

# PIONEER RECORD



## GRANDMA GUILLOTTE SAW FIRST TRAIN, BOAT, STORE, SCHOOL AND CHURCH HERE.

Midland Republican, August 1, 1929 - "Yes," said Grandma Guillotte, rocking a bit, "there was lots of Indians here when I came. They were always nice to you though, as long as you treated them all right. I remember there was a Mr. Taylor built a house up where the city park is now, and one night he had to go away and leave his wife alone. She was afraid too, because it was quite a long ways from any other houses. But he told her nobody'd bother her any, so she said she'd stay.

"Well, along after dark she heard a knock, and somebody said, 'Me cold. Me cold.'

"She knew it was Indians, but she didn't know what to do but let them in. So she opened the door. They came in and asked for something to eat. She gave it to them, and then they sat down in front of the fire.

"'Me no hurt white woman,' they'd say.

"But she was scared. After while she went in to bed and drew the curtains together around her bed. She took a tomahawk with her, too, but she couldn't sleep.

"The next morning, after she'd fed them breakfast, they started off. One of them patted her on the back and said, 'You 'fraid us last night. Take tomahawk to bed. We never hurt no white squaw.'"

Mrs. Guillotte at 87, cannot remember one other man or woman still alive who was here when she came 71 years ago.

"There wasn't any schoolhouse," she says. "There weren't enough children to have one. There wasn't any church, either, when I come.

"The Balls? Oh they came a long time after that. By that time we had a church, and one day we

were having a benefit social for the minister. We all went in the afternoon and took our baskets of food, and then we took extra for supper. I remember that the woman where we went was a milliner, and had caps and bonnets pinned up on the curtains. Well, one of the ladies' husbands came in and whispered to her, and she got right up and went home with no explanation. We all wondered why she left so early before supper. Come to find out the mail had come while she was away from home, and she'd got a letter from her son saying he was coming home that night, bringing his bride. She had to go home to get ready for him. And the son who was bringing his bride was Will Ball, Mrs. Dow's father."

### From Belfast by Mailboat

All of this conversation was on the cool porch of the Ewart Gardiner home on East Ellsworth. For, having outlived her husband, three sons, and a daughter, Grandma (as she is known) broke up housekeeping about nine years ago and went to live with the Gardiners.

"Grandma was born in Ireland," said Mrs. Gardiner. "Tell us how you came over."

"I came over in a sail-boat," said she, "with my uncle and aunt. It took us five weeks and three days. My father and mother had come over some time before. A big storm came up while they were on board, and they had to throw overboard all their luggage to lighten the ship. We didn't have anything like that, but I got sick."

"What kind of boat was it?"

"It had three masts," she remembers, "and I

*(continued on page 4)*

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe that I am already writing my fourth president's letter and that the end of the MGS's 1995-96 year will soon be here. It's been a very busy year, with the program chairmen providing good speakers for the meetings, thus keeping the attendance figure at a high level. We've just had three successful beginning genealogy workshops, and there are still April and May to come.

In late January, Bill Worden, Ralph Hillman and myself met with James Alsip, the new Library Director. We all felt comfortable with him. We told him about our past accomplishments and presented him with several ideas for possible change in the Midland Room, and he appeared to be agreeable to the latter. However, the City of Midland and its upcoming budget crunch might have some influence on whether these changes come to fruition. We invited Mr. Alsip to a meeting and hope that he comes to visit us soon.

As we announced in November, the Society sponsored three beginning genealogy workshops in February and March, at which the average attendance was 37. They were very well received by the participants, many of whom were relatively new members of MGS. I hope we see some of the brand-new faces at some of our upcoming meetings.

Did you know that the MGS is finishing its first 25 years of existence? I was surprised myself when I discovered this fact as I was looking at the Historian's book. We presently have two charter members still active, Pat Worden and Jan Erratt. At our May meeting we are planning a mini-birthday celebration, complete with a cake, and several members will present in capsule form, a review of twenty-five years of activities and growth. Plan to be at the meeting and hear about all the exciting things our organization has done since 1970. Also on the schedule for May is a "question and answer" program and election of officers.

At the next two meetings we will continue to solicit personal donations for the NARA "Dollars for Documents" Fund. (NARA stands for National Archives Records Administration and is a fund encouraged and supported by all the leading national genealogical societies.) The suggested donation amount is \$1/member/year. The fund is used to film and distribute the difficult to access material housed in the National Archives. A few projects already funded include: an Index to the War of 1812 Prisoner of War Records, and a 1910 Street Index to 39 Major US Cities. The national coordinating committee is also open to suggestions for future projects of value to the entire genealogical community.

