



# PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

Volume 36 No. 1

MIMGS.ORG

Sept 2015

## In This Issue

Jamestown Rediscovered	1
The Presidents Letter	2
Editorial Comments	2
Programs	3
Books for sale	3
New Books	5
MGC Report	5
My Pennsylvania trip	6
MGC meeting	7
Coming Events	7
Top 5 QE2 facts	7
News from Dick Eastman	8
Looking Back in Midland County	9
MGS Officers & Society Information	10

### Midland Genealogical Society Programs for 2014 - 2015

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

*Programs for the meetings are as follows.*

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE LOCATIONS\*\***

**Sept 16** "Little-Known & Rarely Used Google Resources & Search Tips", Presented by Katherine R. Willson, Professional Genealogist from Ann Arbor . St. John's Episcopal, 7pm.

**Oct 21**—"Searching for Ambrose, A case study in correcting errors", Presented by Robert Snyder .St. John's Episcopal, 7pm.

**Nov. 18** "Our Greatest Genealogical Moments", Presented by Floyd Andrick, St. John's Episcopal, 7pm.

## Jamestown Rediscovered

By Walter Bennett

Archaeologists have recently discovered the remains of four of the earliest leaders of the English colony that have been buried for more than 400 years. The graves were discovered near the alter of what was the first Protestant church in America in Jamestown, Virginia.

On May 14, 1607, The Virginia Company, a group made up of about 100 members, founded the first permanent English settlement in North America on the banks of the James River. This early settlement had problems, as deaths resulted from famine, disease and conflicts with the Indians. In 1610, a new group of settlers and supplies came. Following the marriage of John Rolfe and Pocahontas, the daughter of an Algonquian chief in 1614, there was a period of peace among the Indians. During the 1620's, the settlement expanded beyond the fort to an area to the East where a new town was built. This was the capital of the Virginia colony until 1699.

About 100 colonists left England in late December 1606 on three ships, the Susan Constant, the Godspeed and the Discovery and reached Chesapeake Bay in Early April 1607. A governing council was formed which included John Smith. For the next month, they searched for a suitable

settlement site when on May 14, they reached an island in the middle of the James River.

The settlement, originally named James Forte, James Towne and James Cittie, was a wooden fort built in a triangle built around a storehouse for weapons and other supplies, a church and a few houses. John Smith and Chief Powhatan had reached an agreement which led to trade with the Indians by early 1608. Although Skirmishes still existed, the English needed this trade for sustenance.

Pocahontas died during a trip to England in 1617 and Chief Powhatan died the following year in 1618. This strained the relationships between the two groups. Powhatan's successor, Opechankeno, became more angry with the colonists over their desire for more land. Diseases brought from the old world, decimated the Indian population. In March 1622, the Indians made an assault on English settlements, effectively killing off more than one quarter of the population. King James I, in an effort to take control of the situation, dissolved the Virginia company and made Virginia into an official Crown colony with Jamestown as it's capital in 1624.

(Continued on page 4)

## The President's Letter

Last evening I watched the "Who Do You Think You Are?" TV episode that focused on the ancestors of TV personality Tom Bergeron. It turned out to be a powerful stimulus to get the genealogical research 'juices' flowing. Some of the scenes reminded me of similar research experiences Earl and I had during visits to Germany, The Netherlands, and Ontario. Looking back into history to try to discern why specific ancestors immigrated to North America is a fascinating learning experience.

The TV show was an excellent reminder that the first MGS meeting for the 2015-16 year is scheduled for September 16, 7:00 PM at St. John's Episcopal Church. Program Committee Chair Bob Snyder has secured an excellent

speaker for the program. Professional Genealogist Katherine Willson will present two topics, "Little Known and Rarely Used GOOGLE Resources and Search Tips" and "Adding a Genealogy Codicil to Your Will".

Please place the program on your calendar and plan to join fellow members and guests for the meeting, program and mingling with fellow genealogists.

I'm not stuck,  
I'm ancestrally  
challenged

Life is lived  
forwards,  
But  
understood  
backwards.



