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PIONEER RECORD



XVII

November 1996

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THEY STOLE THE WOOD TO BUILD THE CHURCH; THEN PAID THE FIDDLER TWICE

by Joe Sherk
August 1, 1929

"Yes," said Frank Winslow, a pioneer Laporte citizen, "that church of ours sure had a lot of adventures, more than any church I ever heard of. Do you want me to tell you about it?"

We assured him that we most certainly did and adjusted ourselves in our chair while he lit a cigar.

"Well," said Mr. Winslow, "I guess it was back in about '72 that the story begins. Down in Laporte we used to hold church in the schoolhouse, and the preacher boarded around. People got kinda tired of that and decided to build a parsonage, so they held a donation social over at Gilbert Smith's in Richland Township. All the members would put in some money or a promise to pay. Money was scarce in those days. I'll never forget the time they paid the fiddler twice."

Here Mr. Winslow started to laugh but when he saw we didn't get the joke he explained:

"You see, the fiddler, Charles Crampton, well Charlie didn't have any money so when they came around for his donation he just subscribed a dollar. Then, after the donation was over they all went to Ed Crosse's and held a dance.

"Now G. L. Baggs, who was a big power in the church, didn't believe in dancing and when he heard that everyone had gone to a dance just after holding a donation meeting

to build a parsonage, he was madder than blazes. The next day he went right over to the fiddler's and handed him a dollar. Never even stopped to think that the fellow hadn't paid a dollar into the fund! Everybody kidded him about paying the fiddler for the dance and it came out in Bartram's Cheek, the Midland paper, that the 'Laporte Parsonage was dancing along fine."

Devil's Ornament

We asked Mr. Winslow what became of the parsonage.

"Oh," he said. "Baggs was so sore about the dance that he, Gilbert Smith and son, Hugh Garrett, and F. P. Pierce decided to leave the church and build a new one of their own on Pierce's property. They were staunch old Wesleyans.

"They went ahead and soon had the building almost completed when Baggs and Pierce got into an argument as to whether or not there ought to be a steeple. Baggs said that he wasn't going to have any 'devil's ornament' on his church. Pierce replied that they were going to have a steeple or he would stop work on it since it was on his land and he had the deed to it.

"Pierce was busy the next day taking a job on the Bartlett road and Baggs knew it, so he went to town and got a Mr. Keep, who moved houses, to come out. They put the church on rollers and had it out in the middle of the road when Pierce came home that night.

"He looked at it for a minute and then threw down his hat and yelled, 'By thunder. They've stole the church.'"

We asked Mr. Winslow what became of the poor thing after they all got through

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

For those of you not at the September meeting, the members present approved a 1996-97 budget of anticipated income of \$6180 and anticipated expenses of \$5118. This included an expected income of \$4500 from the spring 1997 seminar and \$3114 anticipated expenses. Looking just at the every-day operating income and expenses, these two figures are pretty-much the same, so we need to keep looking at ways where our income might be increased.

The treasurer's report as of Nov. 1 shows:

Checking account (Operating)	\$1427.82
Money Market (projects)	\$2350.37
CD	<u>\$2500.00</u>
Total assets	\$6278.19

If anyone did not see the budget in September, or wishes more detail on the report, it is always available from Bill Worden, the treasurer.

The membership chairman, Marie Bebeau, reports 100 people have paid 1996-97 dues, including 10 new members. This is a fairly good number, but it also means that many have not paid yet. If you are one of the latter, this PIONEER RECORD will be your last issue. If you intend to keep your membership active, please send ASAP your check or bring it to the November meeting.

It is anticipated that the Michigan Genealogical Council's Michigan Dept. of Health death record project will be starting up again, maybe not until early 1997. Those of you who helped before, please let me know if you wish to work again. No experience is necessary for newcomers, just a little introduction as to procedure, and the ability to decipher scrawling handwriting. The work is done at home at your convenience. This state-wide index of Michigan deaths from 1867 to ??? is a valuable source of information for Michigan researchers. I've even heard several non-Michigan researchers ask, "Do you think this is available for MY state?" A new coordinator for our group is needed. Call me with your interest!

