



# PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

Volume 38 No. 3

MIMGS.ORG

February 2018

## In This Issue

INTRODUCING MY ALDRICH, ALBEE, RIDER AND OTHER RELATIVES WHO CAME EARLY TO MIDLAND, MICHIGAN, PLUS LETTERS	1
Editorial Comments	2
President's Letter	2
Programs	3
Books for sale	3
News from Dick Eastman	6
Coming Events	7
New York Migration	9
Welsh Research Introduction	9
Cemetery Records in the USA	10
Free English and Welsh Mini Course	10
4 Reasons to join a Genealogical Society	11
MGC Report	11
MGS Officers & Society Information	12

## 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\*\***

**Feb 21 "The Next Generation: Igniting the Spark in Tomorrow's Genealogists"** Presented by Daniel Earl. St. Johns Episcopal Church, Midland. 7 p.m.

**March 21 "They Came By Sail and Steam"**. Presented by Derek Blount. Grace A Dow Auditorium, Midland. 7 p.m.

## INTRODUCING MY ALDRICH, ALBEE, RIDER AND OTHER RELATIVES WHO CAME EARLY TO MIDLAND, MICHIGAN, PLUS LETTERS BACK HOME TO FREEMAN, NEW YORK

By Thomas L. Bowen, born in Midland

My favorite ancestral location is Steuben County in southwestern New York, a beautiful hilly area where many of my mother's family lived in the nineteenth century. When I began to research my ancestors as a teen, it was one of my first ancestral destinations, and I have visited there from Midland, Michigan and later from Indiana several times. I was fortunate to find Mabel Albee Patterson in 1959. She was a historian for her family, many of whom lived in the area of Tuscarora town in Steuben County, New York, such as Albee, Aldrich, Coon, Taft and Sprague. She lived in the nearby Westfield, Pennsylvania area and became an octogenarian the same year I came in contact with her. I was able to visit her before her death in 1964, and in 2015 her granddaughter, Marieta Hopkins, located me on the internet to renew an acquaintance. I had met her during my visit with Mabel when she was a teen, and she wanted to exchange information. From her I found that Mabel, besides recording much information about our common relatives, had saved many family pictures and letters written by our ancestors and relatives. I have transcribed for this article two letters from our common great great grandfather that she shared with me.

I will begin by describing the recent origin of my maternal ancestors, without giving many vital statistics which may not be of interest for this purpose. My mother, Hettie Belle Rider, was born in 1909 in Midland to John Wesley Rider, born 1872 in Steuben County, New York and Gertrude May (Gertie) Rider, born 1878 in Midland. Hettie married my father Herbert Floyd Bowen when she was sixteen years old. He had come from Portland, Indiana to Midland County in 1908 at the age of five with his parents Glen Clifton and Martha Belle Snyder Bowen, his older brother Cecil Gerald (Cec), and sisters Hazel and Ruby. My well beloved mother and father both died in Midland.

Many of my maternal ancestors and their relatives moved from Steuben County, New York to Midland, Michigan. My great great grandfather George Fraser Hemingway lived in South Dansville, town of Dansville, in northwestern Steuben County, for four years and was married there to Sarah Ann Flint in 1837. He was the first of my ancestors to arrive in Midland, in 1856. He built a three story brick union school house, became an attorney, prosecutor and state legislator and died in Midland in 1894.

(Continued on page 4)

## The Presidents Letter

*Time marches and SPRING is 17 days away. The MGS treasury is solvent. A good program is scheduled for our general meeting on March 21 and this is your president's first tweet of the year. At my age (well over 50) it can easily be my last.*

*At this moment in time all is well, but fellow members, there is trouble, I mean trouble in MGS city. Except for a few new people, most of our other members have been called by our nomination chair to consider offering some time as a Board member. New members Nancy and Pamela have given us fresh energy, and we need to fill the positions of PRESIDENT, (the*

*present one's age is well over 60) SECRETARY, and HOSPITALITY CHAIR. These jobs do not take a great amount of time. The more help, the easier. The more help, the more we can grow and continue to be asset to our community. You will be given all the assistance needed to perform and if anyone has an interest or question, please call me or any of past or present Board members.*

*I Hope to see you on the second day of spring,*

*Roger Bohl, President*

*(actually well over 70 and we can stop there) [ my phone # is 839-9016*

## The ROOTS of a Family Tree begin with the Love of Two Hearts

**GENE TOONS** by Wendell Washer



"Newspaper-challenged" about to have library privileges revoked.



### MEMBERSHIP DUES 2017-2018

Collection of dues for the current year have ended. Collection of dues for the 2018-2019 year will begin in August. 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.

