



PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

Volume 36 No. 2

MIMGS.ORG

Nov 2015

In This Issue

Society of Friends	1
The Presidents Letter	2
Editorial Comments	2
Programs	3
Books for sale	3
1815 Surveying Michigan	6
Websites of Interest	6
Where are all my ancestors newspaper articles	7
Coming Events	7
News from Dick Eastman	8
Looking Back in Midland County	9
MGS Officers & Society Information	10

Midland Genealogical Society Programs for 2015 - 2016

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

Programs for the meetings are as follows.

****PLEASE NOTE LOCATIONS****

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

Dec—No Meeting

Jan. 20 "History of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Saginaw", Presented by Jake Eichhorn

For a complete list of our meetings, check the meetings page of our website at mimgs.org..

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

By Walter Bennett

Part 1

While researching my roots in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, I began stumbling on a religious group called the Society of Friends. This group is more commonly known as Quakers. Although I have not yet proved it, as I need to look more at records kept by the Society, I believe that my GG Grandfather came from this group. I thought that this was an interesting group as most of us know very little about the Quakers.

They are known as Religious Society of Friends in Europe, Australia, New Zealand and parts of North America. In other countries, such as Africa, Asia, South America and parts of the United States, they are known as Friends Church. They are a group based on Christianity. Their doctrine was derived from the First Epistle of Peter, in which members profess the priesthood of all believers.

History

The Society of Friends began at the tail end of Europe's Protestant Reformation in the 17th century by

its Founder, George Fox. Growing up, Fox was puzzled by the inconsistencies between what Christians said they believed and the way they behaved. At the age of 19 he became a religious activist.

A young man in England, George Fox, was dissatisfied with the teachings of the Church of England. He had a revelation and became convinced that it was possible to have a direct experience with Christ without the aid of an ordained clergy. His followers believed that they were the true restoration of the Christian Church. George Fox was brought before the magistrates in England on a charge of religious blasphemy in 1650. One of these magistrates was the first to call them Quakers, "because I bade them tremble at the word of the Lord".

Fox believed that everyone should try to encounter God directly and try to experience the Kingdom of Heaven as a present, living reality. He objected to the hierarchical structure and rituals

(Continued on page 4)

The President's Letter

Many of you may be unaware that the Library of Michigan (LOM) has a new director. As genealogists we are witnessing a resurgence of interest and interaction by the library with the genealogy community. Since Randy Riley was appointed to the Directors position earlier this year, he is demonstrating his interest and involvement in genealogical pursuits at the LOM. The LOM was an active participant in the annual Fall Seminar presented by the Michigan Genealogical Council (MGC) on November 14. A major positive was the fact the library was open for participants use on the Saturday of the Seminar. Please take the opportunity to research the LOM holdings in the future when doing research in Lansing.

One of the benefits of serving as president of MGS is having ac-

cess to and picking up mail at our post office box. A number of Michigan genealogical societies share their newsletters with us, which provides me with the opportunity to peruse/read each issue before taking it to the Midland Genealogy room at the library. There are many fascinating, well written articles in these newsletters. I have suggested one such article that is in the November issue of the Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society's newsletter be published in an issue of the PR. The article is titled "What Kind of Genealogist Are You?" As I read it, I could see myself in some of the descriptions presented. I found I am not alone in being fascinated by doing the research and putting some of the pieces of the puzzle together. It was also a relief to learn that I am not alone in having problems recording all the data collected. The drudgery of entering data into a software program is not at all compelling. Maybe there are others who also dislike "entering data into a software pro-

gram". Maybe this could stimulate the "computer whizzes" in our society to host a workshop on the use of computer genealogy software to organize, record, etc., all the data "The Hunter or Detective" genealogist collects.

Just a thought!

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas holiday.

Faye Ebach,

President



Some cemeteries are heavily overgrown.

