



PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

Volume 38 No. 1

MIMGS.ORG

September 2017

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Midland Genealogical Society Programs for 2017 - 2018

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

Programs for the meetings are as follows.

****PLEASE NOTE LOCATIONS****

Sept. 20 "Dating Photographs using Women's Clothing as Clues"

Presented by Laressa Northrup. St.

Johns Episcopal Church, Midland. 7 p.m.

Oct. 18 "Eureka: I Found A DNA Link". Presented by Bob Snyder. St.

Johns Episcopal Church, Midland. 7 p.m.

For a complete list of our meetings, check the meetings page of our website

Midland Letter 1883

The following was published in the Midland Republican dated Feb. 8, 1883.

He's Been Taking Notes.

The following letter from a well known gentleman who has been living now some months in Midland appeared in the Corunna American of Feb. 2.

We reproduce it, giving as it does a good view of Midland matters and showing that the writer has had his eyes open and has taken notes truthfully and well:

Midland, Jan. 24, 1883

Friend Owen: There is no need of going to Kansas, Colorado, Dakota or any other state outside of Michigan to find a live town, for we have one here, and as your readers many of them may know, is the county seat of Midland county, twenty miles west and north of East Saginaw, on the F. & P.M. Railway, and at the confluence of the Chippewa and Tittabawassee rivers, and the village has a population of nearly three thousand souls.

Only a few years ago, and within the memory of not the oldest in-

habitant--the noble red man chased his game through dense forests that then skirted these rivers, or like friend Kelsey, with rod and line pursued the finny tribes up and down to furnish meat and fish for his dependent family; the Indians family I mean, of course.

The encroachments of civilization have crowded the aborigines to the happy hunting grounds farther west, with the exception of one who stands upon our principal street night and day, summer and winter, minus one hand and the other arm, the only remnant of a once happy race, and the last of his tribe. (He stands near a tobacco store.)

The river divides the town, leaving the most of the business part on the north side, while away to the south and westward lying along its banks as far as the eye can reach, are some as fine farming lands as one could reasonably wish for, much of it once farmed by the Indians or their squaws, and now yielding abundant harvest to the white man's superior cultivation. The county raised 46,039 bushels of wheat on 1879, and although the amount was

(Continued on page 4)

The President's Letter

Welcome to the new MGS year. Our first general meeting will be held on September 20 at 7:00 PM at St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of Saginaw and St. Andrews roads. Program Chair, Nancy Pnasek's first offering will have Laressa Northrup give us a presentation on dating old photographs using women

clothing styles as clues. Please look for a guest to bring to this and all the rest of the interesting programs planned for this season. A problem that needs to be addressed presently is the need to fill two positions. The first is for Secretary, which entails taking the minutes at Board meetings and any business conducted that may come up at general meetings. The other is for Hospitality Chair which is mainly to have cookies and hot water at the general meetings.

Neither require much time but both are needed. See you all in a couple of weeks.

Roger Bohl
President

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

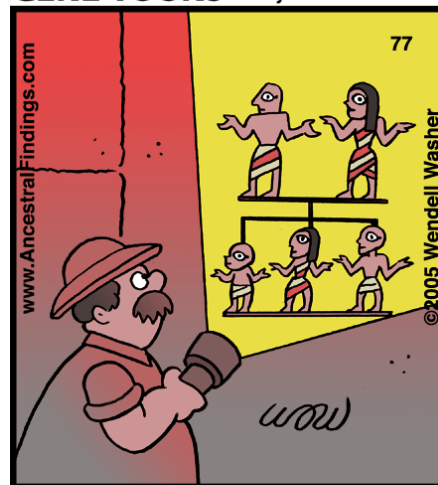
The Midland Genealogical society will hold its first meeting of the 2017-18 season on the 20th, at 7:00 PM at St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of St. Andrews and South Saginaw Roads.

Speaking at the inaugural meeting will be our very own Midland Genealogical Society member Laressa Northrup on "Dating Photographs using Women's Clothing as Clues". Laressa has done genealogy research

for many years and is a member of the Midland Genealogical Society and The Mayflower Society. She has lectured at the Lansing Family History Seminar, the Ionia County Genealogical Society and the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society. Her program will highlight that research and her discoveries.

Genealogical Society meetings are always open to the public and are free of charge. Light refreshments are available at the close of the presentation.

GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



Ancient Egyptian genealogy.

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.

