

PIONEER RECORD

MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume I, No. 4

February 1981

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looking back - The Bay area became the lumbering capital of the world after "Michigania Fever" hit in 1848. Kim Dammers, Director of the Museum of the Great Lakes in Bay City, helped us to picture the lives of the shanty men in the fifty years that followed. Mr. Dammers knew his subject and related it well.

Looking ahead to February 18 - Eight of our members will share an ancestor with us, perhaps disclosing just how they learned of the lives and times of these men and/or women that helped shape their family history.

ATTENTION - Tuesday, March 17 - This is a date change from our regular third Wednesday of the month necessitated by the regular Wednesday night hours at the L.D.S. Branch Library. We are VERY fortunate to have one, of only four, such genealogy libraries in Michigan, right here in Midland! Bea Hodson, head librarian, will be our guide to the records available. A work period will follow her talk, so bring your charts, family group sheets, etc. Mark your calendar now and DO YOUR HOMEWORK in order to fully benefit from our special opportunity to learn about and work at this branch library. Join us on St. Patrick's Day at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, corner of Sugnet and Eastman in Midland.

Ruth Ann

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
I'VE BEEN TO STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

A lifelong interest in my ancestry was rekindled in 1977, and in June of that year, I found myself with a few hours to spare in Connecticut. In the New England states, vital records are most often found in town halls rather than in county courthouses. My mother's people were known to have come from Stamford, so I decided to look up the birth records of her maternal grandparents, Sarah Lockwood and William Hoyt.

The reception I got at the town hall was warm and friendly, though the clerks laughed when I mentioned the names. It seems that Lockwoods and Hoyts were among the founders of Stamford and there are hundreds of them in the records. My quest for birth records was not a success, but the ladies in the office referred me to the Ferguson Library, a few blocks away, where they assured me Tom Kemp would be of help. He was indeed.

At the library I found a large collection of family histories as well as the complete collection of Barbour records on microfilm. Barbour catalogued all the Connecticut vital records he could find from the earliest ones in the seventeenth century into the early nineteenth century. His work is on microfilm and available in many places including the Michigan State Library in Lansing. Mr. Kemp also suggested that since my ancestry was sprinkled with many names found in Stamford, that membership in the local genealogical society could be helpful.

When I left Stamford that evening, I was truly addicted to research in places from which my ancestors came. I have since been back there three times and, last year, did join the Stamford Genealogical Society. This has provided me with their newsletters and an introduction to their genealogist, a lady who has done extensive research in the Stamford area.

In summary, in Stamford, I have found a large historical collection and a file of family histories of genealogical society members in the local library; vital records in the town hall; a room full of old wills in the town hall; and a number of people willing to help me find information.

A great deal of pleasure can be derived from going to a new place looking for family. Try it, you'll like it!

Bari Birkhimer

(Bari has volunteered to interview anyone who has had an interesting traveling experience with emphasis on genealogy. Or if you are planning a trip, tell us about that too. Maybe a "before and after" tale. Bari will do the writing too, so let us know "where are you going? and where have you been?")

BASIC GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

February 28, 1981, Saturday, Saginaw Public Library, open to first 35 persons to pay their \$8. If you are just starting out and have yet to read a good how-to book, it may be well worth your while to attend this workshop sponsored by the Saginaw Genealogical Society. For more information, call Maxine McCullen at 832-8749.

STATE LIBRARY HOURS

Beginning January 5, 1981 and for the next three months, the Michigan State Library's facilities will be open to the public on a trial basis only from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, due to a drastic cut in their funds for 1981. Circulation of books, inter-library loans and much other activity requiring staff time will also be cut.

ADDRESS CHANGES

#123 - Cheryl Hoffman, 19746 Coachwood Dr., Riverview, Mi. 48192
#133 - Mary Grace Lenz, 5764 Ambassador Dr., Apt. 3, Saginaw, Mi.,
48603, 792-9109

Did you know...there were 102 passengers and 30 crewmen on the Mayflower when she came to the new world...50 adult men, 20 women and 32 children.

