



PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

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Midland Genealogical Society Programs for 2016 - 2017

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

Programs for the meetings are as follows.

****PLEASE NOTE LOCATIONS****

Sept. 21 Tippecanoe and Tyler Too: Michigan and the Election of 1840. Presented by Kyle Bagnall. St. Johns Episcopal Church, Midland.

Oct. 19 Those Shaky Green Leaves. Presented by Bob Snyder. St. Johns Episcopal Church, Midland.

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

United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing

By Walter Bennett

Shakers are known for their furniture and architecture but what else do you know about their religious culture? Following the articles on the Quakers, I thought that I would find out more about them. There appears to be much that I didn't know.

The group was called the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, also known as the Shakers. They were founded in 1747, in Manchester England, from a group of dissenting Quakers. A few Shakers came to America in 1774. The beliefs were inspired from both the Quakers and the French Camisards.

The society was formed by Jane and James Wardley as their leaders. The Wardley Society was also known as the Shaking Quakers because of the ecstatic nature of their worship service. Ann Lee was the founder of the American Shakers and their early leader. Ann Lee was born the daughter of a blacksmith in Manchester, England in 1736. She married a blacksmith named Abraham Standerin, in 1762 and the couple had four children, all of which

died in childhood. Ann joined the Shakers, and set sail for America with her husband and seven members of the society in 1774. They located in an area northwest of Albany, New York. Ann's husband left her to marry another woman.

Ann Lee was jailed for a short period for suspicion of not aiding in the revolution against the British. The Governor of New York, George Clinton, released her provided she didn't work against the patriot cause. The Shakers were pacifists and did not believe in killing or harming others, even in times of war. President Lincoln exempted the Shaker male from serving in military service.

Shaker communities began to grow in locations, such as New Lebanon, New York, Albany, New York and several societies in Ohio and Kentucky. Eventually communities stretched from Maine to Kentucky. The furthest community to the West was on the Wabash River, a few miles north of Vincennes, in Knox County, Indiana. There were ap-

(Continued on page 4)

The President's Letter

Welcome to the coming bright colors of fall and to a new MGS season. Our first meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, September 21. We will continue to meet at St. John's Episcopal Church, 405 N. Saginaw Road. The program will feature the talents of historical enactor Kyle Bagnall from the Nature Center who will take us back in time when events

occurred that helped to shape the history of our area as well as our own genealogical tracks. This would be a good meeting to bring potential new members as guests. They would enjoy a good program and hopefully find the MGS as a resource. As to the latter, we need to greet new quests and ask about their projects with an eye as to where we can help through membership. The individual and the Society benefits, so ask them in.

I look forward to greeting you at the meeting.

Roger Bohl
President

GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



Pay dirt.

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2016-2017

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 \$20.00;
for a family \$25.00.**

There is a form on the web page under membership. Please print and fill out and send along with the dues.

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From The Editor ● ● ●

Welcome to another exciting year with the Midland Genealogical Society. I hope you all had a great summer and were able to accomplish some research.

I have not spent a lot of time researching my own family this year due to other things going on, but I was excited to finally find the marriage date and locations for my maternal grandparents and great-grandparents. I have been searching for this information for a very long time. By chance, I did a search on Ancestry which revealed the information. I have ordered the films from Salt Lake so I can see the original records.

The society is currently investigat-

ing new projects to work on. We hope to update you later this year. If you have ideas of projects that you might think would benefit the researchers of Midland, please send your ideas to one of the board members listed on the back of this newsletter.

As always, I am looking for someone to help me write articles for the newsletter. If you are interested please contact me. For those of you interested in seeing what programs we have for our monthly meetings, please see our web page at mimgs.org.