This year, I have been doing some family research on both mine and my wifes families. I have also submitted a dna test, which I hope to write about this year. If some of you have also done the dna test, I would like to see a short article from you about your experiences with this. I am excited to find new cousins and also confused by part of my results.

You may have noticed that there was only one issue of the pioneer record published last year. This

was due to our members not contributing articles. I want to continue to edit and publish the newsletter but do not have the time to write articles and do all the other online research that it takes to put together what we have. For each issue, I would like at least one original article. To continue receiving the newsletter, please help by writing some articles.

For those of you interested in seeing what programs we have for our monthly meetings, please see our web page at mimsgs.org.

Happy Hunting
Walter G Bennett
Editor

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2017-2018

Statements for the 2017-2018 dues were sent out in mid August 2017 and will be due by the first meeting in September 2017. 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.

Membership Report

Statements for dues for the 2017-18 year were sent out in the middle of August. Please remit your dues by the September 20th meeting. Currently, sixty-eight members have paid their dues.

Please welcome Karen Grohol, Catherine Sias and Gloria Brethour who are new members this year. An interesting article discussing Gloria's genealogical research of her great-great-great aunt, Julia Ann Wyman McLain was published in the Midland Daily News on September 2-3, 2017. Julia Ann whose birthdate is July 6, 1837 was the first white child born in Midland County.

Four recent MGS members have

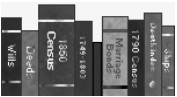
passed away. Eugene Skelton of Paradise, MI and Keith Mead of Midland died in late 2016. Two Midland residents, Anne Applegath passed on in July and Jean Hillman passed on in August of this year. A former member, Margery Anger, a lifelong Midland area resident, passed away on August 7th, 2017. Margery's family requested that those planning an expression of sympathy to please consider MGS. We offer our sincere condolences to the families of our departed members.

MGS membership pins are available for \$1.00 each. The pins will be available at the September 20th meeting at the sign-in table

*Pamela Kirchoff and Alice Adams
Membership Committee Co-Chairs*

If you figure there's
twenty five years
between each generation,
500 years ago there were
1,048,576 people
involved in creating
you!

YOU ARE SPECIAL



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.

somewhat smaller in 1880 and 1881, there was a good crop again in 1882.

Lumbering has engaged the attention of the people here, instead of agricultural pursuits, but now that the forests are nearly denuded of their wealth of pine and hemlock, farming will become more general and much better results will soon be shown. Certainly the soil and the facilities for marketing, that could be desired.

I am told that the Tittabawassee river, which serves here as a great public highway, and an outlet for the summer separates on its tributaries to the west and north, is filled with logs for about a hundred miles from its mouth, nearly the year round, and in fact the last of the log crop of 1882 passed through here downward just a few days before the river froze this winter. Long trains loaded with logs from tramways and side tracks are run down here every night and dumped into the river until its banks are nearly full. Will the pine ever be used up in Michigan? will soon be answered in the affirmative.

But of the town and its prospects, near and future. We have two large flouring mills, one of which just now is undergoing a thorough renovation, and receiving machinery for manufacturing flour by what is known as the "new process." Four or five salt blocks are in operation, from one of which

the surplus water is carried by pipes across the river to what is probably the largest bromine factory in the world; that is kept running night and day. An appropriate definition of bromine will be found in Webster's unabridged which see.

Messrs. Larkin and Patrick have an extensive saw and shingle mill in connection with their large salt block, and an idea of their business may be formed from the statement that in 1882 they shipped of car loads as follows: Lumber, 773; shingles, 292, and salt, 500. They cut 6,797,500 feet of lumber, 20,400,000 shingles, and made 37,738 barrels of salt; 1,750,000 barrel staves, and 100,000 barrel heads. They furnish employment to 110 men at the mills and 97 in the woods.

A large factory is being built for manufacturing elm and other hard and soft woods into barrel heads, cheese boxes and other bent work. It will commence running in the spring.

Of stores we have seven dry goods and clothing, three hardware, two furniture, four drug, seven grocery, and several boot and shoe houses. Of shops, several wagon and blacksmithing, two harness, four barbers and three or four millinery shops, three meat markets, two photograph galleries, three livery stables, three hotels, and several more saloons than are necessary. A new national bank has just gone into operation, for which a large brick building will be erected in the spring.

There are five churches, Catholic, Episcopalian, Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist, each maintaining regular services. A fine \$20,000 school building and two other good sized school houses recently built in different parts of the village supply our children with excellent educational advantages.

Our Lecture Association has already afforded us the pleasure of listening to Prof. Cumnock and Wallace Bruce and we are soon to hear Remenyl and Laura Dainty.

