

PIONEER RECORD



WHO WAS CHRISTEN PETERSON? or the Curious Story of a Casket Marker by Ralph E. Hillman, C.G.R.S.

Recently a metal casket marker was discovered in a home on Jerome Street in Midland. The new owners of the home were cleaning and redecorating when the marker was discovered in a closet. On the marker was the name Christen Peterson with birth and death dates of October 11, 1869 and September 20, 1907. Who was Christen Peterson and why was the marker left in the home were questions that naturally occurred to the new home owners. The owners contacted the writer who researched the questions and developed this story of Christen Peterson and his family.

Christen's death date was easily verified by referring to the *Obituary Index, 1872-1927, For Midland County, Michigan*, edited by Ora and Donalee Flaningam and published by the Midland Genealogical Society in 1994. Four references in Midland newspapers were cited for Christen Peterson in the index. The earliest references were to editions of both *The Midland Sun* and *The Midland Republican* of Friday, September 20, 1907. Front page stories in both newspapers reported a "Stabbing Affray" which took place in Sanford in front of the Murphy Hotel on the previous Sunday afternoon. According to the reports several men were lounging in front of the hotel including the tall slim Neuman Valentine and the larger and powerful Christen Peterson. Valentine was whittling a stick with a long-bladed clasp knife that he had shown to be razor-sharp by shaving the hair on the back of his hand. Remarks between the two men, who had a history of bad feelings, soon increased in intensity. Peterson jumped from his seat to strike Valentine. Things happened so quickly that witnesses had little

remembrance of the sequence of events. Peterson shortly fell to the ground with blood spurting from his left arm and side. Onlookers quickly came to his aid, but it was sometime after the affair before he received capable medical help. The seven-inch gash on his left arm nearly severed the biceps which hung down over his elbow. The three-inch stab wound on his left side punctured his lung and he was coughing up blood. Peterson lay in critical condition for four days until he died Thursday night. He was buried Sunday, September 22, in Old Jerome Cemetery, Sanford.

In the excitement of the affair no one noticed that Valentine had left the area. The wounded man had claimed all the attention. The sheriff and his deputies searched for Valentine, but it was not until Friday the 20th when he came out of the woods and gave himself up to the authorities. Valentine was brought to trial in Midland County Circuit Court, Monday, November 17, on a charge of manslaughter, according to the report of *The Midland Republican* of Friday, November 21. Six witnesses were called by the prosecution, but the testimony showed that Valentine had made no direct strike at Peterson. Valentine testified in his own defense that he had no intention to stab Peterson and that the cutting was accidental. After conferring for less than two hours, the jury of twelve men brought in a verdict of not guilty.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again a New Year is upon us and we're heading fast toward the 21st century. Do you feel the same as I do, in that the days fly by much faster than I'd like them to?

One of my goals for 1995 that really never materialized is up near the top again for 1996: Spending one day a week on Genealogy (and Society business) to get all the letters written, the files organized, and getting my 5-generation ancestor charts to Diana Butcher. She is still anxiously waiting to fill up notebook #7 with your charts and mine. You would agree they are valuable if another researcher located you because of your charts being placed in a library somewhere. Why not make a goal for yourself for 1996 to submit ancestor charts! (Almost every library/genealogical society collects them from members.)

The treasurer's report for the two months - November-December shows that expenses just about matched income. Total assets, therefore, changed little, being \$7,426.35. Total membership is about 120, which is about the same number as the last few years. I think the Society does very well in having about 40% of the membership attending our program meetings. That indicates that the program co-chairmen are selecting subjects of interest to many people.

We would like to acknowledge publicly that since September, our Society has been the recipient of \$850 in monetary donations designated for purchase of books to be added to the genealogical collection or for equipment. The book committee usually selects titles that relate to the locality being researched by the donor. I for one am VERY APPRECIATIVE of the generosity of these donors who think so highly of genealogy and wish to keep improving our library.

By the time you receive this issue of the Pioneer Record, it is anticipated that a small committee of three members will have met with the new library director, Mr. James Alsip. Our intention was to introduce the society to him, inform him of our extensive book collection in the Midland Room, and pursue ideas that will continue our mutual co-operation between the Library and the MGS. Perhaps he will be a guest at one of our meetings!

Just one last mention of the beginning genealogy workshops which we are sponsoring. The Feb. 3 session will have passed, but there are still two yet to take place. February 17 subjects to be discussed are census and probate records. On March 2, Land and Military Records and Vital Records (both church and civil). The time is 10:00

noon, at the library lounge. The format will include an hour long video tape on the particular subjects and an hour of open discussion, questions/answers or individual personal help.

I am looking for the person who loaned/donated a 30 cup coffee pot to the Society. It possibly was first used when we met at Carpenter School (from January 1993 to May, 1994). There are coffee pots at the library to use and we would like to return this one to its owner. Call me at 832-8312.

Think Spring! Only 8 weeks until March 20! The April Pioneer Record will be mentioning several interesting and exciting events that will be taking place soon after, so keep reading the quarterly and attending the meetings to stay informed.

Jo Brines

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

MARCH 11 - "Basic Plus Genealogy Workshop" sponsored by the Saginaw Genealogical Society at the Hoyt Library, \$10.

MARCH 23 - Spring Family History Book Expo. Classes 9 to 4:40. Vendors 10 to 5. Dutton Christian Middle School, 6729 Hanna Lake S.E., Dutton, MI (Grand Rapids). \$1.50 admission, classes \$4.50 ea..

MARCH 30 - "Seminar at Sea," sailing the Carribbean aboard Holland America's MS Westerdam, sponsored by American Genealogical Lending Library.

MARCH 30 - Indiana Chapter of Palatines has a joint meeting with Indiana German Heritage Society, 401 E. Michigan, Indianapolis, IN. Program Theme: German Migration, East and West, Dinner and annual meeting evening before at German-American Club, 8600S. Meridian St.

MARCH 31 - Genealogy and History Book Fair, Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan, Lansing, MI \$1.50 Rooms 101-104. "23rd Michigan Antiquarian Book and Paper Show," \$4.00.