Hot on the trail.



### MEMBERSHIP DUES 2015-2016

Statements for the 2015-2016 dues were sent out in mid August 2015 and will be due by the first meeting in September 2015. Dues are shown below and can be sent to the following address:

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

Dues for an individual are \$20.00;  
for a family they are \$25.00.

From The Editor ● ● ●

*Hopefully, everyone had a good summer. Did anyone find some interesting tidbits in their family tree? I did. I'll explain later.*

*One of my projects this summer, was digitizing my dad's slides. There are many of which I believe I have scanned around 4000 images and I am no where near done.*

*I have found many pictures of long gone relatives. It is a long process of scanning, editing and tagging.*

*Several of the slides were taken on Ektachrome film which was bad at retaining its color and often turned*

*the picture red or sometimes blue. I then had to open the photo in Photoshop and use the color balance function. This worked well with most of the pictures.*

*I then used the itag program which is a free download to add description information to each picture. This information is stored within each file so it gets copied with the pictures. It can be displayed within windows explorer by adding a column to the details list. It can also be displayed in windows explorer at the bottom of the screen. There is enough room to add subjects and location and dates for each photo.*

Walter G Bennett  
Editor

## September 16th Program

Katherine R. Willson, a professional speaker and genealogist who lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan, will be the featured speaker for the September 16 meeting of the Midland Genealogy Society at St. John's Episcopal Church, St. Andrews and S. Saginaw Road. The meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

Katherine has taught all levels of genealogy for the past twelve years. Her passion for genealogy combined with practical and creative strategies keeps her audiences actively participating in her engaging presentations. Participants leave with the tools necessary to do their own research, and the inspiration to do it.

The presentation on September 16 will be in two parts: "LITTLE KNOWN AND RARELY USED GOOGLE SEARCH TIPS" and then "IT WON'T DIE WITH YOU!!!

THE IMPORTANCE OF A GENEALOGICAL CODICIL TO YOUR WILL" Most genealogy researchers have on-going concerns about what will happen to their work after they die. This phase of the evening will provide helpful information about ways in which to assure that your years of work and research won't be lost.

## October 21st Program

Have you ever gone searching in on-line family trees and found yourself really excited to find that someone has actually posted a tree on your family, only to discover information in the tree that doesn't fit with what you know to be true?

*"SEARCHING FOR AMBROSE: A Case Study in Cor-*

*recting Errors,"* will be the topic for discussion at the October 21, 2015, meeting of the Midland Genealogical Society. Using original documents, Bob Snyder will share with us the adventure of searching for the parents of his .g.g.g.grandfather, Ambrose Hunt. This case study will show the on-line trees that contain the incorrect information, and then move to family records and research that led to the establishment of the correct data.

Midland Genealogical Society meetings are held at St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of South Saginaw Rd. and St. Andrews Drive, at 7:00 pm, and are always open to the public