Two newspapers, the REPUBLICAN and SUN, chronicle the leading events of the day, when they can get the privilege of doing so.

We have the usual complement of secret societies in prosperous condition.

Our Holly water-works, just finished, commence active operations this week, and our principal street is to be paved this spring.

Now, Mr. Editor, after this description and array of facts your readers must acknowledge this to be a live town, and with its surroundings, there is no reason why it should not in the near future be graced with civic honors. Of course, I have not told you how many lawyers and doctors we have but we have a fair share and good ones too. Lest I weary you, I will say good bye. Sheva

UPDATE: FamilySearch Digital Records Access Replacing Microfilm

Dick Eastman · August 30, 2017

The following announcement was written by the folks at FamilySearch:

Salt Lake City, Utah (30 August 2017), Thursday, September 7, 2017, marks the closing of an 80-year era of historic records access to usher in a new, digital model. FamilySearch is discontinuing its microfilm circulation services in concert with its commitment to make billions of the world's historic records readily accessible digitally online. (See FamilySearch Digital Records Access Replacing Microfilm). As its remaining microfilms are digitized, FamilySearch has provided additional information to users of its historic microfilm program. m.

FamilySearch, a global leader in historic records preservation and access, began microfilming historic records in 1938. Advancements in technology have enabled it to be more efficient, making an unbelievable tide of digital images of historic records accessible much quicker online and to a far greater customer base.

FamilySearch released a list of helpful facts and tips to help patrons better navigate the transition from microfilm to digital.

QUICK FACTS AND TIPS

Patrons can still order microfilms online until Thursday, September 7, 2017.

After film ordering ends, if customers need access to a particular film yet to be digitized, they can express interest to have it added to the priority digitization list by contacting FamilySearch Support (Toll Free: 1-866-406-1830).

All of the microfilm rented by patrons in the past 5 years have now been digitized by FamilySearch—over 1.5 million microfilms (ca. 1.5 billion images).

The remaining microfilms are being digitally scanned at a rate of 1,000 films per day and are projected to be complete by 2020.

New digital images are available as they are scanned in the FamilySearch.org Catalog.

Films currently on loan in family history centers and affiliate libraries are automatically granted extended loan status.

Affiliate libraries now have access to nearly all of the restricted image collections as family history centers.

Visitors to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City will still be able to order needed microfilms to use during their research visits.

HOW TO FIND DIGITAL IMAGES ON FAMILYSEARCH

Digital image collections can be accessed today in 3 places on FamilySearch.org, all under Search.

Catalog. Includes a description of all the microfilms and digital images in the FamilySearch collection. This is where all of FamilySearch's digitized microfilm and new digital images from its global camera operations are being published. A camera icon appears in the Catalog adjacent to a microfilm listing when it is available digitally.

Records includes collections that have been indexed by name or published with additional waypoints to help browse the unindexed images.

Books include digital copies of books from the Family History Library and other libraries, including

many books that were previously copied to microfilm.

For additional help, see Finding Digital Images of Records on FamilySearch.org, or watch this how-to video "Where are the digitized records on FamilySearch?"

"FamilySearch is committed to meeting customers' needs as much as possible during this transition to digital access," said Diane Loosle, FamilySearch's Director of Patron Services. "We really appreciate the wonderful feedback we have received since the initial announcement. It is helping us better facilitate customer experiences during this next phase."

Loosle said FamilySearch's over 5,000 family history centers will continue to provide access to relevant technology, premium subscription services, and digital records, including restricted content not available at home. Centers have the option to return microfilm that is available online or otherwise not needed. As more images are published online, centers may reevaluate whether to retain microfilm holdings.

**Learning your
family history is
the key to
unlocking who
you are**

News from Dick Eastman

TLC Renews Who Do You Think You Are? for New Season

Premiering Spring 2018

Dick Eastman · August 28, 2017

The following announcement was written by the folks at TLC:

TLC has renewed three-time Emmy nominated series *Who Do You Think You Are?* for a new season, premiering in spring 2018. Executive Produced by Lisa Kudrow and Dan Bucatinsky, the series follows some of the most beloved and iconic celebrities as they embark on personal journeys of self-discovery by tracing their own family trees. Throughout this experience they learn the truth about old family secrets, discover shocking revelations and ultimately, make unbelievable connections with the lives of their ancestors. The series is currently nominated for an Emmy Award for Structured Reality Program, its 3rd nomination in this category and 4th overall. Last year *Who Do You Think You Are?* won an Emmy for Outstanding Picture Editing for a Reality Program.

