

**Midland Genealogical Society is 25!
The Pioneer Record is 17!**

PIONEER RECORD



XVII

September 1996

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RUNS P. M. ENGINE THRU MIDLAND NEARLY FIFTY YEARS WITHOUT ACCIDENT

by Claire Morrill
Midland Republican
Consolidated with
The Midland Sun,
Thursday, August 15, 1929

Engineer Thomas H. Sharpe climbed down from the cab of Number 393 at the Pere Marquette water tower here Monday morning, with his long-pointed oil can in his hand. Engineer Sharpe has been climbing down from his engine at Midland almost every day for fifty years.

We were waiting for him Monday, when the 8:57 passenger train pulled in, and he had no more than tipped his oil can up two or three times at strategic points in his engine when our journalistic companion approached him and extended greetings.

Sure, he said, he had a few minutes to spare while they were transferring baggage.

"Understand you've been running through here fifty years," said our spokesman.

"Went firing in '79," assented the engineer. "I was promoted in '83, and I've run an engine ever since -- on this run, all except two years on a Detroit run. Never had an accident in all that time.

"We come near having them every day, though, with all these automobiles on the road. Why, one time when we were going in to Evart, a man drove across in front of us, and we took the back

tire off his car. He didn't even know it. Two other cars were waiting for us, and someone told him his tire was gone. It rolled off and went over into a field. I don't see how we can help killing people like that," he said, shaking his head.

He explained that he runs from Saginaw to Ludington, arriving here at 7:57 a. m. one day and coming back the next morning at 10:54.

Rob't Tremper

"Did you ever live here in Midland?"

"Oh, yes, I lived right next to Fred Sias in the Fourth Ward years ago. Then I moved to Saginaw, and have stayed there ever since.

"Another old-timer and I were in Midland last Friday looking up old friends -- Robert Tremper, he was. He used to live in Midland, too, years ago. He's an engineer of 29 years experience. Now he's General Chairman of the Railroad Brotherhood -- goes all up and down the lines and looks after our interests, wage scales and so on.

"Mr. Tremper entered the service of the P. M. R. R. in 1886 as warehouse man at Midland, went firing in 1887, was promoted in 1893, and ran a locomotive constantly until 1922 when he was chosen to represent the men as general chairman, a position carrying with it great responsibility. It requires a man of exceptional executive ability.

"He spent his boyhood days in Midland and still cherishes in his heart a fondness for the old town.

"We went over and saw old Johnnie Johnson, the barber, you know. When we

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome back to another year of MGS programs, committee work, research, and fellowship. Hopefully some of you have uncovered some "real finds" this summer. We had a busy year last season and this year is expected to be the same.

Attendance at meetings was great last year, having acquired a number of new members. However, with success sometimes come new problems. There is a possibility of having to move to larger quarters. We are presently looking around Midland to see what's available.

As expected, but hoping it wouldn't happen, the Midland City council has enacted an ordinance that established new user fees for all of the Library meeting rooms. These fees take effect September 1. The charge for our non-profit group will be \$25 an evening. This amount of money might be accommodated for in the budget without an increase in dues, but it will be a Board decision in September. I had written each of the council members, Karl Tomion, and Jim Alsip in early May voicing the Board's concern about the proposed user fee, but --- --- ---.

One large project already underway for next year will be the seminar planned for Saturday, April, 26, 1997. Ralph Hillman, the chairman, has been thinking and planning for this for a number of months now. In September he will probably outline his plans and will be requesting people to help. A registrar, meal planners, mailing committee, hospitality, arrangements, publicity, possibly decorations are a few tasks that come to mind that will need to be done. Perhaps you can plan ahead to see where your talents and time might fit, and notify Ralph at 839-9070 before he calls you. One call from you to him lessens all the phoning he needs to make to the entire membership.

Notes from the last Board meeting:

Membership for the year 1995-96 was about 125 people.

As of June 30, 1996,

checking account (operating) balance	\$ 1077
money market (projects) balance	2307
CD	2500

total assets	\$5884

Actual income was \$371 over the budgeted income; actual expenses were \$96 over budgeted expenses. Overall, our total assets were \$950 less than for year ending 1995. This was due almost entirely to the cost of microfilming First Families files. In the

years when the project was active (1991-94) when we received income, our total assets had increased considerably for a few years.

I feel we are operating within too close a margin, so the Board will need to look at some ways where our income might be increased.

The sheet of paper for your suggestions of possible programs for 1996-7 never was circulated at the May meeting due to so many other things happening, so if you have some topics you would like addressed (do you have the name of a speaker also??), please call Bill Kocher at 631-4015 or Mary Lou Hayes at 835-1220. They would like to accommodate both the older and newer members in planning the programs.