APRIL 13-14 - Geanealogical Jamboree hosted by the Southern California Genealogical Soc., Inc., held at the Pasadena Center, 300 E. Green St. Pasadena, CA.

MAY 8-11 - 1996 National Genealogical Conference in the States. "Traveling Historic Trails: Families on the Move." (Celebrating Tennessee's Bicentennial 1797-1996). Sponsored by the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Soc., held at Nashville. For Information: NGS 4527 17th St., N. Arlington, VA 22207-2399.

MAY 17-19 - "Trails West" - A Genealogical Holiday Adventure. Held at Lakehead Univ. Thunder Bay, Ontario.

JULY 25-27 - "Four Corners Ancestor Fair" (encompassing parts of the states of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma), held at Holiday Inn, Springdale, AR.

AUGUST 14-15 - "In your Ancestor's Image," The annual national conference of Genealogical Societies at Rochester, NY. Hosted by Rochester Genealogical Soc. Info.: FGS Business Office, P.O. Box 3385, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-3385

SEPTEMBER 19-21 - Michigan Genealogical Council 1996 Seminar will be hosted by the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Soc. and will feature Dr. George K. Schweitzer. It will be held at the Holiday Inn South/Convention Center, Lansing, MI. Information: Send SASE to William Atkinson, 11172 Pioneer Road, Portland, MI 48875.

PLEASE SEE BULLETIN BOARD IN Midland Room for flyers and addresses for more information.

The opportunities of meeting new people, hearing nationally known speakers, and viewing the books and resources available at these conferences are endless. Expand your genealogical horizons and treat yourself to one of these educational experiences!

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CONDOLENCES

The MGS wishes to extend sympathy to Jerry Cell in the death of his wife, Alice, on December 24, 1995. Our Membership records show that Jerry and Alice joined MGS in the early spring, 1983. A book will be donated to the library by the Society in Alice's memory.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT CHRISTEN PETERSON

Christen Peterson was further identified by checking the Midland County marriage and census records. On 6 May 1894 at Hope he married Alice Maxwell (Mar Rec 2:45). "Christian" age 24 of Sanford was identified in the record as the son of Soren P. and Annie (Thorup) Peterson of Sanford. Alice, age 20 of Hope, was the daughter of William E. Maxwell. Her mother was not identified in the marriage record, but the 1880 census of Hope Township (p. 85) and Alice's later marriage proves that her mother was Selena (Dorr) Maxwell. According to the 1880 census of Jerome Township (p. 117) Christen was born in Illinois, and his father and mother were born in Denmark. Christen's occupation at the time of the 1894 Michigan State Census of Jerome Township (#107/113) was "teamster in the woods." At the time of his death *The Midland Republican* reported that he was the Standard Oil agent at Sanford. Christen and Alice resided in Sanford at the northeast corner of Lincoln and Center Streets (Deeds 53:506, Wills 2:135).

To answer the question of why the marker was left in the Jerome Street home, a study of Christen's family was necessary. According to his obituary Soren Peterson was born near Aalborg in northern Denmark, 16 June 1843, and came to the U.S. in 1864 (*Midland Republican*, 27 Aug 1914, p.1). Anna was born at Aalborg, 13 February 1844, and came with her parents to settle in Chicago at about the same time (*Midland Republican*, 19 Nov 1925, p.7). They married in Chicago, 20 October 1868, and resided there until 1879 when the family moved to Jerome Township. Soren "of Cook County, Illinois" purchased the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and Lot 3 (the fractional SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section 2 of the township 15 November 1878. The purchase totaled 71.41 acres (Deeds 25:317). He perhaps spent the winter clearing land and building a house for the family. He purchased another 40 acres of land in the same section (SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$) in 1900 (Deeds 55:395) and farmed at least part of the property until about 1910 or 1911. Soren was naturalized a U.S. citizen 9 January 1892 (*Naturalization Records, 1855-1907*, Midland County Genealogical Society, 1983). Soren and Anna sold the farm land 26 January 1912 (Deeds 85:271) by which time they had moved to Sanford Village. They probably lived in a house at the southeast corner of South Railroad and Center Streets which Soren purchased 7 December 1903 (Deeds

68:380). Soren died 20 August 1914. Anna moved to Detroit to live with one of her daughters. She died there 14 November 1925. Both were buried in Sanford at the Old Jerome Cemetery (*Midland County Cemetery Records*, Midland Genealogical Society, 1983).

Soren and Anna had eight children, one of whom probably died very young, for only seven can be identified from Midland County census and birth records. The children of Soren P. and Anna (Thorup) Peterson:

- + i. CHRISTEN, b. 11 Oct 1869, Cook Co., IL, m. ALICE MAXWELL (see below for additional information).
- ii. MARIE, b. 17 Oct 1871, Cook Co., IL, d. 27 Mar 1922, Detroit, MI, unsm., buried Old Jerome Cemetery, Sanford (*Midland Republican*, 30 Mar 1922, p.1).
- iii. HOLGER (Hulgar), b. 2 Feb 1875, Cook Co., IL, d. 12 Mar 1933, Midland Twp. (*Midland Republican* 16 Mar 1933, p.4), m. 23 Dec 1913, Midland, ESTER DONALDSON (Mar Rec. 2:200). Holger moved his family to Midland in 1919 and resided for a time on Ashman between Indian and Grove Streets (Deeds 107:268). At the time of his death he was Superintendent of the County Park on the Mt. Pleasant Road and lived next to the park. This was the early location of the Midland County Fairgrounds and is today part of the Currie West Golf Course. Holger and Ester had one daughter, Avis.
- iv. BESSIE (Bena), b. ca. 1877, Cook Co. IL, m. 1) JOHN McNICHOL, 2) (-) PATSELL; they resided in Detroit, MI (*Midland Republican*, 19 Nov 1925, p.7; 16 Mar 1933, p.4).
- ?v. child, b. ca. 1879, d. in infancy?
- vi. MARTIN M., b. 10 Feb 1881, Jerome Twp. (Birth Rec 1:84), m. MARIE C. (-) before 13 May 1927 when they sold land in Jerome Twp. that his brother Thomas had sold him in 1912; at that time he was "of Chicago" (Deeds 107:604); he was of Edgerton, OH when Holger died.
- vii. THOMAS C., b. 11 Jul 1885, Jerome Twp. (Birth Rec 1:117), sold to his brother Martin, 14 Jan 1912, land in Jerome Twp. by the Old Jerome Cemetery (Deeds 85:295); at that time he was a bachelor. He was living in Chicago at the time of his father's death in 1914, his mother's death in 1925, and Holger's death in 1933.
- viii. KATHERINE, b. 27 Dec 1888, Jerome Twp. (Birth Rec 1:152), m. at Midland 17 Dec 1913 RALPH BOMAN (Mar Rec 2:199); they resided in Detroit.