Ontario Métis Root Ancestors Project is now Completed and Online

Dick Eastman · August 21, 2017 ·

The Métis Nation of Ontario has announced the completion of the Ontario Métis Root Ancestors Project.

NOTE: The Métis in Canada are a group of peoples in Canada who trace their descent to First Nations peoples and European settlers. Wikipedia describes the Métis as “the mixed-race descendants of early unions between First Nations people and colonial-era European settlers (usually indigenous women and settler men), within generations (particularly in central and western Canada, but also in the Eastern parts of Canada).” The early moth-

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ers were usually Mi'kmaq, Algonquin, Saulteaux, Cree, Ojibwe, Menominee, or Maliseet, or of mixed descent from these peoples.

The Project—which included the review and compilation of well over 100,000 historical records—identifies hundreds of Métis Root Ancestors from well-recognized historic Métis communities within Ontario. The Project took over five years to complete and now represents the largest collection of publicly available genealogical information on Ontario Métis.

The Project identifies hundreds of historic Métis Root Ancestors and over five thousand descendants of these families from seven well-recognized historic Métis communities within Ontario that include:

The Rainy River/Lake of the Woods/Treaty 3 Historic Métis Community

The Northern Lake Superior Historic Métis Community

The Abitibi Inland Historic Métis Community

The Mattawa/Ottawa River and Environs Historic Métis Community

The Killarney and Environs Historic Métis Community

The Georgian Bay and Environs Historic Métis Community

You can learn more about the Ontario Métis Root Ancestors Project in the announcement at: <http://read.bi/2vSHT4u> while the Ontario Métis Root Ancestors Project itself is available online at: <http://www.metisnation.org>.

Act Now to Save the 2020 Census

Dick Eastman · August 14, 2017

An article by Diane W. Schanzenbach and Michael R. Strain in the Bloomberg News web site describes the risk of the 2020 US census not being taken, as required by the Constitution. The article blames “Bad budget planning and a lack of leadership threaten the most basic mission of government” as the primary cause of the problems.

The article also states, ““You may have missed the news that the head of the Census Bureau, John Thompson, resigned a few months ago. In normal circumstances, the departure of a government statistician would not be worth highlighting. But Thompson’s departure adds to the growing uncertainty surrounding the success of the 2020 decennial census. About that, you should worry.”

NOTE: I wrote about the sudden resignation of the head of the Census Bureau, John Thompson, at the time he resigned in an earlier newsletter article at: <http://bit.ly/2uAbH17>. You might want to read that article first for the background information it provides.

The US Constitution requires the United States government to conduct a census every 10 years to determine how many seats each state will have in the House of Representatives.

You can read more in the article by Diane W. Schanzenbach and Michael R. Strain in the Bloomberg News web site at: <https://bloom.bg/2vsHNIF>.

New Season of PBS Genealogy Program, “Finding Your Roots” Starts October 3

Dick Eastman · August 4, 2017

Genealogists in the United States will want to mark their calendars for October 3, 2017. That will be the date of the first episode of the new season of *Finding Your Roots* With Henry Gates, Jr.

The 10-part series traces the ancestry of influential people from a variety of backgrounds and careers. The program focuses on the melting pot of cultures that has shaped the history of the United States, especially focusing on the various ethnic groups that live within our country. Most episodes explore the ancestry of three guests.

(Continued on page 7)

Coming Events

Oct. 13-14 “Got Ancestors?!” Western Michigan Genealogical Society Annual Seminar. See <http://gotancestors.com> for additional details.

Oct 13-15 “The Great Canadian Genealogy Summit 2017”, at the Lord Nelson Hotel in Historic Halifax, Nova Scotia. See <https://cangensummit.ca/>

Oct. 21 “2017 Fall Family History Event”, Registration is now open for the 2017 Family History Event. This year our fall seminar is A Day with Pamela Boyer Sayre and Richard G. Sayre. Co-sponsored by the Michigan Genealogical Council and the Archives of Michigan, this has become one of the premier annual genealogical seminars in Michigan. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-day-with-pamela-boyer-sayre-and-richard-g-sayre-tickets-37193893938?aff=affiliate1>

Register online today!