Happy Hunting
Walter G Bennett
Editor

Program For Sept 21

BAGNALL TO KICK OFF

SOCIETY SEASON

The September meeting of the Midland Genealogical Society will feature Kyle Bagnall, whose program will be entitled "TIPPECANOE AND TYLER TOO: Michigan in the Election of 1840"

Kyle W. Bagnall received a Bachelor of Arts in Public History from Western Michigan University in 1993. Since 1995, he has worked as Manager of Historical Programs at Chipewewa Nature Center, designing and presenting environmental history programs on topics such Woodland

Indian life, agriculture, fur trade, lumbering, surveying and settlement. Kyle has presented several programs for the society over the years, based on first person representations of persons from early Midland County History.

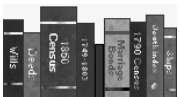
Program for October 19

Those Shaky Green Leaves

The October meeting of the Midland Genealogical Society will feature a program entitled "THOSE SHAKY GREEN LEAVES", and will entail an exploration of making use of some of the hints and suggestions

one finds when working in Ancestry.com

Our own Bob Snyder will be the presenter for this program. Bob and Gwen Snyder have been doing genealogical research for nearly forty years. A member of the Midland Society since 2001, Bob has served as our president and has, for the last several years been the program chairperson for the organization. He holds memberships in genealogical societies in Ridgefield, Connecticut, Yates County, New York, the New England Historic and Genealogical Society, and the New York State Genealogical Society. He is a graduate of Western Michigan University (BA) and the Hartford Seminary Foundation in Hartford, Connecticut (M.Div.)



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.

proximately 6,000 members just before the Civil War.

Their belief was based on spiritualism and they believed that they received messages from God during silent meditations. They believed in the renunciation of sinful acts and that the world would soon end. Jane Wardley, urged her followers:

“Repent. For the kingdom of God is at hand. The new heaven and new earth prophesied of old is about to come. The marriage of the Lamb, the first resurrection, the new Jerusalem descended from above, these are even now at the door. And when Christ appears again, and the true church rises in full and transcendent glory, then all anti-Christian denominations—the priests, the Church, the pope—will be swept away”.

The followers looked to women for leadership, because they believed that the second coming of Christ would be through a woman. Ann Lee was known as

Mother Ann Lee. Ann claimed many revelations regarding the fall of Adam and Eve and its relationship to sexual intercourse. She asked her followers to confess their sins, give up all their worldly goods, and take up celibacy and forsake marriage, as part of the renunciation of all “lustful gratifications”.

Shakers developed written covenants in the 1790’s. To join the society, you had to sign the covenant and confess your sins as well as give your property and labor to the society and live a celibate life. If they were married before joining the society, their marriages ended when they joined. A few believers lived as Shaker sympathizers and preferred to remain with their families. The Shakers never forbade marriage, but considered it less perfect than the celibate state.

Procreation was forbidden after joining the society. Children were added to the communities through adoption, indenture, or conversion. Occasionally, an infant was left in a Shaker doorstep. Welcoming all, they took in orphans and homeless.

When the children reached the age of 21, they could decide to leave or stay. Many chose to leave due to unwillingness to stay celibate.

Men and women were valued equally in leadership. Their homes were segregated by sex as well and men’s and women’s

work areas. Women worked indoors doing cooking, sewing, cleaning, washing, spinning, weaving or packaging goods for sale. The women would also work



Shakers Harvesting their famous herbs.

outside in good weather, gathering herbs. The men worked outdoors in the field, planting, harvesting, or in the shops making crafts and trades.

Worship was done in meeting-houses that were painted white and unadorned. During worship they sang, marched, danced and sometimes turned, twitched, jerked or shouted. The earliest worship was unstructured and loud.

Shakers raised most of their own food. Farming was an active part of the community and preserving the produce, taking care of livestock was a priority. Shakers had a variety of businesses for support of the community such as tanneries. They also manufactured goods such as baskets, brushes, bonnets, brooms, fancy goods and homespun fabric. They were also famous for their medicinal herbs, garden seeds and knit garments.



Ritual Dance of the Shakers.

(Continued from page 4)



Making Shaker furniture.

Shakers were well known for their furniture which was plain in style, durable and functional.

