

PIONEER RECORD

MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume I, No. 1

April, 1980

Looking Back

"There were many Indians and French half-breeds living here as early as 1830, although their location could hardly be called a permanent one..." The first white settler in Midland County was John A. Whitman who arrived in the spring of 1836. He brought his family here that fall and built his house in what is now Ingersoll Township. For several years Mr. Whitman's only neighbors were Indians living in bark shanties and tents made of skins.

Charles Fitzhugh and John Wyman were living in the area about 1837. Julia A. Wyman was the first white baby born in Midland County on July 6, 1837.

Midland County was organized March 29, 1850. "All the territory now included in Midland, Bay, Gratiot, Isabella, Clare, Gladwin and Roscommon Counties were then included in her boundaries."

"Many incidents connected with pioneer life..." are related in Midland County's Portrait & Biographical Album. Needless to say, "Midland County is justly proud of her pioneer record..."

Early History of Midland County
"Portrait & Biographical Album"

History In Brief

Like a small acorn sprouts, becomes a small twig, then grows into an oak tree with all its branches, the Midland Genealogical Society had its very beginning in an idea.

A few individuals interested in genealogy met on Thursday afternoon, June 17, 1971, in Studio 7 at the Midland Center for the Arts, and a new unit of the Midland County Historical Society was organized. Judith Wiley became acting president of the Genealogical Unit of the Midland County Historical Society.

The following year, February 17, 1972, Jan Erratt became the first elected president. Serving with her were the following officers: Dorothy Wilson, Secretary; Pat Worden, Treasurer; Dorothy Virgil, Program Chairman. Other members of the organization were: Kathryn Cummins, Bernice Freer, Bonnie Kennett, Ruth Klump, Kaye Lorton, Karen McKellar, Dorothy VanArsdale and Harry Walker.

From year to year other individuals interested in family history joined the group. It became apparent, finally, after about six and a half years, that if the Unit was to grow, larger quarters must be found. About this time, Mr. Edward Szynaka became Head Librarian of the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, and permission was granted by him to the group to meet regularly in the library lounge. The first meeting was Wednesday, February 15, 1978. Thus, like the acorn twig, the Unit had grown. After leaving the Midland County Historical Society, the group became known as the Midland Genealogical Society.

The Society is dedicated to the compilation, preservation, study and exchange of information of a genealogical and historical nature. Its members are in various stages of research, helping one another.

Helen Lee, Historian
March, 1980

Meeting Notes

At our March meeting, Warren Mault of Ware Smith Funeral Home told us about cemetery and death records in Midland County, as well as records generally available at funeral homes.

A nomination committee was appointed by President Ken Schweitzer. Wilma Diesen will serve as Chairperson and Audrey Pomranky and Helen Lee will assist.

Ralph and Jean Hillman will present the April program. Ralph will tell us about British Genealogical Records and Jean will provide us with information on English Brass Rubbings.

Early but unconfirmed word has leaked out that our annual potluck will be held June 18 at John and Betty Pankey's home on Sanford Lake. Spouses are invited, so plan ahead...mark your calendars!

Family Histories Available at Midland Genealogical Society

"ALBERTI, BASS, DANIELS, NEWHALL, RICE, SMITH & RELATED FAMILIES"

"THE AMERICAN DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS CORNFORD - 1762 - AND THE ALLIED FAMILIES OF THORSBY AND CONQUEST",