From The Editor ● ● ●

*Greetings.*

*This year has brought new acquaintances with new cousins found that have helped with my family tree research. Not only have I found cousins with my DNA matches, but I have also found cousins online.*

*This May is the National Genealogy Conference in Grand Rapids. Its great that the conference is so close to us this year so that I will be able to attend. I hope many of you will be able to attend also. Josh Taylor from Genealogy Roadshow will be there to speak.*

*I am sorry for the late newsletter, but I have been having problems with the laser printer for a while*

*and needed to get it fixed. It now works beautifully and I am very pleased with it.*

*The society is at a point where we desperately need new members who are willing to help run this society. It is very difficult trying to get members to take an office in the society as many of the current officers have been with the society since it was started. If you are willing to take an office or can help recruit new members, please notify one of us. We still have projects that we would like to accomplish.*

*Walt Bennett  
Editor and Publisher*

## Meetings

February 21, 2018

The Midland Genealogical society will hold its next meeting of 2018 on February 21 at 7:00 PM at St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of St. Andrews and South Saginaw Roads.

Daniel Earl, VP of the Michigan Genealogical Council and the President of the Hungarian Genealogical Society of Michigan, will speak to us on "The Next Generation; Igniting the Spark in Tomorrow's Genealogists".

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

March 21, 2018

The Midland Genealogical society will hold its next meeting of 2018 on March 21 at 7:00 PM in the auditorium at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library on 1710 W. St. Andrews.

Derek Blount, professional genealogist and VP of Oakland County Genealogical Society, will present "They Came by Sail & Steam".

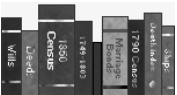
Genealogical Society meetings are always open to the public and are free of charge. Light refreshments are available at the close of the presentation.

April 18, 2018

Crash of Flight 67, presented by Floyd Andrick of the Midland Genealogical Society.  
More info to come in next issue

May 16, 2018

Annual Meeting beginning at 6pm with Potluck.  
Program topic is Reverse Genealogy :Locating Living Relatives. Presented by Katherine Willson of the Michigan Genealogical Council.  
More info to come in next issue



## B O O K S F O R S A L E

The following books, published by the Midland Genealogical Society, are available for sale at any meeting, at the Midland Genealogy Room, Grace A. Dow Public Library or by mail. Price of each book is \$20.00 plus \$3.00 for postage and handling.

Midland County Obituary Index (#1) – 1872-1927. The book consists of 16,000 abstractions covering 55 years from the Midland Times (1872 -1875), The Midland Sun (1892 -1924) and the Midland Republican (1881-1927). The soft bound 238 page book is 8 ½ by 11 inches.

Midland County Obituary Index (#2) – 1928-1950. The book consists of about 8,000 abstractions covering 22 years from the Midland Republican (1928 - 1937) and the Midland Daily News (1937 - 1950). The soft bound 238 page book is 8 ½ by 11 inches. Note: Both Obituary Books (#1 & #2) are available as a package of \$35.00.

Midland County Obituary Index (#3)-1951-1982 This book consists of 30,900 entries including about 4000 maiden names covering 22 years extracted from Midland Daily News. The 387 page, 8½ by 11, soft bound book consists of two volumes A through L and M through Z. The set costs \$40 plus \$5 postage and handling.

Midland Pioneers, edited by Ora Flaningham. This book is a compilation of the most interesting genealogical, historical and humorous reprints from newspapers published in the Pioneer Record. The book is 6 by 9 inches, soft bound, 259 pages. (Out of print, but orders being compiled at Genealogy desk.)

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

A collection of "Some Midland Michigan County Records" have been compiled and extensively indexed by Ora L. Flaningham. It is available in PDF format on a compact disc from the Midland Genealogical Society. The collection is mainly out of print books from our society, Harold Moll, and Ora Flaningham. Included are: "Midland County Cemetery Records" 1981, "Midland County Michigan Census 1850-1894 (1983), "Midland County Michigan Obituary Index 1872-1927 (1994)", "Midland Pioneers", vol 1 (1999) & vol 2, "Midland County Michigan Probate Index 1850-1900", Early Saginaw Valley History", Bethany Indian Mission 1843-1855", Bethany Indian Mission 1851-1868", "In the Wilderness With the Red Indians", "Account Book of Charles H. Rodd", "Indian Build a Birch Bark Canoe", and Index to First Families of Midland County". The cost of this CD is \$25 shipping included in US.



(Continued from page 1)

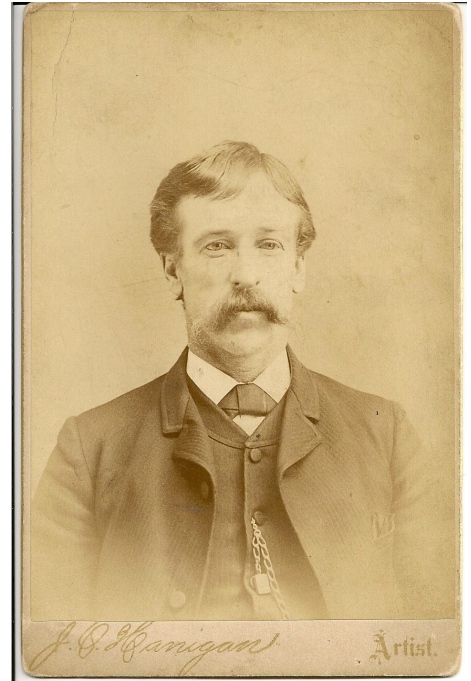
George's daughter, my great grandmother Phebe Isora Hemingway Beebe Rider Aldrich of Hadley, Lapeer County, Michigan, had first married Marcus Beebe. He became a deserter in the Civil War and went to Canada, so Isora received a divorce from him in Lapeer County on May 10, 1864 and moved to South Dansville, Steuben County, New York. She had never lived there, but her mother's sister Lucretia Fritz made her home there and knew a twice widowed farmer named John Wesley Rider who was available to marry Isora and help to raise her young children. Within a month of her divorce, on June 6,