THE FAMILY OF CHRISTEN PETERSON

CHRISTEN was born 11 October 1869 in Cook Co., IL, and died 20 September 1907 at Sanford, MI (Death Rec 1:190); he married at Hope Township, 5 May 1894, ALICE MAXWELL (Mar Rec 2:45). She was the daughter of William E. and Selena (Dorr) Maxwell. Alice's parents were both born in Ontario and came to Hope about 1872 (*Midland Republican*, 18 Nov 1920). They resided on a farm in the SE¼ of the SE¼ of Section 14 in Hope Township (1897 Walling Map, Midland Co. Hist. Soc.). After Christen's death Alice married 2) JOSEPH ZELLNER at Midland, 8 December 1909 (Mar Rec 2:165). The marriage perhaps did not last long, for Alice was listed as head of family in the Jerome Twp. 1910 census and Joseph was not listed (p. 104B). She married 3) as Alice Peterson, 23 February 1916 at Midland, STEPHEN HUNT (Mar Rec 2:221). Both she and Stephen were residents of Sanford. They apparently continued to reside there in the home previously occupied by Christen and Alice. In the settlement of Alice's estate her three children inherited the property. An agreement was signed by them and Stephen in which Stephen would continue to reside in the house for the remainder of his life (Deeds, Misc I:494; Probate 3:362). Alice died 13 October 1923, aged 49, at her home in Sanford (*Midland Sun*, 18 Oct 1923, p.1). She was buried in the Old Jerome Cemetery where Stephen her husband was the sexton (*Midland County, Michigan Cemetery Records*, Midland Genealogical Society, 1981). Stephen died 4 January 1932 (*ibid.*). Alice had no children of record from her second and third marriages. She and Christen had three children all born in Sanford:

- + i. NELSON (Nels), b. 6 Mar 1897, m. BESSIE M. HASKELL.
- ii. IVAH, b. 16 Jan. 1899 (Birth Rec 1:286), m. CALVIN SEITZ (*Midland Sun*, 18 Oct 1923, p.1; *Midland Daily News*, 2 Dec 1971, p.1). They resided in Detroit and Wyandotte, MI.
- iii. ANNA, b. 5 July 1900 (Birth Rec 2:5), m. 1) JOHN WEBER, 2) CARL VARNER (*Midland Sun*, 18 Oct 1923, p.1, *Midland Daily News*, 2 Dec 1971, p.1). They resided in Detroit and Florida.

NELSON PETERSON (called Nels) was born at Sanford 10 March 1897 (Birth Rec. 1:259) and died in Midland 1 December 1971 (Death Rec 423:266). He married at Midland, 20 August 1917, BESSIE MAY HASKELL (Mar Rec 2:236). Bessie was the daughter of John L. and Alma (Hill) Haskell of Sanford (*Midland Republican*, 22 Dec 1927, p.1; 1910 Census, Jerome Twp, p. 104B, #108/108). The Haskells came to Sanford in

1904 from Livingston County. Nels and Bessie were both residents of Sanford at the time of their marriage. Although no deed has been discovered which shows that they moved to Midland immediately after marriage, this may have been the case. Nels's obituary states that he was a 41-year employee of Dow Chemical Company (*Midland Daily News*, 2 Dec 1971, p.1). Since he retired in 1958 he would have started in 1917. The marriage record gives his occupation as laborer. By 1920 they were living in Midland at 309 Fitzhugh Street (ED 334, p.135A, #140/150). His occupation then was "foreman-chemical works." On 21 February 1922 Nels and Bessie purchased the Fitzhugh property, perhaps having rented it before that time; they sold this property 9 September 1927 (Deeds 102:251; 107:618). It was perhaps then that they moved to 512 Jerome Street which they purchased from Laura Dice 7 October 1930 (Deeds 113:356). This is the house in which the casket marker was found. It was undoubtedly brought to the home by Nels Peterson, eldest son and child of Christen Peterson.

The earlier records of the 512 Jerome Street property were examined to verify that Nels Peterson was the carrier of the marker. There were apparently no houses in the block bounded by Indian, Fitzhugh, Grove (extended) and Jerome Streets in 1905 when Josephine Reardon sold the entire block to Frank Purlow (Deeds 74:5). Purlow sold parts of the block in December 1905, September 1906 and July 1909 at prices which again suggest that there were no houses on the properties (Deeds 74:136, 74:434, 76:504). The 1909 sale for \$40 was to David and Ella Gilman for the portion (SW½ Lots 3 and 4, Block K, Carpenter & Hines Addition) which eventually became 512 Jerome Street. The Gilmans sold this portion to Laura E. Dice, 13 October 1914, for \$800 showing that a house was on the property at that time. No relation between Laura Dice and the Gilmans to the Petersons has been discovered. Thus it can be concluded that when the Petersons moved between 1927 and 1930 they brought the marker or acquired it during their tenancy.