October 27-28 “ISGS Fall 2017 Conference”, iWireless Center, Moline, Illinois

Two days filled with genealogy education, nationally-known speakers, and the opportunity to network with other genealogists and family historians, and meals. Featured speakers include:

Featured Speakers

Karen Stanbary, CG?, holds a Master’s Degree in Clinical Social Work from the University of Chicago. She is a faculty member at GRIP, IGHR, and SLIG. She holds the credential Certified Genealogist® from the Board for Certification of Genealogists® where she serves on the Genetic Genealogy Standards committee.

J. H. “Jay” Fonkert

J. H. Fonkert, CG?, lectures at national and regional conferences and has taught at the Salt Lake Institute for Genealogy. He has published more than 50 research and teaching articles and is co-editor of Minnesota Genealogist.

Conference Speakers

Tony Burroughs, Ginger Frere, Dr. Daniel Hubbard, Marsha Peterson-Maass, & Rachel M. Popma

Conference Location

Radisson on John Deere Commons-Moline, 1415 River Drive, Moline, Illinois 61265, (309) 764-1000

Oct. 28 “Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan Annual Seminar”, American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 East Maple Road, Troy, Michigan 48083. Sophie Hodorowicz Knab and Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz will each present two sessions. Additional details are available from <https://pgsm.org/>

Oct. 28 “Cemeteries and Ancestors, Leave No Stone Unturned” Waterford Township Public Library, 5168 Civic Center Drive, Waterford, Michigan 48239. The Waterford Genealogical Society is having Dan Earl present a program entitled: “Cemeteries and Ancestors, Leave No Stone Unturned”. The event is from 10:30am to 12:30pm at the Waterford Public Library, Community Room. The presentation will cover the history of cemeteries and how to find & use the information that’s uncovered. The event is free and open to the public. Lite refreshments will be provided. Register with the Waterford Public Library.

Jan 21-Jan 26 2018 “Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy 2018 (National Conferences)”, Salt Lake City Hilton, Salt Lake City, Utah, The Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) is offering a course that we feel may be of keen interest to Michigan genealogists. Each year SLIG offers advanced training to genealogists.

“The Third Coast: Research in the Great Lakes Region,” will focus on genealogical and historical records and research methodology relating to research in the Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada. It is being coordinated by Cari A. Taplin, CG and Kathryn Lake Hogan, PLCGS, who will be joined by

other internationally-recognized instructors.

Registration opens on 8 July 2017. Further details about SLIG and the course may be found at SLIG.ugagenealogy.org.

April 28, 2018—Save the date IGS Annual Meeting & Conference, The Indiana Genealogical Society will hold their next annual meeting and conference on Saturday, April 28, 2018 on the campus of Indiana University Southeast in New Albany, Indiana.

(Continued from page 6) (Dick Eastman)

Celebrities who will learn about their ancestors in this season’s episodes include: Ana Navarro, US Senator Bernie Sanders, Larry David, Garrison Keillor, Mary Steenburgen, Scarlett Johansson, Ted Danson, Aziz Ansari, Bryant Gumbel, William H. Macy, and others

One episode will even reveal that actor and comedian Larry David and Senator Bernie Sanders are related. Sanders and David share “identical DNA” of three chromosomes and “that’s a lot of matches,” according to Gates. That is rather unique because Larry David has impersonated Sanders on “Saturday Night Live.”

Major corporate support for Finding Your Roots with Henry Gates, Jr. Season Three is provided by Ancestry.com, Johnson & Johnson, POM and Ford. Support is also provided by the Ford Foundation, Candace King Weir, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and PBS.

You can watch a video “trailer” of the new season of Finding Your Roots at <http://www.pbs.org/video/finding-your-roots-season-four-official-trailer-hdf5ii/>.

EARLY COUNTY HISTORY

Editors Note: Midland Daily News published an article on September 2-3, 2017 about a relative of the first white child born in Midland county, Julia Ann Wyman. Article was written by Virginia Florey. I came across this article as I was browsing old issues of the local papers.

Midland Sun, Sept. 5, 1902 pages 1,4.

Wyman's and Cronkright's First White Settlers in Midland County

First Child Still Living

Dr. Towsley Given an Interesting Recital of Trials and Privations of Midland Pioneers at Pioneers Annual Picnic

Midland County Pioneers held their annual picnic at the city park last Thursday. An interesting program was carried out. J. W. Cochrane spoke entertainingly. All of the old officers were reelected. Many interesting relics were shown.

Dr. Towsley gave an able history of facts concerning Midland pioneers, saying in part:

If history begins with the advent of the first white people in a community the history of Midland county began with the coming of Mr. John Wyman

and family and Mr. Chas. Cronkright of Geneseo, N. Y. in the spring of 1837. Mr. Cronkright's family following sometime later with a wee small babe whom we now know as Mr. Chas Cronkright of Homer aged 65 years.