and my grandfather John Wesley Rider, she initially lived with her older son George Beebe, born in 1857. In December of 1881 Isora was helping to care for Sarah Jane Albee Aldrich and daughter Lulu, the wife and daughter of Garner Aldrich. They were suffering from diphtheria and succumbed to the disease on December 30 and January 1.

Sarah Jane and Garner were also my great grandparents. When Sarah died, Garner was left with four young daughters, including my grandmother Gertie, three, and Sarah Maude, six months, who was soon adopted by her mother's uncle Stephen Julius Coon. Sarah and Garner Aldrich had also come to Midland from Steuben County,

1903.

As mentioned, Isora Rider, now in Midland, cared for Garner Aldrich's wife during her last sickness. She had two young children and he now had three young children to raise, so they agreed to have a future together, as will be



Garner Aldrich, Circa 1884.

discussed further. Garner did not remain with Isora after the children were grown, but moved to Idaho and married a third wife, Hester Curtis.

Garner had enlisted in the Civil War at Tuscarora in September 1864 at age 18 and applied for a pension in Midland. I have copied his entire pension file of 136 pages at the National Archives at Washington, D.C. It contains a gold mine of information about his life, his personality, and his relationship with other relatives. In addition to the proofs required for Garner's pension, his widow Hester's application resulted in an extensive investigation to determine whether she was eligible for a pension. The subject of his and

(Continued on page 5)



Birdseye View of Freeman, NY, Circa 1907.

they were married in the village of Rogersville, South Dansville Post Office. Mr. Rider died in 1878 at age 71, so in 1881 Isora came to Midland where her father was living. Bringing her young sons born to John Wesley Rider, i.e. my uncle Fritz Rider

New York in 1872. Their families lived in southern Steuben County, in Tuscarora town near the Pennsylvania line. Garner's parents, my great great grandparents Garner and Amy Taft Aldrich of Tuscarora, also joined their children in Midland by 1880. Garner Sr. died in Midland in 1884 and she in



Midland Sep 11 1878

Dear children it is with pleasure  
this morning that I take this opportunity  
to write a few lines to let you  
know how we are this morning  
and how we get through we  
get through all right & we got  
to midland at 4 o'clock last  
night Garner and Sarah and  
Adrian folks was there to the  
Depo to meet us and was glad  
to see us. we are all well  
this morning and feeling well  
first rate we cant see any  
hills here the sun come up  
rite out of ground there was  
a little frost here this morning  
on the plank round the yard  
it is pleasant and looks nice

well I hope this will find  
you all well as it leaves us  
and enjoying your selves first  
rate now I want you all to  
be contented about us and  
feel that we are all rite  
we are among friends  
now I want you to write as  
soon as you get this and rite  
all the news let us know  
all about how you are getting  
along. and be good children  
Sarah says Iery and  
Francis & wis you good a  
keepin house. well I cant rite  
much this time I havent looked  
around any so I will close hope  
to here from you soon By By my love  
to you all from your Pa  
S. S. Albee

1878 Letter from S.T. Albee to children.

her prior marriages became a subject of keen interest to the pension investigators. Eighteen depositions taken including Hester Marsh Short Curtis Aldrich, her children, Garner's children and some of the children and other relatives of Isora Hemingway Beebe Rider Aldrich. The file includes a statement by Isora's half sister Cora Terrill that her sister went away to Bay City with Garner one morning and they came back at night and represented themselves as man and wife. She went on, "To be honest about it, I think the marriage was a fake." The fake "wedding" occurred on Christmas day of 1882. A real wedding never happened, but they lived to-

gether as husband and wife for nearly twenty years until Garner left her and went to Sandpoint, Idaho. The blended family of Garner and Isora had an important end result for me, in that Isora's son John was married in 1897 to Garner's daughter Gertie in Midland. John Wesley and Gertie Aldrich Rider had a family of ten children including my mother Hettie. He died July 1, 1926 following an automobile crash while riding to work near Richville, Michigan with three other men.

(I hope to write a story on the life of Garner Aldrich in the future for publication by the Pioneer Record, which will delve further into

his relationships with Isora and others in his life.)

