



PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

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Midland Genealogical Society Programs for 2012 - 2013

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

Programs for the meetings are as follows.

September 19, 2012 7pm The Rev. David Reed: "Ireland—Just plain Fabulous" - doing Irish Genealogy by bicycle.

October 17, 2012 7 pm. Terry Brown: Andrew's Raid and the Brown Connection"

November 28, 2012 Bob Snyder: Palatines to America" - Some History and resources for your New York German Research (note date change due to Thanksgiving)

December—No meeting

Tracing Scots-Irish Ancestors

BY YVONNE L ASHWORTH

Scots-Irish immigrants began settling in the Americas as early as the 1600s, however, if they came to the Carolina's, Virginia or Pennsylvania, between then and the 1880s, it is very difficult to trace ancestors by ships passenger lists.

When most came in large numbers, the immigrating group was often led by a minister, which could be traced back to the church he served with, however, as was often the case, the manifest had little more than the captain's name and a few of the more notorious passengers.

The Scots-Irish were more likely to travel in family and extended family groups and came by the thousands in 1718-1730, with a distinct and sharp decline during the years from 1776-1783. Ulster Scots were more inclined to come to the Colonies due to high rents and religious persecution, and settled in all 13 colonies.

Their Ulster training had acclimated them to less than desirable surroundings, and their arrival in the colonies marked the onset of a period of expansion, the effect of which is plainly evident in the Board of Trade returns. In 1727, on the accession of George II., the population of the American colonies was estimated at 502,000 whites and 78,000 negroes; in 1754 the estimated numbers were 1,192,896 whites and 292,738 negroes.

The Scotch-Irish settlers in Virginia were doubtless among those non-conformists against whom the acts of 1642 and 1644 were passed, forbidding any person to officiate in a church who did not conform to the Book of Common Prayer. Some of the non-comformists were fined and three of their ministers were banished. Thus Virginia was made uncomfortable at a time when Lord Baltimore was offering the large inducements noted in the preceding chapter; and hence there was an exodus to Maryland where a policy of toleration then prevailed. It can hardly be doubted that the Scotch-Irish settlements in Maryland date from this period. The illustrious Polk family dates from these settlements.

While some church records still exist in the SE United States archives, as well as a few meager ships passenger lists, or an occasional family bible, it takes an enormous amount of work to determine how ancestors immigrated from Scotland to Ireland, then to the Colonies and inland. A rarity is the ability to track down tithable lists or tax records which were few and far between during the colonial period. (The noun "tithable" when it appears in the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century records of Virginia refers to a person who paid, or for whom someone else paid, one of the taxes that the General Assembly imposed for the support of the civil govern-

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The President's Letter

Following our annual meeting in May, your newly elected board has been involved in planning for the future. In late June we had an exciting "brainstorming" session involving past and current board members. Outcomes from this session have provided impetus to the planning and goal setting for the 2012-13 year. The session generated a great deal of creativity and enthusiasm for the future. You will be learning more about this via the Pioneer Record newsletter as well as our scheduled monthly meetings.

Membership Committee co-chairs Betty Bellous and Marion Berry devised a valuable member survey to be included in the annual member

renewal form sent out in August. Hopefully you completed the survey with your annual membership renewal. Identifying and meeting member needs is always an organizational goal and can only be met when our society is aware of those needs. As an example, my grandchildren are strongly encouraging me to "get with the program" and become involved in Facebook. Email is passé, and communicating via text messaging is no longer adequate. Now I need to be on Facebook. OK. Easier said than done. Some of us have resisted getting involved in this type of social media. How many of this group of "resistors" would like a short session on how to get involved in Facebook, Skype, or other types of social media so popular with the younger generations? I'm sure we have several members who have expertise in these types of social media and would be happy to provide a "how to" session. Let us know (I for

one would appreciate it).

Labor Day is just around the corner and our first scheduled general meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 19 at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library. Program Committee co-chairs Bob Snyder and Linda Kennedy have arranged an exciting program about researching genealogical information via bicycle in Ireland. Sounds like an unusual strategy, but makes a lot of sense when the goal is to learn more about the people and area where ancestors lived. The speaker who did this is The Rt. Rev. David Reed pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Auburn. Hopefully we'll see you there.

Faye Ebach, President

*"From the tiniest
acorn grows the
mighty oak"*

From The Editor ● ● ●

Welcome back members. We are off to another exciting year with the society.

I am looking for more articles for the newsletter. If you have something to contribute please send it to the society's mail.