In May Joanne Rupprecht announced she would like to reactivate and update a locality listing of states and counties where members are researching. This might help people compare notes, maybe even set up a trip together.

I have not seen anything lately about the proposed "Ancestors" program which was to be scheduled for this fall on PBS-TV. The ten episodes to be presented were listed in the April Pioneer Record. Continue to watch for it.

Diana Butcher is still looking for each members five-generation ancestor charts and file cards referencing same for the notebooks kept in the Library. You never know when somebody from another state will visit our Library, look at the files of ancestor charts and find your name or one of your direct line as being the same as theirs. What a surprise phone call or letter you might receive!

Hope to see you on Wednesday, September 18, 7:30 P.M., at the Library Lounge.

Jo Brines.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Midland Genealogy Society is planning a genealogy seminar. It will be held Saturday, April 26, 1997 at the Griswold Communication Center of Northwood University here in Midland. The featured speaker will be John L. Hansen, F.A.S.G., who is reference librarian and genealogical specialist at the library of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Proposed topics are: "Research in the States of the old Northwest (Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin)," "Getting the Most from Newspaper Research", "Frontier Genealogy", and "What to Do When You Hit a Brick Wall."

**RUNS P. M. ENGINE THRU MIDLAND
NEARLY FIFTY YEARS WITHOUT
ACCIDENT**

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were kids, we used to go into Johnnie's barber shop on cold days to get warm, and if there was a vacant chair, why he'd let us sit there. When we grew up and another generation of kids came up, he'd do the same for them. We wanted to see Byron Burch, too, but we missed him.



In The Cab

"Yes," said he heartily. "I've got a lot of sympathy for this little place. I remember when we used to haul logs through here, we didn't have curtains on the cab like we have now, and this wind used to blow through something terrible. We'd sit there for hours when we were almost frozen.

"I can tell you one thing -- in all those years, I've never had an official come up and dig into me. That makes you feel pretty good toward the company."

"How many engines have you worn out?"

"Oh, a good many. There's a faithful old machine, there," he said, glancing up at Number 393. "I've only had her about two years, though."

"Do you like to do this sort of thing?"

"Sure," he said. "I was born right to it."

Engineer Sharpe pulled out his watch and started toward the cab. "Almost time to pull out," he said. "Would you like to come up and get warm?"

Going Strong

Accepting the fireman's canvas gloves, we

grasped the hand rails and, assisted by our companion, ascended to that paradise dreamed of by all small boys.

Two neat leather seats beneath the windows indicated the vantage points from which the engineer and fireman surveyed the landscape o'er. Levers and handles suggested the brakes and whistles obedient to their move.

"There's the big one," said the engineer, pointing to a pedal in the floor. "Step on it."

Gingerly, half expecting the floor to slide out from under and precipitate us into the boiler, we pressed our foot upon it. Two big doors in front of us slid back, exposing the red maw of the fire box. A blast of heat smote us, and we hastily released the pedal.

"How old are you now, Mr. Sharpe?" asked the masculine half of our expedition, looking at the husky engineer, bedecked in overalls and goggles.

"Sixty-nine next May."

"Almost ready for a pension?"

"I don't want any pension," said the engineer, firmly, "I'm going too strong."

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MIDLAND PIONEERS BOOK

Publication of the Midland Pioneers book has been postponed pending further discussion at the September MGS board meeting.

**The Genealogist's Psalm by Wildamae Brestal
From "Trackings," Crawford Co., Ohio Genealogical Society**

Genealogy is my pastime, I shall not stray.
It maketh me to lie down and examine half-buried tombstones.
It leadeth me into still courthouses;
It restoreth my ancestral knowledge.
It leadeth me in the paths of census records and ships passenger lists for my surname's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the shadow of research libraries and microfilm readers,
I shall fear no discouragements; for a strong urge is within me;
It demandeth preparation of storage space for acquisition of countless documents;
It annointest my head with burning midnight oil.
Surely birth, marriage and death dates shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of a family-history seeker forever.

MR. SHARPE WRITES A LETTER
The Midland Republican, Thursday, August 15, 1929

424 No. 3rd Ave.
 Saginaw, Michigan
 July 30th, 1929

John Johnson

My Dear Sir:

After our little talk at Midland the other morning I got to thinking that it would be much more satisfactory to you if I would write up a short biography of my boyhood days in your little city, you excusing and correcting all mistakes not forgetting that it is written by only a Locomotive Engineer whose chief concern is getting in on time and obeying the company rules.

As I look back across the years, I see through boyish eyes, happenings of the happiest days of my life, the old Chippewa and Tittabawassee rivers teeming with fish, their banks fringed with wild plums, grapes, walnuts and butternuts for miles up -- everything that was dear to the heart of a bare-foot boy.

