



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.

December—No meeting

January 16 - Jeraldine Schramm - Master Graphoanalysis & Forensic Document Examiner - Note: This meeting will be held at St. John's Episcopal church, corner of Saginaw and St. Andrews streets.
February 20 - Fran Longsdorf and Floyd Andrick - Midland County Centennial Farms.

March 20 - TBD

Eala Frya Fresena

by Walter Bennett

Friesland or Frisia is a province in the northern part of the Netherlands and part of the ancient region of Frisia. The land in size is 1,297 sq. miles with most if it below sea level. The population in 2010 was 646,000. The capital is Leeuwarden. People who live in Friesland are known as Frisians.

The majority of Friesland is on the mainland but also includes several islands in the west. They live on land that was reclaimed from the sea about 2,000 years ago. Dikes were built to prevent flooding. Friesland is bounded on the west, southwest, and north by water and on the east and south by other provinces. There are about 30 inland lakes and several islands.

History

Frisians began to occupy the area around 400 BC. During the Paleolithic times they were reindeer hunters. Later, there were Mesolithic and Neolithic settlements. Eventually, this led to the invasion of Germanic tribes. The first proven historical event was the arrival of the Roman Fleet in 12 BC. Saxons had also settled the region. Around 1000 AD, the Frisians began building dikes along the North Sea shore. Frisia

was ruled by kings like the famous Radbod. The kingdom of Frisia was short-lived and fell to the Pippin of Herstal in 689 AD. The Eastern area became part of the Frankish Empire. Charles the Great (Charlemagne) then divided East Frisia into two counties. It was at this time that Christianity came to the area. Frisians considered themselves free people and not obliged to any foreign authority. They resisted implementing a feudal system of government as was well known throughout Europe. The system that was implemented was a form of followship which was similar to what was used in Germanic cultures of the North.

Under the Treaty of Utrecht, in 1579, Friesland was joined with the other six provinces in the north to form the "Seven United Provinces", the forerunner of the Netherlands. Friesland became part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in 1814.

During the 8th Century, Saint Boniface, who was a missionary who propagated Christianity in the Frankish Empire. He is the patron saint of Germany. He was killed in Frisia in 754 along with 52 others. During

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The President's Letter

Our first two society meetings have been eventful. On September 19, the Library Lounge was almost filled to capacity. Our speaker, The Reverend David Reed from Auburn, presented a fascinating story of his 3 week bicycle tour of Ireland while seeking the gravesite of his grandfather.

At the October 19 meeting, fellow MGS member Terry Brown shared the story of his ancestor William Wright Brown. In 1862, James Andrews hatched a plan to go to Georgia with 22 fellow Union raiders to steal the train called the "General" in Marietta, Georgia. William W. Brown would be the train's engineer. On April 12, 1862 the group successfully commandeered the train. The

raiders and train were eventually captured by Confederate soldiers near Chattanooga, Tennessee. This event was the inspiration for several movies, the last one "The Great Train Robbery".

Many of us have similar stories and fascinating experiences while researching our ancestors' histories. Sharing these stories increases our understanding of culture and history, and makes us more aware of how challenging life was for our ancestors.

As demonstrated by these first two programs, genealogists learn from one another. This is one of the major benefits of becoming a member of a genealogy society. We all share a passion for researching our ancestry and willingly share our experiences, our finds, our techniques, and our resources with others.

Our program chairs have worked diligently planning programs. For those with German ancestry, November's program will provide a great deal of information about researching Palatine immigration. This will be a great opportunity to learn about the history of this group of immigrants and pick-up some helpful hints regarding sources to research.

Have a safe and blessed Thanksgiving and come join us at the Library Lounge on November 27.

Faye Ebach, President

GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



Digging up the bones.

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.

From The Editor ● ● ●

Looking for more articles for the coming newsletters. If there is something that you would like us to research and write about, please send us your suggestions.

We are approaching another holiday season. Please remember our family members that we spent time with over the holidays in our youth that are no longer with us. These are the people that you are researching. You may think of a clue that will lead you to further investigation.

Genealogy brings us so many surprises as we discover something about our ancestors that we didn't know. Have you ever discovered an aunt or uncle that were never discussed by the family but they exist on documents? Why were they never men-

tioned? This is something that has bothered me for some time and I hope to find an answer some day.