I had a great summer and accomplished some research. I was able to travel to other parts of the state to locate, clean and photograph some family tombstones. Earlier this year I had requested several death records from Pennsylvania Vital Records which leads to more generations of my family. I feel the need to make a return trip to Lancaster to do some further research. I am hoping to do an article later this year concerning my findings.

The Society has been hard at work already this year, to find ways to make the society better. Of great importance to us, is recruiting new members and trying to get younger generations involved. If you have any ideas to help with the recruitment, please send a message to our membership committee. I would also like to remind you that the general meetings of the MGS are open to the public, so it would be helpful if you bring a friend to the meetings. We are also discussing creation of a youth membership and lifetime membership. Please take the time to check out our new website at mimgs.org. You can also find us on facebook under Midland Genealogical Society. We are working to provide online databases to assist you with your research.

Walter G. Bennett

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2012-2013

Statements for the 2012-2013 dues were sent out in early August 2012 and will be due by the first meeting in September 2012.

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

Membership

We have processed 37 returns of our dues renewal letter which represents 22 individual memberships and 15 family memberships. This is a little bit ahead of last year at this time. The responses to the Time and Talent survey have been encouraging and we are compiling a summary which will



Marion and Betty

be shared with the Board.

Thank you to those who responded generously and made themselves available to serve on a one time-one thing project. We will also summarize the geographic places where you are researching along with your names so other members with like interests can connect with you. This will be ready for the October newsletter.

We feel optimistic about the upcoming season and look forward to seeing you soon.

Membership Committee

Betty Bellous and Marion Berry

Computer Classes

The Grace A Dow library in Midland will be offering the following classes:

Introduction to Powerpoint

Mouse and basic computer skills required.

- Monday, **October 22** at 2:30 pm OR
- Thursday, **October 25** at 7:00 pm

Using the ribbon, creating slides, adding images and text, animating objects, viewing and printing presentation, working with themes and Smart-Art.

Beyond Facebook: Social Networking To-day

Mouse and basic computer skills required.

Thursday **October 16** at 7 pm in the Library Lounge There is more to online communities than just Facebook! Find new ways to express yourself.



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.

ment in the colony.) Some colonies also had lists which contained quitrents, county levies, parish levies, port duties, export duties and fees which were not taxes, but monies paid for services rendered. While few still exist, after fires, floods and other disasters, those that remain can still provide some information with regard to relocation of ancestors.

Note that quitrent was a kind of land tax that the Crown originally imposed and that was regulated by acts of Parliament. The basic English laws under which the people of colonial Virginia and a few other colonies gained title to their land, required the owners to pay to the Crown a quitrent of two shillings for each hundred acres of land. If a landowner failed to pay the quitrent for a specified number of years, the Crown had the right to take back the land and grant it or sell it to another person. The money generated by this tax went into the royal treasury and was used to pay the expenses of the royal government in the colony. The county rent rolls, which were kept in the office of the royal auditor general of the original colonies in Jamestown or Williamsburg, no longer exist. Some documents recording the number of landowners and the total amount of quitrents for each of the counties can be found in the records of the colonial governors and of the royal auditors general of Virginia in the Virginia Colonial Records Project microfilm of documents from the British Public Record Office. (North Carolina also has a limited amount on microfilm.)

Tithables lists can be extremely valuable to genealogists. We all know, in a general way, that males 16 or over were taxed, but fine

distinctions in the laws and the process for creating the lists are important to understand because they can yield valuable clues for genealogists. Since neither land nor personal property was generally taxed in the colonies, tithables are the only useful colonial-era tax records available to us.

Keep in mind that tithables lists do not enumerate physical households in the sense of later censuses. They merely enumerate each person responsible for paying the tax along with the number of "heads" for whom they were the responsible taxpayer. Two individuals living in the same house, each an individual taxpayer would probably be listed independently.

You should carefully check court records for information related to tithables. Local county and vestry courts adjudicated ages of tithables, processed appeals, handled jurisdictional disputes, processed exemptions, and determined the ages of slaves, orphans, and servants. Since many Scots-Irish resided in colonial areas when tithables were prominent, it's a good practice to search all avenues of possible information. Court records on occasion can also be found to supplement the tithable lists. NC tithable lists that survive are archived in Raleigh, North Carolina.

For later ancestral arrivals, there are valuable records which are more numerous and plentiful, such as Ellis Island arrival lists, medical lists for arrivals, Canadian crossing lists and records of alien registrations, for Scots-Irish peoples.

The Scotch-Irish Society of the United States of America

<http://www.scotch-irishsocietyusa.org/>

Founded 1889

Purpose:

- The preservation of Scotch-Irish history,
- Keeping alive the *esprit de corps* of the Scotch-Irish as a people,
- Promotion of social intercourse and fraternal feeling among its members.