by Howard W. Cornford & Margaret A. Savage - 1977

Family Histories - Continued

- " SKETCH OF THE LOOMIS FAMILY HISTORY", by Herald Loomis, 1976
- "ROBERT BAKER GENEALOGY", by Mary Catherine Scammon Patterson
(Mrs. Fred S. Patterson)
- "BAUER FAMILY HISTORY - THE STORY OF THE JACOB BAUER FAMILY OF
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PA.", by Andrew and Marguerite Swagler Bauer
- "BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE LOVE FAMILY", by C. A. Rece, 1920
- "DONIHUE, BYE, AND RELATED FAMILIES", by Mrs. E. Phillips Janney
- "FAMILIES FROM NEW YORK STATE TO GRAND BLANC TWP., GENESEE CO.,
MICHIGAN"
- "THE FAMILY OF WARREN COOLEY, PIONEER OF OZAUKEE COUNTY, WISCON-
SIN", by Esther A. Savage, 1975
- "THE MITTE FAMILY HISTORY", by Dorothy Shovan Lewis, 1974
- "THE OLIVERS" (JAMES SPENCER OLIVER AND HIS WIFE SARAH ELIZABETH
BIRELEY), by Delia Klingler Redman, 1973
- "PALMER", by Phineas Andrew Palmer, 1971
- "PASSMORE AND RELATED FAMILIES: FREY, STRIETZEL, PRIEBE, STECK",
by Mrs. George Legeza
- "WOLFENSBERGER IN AMERICA", by Mrs. Samuel K. Francis

Genealogical Dictionary

Familiar words in old records do not necessarily mean the same as we know them today. Below are some of the more frequently used words and their meanings during Colonial times:

brother: besides one's own brother, can also be a brother-in-law, stepbrother, husband of a sister-in-law, or "brother in the church". Also can be used to indicate friendship.

cousin: can be used to mean cousin but more often used to indicate nephew or niece or any family relationship, usually by blood.

freeman: literally a "free man" who has full citizenship rights. He can vote and enter into business agreements.

gentleman: a man who descends from an aristocratic family and obtains his income through land rentals. If a son left home and took up a trade, he would lose his title of gentleman. If he continued to live from land rentals or became a lawyer or minister, he would retain his title.

.....to be continued

QUERIES

#118 - Marilyn BARTLETT Erratt searching LYNN, MARTIN, ADAMS, ERRATT and SURTESS early 1800's Clinton, Jefferson, St. Lawrence Counties, N.Y., all with Michigan connections after 1850.

#132 - Helen LEE seeking information on Lafayette (Lafe) NORTON, b. ca. 1822, Oakland Co., brother of Joseph NORTON, sons of Rev. John NORTON and w. Hannah. Lafe m. Maria ANDREWS, lived Owosso Twp., Shiawassee Co., Mich. 1890. Need date of death sometime between 1890 and 1912 when Maria died.

#156 - Patricia CARTER Worden desire parents Ernest BERK (BURK) b. 25 June, 1837 m. Anna Marthe FISHER b. 8 June, 1839 both Hesse, Kassel, Germany. Ernest d. 25 April 1837 buried Lenawee Co., Mich., Anna d. 11 Aug., 1922, buried Warren Twp. Cem., Coleman, Mich.

Please submit your queries to Mrs. Richard Erratt, 108 Hunters Ridge, Midland, Mi. 48640. Each subscriber is entitled to use this free service. Please type or print, proofread for clarity, and include your name and address. Queries limited to one per issue.

MEMBER GENEALOGIES

#118

Jedediah SHERWOOD b. Conn.

Jayannah

Obadiah SHERWOOD 1795 Vt.

Phidelia HARE

Obadiah SHERWOOD 1822 Vt.

Amy Calista GLEASON

Mildred Maud SHERWOOD 1869 Vt.

Benjamin BRINES

Lida Augusta Maud BRINES 1890 Mass.

Clifton Lewis BARTLETT

Marilyn Jean BARTLETT 1930 Mass.

Richard Lynn ERRATT

#156

Richard CARTER m. 1780/81 Pa., d. 1806 Va.

Catherine

William CARTER b. 1781 Pa., m. 1804 Va., d. 1842 Va.

Margaret UPDIKE b. 1781, d. 1866 Ohio

Townsend Richard CARTER b. 1823 Va., m. 1850 Ohio, d. 1889 Ohio

Louisa Elizabeth BASHORE b. 1832 Ohio, d. 1889 Ohio

Joseph L. F. CARTER b. 1869 Ohio, m. 1905 Ohio, d. 1966 Mich.