Other relatives of mine who came to Midland County from Steuben County as adults were Frank and Melissa "Lizzie" Aldrich Albee, Ross Albee, Willis Aldrich, Orson Aldrich, Aden and Caroline Coon Aldrich, Truman Aldrich, Stephen Julius and Melissa Aldrich Coon, Daniel and Joannah Aldrich Coon, widow Sabra Aldrich Taft, Ethan Taft, Cyrus Frank Coon and Albert Coon. It is interesting that the Aldrich, Albee and Taft families lived in the same area of Mendon, Worcester County, Massachusetts and Provi-

# News from Dick Eastman

## **They Considered Themselves White, but DNA Tests Told a More Complex Story**

By Dick Eastman · February 13, 2018  
· How well do you know your ancestry? As more Americans take advantage of genetic testing to pinpoint the makeup of their DNA, the technology is coming head to head with the country's deep-rooted obsession with race and racial myths. This is perhaps no more true than for the growing number of self-identified European Americans who learn they are actually part African.

An article by Tara Bahrapour in the Washington Post points out that many Americans are unaware of their own racial heritage. The article states, "...a 2014 study of 23andMe customers found that around 5,200, or roughly 3.5 percent, of 148,789 self-identified European Americans had 1 percent or more African ancestry, meaning they had a probable black ancestor going back about six generations or less."

In a country with a history of slavery and racism, these facts had serious implications. It is no surprise that many families tried to hide their mixed-race heritage. Later generations were never told about the ethnicity of the earlier generations. The result is that many of today's Americans are unaware of their true heritage.

You can read the full story at: <http://wapo.st/2BjtWS6>.

## **A Digital Project is Underway to Recreate Ireland's Public Record Office Destroyed by Fire in 1922**

by Dick Eastman · February 9, 2018

A project is under way to digitally recreate the building and contents of the Public Record Office of Ireland, which were destroyed by an explosion and fire at Dublin's Four Courts in

1922. The six-story Victorian building went up in flames on 30 June 1922 during the Civil War. Seven centuries of Ireland's historical and genealogical records were lost, seemingly forever.

However, thanks to new technology, historical research and careful archival practise, Trinity College Dublin says these losses "are not irrecoverable". The "Beyond 2022: Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury" project will see the creation of a virtual reality reconstruction of the Public Record Office.

The completed virtual reality project will be made available on the centenary of the Four Courts fire in 2022. The project website is <http://www.beyond2022.ie>.

You can learn a lot more in an article by Philip Bromwell at <http://bit.ly/2H3khPN>. A video that explains the project is also available at the same address.

## **All Digital Collections at the Swedish National Archives are now FREE to Search and View**

By Dick Eastman · February 5, 2018

The Swedish National Archives has made an announcement at <http://bit.ly/2EliiYU> that will please many Swedish descendants:

Digital collections now free!

From 1 February 2018 all digital collections at the Swedish National Archives are free to search and view. You will find more than 100 million digitised archival records in the Digital Research Room.

You can read more (in Swedish) at: <https://sok.riksarkivet.se/om-soktjansten?infosida=fri-tillgang>.

My thanks to newsletter reader Larry Parker for telling me about the new free access.

## **An In-Brief Guide to New York Genealogy**

By Dick Eastman · February 5, 2018

A new research guide is now available as a PDF file. The following announcement was written by the folks at the In-Depth Genealogist Store:

## **IDG INTRODUCES THEIR NEWEST IN-BRIEF RESEARCH GUIDE:**

**"AN IN-BRIEF GUIDE TO NEW YORK GENEALOGY" BY LARRY NAUKAM**

The In-Depth Genealogist (IDG) is pleased to present their newest in-brief research guide in the research series by writer, Larry Naukam, entitled "An In-Brief Guide to New York Genealogy". Larry writes the column "Doing it Ourselves" for The In-Depth Genealogist's digital magazine, Going In-Depth. Larry holds degrees in Geography, Library Science, and Divinity. For more than 30 years he has worked in libraries and information centers, using various techniques and technologies to enhance access to historical materials. As technologies have developed he has used them to make collections more accessible for students and researchers.

An extremely important item to remember about research in New York State is that there is New York City, and the rest of the state. Many vital and other records concerning the five counties which comprise today's New York City itself are not kept in other parts of the state. European settlements in the eastern and southeastern part of the state date from the early 1600's, while parts of the western area were not fully established until the 1860's. New York has mandated historians at the village, town, city, county and state level since the early 1920s.

"An In-Brief Guide to New York Genealogy" is available now as a PDF (\$2.75). Pre-orders of the printed laminated guide, 8.5" x 11" (\$9.95 + shipping) are through The In-Depth Genealogist Store (<http://theindepthgenealogist.com/shop-idg/idg-products/>). IDG has published sixteen guides which are all available as 4-page

(Continued on page 7)



## Coming Events

**March 4, 2018** Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Fair

The Midwest's longest running Antiquarian Book Fair, held at the Michigan Union Ballroom. Browse dealers from the Midwest and beyond, offering first editions, antiquarian books, childrens books, manuscripts, prints, photographs, and more. The \$5 admission at the door benefits the Clements Library at the University of Michigan. Doors open at 11am.

**March 17, 2018** Farmington Genealogical Society Spring Seminar

Katherine Willson will be speaking on:

They Didn't All Come Through Ellis Island! Finding and Analyzing Passenger Lists

What Stories are You Missing From State & Federal Census Information?