The Society is first and foremost American. It believes that it can broaden, deepen and enlarge the principles from which the nation has drawn the sustaining power for its development by recalling past achievements, remembrances and associations.

"Born and naturalized citizens, we give ourselves anew in this organization to the land for which our fathers and friends gave their blood and lives. We are not a band of aliens, living here perforce and loving the other land across the sea. We belong to this land, and only recall the old that we may better serve the new, which is our own."

Rev. John S. MacIntosh, 1890

In 1949 the Society organized the Scotch-Irish Foundation, a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation, to collect and preserve for public, educational and research use, books, documents, family histories, letters, journals, and historical material relating to the origin and history of the Scotch-Irish people in the United States, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Scotland, and elsewhere. The Foundation is also empowered to receive gifts and legacies, which are tax deductible.

The Foundation's historical collection is maintained in the Balch Institute of Ethnic Studies, 18 South Seventh Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106. The Society and the Foundation do not conduct research on individual family trees; neither does the Balch Institute.

The Society is non-sectarian, and non-political, and welcomes into the Society individuals possessing the qualifications for membership.

The Mystery of the Melungeons

Off in the recesses of the Appalachians, primarily in East Tennessee, SW Virginia, Eastern Kentucky and SW North Carolina, live the Melungeons, a tri-racial group of peoples. No one can say for certain where their true ethnic roots originated. They have a distinct dialect, and some general physical characteristics, which are olive colored skin, high cheekbones, dark hair and eyes. They are not prone to obesity, they have a bump at the base of the skull where the head joins the neck (often referred to as "anatolian bumps") and shovel shaped incisors, however other variations in appearances have also been noted, or no noticeable variations noted at all.

Since censuses have been recorded, Melungeons were not classified into their own ethnic group, but listed as " Some other race 600-999". Most scholars believe that it is not a pure ethnicity, and that the Melungeons are closely related to a mix of European, sub-Saharan and Native Americans who intermarried and bred from the 1700s-1800s. There was a high population of Melungeons who once lived in the Chesapeake Bay region who migrated to the frontier of the New River area of Virginia, now part of the State of North Carolina ,that began with many common "core names", such as Bowling, and Goins, Minor, Mullins and Mise, still present in Appalachia today.

Some early Melungeons described themselves as " Portyghee" or Portuguese, while others described themselves as " Indyun" or Indian, via their dialect. Melungeons were thought to be a dying tri-ethnic group in the 1960s due to out mi-

gration and intermarriage, however, in the 1990s, the opposite was found to be true.

There are many DNA projects currently testing those of suspected Melungeon ethnicity to try to ascertain a more definitive description of these groups of peoples, which currently shows overwhelming northern European and sub Saharan African ancestry as was conducted by the University of Virginia at Wise, with further texts in progress.

There is a train of thought that there were also Atlantic Creoles who are part of this group, who descended from African slave women and Portuguese or Spanish males.

The April 2012 issue of the *Journal of Genetic Genealogy* includes the results of the Family Tree DNA Melungeon Core Project since 2005. The lines of 69 males and eight females have been tested; the results state that "the families historically called Melungeons are the offspring of both European and sub-Saharan African men and white women of northern or central European origin. "There are those who dispute these results that DNA alone can not prove Melungeon ancestry, regardless of how carefully the tested individuals are selected. There is an inherent and fatal flaw in any such test using mitochondrial or Y-chromosome DNA to trace a "race" to another ethnic group.

Additional problems face the re-

searcher attempting to use human leukocyte antigen region (HLA) chromosome 6 testing. These are currently the three techniques used for attempting to determine ethnicity using DNA. Other theories include the following with regard to the origins of the Melungeon people: That they were the Survivors from the Lost Colony of Roanoke; Survivors from Portuguese shipwrecks along the SE Coast of the Americas, Descendants of the Welsh explorer "Madock", or descendants of early Phoenician seamen.



A Melungeon family

There are also theories that Melungeons are also more predisposed to certain illnesses such as sarcoidosis and Mediterranean fever, while this has not been proven. There are many sites on the internet where Melungeons are

(Continued on page 6)

comparing family history and medical notes, physical descriptions and photographs to document the peoples of this group which have long been misunderstood, or for which there is much misinformation.

Historically, Melungeons have served in wars, and were most noted for their contributions for the North and the South during the Civil War, where numerically, they were no more or no less prone to siding with the Confederates or the Union. They tend to follow conservative political groups and are religious by nature.