Can you wonder that there still lingers in my heart a fondness for your little city that still harbors some of my boyhood friends, the majority of whom have passed on. As I look back at the outstanding figures of those days, John Larkin, the pine baron of Midland at that time, John Sias and Sam Sias, two strong characters that reflect back that indomitable spirit to the discoverer of oil in Isabella County, Mr. Fred Sias, the man that knows no backward trail. Any man that loves a fighter, take off your hat to him.

That dear old character that bore no ill will to any man, honest and fair in his judicial decisions, kind and good in his every day life, Judge Hart, father of our present Judge, Ray Hart.

John Maloney, who ran a shingle mill, five miles north of Midland, always my friend as a boy. I remember that he had a log camp on what was then called the Maloney Branch, that left the P. M. R. R. rails two miles west of Farwell. He couldn't get along with the railroad men that handled his logs and took a great dislike to them. He came to me and said, "Boy, get off that railroad: You are working with a lot of cutthroats. Come home and I'll give you a job." He sounded my praises so much among the railroad men that the boys nicknamed me "Maloney" which stuck to me a long time.

Later came Mr. Herbert Dow, and with his knowledge of chemistry and indomitable spirit, give us one of the finest chemical plants in the world. It was characters like these that handed back to the people one of the most prosperous and beautiful little cities in the State of Michigan.

As I strolled through your city, meeting an acquaintance here, another there, it occurred to me that there was one more. You do a kindness to a boy and its memory will follow through his life. As I think of this man, the latch string of his little shop was always out for the boy with cold fingers or toes, the warmest place there was his without the asking, and as I think of his many little kindnesses, my eyes fill. None whiter than he, John Johnson.

Slow Summers

I went railroading in the spring of 1879 with my belongings in my hand. I left home and I will never forget my dear old Mother, standing in the door waving me good bye until I could see her no more, bless her memory. I went to Ludington and went to work in the freight house there. In the fall of that year I went firing and was promoted to engineer in 1883, a momentous day in my life. Things were different at that time. When a fellow was promoted, he was not put back firing when business slacked as he is now. The result was that he did little or nothing through the summer as about the only extra work there was was log trains and they generally commenced to run sometime in November. Sometimes there would be one firm that would load in the summer, but that was about all. So when the summer was over and business was again upon us, we were sadly in debt. We owed the tailor, the boarding house keeper, and last but not least the shoe repairer for our shoes were sadly in need of repairs by the time business commenced. It was indeed a lucky man that chanced to draw the easily handled engine for he put his foot against the boiler head for a brace to raise the reverse lever, and if your shoes were bad, you burned your feet. But we were happy for all that. We generally succeeded in paying off our debts during the winter so as to leave our credit good for the next summer.

Hands Off

Our largest engines at that time had cylinders 18-24 inches. We had two of this size. They were monsters of their time. The next largest freight engines were 16-24; passengers were 15-22, all scrapped years ago. Every man owned his machine and woe be to the man or boy that put his hands on the polished brass or in any way defaced another man's machine. Better were he in the bottom of the sea. But

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MR. SHARPE WRITES A LETTER

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all this has changed.

The R. R. Co. found there was more revenue in pooling their engines, and after all, revenue is our chief concern. It took the men a long time to get used to this new condition, but I doubt if any of them would care to have the old conditions back again. So many improvements have taken place for the best. Everything has been looked after that would make the men more comfortable, no steam leaks in the cab, piston rods and valve stems tight, cab well curtained to keep out the cold in the winter, mechanical stokers on our largest engines. In fact, if a man is discontented now, let him take a trip back in the old days.

Our chief concern now is the automobile, the greatest menace we have. One does not know what minute some fool driver will drive upon the crossing in front of you, ignoring flash lights, whistle, clanging bell. Only one thing in his poor foolish head -- to get across first. When I tell you that the pilot beam of our engine took the rear tire off one man's machine on a crossing and he did not know it until he was stopped and told, (dead from the neck up) did not know that there was a train within a thousand miles of him. You can guess what a locomotive engineer is up against with drivers like this on the road -- and they are numerous.

The Old Brakeman

But as I look back, the most interesting figure of them all that comes to my mind is the old time brakeman, a man from his toes to the top of his head, as a He Man goes, his hands calloused and broken with constant contact. His work was never done until his wheels stopped at the cinder pit. He coaled or wooded up the engines as the case might be, broke the train, and was roundly berated if he let it run by. In addition to that he unloaded all of the freight, and there was some freight to unload those days. He was in constant demand. But he is gone forever, swallowed up in that great vortex of changing scene, a victim of the air brake and the automatic coupler, and so it goes. I like to dream it all over, and bring back those dream faces, good fellows, all of them. But we are getting old; our time is short. It won't be long until I for one will step down, and when I do, I want to do it with the good will of all my associates from the call boy up.