Shakers embraced technology and also had developed or improved new tech. Some of these inventions are the circular saw, the clothespin, the Shaker Peg, the flat broom, the



Life of the diligent Shaker.

wheel-driven washing machine, metal pens, the rotary harrow, a threshing machine and many more. Shakers were also pioneers in selling seeds in paper packets.

The only remaining community of Shakers left in this country is Sabbathday Lake in Maine. As of 2016, there are only four Shakers remaining at Sabbathday Lake. Brother Arnold Hadd, age 58, Brother Brian Burke, 30, Sister Frances Carr, 89, and Sister June Carpenter, 77.

Several of the closed communities

now serve as Shaker museums. Some of them are Canterbury Shaker Village in New Hampshire, Hancock Shaker Village in Massachusetts, Mt. Lebanon Shaker Village in New York, Shaker Museum at South Union, Kentucky and Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill, Kentucky.

The Research Libraries of The New York Public Library collect extensively on Shakers and Shakerism, a religious movement formally known as the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Coming. This Christian body has received considerable scholarly and popular attention. Although initially related to elements of Quakerism, the Shakers developed an idiosyncratic religious expression which included communal living, productive labor, celibacy, and a ritual noted for its dancing and shaking. While the eclectic nature of Shaker theology has been the focus of scholarly attention, the distinctive craftsmanship and folk art of Shaker life--the results of an avowed commitment to a life of perfection--have attracted popular interest.

Source:

“Essay on Shaker History”, www.nps.gov/nr/travel/shaker/shakers.htm
“Shakers”, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shakers

www.nypl.org

Michigan Ghost Counties

Aishcum County - Created 1840; name changed to Lake County in 1843.

Anamichée County - This county created in 1831, was renamed to Alpena in 1843.

Bleeker County - Founded in 1861; renamed Menominee two years later.

Cheonoquet County - Created in 1840 and renamed Montmorency in 1843.

Des Moines County - This county was abolished sometime after its founding in 1834.

Isle Royale County - This island in Lake Superior, close to the shoreline of Ontario, was formed as a county in 1875. It was eliminated in 1897, and became part of Keweenaw County.

Kanotin County - Formed in 1840; renamed Iosco in the Great Renaming of 1843.

Kautawaubet County - Another county renamed in 1843. Founded in 1840, renamed Wexford in 1843.

Kaykakee County - Formed in 1840. In 1843 it became Clare County.

Manitou County - This county was created in 1855, and disbanded in 1895.

Meegisee County - Created in 1840 renamed Antrim in 1843.

Michilimackinac County - Created in 1818; renamed Mackinaw in 1843.

Mikenauk County - Another 1843 victim. This county, created in 1840, became Roscommon County in 1843.

Neewago County - Formed in 1840; renamed Alcona in 1843.

Notipekago County - Formed in 1840. renamed Mason in 1843.

Okkuddo County - Formed in 1840; renamed Otsego in 1843.

Reshkauko County - Created in 1840, and renamed Charlevoix in 1843.

Shawano County - Renamed Crawford, maybe in 1843.

Tonedagana County - Formed in 1840; renamed Emmet in 1843.

Unwattin County - Created in 1840; renamed Osceola in 1843.

Wabassee County - The last, alphabetically, of the counties renamed in 1843. This one created in 1840, became Kalkaska County.

(from the Kalamazoo Valley Heritage)

News from Dick Eastman

Irish Birth, Marriage, and Death Records are now Online

Dick Eastman · September 7, 2016

According to the announcement at <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/>:

Irishgenealogy The historic records of Births over 100 years ago, Marriages over 75 years ago and Deaths over 50 years ago of the General Register Office (GRO), are now available to view on www.irishgenealogy.ie, following their launch at 5.30pm on Thursday 8th September 2016.

The records are available at <https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.jsp>.

Guild of One-Name Studies is Now Available at FamilySearch.org

Dick Eastman · September 6, 2016

The following announcement was written by the Guild of One-Name Studies:

The online resource helps people trace the possible origins and variations of their last name.