There have been a number of members who have been busy in small ways in the past year, and the

hours expended have added up to the completion of several projects. Involved in the preparation of First Families of Midland County files for microfilming: Judy Anderson, Lois Baker, Ruth Ann Casadonte, Mary Lou Hayes, Gale Hock, Bev Keicher, Alice Lund, Maxine McCullen, and Pat Worden. Members who have abstracted State of Michigan death records for the years 1881/82 include: Marge Anger, Judy Anderson, Lois Baker, Ruth Ann Casadonte, Rose Mary Laur, Sheldon and Mary Levy, Virginia Parsons, Nancy Lackie, Marjorie Trumble, Juanita Winterbottom, Ron Snyder, Kathy Bohl, and Betty Bellous. A special person to be mentioned is Virginia Parsons, who has spent MANY hours abstracting and indexing Midland County census records and obituaries. THANK YOU all.

A nominating committee consisting of Wilma Diesen, Gale Hock, and Nancy Lackie has been selected to present a slate of officers for 1996-7. Names will be read at the April meeting with a vote on May 15. There possibly will be several positions to be filled. The number of new members within the last several years indicates that there is definitely an interest in the MGS, and I encourage participation from everyone to keep our society alive and interesting. The present officers need some help and new ideas! If you are not available to say "yes" this spring, think ahead to next fall and next year. This is the last issue of the "Pioneer Record" until early September, so enjoy the summer and happy researching.

Jo Brines

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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:

**April 17, 1996.** LDS Family History Library Facilities. It is still unsure whether the program will be at the G.A. Library, or at the LDS church (corner of Eastman and Sugnet roads). **Before the meeting, please check the Midland Daily News or the bulletin Board in the library for the location.**

**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. Also election of officers.

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**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING SEMINARS  
AND CONFERENCES**

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 University Thunder Bay, Ontario.

JUNE 22 - Quebec Heritage Seminar. Sponsored by North Michigan Chapter of French-Canadian Heritage Society at Traverse City.

JULY 8-11 - Genealogical Institute of Mid-America. Sponsored by Illinois State Gen. Soc. and U. of Illinois, held at Springfield, IL.

JULY 12 - Personal Ancestral File for Intermediate Users. Same place as above.

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, addresses and for more information.

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**CONDOLENCES**

MGS wishes to acknowledge the death of member Jerry Cell who died recently. His wife Alice died in December. A book will be donated to the library by the Society in Jerry's memory.

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**"ANCESTORS"**

Ancestors is a new ten-part television series, dedicated to teaching genealogy and family history. The series will be on PBS stations nationwide in the fall of 1996.

The series will feature ten episodes.

Episode One is an overview of the pedigree chart as one of the most important tools used in ancestral searches.

Episode Two helps you to get started at home, how to put the bits and pieces of your past together on charts.

Episode Three will focus on successful interviewing and documenting stories of living relatives.

Episode Four will explain the difference between compiled and original records and their importance in research.

Episode Five takes you to city, state and national repositories in the United States after exhausting home resources.

Episode Six will explore three American records groups: census, military and passenger lists. Interesting tips and stories of ethnic related migration patterns will also be given.

Episode Seven is focused on the American Indian and Afro-Americans. Tips on where and how to start finding records.

Episode Eight will be devoted to genetic genealogy.

Episode Nine will look at the world of technology and show how computers and the Internet will help in research.

Episode Ten will give tips on family reunions, publishing your family history and sharing your information with others.

Individuals or Societies who would like to make a tax deductible contribution for the funding of this public television series may send their contributions to: Ancestors, c/o KBYU Television, 2000 Iron-ton Blvd., Provo, UT 84506.

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**BACK TO BASICS**

BY Anita Lee Palmquist

LaCrosse Gen. Quarterly, LaCrosse, WI, 1995. - Genealogists are becoming more sophisticated. Their verification and documentation are showing. I do have another concern. I hear much of classes, computers, workshops and indexing, and that's great. I hear little of genealogists writing their story, and that's sad. How will your descendants feel when they gaze upon your neat sheets and know nothing of the people listed on them?



or catch a ride on a lumber wagon. I walked from Freeland to Saginaw with some other ladies once. It was so muddy that we had to climb over the fence and walk in the fields.

"I remember when the first steamboat came up the river, too. The first trip the Belle Seymour made was to take the body of Tecumseh Ashman to Saginaw. He was part Indian and the government sent him up there to look after the Indians. They got so they didn't pay any attention to him, though, after he got sick.