Rootsmagic 6 was just released. This is the program that I now use and hope to have a review for you later. There are some nice new features in this version such as web tags. This allows you to put links to websites. This is very handy for find-a-grave links.

If you have a facebook account, please add the Midland Genealogical Society. I post links to articles there that I think the members might be interested in. There have been many records become available online for Indiana and Illinois lately. These are areas that I have been searching and I think you are too.

*Happy Hunting
Walter G. Bennett*

Membership

November 2012

The rush of processing the 2013 dues is over and we are pleased that so many of you responded to the One Thing-One Time effort. The upcoming year should be an exciting and eventful year. It's



Marion and Betty

evident that many members are determined to work toward a rejuvenated society. Thank you ! You will be hearing more about these efforts in the near future. Meanwhile, the "Where Are Your Researching" report is included this month. Check it out and meet up with someone who is working in the same geographic area. You may be surprised what you can learn as well as sharing your knowledge. Perhaps a few road-blocks can be eliminated !

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, February 18 at 2:30 pm

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

Introduction to Microsoft Excel

Mouse and basic computer skills required.

Wednesday February 6 at 2:30 pm.

Introduction to Microsoft Word

Mouse and basic computer skills required.

Tuesday, January 29 at 2:30 pm

or

Tuesday, February 5 at 2:30 pm



BOOKS FOR SALE

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

Midland County Obituary Index (#1) – 1872-1927. The book consists of 16,000 abstractions covering 55 years from the Midland Times (1872 -1875), The Midland Sun (1892 -1924) and the Midland Republican (1881-1927). The soft bound 238 page book is 8 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.

the second journey of Saint Boniface to Rome Wulfram, a monk tried to convert Radbod. Bud did not succeed. Radbod was almost baptized, but refused after he was told that he would not be able to find any of his ancestors in Heaven after his death, since he preferred spending eternity in Hell with his pagan ancestors than in Heaven with his enemies. It was

of Holland, but in reality, the counts were unable to assert themselves as the sovereign Lords of Frisia. This stalemate resulted in a period of time in which feudalism and serfdom did not exist and the Frisian lands only owed their allegiance to the Holy Roman Emperor. During the 13th century, the Counts became increasingly more powerful and began reasserting themselves as the rightful lords.

There were many floods in the 11th

building started sometime around 1200 AD.

During the Napoleonic occupation, the French created a mandate for permanent last names. Prior to this time, it was customary for the last name to be reversed with the first name of each generation. For instance, a man with the name Jan Kirk would name his son Kirk Jan.

Dutch is the official language of Friesland, but about half of all the residents speak both Dutch and Frisian. Frisian is a Germanic language that is similar to both Dutch and English. It is also considered the closest living language related to English. The language is divided into three groups, The North Frisian, the East Frisian and the West Frisian. Frisian has survived in poetry and literature. There are references in the 7th century Old English poem Widsith and in the epic Beowulf.

Frisia is predominately Protestant. The Dutch reformed church and the Lutheran church are the dominant churches. During the reformation period, Menno Simons, founder of the Mennonite church found refuge there.

Friesland is mainly Agricultural. The black and white Frisian cattle and the black Frisian horse originated here. Tourism is very important to the economy. Volkswagen has a factory in Emden. Leer also has shipping companies.

Around 1900, many people left

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in the early 8th century that the Frisian Nobles came into conflict with the Franks of the south. There were a series of wars and the Frankish Empire eventually took over Frisia in 734.

The Frisian territories were in theory under the control of the Count

and 12 centuries which killed many. The largest flood occurred in 1322, in which hundreds of people drowned.

According to Pliny the Younger, in Roman times, the Frisians lived on terps, man made hills which were created to provide safe grounds during high tide and floods. These terp were up to 15 meters high. The first terp building dates back to 500 BC. Dike

The Dysentery Epidemics of the 1700s-1800s in Sweden

by Yvonne L. Ashworth

Prior to advances in hygiene practices and the advent of modern medicine, Sweden experienced multiple severe dysentery outbreaks. From the late 1700s to the late 1800s, dysentery was the fourth most common cause of death and in some areas, dysentery accounted for 90% of the mortalities as evidenced by a doctoral thesis authored by Helene Castenbrandt, at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Dysentery symptoms vary according to the source of the pathogen and its concentration within the intestinal tract. Typically symptoms include abdominal discomfort and cramping, painful straining, and frequent stools with blood or mucus.