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 ● ● ●

Looking for your articles to publish. Did you have an interesting research trip? Is there a brick wall that maybe someone may be able to help with? Do you use a genealogy program and would like to write a review of it? Email your article submissions to newsletter@mimsgs.org, This newsletter can't be produced without articles.

There are some great programs coming up at our monthly meetings. There are also some great seminars happening in the coming year. I hope that many of you can get out and enjoy some of these.

One of the best tools that I have

and use when doing research is my tablet. I use it for taking notes, photographing tombstones as well as taking pictures of books and microfilm.

Many copy machines and film machines charge 25 cents a page and I don't always get the quality results that I like. I find it easier to take a photo of which I can then crop and adjust the darkness in my photo editing program when I get home and I can print on my home printer. I can also view the photo on my tablet if I need to review something.

Tablets are small and many come with an excellent battery life. With a USB plug, there are many places to recharge the device.

Happy Hunting

Walter G Bennett

Editor

PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER 18, 2015

You are cordially invited to participate in an evening with the Midland Genealogical Society on November 18, 2015, at 7:00 pm. Our November meeting will feature an opportunity to share in a conversation with our own Floyd Andrick; but you have to do a bit of homework before you arrive. Please come prepared to share the surprise and delight you felt when you finally discovered that long-lost ancestor for whom you'd been searching for years. The subject for the evening is "AHA! MOMENTS". It should be a delightful time for all.

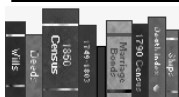
MGS meetings are always open to the public, and are held at St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of South Saginaw Road and St. Andrews Drive. MGS meetings are always open to the public, and are held at St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of South Saginaw Road and St. Andrews Drive.

PROGRAM FOR JANUARY 20, 2016

The January meeting of the Midland Genealogical Society will be held in Williams Hall at St. John's Episcopal Church, at the corner of Saginaw Road and St. Andrews. All our

meetings begin at 7:00 pm, and the public is welcome.

Of historical significance to the populating and development of the Saginaw Bay area was the influx of people whose roots were in Germany. Central to that development was the establishment of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Saginaw, where Jacob Eichhorn's family lived for a number of years. Our January program will feature Dr. Jacob Eichhorn's sharing of the history of that congregation and its impact on the area. Dr. Eichhorn



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)

of the churches of his time and he believed that the Bible was not always right. He argued that God did not want churches because they were an obstruction to God.

Quakerism had a considerable following in England and Wales with numbers reaching 60,000 by 1680. The Protestants viewed the Quakers as a blasphemous challenge to Social and Political order.

Margaret Fell, the wife of Thomas Fell, the vice-chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and a pre-eminent judge and Fox developed new conceptions of family and community that emphasized "holy conversation". New roles for women were introduced, making women responsible for the spirituality of the larger community and teachings for her children and husband.

Their missionaries took them to North America in 1656, where they became heavily involved in politics. The Society became the first organization to ban slaveholding.

Movement appealed to many, and grew in strength, especially in Pennsylvania, which was founded in 1681 by William Penn, a Quaker and a friend of George Fox. Pennsylvania was founded based on the principle of pacifism and religious tolerance. By 1686, Quakers in

Pennsylvania officially declared their opposition to the importation of enslaved Africans into North America. Several of their founders, encouraged their congregations to stop owning slaves.

Persecution of Quakers began in North America in 1656 when English Quaker missionaries, Mary Fisher and Ann Austin began preaching in Boston. They were considered heretics due to their insistence on individual obedience to the Inner Light. They were imprisoned and banished by the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Their books were burned and property was confiscated, and they were eventually deported.

Quakers refused to take oaths and take their hats off before a magistrate. They also held meetings in public which had been banned, which resulted in 6,000 Quakers being imprisoned between 1662

and 1670.

In 1660, Quaker Mary Dyer was hanged on Boston Common for repeatedly defying a Puritan law banning Quakers from the colony. She was one of four executed. King Charles II made law in 1661 forbidding anyone from being executed for professing Quakerism.