Mr. Wyman and Mr. Cronkright had been employed by Mr. Chas. Fitzhugh to come to Michigan and clear up and work his large farm on the south side of the Tittabawassee.

They found a trading post here and probably three half breed French and Indian men with Indian wives, Pelke, Francois and Greenburg (spelling not guaranteed). This trading post was at the mouth of the Chippewa. It may have been located on the north bank of the Tittabawassee or it may have been near where the waterworks now are. The new comers took up their abode on what is known as the Herb Sias farm, the first house being built near where the old orchard now stands. This orchard is said to have been planted with seeds of apples brought here by the Wyman's. It is probable that Mrs. Wyman attended to that planting so the first orchard in Midland county was planted by a woman during the year that Michigan became a state and many of the old trees are still bearing good fruit. It is quite generally known that Mrs. Ann

McLean, wife of John McLean was born in the new home of the Wyman's during this eventful year to Michigan being the first white child born in Midland county. The nearest white neighbors at this time were 12 miles away below Freeland.

So the dusky Indian women ministered as best they knew unto Mrs. Wyman at this time. Two years later John Wyman now living in Homer township was born in the same house. The Cronkright's and possibly other white neighbors were here at that time.

In 1837 or 8 a frame barn was built by Mr. Wyman and Mr. Cronkright for Mr. Fitzhugh. The framing was done by Mr. Chamberlin, father of A. J. Chamberlin now living in Ingersoll. The frame was raised by seven men with a block and line and a yoke of oxen. This is without doubt the oldest building now standing in Midland county.

The settlers lived in a fairly neighborly way with the Indians though Whisky then as now was apt to cause disturbance. Peter Dewitt, an Indian trader cut his foot so severely that he was laid up with it at the house of Mr. Wyman. One day Shawnee Base, the Indian chief, came after whisky. Dewitt was in bed behind some curtains. Mrs. Wyman answered the chief's call at the door. The chief said "I want whisky." Mrs. Wyman assured him there was none in the house. He replied "D--- lie. Give me whisky

(Continued on page 9)

or I will kill you" -- at the same time drawing his knife. At this Dewitt, the trader, jumped from the bed and with his crutch knocked the Indian senseless and dragged him out of doors. The other Indians came and took their fallen chief to their camp near the Chippewa. The squaws of the tribe came to the house and thanked Dewitt for what he had done. Shawnee Base having been so cruel to them that they all disliked him. At another time this same Indian and his tribe had gathered with other Indian tribes at Saginaw to receive the government supplies that were at intervals given to them.

This gathering of tribes usually took place several days before the supplies were to be issued, the time being spent in sports and drunkenness, the Indians pawning or trading everything for liquor. A trader by the name of Sharpe had set up shop with a barrel of whisky for supplies and a plank on two barrels for bar or counter.

Shawnee Base had pawned or traded everything he owned even traps and guns for liquor and then demanded more liquor. Sharpe refused him more. Shawnee Base went behind the bar to help himself when Sharpe slashed him repeatedly with a large cheese knife until Shawnee Base fainted from loss of blood. Feeding that Shawnee Base had

been killed Sharpe's position was now critical. The chief, however recovered and after the gift of a few traps from Sharpe the matter was settled. The settlers brought with them their supplies for the season. In the fall they dug out the top of a stump with ax and chisel until it resembled a huge mortar. Then with a pestle 3 1/2 feet long 4 in. across they ground the corn for flour. This was sifted to remove hulls, then mixed with saleratus and sour milk placed in a kettle with a loose cover. The kettle set into a hole in the ground in which a good fire had burned until the ground was hot. The coals were placed on top of the cover and delicious corn bread made in this way. For a quick bake a deep spider was used. It was first set on the coals until the bottom was cooked then turned up before the fire until the top was cooked.

The first grist ground from Midland county grain was taken to Flint to be ground and it took a whole week to make the trip.

The first votes cast occurred in a little red store situated near where the court house now stands in Saginaw county. It took a day to go and a day and a half to come back by canoe.