More severe cases involve the additional symptoms of headache, muscle aches, malaise and fever and the onset of symptoms which have the highest morbidity rate are delirium, stupor, shock, convulsions and even coma, along with the presence of Dehydration which in turn can cause renal failure.

While the exact causes of the outbreaks in Sweden have not been definitively determined, the majority of "cluster" outbreaks are thought to be the standard cause of dysentery, which include contami-

nation of food or water supplies due to poor hygiene and cross contamination via animal or human feces.

In the instance regarding the time frame in question, with respect to the outbreaks, it can be assumed that human feces was utilized for fertilizing crops. It is also known that there were higher population concentrations in war zones which would have heightened the risk of food and water contamination. Cross contamination from soiled bedding and clothing or used wash water is also suspect. Additional causes also include that some victims exacerbated the symptoms via continued consumption and ingestion of the contaminated water or food, unaware that it was the cause of the dysentery.

According to statistics, gleaned from such sources as death records, clergy notes, medical historians and government records, and recorded within the thesis written by Ms. Castenbrandt, the most severe outbreaks were from 1773-1784 where an average mortality rate was 15,000 per year, followed by the years of 1808-1813 where the average mortality rate was 10,000 per year.

Researchers are currently conducting studies in an effort to determine what factors were present which allowed the progression of the illness to decimate some parishes while other parishes near the

outbreak area escaped unscathed.

Such factors may include the differences in diet as determined by long periods of drought and subsequent crop failures prevalent in the 1770s, and cross contamination from dairy cows.

Fortunately, advances in medicine progressed to the extent where proper hygiene methods were introduced and sanitation improved with respect to the removal of human waste, thereby decreasing the incidents of dysentery and preventing further epidemics.

With the introduction of antibiotics and anti parasitic medications in the 1950s and 1960s, the morbidity rate from dysentery has significantly decreased.

The following is a link for the thesis by Helene Castenbrandt:

gupea.ub.gu.se/handle/2077/30195

Sources:

Thesis by Helene Castenbrandt

Journal of Research in Public Health, author Kazhila C. Chinsebu, Ficus

Publishers.com

www.algonet.se/~hogman

www.adventistarchives.org

www.sciencedaily.com

www.eogn.com (Eastmans online)

King Richard III of England--Mystery Solved?

By Yvonne L. Ashworth

King Richard III of England was born to Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York and Cecily Neville, Duchess of York at Fotheringhay Castle, Northamptonshire, on October 2, 1452. He married Anne Neville (b. June 11, 1456 d. March 16, 1485) and they had one son, Edward of Middleham,

(b. ca. Dec. 1475 d. April 9, 1484)
King Richard III's reign began on June 26, 1483 and was tragically ended at his death in the Battle of Bosworth Field on August 22, 1485.

During his brief reign, he established himself as both progressive, having supported legal aid and protections for the accused, and as a philanthropist, having endowed Kings College and Queens College in Cambridge. He also made grants to the church and founded the College of Arms.

There was conflict during his reign, as the Tudors put forth allegations implicating the King in the disappearance of his nephews, Edward V and Richard of Shrewsbury, Duke of York, both having been declared illegitimate by Act of Parliament in 1483. No evidence was found then nor since, to support those claims, however, William Shakespeare supported the ongoing theory evident in his writ-

ings, which portrayed the King as a deformed, maniacal and vengeful ruler capable of such an act. Historians have yet to absolve the King of the accusations in spite of the lack of evidence.



There are also differing accounts of King Richard III's demise on the battlefield.

A Welsh version states that the King's horse was trapped in a marsh and Sir Wyllyam Gardynyr knocked the King from his mount, delivering multiple violent blows to his head with a poleaxe to the extent that his helmet was driven into his skull. Other accounts record that the King had entered into the battle bravely, fighting valiantly until the end, where in death, he was thrown upon horseback naked and paraded as proof that he was dead, then buried unceremoniously at a Franciscan friary at the Grey Friars church in Leicester, England.

