assoc. supports it and the MI Realtors Assoc. took a neutral position and are willing to work with the reps. to iron out any concerns. I was complimented by committee chairman Mark Ouimet and two other reps that my testimony was excellent, very good. They asked no questions of me.

The general consensus is the bill will pass in committee and then move to the full house. Once we know it's going to the House I encourage you to contact your local rep. (for those who live in MI) and ask him/her to support this. This will be very important! As the process continues onto the Senate I would then encourage you to contact by e-mail, phone, fax, etc. your State Senator to ask him/her to support this legislation. I will keep you apprised of developments as they occur.

Family History Books Online

FamilySearch has moved its online books collection from the Brigham Young Family History Archive to a beta site. To access the beta site, go to www.familysearch.org, click on "Books" near the top, then click on "Family History Books."

There are approximately 31,000 family history books on the site with plans for another 25,000 to be added this year. You can keyword search the entire text and download an entire book.

Pennsylvania Vital Records now Available

Pennsylvania Vital Records are now available thanks to a bill that was signed into law in December 2011. On February 14, 2012, the PA division of Vital Records has opened death records older than 50 years and birth records older than 105 years for public access.

They have put up free online indexes to both record sets in the form of PDF files. You will need to know the year of death and select the appropriate alphabetic file to view the index and then search the file for the

name. This index will provide the information that you will need to order a non-certified copy of the record for \$3 each. The link to the site is

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/public_records/20686.

Requests are processed in sixteen to eighteen weeks.

Old Plat Map of Midland

The following article was published in the Midland Daily News, August 5, 1964.

An old map, believed to be one of the first plat maps of Midland County, listing names of property owners, whose families played a prominent part in the early development of this county, was recently unearthed in neighboring Saginaw.

The map, published by the Imperial Publishing Company of Saginaw, is dated 1897. It was discovered by employees of the City of Saginaw engineering department while they were recently cleaning out a vault to make room for more records,

The map is now in the possession of the county clerk. He plans to present it to the County Board of Supervisors Thursday as to their wishes. The map may be given to the County Historical Society. Although mildew can be noted on various sections of the 67 year old map most of it is clearly distinct. Family names such as Dougald Currie, John Reardon, Blake R. Sheldon, William L. Stearns, A.S. Cody, Martin Keeley, George Rockwell, John and Patrick Haley, Fred Sias, W. A. Stumpf, August Yack, A. T. Bliss, W.D. Gordon, George Jerome, G.W. Boman, Swanton, Inman, Bartlett, Sibert, Dean, Bergtold, Barth, Camp, Sugnet, Waldo, Ashby, are but a few of the hundreds listed as county property owners of their era.

Civil War Rendezvous

By Gloria Kunderling

The Civil War brings to mind the bloody battlefields of Gettysburg, Shiloh, and others with armies facing off against one another firing guns and cannons. We think of the siege of Richmond and the South laid to waste during "Sherman's March to the Sea." Thoughts of the Civil War always bring to mind the sacrifices of soldiers. However, not many think of Civil War sailors and the battles they fought during the blockading of Southern ports. Some barely recall the evolution of the iron-clad ships during that time which helped win the war.

It was a sunny morning on March 9, 1862, when Lt. John Worden sailed his small odd-shaped, iron-clad steamship, the Monitor, into Hampton Roads. Ready for battle against a much larger iron-clad vessel named the Virginia, he



The first battle between ironclads: CSS Virginia/Merrimac (left) vs. USS Monitor, in 1862 at the Battle of Hampton Roads

was there to protect a wooden ship, the Minnesota, from annihilation.

Originally called the Merrimac, this much larger iron-clad steamship had been salvaged after it sank in the Godsport Naval Yard. Outfitted with iron plates several inches thick and built like a ram with sloping sides, it was a formidable-looking vessel. Its commander, Captain Buchanan, had sunk two wooden sailing ships in that area the previous day.