"After a while they built a school house up where the old Unitarian church is now. One of the McCartney girls taught there. We used to have church there, too -- had to plow through the stumps to get there, and had a preacher come on horseback every two weeks. Then they built a Methodist church near where the post office is now; and a Baptist church across the river. I remember that at the Baptist church, every Friday night they used to take a horse and dray and go get Mrs. Dan Chase's organ and take it over to use for choir practice and over Sunday.

"When we were raising money to finish the Methodist church, we had an old folks concert. The concert was ten cents and the oyster supper two shillings. There was a Mr. Hemingway there that was quite heavy. There was a door back of where we were sitting on the stage, for the actors to come through. At one place in the program we were all supposed to sit down quite quick. Well this Mr. Hemingway sat down so quick that he went right back and fell through that door into that little room.

#### **No Doctor, Undertaker**

"Everybody used to help us earn money for those things. When the men came out of the woods, they always give us something, and then the Indians were good, too when they got their pay every three months.

"Finally we moved the church, because the train loads of logs made so much noise every Sunday that the preacher'd have to stop and wait. So Mr. Carpenter said he'd trade lots with us, and we got those where the church is now. Old Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Evans helped set out trees there.

"The first big silk flag we had, was made for the 4th of July, we sat up late and sewed it together, to get ready for the celebration. We had tables over across the river under some plum trees. That was the only flag we had there for years.

"There wasn't any doctor here for a good while after we come. Mrs. Sim Kent, Sim Kent's mother, always took care of me. There wasn't any undertaker, either. One of the carpenters at the mill would make a little box for a coffin. But after a while, there was a store built on the side of John Eastman's store, and it had a little coffin up over the door. A

little lame man ran it, and he'd take orders for coffins and get them from Saginaw.

"My husband worked in the shingle mill till Larkin built that big sawmill. He was there when the explosion came too. I remember one of our neighbors ran down with a dish cloth in her hand. But Mr. Guillotte wasn't hurt.

#### **First Folding Doors**

"Why did they call him 'Dolly'?" we asked, remembering Mr. Gus Malcom's name for him.

"Oh, they all had nicknames at the mill, and his name was Adolphus so that was what they called him," she explained.

From 1880 to 1920, Mrs. Guillotte lived in the white house on East Ellsworth, now occupied by the Herbert Beckwiths.

"We bought four lots there for \$75," said Grandma, "and built the house two years after we came here. My father gave me a cow when I was married.

"There used to be a real swampy place right behind our block, and I remember one spring when the water came up so high there that we could see thick black stuff on the top. When we came to look at it closer, it was black oil.

"I had the first folding doors in Midland," said Grandma. "Little Billie Thompson used to think I had the nicest house in town. He used to love to come over.

"Yes," she said, "we used to have good times in those days. We were awful glad when anybody new moved in. We'd go and call on them. We weren't bad about that the way people are now."

That was Grandma's only comment on the changed times, excepting that in telling of the three hotels of the early days here, she said, "It was different then than it is now. We had three hotels and no people, and now we have one hotel and lots of people."

#### **Pioneer Stock**

Grandma, while she protests that her memory fails her, had retained the personality that seems to have won her so many friends. Her 87 years (the 15th of next month) and the fact that she is the last of her family have not dimmed the vibrant optimism that has always characterized her. Her keen recollection of details of long departed days have become the marvel of the neighborhood.

Her husband died in 1913; her son, Claude, the same year; a daughter, Daisy, had died in 1871; the last son, Eugene, in 1920. But the toughened fibre which made of the pioneer women a class of national heroines, supports her still.

A trim, plump little figure in black, she sits in her rocking chair on the Gardiner porch in sunny weather, her hands at rest after long years of labor,

but in her eyes still a smile of bright interest in all the doings of the universe.

The tiny black bow which Grandma habitually wears in her hair was missing Friday.

"Why, Grandma, where's your bow?" asked Mrs. Gardiner.

"It's too hot," said Grandma, grinning.

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### FRIENDS SURPRISE GRANDMA GUILLOTTE ON 87TH BIRTHDAY

by Mrs. Minnie W. Ball

Midland Republican, August 22, 1929 - Mrs. Sarah Jane "Grandma" Guillotte has sometimes remarked that most of her friends reposed in the cemetery, but on the occasion of her 87th birthday last Thursday, she was obliged to moderate that statement.

It was an old fashioned tea party at the E.L. Gardiner home with only a few guests chosen from those who have been nearest to her in recent years; however, there were others who remembered the date and sent their gifts and felicitations, or called in person.

Cards came from Chicago, New York, and even from friends traveling in Germany. Besides the three birthday cakes there were useful gifts, quantities of fruit and flowers.