Military Record Research

FaceBook's 11,700 + Genealogy/History Pages and Groups

Colen Auditorium, Beaumont Botsford Education Building, 28050 Grand River Avenue, Farmington Hills, MI

For more information is: [mifarmgs.org](http://mifarmgs.org).

**March 24, 2018** "Genealogical Society of Monroe County 41st Annual Spring Seminar" Old Mill Museum, 242 Toledo Street, Dundee, Michigan 48131, Save the date. Details to be announced.

**April 11-14, 2018** "Ohio Genealogical Society Conference", Columbus, Ohio. See more at [www.ogs.org](http://www.ogs.org).

**April 28, 2018** "Lansing Family History Seminar", Lansing Family History Center, 431 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing, Michigan, Details to be announced

**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.

**May 2-May 5, 2018** "National Genealogical Society Family History Conference", Grand Rapids, Michigan

Learn new strategies, resources, and techniques to sharpen your family history skills at the NGS 2018 Family History Conference.

The upcoming NGS 2018 Family History Conference will be the first national genealogical conference held in Michigan. As the second largest city in the state, Grand Rapids 2018 is a one day drive or less from most Midwestern cities, has a thriving economy with a small-town feel, friendly people, and safe, walkable streets.

The NGS Family History Conference, 2–5 May 2018 is your opportunity to choose from more than 175 lectures presented by many nationally recognized speakers, explore an exhibit hall filled with more than 80 exhibitors, and network with over 2,000 genealogists. Every NGS conference has a different theme with a new program top to bottom—so there is always much new to learn and discover.

Conference Hotels

Amway Grand Plaza, 187 Monroe Avenue NW, Grand Rapids

Courtyard Marriott, 11 Monroe Avenue NW, Grand Rapids

For the most up-to-date information about NGS2018 visit [conference.ngsgenealogy.org/](http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/).

**Aug 22-25, 2018** "Federation of Genealogical Societies 2018 National Conference", Fort Wayne, Indiana.

FGS 2018 National Conference — FGS returns to the Hoosier State in 2018 providing attendees convenient access to Allen County Public Library which houses one of the largest genealogical research collections available with records from around the world.

Additional Information can be found on their website at [fgs.org](http://fgs.org).

(Continued from page 6) (Dick Eastman)

PDFs and laminated print versions. Subscribers to the digital magazine, *Going In-Depth*, receive a 10% discount on purchase of each guide.

## First Database of Burial Grounds in England and Wales to be Created

By Dick Eastman · January 29, 2018

The first national database to record all the natural and manmade treasures of burial grounds, from the giant Victorian urban cemeteries to little country churchyards, is to be created with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The grant will be announced on Monday to help record and preserve rare plants and animals in danger of extinction across most of Britain, threatened by development and modern agriculture, but still flourishing among the gravestones in an estimated 20,000 burial grounds in England and Wales.

Details may be found in an article in *The Guardian* at: <http://bit.ly/2GqUTmV>.

## Genome of Man Who Died in 1827 Has Been Reverse-Engineered Without Any Remains

by Dick Eastman · January 17, 2018

Hans Jonatan was born in the Caribbean in 1784, migrated to Iceland in 1802, and died in 1827 – and scientists have just managed to reconstruct part of his genome from 182 of his descendants, even though Hans' remains have long since been lost.

This remarkable feat of reverse genetic engineering – the first time someone's genotype has been reconstructed using only descendants rather than their physical remains – reveals that Hans' mother was originally from somewhere in the Benin, Nigeria, and Cameroon region.

The study demonstrates that with enough genealogical and genotype data available, reconstructing a historical genome sequence like this is possible.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 5)

dence County, Rhode Island, then migrated to Chenango County, New York, then to Steuben County, then many went on to Midland, Michigan.

One ancestor who did not move to Midland County was Stephen Taft Albee. He was born in 1819 in Plymouth, Chenango County, New York to Ebenezer and Lydia Fenner Taft Albee. He was a village blacksmith at the village of Freeman in the town of Tuscarora, Steuben County. In October 1877 he and his wife Sally Ann Coon sold 1 ½ acres to their son Stephen Elbert Albee, which may have been his blacksmith shop. Young Stephen Albee married Frances Victoria Aldrich in August 1878 and he continued in his father's occupation as a blacksmith. Stephen and Frances were the parents of Mabel, the family historian noted above. Frances' father was Mijaman Taft Aldrich, the brother of Garner. He volunteered to serve in the Civil War, leaving his wife Martha Dunham Aldrich and four small children, Willis, Frances, Melissa and Orson, at home. He never returned, as he died a year later in 1863 at Warrenton Junction, Virginia of typhoid fever. He wrote nearly 100 letters to his wife during the war, which were preserved by a member of the family and have been transcribed by a descendant. The transcriptions are available at the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana and from myself. I believe that the original letters still reside in the custody of a Midland resident. Mijaman's widow and the three children except Frances moved to Midland about 1893.

phen Elbert Albee, Stephen and Sally made a visit west to the relatives and friends then living in Midland. By reading the letters, you may decide whether they were contemplating a move there in the future. If they were, the plan may have been foiled by Stephen's death which occurred May 1, 1880 of an aneurysm of the stomach. Sally died January 1, 1913 at the home of her son Frank Albee in Midland. Their son Stephen Elbert died in Freeman in 1887 at age thirty. The following letters were written by Stephen T. Albee to son Stephen and daughter-in-law Frances and probably read by friends and other relatives at home. The first letter refers to their daughter Sarah and to Aden Aldrich, a brother of Garner. Punctuation is added but spelling is as written.