Yours truly,

Thos. H. Sharpe

Loco. Eng. P. M. R. R.

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FOR SALE

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

MIDLAND COUNTY OBITUARY INDEX - 1872-1927. 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

WE ARE 25 YEARS YOUNG!

By President Jo Brines

At the May meeting the Midland Genealogical Society enjoyed a mini-birthday celebration, complete with cake minus candles, and a brief review of our activities and growth since 1971. Following is an even briefer summary of what has happened since the MGS began in a small way.

In early 1971 there were comments from several local genealogists about starting an organized group. The study of family history back then was not a household term like it is today! There were very few organized groups in Michigan. In fact, the Michigan Genealogical Council had not even been formed yet, and the Saginaw Genealogical Society was relatively new.

Two of our present-day members, Pat Worden and Jan Erratt, were approached by Midland County Historical Society to talk about such a group. According to the Midland Daily News, a Genealogical Unit of the MCHS was actually organized that day in June, 1971. Meetings were attended by 6-10 people and a very small collection of books was housed in Studio 7 in the Center for the Arts. According to Jan, the first elected president, our group received a great deal of guidance from the Saginaw Society. On at least one occasion we purchased several boxes of books and periodicals that were duplicates on the Saginaw shelves.

It wasn't too long before the Midland Genealogical Unit found that designated hours of research were not convenient for members or the public, and space for meetings was very limited. So, thinking began about a different location. In early 1977, a new Library director, Mr. Ed. Szynaka, was appointed. It was soon after that the Genealogical Unit's book committee contacted him about removing the small collection from the Historical Society and placing it in the Grace A. Dow Library. A request was also made by the Unit to merge these books with whatever genealogy books were already owned by the library, and they totally would become the core for genealogical research and reference. Everyone was very pleased with the cooperation of Mr. Szynaka.

The first meeting of the Unit held at the library was in the lounge area in February, 1978. Right from the beginning (in 1971) there had been monthly meetings with speakers. Mr. Szynaka spoke at the March meeting, explaining future plans where space would be available for the genealogy collection. However, he warned that this future probably was many years away. In May of the same year all ties were severed with the Historical Society and we became known as the Midland Genealogical Society.

Another big change in 1978 was the move of the

genealogical collection to the lower level of the library adjacent to the magazine and newspaper shelves. Previously the few books in the collection had been on two shelves in the present "quiet room." At that time I believe we had only one microfilm reader (the "old clunker in the corner") and no copier machine.

A three-phase Library master plan for renovation and expansion was accepted in October, 1979. We fit into phase III - which would include the establishment of a bigger area for the Michigan and local history and genealogy collections. But we were warned AGAIN that phase III might be 20 years in the future!

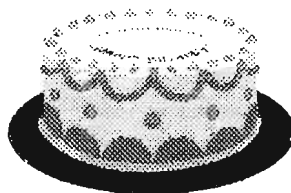
At the request of the Library staff, two members of the MGS began volunteering and helping with the genealogy collection in June, 1980. In 1981, a third member volunteered. These three (Maxine McCullen, Jo Brines, and Nancy Lackie) are still at the desk weekly. At that time we were able to loan census microfilms from the National Archives for free.

As many of you know, the area on the lower level became greatly overcrowded and congested because of the addition of new books and microfilm/fiche readers and greater patron usage. Any number of times the volunteers of a special committee were asked to lay out some floor plans and make suggestions for new equipment in preparation for the day when new quarters would be available. We had no idea where the new quarters would be, or how much square footage we would have. At this point the book shelves were so crowded we wondered if even one more book could be placed on them. When using a microfilm reader, there was no table space on which to place any writing materials. All the members, and especially the volunteers, were eagerly awaiting **WHATEVER** new and larger quarters we would have in phase III.

In 1991, construction of phase III was begun. I'm sure you all remember what a mess the library was in for months. Because of this, in January 1993 our monthly meetings had to be moved to the Carpenter School library, where we met until the spring of 1994. In the meantime, one of the rooms which was part of the recent expansion was designated to house the genealogy collection in addition to Midland newspapers on microfilm, Midland County census films, and reference books on Michigan history. For a while this room, shared with the magazines, periodicals, and actual newspapers, looked like a disaster area, and the floor was bare, unfinished concrete. But it was worth the frustration and years of waiting, because finally in March, 1994, the Midland Room was officially opened.

The society has had a book committee since 1979 to select and advise the Library which books to pur-

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WE ARE 25 YEARS YOUNG!