Those present at the tea were: Mrs. E.W. Austin, Mrs. Walter Beckwith, Mrs. Mary Burdick of Mt. Pleasant, Mrs. J.H. Lowe, Mrs. Wm. Andrews, Mrs. Leo Nehil, Mrs. M.W. Ball, and Mrs. Gardiner.

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### SATURDAY RITES FOR AGED WOMAN

Midland Republican, April 9, 1931 - Rites were held Saturday afternoon, April 4th, at two o'clock in the E.L. Gardiner home on East Ellsworth street, for Mrs. Sarah Jane Guillotte, 88, who passed away Thursday morning at 12:25. Rev. W.J. Dudgeon, of the M.E. church, officiated at the service, and burial was in the Midland cemetery. Pallbearers were: Ellsworth Brown, Walter Beckwith, John Mathews and J. Leo Nehil.

Mrs. Guillotte had been confined to the Gardiner home for the last five weeks by serious illness and diseases incident to old age caused her death. Two granddaughters survive, Mrs. Erwin Johnson and Miss Hazel Guillotte both of Chicago, Illinois.

Born in Ireland September 15, 1842, Mrs. Guillotte lived in Belfast when a small girl. Later she followed her parents to America, joining them in New York state, and finally moving with them to Michigan

where they settled in Zilwaukee. She accepted a position in Saginaw where she met and married Adolphus Guillotte, and they came to Midland to make their home. From 1860 to 1920, she lived on East Ellsworth street in the large white house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Beckwith.

Mrs. Guillotte is the last of her family. Her husband died in 1913; a son, Claude, the same year. Her Daughter, Daisy, had died in 1871, and the last son, Eugene, passed away in 1920. For the last ten years she had made her home with the E.L. Gardiners, 610 East Ellsworth street.

In an interview with a Republican reporter in August of 1929, when the Midland woman was 87, she reminisced humorously on her sailing trip from Ireland to America and told of her early days in Midland.

Attending the Funeral rites from out of town were: Mrs. Erwin Johnson of Chicago, Mrs. Mary Dixon, Mrs. Robert Wright, Mrs. M. Kolleg, Mrs. Rufus Love, Mrs. Willis Van Auken, Mr. and Mrs. James Cartwright, and son James, Jr., Mrs. Sarah Hollaway, all of Saginaw.

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### INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX (IGI)

Courtesy of the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah - The International Genealogical Index is a worldwide index of about 187 million names of deceased persons. It lists birth, christening, marriage, and Later-day Saint temple ordinance information. It does not contain records of living persons. Most of the names in the index come from vital records from the early 1500's to 1875. Other names were submitted by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for temple ordinance work.

There are four great periods of name gathering. (1) pre 1942, (2) 1942-1969, (3) 1969-1990, and (4) 1990 to the present day. For the first two there is a card index on microfilm compiled by the Temple Records Index Bureau called TIB. The later two periods are fully indexed in the 1992 IGI on fiche. Members have finished computerizing names from the first two periods and many names have been added to the CD ROM for 1993 and the 1992 IGI.

Pre 1942 Period. The people took lists of deceased relatives to the temple which maintained ledgers of baptisms, etc. chronologically. There are no family group records from this era. The TIB card index generated during this period can lead you to later material. Members have been extracting baptisms of which 95% appear in the 1992 IGI. The name "Relative" appears in place of parents or spouse and term "pre 1970" in the endowment/sealing column and word "film" where sheet number would appear.

1942-1969 Period. During this period patrons submitted names on family group sheets with the patrons' name. These names appear on microfilm in the 127 series. In compiling these records, patrons referred to the earlier TIB cards. Many baptism and endowment dates are pre 1942 but sealing dates are later. (Baptism, endowment and sealing are LDS Church ordinances). If you see an ordinance date between 1942 and 1969 you can be sure of finding a family group sheet. Sheets are alphabetical by head of family. If the person looked for is a spouse or child it is necessary to look at the TIB card first. Most of these records are added to the CD ROM for 1993. Before 1969 there were TIB cards with much data on your person. It may be necessary to hire someone from the church to check files, or you may send a Temple Ordinance Index Request (TOIR) for \$1.00. If there is only a date of baptism for your person you will derive more information from the TIB card than from films referenced in the IGI. A P or C in the upper left hand corner of the TIB card indicates the person appears as a Parent or Child on the group sheet. A copy of this sheet should be sent to you with a reply to your TOIR. If you want to see the whole group of names submitted by the patron, consult the film referenced in the IGI. Since the records are chronological, search by the date of the LDS ordinance.