This battle would be the final clash of the War of the Roses, with Henry Tudor, later known as Henry VII, as victor.

On September 4, 2012 two human bodily remains were exhumed at an excavation

site under a parking lot in Leicester, England. One male, suspected to be King Richard III and a female, assumed to be the co-founder of the Friary, Ellen Luenor. The site also yielded fragmented window frames and other structural items common to the architecture from the late 1400s.

The remains of the male, upon initial examination, displayed evidence of skull trauma consistent with battle injury, the right shoulder was higher than the left, the spine exhibited evidence of scoliosis and an arrowhead was still lodged in the spine. It is noteworthy to repeat Shakespeare's account of King Richard III's deformities, which described him as "Hunchbacked".

When this information was released to the press in the UK, there were immediate gasps, with most believing that the remains of the male are indeed, that of the missing King.

The government issued a statement announcing that if DNA results are positive, with respect to verifying that they are those of the Kings, he will be buried at the cathedral in Leicester, across the street from where he was exhumed. Jon Ashworth, Labour MP for Leicester, further stated that should this occur, it would be a "positive closure of a 500 year mystery".

The DNA results are to be released publicly in January of 2013, which will be of particular interest not only to those descending from the Plantagenet monarchy line, but to historians and genealogists, locally and internationally.

Archives of Michigan signs new deal to preserve historic electronic records

Oct. 11, 2012

Just in time for National Electronic Records Day, which was Oct. 10, the State of Michigan has signed a new agreement to preserve electronic records. Michigan is the first state to sign a contract with Tessella to support the preservation of electronic records with historical value.

The State of Michigan has been seeking solutions for preserving electronic records with historical value since 1977. In June 2012, Tessella announced the availability of its new Preservica digital preservation technology. The State of Michigan decided to use Preservica because it is the only Web-based solution on the market that does not require the installation and customization of software locally. This provides a significant cost-savings to the state over other tools that require the installation, customization and maintenance of technology.

"Our partnership with the DNR and the Michigan Historical Center is another strong example of how our centralized technology service model in state government helps meet the business needs of the agencies we serve," said David Behen, chief information officer for the State of Michigan. "Preserving electronic records will help ensure that future generations have access to historical documents of importance, preserving valuable information about our great state."

"In the digital age, preservation of electronic records of historic value has become a significant concern," said State Archivist Mark Harvey. "Preservica will allow us to safely secure a large volume of electronic data, including precinct-level election results, K-12 education data, Michigan Supreme Court briefs and

meeting minutes of various public bodies."

Electronic records are hardware and software dependent. Over time, often within five to 10 years, the technology that was used to create them will become obsolete, especially as manufacturers cease to support older products. Due to this instability, electronic records must be continually migrated to new technology to remain accessible. Each time electronic records are migrated there is a risk that data, functionality and authenticity could be compromised. As a result, Michigan's history is at risk of disappearing.

Tessella is world leader in digital preservation solutions, technology, consulting and research. Customers in nine countries across three continents rely on its on-premise solution, a technology called Safety Deposit Box (SDB), to preserve their digital information.

Preservica is based on the advanced SDB technology in use at leading national archives and libraries and runs on Amazon Web Services (AWS), making the same level of digital preservation service available to businesses, organizations, and memory institutions that need to protect their digital wealth without incurring all the human and capital costs.

For more on Preservica, go to Tessella's website at www.digital-preservation.com. For more about the Archives of Michigan, go to www.michigan.gov/archivesofmi.

The Michigan Historical Center is part of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its museum and archival programs help people discover, enjoy and find inspiration in their heritage. It includes the Michigan Historical Museum, 11 regional museums and the Archives of Michigan. Learn more at

www.michigan.gov/michiganhistory.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr.

(From www.michigan.gov)

Michigan Tech Archives recovering from Fire, Water Damage

A fire broke out in the archives on October 26, which resulted in damage of documents from the sprinkler system. activating The fire was contained within a small area but suffered extensive water damage.