It is a little early to be thinking about it, but I am wondering how much interest there is in making plans to return to Salt Lake City in the fall of 1997. It is possible that a coordinator (or two people working together) is needed to start the ball rolling early next year. Who is interested?

It is also not too early to begin thinking about officers for 1997/98. I will also need a nominating committee to become active by February or so. I know we will need at least a new president, as I will have

served two years by May. HOW can YOU help? Please look at your own talents and time and see how they can fit into our group's schedule. We cannot continue to have a vital, growing society without lots of commitment from members.

At the next several meetings we will continue to solicit personal donations for the NARA "Dollars for Documents" Fund. NARA stands for National Archives 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, a 1910 Street Index to 39 Major US Cities, Canadian Border Crossings (1895-1954) Index, Galveston Passenger Arrival Records 1896-1948. The microfilm copies of these records valuable to genealogists, produced without government funding, are then distributed to the 13 National Archives regional archives or are available through any LDS Family History Center. The national coordinating committee is also open to suggestions for future projects of value to the entire genealogical community. There is a brochure on the bulletin board in the Midland Room, with an address, if you have and suggestions for future microfilming.

Several months ago, Bill Worden entered information about MGS on the HOME page and reports that there have been a fair amount of "hits" since then. I'm not aware of any "hits" being followed up, directed to the society for information, etc. Time will tell! With more and more ways to use the computer as a tool for faster research and increased accessibility to other researchers, your president will be forced to join the ranks of millions who are already enjoying the at-home benefits of genealogy. Maybe in 1997!

At the October meeting, for those of you not present, Mr. Art Johnson from the Catholic Family services in Bay City, explained in great detail how difficult it still is (even after new laws have opened up the process some) for an adopted person to find birth parents. Most of us have knowledge of at least several generations before ourselves; yet how excited we get when we find a new name to add to our family chart. Imagine the intense frustration and excitement (hopefully) these adoptees experience. It was a very interesting, informative program.

Jo Brines

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THEY STOLE THE WOOD TO BUILD THE CHURCH

(Continued from page 1)

fighting over it and he replied that this was only the beginning.

"I told you that church had an exciting life," he continued. "They pulled it across the road onto Baggs' land and went to work on it again. He finally consented to have a small belfry and after much persuasion he let them put up a weathercock."

"I hope the Lord will knock it off," Baggs said.

"Shortly afterwards the wind blew the whole church off the blocks and it had to be reset on a new foundation of stone. They had it almost finished when a thunderstorm came up.

"I was in the Laporte store, the one where Thomson Brothers are now," said Mr. Winslow. "It was campaign year and the Democrats had put up a hickory pole and the Republicans a pine pole. The lightning struck something and we thought it had hit one of the poles so we ran out to see what had happened. Instead it had struck the church and smashed the belfry all to pieces and that was the end of the 'devil's ornament.'"

Fire!

"Well the rest of them went back in the store but for some reason or other, I stayed out on the porch. Pretty soon I saw some smoke coming out of the church. I ran into the store and yelled, 'Come on, boys, the church is on fire.' George Hare, Will Marshal, and J. B. Chase came tearing out. We grabbed some wooden pails, there weren't any metal pails then in this part of the country, and ran over to the ditch where we filled them with water. When we got to the church we found that the door was locked, so Will Marshall jumped against it till he broke the lock. The fire had started in some shavings and was burning clear up to the joists but we finally put it out."

"What happened to the church then?" we asked. "Did they ever finish it?"

"Oh, yes," said Mr. Winslow, "they finished it after a while. You know they had to plane all their lumber by hand then. It took a long time. A. J. Huggard held his noisy meetings there for six years. They sure used to go in for a lot of racket. After that they turned the church into a cheese factory."

We asked Mr. Winslow why they ever did such a thing, and wondered what G. L. Baggs said about it.

"Baggs had died several years before," Mr. Winslow explained. "The whole congregation had either died or drifted away and there wasn't any use for the church any more so the farmers around there decided to turn it in to a cheese factory and hire a man to run it. The fellow ran it all right for three years and then he beat it off with the last shipment of cheese and the money."

Back Forty Lumber

"Later they sold the building to Otis Walker who wrecked it and took the lumber to Saginaw where he built some houses of it. That was the end of the church."