1969-1990 Period. In the 1960's members began extracting christenings and marriages from British parish registers using computers. When you go to the source screen on the CD ROM version of the IGI you will find that the origin of entry is either "submitted by a member" or "extracted from" the church or vital records of a place. When an entry form was submitted to Salt Lake it was assigned a batch number with the last two digits of the current year (a batch beginning with 73 arrived in 1973), the entry was assigned a page or sheet number within that batch. This is called the "input source." Names derived from extraction projects also have batch numbers which usually begin with a letter. In this case, original records are the input source such as vital records, church registers, etc. The Parish and Vital Records List available on fiche identifies all of these projects. The first step is to identify the input source. If you are using the fiche, you will need another set of fiche called the "Batch Number Index" to identify the number. In case of extractions there is sometimes an alphabetical printout which you can order on film and use as an index or order a photo-duplication form to obtain a copy of the original. During this time period you can either order the input film (which may show you a whole group of forms submitted by the same person) or order a photo-duplication form to send for a copy of the entry which

will include the patron's name and address, etc. There are exceptions - New England extraction projects have all number batch numbers. Batch numbers beginning with "F", "50" and "60" are patron submitted family group sheets. A batch beginning with "A" is a good indication that there will be a family group sheet.

1990 to Present. In 1990 members began submitting names for the 1993 edition of the IGI File. This edition of the index is available only on compact disc. It contains over 200 million names - 50 million more names than the 1988 edition and 14 million more names than the 1992 microfiche edition.

KEEP IN MIND. The IGI has only people known to have died. In extracting birth records, anyone born less than 111 years ago might still be living. Cut off for marriage dates is 95 years earlier. You will not find a person born after say 1875 unless an LDS relative supplied the death date. Extractions from New England were taken from published vital records to 1850, thus New Englanders in the IGI probably lived between 1600's to 1850. The IGI has Connecticut vital records extracted from the Barbour Collection. For the Midwest and western Europe, the data 1850 could be extended to 1870. Some names in the 1988 IGI were dropped from the 1992 edition because temple work was not completed. Many of the dropped names were from Mexico.

The use of the IGI should be used as an Index and not a source. There are many errors, but also they are the basis for many a success story.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The novice researcher will find the above explanation about input sources, etc., some what confusing. The thing that you should keep in mind is that if you find a record that you believe to be worth investigating, you should ask one of the LDS librarians for help. They will be glad to assist.

As the article says, the user should be prepared for some dead ends. I have had two experiences with IGI references which might prove instructive. One was negative. and one was positive. Following is a brief summary:

**NEGATIVE:** While researching my family history, I found a possible link in a 1973 IGI reference. A Francis Flaningham had 6 children baptized from 1700 to 1715 in Virginia. When I eventually found the original document reference, the name there was Vlandingham.

**POSITIVE:** One of my great grandmothers was Jennie Shirley. Her family lived in north-central Indiana in the period 1825-1875. There are many unrelated Shirley families, making researches difficult. From a deceased second cousin's records, I found a record of Jennie's siblings and that her father's name was Miletus. (Two of my cousins were named Miletus

after him.) One of Jennie's brothers was **named** "Doctor". All my efforts to find records of Miletus failed. In the IGI I found a record of a "Doctor" Shirley in Indiana and noted that several other Shirley IGI records had the same input source. The parents of the children of the IGI records were Edmund Shirley and Philadelphia Perry. When I obtained copies of the input source records, I found that they were submitted by an LDS member that had married a Shirley girl. There were about a dozen linked family group sheets covering the family from about 1800 to the 1940's. Although the IGI records do not mention Miletus, he is given in the family group sheet records. With the data given, I was now able to find Miletus' family in census records and his Civil War enlistment records. I was also able to find other LDS group sheets which took the family back another 3 generations to about 1680. Now that some outline of the family was found, I was able to find original records which confirmed the LDS group sheets.

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#### MORE GENEALOGY ON LINE

The 1994 Michigan County Clerks Genealogy Directory is "on-line" courtesy of The State Archives of Michigan. It was compiled and printed by the Calhoun County Clerk's Office with the encouragement of the Michigan County Clerks Association and the Michigan Genealogical Council.

It is organized alphabetically by county. The following information is provided about each of the 83 offices: address, phone and FAX number, genealogy research hours, identification requirements for use of records, cost of certified copy/additional copies, cost of genealogical records copies, other copy fees, comments such as whether the records are microfilmed or whether there is seating capacity for genealogists, and a list of available records and inclusive dates of the records.