LONDON, U.K., and SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH (September 6, 2016)—The Guild of One-Name Studies, a charitable organization that promotes facts about given surnames, and FamilySearch International, a nonprofit and the largest genealogy organization in the world, announced today that the guild's collections will now be searchable at FamilySearch.org. The partnership gives guild members another source for preserving

their great work while also allowing more researchers across the globe to benefit from exploring the variant spellings of their personal surnames and possibly connect with others throughout the world who have the same last name.

The study of one's last name (or surname) involves researching all known occurrences of that particular surname in all identifiable resources worldwide, as opposed to researching only the ancestors or descendants of a person. These rich compiled studies can assist a family history researcher to see the geographical distribution of surnames in their tree over centuries, which can help in reconstructing family lines bearing variants of those names. A common hope of customers who use surname studies is to identify the actual geographic locale of origin of a family surname. This outcome could very well happen for unique surnames, but common surnames that reflect an occupation (such as "Farmer" or "Fisher") or patronymic-type surnames (such as "Johnson" or "Williamson") may not have a single place of origin.

Cliff Kemball, guild publicity manager, said, "The partnership with FamilySearch gives guild members another method of preserving their one-name study data. Their data is fully preserved for the long term, while still remaining within the control of guild members, who may update, replace, or delete it as their work develops."

The guild was founded in 1979 and has over 2,980 members studying over 8,935 individual surnames. The Guild of One-Name Studies website launched on April 1, 2016, and is continually expanding its

list of surnames. The guild expects the volume of data submitted by guild members to increase significantly now that they can make their research contributions online. And teaming up with FamilySearch.org ensures that more people are making interesting discoveries about their surnames.

David Rencher, the chief genealogy officer for FamilySearch, said, "The rigorous standards and guidelines required by the Guild of One-Name Studies for members of the guild make this the highest quality data available for these surnames. Those who administer and oversee the collection of this data have spent decades collecting all instances of the surnames from a wide variety of records. Since many of these sources are yet to be made available on the Internet, this new set of records on FamilySearch.org is a rich new source of information."

To see if your surname has been researched by the guild community, go to FamilySearch.org. In the top menu, hover your mouse pointer over Search, and in the drop-down menu, click Genealogies. In the Last Names field, enter the surname you are interested in researching. Click the down arrow on the blue All button, and click Guild of One-name Studies. Then click the blue Search button.

More information about the guild can be found at one-name.org, where researchers can also register their own surnames.

Coming Events

Sept 17, 2016 “21st Century tool for Genealogists”, Alpena County George Fletcher Public Library. For additional information and registration, visit the Northeast Michigan Genealogical Society. <http://nemgs.com>.

October 1, 2016 “Why Am I Stuck? 10 Solutions to Common Genealogical Brick Walls”, Arlington Heights Senior Center 1801 W. Central Road Arlington Heights, Illinois, Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society, <http://www.nwsgenealogy.org/>

October 8, 2016 “11th Annual Family History Festival”, Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Ave, Detroit, Michigan

The festival will be held in the Friends Auditorium and is free and no pre-registration required. The Burton Historical Collection will be open for research from 10am-6pm. Additional information will be available in August at www.detroitpubliclibrary.org.

Oct 14-15 2016 “Got Ancestors?! 2016 with Cindi Ingle of Cindi’s List”, Prince Conference Center at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI. <http://gotancestors.com>

November 5, 2016 “Western Wayne County Genealogical Society Fall Seminar” Speaker: William J Priest. Genealogy Standards: What They Are and Why We Need Them!, Using Notes and Events to Their Greatest Potential!, Organizing Your Paper and/or Electronic Records, and Planning a Successful Genealogy Research Trip. Additional details to be announced. <http://wwcgs.org/>