688 boxes of water-damaged documents were loaded onto freezer trucks and shipped to Green Bay. Belfor, a disaster recovery and property restoration firm then shipped the frozen documents to Fort Worth, Texas to freeze dry them. It was estimated that only a small percentage of the documents would be lost beyond repair.

The records housed at the archives include genealogical records, mining records, steelworkers union records and photographs. The archives will remain closed until further notice. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

News From Eastman's newsletter Blog.EOGN.com

Chicago Genealogist Now On-Line

The Chicago Genealogical Society and the Newberry Library have created a new digital collection, the Chicago Genealogist. The online database contains images of the Chicago Genealogist, a quarterly journal published continuously since 1969 by the Chicago Genealogical Society. The easily searchable online collection is free to the public and contains volumes 1-39 (1969-2007).

This collection allows the researcher to search by keyword - a surname, church or school name, Chicago neighborhood, etc., in a way not possible previously. This cooperative effort is accessible through the CARLI (Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois) Digital Collections site, where it is one of several collections of interest to genealogists.

You can learn more on the Newberry Library's web site at <http://www.newberry.org/chicago-genealogist-now-line>. The database is available at http://collections.carli.illinois.edu/cdm4/index_nby_cgs.php?CISOROOT=/nby_cgs.

Ancestry.com Adds a New Collection of Online Military Burial Ledgers and Headstone Applications

The following announcement was written by Ancestry.com:

Ancestry_logoAncestry.com partners with U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and National Archives and Records Administration to create a new collection of online military burial ledgers and headstone applications

PROVO, UTAH – November 9, 2012 – Going beyond name, rank and regiment, a new collection of military burial registers on Ancestry.com provides insight into some of America's greatest historical figures – including Abraham Lincoln, General Custer and others dating to the Civil War. The online, searchable collection launches today courtesy of a partnership between Ancestry.com, the world's largest online family history resource, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

9,000 pages of American heroes, where they are buried and other details," says Dan Jones, Vice President of Content for Ancestry.com. "And today they can be searched by individual names and viewed online on Ancestry.com, allowing family historians everywhere greater insight into the military experience of ancestors as well as notable personalities."

Highlights of the collection include:

President Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln's honorific entry in an Arlington National Cemetery register is framed with a hand-drawn black border. Under cause of death it reads "Assassinated; pistol shot by John Wilkes Booth the ball entering 2 inches below and behind the left ear and lodged in the brain."

General George Armstrong Custer. Custer is among those officers "taken up on Custer's battleground" and brought to Fort Abraham Lincoln by steamer in 1877. Custer's brother Thomas and brother-in-law James Calhoun, who were killed at the Little Big Horn, are in the collection as well.

Captain Charles William "Charley" Paddock, USMC. Paddock, winner of the gold medal in the 100 meter at the 1920 Summer Olympics, and whose 1924 Olympic appearance was portrayed in the movie Chariots of Fire, died in a World War II plane crash near Sitka, Alaska, where he is buried.

Vivia Thomas. According to legend, Thomas was a jilted fiancé who left home to exact revenge on an army officer who broke off their engagement. Thomas traveled west dressed as a man and joined the army at Fort Gibson, her ex-fiancé's post. She eventually shot and killed him, before dying herself. When the soldiers of Fort Gibson, who knew her as Private Thomas, learned of the story, they honored her courage by interment in the cemetery Officers' Circle.

From the 1860s until the mid-20th century, in some places, U.S. Army personnel tracked burials at national cemeteries and military posts in registers that included name, rank, company/regiment, date and cause of death, age, grave number, and original place of burial in the case of reinterments. The U.S. Army was responsible for all national cemeteries from the 1860s until the early 1930s, and they were responsible for depositing most burial registers at NARA. In 1973, the Army transferred 82 national cemeteries to what is now VA, where the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) oversees them.

Concerned for the fragility of these documents and wanting to expand public access to the contents, NCA scanned about 60

handwritten ledgers to produce more than 9,344 pages of high-quality digital images. Then in 2011, NCA initiated a partnership with Ancestry.com to index the ledgers so users can search them easily. At no cost to the government or taxpayers, Ancestry.com spent close to 3,000 hours indexing NCA's ledgers records to make them searchable by name.