The original directory was based on a survey of offices in 1993, but it will be updated periodically. Any changes should be brought to the attention of the State Archives of Michigan at the following address:

State Archives of Michigan  
Michigan Historical Center  
717 W. Allegan St.  
Lansing, MI 48918-1837  
(517) 373-1408  
FAX (517) 373-0851

The Internet address is:  
<http://www.sos.state.mi.us/history-/archive/archgene.html>

(This is part of the Secretary of State's "home page" on the Internet.) (FROM: Bill Worden)

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### INGERSOLL MAN COUSIN OF DAVID LLOYD GEORGE

By Claire Merrill

Midland Republican, April 29, 1937 - George Beckley, Sr., of Ingersoll Township is a second cousin of David Lloyd George.

Mr. Beckley, his mirror propped against the kitchen window, had already lathered his face in preparation for shaving Tuesday afternoon when I knocked at his door, but he obligingly unlathered and set down again to tell a number of interesting aspects of his family history. Among them the Lloyd George connection.

"I take this," he said, "from my father's story, as I've heard him tell it many a time. According to him, my mother's father and Lloyd George's father were brothers."

Mr. Beckley's father was William Beckley, born in 1808 in Wantage, Berkshire, England. In 1833 he was married to one Mary Anne George at Hurley Bottom, England. The older Beckley was a candle maker, a matter which sat poorly with his young wife's well-to-do family, says the Ingersoll man, with the result that they, one and all, disowned her, with the exception of one uncle. This uncle, however, turned out to be an importer of precious stones from Australia, and on his affairs hinges another interesting bit of family history.

The young couple went up to London. Here Mr. Beckley's father practiced his trade and later became a veterinarian. His diploma, signed by the good Queen Victoria, was a prized family possession for many years, says the Ingersoll man, and his instruments after his death were divided among members of his family.

Mr. Beckley himself has only a horn-handled tool equipped with three blades, each with a sort of half circle projection used in "bleeding."

"My father claimed that he used the middle blade once to 'bleed my mother with once when she was ill,'" he says.

The history of the Beckley families, printed in a neat pamphlet, tells how Mr. Beckley's father and mother left England in 1837 and sailed to the United States, arriving shortly in Detroit, then a small village.

"Woodward Avenue was being graded with six teams," states the history.

From Detroit they went to Oakland County, back to Pontiac, and then to Highland, in the same county. It was from there that George Beckley came to Midland County in 1866, to work on the rivers and

in the woods, and in summer to farm. He has lived on his Ingersoll land for 56 years.

No details of the Lloyd George connection remain, but the gem importing uncle contributed an interesting angle to Mr. Beckley's account.

"When he died," states the Midland county man, "his will left a sizeable amount to my mother and her family. But this was in England, and it was years later before I knew of it. Under English law, if the money was not claimed within 50 years, it went to the government, and I was a few years late in making a claim, after I heard of the matter through an uncle who came to visit."

But there are other intriguing angles to Mr. Beckley's life story. He ran the engine on a tug boat which carried the first news of Lincoln's assassination from Saginaw to Bay City.

"The news had reached Saginaw by train," he states, "carried by the old engine called the Pollywog. She had a bell-shaped smokestack and burned wood.

"I was working on the river, and the engineer of the tugboat was sick, so they asked me if I could handle it. I had handled stationary engines, so I thought I could. On the boat were Amasa Rust, president of the Tittabawassee Boom Company; George Ball, walking boss on the river; my brother Bob; Milo Starks; Frank Conrow, and Hugh McCullough, an uncle to these McCullough boys in the store here in Laporte.

"We went to Bay City and tied up near the Wenonah Hotel, and brought the news of Lincoln's death."

For ten years Mr. Beckley worked on the rivers and in the woods, and for five of these years he had a commission from the Pinkerton Detective Agency to act as an undercover man in this neck of the woods.

"Very few knew it," he said, and recalled among others one instance where by keeping his eyes and ears open, he was able to effect the apprehension of the man wanted for robbery.

Meanwhile he cleared the Ingersoll farm, where bears came close to the house, and lynx screamed within sight of the kitchen windows.

From time to time he turned his hand to anything that would afford a little added income. So, he remembers, he helped drill the first salt well in Midland, for Larkin & Patrick, near their mill on the river bank here, and helped draw the first brine that was pronounced successful.

Among Mr. Beckley's prized possessions is an old American flag of such historic interest that the fact that it has only 13 stars is only one of its points of value.

It flew, says the Ingersoll man, from Admiral Porter's warship, "Sublime," at the time when that American admiral was defending United States

shipping interests during the trouble between England and South Africa.

It seemed Mr. Beckley's brother-in-law was a sailor, and when the warship was returned to this country to be overhauled, this chap was pilot and trimmer and hired to see to the job. All old fixtures, including the flag, were to be burned, and new ones substituted.

