



# 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

February 20 - Fran Longsdorf and Floyd Andrick - Midland County Centennial Farms.

March 20 - Karen Krugman—How Stumbling Helps Me Find Ancestors

April 17—Jessica Miller—Archival Research-You Can Do It!

## The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America

by Walter Bennett

The group was founded in March 1896 in New York City and consists of “associates” who trace their ancestry back to the first colonists and who have forefathers in the same male ancestral line (bearing the same family name as a founder ancestor) who served in the American Revolution. The order seeks to preserve this fundamental heritage.

Any man of the age of 18 years, and of good moral character and reputation and a citizen of the United States and is lineally descended in the male line of either parent, from an ancestor who settled in any of the colonies now included in the United States of America prior to 13 May 1657 may join. The intent was to bring together the descendants of the Founders as well as descendants of those that were patriotic to the cause during the Revolutionary War.

The goals of OFPA are stipulated in the second article of its original constitution.

To bring together and associate men whose ancestors struggled for life and liberty, home and happiness. In this land when it was a new unknown country, and whose

line of descent from them comes through patriots who sustained the Colonies in the struggle for Independence in the Revolutionary War.

To teach reverent regard for the names and history, character and perseverance, deeds and heroism of the founders of this country and their patriotic descendants.

To inculcate patriotism in the Associates and their descendants.

To discover, collect and preserve records, documents, manuscripts, monuments and history relating to the first colonists, their ancestors and descendants.

To commemorate and celebrate events in the history of the Colonies and the Republic.

Other historical and patriotic purposes.

Membership was originally limited to adult males, age 21 or greater. Junior membership was available to those between age 18 and 21. The current minimum age in the order is 18 years of age.

(Continued on page 4)

## The President's Letter

Our January 16 Society meeting provided an opportunity to learn more about the characteristics of the handwritten word. As genealogists, many of us have researched handwritten documents many centuries old and have been challenged to extract the information contained. Geraldine Schramm, our speaker, is a Forensic Graphic Analyst. She shared many examples of how she analyzes an individual's handwriting, effectively providing important information about the mental, physical and emotional status of the writer at the time of the writing. An interesting perspective when examining old, handwritten documents.

January is the time for the Board to procure a nominating committee for the purpose of preparing a slate of

officers for our annual meeting and election in May. In order to keep our Society viable we need to sustain the involvement and participation of members. The current board consists of members who exhibit these qualities of involvement and participation. Every one of them is a "willing worker" striving to keep the Midland Genealogical Society as an active, vibrant organization within the community. They are all wonderful people to work with.

However, there is always a need for additional participation to keep this "organization" running. Please think very diligently about how you can become more actively involved. You many have past experiences, specific areas of interest, or creative ideas that could become valuable assets to our society when shared. Will you add your time, talents and abilities to our slate of officers for the 2013-2014 year?

The Nominating Committee consists of three willing members, Thora Goodnight, Dona McArdle, and Walt Rupprecht. Several current board members have expressed their willingness to serve another year. When contacted by a committee member, please consider accepting a nomination to a board position. You will be amazed at how valuable the experience will be.

Faye Ebach

President



Epitaphs can reveal ancestral personalities.

### From The Editor ● ● ●

*I was able to do some more research on my families lately and have found many more records added to the online collections. Rechecking names in familysearch.org yields a wealth of information. I have also been going over the 1940 census updating my lines that were present during that time.*

*I also have been lucky in finding many books available in ebook or pdf format online available for download. Check archive.org and familysearch.org. I have bought several historical books on ebay so you might want to check there. Archive.org allows you to search within the books.*

*I am waiting for the snow to disappear, as I am looking forward to doing some traveling*

*in the state to follow up on some more family research. I enjoy going through the cemeteries and photographing the markers.*

*The nominating committee is making calls looking for members to serve as officers for the coming year. We would like to get some new officers, who have not yet served that can come in with some new ideas to help our organization to grow. Please say "yes" when they call you.*

*We are looking to start a new book project. If you have any ideas or would like to volunteer to transcribe information for us, please let one of us know. Thanks for being a member.*

Walt Bennett

Editor

### 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.

## February Meeting

### Midland County

#### Centennial Farms

Fran Longsdorf and Floyd Andrick are our local historians. Floyd being the past CEO of the Midland Historical Society.