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chase for the genealogy collection. The first expenditure was most of the money we had available at the time- \$400. Over the years the amount of money donated by the Society to the Library has increased several times, and the present amount is now \$800 annually, giving a grand total of almost \$9000. Almost all of this amount has been matched 50/50 by the Library. In addition, over the years a few Society members have donated sizable amounts of money for both book or equipment purchase. Currently it is estimated there are over 1200 reference books in the genealogy collection plus a number of newsletters and quarterlies from many counties in Michigan.

Our projects and fun times need to be mentioned. As early as March 1972 (nine months after officially becoming organized) a dozen members sponsored a five-hour workshop. It is not known how many people attended. After much deliberation and questioning, the Society hosted the annual Michigan Genealogical Council seminar in September 1983, entitled "Canadian Research." Under the chairmanship of Ruth Ann Casadonte, several "firsts" were introduced, and at least 250 attended. We all worked very hard to make this a success. Throughout the years we have held many workshops, seminars and book exchange days, all geared to help each other in research.

The society has published four books, beginning in 1981 with the "Midland County Cemetery" book. A number of people were involved (and had fun doing the same) in reading each tombstone in all the cemeteries. Several photos of these outings even appeared in the Midland Daily News. Sometimes it was a painful experience when an all-baby section was found or when there was an all-veterans group. Just days previous to the 1983 seminar, the "Midland County Census" book was ready. This also was a fun project but also one that took many hours of reading the census films, abstracting them, typing and proofreading the finished copy. Both of these projects were long-term and took at least five years to complete (and were done without a computer). For both these publications, McCandless' store offered "an autograph party" at which time the books were offered to the public for the first time. A number of books were sold through that store. The third publication was "Midland County Naturalizations." And of course, the fourth book is "Midland County Obituary Index - 1872-1927", which involved the reading of all the old Midland newspapers and abstracting any infor-



mation that might even remotely be considered an obituary. This project actually took ten years to publication time, which was early 1994. All of these projects involved thousands and thousands of hours of work by MANY Society members, but the completed results offer invaluable data to Midland County researchers. They all have been a good source of income, including the 1983 seminar, with the profits being used for library book purchase or as seed money to begin new projects. Until the seminar, the Society operated on a shoestring and actually had to borrow money in order to have the first two books printed. In addition to the publications providing invaluable information for researchers, the members who participated had a lot of fun and established bonds of friendship which still are strong today.

In April, 1980, the Society first started the PIONEER RECORD as the newsletter of the Society. This year marks the 17th continuous year of publication. As with our other projects, there have been many contributors over the years under three editors — Marilyn Watkins, Florence Wise, and Ora Flaningam.

Last but by no means the least, our last great project was "First Families of Midland County," a 3 1/2 year project to gather specific information on early Midland families and to award certificates to applicants who chose to honor their ancestors. Again, it was a fun and rewarding project but very time-consuming for the committee. Ask Maxine McCullen, the registrar, how many thousands of hours she alone spent with applicants and their papers. Or how many applicants were standing in line at the Library on the last day, December 31, 1994, waiting to ask questions and be helped. Committee members met personally or worked long distance with 614 applicants from every corner of the United States. The reward was that we felt we had become intimately acquainted with many early Midland pioneers, and hundreds of applicants became excited about their family history for the first time. The project was a much bigger success than we ever dreamed it would be, many wonderful human interest stories have been collected, and we marveled how the ancestors ever survived the harsh days of long ago. The files resulting from this project have now been microfilmed and indexed as to families and are available for research at the Grace A. Dow Library.

In the fall of 1987, Pat Worden began talking about a possible trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. She had traveled once with a group from Ohio and thought the trip might be a good idea for MGS members. Our first trip was in May 1988 and we've traveled six times since. Some members have gone every time, yet each year there have been some newcomers. Most times about a dozen people enjoyed the trip; one time there were 20 or so. It's a

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WE ARE 25 YEARS YOUNG!

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wonderful week away from the stresses of Midland!

Members of the Society are a hale and hardy group. There have been only a few times in the 25 years that a scheduled meeting has not taken place. In January, 1994, when we were meeting at Carpenter School, the meeting was canceled because all the schools were closed because of a snow storm. Bill Worden remembers his speech on home computers in January, 1991, being interrupted by news of the bombing of Baghdad and President Bush's television address.

The Society has grown in so many ways in the last 25 years, and it is all due to many dedicated, hard working, interested people who have wished to discover their own personal family history and to help preserve the community's genealogy for future generations. I wonder what the next 25 years will bring?

Our celebration was concluded with a photograph taken of the past presidents of the Society that were present: Jan Erratt, Pat Worden, Ruth Ann Casadonte, Wilma Diesen, Bill Worden, Ralph Hillman, Jack Dickert, and Jo Brines.