The first voting in Midland county was at the house of John A. Whitman, and must have been after 1844 as he came here that year. The voting place was afterwards changed to the Bluffs where John McLean and Erastus Wyman cast their first votes. Mr. Richardson

now living at the Bluffs has one of the tickets then printed. The Wyman's and Cronkright's moved from Midland county to Saginaw county to permit their children the priviledge of schooling so John A. Whitman rightfully claimed the right so far as they are concerned of being the first permanent white settler in the county. The first schoolhouse built in the county was on the Herb Sias farm opposite Frank Barton's farm house. Some of the former students now living with us are Wm. Vance, Henry Atwell, John Wyman, and Chas. Cronkright. The school officers were Chas. Cronkright, Chas. Fitzhugh and Thomas Townsend. Some of the students sav Henry Benson, was first teacher where others hold that Chas Ashman was first teacher. Mrs. Margaret Banks and Mrs. Athenus Hall being subsequent teachers. The first store in the county was probably one built by Charlie Rodd on what is now known as the Cumiser place three miles above Midland city on north bank. This store was afterwards taken down and rafted on the Tittabawassee river to a place opposite Mrs. Janes' present residence. This raft was without doubt, the first of the many million feet of timber floated down the Tittabawassee river.

Michigan Genealogical Council Report

Kris Rzepczynski from the Archives of Michigan reported at the August Council board meeting that all the imaging of Michigan naturalization records have been completed. The task of indexing these images, that number approximately two million, is now in progress. About 1400 people are involved in the actual indexing with space for any additional indexers interested in assisting with this project.

The July annual Abrams Seminar was very successful with approximately 100 attendees. Keynote speaker was Jen Baldwin from Find My Past. Jen presented a talk at the July Council Delegate meeting on "Engaging Your Long Distance Membership" which was intriguing to hear and think about.

Delegates from Grand Rapids shared information about the program and planning for the 2018 NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE which they are hosting. The conference is titled "Paths to Your Past". The conference will be held at the DeVos Place Convention Center in Grand Rapids from May 2 – 5 in 2018. Flyers for this conference will be available at our September 20 MGS meeting.

The annual MGC Fall Family History Event will be Saturday, October 21 at the Library of Michigan in Lansing. Registration is available on the MGC website www.mimgc.org.

President Katherine Willson reported that the speaker for the 2018 annual MGC Fall Family History Event will be nationally known genealogist, speaker and author John Colletta. If you have not had the opportunity to see or hear John Colletta or read one of his books in the past, this will be an excellent opportunity to have him as a keynote speaker in Michigan.

Submitted by Faye Ebach

New York State Death Indexes 1880-1956 Now Online

The genealogy community received great news from Reclaim the Records this morning – they have obtained images of the New York State death index from 1880–1956, and are in the process of uploading them online at Internet Archive.

The NYG&B (New York Genealogical and Biographical Society) will soon have copies of these images available for members in our eLibrary – stay tuned to our blog and Facebook for more announcements on this topic.

Those of us researching New York State ancestors have long struggled with access to state death certificates from 1881 to 1956 – only a handful of repositories in New York State hold microfiche copies, but the lack of online access was detrimental to the many researchers unable to access this material in person.

Before this news, the only years of the index that were online were 1957-1967.

These new, high-resolution greyscale images have been scanned from the original vault copies by the Department of Health and are currently being uploaded, year by year, to Internet Archive.

The images will also be available to download in bulk, but users should be warned that the files are large—the entire collection is over 750 GB of images!

Source:

www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org

GenGathering.com

A global gathering of researchers and genealogists that "give and take".

Do you have resources in your home, or are you willing to do searches at your local courthouse, library, cemetery, etc.? If so, we would love to have you step up and join us.

If you go to this website seeking volunteers to assist with finding a record for you, you have also come to the right place.

Throughout the world, we are all working together through generosity, cooperation, and willingness to share!

The Journal of Genealogy & Family History

Launching in April 2017, the new Journal of Genealogy and Family History (JGFH) will address the current need for a high quality, peer reviewed publication, covering broad scholarly research in genealogy and family history in a 21st century online format.

The journal will be offered to readers and contributors for free, on an open access, noncommercial basis, with content available under a Creative Commons Attribution License. The scope of the journal will include any field or academic discipline associated with genealogy or family history research such as heraldry, demography, education and record conservation.

The Editor, Jessica Feinstein, says: "I am very excited to be part of the great team involved in this venture, and look forward to enabling authors in our field to publish academic articles that will advance genealogical research in many areas."

The editorial board will include prominent individuals from within the field of genealogy and family history as well as associated disciplines.

The Journal of Genealogy and Family History is registered at the British Library with ISSN 2399-2964.