With its two pointed ends, three-inch thick iron cladding, and revolving gun turret, the little Monitor looked like David going up against Goliath when it

sailed alongside the Merrimac after the Minnesota had fired at her foe. The Monitor's two eleven-inch turret guns fired rapidly at the Merrimac as the Monitor's heavily-clad, iron turret turned. The Merrimac fired salvo after salvo at the sides of the Monitor, but the little ship held its ground as the barrage of metal bounced off her like hail hitting cement.

The Merrimac pulled away from the Monitor then began firing on the Minnesota, but the Monitor positioned itself between them and commenced firing. They battled for several hours until the crippled Merrimac fled back to her Norfolk, Virginia, port. This naval battle is the one remembered from fifth-grade U.S. History books. However, other iron-clads were in existence at this time.

By October 5, 1861, James B. Eads & Co. of Carondelet, Missouri, was to have finished seven iron-clad ships for the U.S. government. Since there was a \$200.00 per day penalty clause in his contract, Eads subcontracted three of the ships to Hambleton & Collier Co. of Mound City, Illinois. Unable to make the deadline, he lost money but all ships were finished by the first week in November—one hundred days after the government contract was signed.

All seven ships were named after cities. The Carondelet, St. Louis, Pittsburg, and Louisville, were built by Eads. The Cincinnati, Cairo, and Mound City were built by Hambleton & Collier. Similar to the Merrimac, they were four-sided steamers made of thick wood with 2.5 inches of iron plated sides that sloped inward from bottom to the top. The ship was 175 feet long with twelve-foot high walls and a gun deck on top. They were armed with thirteen cannon, either ten-inch or smaller, on all four sides.

James Eads also built iron-clad ships similar to the Monitor with gun turrets. They constructed iron-clad barges that were equipped to fire thirteen-inch mortars into Confederate Forts located along the rivers. The mortar trajectory was high and arced so it could land inside the fort instead of being shot straight at the fort's walls.

Besides the private companies that existed mostly in the North, there were ten U.S. Navy shipyards in the United States at the start of the Civil War. Only Norfolk and the smaller Pensacola were in the South. Other small shipyards sprang up in Mobile, Savannah, New Orleans, Charleston, and other places until they totaled thirty-six. Some of these small yards took over when Norfolk and New Orleans were seized by the Union Army. Before it fell, in 1862, New Orleans ship yards produced more than thirty new or refitted ships.

The Southern shipyards had access to plenty of wood but obtaining iron was a problem since most of the iron mills were in the North, and Union forces held the best iron-producing areas of the South. Acquiring machinery and guns for the ships was another obstacle because the foundries needed to manufacture these items were also located in the North. The few foundries that the South had were deluged with work, and they were short skilled labor.

Skilled workers were in short supply in both the North and South, but the South had a worse shortage. Many of the workers were foreigners who left the South in droves once the war began. Others were absorbed by the army.

The transportation of iron plate was a third problem for the South since its railroads were continuously being used by the Confederate Army. Some shipyards in Whitehall, North Carolina, Safford, Georgia, Selma, Alabama, Yazoo City, Missouri, and others were not served by the railroads—complicating supply delivery. The newer yards finished nine iron-clad ships. They destroyed fourteen ships that were almost finished to prevent their capture and use by the Union forces. Eight of those were iron-clads. Even with their obstacles, Southern ship-



USS Cairo

(Continued from page 7)

builders did the best they could to build a Confederate naval fleet.

USS Cairo

The North accomplished a great feat in forming a sizable navy from almost nothing. The Union leased or bought ships, fitted them with guns, and quickly put them into service with crews who were just as hastily trained.

President Lincoln increased the navy by 18,000 recruits after the war began and also increased the navy budget. The Union Navy acquired about three-hundred ships within a year which were much needed for the southern blockade. By 1865, the Union Navy had 418 ships. There were also 208 warships under construction. Sixty of these warships were iron-clads.

The Union Navy consisted of 8,500 men in 1861. One thousand of these were officers. Many available merchant seamen were persuaded to enlist since a naval reserve did not exist, and experienced sailors were in very short supply. The navy had about 51,000 enlisted men by 1864.