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JIM HAYDEN REMEMBERS FLOATING SALOON UP ON CROOKED LAKE; NO TAX Midland Republican, August 1, 1929

"Yup", says Mr. Hayden, city treasurer, "they used to have a floating saloon up on Crooked Lake. That was about '88. Had it built on a bunch of logs, and kept it out in the lake to avoid the taxes. When they wanted to they'd bring it up to shore and run out a plank so the fellows could walk on.

"Sometimes they used to have some trouble getting ashore again when they'd had a little to drink."

Mr. Harden couldn't remember who ran the place. "It was so long ago," he says, "about 41 years."

"They used to have an awful time in those places. Sometimes about 75 of the boys would get in a saloon and get to feeling so good or else get so mad about something that they'd pick up all the furniture, bar and all, and move it right out in the street."

He didn't remember that they ever moved out the furniture from the floating saloon, though, where the consequences might have been more serious.

"It was a great life, in the woods," he said, shaking his head. "It was just home to a fellow after he'd been there a while. I remember the fall when I got me a new Mackinaw and went to the woods. The cookee had left, and Jack Dorr was cooking, so Bill Clark told me to help him out. I was sort of handy man about camp, so I started in as cookee.

"I remember one day Jack told me to take the food out to the men. I loaded up a bunch of stuff on a sort of dray affair -- doughnuts, pies, beans and stuff, and started out. First thing I knew, I hit a stump. Spilled the beans all over the snow. Upset the whole works. Then I had to go back and get some more stuff.

But the boys sure cursed me," he said grinning.

"Jack was quite a fellow. He'd feed anybody that came along. He'd handed out enough stuff to keep a whole family going all winter. I remember once two Indians came along with a pair of coons. They asked for something to eat, so Jack told me to give them some stuff. I've never seen anybody eat like they did -- pie and cake and everything. While they were eating Jack swiped their coons and threw them over in a snow bank. When they got through eating, they started to look around for them.

No Talk At Meals

"Want coons," they said. "You took coons."

But Jack swore he didn't know anything about them. After while they went away and Jack fished out the coons and skinned them. We ate them and then he sold the skins. In a few days the Indians came back, still looking for them. He gave them flour and stuff, more than enough to pay for the things, but he'd never admit taking them. He was always pulling some trick on somebody.

"The men couldn't talk at meals in the camps," said Mr. Hayden. "All you could hear would be the sound of the tin or iron knives and forks on the tin plates. Everybody helped himself and there was lots to eat.

"Saturday night we could stay up all night if we wanted to. Usually there was a dance -- everybody staggged it. Sundays we'd sit around the bunkhouse with a red hot fire in the stove and the socks hung up on

(Continued on page 9)

JIM HAYDEN REMEMBERS FLOATING SALOON UP ON CROOKED LAKE; NO TAX

(Continued from page 8)

lines and the fellows'd sing and sometimes tell stories. But at 9:30 the foreman'd put the lights out.

"Breakfast at daylight, and every camp had a big horn as long as this room is wide to blow and call the men to meals. Sometimes you could hear horns from four or five camps nearby.

Money Went Farther

"In the spring when they got their pay, they'd all come out to town. I was only in the woods that one winter, and I remember that when I came out that spring, I met about 500 men on the road all coming out. They'd take their pay to town, get drunk, go to sleep somewhere, and wake up without a nickel."

The brevity of their prosperity was attributed to the ancient and generally accepted practice of "rolling" the lumberjacks in the saloons. It consisted simply of picking their pockets while they were asleep. Back they'd go to camp, perfectly satisfied, and work until they got another bunch of money.

"Sometimes," explained Mr. Hayden, "they'd give their money to a bartender and have him supply them with whiskey until it was all gone. That was all right if the fellow was honest. Sometimes they'd give it to somebody else to keep for them. One fellow here used to give me his money and I'd always slip over to his house and give it to his wife. She never told him about it, and he never knew the difference. You'd be surprised if I told you who it was. His son's in business here now.

"I don't know," he said, doubtfully, "but it seems as if people had a better time then than they do now. Of course money went farther in those days. Twenty-six

dollars then would buy about as much as a hundred now. Sometimes times were hard, but everybody was glad to help everybody else. If anyone got hurt, they'd take up a collection for him.

"There wasn't any difference in classes then, either. Everybody knew everybody else."

Asked about his fame as a shot in those early days, Mr. Hayden admitted he like to hunt partridge.

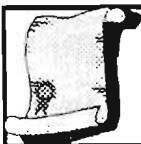
Trained Dogs

"We used to hunt for the market," he said. "The first year they put on the license, I was hunting one time with a fellow who didn't have any license. He got picked up by a warden, so I had to take the birds and git. We had about six hundred birds, so I hid them under some hay until dark, then put them into gunny sacks and started for Midland in a buggy. It was darker than a dungeon and snowing. I had a big umbrella over the buggy. (Everybody used one then) and I had gunny sacks tied on all over the rig. Drove into town here about 2:30 in the morning, all alone. That was the worst ride I ever had."