"Well that church certainly led an interesting life," we murmured.

"Yes," said Mr. Winslow, "and the funniest part is that the church was first built of stolen lumber."

"Stolen? Why Mr. Winslow, do you mean to say that they stole the lumber to build the church?" we demanded.

"Oh, it was a common thing when lumber was cheap," he replied. "They used to go over on somebody's land, it didn't make any difference where, and cut down the trees. We called it 'back forty lumber.' They built the church out of it. Stolen lumber for a church!"

Here Mr. Winslow started to laugh.

We laughed too.

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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

WHEN OUR DADS WERE LADS

Times Have Changes Since Dad went to the Little Red School House to Study the Three "R's"

Midland Republican (Consolidated with The Midland Sun) Thursday, June 6, 1929

by J. H. Rockwell

To the readers of this article it will be extremely interesting to know that the per cent of illiteracy in Michigan is lower than that of Massachusetts, the state that, for many years has been regarded as the educational center of the country. Of cities, while Boston -- the "Hub of the Universe" -- shows an illiteracy rate of 4.0%, Detroit shows a rate of only 3.0%. Of the states, Massachusetts had in 1920, an illiteracy rate of 4.7%, while the rate in Michigan, in the same year, was only 3.0%. These figures are taken from the 1920 United States census report.

By our public schools I mean, in the telling of this particular story, the public schools of Midland County covering that period of their history lying between 1878 and 1928. I shall not take either the time of the reader nor the space allotted me for the rehearsal of this bit of history to point out -- at any length -- the fact that of all persons, the American boy should be the one person most deeply interested in this narrative touching the growth of our public schools, but commence the rehearsal of our story at once.

Fifty years ago if a boy acquired an education, he had to fight for it, physically as well as mentally, for in the country districts the road to the school house was a long one and in the winter, deep with snow, swept by intensely cold winds, and so strong that one could hardly keep his feet; and these conditions often continued until late in the Spring.

Mrs. Alice Price, still teaching in Midland County where she taught thirty years ago, tells of a snowstorm that came on the 17th of May, blocking the roads so completely that she and her pupils were imprisoned in the school house until late in the evening when the farmers with their big sleighs and horses, broke open the road to the school house and took them home. Fortunately, the day was not a severely cold one. The deep snow was all gone by the end of the following day, leaving the roads in a condition unpleasant to travel over; and yet, it was over these roads the children had to go to school next day, and it was many days before the sun and wind had dried these rivers of mud, and made it possible to travel them again on foot.

Most of the country school houses were built of logs in those early days. They contained only one room, equipped with a rudely constructed blackboard at the end of the room facing the door, the desks were as rudely constructed as the blackboard, and the seats were mere benches without backs. The room was heated by a big "box stove" that would take in a four foot stick of wood -- a rather ugly thing to look at, but extremely comforting when

the thermometer was twenty degrees below zero as was often the case.

Fifty years ago when the big forests were still here, and in them were wild animals, especially the black bear, who when he comes out from his long sleep in the early spring is inclined to show a rather nasty temper. A teacher -- now past seventy years -- tells us this story. The school house where she was teaching at the time stood less than a mile from a large blackberry patch. "One day, early in September," said Mr. LeQuire, "after dismissing the children, I took my dinner pail and walked over to the blackberry patch to pick a few berries for supper. The berries were plentiful and fine, and I soon filled my bucket. As I turned to leave the blackberry patch, I noticed the tops of the bushes moving some little distance away -- as if some one were picking berries -- so I went at once to see who was there. When I rounded the curve of the berry patch, you can easily imagine my astonishment when, instead of seeing a man or a woman or a boy -- as I had expected to -- I saw a big black bear standing on his hind legs and picking berries with both 'hands' and cramming them greedily into his big red mouth. The bear did nothing and said nothing except that it seemed to me as he turned his head in my direction for just a moment, that there was a grin on his face, as he saw my unnecessary fright. And there was really no danger, for unless the bear -- the black bear at least -- is very hungry, or has her young with her, or is menaced in some way, will seldom attack a person. But all this I learned later, and at the time I was within the reach of his great claws. I was terribly frightened. For many days after that the children were not allowed to visit the blackberry patch, where they had gone daily to gather berries."