## 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.)

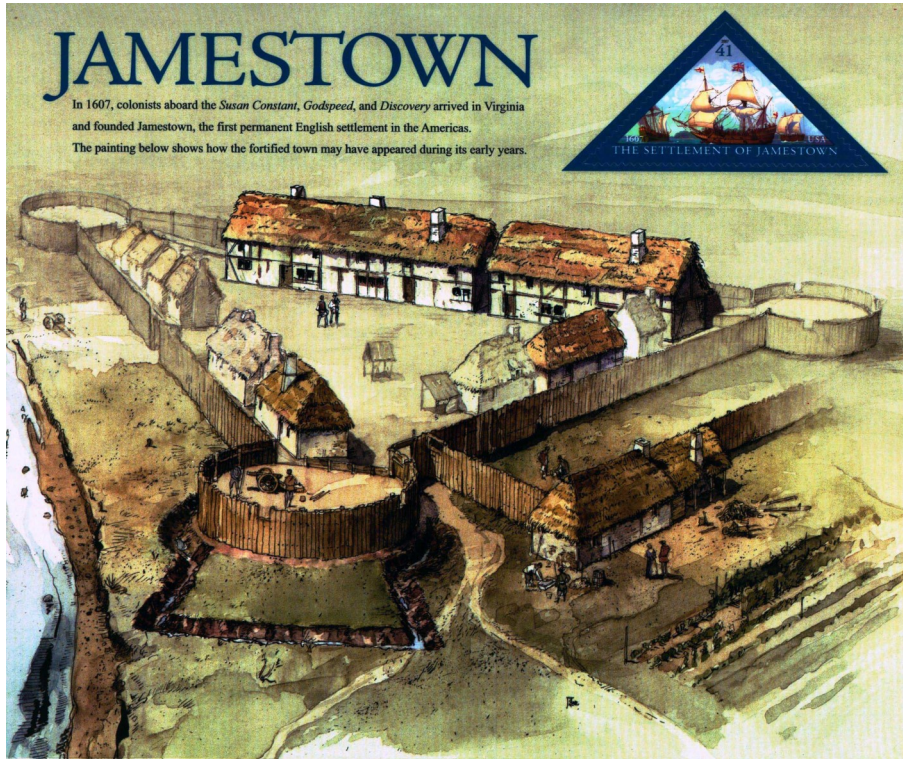
Midland County, Michigan Marriage Records 1855-1910 including Groom & Bride Indexes. The book is 8.5 by 11, soft bound, 320 pages. \$30.

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.



(Continued from page 1)

The original fort seemed to have disappeared after the 1620's.



The church, dating to 1608, is the same church where Pocahontas was married to Englishman James Rolfe, which led to peace between the Powhatan Indians and the colonists. This was the first permanent English settlement in America. The burial sites were uncovered in the earth floor of the Anglican Church.

The Jamestown rediscovery archaeology team made its announcement at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. The remains were first recovered in November 2013 but the team wanted to follow up on its findings before announcing the discovery.

Archaeologists have been studying the site since

1994. It was thought that the original fort was lost and submerged in the James river. The church site had begun excavation in 2010. The team

dence of survival cannibalism in the colony.

There were also some artifacts discovered buried near the bodies. Burial items were considered rare in English culture at the time. In the remnants of Archer's coffin, archaeologists discovered a captain's leading staff as a symbol of Archer's military status. Records show that Archer had helped lead some of the earliest expeditions to Jamestown. He died at the age of 34 during a six month period known as "starving time", when many died due to diseases, starvation and battles with the Indians.

A small silver box resting on Archer's coffin was likely a Catholic reliquary containing bone fragments and a container for holy water. Archer had grown up with Catholic parents in a Protestant country which was illegal. Catholic relics have been found in the Jamestown site before, but the placement of the box, raises questions.

There is a Jamestown Visitor Center which opened in 2006 and includes a museum with a theatre.

Sources:

"Remains of 4 early colonial leaders discovered at Jamestown", Midland Daily News, Aug. 2, 2015

"Jamestown Colony",  
[Www.history.com/topics/Jamestown](http://www.history.com/topics/Jamestown)

was able to identify the remains of the Rev. Robert Hunt, Jamestown's first Anglican minister. Also, Capt. Gabriel Archer, who was a nemesis to leader John Smith. The first knight buried in America, Sir Ferdinando Wainman and Captain William West, who died in a fight with Powhatan Indians. The last three, most likely died following a brief illness, between 1608 and 1610.

Although the persons buried at Jamestown were not royalty, they were considered pivotal figures in the early colony. The team also found evi-



# Books received in Genealogy room July 2015

Plymouth Church Records 1620-1859 (2 volumes)  
 Port Arrivals and Immigrants to City of Boston 1715/16 and 1762/69 by Whitmore  
 Oaths of Allegiance in Colonial New England by Charles Evans  
 Index of Rev. War Pensioners living in Maine by Flagg  
 Long Island Genealogies by Bunker  
 Settlers of Rensselaerswyck 1630-1658 by VanLaer  
 Index to Ulster Emigrants to Philadelphia 1803-1850 by Adams  
 Index of Seaman's Protection Certificate Applications, Philadelphia 1824-1861 by Dixon  
 North and South Carolina Marriage Records by Clemens  
 Passenger Arrivals at Port of Charleston, SC 1820-1829  
 Surnames of Wales by Rowlands  
 In Search of Your German Roots by Baxter, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (completely revised and updated)  
 New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer published by the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