Midland, Sep 11 1878

Dear children it is with pleasure this morning that I take this opportunity to write a few lines to let you know how we are this morning and how we got through. we got through all rite & we got to midland at 5 oclock last night. Garner and Sarah and Adins folks was there at the Depo to meet us and was glad to see us. We are all well this morning and feeling first rate. We cant see any hills here. the sun come up right out of ground. there was a little frost here this morning on the plants round the yard it is plesant and looks nice. Wel I hope this will find you all well as it leavs us and enjoying your selv's first rat now. I want you all to be contented about us and feel that we are all rite. We are among friends now. I want you to wrte as soon as you get this and rite all the news. let us know all about how you are getting along and be good children. Sarah says Stevy and Francis wis you good a keepin house. Wel I cant rite much this time I havent

looked around any So I will close hoping to hear from you soon. By  
By my love to you all from your Pa  
S. T. Albee

Midland Sep 19 - 1878

Dear children it is with pleasure that I imprv a few moments in writing a few lines to you to let yo know how we are a getting along in this new country. We are to your uncle Adins this morning. We are all well this morning. ma was not feeling very well yesterday but feeling pretty well this morning. I have ben around the country considerably. I ben traveling prety much all the time since I have ben here. I have seen a good deal of good land here and some poor land the poor land in swamps but are the best lands when cleared up. there is some splended farms here. ther has ben hare seen here. since we have ben her one saw seven day before yesterday and he killed three of them. another man saw three yesterday and he shot one of them. a number of others have



Stephen T. and Sally Coon Albee with daughter Clara. Circa 1870

(Continued on page 10)



## **New York Migration – Dutchess County New York**

**By Yvonne Ashworth**

On 11 Nov. 1683, Dutchess County in the state of New York was formed as one of the twelve original counties in the State.

Located between Connecticut and the Hudson River, the original groups of settlers were basically comprised of Dutch, English and Germanic, most of which received patent grants for land in which to settle. Very few chose to locate up the Hudson, as at the time, it was thought that the highlands on both sides would prohibit farming.

At the inception of these grants it was required that a specific number of settlers were receiving such in groups or that settlers must be present upon the land to prevent French or New England migrants from “squatting” which was of great concern to the English.

A large percentage of migration coming out of Dutchess County began immediately post French and Indian War as during the war, soldiers had viewed land in the areas around Albany to be more than satisfactory. They had in their possession money from their service in the war to invest in land to settle and begin anew. Further migration occurred after the Revolution which precipitated an additional outward flow with issued grants as an award for service that was primarily bounty land in central New York near newly developed towns.

A select few retained these grants while others sold their rights. Of those retaining grants, the grantees removed from Dutchess County to take physical possession of their bounty land with others moving

West to Ohio around 1815. Still others moved on to Canada, Nova Scotia and Ontario, specifically and other Dutchess County Loyalists becoming Founders of Plattsburgh, NY in Clinton County and Palenville, NY in Greene County.

Any Quaker families choosing to leave were required to attend meetings to request permission to do so and acquire certificates of proof which were recorded in the minutes of the meetings. Since the majority of Quakers did not server during the revolution, they produced larger families and thus could not produce food sufficient enough to support their needs, hence the need for further migration.

Dutchess County grew slowly between 1790-1820 as the result of outward migration and marked improvement in the trails leading out of the county which previously hindered travel.

In 1830 an influx of newcomers was realized with the trend holding into the 1880's. undergoing a transformation as a popular location for families to settle for multiple generations before moving westward or northward.

With a previous history of migrating to Vermont as well, Dutchess County Loyalists became one of the largest migrating groups to contribute to settlements outside of the State of New York.

Among the notables in this group were Jeremiah French, owner of most of the land in present day Manchester, Vermont and Peter Lossing, founder of Norwich, Ontario. Dutchess settlers are also responsible for founding Fishkill Landing, now a part of Beacon, NY and Poughkeepsie, one of the first villages of Dutchess County.

Sources: Buck, Clifford M. Dutchess

County Tax Lists 1718-1787 Rhinebeck, NY: Kinship, 1991

Doherty, Frank J. American Ancestors, Spring 2010, NEHGS, Vol 11 No 2. Boston, MA

## **Welsh Research- Ancestor Search**

### **Introduction**

**By Yvonne Ashworth**

Many genealogical researchers are often intimidated when delving into Welsh related searches given the Welsh propensity to use a select few surnames. Other common barriers include the Celtic language and the uncommon recording of names, the outcome of the “patronymic” system used for centuries, for example, the common name of John listed as “John ab Gwilym ab Teunant ab Owain” (translated John of Gwilym of Teunant of Owain)

Tracing newer Welsh ancestors arriving in North America is easier when utilizing several publications such as “Welsh Family History”, by Genealogical Publishing Company, a 2009 offering from Baltimore, edited by John and Sheila Rowlands. This selection includes methods of search more common to that of the study of English ancestors and families, and estate, migration records and church records useful to genealogists. Secondly, is a 1999 publication with a wealth of old church records offering greater detail including a wider range of resources, entitled “Second Stages of Researching Welsh Ancestry” which contains the distribution of Welsh surnames, non-conformist chapels, maps, settlements and the impact of industrialization in addition to demonstrating how surnames may lead to the subjects location of origin.