Both the North and South suffered a shortage of men to serve as sailors since the armies were constantly recruiting them. In 1863, a law was passed in the North that allowed any man serving in the army to volunteer for the navy. Many accepted the offer. However their commanding officers would not allow them to leave their units. The army even offered experienced sailors bonuses to enlist, and sometimes they were drafted into the army. Some army soldiers in the North and South were eventually sent to the navy out of necessity. Not wanting to be sailors, they became either an asset or a liability. Many did their duty while others caused trouble or deserted.

Some Confederate naval captains were raiders of foreign merchant ships. They took not only their cargoes but also their crews for use on the raider ships. They made their captives an offer they couldn't refuse—a large sum of gold for their service or a Confederate prison cell.

A naval recruit had to be twenty-one in the South but only eighteen in the north to join without parental consent. With consent, the age was as low as fourteen in the South and thirteen in the North. Free black men could enlist in the South with an okay from their navy department. The owner had to give his permission for a slave to enlist. In the North, a large number of black men had joined the Union navy's lower ranks even though they were limited to lesser numbers at first.

Salaries ranged from \$12.00 per month for the least experienced hands to a high of \$18.00 a month for experienced sailors. Pay for first, second, and third class boys were \$9.00, \$8.00, and \$7.00 respectively. These wages were the same in both the North and the South.

In the North, the men enlisted at recruiting stations or on a ship called a "rendezvous." Officers at each of these stations compiled a record for each enlistee and sent the Navy Department a weekly report known as the "weekly return or rendezvous report." The indexes (T1099) for these records are available from NARA. Besides the name of the enlistee, date of enlistment, and previous term of service, the report included a physical description, birthplace, residence, occupation, and possibly a ship's name. The records are not on microfilm, but a copy can be obtained from NARA.

During the Civil War, each navy consisted of a mixture of old and new wooden sailing vessels. They fought alongside the state-of-the-art, iron-clad steamships. Sailors from both sides served bravely on those ships—whether fighting in battles or blockading southern ports. These men should not be forgotten but remembered and honored for their contributions just like the soldiers that fought in the Civil War.

Sources

"Civil War Battles: Battle of the Monitor and the Merrimac." Son of the South. 2008.
<http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/monitor-merrimac.htm>.

"The Civil War Sailor's Life." Shotgun's Home of the American Civil War. 2002.
<http://www.civilwarhome.com/sailorlife.htm>

"Overview of the Civil War Naval War." Shotgun's Home of the American Civil War. 2008.
<http://www.civilwarhome.com/navalwaroverview.htm>.

"Union Navy Military Records." Civil War Soldier Search. 2011.
<http://www.civilwar.nps.gov/cwss/>.

Williams, Scott K. "St. Louis' Ships of Iron." Missouri Civil War Museum. 2011.
http://www.mcwm.org/history_stlouis_ships.html.

Nominations Committee Report:

Slate of Officers for Annual Meeting
Election on May 16, 2012

President: NA
Program Co-Chairs: Bob Snyder, Linda Kennedy
Secretary: NA
Treasurer: Fran Longsdorf
Membership Co-Chairs: Marion Berry, Betty Bellous
Historian: Mary Eichhorn
MGC Delegates: Jo Brines, Faye Ebach

Nominations from the floor will be accepted, with prior approval from proposed candidate, prior to the election during the annual meeting.

Coming Events

April 27-28, 2012 "Gene-a-Rama" Green Bay, Wisconsin. This seminar has 5 lectures, Behind the cheese curtain: A look at Wisconsin genealogy resources, Facebook for genealogists, Managing your genealogy data, They're alive—searching for living persons, Genealogy party line—Hung up on technology" wsgs.wetpaint.com.

April 28, 2012 "Indiana Genealogical Society Annual Conference", title not yet available, Fort Wayne, Indiana. www.indgensoc.org.

April 29, 2012 "Scottish Genealogy Day" presented by St. Andrews Society of Detroit. For further info see <http://detroitscots.com/>

May 5, 2012 "Family History Seminar" by the East Lansing Family History Center. <http://lansingfhc.org/>

May 9-12, 2012 "National Genealogical Society Family History Conference", to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio. The theme "The Ohio River: Gateway to the Western Frontier". Nsgenealogy.org.