The ledgers are one of two new Ancestry.com collections, U.S. Burial Registers, Military Posts and National Cemeteries, 1862–1960 and U.S. Headstone Applications, 1925–1963, both launching for Veterans Day 2012. More than 500,000 individuals are included in these records.

"We are excited to be able to share this wealth of primary documentation," said VA's Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Steve L. Muro. "With the help of Ancestry.com, we have opened the doors to thousands of service members' histories through the information contained in these burial ledgers."

The Ancestry.com partnership supports NCA's commemoration of the Civil War 150th anniversary (2011–2015). More than 72 of NCA's 131 national cemeteries originated with the Civil War. More than 3.7 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict — from the Revolutionary War to the Global War on Terror — are buried in VA national cemeteries in 39 states.

Black Death: Can the Secrets of London's Plague Help Fight Modern Diseases?

Listen with webReader

Black-death-1The Black Death killed tens of millions of people in the 14th century. Now a DNA study holds promise that it might study the ancient disease to better understand modern infectious diseases.

Between 1348 and 1351, the Black Death -- or bubonic plague -- killed up to three in five people as it spread rapidly through pre-industrial cities, unchecked by sanitation or modern medicine. That, and subsequent waves of the Yersinia pestis bacterium, claimed the lives of tens of millions of Europeans. Direct descendants of the same plague still exist, killing about 2,000 people each year -- although they are often now treatable with antibiotics.

Scientists now have sequenced the entire genome of the Black Death using DNA extracted from plague victims.

You can read more in an article by Jim Maceda in the NBC News web site at <http://goo.gl/XAYwA>.

Coming Events

Apr 13, 2013 “36th Annual Spring Seminar”, by the Monroe County Genealogical Society. To be held at Monroe County Community College, Building A. For further details see their web site at <http://gsmcmi.org/>.

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

Jo Brines, delegate

The MGC meeting earlier this month was a short one, consisting mostly of the usual speaker, a very short business meeting and the presentation of the Lucy Mary Kellogg award.

The Speaker was Mr. Don Hinkle, on “How your Society Can Have a Web Presence, using the Family Search Wiki”. He explained how easy it is to begin and incorporate the wiki into genealogy. It can also be a personal wiki. The hope is to have it available at all Family History Centers, and that local genealogical groups would consider adopting a wiki page. Mr. Hinkle is a FHC consultant and wiki trainer at the E. Lansing FHC and can be reached at djhinkle99@aol.com. He is looking for people interested in learning and becoming a mentor. Kris Rzepczynski from the Ar-

chives announced that the 1884 and 1894 (Michigan State Census) are now on the Seeking Michigan website, and more years will follow. Seeking Michigan will be on display at next year’s Salt Lake City Conference. The archives will extend their hours to Saturday beginning January 5 from 10-4, in addition to the present M-F 1-5.

A representative from the Library of Michigan said their collection will continue to grow but in a different direction than genealogy. The only thing they will now accept from the public is a local Michigan History if it involves only one family. In other words, history is #1.

The Lucy Mary Kellogg award was given to Shirley Hodges, from Eaton county. She has been very active in many aspects of Michigan genealogy. Lucy Mary Kellogg was one of the first women interested in genealogy and was very active in local, state, and national groups.

As a sidebar, eight MGS members visited the archives on November 15 for a tour of the revamped area. It is quite a large area within the vault where original papers of every kind of information are kept.

We received our ID card which is needed to enter the archives area, regardless of the type of material you are researching/using. The archives staff is extending a very warm welcome to all of us. A tour is highly recommended, and hopefully, one will be planned again in the spring.

(Continued from page 4) Friesland

Frisia for the United States and other countries due to lack of jobs. The area is again suffering, as young educated people go to other countries to find better employment. There are few academic jobs in the area and focused on engineering.

The traditional farm house was modestly sized. The house was connected to a barn by a narrow section which contained a kitchen, milk cellar and butter churning areas. The living quarters were divided into an all-purpose family room and a parlor.