Midland City Directories (1939, 1949, 1952, 1953) indicate that the Petersons remained in the house until about 1953 although there may have been a hiatus around 1937 when they are listed with a box number on Rural Route #4. They had given mortgages for the Jerome Street property in 1930 and 1934 (Mort. 75:170, 77:113). While still owning the property at 512 Jerome, they moved to 807 Jerome by 1954 (1955 Midland City Directory). They purchased the newer Jerome Street property 10 December 1958 (Deeds 236:482). They apparently rented

the older Jerome Street property, as the city directories show five different families occupying the house from 1955 through 1965. In 1967 they negotiated a land contract with Charles Blanchard who purchased the property from Bessie after Nels's death in 1971 (Deeds 423:379). There were five additional owners between that time and the present owners. None of the residents of the property between the time the Petersons moved and the present owners can be identified with the Peterson family. This confirms the conclusion that the Petersons left the marker at the 512 Jerome Street house.

[AUTHOR'S NOTE: all the above information was obtained from records at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library and the Midland County Services Building. Additional information about the family could be obtained from records elsewhere, but this article illustrates the richness of Midland County's records.]

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**MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
PROGRAMS FOR 1995-1996**

Programs will be held as usual, at 7:30 P.M. on the third Wednesday of the month in the lounge of the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library. Be sure to mark your calendars. The topics are as follows:

February 21, 1996. "Genealogical Materials in the Michigan State Archives," by David Johnson, Michigan State Archives Staff.

March 20, 1996. "Genealogy On-Line," by Bill Worden

April 17, 1996. LDS Family History Library Facilities. More details in April newsletter.

May 15, 1996. "There Is No Such Thing As A Dumb Question." by a Panel of Midland Genealogical Society Experts. Please think of questions for the meeting.

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POSEYVILLE SCHOOL - 1891

Mrs. Anger has a photograph of the children attending Poseyville School in 1891. It includes beginners through eighth grade, with their teacher, May Greenleaf. Some of the family names are ANGER, ARGYLE, ENGLISH, HEPINSTALL, JOHNSTON, KEANER and REEVES. It is hoped that there are interested parties who would be able to identify others in the picture. Any one with possible information, please call Mrs. Clemon Anger, 839-9545.

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PRE-PUBLICATION NOTE

FEBRUARY, 1996 - Midland Genealogical Society announces the coming publication of "MIDLAND PIONEERS". The book is now in final format and ready for delivery to the printer. Content of the book consists of all the major and most minor articles from 14 years publication of the MGS newsletter, "PIONEER RECORD." The articles are a mix of history, genealogy, and humor.

Format of the book will be 6 by 9 inches and perfect bound (softbound) 221 pages of text and a 38 page very complete index.

The book price will be \$20 + \$1.50 postage and handling. As an incentive to purchase, a pre-publication price of \$18 + P&H will be offered those who commit to purchase. The book will be delivered to the printer by June, 1996 and is expected to be available by September. At this time we do not anticipate ordering a large excess of additional copies.

Anyone wishing more information can send a SASE for a copy of the Table of Contents to the Editor, Ora Flaningam, 3227 E. Stewart Rd., Midland, MI 48640.

The book can be ordered by sending a purchase order to:

MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Book
 G.A. DOW MEMORIAL LIBRARY
 1710 W. ST. ANDREWS DR.
 MIDLAND, MI 48640

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MIDLAND COUNTY DEEDS

The Midland Genealogical Society has been given a box of several hundred ORIGINAL legal papers, mostly deeds, but also a few wills or mortgages. The deeds are to land transactions in the county or by county residents. The time period covered is from 1857 to the 1930's. A number are completely hand written and some are original land grants. Many of the papers are of more than passing interest. Here and in future newsletters we will summarize some of them. The following are from the 1870's.

1) Quit Claim Deed from Wilbur P. Shepherd and his wife, Agnes A. Shepherd of Ingersoll Twp. to Solomon Parker for \$300, for land in the Twp. of "Ingorsel", a strip of land 20 rods wide on the east side of the NW 1/4 of sec. 12 Twp 13N R2E containing 20 acres. Dated 13 Oct. 1876.

2) Quit Claim Deed from Thomas Swallow & his wife Alice D. Swallow of Midland, to Solomon Parker of "Ingersow" Twp. for \$100 for the fractional sec. 12 T13N R2E. Dated 9 September, 1876.

3) Discharge of Mortgage from C.W. Wells, F.C. Stone and A.W. Wright of Wells, Stone & Co. of Saginaw to George C. & Minnie E. Presley & recorded in Liber D of Mortgages P. 378, 2 Feb., 1877. Recorded 30 April, 1879.

4) Assignment of Mortgage from Rodrick W. Russell of Detroit to Henry C. Russell of Midland for \$58 and interest, for a mortgage executed by Mary Sharpe of Midland to Rodrick W. Russell, 16 July, 1877, Liber E, Page 398. Recorded 28 July 1879.

5) Assignment of Mortgage from Sylvester Leonard of Midland to Rodrick W. Russell of Midland for \$57 assignment of mortgage made by Elizabeth Gould of Midland for Lots 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Block 129 of the Village of Midland Recorded in Liber E, p 318 Dated 6 September, 1877.

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SHELFSIDE - NEW BOOKS AT G.A. DOW LIBRARY

929.3773 Holy Cross Cemetery - Sexton Records - Alpena, MI 1887-1992.

929.2 The Rankin Family by G.T. Ridlon

974.8 History of Zion's (Windsor Castle) United Church of Christ of Perry Twp., Berks Co., PA

929.37481 Baptismal Records of Jerusalem Lutheran & Reformed Church of Berks Co., PA By J.L. Kisler

929.2 Descendants of John & William Fife

974.82 History of Northampton, Lehigh, Monroe, Carbon, & Schuylkill Counties, by O. Rupp

975.59 History of the Lower Shenandoah Valley Edited by J.E. Norris.

929.3748 Pennsylvania German Pioneers, by R.B. Strassburger.

929.3748 Pennsylvania Line - A Research Guide to Pennsylvania Genealogy & Local History. 4th Edition.

929.3 U.S. Military Records, by J.C. Neagles

616.042 How Healthy is your Family Tree. by C. Krause

929.33 Mayflower Marriages by Z.E. Roser

929.1 Tracing your Czech and Slovak Roots, by Maralyn Wellauer

910.3 A Genealogical Gazeteer of Scotland, by Frank Smith

929.3748 Genealogies of Pennsylvania Families, 3 Vol.

929.375287 Nova Scotia Immigrants to 1867, by L.H. and N.H. Smith

929.3748 Pennsylvania German Marriages, by D.R. Irish

929.3748 Pennsylvania German Chirch Records

929.3748 Passenger Arrivals - Port of Philadelphia - 1800-1819

929.3 Westerwald to America

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ANOTHER WAR VETERAN DIES

Midland Republican, Sept. 12, 1929 - Burial services for David L. West, Civil War veteran and resident of this county for the past 45 years, were held yesterday afternoon at two o'clock from the home of his son Corydon West on East Ellsworth street.