For a crack shot, though, Mr. Hayden acknowledges one weak point. He doesn't like to feel the birds after they're shot. Says he makes his wife take them out of his coat and then he can take them by the head and he's all right. But one mess in the fall is enough for him -- he doesn't want any more till next season.

One feature of the city treasurer's early interest in hunting was the training of bird dogs in which, for years, he was actively engaged.

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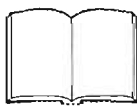
Midland County Deeds

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 1870-1880's.

1) Assignment of mortgage - Adelia W. Snook to Dwight E. Pearsall. For \$1400. For an indenture of mortgage dated June 1, 1878 by Orville B. Horner and Anna A. Horner of Midland.

2) Quit claim deed dated 31 January 1880 - Silas Harcourt of Midland County and Mary his wife to Alderman B. Paine of Saginaw for \$1 for the E ½ of the SW ¼ of Sec. one T15N R2W and being on the S side of the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroad in Midland County, Michigan.

3) Warranty deed dated 14 July 1880 - George E. Forbes, an unmarried man of Midland County, to Joseph Forbes of the same place for \$300 a parcel of land in Mt. Haley Twp. The NW ¼ of the NE ¼ of Sec. 12 T13N R1E containing forty acres.



Shelfside



New books on the shelves of the G.A. Dow Memorial Library.

- 929.3744 - Mayflower Increasingings
 929.3744 - Mayflower deeds & Probates
 929.1 - Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy. Vol. IV. Ohio, by Hinshaw
 929.1 - Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy. Vol. V. Ohio, by Hinshaw
 929.1 - Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy. Vol. VI. Virginia, by Hinshaw
 975.4 - Index to Revolutionary War Service Records. 4 Volumes. by White
 973.34 - Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Renson Records. Index only (Vol. IV). by White
 929.3716 - Loyalists and Land Settlement in Nova Scotia. by Gilroy
 911.769 - Historical Atlas of Kentucky
 Census - 1870 Michigan Census Index. Volumes 8, 9, & 10. (This completes the 1870 Census Index of Michigan.)
- Donation of \$400 for New Hampshire books.
 917.42 - Gazeteer of the State of New Hampshire in three parts. by Haywood
 929.3742 - New Hampshire Family Records. 2 Volumes. by Wm. Cope.
 929.3742 - 1742 New Hampshire Estate List.
 929.37426 - Genealogical Abstracts from the New Hampshire Spy, 1786-1793.
 929.374 - Directory of Repositories of Family History in New Hampshire. by Scott E. Green.
 929.342 - Colonial Gravestone Inscriptions in the State of New Hampshire. by Mrs. Charles C. Goss.
 929.3741 - New Hampshire Marriage licenses and Intentions 1709-1961. by Pauline J. Oesterlin.
 929.3741 - Roll of New Hampshire Soldiers at the Battle of Bennington, Aug. 16, 1777. by Geo. Gilmore.
 929.2 - Nehil-Reardon. First Families of Midland County.
 941. - Magna Carta Sureties and their Castles. by Marvin
 929.1 - The Genealogists Handbook. Modern Methods for Researching Family History.
 929.5 - Oakland County Cemeteries, Troy, Michigan
 929.5 - Oakland County Cemeteries, Rose Twp., MI
 929.5 - St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan
 929.5 - Directory of Cemeteries, Washtenaw, Michigan
- 929.5 - Cemetery Inscriptions of Saline Twp. Washtenaw Co., Michigan
 929.5 - Bloomdale Cemetery, Trenton, Michigan
 929.5 - Death Records of Shiawassee Co., MI
 973.74 - Company G Enlistments, 3rd Regiment of Michigan Cavalry 1861-1865. by Capt. T.V. Quachenbush.
 929.3772 - Index to Marriages & Deaths from the Marion Chronicle- 1867-1882, Grant Co., IN
 977.14 - History of Cincinnati & Hamilton Co., Ohio
 929.3 - Persons Naturalized in Pennsylvania - 1740-1773.
 929.37471 - Inhabitants of New York - 1774-1776. (In memory of Alice Cell).
 929.373 - Genealogy in Land Records. by Arlene Eakle
 929.3774 - Abstracts of Probate Records, Ingham County, MI.
 929.5 - Bethany Cemetery, Shiawassee Co., MI.
 929.1 - Old Genealogists Never Die, They Just Lose their Census.
 929.3774 - Deaths & Marriages from the Lansing State. Rep. - 1861-1871.
 929.2 - Keeping up with the Joneses, Vances, Westons
 929.5 - Oakgrove Cemetery, Shiawassee Co., MI by Austin
 929.5 - Civil War Soldiers Buried in Shiawassee Co., MI
 929.5 - Middlebury Twp. Cemetery Records, Shiawassee Co., MI by Dillon.
 929.5 - Riverside & West Riverside Cemeteries, Rush Twp., Shiawassee Co., MI
 929.5 - Roselawn Cemetery, Perry Twp., Shiawassee County, MI
 929.37747 - Index to Inmates of Iosco Co., Michigan Poor Farm 1874-1893. by Sherman.
 929.5 - Ridge Road Cemetery, Shiawassee Co., MI
 929.3774 - Deaths & Marriage Items Reported in the Lansing State Rep., 1855-1860.
 929.5 - Newburg Cemetery Shiawassee Twp., MI
 929.5 - Maple River Cemetery, Shiawassee Co., MI
 911.769 - Kentucky Atlas of Historical Co. Boundaries. G.H. Long, Editor
 929.3742 Cemetery Inscriptions of Wolfboro, New Hampshire. by J. Fiphen