While still living generally isolated, there is no longer a fear of discrimination as there was for decades, where the Melungeons were written off as being "mulatto" or blacks, in the old South while adults hid their children from census takers so they would not be classified as "black". Many still live in poverty of the Appalachians and attempt to farm the land which has had its advantages and disadvantages from one generation to the next, but they are a proud people, nonetheless. The new generation tend to be more optimistic, associating themselves with those who were original settlers over 400 years ago. With any luck, one day, the mystery of their origins will be solved, once and for all.

Yvonne L. Ashworth

Collection update from the Archives Staff, August 7, 2012.

An update on the transfer of the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection to the Archives of Michigan.

The microfilm transfer is now complete, meaning that all of the designated films are now available for researchers at the Archives. Location information in ANSWER, the online catalog, has also been updated to reflect these changes; an Archives of Michigan microfilm will read "Archives of Michigan – Michigan Historical Center (2E)" in the Location field in the catalog record. ANSWER is available at www.answercat.org.

Examples of microfilm resources now available onsite at the Archives include:

- U.S. city directories (Chicago, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, New York, Toledo, and many more)
- Naturalization indexes (Illinois, New England, New York, Ohio, and more)
- County and local histories (Illinois, Indiana, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin)
- Indexes to compiled service records (Civil War, Mexican War, and more)
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (Illinois, Indiana, New York, Ohio, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and more)
- Passenger lists and/or indexes (Baltimore, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and more)

Print resources, including the family histories, will begin moving over to the Archives in mid-to-late August.

As always, please contact the staff at the Archives with any questions you may have. The Archives staff appreciates your patience as we navigate through this transition, and look forward to assisting you in your research.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

September 19, 2012

7:00 PM -- Dow Library Lounge

IRELAND -- JUST PLAIN FABULOUS

"Doing Irish Genealogy by Bicycle"

The Rev. David Reed, pastor

Grace Lutheran Church,

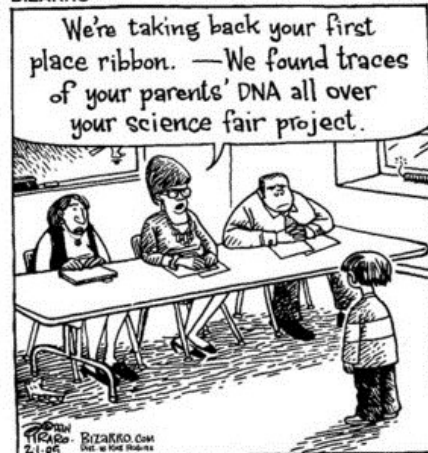
Auburn, Michigan

Pastor Reed has been doing genealogical research for about 30 years. After growing up in Southern California, pastor Reed graduated from Concordia University in Seward Nebraska, and from Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He served for a time as the pastor of a church in Crystal Lake, Illinois and has been pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Auburn for the last twenty-one years. His interest in genealogy was a direct result of his grandmother's membership in the DAR. Our program for the evening promises to be informative and entertaining.

Robert Snyder

rcsnyder2@earthlink.net

BIZARRO



When You Can't Find the Vital Record...

Looking for a birth, marriage, or death record but coming up short? Here are some places – and techniques – you can turn to for answers when the usual sources don't pan out.

Birth Dates

While it's important to remember that these are not primary sources for birth information, both marriage and death records often include birth dates and places.

U.S. federal censuses records for the years 1850–1930 include ages for everyone in the household. With a little math, this will help you close in on a birth year. Enumerators used fractions to record ages for people born within the census year (e.g., 1 month = 1/12, 2 months = 2/12, etc.). The 1900 census asked for the month and year of birth, as well as ages.

Military records will often include birth information for the person who served, and occasionally you'll also find birth details for family members. World War I Draft Records and the World War II "Old Man's Draft" are two good examples of military records that include birth dates.

Marriage Dates

Since churches began recording marriages before counties and states did, they are an obvious choice as an alternative to a civil marriage record. Determine what churches were around at the time you think your ancestors married; then search those closest to where your ancestor lived or that shared an ethnic affiliation with your relatives. (You may find reference to church affiliations in death and other records.)

Once you have determined what church your ancestor attended, a call to the church may be all it takes to find where the records are located, but if the church no longer exists, it may take a little digging. Many denominations have their own archives, while records for others may be held at a local or state historical society. And don't overlook the possibility that a local group has made the records available online. Plugging the church name into a search engine could bring you an unexpected surprise. Don't forget to search collections like the new Pennsylvania Church and Town Records, 1708–1985, which include records from many Pennsylvania congregations.