Two books in memory of deceased members 2014/2015

Record of service at Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War

Vol 20 20<sup>th</sup> MI Infantry in memory of Kathy Bohl  
 Vol 21 21<sup>st</sup> MI Infantry in memory of Lawrence Hurley

## MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL REPORT

Faye Ebach, Delegate and MGC Board Member

The August 13, 2015 Michigan Genealogical Council (MGC) Board meeting discussed several items that may be of interest to societies and/or individual society members. Several of those items are summarized below:

Is there an interest in having the Library of Michigan (LOM) work with ProQuest to present a Webinar on Heritage Quest?

An example of items to be covered are How to use it? Resources available, etc. and Should such a Webinar be online for access anytime?

If there is interest in such a Webinar, please contact MGS delegates, Bev Keicher or Faye Ebach so they can report back to MGC and the LOM.

MGC has a certificate program available for descendants of former military members, and a second certificate program for descendants of pioneer Michigan families. These ancestors must have been involved at least 100 years ago or more. Criteria for and applications forms are available on the MGC website: [mimgc.org](http://mimgc.org).

The MGC Fall Seminar will be held

at the Library of Michigan in Lansing on Saturday, November 14, 2015. This will be an all day seminar, with lunch available, at a moderate cost, for attendees. Parking will be free for the day and the Library of Michigan will be open.

After discussing our four selections with Paul, they will be:

- 1 Finding Your English Ancestors: The Big Four
- 2 A New Location: Steps for Quickly Getting Started
- 3 Finding Your Scottish Ancestors: The Big Five
- 4 Irish Emigrants to North America

Friday evening there will be an Archives lock in available (limited to 35 attendees). This would be similar to the lock ins prior to the last few Abrams Seminars. Pizza at 5, Research from 6-10.

Registration: Early bird \$45; final 7-10 days \$55,

Options: Box lunch \$11.00; printed syllabus (somewhere between \$5 and \$10).

All attendees will receive a flash drive syllabus.

Registration: Early bird \$45; Final 7-120 days \$55.

Options: Box lunch \$11.00; printed syllabus (somewhere between \$5 and \$10)

The September 17 MGC Delegate meeting will be held at the Gladwin County Public Library.

Please see article titled September 17 MGC Meeting describing this meeting.



# Pennsylvania Trip 2015

*By Walter G Bennett*

In Early June of this year, I took a research trip back to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. My plan was to find out more information on my mother's side of the family, the Moore's. Also, I was looking for information on my GG Grandmother's siblings who also came to Pennsylvania from Northern Ireland and settled in Lancaster.

My GG Grandparents were Albert and Mary (Meehan) Moore. A few years ago, the death records became available for Pennsylvania at a cost. I ordered copies of Albert's and Mary's death records so that I could begin researching back from their generations. Albert's parents were listed as William and Isabella (Dunlap) Moore. From looking at the 1850 census, I found Albert living with both his parents in Drumore township. Albert was born in 1835. By the 1860 census, Isabella was a widow and living with Albert, Mary and their son William John. I had no idea what religion that William and Isabella practiced, but I had made an assumption that it wasn't Catholic. Albert had married Mary, a Catholic from Northern Ireland and I would assume had converted from whatever faith. I was in search of church records to nail down my assumptions. I looked at what was

available on Microfilm for churches that were present in Drumore township. Not finding what I wanted, I began to consult the experts in the Lancaster Historical Society. It was recommended that I look at Tax records for Drumore and see if William was listed there and when he disappeared from the tax rolls, to narrow down a death date. This involved putting on the white gloves and opening the large old book in the special collections room.