Floyd's interest in Centennial farms started with his family farm in Mills Township that was registered in 1893 to the Andrick family. He was instrumental in obtaining official centennial status for the Andrick farm in 1993, the first farm in Mills Township.

As a result of his knowledge in the Centennial Farm process he has become a resource person to others looking for information on their farms.

## March Meeting

### How Stumbling Helps Me

#### Find Ancestors

Karen Krugman has been researching since 1990 and professionally since 1998. She enjoys the challenge of Lineage Society research. She has been speaking to genealogy groups in the Detroit area since 2002. She is a member of several societies and had written 5 books based on her family research.

Her talks give a humorous spin which is unique to her.

## Computer Classes

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

### ***Introduction to Powerpoint***

*Mouse and basic computer skills required.*

**February 18** at 2:30 pm

Or March 11 at 2:30 pm

Or March 27 at 7 pm

Or April 11 at 2:30 pm

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

### ***Digital Photos with Picasa***

March 6 at 7 pm.

Learn to use Google's powerful and free software to organize, edit, and share your digital photos.



## 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.

Membership is open to the sons of members. In 1903, the membership clause of the organization was changed which required new members to prove that their ancestors were overly active in the Revolutionary War. Some of the state societies recinded this rule as they felt some religions like Quakers were unable to serve but weren't any less patriotic.

The governing body of the Order is the General Court. The Court consists of the General Officers of the Order and their Deputies, the Past Governors General and the Officers and Councilors General of the State Societies. State societies are active in: Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

The General Court holds an Annual meeting in May and all associates are invited to attend. Each state societies hold an annual meeting also. The societies give awards to military organizations and outstanding individuals. They also give awards to students and others that distinguish themselves in patriotic duty. They also commemorate historic events and research and preserve historic events and data. They hold forums,

luncheons and outings. They record and preserve the data collected in proving the lineages of its associates required for membership. The registers of these lineages from all members dating back to 1896 are available for sale in multiple volumes and may be found in some libraries.

In 1898, a sister organization was formed for participation of women, called the Daughters of the Founders and Patriots of America(NSDFPA). The purpose of the organization is to promote patriotic and historical projects. These include aiding hospitals in time of war, awarding outstanding ROTC students, present awards to graduates of US Service academies, and promote respect for the flag.

They also award achievement of students in American History, Commemorate historical events by erecting monuments and memorials, remember outstanding individuals in our history, and collect, restore and preserve documents of our early history.

Eligibility in the NSDFPA requires an unbroken paternal line of either the applicants mother or father going back to a founder who arrived in one of the colonies between May 13, 1607 and May 13, 1687, and in this unbroken line, and intermediate Patriot ancestor who, by personal service in a civil or military capacity or other acts proving his unfailing loyalty, assisted in establishing American independence during the Revolutionary period 1775 to 1784.

States listed as having NSDFPA societies are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia,

Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

Like the DFPA, the NSDFPA publishes the lineages of its members. I was able to find ebooks on archive.org for both of the organizations. The books should also be available in several libraries.

An additional book that is published by the OFPA is "Founders of Early American Families". The new second revised edition is 491 pages and contains the names of more than 4,400 immigrants and is available on their website for \$35.

For further information go to the website of the NSDFPA at [www.nationalsocietyDFPA.com](http://www.nationalsocietyDFPA.com). The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America has a website at [www.founderspatriots.org](http://www.founderspatriots.org).

Sources:

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

[www.nationalsocietyDFPA.com](http://www.nationalsocietyDFPA.com)

[www.founderspatriots.org](http://www.founderspatriots.org)

[www.libraries.rutgers.edu](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu)



# The Gullah's

Written by Yvonne L. Ashworth

The Gullah's who live primarily between North Carolina and Jacksonville, FL on the Atlantic Coast, are descended from Africans brought to the Carolina Colony beginning in the late 1500s. Their traditions are deeply rooted in many different African cultures and their language is a combination of Eng-



lish and different African dialects, known as a creole language, most similar to Sierra Leone dialects. The Gullah language is also closely related to Krio language, Bahamian dialects, Jamaican and Bajan creole and Afro-Seminole Creole as well as Nigerian Pidgin. The Gullah language was developed to bridge the communication gap between the British and the slaves.