NEW MEMBERS

No.

- 173 - CHARTERS, Fran, 207 Norfolk, Midland, 48640, 835-4894
- 174 - MILLIMAN, Ione, 508 Capitol, Midland, 48640, 835-6205
- 175 - KEICHER, Beverly, 4107 Swede Rd., Midland, 48640, 631-9455
- 176 - ARCHBOLD, John C., P. O. Box 1050, Midland, 48640, 631-1904

QUERIES

#107 - Barbara C. Birkhimer, 3212 Swede Rd., Midland, Mi. 48640 looking for parents of WILLIAM MILLER of Bedford, Westchester Co., N.Y., born ca. 1808, died 6 Feb., 1867 in Mount Vernon, Westchester Co., N.Y., married 24 Oct., 1830 in Stamford, Ct. RHEUA WEBB. She died in Mount Vernon, N.Y. 9 March, 1908 at age 101.

#108 - Ben Brines, 4300 Castle Dr., Midland, Mi. 48640 wants to know who were ESTER S. GREGG, member Midland's Methodist-Episcopal Church 1876-1880 and HATTIE GREGGS, ae 30, school teacher, living with a MARCY family in Ingersoll Township in 1880?

VITAL RECORD FEES SOAR

According to the Midland Daily News, a law was recently signed by Lt. Gov. James Brickley, which boosts fees for services and records offered by the State Health Dept. Some examples of these fee increases for vital records are:

- "1) Boosting the fee for a search, including one copy, for a record from \$3 to \$10.
- "2) Delayed certificate of birth or death, from \$4 to \$20.
- "3) New certificate of birth following adoption, name change or similar change, from \$2 to \$20.
- "4) Correction of errors on birth certificates, from \$5 to \$20."

NEWSLETTER EXCHANGES

Our Society exchanges newsletters with the following genealogical societies:

- 1) Saginaw Genealogical Society
- 2) Genealogical Society of Monroe Co., Mi.
- 3) Western Wayne Co. Genealogical Society
- 4) "Branches & Twigs", Genealogical Society of Vermont
- 5) "Family Tree Talk", a publication of the Muskegon Co. (Mi.) Genealogical Society

Check downstairs in our genealogical section at the Grace A. Dow Library, for these publications.

FAMILY HISTORY RECYCLING

The Berkshire Athenaeum, 1 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield, Ma. 01201 is hoping to build a library with recycled information and you can help. They are requesting researchers to send them duplicates of research notes, family pedigree charts or allow them to copy the information so they can create an extensive file of nonpublished material by surname, which would be available to anyone.

More immigrants have come to the United States from Germany than any other single country.

ROSE RESEARCH

If you have any Rose, Roose lines in your family lineage, you might be interested in the Rose Genealogical Research Conference to be held June 5, 6, & 7, 1981 at Iowa State University, Ames, Ia. Speakers, workshops, family groups, researching, etc. all to be had for \$25/person or \$35/couple. For more information, write to Seymour T. and Christine Rose, 1474 Montelegre Dr., San Jose, Ca. 95120 or call Pat Worden, 631-7801 (Midland).

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Continued from Volume I, No. 3, Stories of Men Who Travelled Through Midland Before 1835:

"Mr. Larkin was the first lumberman and much of his first lumbering was done here in Midland City. He first went into the mill business with Captain Sumner, the mill being near the Shipp estate, afterward building a mill on the river bank, the place of our dumping grounds. In 1855, he built a hotel where the Reardon Block now is, and this was the first building worthy of name in Midland City. The houses of Turner, Ball, and the old Reinhart home, and Harvey Lyon, were the first houses and are still standing. They were all built the 'upright and wing' style.

"In 1877 Mr. Larkin went into the retail lumber business with William Patrick, and in 1878 they erected extensive salt works. Mr. and Mrs. Larkin were pioneers, pure and simple, and all who knew Mrs. Larkin will always remember her brave, sweet womanhood.

"Charles Atwell also came to Midland in 1852, living first with the Wyman family. He worked at lumbering for years and his son, Henry, is now one of our successful farmers.