Local newspapers may have run notices of your ancestor's engagement or marriage. Look for tidbits in social columns, as well as in sections that regularly listed marriage announcements and engagements. You can search historical newspapers on Ancestry.com. Also look for notices of anniversaries, especially memorable ones like 25th and 50th, in local newspapers. You may find details about the original marriage, including the date and names of witnesses, or a guest list of anniversary party attendees that will likely include other family members.

When marriage records can't be found, estimate the marriage date based on the age of the first child (subtract a year, just to be safe). As with any estimation you include in your research, be sure to note it as such. And bear in mind that there are a number of factors capable of throwing this estimate off.

Death Records

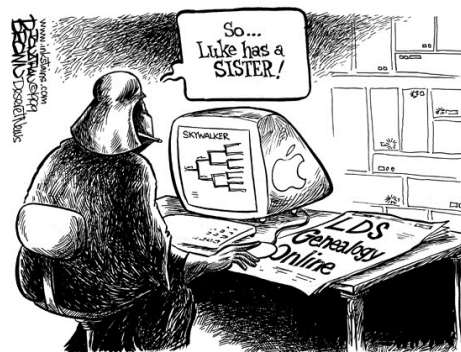
New York, Death Newspaper Extracts, 1801–1890 (Barber Collection), is just one example of a

collection that can be invaluable for finding information about New Yorkers, people who died in New York while visiting, or even individuals who did not live in New York but whose relatives did.

An obvious alternative to a death certificate can be found at the cemetery, whether on a tombstone or in the records of the cemetery sexton. Millions of cemetery records have been transcribed and indexed by genealogical societies. Find-a-Grave.com includes photographs of several million graves with death and other information.

If your ancestor lived in a city, city directories can be especially useful. When someone who has been listed in a directory for several consecutive years suddenly disappears, it might be that he or she has passed away. When a man died, his wife may be listed in subsequent years as "widow" or "widow of..." Ancestry.com has directories for many cities and years.

This article was reprinted from Ancestry.com's Learning Center. You can find this and other informative articles by searching Ancestry.com for the subject that you need assistance with.



News From Eastman's newsletter Blog.EOGN.com

Winnebago County, Illinois, Puts Genealogy Records Online

The Winnebago County Clerk's Office has created a new website to help give people access to them. It allows people to view the information and get copies of birth, marriage and death certificates without having to leave their own home. "For some, viewing the information is a great way to re-live memories of loved ones, and for others it's a convenient way to collect important family-related documents," Margie Mullins says.

Copies of certificates cost \$12 each.

Under Illinois State law, genealogy records are defined as:

- Birth certificates that are 75 years or older;
- Marriage certificates that are 50 years or older; and
- Death certificates that are 20 years or older

The website is at

www.genealogy.winnebago-county-clerk.com.

Illinois State Archives Unveils New Electronic Database

The following announcement was written by the Illinois State Archives:

Illinois Secretary of State and State Archivist Jesse White (D) has announced that a new online database describing the documents and records maintained at the Illinois State Archives is now available.

The database, called Archon, is a searchable finding aid for use in locating important historical information.

"As state archivist, it is my mission to make Illinois records available and as easily accessible as possible," White said. "With the use of the

held at the Illinois State Archives. I am proud to make these important historical documents easily accessible with the use of this advanced technology."

Archon is an open source archival management system that was developed by archivists at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is now used in more than 50 institutions across the country. It provides both a way for staff to record descriptive information about collections and a means for the public to view, search and browse that information in a fully-functional website.

Archon's public interface shows the most current information that is available to researchers because it is updated automatically once records are received by the Archives. Once information has been entered, it is instantly accessible, searchable and browseable. The new electronic database can be found at <http://archon.ilsos.net>.

This new electronic database replaces a printed guide called *Descriptive Inventory of the Archives of the State of Illinois*.

Comment by Dick Eastman: This new database apparently does not contain any images or transcriptions of original documents. It is strictly a **CATALOG** of the collections available in the Illinois State Archives. You can search the catalog online but, to obtain copies of the original documents, you will need to contact the Illinois State Archives or travel there yourself.

Ancestry.com is reportedly in Final Talks with Three Buyout Firms

Reuters News Service is reporting that three private equity firms, including Hellman & Friedman LLC, are still pursuing a potential buyout of Ancestry.com Inc. The company reportedly seeks an offer that tops \$1.5 billion.

Permira Advisers LLP and TPG Capital LP are also involved in the auction for Ancestry.com. One of the people familiar with matter said there was an expectation the company would make a decision by the end of September.