The studies in those early days were not numerous, being mainly reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and English grammar: the chief interest centering on the first three studies named -- reading, writing and arithmetic. Today we call this period in the history of our public schools, "The Period of the Three R's." And yet, it was a period of good work and hard work, too, for the aim of the pupil was for excellence and not credits -- the thought of "passing" did not disturb them for a moment; what they wanted was knowledge -- real practical knowledge -- and they got it. They could read well, they could spell well, they could write well, and doing difficult sums in arithmetic was a pleasing pass-time. I wonder if the average school boy of today does as well in these three studies -- reading, spelling and writing -- as

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they did fifty years ago?

Fifty years ago, gymnastics were unknown, except in the cities and larger towns of the State; but they had physical training -- the best in the world, and plenty of it, for there were the trees -- in most places -- all around them. Nature's great gymnasium, and there were the lakes and rivers -- never very far away -- for skating in the winter time; and there were the sand hills and grapevine swings for the spring and autumn. Yes, there was plenty of opportunity for physical training, but in a rude way, and without any sort of instruction or equipment.

Miss O'Donnell, still teaching but familiar with the days of '78, tells of how the boys of a certain school one winter built a huge toboggan slide thirty feet high at the upper end and nearly half a mile long. They carried water up the steep incline and sluiced the floor of the toboggan slide with water to get a proper surface for coasting. It was certainly hard work, but fine physical exercise, stretching every muscle of the body.

Today, outside the strictly country districts, every school of the state, substantially has a more or less perfectly equipped gymnasium under the supervision of a Director. A long step from the rude to the refined, and more efficient. Michigan has been wise and generous in this development and in the fostering of her public schools; no state in the Union can show a better record. It is a matter of just pride to every public school boy and girl in the Old Wolverine State that Ann Arbor was one of the first Universities of the West to take a high place among the great schools of the East, and of those abroad, for the splendid character of its work.

Figures of course, are unusually dull reading, but the figures that follow, I am sure you will enjoy reading, for they touch a matter every American boy is interested in, the growth of the public school -- his school.

In the year 1877, the total number of school houses in the state of Michigan was 6,078. Of this number, 534 were log. The total number of pupils enrolled was, in this year, 357,139. The total number of teachers provided for these pupils was 13,001. Out of this number of teachers, 9220 were women, or nearly three-fourths of the whole number. The average monthly wage of the men teachers, at that time, was \$42.54 while the average monthly wage of the women teachers was \$27.45 -- a trifle over one-half the wage paid the men teachers.

Today the total enrollment of pupils is 850,000, while the total number of teachers is 30,000, and the average monthly wage -- including both men and women teachers -- is \$175.00. A substantial gain over the wage of 1878, but a lesser gain than that shown in any other direction.

Out of the one hundred and twenty thousand school houses in use in Michigan today, less than two hundred and fifty are of log and these are mostly provided with modern equipment so far as needed. Substantially

all the newer school buildings erected within the past decade are "Standard," that is to say they are built after plans that provide for the best arrangement, in the matter of light and heat distribution for ventilation, and for facilitating the work of the school.

Educators were a little slow in discovering that health instruction and health training was an important part of the work of the public school. Of course there had been Athletic Sports, and it is interesting to know that football and basketball and baseball, and nearly all the real worthwhile sports which are engaging the attention of all Americans today, came out of the public school. They have been fostered and improved by the public school until these sports have become a necessary part of our great system of public education and in a way, the steadily increasing interest these games have provoked, both among students and the public at large, mark the great improvement and advancement our schools have made in the past fifty years. The schools of no state in the Union have shown this either more largely or more clearly.

Fifty years ago both pupils and teachers went to school on foot. In the country districts very often they went over long, rough roads. In the cities, however, they used the street cars. Today, even in the country, everybody who goes to school, goes in an automobile and over well kept roads.

