

# PIONEER RECORD

MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume I, No. 2

September 1980

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with great enthusiasm that I look forward to the 1980/81 season of the Midland Genealogical Society. The Grace A. Dow Memorial Library Lounge has, once again, been reserved for all of our meetings, which are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. Our Vice-Presidents, Cheryl Hoffman and Maxine McCullen, have laid the groundwork for a year of interesting and informative programs for beginners as well as "old pros".

On September 17th, bring a friend...one who has thought it might be fun to find out more about his family...and after our business meeting and we have related our summer successes, we shall devote time for a one to one learning session to get our friends started in the right direction. Audrey Pomranky will have samples of ancestor charts, family group sheets, etc., to help our friends get started in their quest for lost ancestors.

On October 15th, Pete Schewe of Bliss Abstract Co. and Mike Hayes, the present County Clerk of Midland, will have our undivided attention. Have your questions ready.

At our November program on the 19th, we will welcome back a familiar face. Mrs. Brian G. (Trudy) Witt will report on the "World Conference on Records" that she attended in August in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Sincere thanks to the many who have said "yes" to my plea for committee heads. With such involvement and cooperation, I am sure that the members of the society will progress individually and collectively toward their goals of compiling, sharing, and preserving genealogical and historical information.

Bouquets also to the members who found the time to transcribe cemetery records this summer. Upon receiving our membership application for the Midland Genealogical Council and hearing of our publishing aims, Mary Jane Trout, Research Librarian at the State Library said, "The library has so few transcribed or abstracted Midland records so this will be a fine addition."

After the Cemetery Project is completed, it appears we won't have any trouble finding another society project to benefit ourselves as well as other genealogists. Remember, those who care, share!!

See you and your friends September 17th at 7:00 P.M.

Sincerely,

*Ruth Ann Casadonte*

OFFICERS FOR 1980/81

President:	Ruth Ann Casadonte
Vice Presidents:	Maxine McCullen Cheryl Hoffman
Rec. Secretary:	Harriette Miller
Treasurer:	Audrey Nuechterlein
Historian:	Do Johnson
Cemetery Projects:	Marion Berry
Hospitality:	Wanda Nelson
Library Coordinator:	Helen Lee
Library Trips:	Jo & Ben Brines
Mich. Gen. Council:	Wilma Diesen Pat Worden
<u>Pioneer Record Ed.:</u>	Pat Worden
<u>Queries Editor:</u>	Jan Erratt
Publicity:	Dick Skochdopole

Other committees are still being formed.

You say you'd like to go to a library to do research but your trip never materializes because you have so many questions: how do I get there, when is it open, where do I park, can I get a carload to share expenses, etc.? Well, there's good news! A new committee has been formed. Come hear more at the September meeting!

CEMETERY PROJECT

The summer was spent reading Old Calvary Catholic Cemetery and the huge Midland City Cemetery. The Johnsons have completed their year-long project of the LaPorte Cemetery, which leaves us with three more cemeteries to read before the snow flies.

We have five two-member teams doing the bulk of the work, with extra people filling in here and there. By November, we hope to have completed the field work and be able to start the actual typing in addition to checking the City Cemetery reading against the records at City Hall.

It's been an interesting project, as any of the team members will agree. Commented one team, "We ought to forget the county book and write one on the experiences encountered in reading a cemetery...it'd be a best seller." Which is just what we hope this finished project will be!

*Marion*

IN THE LIBRARY

Biographical Sketch Of Henry D. Rogers, contributed by Arthur E. Allen, 85 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, Mass. 02130, August 1980.

(Henry D. Rogers b. Litchfield Co., Conn. 20 June, 1817; d. Midland Village, Midland Co., Mich. 7 March, 1875; m. Rebecca (Ellsworth) Holman, widow of Sumner Holman, ca. 1836 in Phelps, Ontario Co., N. Y. Rebecca d. Midland City, Mi. 17 April, 1902. They remained in Ontario, N. Y. until ca. 1849 at which time they moved to Saginaw, Mi.)

GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY (cont'd.)

goodwife: the goodman's wife. The title may be shortened to "goody", i.e., "Goody Jones".

goodman: a man who ranked below a gentleman but above a freeman on the social scale.

indentured servant: a person bound to work for someone for a certain number of years, usually from 4 to 7, in exchange for passage to the "new world". This person generally at the bottom of the social scale and had few rights.

in-law: as well as the modern meaning, the term was used to indicate any relationship through marriage. Therefore, a daughter-in-law might be a step-daughter, as well as the son's wife.

inmate: a person who was married but did not own land. They were probably renters and were taxed for their personal property. This was a term used in early Pa. but may have been used in other states as well.

Jr., Sr., III, etc.: terms do not necessarily mean a father/son relationship. They were used to help differentiate between contemporaries with the same name. If Jim Jones had a cousin or nephew with the same name, the family would tack "Sr." on the oldest and "Jr." on the younger. Many times they would not even be related! If several men in a small community all had the same name, the people simply labeled them Sr. Jr., III, IV, etc. If the older Jim Jones died or moved out of the community, each man moved up a notch.

mister: only "gentlemen" could use this title. This included clergymen and those who held high civil office.

nephew: used as today but could mean, in very old records, the daughter of one's brother or sister.

now wife (also present wife): a safeguard, found only in wills and does not mean there had been a previous wife. If a man's wife died and he took another wife, the second wife could not claim more than her husband intended.

sister: same variations as meaning in brother.

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

"1874

Midland Times

Midland City, Midland County, Mich.

"A live paper makes a live town."

"April 10, 1894

The Republican

"Sunday morning a young man named Haefka about 20 years old living about two miles out of town on Chippewa Road went to John Haywood's house nearby and while there a 10 year old son of Mr. Haywood took a 32 caliber, self-cocking revolver out of the bureau drawer and turning accidentally shot Haefka, who stood only 10 feet away, between the center of the collar bone in front of the right shoulder.

"Dr. Magill was called immediately but has not located the bullet which was probably stopped by the shoulder blade. The patient was taken immediately to his home and is doing well."

"November 5, 1909

Midland Sun

"Death of Midland Pioneer

"One of Midland's Oldest Residents Died January 18, 1916

"Mrs. Evelyn Townsend passed away Tuesday, January 18, about 11:00 o'clock, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Sidelinker, of Heart Trouble and Pneumonia.

"Deceased was born May 28, 1833, in New York and was 82 years, 7 months and 21 days of age. She was of kind and pleasing disposition, and was loved by all who knew her.

"Mrs. Townsend was probably one of the oldest residents of Midland City having lived here for 69 years. When a girl, 14 years old, she came to Midland and attended the little log school house across the river, which was attended by the Indians.

"The funeral was held this afternoon from the home of her daughter Mrs. Horace Holden, on Ashman Street, the services being conducted by Rev. W. W. Des Autels of the Baptist Church and internment made in the Midland Cemetery.

"She is survived by four daughters, Mrs. Hattie M. Pick of South Buchannon, West Virginia, Mrs. I. Sidelinker, Mrs. Albert Moll, and Mrs. Sophronia Holden all of this city, and two sisters, Mrs. Caroline Reed of Sanford, and Mrs. Angeline Cronkright of Northern Michigan. A brother, William Patterson of Caro, who was here, had been called home owing to illness in his family and will be unable to attend the funeral."

"November 5, 1909

Midland Sun

"Broken Arm In Accident

"Mrs. Wm. Berridge Thrown From Rig & Injured

"Thursday evening when Mrs. William Berridge and daughter Bessie were driving home from Midland they turned out to pass a load of hay near A. S. Cody's on Main Street and ran into a post and were thrown from the rig. Mrs. Berridge has, as a result, a broken arm, while the daughter is badly bruised."

Above news clippings  
contributed by Audrey Pomranky

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.

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.

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.

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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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Midland, Mi. 48640