Findmypast.com Expands U.S. Records Collection

The following announcement was written by Findmypast.com:

LOS ANGELES, August 31, 2012 – Findmypast.com, an international leader in online family history research, today announced the expansion of its U.S. records to include World War I Draft cards and outgoing passenger lists from the UK to United States, among others.

The unveiling of findmypast.com's expanded record collection follows the announcement of a new partnership with Federation of Genealogical Societies to preserve and digitize local U.S. records from genealogical societies around the country including newspapers and obituaries, bible records, cemetery records and birth, marriage and death records. Through this partnership, findmypast.com has shown a commitment to the genealogical community and societies both big and small.

"Findmypast.com is giving our users access to key U.S. data sets that will help them expand their research and uncover more facts," said D. Joshua Taylor, business development manager and genealogist for findmypast.com. "The U.S. records expansion complements our extensive international collection including records from Ireland, Scotland, Australia, England and New Zealand."

New records that have been added or will be added during 2012 include:

World War I Draft Cards
Outbound UK Passenger Lists (BT27)
Genealogical society materials
1940 Census records

The new records join nearly 1,000 existing unique and international record collections including:

England Royal Household Records
Most complete England, Wales and Scotland census collection available online
British Army service records
Unique Irish prison and court records
Irish military and rebellion records
Millions more records and specialist records that cannot be found anywhere else and many sets dating back to 1200 AD

Coming Events

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

www.hsmichigan.org/

Sept 29, 2012 "Family History Festival at the Detroit Public Library", Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, 10:00 a.m.—5:15 pm. www.detroit.lib.mi.us/.

Oct 6, 2012 "Researching your family from A-Z., First Presbyterian Church, 433 N. Calhoun St., Lapeer, Michigan. 9am—3 pm. Presented by the Lapeer County Genealogical Society. mimgc.org/pdf/lapeer_atoz.pdf.

Oct 12 & 13, 2012 "Got Ancestors?!" Presented by the Western Michigan Genealogical Society. To be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Open to the public. Registration is required. Curt Witcher will be the guest speaker. gotancestors.com/.

Oct 19-20, 2012 "Illinois State Genealogical Society Fall Conference", Rockford, Illinois. Featured speaker is John Philip Colletta, PhD. www.ilgensoc.org.

Oct 20, 2012 "2012 Annual Polish Research Seminar", Presented by the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan. To be held at the American Polish Cultural Center Hall #2 in Troy Michigan. <http://pgsm.org/seminarfeatured.htm>.

Nov 10, 2012 "Family History Workshop at the Archives of Michigan" (Save the Date)

Apr 27, 2013 "Nab and Grab Your Ancestors Using 21st Century Techniques". Monaghan Council K of C Hall on Farmington Rd south of 8 mile in Livonia. Presented by the Farmington Genealogical Society and the Northville Genealogical Society. This is an all day seminar which includes a continental breakfast and hot lunch. Ann Staley will be the guest speaker. 8am—4pm.

MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL REPORT

Faye Ebach, Delegate

Change is certainly the word for this report. During the annual meeting in May, a changing of the guard occurred with the election of new officers. Some are new faces, bringing with them a new level of energy, enthusiasm, and commitment. New MGC officers are: Pres.-Tom Koselka, V. Pres. – Ed Redmer, Treas. – Laurine Griffin, Board Rec. Sec. – Sam Pardee, Delegate Rec. Sec., - Stacy Stoner, Corr. Sec. – Cynthia Grostick, Trustee – James Jackson.

Kris Rzepczynski, former Library of Michigan (LOM) representative, has transferred to the Michigan Archives. Kris is extremely knowledgeable regarding the Michigan Genealogical Collection and will resume some of his former responsibilities now that the collection is transferring to the Archives. Kris reported at the August Board meeting that the book transfer to the Archives will occur on or about the week of August 27. Approximately 75% of the collection will be in open stacks available for browsing on the second floor. The remaining 25%, identified as books infrequently used, will be available per written request at the desk. The transfer of microfilm has been completed and is now available on the second floor. Location information is available in the online catalogue ANSWER. U.S. and Canadian Census films remain in the LOM. All other films beyond Michigan borders now reside in the Archives. Kris further reported that a photography company that has compiled photo-directories for more than 100 churches throughout Michigan has donated a collection of Michigan Church Pictorial Directories to the Archives.