More than anything else perhaps, is the school books of fifty years ago, and those of today, when brought into comparison, tell most fully, and most quickly the wonderful progress our public schools have accomplished in the half century just passed. This progress has been most largely, I think, along physical lines -- better buildings, better equipment, a wider provision for athletic training and for health. All this, especially athletics, has appealed to the student strongly, and coupled with modern methods of instruction, and modern text books, has not only added efficiency to school work, but deepened the student's interest in it, and increased his estimate of its importance.

The elder generations need no introduction to McGuffey's. To the younger generation, however, these readers are as strange and alien as if they came down from ancient Greece. The system of elementary education in America has altered tremendously in the last quarter of a century, and a glance at McGuffey's makes the change apparent.

William H. McGuffey was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, in 1800, the son of a frontier scout and soldier who had served in "Mad Anthony" Wayne's campaigns against the Indians in southern Ohio. He was educated in Washington college and became a college professor and Presbyterian minister after his graduation. In 1836 the first two of his readers were produced. Others followed until a series of six had been issued.

Throughout most of America, except New

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WHEN OUR DADS WERE LADS

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England, these books became the standard readers for all school children. Except for the Bible, it is probable that no other book in America attained the sales that McGuffey's had. By 1900 it was estimated that 122,000,000 had been sold. In 1888 alone, more than 2,000,000 were disposed of.

McGuffey's readers did more than teach a child how to read. If a child failed to draw from them all sorts of lessons about religion, obedience, truthfulness, piety, kindness and general excellence of deportment, it certainly was not the fault of McGuffey. This process even begins in the First Reader, for tots who were just mastering their A-B-C's.

Thus one lesson shows a wood-cut of a weeping school child crowned with a "dunce cap," standing in front of a school room while other children and the schoolmaster cast withering glances at him. The text begins:

"O, what a sad, sad sight is this. A boy with a dunce cap on his head!

"Why does he stand there, in front of the school? What has he done?"

"He is a bad boy. He talks and laughs in school. He loves to be idle and does not learn his lesson.

"Does he not look bad? All the good boys shun him."

This story is as nothing, however, to the distressing tale of Frank Brown. Frank was induced by a chum to play hookey and go swimming; he went to the mill pond, fell in and was drowned. A wood-cut shows a man carrying Frank's lifeless body home, an illustration which would make modern educators shudder. The story ends with these words:

"Do not stop to play on your way to school. Do not play with bad boys. They will lead you into harm."

The final selection in this book does more to help the schoolmaster. After congratulating the child on learning to read, it points out that now the glories of the Second Reader can be tasted, and adds:

"Are not your parents kind to send you to school and buy new books for you? Should you not try to please them? You must not waste your time in school. Try always to know your lessons."

The Second Reader continues in the didactic strain. It contains one story that must have been the forerunner of all the Horatio Alger books. A story that deals with a boy named George, who was given a dollar for a New Year's gift.

George started out to buy some toys, but on the way engaged in a snow-ball fight and broke a window. His conscience hurt him so that he gave his dollar to the owner of the house in payment. Then he went home "very happy for he had done what was right" -- and explained to his father. The owner of the window, however, had been there ahead of him, and, touched by his honesty, had given back the dollar and added another to it. Furthermore he gave

George a job in his store, and the story ends by remarking triumphantly that George "in a few years became the merchant's partner, and now he is rich."

It adds that George "often thinks of the broken window," which seems only fair.

In the later Readers, for older pupils, this moralizing was not so evident; the bulk of the material was composed of selections from famous writers, everything from Aesop's Fables to Shakespeare, Longfellow and Bryant. To many thousands of people, especially on the frontier, these excerpts were the only reading matter obtainable, hence Mark Sullivan, in his historical book, "Our Times," calls McGuffey "a kind of American Confucius" and declares that his influence on American taste and American moral standards was profound.

Mr. Sullivan points out that a note of melancholy, wholly apart from the moral teachings, pervades the readers. Poems such as Bryant's "Thanatopsis" were quoted in profusion.

In the books for older children the note of patriotism was stressed. Webster's famous "Supposed Speech of John Adams" was included as was Patrick Henry's famous "Liberty or Death" oration. The books also sowed the seeds of prohibition by hammering away at the evils of strong drink. The typical American virtues of thrift, industry and ambition were emphasized throughout.