Mr. West, who was more than 88 years of age, had suffered from an infection in his leg and was removed to a Detroit hospital about three weeks ago, where amputation was found necessary. Although the operation itself appeared successful, and he had returned to his home near Edenville more than a week ago, his death resulted from shock, physicians believe, at 3:00 a.m. Tuesday.

The Midland county Pioneer was born in Utica, New York, October 29, 1840. His service in the Civil War included the battles of Bull Run and Gettysburg. He was exceedingly active up to the time of his recent illness, having within the past year purchased a sheep farm about two miles south of Edenville.

He is survived by his sons, Corydon, Zeno and Milo of this city and a daughter, Mrs. Minnie Turnbull also of Midland. Services were conducted yesterday by Reverends Alcock and Pruitt and burial took place in the Midland cemetery,

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"BILL" GILMAN, 91, GOES TO G.A.R. RALLY

MIDLAND DAILY NEWS - September 17, 1931 - With his medals and insignia on his lapels and his picture gracing a prominent place in a Flint daily paper, William Gilman, 91, left the former city Friday for Des Moines, Iowa, to attend the annual national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Mr. Gilman was accompanied by Wray Mitchell, commander of Gov. Crapo Post, No. 145 G.A.R. The two were boys together in Grand Blanc, Michigan.

"As happy as two boys starting out in their greatest adventure," says the Flint Daily Journal, "the two Civil War veterans entrained at the Grand Central station. The veterans took no chances of missing the ten o'clock train, and arrived at the station about nine a.m. At Durand they were to be joined by Theodore Burden, 85, of Holly, who has made the trip with them to several past encampments.

"Anxious, excited and happy, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Gilman joked each other at the prospect of good times they would have. 'Breaking loose again' was their version of the trip."

The three expected to spend Friday night in Chicago and leave the following morning for Des Moines. Mr. Gillman is expected back in Midland Saturday.

"BILL" GILLMAN TAKES IN G.A.R. REUNION IN PORTLAND LAST WEEK

Midland Republican - September 19, 1929 - William Gillman of this city, was the only Civil War veteran from this vicinity in attendance at the G.A.R. convention last week in Portland, Maine.

The Midland veteran, who made the trip alone, left Midland September 6th, and returned last Monday evening. He participated in the parade of 1400 Civil War men through the streets of Portland, with fifteen bands and a drum corps in line, a display described by the newspapers of that city as the most colorful in the city's history.

Mr. Gillman also visited Boston, Niagara Falls, and various points in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, and states that he was taken twenty five miles out on the ocean on a fishing craft.

Although he is now more than 85 years of age, Mr. Gillman plans to make another journey in a week or two, to the home of his son, William in Portland, Oregon, where he will remain for an indefinite length of time.

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AVERILL COUPLES HAVE ANNIVERSARY

MIDLAND REPUBLICAN - May, 1929 - The annual event in which Mr. & Mrs. G. Arthur Briggs and Mr. & Mrs. J. Hazen Briggs of Averill figure as principals falls on April twenty second each year. This year that date marked the thirty seventh wedding anniversary of the senior couple and the eighth of the juniors.

The occasion was honored by a family dinner at which twenty relatives were assembled.

The menu was all that could be desired and to add to its enjoyment, as the hostess poured the tea from the pretty, new teapot, which was one of the wedding-gifts, the guests were delighted by strains of sweet music proceeding from that utensil and were made aware of a concealed "music box" as a part of its mechanism.

The brides were well remembered with gifts, among which were two hydrangeas, one for each, a lovely silk scarf, pieces of pretty glassware and useful articles of kitchenware.

The ceremonies which started Mr. and Mrs. Briggs on their matrimonial career took place at the home of Mrs. Briggs parents, Mr. & Mrs. L. Pawling in Averill, April 22, 1891 with Rev. C.W. Theobald officiating and their married life has been spent on their farm near their place with the exception of three or four years in Saginaw in the 90's.

The younger couple were joined in wedlock at this place also, in 1921, by Rev. B.F. Wade and have resided here since.

BURIED UNDER HOT BRICK AND IRON WHEN OLD MILL BLEW UP IN 1892

MIDLAND REPUBLICAN - July 4, 1929 - Probably the greatest disaster, the old-timers say, that has ever befallen Midland was the "blowing up" of the boilers in the old salt and Lumber company's mill, the 12th of May, 1892. Gus Malcolm, still living in his East Main street home is a survivor of that wreck, and the painful injuries he received at the time from his burial under a shower of hot iron and brick have left keen memories of the event.

"There were three big boilers in the mill," says Mr. Malcolm, "and each of them had two doors. The other fireman, Charlie Glynn, and I had just fired all six doors with sawdust, dry wood and green slabs, and I was pretty hot when we got through, about two o'clock in the afternoon. So the other fireman went up to tend to the water, and I went outside and sat down on a wagon tongue right at the door. I hadn't sat there two minutes when he came down and said, 'There's a steam manhole leaking up there, Can you hear it?'"

"'Yes,' I said. And just as I said it, boom, she went.

"It threw me about 25 feet, I should say, and when I stopped rolling it buried me in a shower of iron and brick. I was conscious all the time, and tried to get out, but couldn't move. Charlie Glynn was buried, too, all but one arm and hip, which showed under the pile. That's the way they found me -- when they dug him out. My head was forced down between my knees, with all the weight on my back.