The journal was initiated and designed by the Register of Qualified Genealogists and will be published via their website at: <http://www.qualifiedgenealogists.org/jgfh>

THE MAN FROM RED-KEG

Eugene Thwing's Latest Novel Treats On Life in Midland Co. In The Early Seventies And Is Interesting

A WICKED, WICKED EDITOR

By Gone Days when Pine Ruled King in the Saginaw Valley Recalled by the Book in which Many Local Residents are Pictured Thinly Disguised

Another story of Midland county life in the good old days when pine was king has been received from the publishers Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, who some two years ago brought out "The Red Keggars" by Eugene Thwing. Old timers know that in the early seventies Averill was unknown. In its place existed Red Keg. The new book bears the title "The Man from Red Keg" and is in some respects a sequel or continuation of Mr. Thwing's first venture. While the plot is not cohesive the story reaches the human, the heart side of its readers and when the final chapter is read it laid aside with regret.

Mr. Thwing as far as known never set foot in Midland county, but he had able aid from Mr. Rhines, a former resident now living in Brooklyn. Some of the characters in his latest book are still alive but the majority are dead.

William Harrington Bartley, editor of Midland Chips, an intensely yellow journal of the period, figures as one of the villains.

Old timers have no difficulty in connecting the Bartley of the story with William H. Bartram for many months publisher of the spicy and salacious Bartram's Cheek, many copies of which are yet in evidence in the archives of the old settlers. And some of the scenes are recalled as having actually occurred in Bartram's life in Midland. Bart gets into more scrapes than you

can shake a stick at and is finally run out of town as he should have been long before.

In Henry Farineau old residents will readily recognize Hank Farrington, a man without a character to brag of and who closed a life of crime by going over the road for life for a murder committed near AuSable. He was later pardoned and is popularly supposed to have been drowned while crossing Saginaw Bay in a small boat. There is a story extant that he died in a shanty on the lake shore near AuSable and a skeleton found some 13 years ago is supposed to have been that of the missing man. In Ned Jewel foreman of the Pioneer office a resemblance is traced to Mr. Rhines who is regarded as the inspiration of the story, while in Jessie Brinton, the benevolent publisher of the Pioneer is seen. Frank Burton publisher of the Midland Times now the Midland Sun, Parson Allen, Sam Hawkins and other characters portrayed in the Red Keggars figure in the tale. Some figure in their own names viz James VanKleek of Bay City, Mr. Hemingway, Merley Heald, while the Stern of the story is supposedly W. L. Stearns.

The post office robbery, the discovery of salt, the opening of the mineral springs, the cutter race, the funny law suit in which the jurors found the defendant guilty, assessed the fine and paid it out of their own pockets, the love scenes told with heart to heart touch in which Ned figured with Nell a rough jewel in a print shop and Bessie are all charmingly told, Midland, Bay City and Saginaw figure in the story which ought to be read with interest by every citizen. The local coloring is strong and every chapter is tinctured with love, humor and pathos. A good pen picture is given of the strong and rigged lumber men who founded the city.

E. D. Cowles of the Bay City Tribune add this chapter regarding the final end of

Bart.

The story winds up the character of Editor Bartley, he being finally run out of town and only escaping personal violence at the hands of the incensed people of Midland through the humane efforts of a few who had suffered at the hands of the editor, and who while on his way under cover of darkness to Bay City evinced a disposition to do a decent act by way of reparation. As this is one of the actual occurrences in the career of W. H. Bartram at that period it is easy to connect the two characters in the volume. Of course some license must be allowed the author and this is noted in the names of some of his other characters, whose real identity will readily be fixed by the reader who chanced to live in these parts thirty-three years ago. The authors purpose is served so far as regards Editor W. H. Bartley after his escape from Midland, but of there is any curiosity on the part of the reader of "The Man From Red Keg" as to the fate of Editor Bartley or rather Bartram, it may be stated parenthetically that after leaving Midland Mr. Bartram went east, reformed became an earnest, eloquent and effective temperance lecturer, and later entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church in which he did good work, and he died at Lockport, N. Y., about twenty years ago. Something over twenty-two years ago he called on the writer at Saginaw, and during a brief visit recalled the early and stormy as well as strenuous days of his newspaper career.

The book retails for \$1.50 a copy and can be secured at Thompson's store.

"The Man from Red-Keg" is more interesting than "The Red-Keggars," the scenes being wholly laid in Midland city. It is a book well worth reading and ought to have a place in every library in the city. The book is now in its third edition. The first edition was sold out before publication. **Page 11**

Pioneer Record

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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.