I found William, listed as renting from Cyrus Moore who owned a substantial piece of property. Cyrus Moore was shown on the plat maps as owning property near the town of Unicorn in Drumore township. I have not yet determined who Cyrus is and how he relates. The earliest I looked at the tax books was 1847. Cyrus Moore owned 115 acres with a value of \$1,455. William was no longer listed in the tax rolls in 1859, so he apparently died 1858-1859, which fits in with the census data. In 1858, Albert showed up as having paid 50 cents for Militia fines.



Wheatland, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

I had looked at the cemetery books for Lancaster county and was unable to locate graves for William and Isabella, hoping that this would lead to more information. No such luck, as I had also searched findagrave. What I did learn was that there were many Quakers, AKA "Society of Friends" located in Lancaster county, which belonged to the Sadsbury Society of Friends. There were also some smaller groups of these Quakers in the Drumore area. In my searching, I had seen both William's name and Cyrus's names listed in the Society of Friends records for Sadsbury located on Ancestry.com. I believe that they may have been within this group, and need to research further, hoping to find something concrete within their meeting notes.

Before heading to Lancaster, I had joined the Historical Society as it gave me limitless visits to use their library as it was a \$10/day charge and I was going to be there for 5 days. It also included a tour of President James Buchanan's home, known as Wheatland, which was next door to the historical society. This was an interesting trip back thru time but was also important as he had lived here during the time of my GG Grandparents lives. I was also able to visit his grave in the local cemetery while looking for some of my relatives graves.

## SEPTEMBER 17 MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL MEETING

Faye Ebach, Delegate

As a delegate to the Michigan Genealogical Council (MGC), the majority of the bi-monthly meetings are held in Lansing at the Archives of Michigan. For the past five or six years, MGC has held the September Delegate meeting at a site other than Lansing. Meetings have been held in places such as Harrison, Traverse City, Grand Rapids, Midland, and Kalamazoo in order to encourage attendance by members unable to make the trip to Lansing.

The next scheduled MGC Delegate meeting is Thursday, September 17, 12:00 PM, at the Gladwin County Public Library in Gladwin. The address is 402 James Robertson Drive, Gladwin. This meeting is open to any society members and/or guests who would like to attend. The Gladwin Library has an extensive genealogy collection extending well beyond the borders of Gladwin County. It will be open at 8:30 AM for attendees to explore the library and do any type of research.

For those members who have never attended a MGC Delegate meeting, this presents an opportunity to do so as well as become better acquainted with a neighboring county's genealogy collection.

A table will be available for societies and society members to sell, show, or share items with fellow attendees.

## Top Five Queen Elizabeth II Facts

*By Brian Gallagher [Ancestry.com]*

Queen Elizabeth II will become Britain's longest reigning monarch today – having been on the throne for 63 years, seven months and two days, equalling the record held by her great-great grandmother, Queen Victoria.

The Queen will have plenty of people to celebrate the milestone with; Our research reveals that 2 per cent of UK residents claim to have Royal ancestry in their family tree, the equivalent of more than 1.2 million people.

A study of birth indexes has uncovered that the number of babies born with the name 'Elizabeth' increased by 6% the year after the monarch was born in 1926, the equivalent of 370 extra baby Elizabeths that year.

Analysis of historic marriage records reveals that following the union of Queen Elizabeth and The Duke of Edinburgh in 1947 there was a 35% increase in weddings that year.

The Queen may receive congratulations from some very famous relatives. Benedict Cumberbatch, Brad Pitt, Hugh Grant, Uma Thurman and Tom Hanks all have ancestral connections to British royalty.

Internationally Americans and Canadians are most fond of the Royals and would rather find a King or Queen in their family trees above any other kind of ancestor. Brits, Australians, Germans and Swedes most want to find an explorer or an adventurer.

- See more at: <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2015/09/09/top-five-queen-elizabeth-ii-facts-and-top-tips-for-tracing-your-royal-ancestry/#sthash.XTehkSlk.dpuf>

## Coming Events

**Sept 17-19, 2015** "New York State Family History Conference" Also a Federation of Genealogical Societies Regional conference, with a full day focused on managing societies, followed by two days of New York focused lectures and sessions in general topics. See [nys-fhc.org](http://nys-fhc.org) for further info.