"I don't know how long we were buried, but it must have been at least ten minutes or so, because my wife heard the explosion, and had run all the way down to the mill from our house (now the Towsley place across the river) before they got me out.

THREE KILLED

"Perry Elton, the foreman, helped with the rescue, and then Old Man Stranahan took me home with his horse and buggy. My Head was cut open, my right shoulder and several ribs were broken. A big piece of iron had fallen across my leg and Glynn's hip. For ten days I couldn't move a finger.

"It was a terrible thing. Three men were killed -- Charlie Allen, Dick Steers, and Gene Van Valkenburg. If Charlie had stood still, he would have been all right, but he jumped down off the tramway, and started to run. A big steam dome went 200 feet into the air, they said and came down, striking him on the head. A piece of boiler with seven flues fastened to it was blown through a twelve inch solid brick wall and up into the mill where it killed VanValkenburg at the edger. The other fellow, Dick Steers, was killed when the chimney fell on him.

Several others were hurt: Charlie Burt, Albert Bye, Arthur Robinson, A. Elton, Sanford Walton, Shattuck, Albert Moll, Fred Robinson and Patrick Burke."

Dr. TOWSLEY

"Everybody was excited. Everything in town was wide open -- that is everybody was ready to help all they could. Old Dr. Towsley took care of me and brought me out in good shape. One morning when I got so I could walk out around, I met him and told them that I didn't know how much I owed him, and it wouldn't do any good to ask, because I didn't know when I'd ever get to work again. But he said, "Gosh, you don't owe me a cent." I always thought that was pretty fine of him. And he stayed right by me until I was all right again. But afterward the company saw fit to pay the doctor bills so he got his money, after all."

Asked whether any investigation was ever made as to the cause of the accident, he replied in the negative.

"There wasn't anything left of the boilers to investigate," he said. "One piece of manhole plate blew clear over to the Reardon building, and struck the second story. Some thought the boiler was defective, and others thought it had gone dry. But there was no way of telling."

CLOCK STOPPED

"I didn't see anything of the blow-up myself, of course. By the time I got out around again, the mill had been rebuilt. Charlie Brown was president of the company then, and William Patrick was vice-president. They had bought out John Larkin. They had to put in a new firehouse, and all new boilers. I suppose that if it had to be done now the cost of rebuilding might have amounted to \$150,000. But of course in those days it was cheaper."

"I was young then and healthy," said Mr. Malcolm, "and it didn't seem so bad. I went back when they rebuilt, and was the first man to fire the new boilers, as I had been the last to fire the old ones."

"How I happened to know what time it was that the mill blew up was that we had a small wall clock there on the wall, and when they dug it out afterward, it showed just a quarter after two. As soon as they moved it, it started up again, and kept as good time as ever."

"It was a good mill," he commented. "It ran most of the time in the summer, but not always in the winter. While Larkin had it, he used to keep it going most of the time, any way, to keep the men employed. It wasn't a band mill -- just circular saw, with edger and trimmer. We used to cut from twenty to twenty five thousand feet of pine a day. We used to have a clipping from the old Republican about it -- had it around the house for years. Maybe it's still around somewhere."

Following Mr. Malcolm's suggestion that the story would be found in the old files of this paper, the reporter found it under the same date of the disaster, May 12.

"The city is in mourning for the dead and sympathy for the bereaved," says the story. The material loss to the city cannot be estimated. Sixty men were employed on the premises - twenty five in the mill proper. The loss in work and wages cannot be estimated."

"One of the company estimates that the cost of rebuilding will be about \$6,000."

"A piece of casting weighing 41 pounds struck the rear of Reardon's store close by a second story window, making a dent 18 inches long and two or three in depth. A third story window was broken by a piece of brick."

The mill was located on the bank of the Tittabawassee, near the foot of McDonald Street.

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**CORDY WEST AS A CHILD RIDES
DAD'S BACK TO WARN HIM
OF SNAKES IN BERRY MARSH**

MIDLAND REPUBLICAN - June 6, 1929 - "There's a lot of difference," said Cordy West, "Between the way children live today, and the way we used to. Why, do you know I used to get my breakfast from the horse's grain. I'd pick out the best, and he's get what was left."

Mr. West was wielding a wrench about the end of a length of pipe on a sewer digging location in the First ward.

"That was because of the hard times," went on Mr. West. "We all had to live that way. We were up at Foremen station. My father was struck blind when I wasn't more than a baby, and was that way for several years. I used to ride on his back when he'd go out picking cranberries, and I'd tell him where to go, and I'd watch for those big mass - saugers -- big snakes they were. When I'd see one all coiled up, I'd punch my father in the ribs on that side, and then we'd steer on in the other direction. Yes sir, that's the way my father used to pick cranberries.

"James McKay here can tell you all about how we lived there at Foreman Station. His cousin, Effie North .. lived just a mile and a half north of us.

"My mother used to have to cut wood with a cross cut saw those days." he went on. "And wolves all around us all the time, too. One night they got up on the roof of the lean-to or oar house and howled so that my mother stuck a revolver out through the roof by the chimney and shot it off to scare them away. She used to keep us children inside a 12-foot fence to protect us. One time a pack of wolves was chasing a

deer and it ran right up to her so close that she killed it with an axe.

"I was a little fell a then. I remember when I got my first pair of long pants. My father felled a tree on me because he couldn't see me at all.

"There, I guess that's all right," said Cordy, giving the pipe a final twist. And with that he took up one end of it and descended into the ditch.

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COLONIAL OCCUPATIONS

Taken from the Fayette Connection, Washington Court House, Ohio. February 1985 issue.