June 22-24, 2012 "Upper Peninsula History Conference", Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan. Presented by the Historical Society of Michigan. www.hsmichigan.org.

July 13-14, 2012 "2012 Abrams Genealogy Seminar", Archives of Michigan, Lansing, Michigan. Further details at a later date. Mimgc.org.

August 29-Sept 1, 2012 "Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference", Birmingham, Alabama. www.fgs.org.

Sept 28-30, 2012 "State History Conference", Monroe, Michigan, presented by the Historical Society of Michigan. www.hsmichigan.org/

U.S. Census 101: Q & A

In preparation for the impending release of the 1940 U.S. Census, how much do you really know about this important genealogical resource?

Q: Why is the census year on the top of the decade?

A: Our Constitution was ratified in 1787 and specified that the first census would be taken within three years, which it was, in 1790, and then every 10 years since.

Q: Why can't we access the more recent censuses?

A: By law, census records on an individual are not made public for 72 years. This had to do with the average lifespan of an individual at the time.

Q: What were some of the physical conditions for taking the census?

A: Enumerators had to furnish their own transportation (horse/buggy), and in the earliest years, their own paper (unlined of course). There were no plastic bags to keep paper dry; enumerators had only their leather satchels. They had to mix their own ink and use a stylus or quill to write with. Considering the porosity of the early paper, the difficulty in keeping the paper dry, the physical hardship of getting on and off your horse (or out of your buggy) 100 times a day, the lack of penmanship training by these hired folks, and the crude writing instruments that they used, we should never whine about how bad the census is, but rejoice that it is as good as it is!

Q: What were the census takers paid?

A: Very little considering the difficulty of the job. Notices were tacked on the wall in post offices offering the census taking jobs and the rate of pay was per name or household. This might explain why a few families "way up the hollow" were deliberately missed and why some extra families might have been tucked in here and there. But for the most part, census enumerators swore an oath to do a proper job for their government.

Q: What really personal information will the census tell me about my ancestors?

A: More than you likely want to know: Was he Deaf? Blind? Able to write? Able to read? Homeless? Disabled? Dumb? Insane? Able to

speak English? A Pauper? A Convict? A Prisoner? Divorced? Suffering from Disease?

Q: What happened to the 1890 Census?

A: In 1921, there was a fire on the upper floor of a building in Washington, D.C., at which the 1890 census was stored in the basement. The water from fighting the fire ran down into the basement, soaking the 1890 census. Finally, by act of Congress in 1933, it was destroyed (except for a few fragments). Today, we would have had the technology to save it, but not in the 1920s.

Q: Why such "crazy" spelling of names in the census?

A: The census takers' words-on-paper were only as good as what they heard or more likely, what they thought they heard, spoken to them. Never be close-minded about the spelling of your ancestor's name on a census.

Other News.....

The Archives of Michigan is placing the Michigan state census records for select Michigan counties covering the years 1845 to 1894 online. Genealogists can access these records via the website - <http://seekingmichigan.org>

Family Search has added 2.8 million new, free records online for Canada, England, Hungary, Italy, Russia, and the U.S. If you have Hungarian roots, there are 900,000 new Hungary Reformed Church Christenings now online. Family Search now has over 2.5 billion free, searchable records online in its historic record collections. These records can be accessed for free at FamilySearch.org.

"A new app launched in October will turn your iPhone's camera into a photo scanner. This sounds like a dream come true for genealogists. The app lets users rotate, crop, date and tag an unlimited number of photos and store them for free on 1000memories.com. Visit <http://1000memories.com/shoebox> for more details." Submitted by Northville Genealogical Society member Pam Malo.

Member Profile



INTRODUCING long-time Midland Genealogy member, **RALPH HILLMAN**

Born in Detroit in 1928, Ralph's family roots come out of Maine. His father served in WWI in the Signal Corp, laying communication lines in France; he never carried a gun! After the War, he came to Detroit to work in the automobile factory. In 1926, he returned to Maine to marry Ralph's mother. She was a Kingsbury and a church organist. They returned to Detroit where they lived on the south-east side near Grosse Pointe. After earning a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Michigan, Ralph went to work in the research lab at Parke Davis in Detroit. He initially worked on a process to make Benedryl; but shortly was assigned as the midnight shift supervisor in the chemical plant, where they were the first pharmaceutical company to make a synthetic anti-biotic: chloromycetin. Working the midnight shift enabled him to complete the courses neces-

sary to obtain his Masters' Degree from the U of M, Ann Arbor. He came to Midland in 1953 to work for Dow Chemical as a Chemical Engineer. Through the young people's group at Memorial Presbyterian Church, he met and married his wife, Jean. They have 4 children.