They were able to establish thriving communities in the Delaware Valley. They continued to be persecuted in New England, but were tolerated in West Jersey, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania. In Rhode Island, 36 governors in the first 100 years were Quakers. Early Quakers also established themselves in North Carolina and Maryland.

Splits developed in the Society of Friends. The most prominent happened in the 1820's when Elias Hicks objected to greater emphasis on the Bible. Those wanting



Quaker Meeting House

(Continued on page 5)

change became known as Orthodox while those not wanting change were known as Hicksites.

Today there are about 90,000 Quakers throughout the U.S. Alaska is the state with the largest percentage of Quakers in its population, not Pennsylvania.

Quakers beliefs

- God is Love.
- The Light of God is in every single person.
- A person who lets their life be guided by that light will achieve a full relationship with God.
- Everyone can have a direct, personal relationship with God without involving a priest or minister.
- Redemption and the Kingdom of Heaven are to be experienced now, in this world.

Quakers regard the Bible as a very great inspirational book but don't see it as the only one.

Quakers don't celebrate Easter and Christmas.

Quaker worship consists of silent waiting, participants contributing as the spirit moves them.

Quakers don't believe in clergy as they believe that all believers can minister to one another.

Quakers are actively involved in social and political issues and believe in pacifism and non-violence. Quakers are the most common conscientious objectors.

Quakers regard all human beings as equal and equally worthy of respect, and all human beings contain goodness and truth. Quakers don't accept value judgments based on race or gender.

Quakers have no view on what happens after death. They prefer to concentrate on the here and now and making this world a better place then ponder on what happens when we leave this earth.

Quakers neither practice baptism nor celebrate the Eucharist.

Worship

Meetings for worship happen in meeting houses and not churches. They are simple buildings and may resemble homes.

In a Quaker meeting for worship, a group of people sit in a room in a square or a circle, in silence for an hour. From time to time, someone may speak briefly, but sometimes the entire hour goes by unspoken. Quaker meetings are

open to everyone and youth are encouraged to attend. Worship doesn't follow a set liturgy, has no structure and no one leads it.

The words spoken are usually brief and may contain readings, prayers, or speaking from personal experiences. Messages derived from these messages may be for the benefit of others. This is followed by a period of silence. The words should come from the soul or "inner light" rather than the mind. The meeting ends when the elders shake hands.

Sources:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/subdivisions/quakers_1.shtml

<http://www.quaker.org/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quakers>

<http://www.history.com/topics/quakers>



Inside of a Friends Meeting House

1815 Surveying Michigan

200th Anniversary Commemoration

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the setting of the surveying lines for Michigan. In 1785 a public land sur-



vey proposed by Thomas Jefferson was an efficient method for the establishment of land boundaries and even today affects all land owners. In 1807, the west boundary of the Treaty of Detroit was selected as the line for the Michigan Principal Meridian; the southernmost (and beginning point) of the meridian was set in 1815 at Fort Defiance, Ohio and the northernmost (and final) point was set in 1840 in Sault Ste. Marie To celebrate this anniversary, the volunteer group 1815 Surveying Michigan hosted a 30-40 minute informative presentation on the history of surveying in Michigan and its relevance for today at Leslie High School on Sunday, Oct. 11. Afterward, attendees were transported by bus to the Meridian Baseline State Park, where the Meridian and Baseline initial point markers rest. These points are the basis for all land surveys in Michigan and parts of Ohio. Today property descriptions in Michigan are referenced from these points.

Meridian Baseline State Park, where the markers rest, consists of 86 acres of land (acquired 1960-1970) that was land-locked for many years without public access. In 2014, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources was able to acquire additional property so that people can access the park from Meridian Road near the Jackson-Ingham County line. A trail has been

cleared and a 10-car parking lot for day visitors has been constructed for those who wish to see this historic landmark and learn about its significance.