**Sept 26, 2015** "10th Annual Family History Festival", Detroit Public Library, 10am to 5pm. Judy G. Russell, "The Legal Genealogist", who will make two presentations entitled "No Vitals! No Problem! Building a Family through Circumstantial Evidence" and "Don't Forget the Ladies – A Genealogist's Guide to Women and the Law" and Dr. Deborah A. Abbott who will make two presentations entitled "Analyzing the U.S. Federal Census" and "You Only Have a Death Announcement - Now What?". Visit [detroitpubliclibrary.org](http://detroitpubliclibrary.org) for further info.

**Oct 9-10, 2015** "Got Ancestors?", hosted by Western Michigan Genealogical Society. Website [gotancestors.com](http://gotancestors.com) will be updated at a later date.

**October 23-24, 2015** "Illinois State Genealogical Society Fall Conference", Oak Lawn, Illinois. For further info goto <http://ilgensoc.blogspot.com/search/label/Fall%20Conference>.

**Oct 24, 2015** "Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan Annual Seminar", American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 East Maple Road, Troy, MI 48083 go to [PGSM.org](http://PGSM.org)

**Nov 7, 2015** "Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan 20th Anniversary Genealogy Seminar", Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 W. Warren, Dearborn Heights, Michigan. See <http://miigsm.org/> for info.

# News from Dick Eastman

(blog.eogn.com)

## Library Edition of Newspapers.com

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Sept. 10, 2015 — Libraries can now provide their communities with a rich collection of newspapers ranging from well-known state and regional titles to small local newspapers in the United States and other countries. Available to libraries exclusively from ProQuest, the [Newspapers.com Library Edition](#) offers people of all ages and interests access to more than 85 million digitized pages, dating from the early 1700s into the early 2000s.

Newspapers.com Library Edition is an easy-to-use resource with search, save and share capabilities designed specifically for newspapers. Without knowing the name of the newspaper, users can quickly search millions of full-text pages by viewing available newspapers grouped by location on a modern map. It is also possible to narrow search results using title counts provided by location, or broaden the scope of results using traditional search techniques, like keyword, location and time period or newspaper name. The user experience is enhanced with an image viewer that provides high-quality images that can easily be clipped, saved and shared via social outlets, such as Facebook, Pinterest, Google+ and Twitter.

“Adding Newspapers.com Library Edition to ProQuest’s list of revered news titles reaffirms our commitment to providing clients with versatile journalism sources,” said Andon Baltakov, vice president, product management, ProQuest. “Whether a student looking to learn about pop culture, a researcher studying societal attitudes, or a genealogist searching for family history, this newspaper database can help people in their quest to understand history through the storytelling of local and regional newspapers from the U.S. and overseas.”

The Library Edition of Newspapers.com will continue to expand its titles and content. Libraries have the option of subscribing to the World Collection, which includes full-text pages from more than 3,500 newspapers, or U.S. state and multi-state collections.

Libraries interested in offering an invaluable service to their communities by providing access to this growing resource for historical research and learning, are encouraged to take advantage of a [free trial subscription](#).

## What Donald Trump Inherited from his Immigrant Grandfather

Dick Eastman · September 2, 2015 · People · No Comments

The New York Daily News has an interesting story by Ginger Adams Otis about Donald Trump’s grandfather, Fred Trump. His will and probate documents may be seen in Ancestry’s new collection of wills and probate records in the United States, announced earlier today. (See <http://goo.gl/uBuQL2> for the announcement.)

Born Friedrich Drumpf, in Kallstadt, Germany, in 1869, Fred Trump left an estate worth \$500,000 in today’s dollars when he died in Queens, NY on May 30, 1918, at age 49.

You can read the New York Daily News article at <http://goo.gl/A5eLe0>.

## Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center’s Renovation to Begin in Early November

Dick Eastman

The Allen County Public Library’s board of trustees has approved a \$138,541 contract to reconfigure about 2,000 square feet of the downtown library’s second-floor Genealogy Center.