Despite the tremendous sale of his Readers, McGuffey did not grow rich. He received a royalty of 10 per cent until he had been paid \$1,000, and thereafter the books became the property of his publishers. After the Civil War, the publishers voluntarily gave McGuffey an annuity until he died.

Insisting that McGuffey was one of the most important Americans of the last Century in that his readers helped tremendously to spread certain ideas throughout the country, Mr. Sullivan suggests that McGuffey's Readers, by bringing English literature before millions of Americans actually helped account for American's part in the world war.

Every little prairie school house in America was a outpost of English literature, hardly less potent to inspire recruits when the time came than the British drum beat itself," he writes. "Had American school children been brought up on Goethe and Heine, as they were on Shakespeare and Milton, is it certain American's role in the world war would have been the same?"

Whether or not the scholarship of our public schools rates higher today than it did fifty years ago, I am unable to say. Even the schoolmasters do not agree at this point -- but of this I am quite certain: Their knowledge is vastly more comprehensive, more widely extended today than yesterday, and in many ways, of a more practical character.

Even our country schools are rapidly taking up Manual Training, and some branches of Domestic Art. Then there is a phase of school training that looks in the

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MGS 1996 - 1997 Membership List

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip Code</i>	<i>HomePhone</i>
Alsip	James B.	1710 W. St. Andrews	Midland	MI	48640	835-7151
Andrick	Floyd	4928 Artcrest	Midland	MI	48640	835-1274
Anger	Marge & Clemon	960 Noyes	Midland	MI	48640	839-9545
Applegath	Anne & Doug	4010 Woodlawn	Midland	MI	48640	631-6074
Babcock	Sid & Orene	1190 W. Stewart Rd.	Midland	MI	48640	835-5925
Baker	Shirley	1100 Airfield Ln	Midland	MI	48642	835-2818
Baker	Lois	3273 Patterson	Freeland	MI	48623	631-9549
Bebeau	Marie	821 Badour	Midland	MI	48640	835-4035
Berry	Marion	5813 Woodridge	Midland	MI	48640	631-3057
Blymyer	Elva	515 E. Ashman	Midland	MI	48642	835-1368
Bohl	Kathy & Roger	5003 Barto St	Midland	MI	48640	839-9016
Brandle	Marcia	3615 Lawndale Dr	Midland	MI	48642	832-9430
Bredeweg	Kay	5709 Leeway Dr	Midland	MI	48640	835-6404
Brines	Joanne	4300 Castle Dr	Midland	MI	48640	832-8312
Butcher	Diana	660 E. Olson	Midland	MI	48640	835-4528
Casadonte	Ruth Ann	5104 Nurmi Drive	Midland	MI	48640	835-5115
Cobb	Terry	3803 Swede Ave	Midland	MI	48642	631-2618
Collins	Mary Margaret & Dan	606 Linwood	Midland	MI	48640	631-2566
Cooley	Lois	4300 Brambleridge	Midland	MI	48640	835-7512
Dickert	Jack	611 Chatham Dr	Midland	MI	48642	832-8768
Diesen	Wilma	5802 Flaxmoor	Midland	MI	48640	832-8485
Ebach	Earl	4610 Andre	Midland	MI	48642	835-7518
Erratt	Jan	2152 Lynn Dr.	Sanford	MI	48657	687-2932
Flaningam	Ora	3227 E. Stewart Rd.	Midland	MI	48640	835-3227
Fosgill	Iris	1907 Eastlawn, Apt F7	Midland	MI	48642	832-8462
Fox	Barbara	5220 Hedgewood	Midland	MI	48640	839-9349
Fry	David	3210 Boston	Midland	MI	48642	631-9329
Hayes	Mary Lou	P.O. Box 312	Midland	MI	48640	835-1220
Hecht	Arleue	3630 Mando Ct.	Coleman	MI	48618	465-1363
Hillnan	Ralph	4302 James Dr.	Midland	MI	48642	839-9070
Hock	Gale	7071 Middle Rd	Hope	MI	48628	689-3763
Hodges	Rebecca & Robert	3211 Riggie	Midland	MI	48640	631-5582
Hooker	Thomas L.	2 Whippoorwill Ln.	Palmyra	VA	22963	
Hund	Sharon L.	3906 Mound Pass	Ft. Wayne	IN	48609	219/478-6723
Hunington	Sherry	1529 Austin	Lincoln Park	MI	48146	313/382-3229
Kennedy	Marjorie & Robert	2515 E. Sugnet	Midland	MI	48642	832-3593
Kocher	Bill	907 Deerfield	Midland	MI	48640	631-4015
Kociba	Dorothy	4412 Eleven Mile	Auburn	MI	48611	662-4567
Lackie	Nancy	565 Patterson	Sanford	MI	48657	687-5327
LaFreniere	Bryant	4765 N. Eastman Rd.	Midland	MI	48640	835-2234
Laur	Rose Mary	2589 Lakeview Dr.	Sanford	MI	48657	687-5197
Lee	Helen	2410 Rodd	Midland	MI	48640	
Lenz	Mary Grace	4512 N. Saginaw Rd. # 321	Midland	MI	48640	835-4393
Levy	Sheldon & Grace	5507 Whitehall St.	Midland	MI	48642	631-1229
Longsdorf	Frances & Charles	375 N. Sandow	Midland	MI	48640	832-2838
Lund	Alice	4683 Monroe Rd	Midland	MI	48642	835-9586
Lyons	Thelma	1604 7th Ave.	Kearney	NE	68847	308/237-5744
Mackey	David	1323 Rumbaugh	Midland	MI	48640	631-3692
Martin	Elizabeth	2325 Rockwell Dr. Apt 154	Midland	MI	48642	832-8492
Martin	Clifford	4815 Swinson Neuman	Rhodes	MI	48652	879-5454
Mass	Robert	5205 Van Buren St.	Midland	MI	48642	835-8519
Mastic	Leroy	1500 Wildwood	Midland	MI	48642	835-7847
Mc Cullen	Maxine & Gerald	1755 Smith Crossing	Midland	MI	48640	832-8749
McCullister	Ruth & Mac	4414 Washington	Midland	MI	48642	835-5209
McCrary	Marcia & Bob	1679 LeForge	Ypsilanti	MI	48198	313/483-2799
Miller	Karen	5862 Whispering Pines	Stevensville	MI	49127	616/429-0763