From the Detroit Free Press in a trivia column: Unusual names recorded in the first U.S. census:

Utility Bachelor
 Truelove Sparks
 Peter Wentup

Sarah Simperts
 Barbary Stagers
 Thomas Purity

MEMBERSHIP DUES 1996 - 1997

Collection of membership dues for 1996 - 1997 began at the May meeting and will conclude at the September meeting. If your dues are not paid by the end of September, this will be the last Pioneer Record you will receive. Dues may be paid by mail to: Membership Chairman, Midland Genealogical Society, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640. Dues for an individual are \$10; for a family they are \$12.50.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

MGS PROGRAMS FOR 1996 - 1997

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 schedule for the coming year is as follows:

September 18, 1996. Evelyn Leasher of Clarke Historical Library, CMU, Mt. Pleasant. The topic will be of especial interest to newcomers, but there will also be an update for others on what can be found in their collection

October 16, 1996. Art Johnson of Catholic Family Services, Bay City. Topic will be how the adoption laws in Michigan have changed over the past several years. Also tips and suggestions on how to start looking for a birth mother.

November 20, 1996. Jeffrey Porter, Midland County Clerk. The topic will be How and What to research in county clerk's offices in Midland and other counties in Michigan. Consistency in fees, hours, approach to the public! Any other tips on how we as genealogists can be good "Consumers."

December - No Meeting

January 15, 1997 - To Be Announced.

February 19, 1997 - To Be Announced

March 19, 1997 - To Be Announced

April 16, 1997 - To Be Announced

April 26, 1997. MGS Seminar at Northwood University.

May 21, 1997 - To Be Announced

June 18, 1997. Annual Meeting

UPCOMING SEMINARS

September 7. Gaylord Genealogical Society will meet at the Treetops Sylvan Resort. The program, "Somewhere In Time," will be presented by speakers, Ella Solberg and Mr. Jan Zaleski. The cost is \$20.

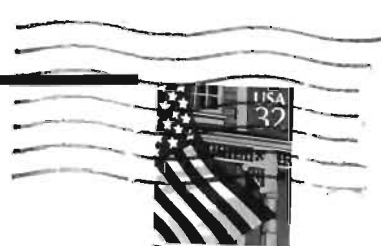
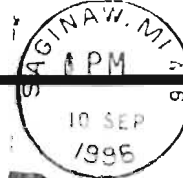
September 19-21. Michigan Genealogical Council annual seminar, hosted by the Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society, featuring Dr. George K. Schweitzer. Will be held at Holiday Inn South Convention Center, Lansing. There are 36 sessions planned. You should have received a brochure through the mail in June. (There is also a copy of the brochure in the G.A. Dow Library's Michigan room.) There probably is still time to register. Cost is \$80.

November 9. The Detroit Society for Genealogical Research is sponsoring a workshop on researching in New York and New Jersey. Roger D. Joslyn is the speaker. It will be held at Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Rd. Livonia. Cost is \$14.

April 26, 1997. Midland Genealogy Society will host a genealogy seminar at the Griswold Communication Center of Northwood University here in Midland. Look for more information in the next edition of the PIONEER RECORD.



MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
 Grace A. Dow Memorial Library
 1710 W. St. Andrews Drive
 Midland, Michigan



Pioneer Record

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631-4015
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631-9455
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Pioneer Record
835-3227

INFORMATION about MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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.

Membership dues are \$10.00 for single and \$12.50 for a couple and can be paid after July 1, but must be paid by Sep. 30 to continue receiving the Pioneer Record. Dues may be paid at any meeting or may be sent to the Membership Chairman, Midland Genealogical Soc. at G.A.-Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr. Midland, MI 48640.