Staff members say that the space, as originally designed, no longer meets the needs of the way family history researchers do their work today. New technology means that more family history research is being done online with digitized records resulting in less need to access the same records on microfilm.

About half of an area that now houses microfilm and microfiche readers will become a meeting room, where programs for the public can take place and staff members can meet with small groups of researchers to acquaint them with the center’s resources and layout.

The second part of the project will

transform an area now used for orientation into a glass-walled setting for oral history interviews.

## Ancestry Collaborates with Gannett to Digitally Archive More Than 80 U.S. Newspapers

PROVO, Utah, Aug 24, 2015 — [Ancestry](#), the leader in family history and consumer genetics, today announced its collaboration with [Gannett Co., Inc.](#), the largest local-to-national media company, to digitize more than 80 daily newspapers across the nation. Newspapers.com, an Ancestry business unit, and Gannett will provide a historical newspaper viewing experience complete with full text search, clipping and sharing features. Together, they expect to deliver more than 100 million full-page images of historical newspapers in a simple, easy-to-use online archive.

“We’re thrilled to partner with Gannett to deliver newspapers from the past directly to subscribers’ devices, allowing them to step back in time and experience the news as it was happening on that day, from new babies and marriages to war updates and other major news events,” stated Brent Carter, senior director of business development at Newspapers.com.

Through this collaboration, more than four million searchable pages of [The Cincinnati Enquirer](#) were made available online. Newspapers.com and Gannett will begin the rollout phase of all public archives of more than 80 daily newspapers, including *Detroit Free Press*, *The Arizona Republic*, *The Indianapolis Star*, *The Tennessean* and many others to follow. Each archive will ultimately include every available page from the first date of publication up to issues from 30 days ago.

Each new archive will be accessible through an “Archives” link in the newspaper’s primary online navigation, mobile Web site and native mobile app. Archives will be updated on a regular basis with content from the previous month. Gannett digital subscribers will have access to the most recent two years of content included in full-access subscriptions. Complete archives will be available to everyone with an affordable monthly or annual subscription.



## Looking Back in Midland County

**The following two sketches were copied from "Portrait and Biographical Album of Midland County", published in 1884.**

**McCrary**, farmer on section 22, Hope Township, was born June 14, 1824, in County Antrim, Ireland, the son of Robert and Grizzie (Magee) McCrary, and came to Clark's Mills, Can., from the Emerald Isle, in 1834. His father purchased a farm of 65 acres, where he lived until death. The mother also died on this place.

The subject of this sketch was one of a family of seven, six sons and one daughter, all of whom grew to years of maturity. He lived on the homestead until 25 years old, and then he bought 160 acres of land, which he commenced to pay for when 22 years of age. March 1, 1853, he came to this State; and for one year he worked a farm on shares in Ingham County. Jan. 12, 1857, he moved to this county with his family, and for one year boarded with David Burton, in what was then Jerome, but is now Edenville Township. During a part of this year he was again in Ingham County, harvesting his wheat sown the year before. The remainder of his time, however, he devoted to building a log house for his family, and clearing his land in Hope Township, which he had secured in the following manner: "Hank" Ashman, a half-breed lawyer of Midland City, told him to go on an even section, settle on a certain tract, and take his chances in buying the land when it came into market. This happened three years later, and he then paid for 160 acres at 50 cents per acre. He now has a fine farm, with suitable farm buildings.

Nov. 24, 1854, was the date of his marriage to Miss Agnes McWilliams, daughter of William and Jane (Kissick) McWilliams. Her father was drowned in Napanee River, Canada, when Agnes was five years old, and the mother died seven years later, at Clark's Mills. Mrs. McCrary was one of a family of seven, two sons and five daughter's and was born Dec. 24, 1838.