Attendees of the Oct 11 event were invited to go to the park via provided bus service. A new trail and bridge were expected to be completed but participants were encouraged to wear footwear suitable for rough terrain and be able to walk a distance of one-half mile each way.

The trail was not accessible for wheelchairs or those with physical disabilities at this time. Since the parking lot at Meridian Baseline State Park was very small and safety was paramount, attendees of the commemorative event were asked to ride the buses provided, to and from the Park. Parking along Meridian Road was strongly discouraged and parking inside Meridian Baseline State Park was reserved for the buses transporting people to and from Leslie High School. The volunteer group 1815 Surveying Michigan, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors have been responsible for development of the park, purchasing a historic marker and replacing a missing Initial Point Marker at Meridian Baseline State Park. In addition, the park and this commemoration has been generously supported by numerous community and professional organizations and individuals within Jackson and Ingham Counties as well as from around the State of Michigan. FOR more information on the 1815 Surveying Michigan project and the commemoration event, please visit www.1815surveyingmichigan.weebly.com; the group's Face-book page, 1815 Surveying Michigan; or email 1815surveyingmichigan@gmail.com or contact Debby Sears at the Jackson District Library, 517-788-4087.

Source: Calhoun County Genealogical Society Newsletter

Websites of Interest

I always get excited when I find another website of digital books and digital newspapers. Here is one that I recently found.

Genealogy Gophers

www.gengophers.com. They currently have over 80,000 digital genealogy books for free.

Free E-Book available

There is a free e-book titled "Perspectives on Personal Digital Archiving" available at http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/documents/ebookpdf_march18.pdf.

This e-book is a good starting point when diving into digitizing your photographs and genealogy documents and covers items that you may not have thought of when starting a project like this.

I have probably made note of elephind.com, a newspaper archive search engine with access to over 2.5 million digitized newspapers worldwide. This site is also free. Give it a try.

Another resource that I am looking into is the Catholic Parish Registers of the NLI (National Library of Ireland).

This is digitized microfilm of the parish registers. To use this, you need to know the parish of your ancestors, then select that parish and start looking thru the registers, page by page as no name search is yet available. The library's web site is at <http://www.nli.ie/>.

Help! Where Are All My Ancestors Newspaper Articles?

8/29/2015

1. No matter where you look for old newspaper articles, it all comes down to planning WHERE and WHEN. If you search original newsprint in an archive, microfilm in a library, or an online collection - these are the two most important criteria to consider first.

This article is not a list of what online sites you should search. This is about determining the locations where your ancestors MAY have an article written about them. Then you can determine where to search, whether online or in an archive or library.

So how do you know where to find your ancestors in newspapers? And what date ranges do you use as part of your search?

The answers may seem obvious but they are not. So let's examine what you need to consider to find the locations where these articles await.

The most obvious question is "Where have they lived?" From various documents and records that you have collected, either BMD information, city directories, census records, etc., you can establish what their cities of residence were. At the bottom of this article we will show where to find newspapers for those cities.

2. I would not limit your search for newspaper titles to just the city of residence. Span out a bit and include the newspaper for the county seat. There is likely to be different types of information published in the newspapers for that likely larger populated area.
3. If your target lived near the state border, check out neighboring state newspapers. For example, if they lived in Council Bluffs, Iowa, check out the Omaha, Nebraska papers. Or if they lived in Camden, New Jersey, try the Philadelphia newspapers.
4. Unique human interest articles were copied all over the country and world. One of my ancestors was given Geronimo's knife in the 1880's in California and the article was published in papers in Pennsyl-

vania, Virginia, Indiana and London, England as a human interest story.