Genealogy Professor

Founder Michael J. Leclerc, is excited to announce the launch of a new opportunity for genealogy education. Genealogy Professor is developed from a passion to provide high quality independent education to those who want to find their ancestors. Self paced courses are self contained, so that you can take them anytime, anywhere you like. Video presentations allow you to see the professor and the slides at the same time, letting you switch your attention back and forth between them. There are also reading assignments and other tasks to complete. Quizzes help reinforce your learning, and give you feedback to help you keep on track, letting you get right to work in your research. “There are a variety of genealogical educational opportunities out there,” Leclerc says. “We offer a different approach, to help bridge the gap from simple webinars to the complex university courses and genealogy institutes.” Check it out at www.genprof.net

Some Le Havre Departing Passenger Lists Are Online

Dick Eastman · August 10, 2016

According to The French Genealogy Blog, Inscription Maritime has the following online lists from Le Havre:

Registres matricules des gens de mer – 1751-1950 – These are highly detailed crew lists, often with copies of birth registrations. There are alphabetic indices at the end of each volume.

Rôles des bâtiments de commerce – 1751-1816 – These are the papers required of each merchant vessel, listing stores, car-

go, crew and passengers. Included in this category are the matricules des bateaux de plaisance – 1850-1906, the crew and passenger lists for pleasure craft.

Matricules des bâtiments de commerce – 1741-1929 – Filed on the vessel’s return to port, this gives the same information as the rôle, but will show any changes or alterations that may have occurred during the voyage.

Répertoires d’armement et de désarmement des bâtiments de commerce – these are essentially finding aids, the lists that give the numbers, dates and names of ships necessary to find them in the relevant documents above.

Details may be found at: <http://goo.gl/WHu3w7>.

The Family History Guide is now Available Online

The Family History Guide is a huge website aimed for beginners and advanced genealogy researchers alike. It is a full interactive guide that contains some of its information on the Family History Guide’s own web site and adds hundreds of links to other web sites that also contain useful information.

Keep in mind that this new Guide does not contain any genealogical records. Instead, it helps you learn how to use the vast record sources at FamilySearch, Ancestry, Findmypast, MyHeritage, and other web sites. You can use a number of links in The Family History Guide to go directly to popular search pages by location or record type.

<http://www.thefhguide.com/>

(From Northville Genealogical Society newsletter)

Midland County Early History

(From Midland County, Michigan Portraits and Biographical Sketches, 1884)

Speculation is easy regarding the date of the coming of the first actual settlers to the territory embraced by the Midland County boundaries, but absolute knowledge of these facts is hard to obtain. There were many Indians and French half-breeds living here as early as 1830, although their location could hardly be called a permanent one, they being chiefly engaged in hunting, trapping and fishing. The first actual white settler who came to stay was John A. Whitman, whose arrival dates back to the spring of 1836. Not until the autumn of that year, however, did he bring his family and erect his house, but at that early date his was the first house built in the county. This was located on the east half of section 1 in Ingersoll Township, and for convenience was built near the river. The only neighbors Mr. Whitman had for several years were Indians, of whom he speaks in highest terms. They were living in bark shanties and tents made of skin, but the winters were passed in comparative comfort, and very little sickness was known among them.

Charles Fitzhugh came two years later and purchased a large tract of land about the junction of the Chippewa and Tittabawassee Rivers, and near by built a

log cabin, which was occupied in 1837 by John Wyman. In this cabin, on the sixth day of July, 1837, Julia A. Wyman was born. This event was of no small importance, for hers was the first white birth occurring in Midland County among the white settlers. She is now living in Midland City, the wife of John McLean. The cabin previously mentioned stood on the site now occupied by the fair grounds, and was the first house built in Midland Township.

For several years less than half a dozen white families were living in the county. The Indians and French traders were numerous, but no attempts toward improving the land were made except to clear a few acres of the underbrush and "deaden" the large trees. A few potatoes and other vegetables were grown, but the chase was depended upon for supplies, which were obtained from Saginaw by means of a canoe, there being no roads for transportation of goods.