Any researcher needs to be mindful of the need to fully record any Welsh location associated with studied subjects due to emigration occurring during famines and conflicts. While research is not as difficult today due to the diligent works of others and the advent of the internet, some travel may still be required. The best resource is the National Library in Aberystwyth, Wales with some information available at [www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=245](http://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=245)

Sources: Bartram, Peter “Welsh Genealogies A.D. 300-1400” University Press of Wales, 1974, Genealogical Publishing Company, Online

(Continued from page 8)

ben seen around her last week. Wel I cant write all the news. When I come home I can tell you all about the things here. We thought we would stay here until about a week from next Monday if you was all well. I want to go down to Bay City and see a man down there. he is a land agent for a man that lives in york State that owns land here. Wel when I come home I will tell you all about it. we find lots of friends here Some that we neve saw before. midland City is a great business place manufactuering lumber and shingles. They are putting down a Salt Well. Thay struck Salt Water yesterday about foure hundred feet. thay are building here a good deal. They are building a large brick block. a man fell off the building last thirsdays and killed him he was beuried on friday.

Wel I havent time to write any mor now it is mail time so I will close hoping this will find you all well and happy and enjoying yourselvs well.

Ma sends her love to you all and all the friends. I want you to write as soon as you get this and write all the news. Elbert and Francis I suppose you are agoing to the faire next week. Wel I hope you will have a good time and good luck. I want you all to write to me and I will answer and let you know when we will start for home. give my love and respect to all the friends.

By By my love to you all this in answer to all of your leters that I received last tuesday night.

This from your ever affectionate PA

S. T. Albee

## -FREE English & Welsh

### Family History Mini-Course

Nick Thorne, from The Family History Researcher Academy has just added a FREE video mini-course for those searching for English or Welsh ancestors to his site at [FamilyHistoryResearcher.com](http://FamilyHistoryResearcher.com)

The short video tutorials deal with some of the mistakes that researchers sometimes make when they are looking for their English or Welsh ancestors in census and birth records.

The mini-course also sets out some of the places that you could research for your elusive ancestors and also sets out how to best begin the search of these British records. While the videos encourage viewers to go on to the more detailed written course, the mini-course stands alone in offering some very useful information.

These FREE videos are available now at: <http://tinyurl.com/y7kvfke4>

---

(Continued from page 7) (Dick Eastman)

(“With extensive genealogical records, genotype data and divergent ancestry, genome reconstruction of an ancestor who died almost 200 years ago is relatively straightforward,” conclude the researchers.

You can read more in an article by David Nield in the ScienceAlert web site at: <http://bit.ly/2EP1XrS>. DNA experts may also want to read the rather technical article that explains how Hans Jonatan’s genome was determined in an article (that requires payment) in Nature at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41588-017-0031-6>.

## 4 Reasons to Join a

### Genealogical Society

Given the immense quantity of material available through Ancestry and elsewhere online, you may not have considered the many benefits of joining a genealogical society. Societies range in size from a few dozen to thousands of members, and typically have a focus. That focus could be based in geography, surname, nationality, or ethnic group. Automatically, membership will link you to others who have a similar research focus. Here’s several reasons why you should consider society membership as an important part of your genealogical toolkit.

#### 1) Networking

Having the opportunity to work with others who are also doing the same kind of research aids all involved. Newer members can find people willing to answer questions about records or particular research problems. Some members may be willing to do research for a fee, or provide translation services if you are researching immigrant ancestors. Knowing someone is researching the same surname or geographical area as you are can help narrow down the pool of DNA matches, if both parties have tested. And it is always helpful to have another genealogist to help brainstorm ideas about next steps to take. Many groups make use of social media to post and share information, including family pictures, Bible records, scans of documents, and more. The networking aspect of genealogical societies can be especially helpful if you do not live in the location where you need to do your research.

#### 2) Conferences, Workshops, Meetings

Most societies have regular meetings. It might be a large once-a-year multi-day conference, like the National Genealogical Society’s Conference in the States or it could be a monthly gathering of a county genealogical society. Topics might include instruction in navigating specific kinds of records, local historical events (like a history of epidemics), or members’ presentations about their ancestors and research. Some societies may host outside speakers, including professional genealogists, representatives from research institutions, or a history professor from a nearby college. Other societies may host webinars, chats, live-stream events, or other educational opportunities allowing members to still participate, even if they live far away.