5. Don't just search for articles for the dates that the ancestor was alive. Often, newspapers had a column that featured stories from 10 years ago, 25 years ago, etc. and your ancestor might be mentioned in that column. Furthermore, if your ancestor was well known in the community, he might be referred to in an article a few years after his death. This is tricky if your ancestor has a common name and date ranges are important to narrowing the number of search results.
6. When searching for obituaries, include a couple of weeks after the death of the ancestor. Many times the obituary publication was delayed, but more importantly, some obituaries were changed after their original publication because of errors, modifications, or additions. So don't just stop searching after you have found the first one. Furthermore, try searching a few days before the ancestors' death. They might have been in an accident, or were ill for some time and that information may have warranted an article in the newspaper.
7. Regarding obituaries, don't just limit your search to the location of the ancestors death. Many times the obituary is copied (and possibly altered) in newspapers in the area where your ancestor had lived previously. I have several examples of this in my family.

Once you have determined the cities and date ranges of interest, you can search the database from the **Library of Congress**, that provides detailed title information for over 150,000 newspaper titles published in the United States. More importantly, it offers the holdings information for each of these newspapers - whether in archives, libraries or other institutions.

For access to online collections, I would encourage you to review the **Newspapers!** page on this website, where links to about 15,000 newspapers are presented. Also included are links to sites that have links to online newspaper collections as well.

Finding articles is an exercise of narrow-

ing and expanding, combining dates and locations as part of your search plan. It is tricky and requires persistence. It is definitely an art rather than a science, in my opinion.

Source: TheAncestorHunt.com

Coming Events

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.

Nov. 7, 2015 "Copyright Issues for Genealogists", Kris Rzepczynski, Senior Archivist at the Archives of Michigan, will discuss Copyright Issues as they relate to genealogists at the morning session. After lunch he will cover Vital Records, where you find them, and State of Michigan laws pertaining to vital records. Held at Robert J. Parks Library, 6010 N. Skeel Ave., Oscoda, Michigan, 9:30am to 3pm. http://mimgc.org/upload/events/files/1442916890_CopyrightIssues-Oscoda.pdf

Nov. 14, 2015 "MGC Fall Family History Event", Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, Michigan. 9am to 4pm. "A day with Paul Milner". <http://mimgc.org/cpage.php?pt=62>

Apr. 16, 2016 "Indiana Genealogical Society Annual Conference", Fort Wayne, Indiana. <http://www.indgensoc.org/conference.php>

Apr. 28-30, 2016 "Ohio Genealogical Society Annual Conference", held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Mason, Ohio. <http://www.ogs.org/conference2016/>

Aug. 6, 2016 "Kentucky Genealogical Society Seminar", featuring Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL. [Www.kygs.org/](http://www.kygs.org/)

Aug. 31-Sep. 3, 2016 "FGS National Conference", Springfield, Ill.

News from Dick Eastman

(blog.eogn.com)

Google Book-Scanning Project is Legal, According to a U.S. Appeals Court

Dick Eastman · October 16, 2015 ·

A U.S. appeals court has ruled that Google's massive effort to scan millions of books for an online library does not violate copyright law, rejecting claims from a group of authors that the project illegally deprives them of revenue. The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York rejected infringement claims from the Authors Guild and several individual writers, and found that the project provides a public service without violating intellectual property law.

A unanimous three-judge appeals panel said the case "tests the boundaries of fair use," but found Google's practices were ultimately allowed under the law. The ruling will encourage Google to continue adding digital images of books to the Google Books web site.

Older books that are no longer protected by copyright laws are fully visible to Google's users. In fact, the digital images of the entire books can be downloaded and saved by the user. The Authors Guild lawsuit only focused on newer books that are still under copyright protection. Google scans entire books but those still under copyright protection are not visible in their entirety to users and cannot be downloaded. Instead, when the user searches for words or phrases within Google Books, the results only show a small snippet within the book that matches the search terms. The entire copyrighted book cannot be downloaded.

Google's lawyers argued that the display of snippets falls under the "fair use" provision of US copyright law and the court obviously agreed. "Google's division of the page into tiny snippets is designed to show the searcher just enough context surrounding the searched term to help her evaluate whether

the book falls within the scope of her interest (without revealing so much as to threaten the author's copyright interests)," Circuit Judge Pierre Leval wrote for the court.