Frank S. Burton was one of the early comers to this county, he having arrived in March 1856. To him we are indebted for many interesting items concerning the early settlements. The Townsends, Cronkrights, and a few others, were squatted along the Chippewa at that date, and John Larkin had made his location here a year or two previous.

Charley Rodd, the half-breed Indian who was afterward the first sheriff of Isabella County, started a saloon in 1855, in a little store in a small clearing on the "Indian Reserve," which now constitutes a part of the farm of Mr. Geo. F. Ball.

Doubtless there were others that still survive who at that time were domiciled in log cabins niched in small clearings, the whole of which was surrounded by and embosomed in the old, solemn and seemingly everlasting forest. The locality now designated as Midland City was at that day only a lumbering camp, which bore the euphonious title of "The Forks." The only buildings standing at that time inside of the present corporate limits, were a rude lumber shanty, with stables and other outbuildings, which occupied the site of the cemetery. The camp belonging to the Copelands, Ripley and Stewart, who employed Timothy Jerome as their agent. He, although a resident of Saginaw, is one of the best known men in Midland County.

There were two or three other points upon the Tittabawassee where the company above mentioned had begun cutting and hauling pine and maintained camps. One was below the junction of the Tobacco with the Tittabawassee, in township 16 north, of range 1 west. This camp was called "Sixteen;" and although it has enjoyed other and better titles since, and is now appropriately

(Continued on page 9)

styled "Edenville," still the old name clings to it, and many will never call it by any other cognomen then "Sixteen."

The first meeting of the Board of Supervisors was held Aug. 13, 1855, --H.C. Ashman, Chairman; Edwin P. Jennings, Clerk; and John A. Whitman, Treasurer. The assessment roll for the entire county, embracing all the territory described further on, amounted to \$514,292.04. This assessment was approved Oct. 8, of that year and a tax of one-half of one per cent was levied to meet current expenses.

The first marriage in Midland County was that of Sylvester Erway, so long a Supervisor of Edenville Township, and Julia Bowman, daughter of Daniel Bowman, one of the first settlers. The ceremony was performed by Esquire Abraham Egbert, April 6, 1855.

Midland County was organized March 29, 1850, but no officers were elected until the amended act of the Legislature of Feb. 8, 1855, which provided for holding an election. All the territory now included in Midland, Bay, Gratiot, Isabella, Clare, Gladwin and Roscommon Counties, were then included in her boundries. The first election was held at Midland, in November 1855. The officers elected were, G. W. Whiting, Sheriff; E. P. Jennings,

Clerk; H. C. Ashman, Prosecuting Attorney; J. A. Whitman, Treasurer; Solon Kumvill, Register of Deeds; Samuel Gaskill, Judge of Probate, and George Turner, Surveyor.

The first term of Circuit Court was held in the old school-house which stands at the corner of Ashman and Ellsworth Streets. The members of the Bar at that time consisted of Henry C. Ashman, Wilbur F. Woodworth and G. F. Hemmingway.

Midland Township was organized in 1853, and the first election was held at the house of Joseph Townsend, Sr.; the Inspectors of this Election were Thomas T. Townsend, Charles Fitzhugh and John A. Whitman.

Below the mouth of Tobacco River about five miles, is the farm located by the venerable Abraham Egbert, in the year 1851. He was a Canadian, and a shrewd although eccentric man. He took great pride in the distinction of being the first pioneer of the township which bore his name, and never lost an opportunity of making reference to the fact. This township consisted of Congressional townships 16 north, 1 west and 1 and 2 east, and 15 north, 1 west.

This territory now comprises the towns of Hope, Edenville, Warren and Jerome. When, by an act of the Legislature, the name was changed to Jerome, it nearly broke the old man's heart. We maintain that this was a grieving wrong, and as an impartial historian we desire

to enter our protest against such injustice even at this late date.

There were many incidents connected with pioneer life with which every reader is familiar, and for the present a few incidents relating to the first things of importance in the county are noted.