He really can't remember exactly when he became interested in genealogy. His parents, and then Ralph and his family, returned to Maine each year during the summer and interacted with the many relatives there; he was always interested in their conversations and asking questions. The first Hillman ancestor to the colonies was "shanghied" from a fishing boat in the Thames River, England, at the age of sixteen in 1667; he settled on Martha's Vineyard in 1675. The last time Ralph visited Martha's Vineyard there were still seven pre-Revolutionary Hillman homes standing and occupied, though somewhat changed over the years.

Ralph's paternal grandmother was from New Brunswick. She and her sister walked over the border into Maine in the 1880's. According to Ralph, that wasn't a long walk. She was a Poore, and her father, a fisherman, sailed from Dorsetshire to Newfoundland in the early 1860s. He married a Forsey at Grand Bank whose father was also a fisherman from Dorsetshire. Later they moved to New Brunswick.

Ralph's maternal lines are the Kingsburys and the Veazies. Both go back to emigrants arriving in the 1600s from England. He has traced some of his ancestral lines back to Charlemagne in the 800's. He gave a talk to the society some years ago on Medieval Genealogy.

He has traced his wife's lines as well, and several go back to the 1600's in New England. In fact he and his wife are tenth cousins

He says all of his 'finds' are great. He doesn't feel there were any brick walls

to speak of in these New England lines, though working on the female lines required more work than the male lines. His greatest disappointment was his paternal grandfather who made his living hiring crews to harvest lumber in the Maine woods, and then selling it. His many problems included an inability to handle money. He walked out on his family on Christmas eve when Ralph's father was 20 yrs. old, and was never mentioned again, though in later years an aunt gave Ralph some information. The old man died in 1929.

Ralph is retired from Dow as well as from his avocation as a professional genealogist. He has given some fifteen talks on genealogy across the state, published at least ten articles for genealogical publications and two books: one on the vital records of Troy, Maine (his third great grandfather Hillman was the first town clerk), and just recently a book on the Veazie genealogy, his maternal grandmother's line. His next major project is to publish the Hillman Genealogy from the tons of data he has collected on the family for nearly fifty years.

His advice to novice genealogists: go to the original records: land, estate, and vital. Do not go to the internet...so much of their information is incorrect or misleading.

The society has a new
web page.

Check it out!

MIMGS.ORG

Also find us on Facebook

Looking Back in Midland County

(Taken from *Portrait and Biographical Album of Midland County, Michigan 1884* p. 321)

Eli E. Oswald

Eli E. Oswald, farmer on section 30, Jasper Township, was born in Trumbull Co., Ohio, Jan. 25, 1854. His parents, Jonathan and Catharine (Gamber) Oswald, were natives of Ohio, and respectively of English and Pennsylvania-German descent. The father, a farmer and mechanic, died in Ohio, April 14, 1882. The mother died in the same State, Feb. 28, 1884. Their family numbered 12, 11 of whom are now living.

The eighth of these, and fourth son, remained at home until 20 years old, and then began work at blacksmithing, in which trade he had served a two years' apprenticeship. This occupation not being suited to his health, he abandoned it, and devoted his time to farming and to carpentry. In August, 1876, he came with his brother to this county and purchased 40 acres on section 19, Jasper. He sold this in the fall of 1880 and established a restaurant at St. Louis, which he managed six months. He then came back to Jasper Township and purchased 40 acres on section 30, where he has since made his home. He has improved ten acres.

Nov. 10, 1880, he was united in marriage to Miss Lucy Depue, daughter of William T. and Sarah C. Depue. She was born in Jasper Township, Oct. 18, 1863, and lived at home until her marriage, being educated in the common school, and also at the St. Louis High School.