"Captain George was another pioneer of the early 50's and lived on what is now the Golf Links.

"Thomas McCartney in 1855 came with his family and settled four miles from The Forks, now Midland City, in the dense woods. Mr. McCartney was in the lumbering business. They left a nice farm and school advantages for their children. Mrs. J.V. Lounsbery, daughter of Mr. McCartney, said it was the happiest time of their lives with the beautiful woods all about them. There were three families on this side of the river when Mr. McCartney came here. Those of Harvey Lyon, Captain George and Thomas Townsend. Miss Annis Lounsbery is a daughter of Mrs. J.V. Lounsbery.

"T. J. Carpenter bought four hundred acres of land in Midland County in 1855 and in 1859 bought the one hundred sixty acres now included in the site of Midland. He and another, Thompson, ran a sawmill on the bank of the river, opposite the Dow Chemical Company, in 1859. He afterwards built a home where the postoffice now stands.

"The first session of the Board of Supervisors was a special one, held at the Clerk's office, and consisted of two members...Henry C. Ashman, half-breed, Chairman, and Doctor Ed. P. Jennings, County Clerk. At this meeting John A. Whitman was appointed Treasurer at a salary of \$450 a year. At a meeting of the Board of Supervisors in 1856, \$6000 was appropriated to build a Court House, and the contract was given to Timothy Jerome. In 1857, at a meeting of the

Legislature, Henry C. Ashman, who had become a lawyer of considerable ability, gained the power of locating the Court House for the supervisors and prosecuting attorney of Midland County. As Mr. Ashman was the only supervisor and also the prosecuting attorney, this gave him full power to locate the grounds, and we have him to thank for the beautiful location of our Court House.

"Joseph Barton's parents moved to Midland County in 1854, and when he was twenty-two years of age, he went into the lumbering business. His wife is the daughter of John Whitman, the second white child to be born in the County, and has lived here all her life.

"In 1856 Samuel Gaskill came to Midland County, settling in Ingersoll Township, where he spent the rest of his life.

"Asa Bacon, Sr., was another pioneer to come in 1856. He lived in the Methodist Church block. Mr. Bacon held the offices of supervisor, justice of the peace, and register of deeds. The latter for sixteen years.

"At this time Lorenze Taylor occupied a log house where the Barstow residence now is.

"In 1856 William Mixer came and settled on a farm, a mile and one half from Midland City, now the Shipps estate. In 1856, he came to Midland and built the house still standing on Larkin Street.

"Sam Sias came to Midland County in 1856, engaging in the lumbering business. He came here for several winters and finally moved his family here from Maine. He bought the hotel of John Larkin, which he kept for two years, then he sold out and bought fifty acres of land near the City of Midland, where he spent his summers farming and the winters lumbering. He also owned a fine large farm on the Chippewa River. Mr. Sias, was one of our most successful lumbermen. He was in that business as long as he lived. He was the father of Mrs. Towsley, Mrs. Hardy, and Mrs. Hart.

"In 1856, the school at the Bluffs was built. Mr. Blodgett, father of Mrs. Ed. Lyon, was the first director, and Mr. Major and Mr. Ellsworth, the other officers. Lucy Merch was teacher with a salary of \$1 a week and the privilege of boarding around. The next school organized was at Lee's Corners; now Laporte, in 1857, and the same year the one in Midland on the old Unitarian grounds. Miss Flanders was the first teacher of our school.

"Jeremiah Holmes settled in Jerome Township in 1859. He kept a sort of Hotel for lumbermen as long as he lived. He was the grandfather of Mrs. Ed. Lane.

- to be concluded -

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"In our family," the little girl told her teacher, "everybody marries relatives. My father married my mother, my uncle married my aunt, and just the other day, I found out that my grandfather married my grandmother."

I'm glad I had ancestors
Life wouldn't be the same
If, when I got in trouble
I had no one to blame.

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

Midland Genealogical Society
1201 Glendale
Midland, Mi. 48640



Marilyn Watkins
3716 Blarney Drive
Midland, Michigan 48640