#### 3) Journals & Publications

One of my favorite things about belonging to genealogical organizations are their publications. There are still many records that remain accessible only on-site at a research institution. Or, even if digital copies are available online, they may not be fully indexed. Local genealogical societies have been publishing and indexing these records for decades, and the explosion of digital resources has not made this effort obsolete. In addition, members write up their research findings, abstract small country newspapers, republish old cemetery records compiled in the early 20th century, when headstones may have been more legible, and much more.

State-wide genealogical societies likewise make accessible many resources, but have the added benefit of providing data from across the state, potentially helping to find those mobile ancestors who seemed to have just “disappeared” when they moved to another county. Similarly, these publications may also provide guidance to records in state archives, especially such important records as state censuses. They may highlight underutilized sources, or may make suggestions on ways to navigate research in “burned counties.”

In addition to journals, some genealogical societies also publish books. These might be abstracts or transcriptions of records, a history of the county, or compiled family histories submitted by members. Larger societies may also publish research aids and guides, such as the massive New York Family History Guide and Gazetteer produced by the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society.

#### 4) Resources

Some organizations have their own libraries, made available to members. One of the largest of these is the New England Genealogical and Historical Society's library in Boston. Free to members, non-members must pay a fee for access. But even smaller groups may have a library, sometimes available as a special room or collection within a public library, for example.

Many societies have special databases accessible to members only, or offer discounts to commercial genealogical services. Some sell digitized records or back issues of their journals. Members may receive a designated number of hours of research assistance be-

fore paying a fee, or be granted a discount on certain services, publications, research trips, tours, or other activities. Read the details about membership benefits for the individual society in question to learn more about their offerings.

#### How to Find a Society?

One place to begin is the Federation of Genealogical Societies' (FGS) website. There, you can see a list of over 200 member organizations, including the Harmon Family Genealogists, the Historical Foundation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the Germanic Genealogy Society, the Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois, and the Fresno County Genealogical Society, to provide just a sampling. It's important to remember, however, that not all societies are members of FGS, and therefore their list is not com-

---

### Michigan Genealogical Council Report

Faye A Ebach

Council (MGC) is currently working on two projects, one of which is historically an on-going project recently re-activated. The renewal project is the Pioneer Certificate Program along with an additional focus on a Military Certificate Program. These are both in the development stage with a committee of four MGC delegate members working on formulating recommendations related to the ‘how-to’s’ to verify applicants lineage and store said information on a database for genealogical research easily accessed by future researchers (with living data redacted).

The second project involves the promotion of DNA SIG (Special Interest Groups) which will provide an active venue for member societies to focus on using DNA in genealogy research. MGC could provide a member-only section on Council's website for storage of data to be shared. Several member societies have already established such interest groups within their societies. As the collection of DNA data has increased, many genealogists are seeking assistance in how to make the best use of this data in doing their genealogy research.

The annual Abrams Seminar

prehesive. Cyndi's List is always a great place to look; you can browse the Surnames, Family Associations, and Family Newsletters section, or the section of Societies and Groups. Of course, using a search engine for your subject of interest also works.

As the holidays and a new year approaches, this is a good time to consider joining or asking for membership in a society as a gift. You may be surprised how much you can gain from the experience.

Linda Barnickel is a professional archivist and freelance writer. She is the author of the award-winning book, *Milliken's Bend: A Civil War Battle in History and Memory* (LSU Press, 2013) and has written on numerous historical, genealogical, and archives-related subjects. Learn more about her work at [lindabarnickel.com](http://lindabarnickel.com).

---

is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, July 20-21 in Lansing at the Library of Michigan/Archives of Michigan. The keynote speaker's name has yet to be announced.

The National Genealogical Society (NGS) 2018 Family History Conference will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan May 2-5, 2018. This conference is hosted by the Western Michigan Genealogical Society. Keynote speaker is John Phillip Colletta, lecturer, author of many books, articles and a 15-lesson genealogy media course. Program and registration information is available on the NGS website – <http://www.conference.ngsgenealogy.org>. or on Council's website <http://www.mimgc.org>.

For those interested in attending a National genealogical conference, this is one to attend in our “own backyard” – a rare opportunity to interact with genealogists from all parts of the country as well as hearing speakers such as Randy Riley, Kris Rzepczynski, Pamela and Rick Sayre, Josh Taylor, Katherine Willson, Ric Mixter, Richard Hill, and Jan Alpert.

For those who have watched the PBS series “Who do you think you are?” and the “Genealogy Roadshow”, Josh Taylor has been active in both, currently hosting the Roadshow. A day trip to Grand Rapids on Thursday, May 3 to attend his presentation “Tracing Your New York Ancestors Online” would be a fantastic experience.



*Pioneer Record*

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



## MGS Officers

President	Roger Bohl	rogerwwb@aol.com	839-9016
Secretary			
Program Chair	Nancy Pnacek	napnacek@gmail.com	492-6247
Membership Chairs	Pam Kirchoff	kzeolite@chartermi.net	631-8586
	Alice Adams	alicema0316@yahoo.com	259-5221
Treasurer	Ora Flaningam	oraflan@aol.com	430-4165
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			
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.