Mr. Oswald has been Township Treasurer two years, Highway Commissioner one year, and has served in various minor offices. He votes the Republican ticket.

Taken from *The Midland Sun* October 29, 1909 p. 5

Local Happenings

Bible reading with Mrs. John McKay, Tuesday at 2:30.

Regular meeting of the O. E. S. next Wednesday evening.

Johnnie Dunn of Alma, visited T. J. Dunn

and family over Sunday.

Mrs. Bertha Cone of Beaverton, was the guest of Mrs. Wm. Alvord, Friday.

Mrs. Wm. Etson of Bay City was the guest of Mrs. W. J. Owen, Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Haley of Saginaw, came Friday, for a week's visit with relatives.

Miss Ida M. Huston and niece, Miss Helen Esselstyn, were Alma visitors, Sunday.

Miss Florence Ferguson of Flint, was the guest of Midland friends from Friday to Monday.

Mrs. J. R. Lewis of Bellville, returned home Friday, after a week's visit with Mrs. George Carter.

Mrs. John Johnson left Monday, for a two week's visit with relatives in Detroit and Cleveland.

Miss Mona Atkinson returned Wednesday to Saginaw after a short visit with her parents in this city.

Mrs. Nelson Labadie and son Oliver were the guests of Miss Florence Roach, from Saturday to Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Mawbray of Saginaw, were guests at the B. H. Carter home from Friday to Monday.

George Sutton of Detroit. Returned home Monday, after a two weeks' visit with his sister, Mrs. Fred Colon.

Misses Katherine Otterbein and Effie Hudson were the guests of Wallace Beden, at his home in LaPorte, over Sunday.

Miss M. Spaulding returned to her home in Detroit, Monday, after a week's visit with her sister, Mrs. G. H. Waid.

Miss Effie Hudson with to Milford, Tuesday, to attend the funeral of her nephew, Eugene

Hudson, which took place, Wednesday.

Mrs. J. Fox and sons, Dickie and Gifford, of Vassar returned home Monday, after a few days visit with Mrs. Frank Barton.

J. E. Campbell and son, Clarence, left Wednesday for Flint, to spend the winter. Clarence has a position with the Buick Auto Co.

Mrs. G. L. Camp went to Detroit last week to remain with her sister, Mrs. Robert Hawkins, and other relatives until the first of November.

Midland County Savings Bank

Organized Under State Law Sept. 10, 1886

Capital, \$25,000

Surplus and Undivided Profits, \$19,000

The guarantee of deposits is a matter worthy of your attention. This bank can meet your demands in this important question. The capital, surplus and personal liability of the stockholders, as well as the general management of its affairs under the state law of Michigan, guarantees all deposits.

3 per cent Interest

paid on all savings and certificates of deposits.

Stewart B. Gordon, President, Chas. Brown, Vice President, D. W. Chase, Treasure

Pioneer Record

Midland Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 2421
Midland, MI 48641-2421



MGS Officers

President	Wilma Diesen	Thediesens@att.net	832-8485
Secretary	Ruth Anne Casadonte	bobruthcasadonte@gmail.com	835-5115
Program Chairs	Bob Snyder	rcsnyder2@earthlink.net	839-9644
	Linda Kennedy	tomlindak2@chartermi.net	225-1784
Membership Chairs	Marion Berry	marionjoan@charter.net	631-3057
	Betty Bellous	bettymarie1929@gmail.com	837-2092
Treasurer	Bev Keicher	bevjoank@netscape.net	631-9455
MGC Delegates	Faye Ebach	faeae@chartermi.net	835-7518
	Jo Brines		832-8312
Historian	Mary Eichhorn	jama9312@prodigy.net	835-7823
Hospitality Chair	Joanne Rupprecht	wrupp47@charter.net	631-8945
Web Master	Walt Bennett	wgbennett@chartermi.net	631-5247
PR Editor	Walt Bennett	wgbennett@chartermi.net	631-5247

Pioneer Record is 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, P.O.Box 2421, Midland, MI 48641-2421. 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 Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 2421, Midland, MI 48641-2421.