The Gullah people originated the stories of Brer Bear, Brer Rabbit, Brer Fox, and Brer Wolf, which came from an African version of tales where animals outsmart those who are smaller or not as smart on the "uptake". Gullah cuisine is a Southeastern U.S. specialty with such items as She-Crab Soup, Gullah Gumbo, Geechee Crab Cakes and Fried Okra. Gullah traditions include the weaving

of sweetgrass baskets, quilting (often in strips as was done in Africa) and knitting fishing nets, all arts which are demonstrated throughout the year at various festivals in South Carolina and Georgia.

## Gullah

## facts:

The song, "Michael Row Your Boat Ashore", originated with the Gullah people.

After the Civil War ended, the Gullahs' became further isolated from the outside world. The rice planters on the mainland slowly abandoned old family farms and moved away from the area because of labor issues and frequent hurricane damage to crops. Free blacks were unwilling to work in dangerous conditions and disease-ridden rice fields. A series of hurricanes severely affected the crops in the 1890s. Left alone in remote rural areas in the Lowcountry of South Carolina, the Gullahs continued to practice their traditional culture away from the outside world well into the 20th Century.

Post Civil War in South Carolina, blacks outnumbered whites in the area 11-1 and were allowed to buy the land for \$1.25 an acre. But because much of the land is now shared by heirs, many of whom have moved away, it sometimes is sold for below-market prices set by the courts. In some cases, young family members, eager for cash, practically give it away. But often, the land is forfeited because landowners, many of whom are domestic workers at the posh resorts, cannot afford to pay the escalating property taxes. (Those resort areas being Hil-



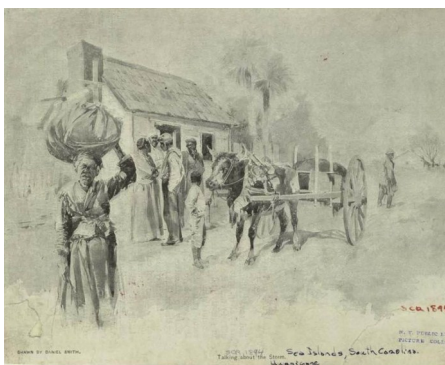
ton Head Island and Beaufort, St. Helena, a trendy riverfront village)

The Gullah's believe in bad spirits, and therefore, they have been known to paper their walls with newspaper, believing that the spirit has to read all of the words before taking action within their home.

When a person in the Gullah community has passed away, one drum beat is heard, indicating to the community that there has been a death. All mirrors are turned toward the wall, so the deceased soul cannot be seen. The funeral party takes the body to the cemetery, where the party awaits permission to enter the gate from the ancestors. Participants dance around the grave, singing and praying, then they break glasses over the grave sight so as to "break the chain" so that no one in the same family will die soon. A large meal is prepared with a portion left behind for the departed soul. Blue Bottle Trees are utilized to ward off "wooly boogers" or bad spirits. (blue cobalt bottles are hung on thin trees and are an African tradition to ward off the spirits of those who were improperly buried.)

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Many Gullah words were adopted by Southerners and have remained in the southern dialect since before the Civil War. (This includes areas of the Appalachians which were relatively isolated, leading historians to wonder if any Gullah's intermarried with those of Melungeon heritage.) For example the word "guber" for peanuts which is taken from the word, "N'guba", hence "guber peas" was adopted.

Other words include: chillun - children,  
mout' - mouthbox-up - closed tight , lyeh - yes (Igbo) , nana - elderly woman, grandmother , (Twi)tata - father (Kongo) , da (dada) - mother, nurse, or elder woman , (Ewe)nanse - spider (Temme) and A'min - Amen (Wolof)

Did you know?  
Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas spoke Gullah as a child.

Gullah symbolism:

Wine ~ the mixing of the blood of the two families.

Wheat ~ fertility and the giving of life and land.

Pepper ~ represents the heated moments the families will have. Salt ~ the healing and preservation of marriage.

Bitter herbs ~ the growing pains of marriage.

Water ~ purity and dissolution of bitterness.

Broom ~ cleanliness and well-being.

Honey ~ sweet love.

Spear ~ protection of the sanctity of the home and community.

Shield ~ the honor and pride of the home.

Spoon and pot ~ healthy food that builds strong families.