Google also argued that displaying snippets of text from copyrighted material actually benefits the authors and publishers as it encourages users to purchase the entire book. However, it is impossible to measure the increased sales resulting from Google Books searches.

The case is Authors Guild v. Google Inc, 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, No. 13-4829. The case details may be found in a PDF file at <https://goo.gl/nKqppD>.

The 2nd Circuit had previously rejected a similar lawsuit from the Authors Guild in June 2014 against a consortium of universities and research libraries that built a searchable online database of millions of scanned works.

New Passenger Lists Go Online on TheGenealogist

TheGenealogist has just released five million Emigration BT27 records as part of their growing immigration and emigration record set. These contain the historical records of passengers who departed by sea from Britain in the years between 1896 and 1909. These new records significantly boosts the already strong Immigration, Emigration, Naturalisation and passenger list resources on TheGenealogist.

Uniquely TheGenealogist allows you to track transmigration of people across countries routing through British ports on their way to America.

TheGenealogist is the only website with the facility to discover families travelling together on the same voyage using our SmartSearch technology.

TheGenealogist has further revealed that these records will be shortly followed by the release of many more unique migration records.

The searchable records released to-

day will allow researchers to find people using British shipping lines and travelling to places such as America, Canada, India, New Zealand and Australia in the Passenger lists of people leaving from, or passing through the United Kingdom, by sea which were kept by the Board of Trade's Commercial and Statistical Department and its successors.

The Homestead Act of 1862 in America gave free land to settlers who developed it for at least five years, and became a particular magnet for Norwegians, Danes, and Swedes, who arrived in their millions. To reach America, it was necessary to travel initially to England in order to then board one of the large transatlantic passenger ships and this preliminary journey has been recorded for many transmigrant passengers within the BT27 records. For the first time these can be easily found using the unique transmigration button.

SmartSearch identifies potential family members travelling together. When our system recognises groups of people on the same voyage as a potential family it displays a family icon. This then allows you to easily view the family.

These fully indexed records enable family historians to search by name, port of embarkation, port of destination, country of departure, country arrival and nationality.

This release adds to TheGenealogist's British & International Immigration and Emigration records that already include the useful Naturalisation and Denization records.

Those with ancestors who travelled out of Britain will welcome this fascinating new release from TheGenealogist that reveal the details of the coming and going of passengers and is a precursor of a set of unique records joining the collection shortly.

Nigel Bayley, MD of TheGenealogist said: "We intend to make researching migrating ancestors easier with our new smarter interfaces and adding more records covering a growing range of countries."

An example from the passenger list

(Continued on page 9)

records:

Within the passenger lists, on *TheGenealogist*, we can find the passage of the Dunottar Castle from Southampton to Cape Town in South Africa on the 14th October 1899. One of the passengers was the young Winston Churchill who, at that time, was a member of the Press and was going out to report on the start of the Second Boer War.

Two days before his ship's departure the war had broken out between Britain and the Boer Republic. At the news of this conflict Mr Churchill had obtained a commission to act as a war correspondent for *The Morning Post* newspaper. In return he was to be paid £250 a month for

his services.

After spending a number of weeks in the Colony he managed to get himself onto an armoured train, loaded with British soldiers, performing a reconnaissance between Frere and Chieveley in the British Natal Colony during November 1899. A Boer commando force, however, had placed a big boulder on the track and the train crashed into it. The Boers, having succeeded in stopping the train, then opened up with their field guns and rifle fire from a vantage position.

After a fight a number of the British were taken prisoner, but the locomotive, decoupled from the carriages and laden with men, managed to escape. Churchill, unfortunately for him, was not one of those on-board the loco. Without his sidearm, which he had left on the train, he had no option but

to surrender to the Boers. Churchill was then imprisoned in a POW camp in Pretoria. After being held captive for about four weeks Churchill escaped on the evening of 12th December 1899. He did this by vaulting over the wall to the neighbouring property and taking flight.