Pearl Maude GILMORE Martin b. 1880 Ohio, d. 1955 Mich.

Richard Townsend CARTER b. 1908 Ohio, m. 1928 Indiana

Florence Pauline BURKE (BERK) b. 1908 Mich.

Patricia Ann CARTER b. 1930 Mich., m. 1952 Mich.

William Glen WORDEN b. 1927 Iowa

QUERIES

#126 - E. M. Johnson, 805 Wyllys, Midland, Mi. 48640 seeking genealogical data on the Hubert ALGERNON - Louise (SAGER?) SMITH family. Four sons: Charles, Floyd, Clair, Hurlbert. Wheeler, Breckenridge, Grand Rapids (all Michigan) areas.

#165 - Pauline Engdahl, 3724 S. St. Joseph St., South Bend, Ind. 46614 searching for early information of John P. BALCH, Sr. and Jr. and Ebenezer Rogers DAVIS & Matilda Ann (HUFF) DAVIS families. BALCH'S came to Midland County about 1861. DAVIS' came from Ontario in 1879. John P. BALCH JR. born Ohio 1858. Married Theresa Marie DAVIS 7 Sept. 1881 in Gratiot Co. (Mich.). John died 1931, Theresa in 1934. Both Balch and Davis buried Salt River Cemetery, Shepherd, Mich. John & Theresa had four daughters, Mabel died young, Carrie, Maude and Macy.

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CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS, CLARIFICATIONS

#154 - Dorothy Wilson's address should read 3312 Kentwood, (Vol. 1, No. 1, pg. 5.)

#117 - Wilma Diesen's telephone number should be changed to 832-8485, (Vol. 1, No. 1, pg. 5.)

NEW MEMBERS

Member
No. _____

- 157 - VAN ARSDALE, Dorothy, 4504 Chatham Dr., Midland, 48640, 839-9493
- 158 - CASSIDAY, Sandra, 3833 Johns Lane, Midland, 48640, 835-8684
- 159 - PUGH, Jill, 3932 Johns Lane, Midland, 48640, 631-4307
- 160 - CHASE, Harold F., 210 Princeton Ct., Midland, 48640, 835-2027
- 161 - KENNETT, Bonnie, 4209 Arbor Dr., Midland, 48640, 835-9494
- 162 - GRISWOLD, Helen, 3361 Barden Dr., Coleman, Mi. 48618, 465-6914
- 163 - FREER, Bernice, 3715 Cambridge, Midland, 48640, 835-4515
- 164 - ENGDahl, Mrs. Ernest N., 3724 S. St. Joseph St., South Bend, Ind. 46614
- 165 - SAVAGE, Bert, 122 Varner Ct., Midland, 48640, 835-7523
- 166 - SAVAGE, Esther, 122 Varner Ct., Midland, 48640, 835-7523
- 167 - SMITH, Mike, 1000 Airfield, Midland, 48640, 835-1598

NOTICE:

If your 1980/81 dues have not been paid, then please bring them to the September meeting or mail to Mrs. Audrey Nuechterlein, Treasurer, 4604 Bristol Ct., Midland, Mi. 48640.

REMINDER:

In order to keep the newsletter coming, your dues should be paid by October 15, 1980. If you move or change your telephone number, please keep us informed.

IN 1753 NEW YEARS WAS CHANGED FROM MARCH 25 TO JANUARY 1.

MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

The Midland Genealogical Society meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library Lounge unless otherwise announced.

Dues are \$5.00/year or \$8.00/family. Members will receive the Midland Genealogical Society's newsletter, PIONEER RECORD, at no additional cost. Non-members may subscribe to the newsletter at a cost of \$3.50/year or \$1.00/copy. The newsletter will be printed quarterly, September, November, February and April.

Membership Application

Midland Genealogical Society
1201 Glendale
Midland, Mi. 48640

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Amount Paid: _____ \$5.00 _____ \$8.00

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