The Gullah have contributed much to the culture of the Southeastern U.S. and it is hoped that their culture will continue to be preserved for generations to come.

Sources:

[www.africanamericancharleston.com/gullah.html](http://www.africanamericancharleston.com/gullah.html)

[www.yale.edu./glc/gullah](http://www.yale.edu./glc/gullah)

[www.postandcourier.com](http://www.postandcourier.com)

## FGS Annual Conference

The FGS 2013 Conference Committee is almost ready to launch the conference website, online registration and the conference brochure. But we know that you can't want to see what is in store for the Federation of Genealogical Societies' 2013 Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana, August 21-24. Below you will find an overview of the week of conference activities, including extending hours at the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center.

Federation of Genealogical Societies 2013 Conference Week Overview

Monday, August 19

- Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center open 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Tuesday, August 20

- Librarian's Day (all day)
- Q&A panel and genealogy consultations in the afternoon, 2-5 p.m.

- Onsite registration begins, 3-7 p.m. (additional hours each day – see conference website)

- Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center open 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Wednesday, August 21 (Focus on Societies Day)

- Plenary session
- Lecture sessions all day (27 sessions + 1 workshop)

- FGS Opening Social Evening sponsored by findmypast.com

- Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center open 9 a.m.-Midnight (extended hours!)

Thursday, August 22

- Keynote session
- Grand opening of Exhibit Hall
- Lecture sessions all day (31 sessions + 2 workshops)

- Vendor Demonstrations

- GenSpiration Sessions

- 3 luncheons

- Extended Exhibit Hall hours until 7:30 p.m. (with door prizes!)

- Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center open 9 a.m.-Midnight (extended hours!)

Friday, August 23

- Lecture sessions all day (47 sessions + 2 workshops)

- Vendor Demonstrations

- GenSpiration Sessions

- 3 luncheons

- "Journey Through the Generations with Our Veterans" local host societies evening event at the Allen County Public Library sponsored by FamilySearch

- Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center open 7 a.m.-Midnight (extended hours!)

Saturday, August 24

- Lecture sessions all day (47 sessions + 2 workshops)

- Vendor Demonstrations

- GenSpiration Sessions

- 3 luncheons

- Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center open 7 a.m.-6 p.m. (extended a.m. hours!)

Sunday, August 25

- Farewell Brunch 9-11 a.m. (with door prizes!)

## **The Clandestine Marriage**

### **Act of 1754**

*Written by Yvonne L. Ashworth*

As of 1752-1753 much debate had commenced with respect to the status of “questionable” marriages in England, which had been performed by unqualified clergy, in particular, within locations such as London’s Fleet Prison.

For a small fee, almost anyone could become espoused with few questions asked, including abducted or coerced females, the intoxicated, prostitutes and those considered to be insane.

It is estimated that over 12,000 marriages alone occurred from Fleet Prison where unscrupulous clergy were known to make over 75 pounds a month.

Secondarily, many considered Scotland’s marriage laws to be seriously lacking in sound logic, as marriages were based upon consent alone between a male fourteen years of age or older and females twelve years of age or older, with the only requirement being two witnesses stating that the couples intent was to be espoused, at which time, their word became law. Marriages in this manner could be terminated just as easily, with nothing more than an agreement to sever ties be-

tween both parties.

Philip Yorke, the 1st Earl of Hardwicke sought to change laws in England to prevent the situations he had witnessed, including those marrying specifically for financial gain, to curtail clergy from benefitting financially from marrying questionable individuals, and an attempt to control the population of illegitimate children born of questionable marriages.

With his draft having been presented before the Houses of Parliament, in 1753, it took effect on 25 March 1754.

The Clandestine Marriage Act included requirements for marriage which included “Banns” which was an announcement which had to be made three consecutive Sundays in church before a ceremony was performed

in the Church of England by Anglican clergy. The only parties exempt from the Act were those of the Jewish or Quaker faith or Royalty. There were no exemptions for Catholics or Dissenters, and they simply were forced to comply, then if wished, could have a second ceremony in their own parish.

Those who were married had to sign a marriage registry, which was kept in separate books from other church recordings, and had to be on numbered and ruled pages to prevent possibility of fraud.

The entries had to be signed by clergy, the bride, the groom and two witnesses. Also within the act, was the increase in the age of consent, from 16 to 21, with the increase which had been seen in bigamy and fraud. Parents could still give consent if the couple was younger.