MGS 1996 - 1997 Membership List

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip Code</i>	<i>HomePhone</i>
Nicholson	Anne	4412 Robinhood Terrace	Midland	MI	48642	835-2416
Nold	Helen	307 Cherry View Dr.	Midland	MI	48640	832-2937
Oliver	Frances	1326 Bookness	Midland	MI	48640	835-5852
Olson	Lynne	P.O. Box 310	Freeland	MI	48623	695-9439
Parsons	Virginia	3721 Isabella	Midland	MI	48640	835-5248
Pashak	Mildred	2135 W. Seidlers	Midland	MI	48642	662-4669
Rennie	Reva	1624 Vermont Dr.	Elk Grove Village	IL	60007	708/924-1518
Renwick	Shirley	2154 Price	Midland	MI	48640	687-2290
Robel	Ruth	4968 Letts Rd.	Midland	MI	48642	835-8235
Rooker	Shirley	301 E. Haley	Midland	MI	48640	835-3290
Rupprecht	Walter & Joanne	1201 Airfield	Midland	MI	48642	631-8945
Russel	David & Shirley	4415 James Dr.	Midland	MI	48642	631-0885
Schwitzer	Shirley & Ken	516 Crescent Dr.	Midland	MI	48640	631-1219
Shier	Quita	3322 Hubbard Rd.	Midland	MI	48640	835-3278
Siegmund	Karl	405 Morningside	Midland	MI	48640	631-2051
Skelton	Eugene	P.O. Box 21 M-123	Paradise	MI	49768	
Snider	Robert	318 Mayfield	Midland	MI	48640	631-3121
Snyder	Ronald	3 Robin	Midland	MI	48640	632-0765
Somerville	Joan	3217 W. Wackerly	Midland	MI	48640	
Steele	Rose	2832 McMulloch	Beaverton	MI	48612	435-7157
Ward	Gilbert J.	1007 Balfour St.	Midland	MI	48640	835-6292
Vincent	Bird	2775 Smith's Crossing	Freeland	MI	48623	695-5290
Weyenberg	Barb & Don	4601 Arbor Dr.	Midland	MI	48640	835-9976
Wilkenson	Ray	6108 Tittabawassee River	Midland	MI	48640	832-8269
Winterbottom	Juanita	1210 Dilloway	Midland	MI	48640	835-2469
Worden	Bill & Pat	1201 Glendale St.	Midland	MI	48642	631-7801