John A. Whitman was the first Justice of the Peace, being elected in 1853. He performed the first marriage ceremony in Ingersoll Township, while officiating in a legal capacity, the parties being Mr. John Armon and Miss Margaret McGregor, who were married at his house in 1854.

The first lawsuit in the county was brought before him, but the case was settled before coming to trial. The plaintiff, a Mr. Hall, suing a man named Chapman for wages due.

The wolves were quite numerous, and to rid the country of the noxious animals, the county paid a bounty of \$8 for every wolf scalp which was presented to the County Clerk with a certified statement that the wolf was killed in Midland County. The first claims of this character were paid Jan. 15, 1856 to Alvin Marsh, Charles Simmons, Sha-gwon-a-bee, J. Ock, Muck-cud-da-kew, Ah-me-me-quong and Naw-ge-zick. The county from that date to January, 1870, paid bounties on 296 scalps, amounting to \$2,368.

Nearly all the meat used consisted of venison and bear flesh, while the streams abounded in fine fish and the forests in wild

fowl.

While the early settlers were not in easy circumstances, yet they fared better than many people who lived in adjoining counties remote from a navigable stream. There were no wagon roads, it is true, for a number of years, but the wheat raised was transported to Saginaw in canoes, and flour, groceries and dry goods brought home on the return journey. Dan Osborne, one of the old veterans now living near the village of Midland, was one of the first to run a "pole" boat between Midland and Saginaw. He worked for a man nearly a year who was running a "pole" boat, but getting no pay, concluded to build and run one of his own. He made three trips weekly, to and from Saginaw, having two men only to help him. He did his own piloting, running his boat down stream at night while his men slept, thus saving a 12 hours run during the day. His scow carried seven tons, and had all the work he could do. Dan would undoubtedly have become a millionaire, had not John Larkin and Capt. Philo Sumner built a boat. This was a steamer of 25 tons burden, which made three trips each week to Saginaw; but it proved too heavy for the river at low water. The name of the steamer was "Midland City," with Philo Sumner, Captain and Dan Osborne, pilot. She was a "side-wheeler," and

The owners sold her, and purchased, at Cleveland, a new boat, named "Belle Seymour," which was of very light draught, drawing when empty only 18 inches of water. Trade was excellent, and this boat made regular trips from the time of her purchase in 1860 until the completion of the Flint & Pere Marquette Railroad.

The first steamer that ever came as far up the Tittabawasee as Midland, was the "Buena Vista," a stern wheeler, which carried the household goods and family of Charles Fitzhugh to the junction of the Chippewa with that river. The waters in the spring of that year were very high, and large boats could navigate almost any of the streams. Fitzhugh came in 1838, and did some lumbering near the river. He is now a resident of Bay City, but is entitled to the honor of being the first lumberman in Midland County. Of course this was done on a small scale compared with the manner in which it is conducted today.

The first meeting-house erected in Midland County was built one mile south of Midland City, by the Methodist fraternity, who were then doing missionary work among the Indians that lived on the south bank of the river opposite the village of Midland. This building is still standing, but is occupied by a family who are tenants on the farm of G. F. Ball, Esq. The minister spoke in the English language through an interpreter, and his labors were

very successful, nearly all of the Chippewa and Blackbird Indians living in this county at that time being devout Christians and an honest, happy people. James Kent and wife, who live at this time on the river bank opposite where the afore-said church stood, remarked that no kinder or better neighbors ever lived than the Indians who were residents of this county at an early day. If any of the family were sick the Indian women were always ready to wait upon them. Did the men folk need an extra hand to help in clearing or other work, the Indians always lent a hand. Was a fine buck killed by an Indian, or a large fish caught, Mr. Kent's family were sure to share in the choicest bits. The minister whose labors were crowned with great success, was familiarly known as "Elder Johnson," and to him is accorded the honor of being the first man in Midland County to preach salvation to either the white man or the Indian.