The eight children of Mr. and Mrs. McCrary are as follows: Ida M., born June 20, 1856, in Ingham Co., Mich., and married May 12, 1878 to Abram L. Wismer; Ferdinand W., born Jan. 20, 1860, in Jerome Township, this county, and married March 6, 1884, Rosa B. Evans; Alice M., born Feb. 23, 1862, in Lincoln (now Hope) Township, married April 14, 1878, to Henry Wismer, and died Feb. 10, 1884, of spinal disease; Lydia A., born Aug. 5 1864, in Lincoln (now Hope) Township; Ina E., born July 22, 1867, in Lincoln (now Hope) Township; William H., born July 6, 1871, in Hope Township; Elva A., born Oct. 29, 1872, in Hope Township; Almon J., born Feb. 7. 1874, in Hope Township, and died Nov. 1, 1880.

Mr. McCrary is in political faith a Republican. He has been Highway Commissioner one term, and School Director one year. He and his wife were baptized in the Church of England.

**Abram L. Wismer**, farmer on section 15, Hope Township, is a son of Abram and Isabella (Lincoln) Wismer, the former of Pennsylvania-German parentage, born Sept. 7, 1812, and the mother born in Canada, of New England parentage, June 25, 1827. The father was by occupation a

carpenter and pump manufacturer, and died in Elgin Co., Can., April 27, 1876. The mother died in Billings Township., Gladwin Co., Mich., Nov. 18, 1877. Abram's grandfather lived to the venerable age of 97.

The subject of this biography was born in Malahide Township, Elgin Co., Can., Nov. 9, 1854, and was one of a family of nine, six sons and three daughters. Three of the boys died in infancy. The remainder of the family are yet living. He remained at home until of age, learning his fathers trade. He came to this county in 1876 and soon after bought his present farm on section 15, Hope Township. Of this 40 acres he has improved 30, and he has erected a suitable frame house and barn.

May 12, 1878, he formed a life partnership with Miss Ida M. McCrary. (see sketch of William McCrary.) The ceremony was performed at Midland City, by Rev. W. H. Osborne. She was born June 20, 1856, in Onondaga Township, Ingham Co., Mich. To this marriage have been given two sons: William H., who was born Jan. 23, 1879; and Ad-elbert J., April 19, 1882, both in Hope Township.

Politically, Mr. W. is a Republican.

*Pioneer Record*

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



## MGS Officers

President	Faye Ebach	faeae@charter.net	835-7518
Secretary	Wilma Diesen	diesens2@centurytel.net	832-8485
Program Chairs	Bob Snyder	rcsnyder2@earthlink.net	839-9644
	Quita Shier	vsgavia@aol.com	835-3278
Membership Chair	Walt and Joanne Rupprecht	wrupp47@charter.net	631-8945
Treasurer	Fran Longsdorf	pstrlongsdorf@live.com	832-2838
MGC Delegates	Faye Ebach	faeae@charter.net	835-7518
	Bev Keicher	bevjoank@netscape.net	631-9455
Historian	Nancy Humphrey	nanphrey@sbcglobal.net	631-5123
Hospitality Chairs	Linda Fisher	fisherl@tm.net	687-9131
	Thora Goodnight	tgoodnight@charter.net	832-0294
Web Master	Walt Bennett	wgbennett@gmail.com	631-5247
PR Editor	Walt Bennett	wgbennett@gmail.com	631-5247

Pioneer Record is published quarterly (Sep., Nov., Feb., & Apr.) by the Midland Genealogical Society. Queries are free to members and should be sent to: PIONEER RECORD, Midland Genealogical Society, P.O.Box 2421, Midland, MI 48641-2421. We welcome genealogical material which would be of interest to the general membership. Articles to be included in PR should be submitted to the above address by the 15th of August, October, January and March.

### Information about Midland Genealogical Society

The MGS meets on the 3rd Wednesday of Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr. & May at 7:00 PM in the lounge of the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640 or at the St. John's Episcopal Church on the corner of Saginaw and St. Andrews Streets in Midland. Visitors are always welcome. Watch the Midland Daily News or local Midland MCTV channel 189 for upcoming speakers, dates and times as well as location.

Membership dues are \$20.00 for single and \$25.00 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.