Scholars reviewing the requirements assumed that the provisions of the act abolished common law marriage, however, it is found, that the concept of common law marriage post dated this period in time.

Prior to this act’s passage, many Scottish border villages were also benefitting from elopements of the English and this continued after the law took effect. The law was not intended to be forced upon Scotland, but solely for England.

It did not include those residing in the Colonies or any lands away from England which had been settled. The implementation of the law is seen as a forerunner to current marriage laws in the United States which require a license and a ceremony by one of legal authority or proper clergy.

Sources

[www.moonfleetonline.uk](http://www.moonfleetonline.uk)

[wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org)

[familytreeresources.co.uk](http://familytreeresources.co.uk)

[www.fsmitha.com](http://www.fsmitha.com)

# News From Eastman's newsletter Blog.EOGN.com

## MennoTree searches Mennonite Ancestry

A new Mennonite genealogy search engine has gone online that should be a huge help to anyone searching for Mennonite ancestors. The new web site already claims to have more than 2 million names in its database.

The search mechanism is super simple. You can see the search page in the image to the right. (Click on the image to see a larger picture.) You can perform a search, then use the "Narrow By Category" menu to refine the results.

The goal of the web site is to address some of the common search challenges:

- how to find Mennonite names and locations having many variant spellings

- intending to search genealogy, but getting mostly results unrelated to genealogy

- how to quickly filter through search results by a specific category (census, obituary, cemetery, etc.)

- search engines missing results when the intended places/years are listed too far removed from a person's name

The site reportedly uses custom Mennonite style name soundexes. For example, it catches over 50 variations on the surname Sawatzky, and over 300 variants on the forename Margaretha. It also has custom Mennonite style place soundexes, most useful for Prussian/Russian place names.

The site has results for both Prussian/Russian and Swiss Mennonites, but it seems there is much more information available on the Prussian/Russian side.

MennoTree is available to everyone free of charge. The site is accepting advertising although I didn't see any ads when I used it. I believe the site owner is recruiting advertisers so we will probably see ads in the future.

The site is new and presently contains almost no information about the site's owner or long-term plans. An email message lists the owner as Michael Penner. To try MennoTree for yourself, go to <http://mennotree.com>.

My thanks to newsletter reader Suzanne Dyck for telling me about this new online resource.

## Proposed New York Legislation Will Allow Access to Adoptees' Birth Records

The Adoptee Bill(s) of Rights would repeal the 1935 legislation that sealed in perpetuity the original birth certificates, and thus the original identities, of anyone adopted in the state of New York.

The Bill permits an adopted adult to access birth certificates and medical histories when they reach the age of 18. It also creates a contact preference to be filed by the birth parents.

We must get calls going to the members of the assembly & senate.

Please call your local assembly member and senator and as many from the below links as you can. Anyone can call even if not in New York State so encourage your out-of-state friends and family to call as well. The more calls the better.

This link is a list of all assembly members where you can find their contact info: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/>

The assembly Bill is A909

This is a directory of the New York State Senators. <http://www.nysenate.gov>

The Senate Bill number is S2490

Please call assembly member Richard Gottfried phone # 518 455-5939 and ask him to put bill A909 on the health committee agenda for a vote.

Also call Speaker Sheldon Silver and ask him to move bill A909 to the Assembly floor for a vote. 518 455-4941.

## FamilySearch Adds 8.5 Million Records from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Italy, Netherlands, and the United States

The following announcement was written by FamilySearch:

February 7, 2013

FamilySearch added 8.5 million new, free indexed records and images this week to its collection. Included are 2,897,940 additional index records and images for the new New York State Census of 1855 collection, the 1,070,807 index records and images from the Texas Birth Certificates collection from 1903-1935, and the 554,541 images from the Italy, Catania, Diocesi di Caltagirone, Catholic Church Records collection from 1502-1942. See the table below for the

full list of updates. Search these diverse collections and more than 3.5 billion other records for free at [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org).

Searchable historic records are made available on [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) through the help of thousands of volunteers from around the world. These volunteers transcribe (index) information from digital copies of handwritten records to make them easily searchable online. More volunteers are needed (particularly those who can read foreign languages) to keep pace with the large number of digital images being published online at [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org). Learn more about volunteering to help provide free access to the world's historic genealogical records online at [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org).