Captain Philo Sumner and --- Snyder built the first saw-mill in the county, on Snake Creek, about three miles north of Midland. This was erected in 1858, but, not being very remunerative, Snyder became discouraged and sold his interest to John Larkin, who moved it to Midland, where it, or at least part of it, is doing duty in the extensive mills of Larkin & Patrick.

Dr. Edwin P. Jennings was the first physician that settled in the county. His services were sought for by the pioneers for many miles around, there being no physican nearer than

Saginaw. Dr. Jennings was also the first county physician, being employed in 1856 to do the county business, at the handsome salary of \$25 per annum. This was not a princely sum, yet it must be remembered that very few persons were living in the county, and most of these were able to care for themselves.

The first school-house in the county was built on the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 18, in Midland Township. In this, Henry C. Ashman taught the first school. He was one of the earliest settlers, and without doubt was one of the most intelligent men that ever lived in the county. He was scrupulously honest, and enjoyed the greatest esteem and confidence of the people. He was the first Supervisor of Midland County, also the first Prosecuting Attorney. It is related that when teaching school during his younger days, he carried his rifle with him and frequently would kill one or two deer before school hours in the morning. His father, Judge Samuel Ashman, was stolen, when a child, by the Indians living in the Lake Superior region. He lived among them for many years, and married a squaw, by whom he had several children. Henry Ashman was the only one of them that came to this county. He was first married according to the Indian

custom, but when his wife died, was married to the Chief Pay-mose-gay's daughter, whose Indian name was "Me-gon-ga-wan," signifying red head, she having bright red hair. Mrs. Ashman was only a half breed, and was very intelligent. One of her sons is now a resident of Isabella County, and is numbered among her best men.

Joseph Townsend, the drayman at Midland City, is one of the oldest residents of the county. He is perfectly conversant with its early history, and to him the historian is indebted for many valuable facts. In this connection our thanks are tendered John A. Whitman, the oldest living resident of the county.

Midland Township was the first one organized. Henry Ashman was its first Supervisor, and in locating the county seat he showed considerable shrewdness. Visiting Lansing while the Legislature was in session, he succeeded in manipulating that body until an act was passed authorizing the Board of Supervisors and Prosecuting Attorney of Midland County to designate the location and drive the stake which fixed the county seat beyond question. This gave him absolute power in the matter, he being both Supervisor and Prosecuting Attorney. A fellow living in Bay City offered him \$4,000 to drive it on his lands, but Ashman said Nay. Being a resident of Midland, and having some land near the place, he, together with a number of chums, Billy Vance, Thomas and Joseph C. Townsend, Charles Fitzhugh, E. G. Buttles

and H. M. Ellsworth, of this county, Timothy Jerome and Dan Davis, with other friends from Saginaw, were present, and a grand time was enjoyed. The Saginaw party came up on a steamer, and brought along a basket of champagne, which was freely disposed of and the stake was driven upon the site now occupied by the court house. The whole party became gloriously full without exception, and the stake was baptized with a generous portion of the precious grape juice, Billy Vance being the first to break a bottle of champagne upon it. The location and certified designation of the county seat was filed Oct. 13, 1856, and no effort was ever made to remove it from Midland until March 6, 1872, when Supervisor L. F. Smith, of Lincoln Township, offered a resolution to the Board of Supervisors praying that the county seat be removed to Averill Station in the township of Lincoln. The resolution was tabled, and to this day has not been taken up. Mr. Smith did what he could for his constituency, but the people of the county are not yet ready to take the county seat from Midland and drop it in any of the neighboring villages.

Continued in Next Issue.

Pioneer Record

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



MGS Officers

President	Roger Bohl	rogerwwb@aol.com	839-9016
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	Ora Flaningam	oraflan@aol.com	839-9349
MGC Delegates	Faye Ebach	faeae@charter.net	835-7518
	Janet Crozier	jwcrozier30@gmail.com	631-9653
Historian	Nancy Humphrey	nanphrey@sbcglobal.net	631-5123
Hospitality Chairs	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

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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 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.