Colporteur	Peddler of books
Stuffgownsmen	Junior barrister
Docker	Docker
Pettifogger	Shyster lawyer
Leech/Sawbones	Physician
Dowser	Water finder
Almoner	Giver of Charity
Glazier	Window glassman
Hooper	Makes hoops for casks
Boniface	Keeper of an Inn
Hostler	Groom for horses
Chandler	Candlemaker
Wharfinger	Owner of wharf
Manciple	Steward
Shrieve	Sheriff
Gaoler	Jailer
Plumbum worker	Plumber
Tifstaff	Policeman
Whitewing	Street sweeper
Peregrinator	Itinerant wanderer
Duffer	Peddler
Peruker	Wigmaker
Chiffonier	Ragpicker
Bluestocking	Female writer
Burgenmaster	Mayor
Mintmaster	Issued local currency
Rattlewatch	Town watchman
Crowner	Coroner
Tidewaiter	Customs inspector
Scrutineer	Election judge
Fuller	Cleaned & finished cloth
Fletcher	Made bows/arrows
Webster	Operated looms

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Corections 1994-5: Thelma Lyons (Kearney, NE)

Correction: 1995-6: Norma Landosky

1995-6 New Members:

Lori Custer (Researching Custer, Bissett, McGregor, Strickler, Davis)

Earl & Fay Ebach (Researching Ebach, Buck, Siersma & Sawitzky)

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OBITUARIES FROM THE MIDLAND SUN 1890 THROUGH 1920

Last Name	First Name	Birth	Mon/D	Death	Mon/D	Paper	Year	Mo/Day/Pg	Comments-
Woodcock	(infant)			1910		Sun	1910	02/25/01	Child of William
Woodcock	George	1904		1904		Sun	1904	10/21/01	Father: John
Woodcock	John			1915	Jun/24	Sun	1915	07/01/01	D. in Elkhart IN
Woodruff	(child)			1894	Sep/19	Sun	1894	09/21/05	Son of John
Woodruff	Ira			1915		Sun	1915	05/13/01	
Woodruff	Mrs			1909		Sun	1909	06/18/08	Son: Arthur
Woodruff	Mrs			1905		Sun	1905	07/21/05	
Woodruff	Neal			1903		Sun	1903	10/02/08	Died in Greendale
Woodworth	Anna			1913	Apr/15	Sun	1913	04/24/01	
Woodworth	Jessie			1918	Nov/28	Sun	1918	12/05/01	
Wooley	John			1902		Sun	1902	02/14/08	Age 81 years
Woolley	Mrs			1897	Aug/11	Sun	1897	08/13/08	
Wotring	Fred			1910		Sun	1910	12/30/01	D. at Coleman
Wrigglesworth	Richard			1908		Sun	1908	04/03/01	Bur Saginaw
Wright	Curtis			1897		Sun	1897	07/16/05	Killed by thief
Wright	Hariett			1903		Sun	1903	10/02/04	Died at Sanford
Wright	Mrs			1896		Sun	1896	05/15/08	
Wright	Nettie			1918		Sun	1918	04/11/08	
Wright	Walter			1899		Sun	1899	12/01/08	Sis: Mrs Raymond
Wrightman	Millie	1862	Jun/??	1908	Aug/03	Sun	1908	08/14/05	Wife/o Robert
Wrightman	Millie			1908		Sun	1908	08/14/08	Res: Floyd
Wron	Beatrice			1902	Jul/27	Sun	1902	08/01/08	Mother - Martha
Wyant	Floyd	1903	Mar/30	1919	Feb/11	Sun	1919	02/27/04	
Wyckoff	John			1898	Jul/16	Sun	1898	07/22/05	
Wyckoff	William			1903	Sep/21	Sun	1903	09/25/01	Unc/o C L Jenney
Wylie	James			1904		Sun	1904	03/18/05	Res: Edenville
Wylie	Lavina			1905		Sun	1905	11/03/08	Wife/o Albert
Wylie	Mrs John			1897		Sun	1897	07/09/08	D. in Edenville
Wylie	Oliver			1896	Mar/??	Sun	1896	03/27/08	
Wyman	(child)			1911	Apr/27	Sun	1911	04/28/01	Age 2 yr s/o Grant
Wyman	(child)			1907		Sun	1907	03/15/08	Ch/o Grant
Wyman	Cora			1910	May/30	Sun	1910	06/03/01	
Wyman	Lyman			1903		Sun	1903	07/10/04	Died in Homer Twp
Wyman	Mary			1915	Jan/04	Sun	1915	01/07/04	
Wyman	Mrs Charles			1920		Sun	1920	01/22/01	Ne: Holden
Wyman	Nettie			1898		Sun	1898	11/25/05	Age 11 yr dau John
Wyrock	Mr			1917		Sun	1917	05/17/08	
Yack	(infant)			1907		Sun	1907	09/13/01	Dau/o Fred
Yack	Augusta	1877	Mar/14	1912		Sun	1912	11/07/05	Ne: Rumrill
Yack	Harmon			1908		Sun	1908	04/24/01	Father: August
Yack	Herbert William			1903		Sun	1903	10/02/04	Son/o Wm age 2 mos
Yack	Mollie			1917		Sun	1917	11/01/04	
Yack	Norma			1908		Sun	1908	10/02/01	Father: Frederick
Yager	(child)			1898		Sun	1898	06/17/08	Child of Arnold
Yager	Edith			1917		Sun	1917	12/20/10	Age 3 yr d/o Sylvest
Yager	Levi			1907		Sun	1907	01/18/05	Bur in Coleman
Yager	Margaret			1918		Sun	1918	01/24/04	
Yager	Mathias			1900	Nov/24	Sun	1900	12/07/08	Age 75
Yager	William			1909		Sun	1909	11/02/08	Br/o Rev Eugene
Yancer	Florence May			1917	Oct/20	Sun	1917	10/25/01	Age 7 yrs d/o Winter
Yat	Mr			1915		Sun	1915	12/16/06	Son: Joseph
Yates	H J			1905		Sun	1905	03/10/05	D. in Tenn
Yaxley	Charlotte			1910	Oct/22	Sun	1910	10/28/01	Age 2 mo d/o Arthur
Yeager	D. R			1920	Mar/24	Sun	1920	04/01/01	
Yingling	Rev W K			1920		Sun	1920	11/11/01	
Yott	Frank	1868	Dec/02	1915	Jul/04	Sun	1915	07/08/01	D. in Ypsilanti
Yott	Frank Sr	1834	Apr/15	1909		Sun	1909	08/27/01	Lvs 7 children
Yott	Leo			1908	Sep/20	Sun	1908	09/25/01	Father: Joseph
Youmans	Zilda Arletta			1905		Sun	1905	07/21/05	Father: D Emerson
Young	Agnes	1841	Feb/10	1915	Feb/12	Sun	1915	02/18/01	
Young	Antoine			1913		Sun	1913	11/27/01	
Young	Essie			1896		Sun	1896	07/10/08	Sis/ Mrs H. Smith
Young	George L			1908		Sun	1908	12/18/01	D. Saginaw
Young	Henry			1919	Apr/20	Sun	1919	04/24/01	
Young	Mrs Densmore			1917		Sun	1917	04/05/06	
Young	Norman			1902		Sun	1902	06/27/08	Age 16 years
Young	William	1832	Jun/??	1915	Apr/06	Sun	1915	04/08/01	
Young	William			1898		Sun	1898	04/29/08	Age 80 yrs
Youngs	Alice	1844	Mar/15	1913	May/01	Sun	1913	05/08/01	
Youngs	Charles			1916	Oct/26	Sun	1916	10/26/01	Killed in explosion
Youngs	Charles B	1888	Sep/06	1916	Oct/26	Sun	1916	11/02/01	
Youngs	Hiram			1913		Sun	1913	02/13/01	Dau Mrs R Yager
Youngs	Rev J.W.			1892	Nov/17	Sun	1892	11/24/05	Bro/law C.F. Wilson
Zahn	Mrs Charles			1899		Sun	1899	03/17/04	Sis Mrs F C Gibbs
Zahn	Mrs George			1899		Sun	1899	03/17/08	Dau of Mrs J Day
Zastron	Otto			1892	Sep/??	Sun	1892	09/29/07	Age 12 yrs
Zegelein	Amelia Riggie	1840	Jun/04	1899	Jul/14	Sun	1899	07/28/05	Long obit
Zegelein	Mrs Fred			1904		Sun	1904	09/16/05	Res: Homer
Zegelien	(infant)			1899		Sun	1899	05/05/08	Child of R
Zegelien	Mrs William			1899		Sun	1899	07/21/08	Buried in Homer
Zemper	(child)			1917		Sun	1917	11/08/01	Age 13 mos s/o Julius