FamilySearch is the largest genealogy organization in the world. FamilySearch is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Millions of people use FamilySearch records, resources, and services to learn more about their family history. To help in this great pursuit, FamilySearch and its predecessors have been actively gathering, preserving, and sharing genealogical records worldwide for over 100 years. Patrons may access FamilySearch services and resources for free at [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) or through more than 4,600 family history centers in 132 countries, including the main Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

## Canada 1921 Census

The Canada 1921 Census was a detailed enumeration of the Canadian population taken on 1 June 1921 when the total population of Canada was about 8.7 million people. Census returns remain at Statistics Canada until 92 years after the taking of a census and are not available to the public.

On 1 June 2013, the 1921 Census will be transferred to Library and Archives Canada and will be made public shortly after that date. Estimated availability dates haven't been published yet. I wouldn't expect the Canadian 1921 census to be available on the morning of June 2, but it should appear on the Web within a few months after that date.

You can learn more in a new Wikipedia page started by Helen Riding at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada\\_1921\\_Census](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada_1921_Census). That page also contains links to several other web sites. Of course, as with everything on Wikipedia, if you have more details than what is already posted there, you are invited to add your information.



## 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 20, 2013 Polish GS of Michigan, "Experiences with Genetic DNA", <http://pgsm.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.

Apr 27, 2013 "Honoring our Ancestors: Genealogy Talks with Megan Smolenyak", Charlevoix Public Library, Charlevoix, MI 10am—4pm. [mimgc.org/pdf/20130427Charlevoix.pdf](http://mimgc.org/pdf/20130427Charlevoix.pdf)

## MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL REPORT

Jo Brines, delegate

At the delegate meeting on Thursday, January 19, our speaker was Dr. James McConnell, a retired history teacher from Livonia. His subject was: "Michigan at War - The Struggle For The Old Northwest, 1812-1815." He is an excellent speaker, very informative, as he covered the events of 1794 (Battle of Fallen Timbers in Ohio) and the Battle of Tippecanoe in Indiana (1811) leading up to 1812. Any native Michigander or one living here now should be interested in the war which had pretty much been overshadowed by the Revolution

and Civil Wars. The idea to remember this war was first started in the last years of 2000 by the Michigan Commission on the Commemoration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, with several very specific goals: to inform all the public of how important Michigan was in the war by giving details of how, when, why the events took place. The Commission has produced a documentary for PBS and nine DVD's where nine different speakers relate various aspects of the war.

Dr. McConnell ended by saying that the war of 1812 was a defining event in the history and development of Michigan. I hope that MGS can partner with some other group to invite Dr. McConnell to speak in Midland, as he really knows his subject well.

Dr. McConnell brought some brochures on "Preserve the Pensions of 1812", a new project sponsored by the Federation of Genealogical Societies in conjunction with Ancestry.com. Fold 3, and Family Search. FGS is asking for monetary help from individual state and local genealogical societies and also the general public. There are 180,000 pensions from the war stored at the National Archives that should be digitized. The cost is 45¢/page, but Ancestry.com is matching donations, so the cost is really only 22.5¢/page. This still involves a lot of money!

As a sidebar, the Michigan History Magazine has published a series of articles on the War beginning with the March-April 2012 issue through the September-October issue. The articles are actually a reprint of a previous article in the same magazine (1960) written by a professor named Fred C. Hamil. (This would have

been approximately the 150th anniversary.) Our library subscribes to this magazine— the copies are in our genealogy room in the RM section, in a plastic box.

Several seminars were announced : the Annual Abrams Foundation one on Friday, Saturday, July 12-13, 2013, featuring Dr. Thomas Jones. It probably will be held in the Forum in the Michigan Historical Center. Monroe Co. GS is having their annual Spring Seminar on Saturday, April 13, with Paul Stuart Warren, from Minnesota, as speaker.

Many Genealogists took advantage of the new Saturday hours (10-4) at the archives. The Staff was ecstatic with the response, but they were also very busy assisting patrons. One thing to remember—always carry your ID registration card which you will need every time you enter the Archives section.