"But he didn't like to burn the flag," says Mr. Beckley, "so he put it into his 'sea donkey' and afterward brought it home. My sister, Mrs. A.K. Hall, has it now here in Laporte. It's about five feet long and three wide, all cut out and sewed by hand before sewing machines were made."

The Beckley family is well known in Midland County. There are two sons, Harold and George, and a daughter, Mrs. Ethel Beckley Closs.

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#### **BODIES, TREASURE CHESTS, AND SUCH, ALL PLAY A PART IN A GROVE ON A DARK NIGHT**

Midland Republican, August 8, 1929 - We were goin' by the First Ward School grounds the other night (guess it was a week ago Tuesday) and happened to see a couple of flashlights winking in a small grove near there so we sauntered over kinda slow like, to find out what was takin' place.

"Buryin somebody, mebbe," we happened to think and was just about ready to fade slowly out of the picture, when some one crawlin around on their hands and knees almost bumped into us. We let out a whoop and started off to lower the two mile mark but got tangled up in the brushwood and fell flat. Somebody came up and stuck a flashlight in our face and said, "shush." We shushed.

"What are you doing here?" demanded the man with the flashlight.

"Lyn," sez we meekly, and then we recognized the villain as none other than our friend, Jack Cline, the playground instructor.

"When! But that's a relief!" we sez as we got up and mopped our forehead.

Then we happened to look behind us and there was somebody else comin up with a flashlight so we flopped right down again in the bushes and started to moan a little to ourselves.

"What's the matter with you?" Jack asked kinda surprised like. "That's Miss Polak."

We crawled out of the bushes again rather shamefaced, and looked slowly about us to see if there was any one else crawlin around besides Miss Polak, the other instructor. Not noticin anybody we began to breath more freely.

"We got it almost buried when you came along and started yelling," sez Jack,

"Buried!" we cried. "Buried! Ooooooh!" And started for the bushes again.

"Say what the dickens is the matter with you anyway?" demanded Jack grabbin us by the arm. "Can't people bury treasures without you goin' around moanin and carryin on like that?"

"Then it's only a treasure and not a body?" we stammered.

"Who said anything about a body," sez Jack. "You've just been readin Sherlock Holmes again I bet."

Much reassured we walked over to the place where the treasure was being deposited and watched Miss Polak and Mr. Cline cover it up. It was in a good sized box and was fast disappearing beneath the sand when we recovered our senses.

"Say, what is it anyway?" we demanded.

"That's a secret," sez Miss Polak. "It's a treasure for our treasure hunt tomorrow. All the boys and girls at the playground are going to hunt for it and we had to bury it at night so they wouldn't see us."

"So that's what you were crawlin around on your hands and knees for," we sez.

The next day we came around to see what the treasure was and saw the boys and girls chasing around all over the world to find it. When they had found some of the notes they got closer to it and we began to get rather excited ourselves.

We wanted to help out one poor little fellow who seemed to be behind the rest and were about to show him where it was, when we saw Jack Cline looking at us rather meaningly, so we decided it would be best to control our benevolent impulses.

They found the chest finally. It was filled with candy kisses and such things. The children got a great kick out of it, but we were kinda disappointed. Jack was right; there wasn't any body.

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**DEATH OF MRS. GEORGE RAYMOND OF HOPE**

Midland Republican - Hope, Michigan March 16, 1930(?) - Mrs. Anna Raymond, aged 45 years, wife of George Raymond of Hope died at her home Thursday evening Feb. 18 after an illness of two weeks.

The deceased was the daughter of John and Mary Grice and was born in England in 1864. From there she moved with her parents to St. Thomas, Canada, and thence to North Bradley, Michigan. Here she married Mr. George Raymond of Hope, April 15, 1884, and in a couple of years moved with her husband to Hope where she resided in her present home until her death.

The deceased leaves behind to mourn her departure her husband, four daughters and two sons, also four brothers and two sisters.

The casket was covered with many beautiful flowers from her many friends, the funeral being held Sunday afternoon Feb. 21, at the Baptist church here. Rev. Mr. Blackwell conducting the services.

The husband and family wish to express their heartfelt thanks to their many friends who were so kind in the last sickness and death of the wife and mother.

(This notice which should have been sent to the "Republican" long ago was overlooked by the family, which accounts for its being so late.)

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**FIRST WHITE 'KID' BORN ON CHIPPEWA  
RECALLS CAPTAIN OF SEYMOUR**

by Albert Hake

Midland Republican, Jan. 8, 1931 - I am like Thomas Sharpe; I feel the urge to write one more letter, and will say I knew Dan Osborn, Captain of the Belle Seymour. He came to live at the Brint Sias farm after losing his job on the boat. He was a heavy set man and very bow-legged.