For those users of the Archives Seeking Michigan website, many have noted that the system has not functioned well during the past month. The company that hosts the website upgraded its product. The new version was not compatible with the Seeking Michigan website, resulting in the need to adapt the website in order to incorporate the changes. The new version required changing various web addresses within the Seeking Michigan website pos-

ing challenges to users. In addition, the Archives staff has worked diligently with Ancestry.com to connect their index of Michigan death records to the correct images as part of this upgrade. By the time you read this article, all of these adaptations should be resolved.

Roger Moffat reported in July that more than 84% of the 1940 census indexing project has been completed. Considering this census includes a population of more than 132,000,000, the progress of the project, done by volunteers from all over the country, is phenomenal.

The July 13/14 annual Abrams Seminar in the Archives Historical Center in Lansing was well attended with approximately 82 registered attendees. Keynote speaker was Josh Taylor, formerly from the National Archives and a frequent participant on the NBC "Who Do You Think You Are" series. Josh spoke to the MGC delegate meeting on July 13 about "Engaging a New Generation of Genealogists". His focus was how can genealogy societies develop the tools and/or strategies that will engage younger generations. His suggestions were to focus on identifying **who** are these younger generations; **why** are they seeking information; and **what** are they seeking? The answers to those questions will help societies create opportunities to reach out to those "21sters, i.e., genealogists who have discovered genealogy after 2000, primarily through online resources." His talk was creative, exciting, challenging, thought provoking, and inspiring. Several members of our Society attended and came away with ideas "dancing in our heads", eager to try something new.

You live as
long as you are
remembered.

-- Russian proverb

Member Profile

Meet President

Faye Siersma Ebach



Sitting down to interview this octogenarian was like a breath of fresh air. The vitality of our president, the widow of former MGS president Earl Ebach, is so evident it encompasses everyone.

Faye became interested in genealogy when Earl and she attended a workshop at Northwood shortly before she retired from Delta College in 1995. They made two trips to Germany to do his research, and a trip to the Netherlands to research her family roots. On this later trip they checked records at the Archives and were also able to see the actual home of her great-grandparents and the next door unit where her grandparents had lived and where her father was born.

"My father's youngest sister was still living when I began working in earnest on my lines, and we set up an appointment to interview her one afternoon. She was a wealth of information which included information about my great-grandparents. She also told us about a sister of my great-grandfather who converted to the Mormon religion after a mission team from Utah visited. She emigrated to Utah and lived in Og-

den where, later on, she married a man from Amsterdam who was also a convert

Faye's father, his younger brother and her grandparents, emigrated from Groningen in the Netherlands in 1906. Her great-grandfather, a tall large Dutchman, was not an easy man to live with – great-grandmother & their two youngest daughters left in the middle of the night & immigrated to Muskegon where an older daughter sponsored them. This took place about a month after Faye's paternal grandparents married in 1901. It was thought that the young married couple would emigrate soon after. But grandfather had to finish his apprenticeship as a printer. Then two sons were born delaying the event even more. By the time they did manage to leave in 1906, Faye's grandmother was pregnant again & delivered a baby girl three weeks after arriving in Boston.

"My aunt said that there were always babies around because grandmother was a 'wet nurse'. One mother never returned for her baby, and after much effort trying to find her, they eventually took the babe as their own. This is why no one could find a birth certificate for her. To this day, the family thinks she was a daughter by birth."

Because Michigan had several prevalent Dutch communities, the family settled in Detroit. Faye's grandfather and father were active members of the Dutch Reformed Church there. Grandfather had beautiful penmanship, kept church books and kept up correspondence with family and friends back in the Netherlands.

Faye's father was an insurance man who was also a master plumber, something he did on the side. Faye and her four siblings were born in Detroit and lived there until the family moved to Warren in 1940 where they lived on 10 acres of land. Because of gas rationing in WWII, they were unable to continue membership in the Detroit church and had to look elsewhere to worship. Since there wasn't a Dutch Re-

formed Church in the area they became members of the Baptist Church. Due in large part to her father's volunteer work in the community and especially on the school board, an elementary school situated on the edge of the former family property is named after him. Her father died suddenly at the age of 60, and her mother lived to 95.

"We had family reunions with my mother, my siblings, and their families every two years while mother was still living. Today my siblings get together once or twice a year. Some nieces and nephews are showing an interest in family history. Earl and I began, while my mother was still alive, making a calendar every year with family pictures past & present, including notes of various members' significant dates. I have continued to do this for every family member."

"A family story passed down states that my maternal great-great-grandparents came from England. They had as boarders a man and his 10 year old son. The 'grands' ended up adopting the boy, though no records have been found to that effect."

"My advice to novice genealogists: focus on one question you want answered."