The Archives staff announced a new project on the drawing board. It is making an index card file on Michigan prisoners covering years 1870-1987, with the years 1930-1987 being a priority. Details need to be worked out - volunteers will be needed, but the work will probably be done on site (Archives).

With the genealogy collections being transferred from the Library of Michigan to the Archives, there is room for expansion of Michigan materials in the former collection, including folk art, languages, culture of Michigan people. Business info, plat maps, city directories, Michigan history books with little or no genealogy are needed. Edwina Murphy and Don Todaro are the contact people at the LOM.

## Member Profile

Meet Joanne "Jo" Vollmer Brines



One of our current Michigan Genealogical Council delegates, Jo has worn so many hats in the Midland Genealogical Society that even she has lost count. She's served several terms as president, treasurer, Council delegate & vice-president/program chairman. Her husband and she chaired several genealogy trips when they first joined the MGS. In addition to these roles, she has served as volunteer librarian for the genealogy room of the library since around 1980. You can find her there every Tuesday afternoon.

Jo was working at Dow Chemical when she met her husband Ben. She left that job in 1969 to marry. She wasn't really interested in genealogy until Ben got the 'bug'. A fellow MGS member happened to come across Ben's sur-

name in an 1880 census of St Clair County, MI. When she showed it to Ben, he realized it was his mother's name as an infant. He had, tucked away, 10 pages of notes he'd taken over the years that he had lived with his grandfather. These notes became the impetus of the hunt Jo & Ben would take.

In 1977, with Ben's renewed interest in his roots, Jo began helping him research. Subsequently many trips were taken to the Allen County Library in Ft. Wayne, the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, the Mich. State Library, and many court houses.

After Ben died in 1987, she began researching her lines in earnest. Her great-great grandparents had immigrated to Saginaw from Germany in the early 1800's. While her mother gave her a little information on the maternal line of Strutz, most of her genealogical information came from her father's Vollmer sisters. One uncle living in Washington, D.C. had done some research on the Vollmer name and had made several trips to Ingleheim, Germany. Upon his death, Jo petitioned the lawyer to allow her possession of his notes, since he had no children.

Jo's biggest disappointment was in several boxes of pictures left by one of the Vollmer aunts:

nameless pictures of obvious reunions in the 1920's when her dad was a teenager.

Her biggest road block has been her maternal great-great grandmother, Fredricka (Rica) Schuette who immigrated to Saginaw in 1824 with three sons. Was Schuette Rika's maid-

en name, her absent husband's name, or neither? A couple of the sons state her name as Reamer or Schroeder.

Jo smiles as she tells about both sets of grandparents living next door to one another in Saginaw. As a young girl, her mother would look out the window checking whomever her dad brought home next door, none too happy if it happened to be a girl.

Jo's advice to genealogists young and old: check original sources, such as court houses, churches, cemeteries; don't take as gospel some of the misinformation on the web.

**"Anybody can make  
history, only a great  
man can write it."**

**Oscar Wilde**

## Books Needed

HELP: Have any member found, while doing research, a particular book(s) that we don't have in our collection and that might make a good addition to it? The book committee is beginning to search for new books to purchase. I would like to widen the Michigan selection, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. We try hard not to get individual county books unless it is a big, important one. I need title, author, where published, ISSN number (if possible).

Jo Brines 989-832-8312

# Looking Back in Midland County

(Taken from *Portrait and Biographical Album of Midland County Michigan 1884* p. 322-23)

## Charles M. Parmelee

Charles M. Parmelee, farmer, section 36, Ingersoll Township, is a son of Harry and Elizabeth (Freeman) Parmelee, natives of New Hampshire. The former died in Ingersoll Township, Oct. 29, 1872, and the latter in Marshalltown, Iowa, July 30, 1882.

Charles M. was born in Wayne Co., Mich., April 21, 1837; from 14 to 19 years of age he lived in Windsor Ont., employed in a machine shop for three years and two years as an engineer on the Great Western Rail Road; then for two years he ran an engine from Rouse's Point in Vermont to White River Junction. Returning to Michigan, he enlisted, Nov. 1, 1861, in the "Brady Sharpshooters," which was made the 11<sup>th</sup> Company of the 16<sup>th</sup> Mich. Inf., and he served three years. At the battle of Cold Harbor he was taken prisoner, but remained in the enemy's hands only about eight hours, when he was re-captured by Gen. Custer's forces. He was in 22 engagements, prominent among which were the battles of Big Bethel, Gaines' Mill, Malvern Hill, second Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, siege of Yorktown, Sharpsburg, etc. He was able for duty every day while in the service.