Midland county sure was an Eden in its wild state -- wild berries, nuts, plums, grapes, flowers. Deer used to travel in family groups, a buck, doe, a fawn, perhaps two. A familiar sight on the old Isabella state road were the Indian ponies, a large basket on each side full of berries in season, a squaw with a papoose on her back, riding. Some difference in the mode of travel then and now.

Lumbering has changed from the short dray haul with oxen to the 50-mile haul by rail; from the pony mill with a circular to the electrically powered band saw mills of today. A circular loses one board in cutting four; a band saw loses one in eight by the sawdust route.

Who remembers the Midland ball team fifty-five years ago called the "Clippers?" Jim Ryan was the pitcher. Other members were the Beamish boys, Clyde Eastman, Joe Blackmar, George Selley, Billie Martindale. The catcher's name was Payne.

I was born near the old Indian fishing grounds off the Chippewa River over 55 years ago, and think I was the first white kid born on that river.

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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 and 1880's.

1) Discharge of Mortgage from T.D. Royse and John Baines to Rachel A. Phillips and Stephen W. Phillips, all of Midland for a lien (of \$500) on lots 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the plat of the Town of Midland. Dated 20 Nov. 1877, and discharged 16 Oct., 1880.

2) Discharge of Mortgage from Rev. Isaac Swift, formerly of the City of Midland, now of the City of Syracuse, N.Y., to the Trustees of the Presbyterian Society of the City of Midland for lot 5 of block 51 in the Village of Midland. Dated 17 May, 1872 and discharged 30 Sept., 1879.

3) Warrantee deed from Oseanna A. Sears of Saginaw, administratrix of the estate of Franklin P. Sears, to Benjamin C. Freese, of East Saginaw, for \$1 in satisfaction of a contract between F.P. Sears and B.C. Freese of 2 Nov., 1868 for the undivided 1/2 of the E 1/2 NE 1/4 and NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Sec. 26 T16N R1E. Dated 9 Mar., 1876.

4) Warrantee deed from George F. and Julia A. Ball of Midland to the Trustees of the First Baptist church of Midland, the parcel of land described as: commencing 56 rods north of the quarter post on the section line between section 20 and 21 in Twp. 14 N R2E running thence east 10 rods thence north 4 rods thence west 10 rods to section line thence 4 rods to the place of beginning. Consideration \$125. Dated 3 April, 1880.

5) Copy of the Last Will & Testament of Valorous A. Paine of Saginaw, aged 47, dated 14 June, 1861, probated 15 April 1867, recorded in Midland, 5 Dec., 1881. 1st - All my debts be paid; 2nd - devise to wife Harriet Paine all my estate both real & personal; Lastly - nominate wife Harriet and son Alderman Butts Paine as executors.

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**THIS AND THAT**

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY: Any computer user with a modem & communications software can now scan the Allen County Public Library computer card file. Simply call: 219-424-1330. Use the COMM setting "Control O." Press twice to get the welcome screen and carry out your search. Use "Control O" to log off. You pay only for the phone call. The card file is on-line Monday-Thursday 9am-9pm, Friday & Saturday 9am-6pm Eastern Standard Time.

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CIVIL WAR MEDICAL RECORDS: Medical records of men drafted or rejected for the Union Army are in the National Archives under group records #110, "Medical Record of Examinations." These records are arranged by Congressional Districts as of 1863. Data includes: residence, age, birth place, occupation & physical characteristics. If a man was rejected, reasons are given under "Remarks."

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**MORE THANKS**

Since this is the last Pioneer Record of the 1995-6 year, the Editor would like to mention his appreciation to those that have contributed time, articles, etc. to the newsletter this year. Those whose by-lines are given are obvious: Jo Brines, Jack Dickert, Bill & Pat Worden and Ralph Hillman. Those who worked in the background: Fran & Charles Longsdorf and Nancy Lackie deserve a note of thanks. Another whom I owe a debt of gratitude is my wife Donalee, who when the "computer ate" the first 8 pages of this particular issue retyped them so that I did not have to and can meet the deadline. She deserves more thanks than that as she well knows.

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**FOR SALE**

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).

**MIDLAND COUNTY CENSUSES - 1850-1894.**

450 PAGES, SOFTBOUND. \$20 plus \$2 postage. (ONLY 40 COPIES LEFT).

To ORDER A BOOK write:

Midland Genealogical Society BOOK  
G.A. Dow Memorial Library  
1710 W. St. Andrews Dr.  
Midland, MI 48640