There is folklore in Frisia that has survived from pagan times. Tales and superstitions include devils, ghosts, witches, elves, wizards and trolls. For funeral processions, it is customary to follow a winding path to confuse the spirit of the deceased so it won’t be able to find its way back home. The coffin is also carted around the cemetery three times before burial. “The Seven Wishes” is a traditional Frisian folktale. The story is set in a time when the land was populated by Little People. There was an old fisherman named Jan and his wife, Tryn and one day, Jan caught a magic silver fish that promised him seven wishes. The fisherman chose a new boat because his old one was falling apart. His wife became greedy and demanded a new house, furnishings, servants, and other luxuries. She then demanded absolute power and the fish

(Continued on page 10)

Member Profile

Meet Robert 'Bob' Snyder



This retired United Church of Christ Minister has lived many places before settling in Midland. His father worked for the government at Wright-Patterson Air Base in Dayton Ohio, during WWII. Otherwise the family lived mostly in the Chicago area.. Bob served several pastorates in Michigan until his retirement in 2000 from Kenilworth United Church in Buffalo, N.Y. His wife had roots in Midland, and they decided to move here. Since joining MGS he has served as President, Program Chairman (several times) and Volunteer Librarian.

His interest in genealogy came in 1974 when a friend, researching his own roots, showed Bob the basics. Though Bob didn't inherit any notes on his family, he did obtain some information on his maternal grandmother's Huber lines. His Rarick family was responsible for many large family reunions that branch of the family had in years past.

His paternal line came from Germany to Ontario, Canada in about 1834, settling in Leeds County. His great-great grandmother, Nancy Covell was born in 1812. Her grandfather, Simeon John Covell was a well-known Loyalist from Washington Co, NY, and her grandmother Covell (Susannah Mosher) has

ties to at least three Mayflower families. The family left Canada for Michigan in 1898.

Switzerland was the birthplace of Bob's maternal grandfather (Bishof), and he corresponds with several cousins there. For many years every time a Swiss relative overseas died, the family would send a death notice and a picture of the deceased. Bob couldn't believe his luck when a Bishof cousin asked if he'd like to have copies of them.

He felt equally lucky when he and wife Gwen went to a funeral home in Leeds seeking any information on the family's lines. A distant cousin, attending a visitation for his aunt, overheard the conversation and stepped in to give Bob pertinent information on the family.

The most difficult nut he has managed to crack was an ancestor, Sarah Coby. Recently he discovered that the surname was Jacoby, not the Coby he's spent years searching.

For 25 years he's been searching for the given name of his Hunt ancestor, the father of Ambrose. He's recently proved Ambrose' parents to be Jeremiah and Sarah (Vincent) Hunt, originally of Beekman, Dutchess Co., New York.

At home, two shelves of notebooks hold information on 16 major lines Bob has back to the great grandparents.

Today four cousins and Bob keep in close touch. He is compiling their genealogies and putting them into book form for them; two are already finished.

You can find Bob at The Grace A. Dow Library Thursday afternoon volunteering in the genealogy/history room, or at home on the computer working on his roots.

(Continued from page 9) Friesland

took everything away that it had given them. The couple realized that the only thing that truly mattered was each other and was content being modest.

"Eala Frya Fresena" is the motto for the coat of arms of East Frisia. This translates to "Stand up, free Frisians!". It refers to the legendary Frisian Freedom, a right to accept no rule other than the Holy Roman Emperor and the Christian God.

Sources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/>

With these topics

Friesland, Frisia, Frisian Languages, Frisians, Friesland (District), Frisian History

<http://www.holland.com/uk/tourism/Theme-1/Friesland-1.htm>

<http://www.boudicca.de/frisian1.htm>

<http://web.quipo.it/minola/frysk/language.htm>

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/220467/Frisia>

<http://kingdomoffrisia.webs.com/>

Please Note:

The January Meeting will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church located 405 N. Saginaw Rd. (corner of Saginaw and St. Andrews)

Looking Back in Midland County

(Taken from *Portrait and Biographical Album of Midland County Michigan 1884* p. 182)

John Carrow

John Carrow, farmer, section 33, Homer Township, was born Sept. 3, 1850, in Norfolk Co. Ont. He is the son of Joseph and Margaret (Smith) Carrow, both of whom are natives of Canada, and of mixed French, English, and German extraction. They now reside with their son in Homer Township. Their family comprised two sons and four daughters.