After the war he returned to Michigan, but soon went to Chicago, where he had charge of the telegraph lines from that city to Quincy, Ill., for two years. He then went to Cleveland, Ohio and had charge of the "United States" lines from Chicago to Buffalo for nearly a year. Next he was employed by the Western Union Telegraph Company about a year, having his headquarters at Dunkirk, N.Y. Then he kept a grocery in Saginaw County, this State, almost two years; sold out and passed a winter in Chicago; disposed of an improved farm which he owned near Mendota, Ill.; and finally, in March, 1870, he came to Midland County and purchased 80 acres of land in Ingersoll Township, where he has since lived, and now has almost 70 acres improved.

In politics, Mr. Parmelee is independent.

He was married in Saginaw Co., Mich., July 4, 1865, to Elizabeth, daughter of William and Ann Glover, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of Ireland. Mrs. P. was born in Cincinnati, O., Dec. 25, 1847. Mr. and Mrs. Parmelee are the parents of five children, namely: Charles H., Clara M., Otis S., Annie L. and George A. The first two are deceased.

## Midland Matters

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

Chas. Black and Mike Flinn, who have for some time been in the county jail awaiting trial on charges of having in their possession tools for counterfeiting, were on Saturday released on bail in the sum of \$800, one Thomas L. Forbes, of Port Huron signing their recognizance with them.

A lower jaw-bone of a man, both sides complete, very broad and square, and with a full, perfect set of very large teeth, was dug up by some workmen near the fair ground last week. There were other bones and a small, much rusted hatchet or axe was found near.

There was a large and attentive congregation at St. John's church Easter Sunday morning. The church was profusely decorated with beautiful flowers. Rev. Mr. Myers preached an appropriate sermon. The communion ceremonies were observed. A good collection was taken for the benefit of the Sunday School.

A. J. Martin, of Jasper, who missed the nomination for supervisor in the caucus which was probably not largely attended, was not withstanding elected, and is as happy as need be. It takes pretty lively driving to get ahead of Jack. The long-winded communication from Jasper in the *Sun* before election does not seem to have affected him very much.

Mrs. McKizie has returned from a visit of several weeks among her relatives in Canada. The enjoyment of her visit was sadly marred last week by the sudden death of an uncle, her father's brother. He was driving a pair of wild, untamed horses, and they ran with him, throwing him in such way as to produce instant death. He left a large family, and quite extensive property.

Sheriff Ryan on Tuesday, April 4, gathered in "Dr. Reaford," at Reed City. He was wanted here on a charge of larceny—stealing an overcoat from Geo. Mountain of Exchange Hotel. By the way, the "Dr." is guilty of ordering work at printing offices and then not paying for it, and this is a great deal worse than larceny,—it's bad enough anyway. Since the foregoing was written, the "Dr."

has had a jury trial before Justice Murphy, and has been assigned to Ionia House of Correction for ninety days. We've got some "Veterinary Surgeon" bills here for him that he can have C. O. D.

## Sanford, April 15, 1884

Mrs. Miller went to Saginaw for a short visit last Saturday and returned Monday.

Mr. James Collins is to live at Midland on the Eastman farm. He is to move the first of this week. Mrs. Collins has been visiting with her old neighbors for the last two weeks or more. Good luck to them.

Mrs. Joe Campbell has been quite sick.

Thirty of Wells & Stone's horses came prancing into town Sunday and stopped at Higgins's barn until Monday. They were in good trim after working in the woods all winter.

Different parties have been buying land here in town. In time it will be quite a place.

Mr. J. E. Utter, formerly of Averill, was in town Saturday and Sunday, visiting relatives and I believe went near here to engage in carpenter work—his trade.

Mr. Brock and wife left town last Monday for Saginaw.

Mr. Gerry has been buying more land of B. F. Dean of Midland.

Mr. William Miller has bought two lots of B. F. Dean, near Mr. Peck's lot.

There is considerable sickness in town.

Mr. Tommy Cooper expects to remove the logs from his flats soon. They are quite a sight. He is not the only one who has the same trouble this spring.

*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.