**The society has a new
web page.**

Check it out!

MIMGS.ORG

Also find us on Facebook

Search for Midland Genealogical Society

Looking Back in Midland County

(Taken from *The Midland Sun* Fri. Oct. 28, 1898 p.1)

George B. Stanford

Union-Silver Candidate for Senator of the 24th District

George B. Stanford needs no introduction to the people of Midland county, having been associated with his brother, M. H. Stanford, since he was 15 years of age, and succeeding him in his practice upon his removal to Duluth in 1892. Mr. Stanford was born in Fenton, Genesee county, June 22, 1867, where he lived with his parents until the spring of 1882 when he came with them to Midland. At the age of 10 he entered the grocery and dry goods store of Wm. Giberson of Fenton, working nights, mornings and Saturdays, being the time when he was free from school duties.

In the fall of 1888 Mr. Sanford was appointed railroad mail clerk, which position he held until after the election of President Harrison, when he resigned. Upon his return he was elected city clerk for two terms; also justice of the peace for four years. Under the administration of Governor Winans he was appointed probate judge to fill the unexpired term occasioned by the resignation of W. D. Gordon upon his election to the state legislature.

Mr. Stanford is what you might term "a joiner," having been a member of the K. O. T. M. for a number of years, a Mason, Modern Woodmen of America, and an active worker in the Knights of Pythias, being a member of the uniformed rank of this latter order.

Since the departure of his brother, Mr. Stanford has been the mainstay of his aged parents, their comfort and care being his first thought. Generous to a fault, cheerful and whole hearted, he makes friends wherever he becomes acquainted, and we are looking forward to his election by a large majority.

(Taken from *The Midland Sun* Fri. Nov. 18, 1898 p. 8)

Hope

John Higgins has gone to Battle Creek.

Will McNara has gone up the river to hunt wild cat.

Mrs. Davidson is visiting her niece, Miss Lillie Baker.

Robert Wilson, sick with lung trouble, is improving.

Wellington and John Card have gone to Traverse City to work.

Miss Crawford of Brookfield attended the funeral of Wm. Joyn.

Quarterly meeting will be held at the Baptist church Saturday and Sunday.

Earl Partridge has returned from working in the woods near Mackinaw City.

School district No. 4 is flourishing under the management of Miss Edna B. Love.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Card, sr., have gone to Canada to visit their daughter, who is very sick.

William Henry Joint, son of C. Joint, died at his home Sunday night, Nov. 6, of intermittent fever, aged 17 years. Funeral was held Nov. 8, at the M. E. church, Revs. Brown and Cole officiating. The floral offerings were numerous and beautiful. Willie was highly esteemed in the community where he lived and leaves a large circle of relatives and friends to mourn the loss.

Averill

G. F. McMullen has returned from Grand Rapids.

W. H. Madison was at the county seat last Friday.

Mrs. D. Currie was at Saginaw the first of the week.

Roy Gillian and Mat Wilcox left Monday for the upper peninsula.

Our mayor thinks he is getting thin and fears his health may fail him.

The little son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Monroe is

suffering from an abcess on his head.

Rev. C. A. Brown is holding revival meetings at the M. E. Church; Rev. Cole of Hope is assisting him.

Some of our citizens are wondering if the hunting licenses for shooting deer and birds includes dogs, etc.

For the past two weeks our streets have been alive with teams loaded with onions, potatoes, hay and grain.

Walter Baldwin, who has been in the west for some time, returned the 8th. He is visiting his mother and sister.

Mesdames Wm. Madison, R. G. Berry, and O. B. Inman spent a very pleasant day the 11th at Sanford at the home of Mrs. Ed Lane.

(Taken from *The Midland Sun* Mar. 10, 1881 p. 1)

Personal Items

Judge Hart is holding court at Harrison

Thos. Reardon is recovering rapidly from injuries lately received.

F. M. Burton, Thos. Gransden, G. B. Goff and Walt Judge of Edenville, called Monday.

W. H. H. Morgan of Edenville is a happy man. He won his suit at the late term of court, and deems that thereby be saved a large portion of his farm at E.

Joseph Madill and wife of Saginaw brought the remains of their little child for burial to this place last Saturday. The age of the deceased was about seven months.

Mrs. Giles Parsons, a resident of the Golden State, formerly of Edenville and Clare, and just one of the liveliest and most genial old ladies you ever met, has been visiting friends at E. during the past few days.

Pioneer Record

Midland Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 2421
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Information about Midland Genealogical Society

The MGS meets on the 3rd Wednesday of Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr. & May at 7:00 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.