OBITUARIES FROM THE MIDLAND SUN 1890 THROUGH 1920

Last Name	First Name	Birth	Mon/D	Death	Mon/D	Paper	Year	Mo/Day/Pg	Comments-
Zemper	Rheinhold			1918		Sun	1918	11/07/05	
Zemper	Rollin Dale			1918		Sun	1918	11/07/05	Age 2 moa s/o Julius
Zence	Mrs			1919		Sun	1919	01/09/06	
Zentz	Mrs John			1917		Sun	1917	12/27/02	
Zerkle	Nora	1920	Jun/23			Sun	1920	07/01/01	Nee: Wyman
Zerowski	Howlina	1919	May/07			Sun	1919	05/15/01	
Zigelien	Mrs Fred	1904				Sun	1904	09/16/08	
Zilsky	Louis	1903				Sun	1903	07/24/04	
Zimmerman	Conrad	1906				Sun	1906	02/16/08	B/in/law N Raab
Zimmerman	Elizabeth Walk	1917	Nov/03			Sun	1917	11/08/01	
Zimmerman	Johnnie	1898				Sun	1898	11/25/08	Son of A
Zimmerman	Johnnie	1899				Sun	1899	09/01/08	Child of A
Zimmerman	Thomas	1920				Sun	1920	07/15/01	
Zimmerman	Thomas	1920				Sun	1920	07/08/01	
Zimmerman	William	1910	Aug/15			Sun	1910	08/19/01	
Zirkle	(child)	1895				Sun	1895	10/04/05	Child of A.J.
Zondlak	Joseph	1919				Sun	1919	09/04/01	
Zondlak	Joseph	1919				Sun	1919	09/04/08	
Zuchowski	Frederick	1909	Mar/09			Sun	1909	03/12/01	Age 24 years
Zydeman	Mrs	1919	Feb/02			Sun	1919	02/13/01	

This concludes the Listing of Obituaries from the Midland Sun for the period 1890-1920. This series started in November 1988. The reader should note that this is only a small portion of the records in the MIDLAND OBITUARY INDEX BOOK.

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FOR SALE

Ora Flaningam [Ph: (517) 835-3227] has the following CD-ROMs and genealogical program for sale:

"70 Million Households Phone Book on CD-ROM." 2 CD set. 1994 edition. \$10.00

"PhoneDisc USA - Residential and Business" 3 CD set. August 1994. \$15.

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The following books, published by the society, are still available.

MIDLAND COUNTY OBITUARY INDEX - The book consists of abstractions from the *Midland Times* (1872-1875), the *Midland Sun* (1892-1924) and the *Midland Republican* (1881-1927). From the 55 years covered, we have about 16,000 records of deaths from those publications. The book is 8 1/2 by 11 inches, softbound, and is 238 pages in length.

The Price is \$20.00 at any MGS meeting or by mail plus \$3.00 postage & handling.

MIDLAND COUNTY NATURALIZATIONS - 1855-1907. 37 Pages, softbound. \$6 plus \$1 postage. (ONLY 20 COPIES LEFT).

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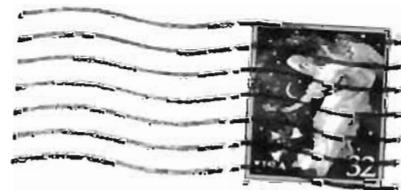
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Our society meets on the 3rd Wed. of Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May at 7:30 in the lounge of the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640. Visitors are always welcome. Watch the Midland Daily News for upcoming speakers, dates, and times.

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