Mr. Carrow is the fourth child of his parents in order of birth, and is the second son. He came to Michigan in 1871, and purchased 40 acres of land on section 33. It was in heavy timber, and he now owns 100 acres additional, which he has since purchased. He has cleared and finely improved 75 acres, and has built a fine large stock and grain barn and a good residence. In political connection, he is a Democrat.

Midland Matters

(Taken from *The Midland Republican* Thursday, April 17, 1884 p. 5)

The 24th is tree-planting day by proclamation of the Governor.

Remember Cub Berdan will be here to assist in the concert May 2nd.

It is now stated that there was no insurance on the Exchange Hotel.

The Republican County Convention will meet tomorrow afternoon.

Some of our people noticed that there was a fair sized rain Tuesday.

Ed Burrough returns to Flint with his family. Sorry to have you go, Ed.

Wm. H. Staff's oldest daughter will be one the 7th of April next.

Sunday school concert at the Baptist

church next Sunday evening. A general invitation.

They do say that Miss Kate Hays became Mrs. Eugene Berryman at St. John's church last evening.

Mr. Robert Collins, living on the Bradley farm became the father of a ten pound baby girl on Tuesday last.

Special services are still going on at the M. E. Church with good results. Quite a number have evinced a desire to be Christians.

Rev. G. T. Ellis, who is soon to leave Midland, will sell at auction at his residence Saturday afternoon next, a quantity of household goods.

Miss Emily West, a teacher in the Flint schools, visited the Misses Patrick and others in Midland last week. She is interested in bee-culture.

Stewart Gordon, who has for quite a long time been employed as salesman in Kelly's store, has accepted a similar place in Reardon's establishment.

Rev. P. S. Davies, Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Wm. Reardon, Mrs. G. W. Abbey, and Ellery Anderson represented Midland, last week in the presbytery meeting.

John Madill has brought the horse "Gold Dust" back to Midland to stay, having traded the Beardsley mare, "Nellie," for him with a Detroit man.

The proposition to raise \$3,000 for repairs to the jail was voted down—only 71 for and 1,287 against it in the county. Warren was the only town that gave a majority for it.

J. D. Lawrence is to travel for Peters Brothers to introduce their coiled hoops. The factory is now turning out about 25,000 hoops per day, though not yet working to nearly its capacity.

Masonic social and supper to-night and all who choose to dance will have a chance. The social and supper in Masonic Hall, the "fantastic" in Reardon Hall. It will be worth

while to attend.

Reardon Brothers have put in an advertisement on this local page from which they "point with pride" to their advertisement on the eighth page, and to their growing business at their big stores.

Since the explosion of a lamp, or some difficulty therewith in one of the rooms, endangering the entire building, Mr. Berry, proprietor of Sherwood House, provides candles for the use of guests in the rooms.

The Presbyterian church was beautified with flowers Easter Sunday, but we believe no special services were had, it being the opinion of Rev. Mr. Davies that multiplication of "days and seasons" is not profitable.

The Rev. E. L. Davies, of Sand Beach, visited his brother, Rev. P. S. Davies, from Saturday till Tuesday. He started Tuesday morning for a trip to the Northern Peninsula, where he has some business with church building.

Mr. Thomas Lillibridge, and his son, George Lillibridge, with their families, also a Mrs. Carter and son have bought in Midland township, sec. 24, and are moving here to settle on and improve their farms. They bought of W. L. Stearns.

Rev. T. S. Leonard, of Owosso, has accepted a call to the Baptist church of this place, and will begin his regular duties as pastor about June 1. He moves his family here in a week or two, and will live in the house now occupied by Rev. Mr. Ellis.

Reardon's folks have a graded assortment of seven sample hen's eggs, the smallest one being about the size of a robin's egg, and the largest eight inches in circumference. An eggs-tremely eggs-traordinary and eggs-cellent eggs-hibition. Eggs-actly so.

The Saginaw Courier of the 13th says: The Tittabawassee Boom Company will commence rafting and delivering logs for the season of 1884, one week from tomorrow. This company has rafted and delivered since 1864, a grand total of 6,758,146,411 feet of pine saw logs.

Pioneer Record

Midland Genealogical Society
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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.