If we look at Churchill's travelling companions on the ship out to Cape Town, scheduled to take 65 days, we can see that he was sailing with a mixture of merchants, a jeweller, an actor, a Peer of the Realm (Lord Gerard), an optician and a couple of lawyers. The Hon A. Campbell was also listed, he was another member of the press corps who had made it on to that particular Castle Line sailing to the war zone with Churchill.

Looking Back in Midland County

Taken from the Portrait and Biographical album of Midland County, Michigan, 1884

Dougald Currie, farmer, section 35, Midland Township, was born June 6, 1853, in Haldimand, Can., in the county of the same name. He is the third son of John and Mary (McDonald) Currie, who were natives of Scotland. The parents came to Canada two years after their marriage, settled in the county above named, where all their children save one were born. In 1860 they removed to Michigan and settled on a tract of unimproved land in Midland Township, where the father died April 2, 1875.

Mr. Currie was a lad of seven years when his parents became residents of Midland. He obtained a common-school education and was reared to the calling of his father. On the death of the latter he became the possessor of 123 acres of the family homestead, to which he has since added 43 acres of finely cultivated land. He is a substantial citizen of Midland County, is a Republican of decided type, and, together with his wife, belongs to the Presbyterian Church.

He was married in Canada, Dec. 18, 1878, to Flora, daughter of James and Sarah (McDonald) Cress. The parents of Mrs. Currie were natives of Scotland, and came to Eramosa Township, Wellington Co., Can., where she was born March 14, 1855.

Mary, born Oct. 5, 1879, and Gilbert, born Sept. 20, 1882, are the names of the two children of Mr. and Mrs. Currie.

Gilbert Currie, deceased, formerly a resident on section 35, Midland Township, was born Feb. 20, 1859, in the township of Haldimand, in the county of the same name, Ontario. He was born the son of Hohn and Mary (McDonald) Currie, natives of Argyleshire, Scotland. The parents grew to maturity in their native land, where they were married. Two years after that event, in 1848, they came to America and settled in Haldimand, where they were farmers. After a residence there of nearly 13 years, they removed with their family to Midland County. They had six children, born in the following order: John, June 15, 1847 (see sketch); Margaret, Mrs. Cornelius Howard, Dec. 25, 1849; Gilbert, who died three weeks after birth; Archibald, April 1, 1851, died Feb. 14, 1865; Dougald, June 6, 1853 (see sketch); and Gilbert, of this sketch.

Mr. Currie, senior, on settling in Midland, bought 53 acres of land, which he increased to 123 acres by two subsequent purchases of 30 and 40 acres respectively. It was in an entirely wild condition, and on this farm father and sons labored until the death of the former, which occurred April 2, 1875, caused by an attack of pleurisy. The mother resides with her son Dougald.

Gilbert Currie received a common school education and grew to manhood under the care and training of his parents. He possessed the sterling traits of the race to which he belonged, and had planned a life of usefulness and effort. On the death of his father he came into possession of 40 acres of land, and was engaged in its improvement with every purpose of pursuing the vocation to which he had been bred, when he was summoned hence. He died in Saginaw, April 7, 1881, from the results of an accident.

The sudden ending of a strong, young life is a sharp trial for those who have watched and rejoiced in its promise and development, but the after-thought, though it cannot give sudden healing to the wound, is full of rest and peace. The unsullied soul, the proud, hopeful heart, the aspirations of the ambitious nature, all found perpetual purity, unchanging fruition and eternal life in the home of endless day to which they were called.

The portrait of Gilbert Currie, which is given on another page, is inserted in this volume by his sister, Mrs. Howard, and his brothers, John and Dougald, as an imperishable memento of their unfaltering live and remembrance of him who has gone just a little before, and awaits them and his mother within the glory and brightness of the spheres.

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
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MGC Delegates	Faye Ebach	faeae@charter.net	835-7518
	Bev Keicher	bevjoank@netscape.net	631-9455
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	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.