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Are you aware just how much the Midland Room is being used by the Midland community? The sign-in book for genealogists shows 1024 persons used the facilities and resources between July 1995 and June 1996. The actual number is somewhat larger, because we know that some people do not sign every time they use the library. 267 microfilms of census, newspapers, and vital records were borrowed during this same time period.

Do you know that the MGS has for sale (and will be available at the November meeting) census forms for all the years, a census summary sheet, 5 generation ancestor sheets, family group sheets, 8-generation, 12-generation, and 15-generation charts?

The Flint public library has many rolls of indexes to Ontario vital records. We will attempt to get a listing of just exactly what they do have.

All the applications and accompanying documentation for First Families of Midland County have been microfilmed, and three rolls of 16 mm film of the FFMC records are in the file drawers at the back of the Midland Room. This is negative film, quite good copy, but the N-P (Negative to Positive) button must be pushed when using the copying machine to ensure getting the best copy. Normally the button is set on P-P (Positive to Positive).

The following tid bit was gleaned from the recent issue of the Chicago Genealogical Society newsletter: PASSENGER AND IMMIGRATION LIST: According to the March 1996 issue of the newsletter of the Toledo Area Genealogical Society, if you discover a reference to your family in Filby's "Passenger and Immigration Lists Index", it is possible to get a copy of the original source. The Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Avenue, Detroit 48202, maintains all sources indexed in Filby's. You must cite the source number. They charge \$2 postage and handling, plus 20 cents per page copied. (No info is given as to when the check should be sent, with the request or after being billed.) I'm sure that there will be quite a wait, as this library is notoriously slow in responding to letters.

Within the last month there have been three German-born (and still residing in Germany) visitors to the genealogy collection. One man has Sanford connections and the other couple had a relative in the US Civil War living in Philadelphia and another in Chicago. We have become internationally known!!

**ST. LOUIS DINNER HOST TELLS HONORE OF
UNIQUE COURTHOUSE IN MIDLAND
August 15, 1929**

"Yes," said Paul Honore, Detroit artist, whose work with plastic decoration has made the courthouse here a matter of national fame, "I hear a great deal about it. People seem to know of it."

Mr. Honore, who arrived in Midland Friday to assist in judging for the Garden Show, had been asked whether he was constantly questioned regarding the work on the courthouse, which was the first of its kind completed.

"A peculiar thing happened once," he said, smiling. "I was attending a dinner in St. Louis, given by a Dr. Bostwick. I sat next to him and his wife. During the course of the conversation, they began to tell me about a courthouse that had just been done. At first they couldn't remember where it was, but finally it developed that it was in Midland. I think they said it was something very unique. It was a queer sensation to hear them telling me about it. Finally, I did tell them, though, that I knew something about it -- that I had been there while it was done."

Mr. Honore smiled his characteristic smile, which might almost be termed modest. His manner, while it carries the underlying assurance of a man already highly successful in his art, was a bit deprecatory, too as he replied to questions regarding his work since completing the structure here.

As among the most interesting of his commissions he mentioned murals for the Dearborn Public Library. Shepherds and astronomers are shown gazing at the stars, illustrating "The Aspiration of Knowledge." Another panel shows an Indian scene depicting "The Application of Knowledge."

Four murals for the recreation room of the People's Church in Lansing, illustrate subjects both religious and historical. One shows the anointing of Saul; another David playing before the tents of Saul; the last two show the first Thanksgiving, and the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth.

"We chose those subjects," said the artist, "because they were religious and at the same time definitely historical as well."

Allegorical

"I have just completed," continued Mr. Honore, "a mural for the American State Bank in Detroit. The canvas will be hung this week. This is in oils, of course. It is a classical allegory representing banking in its relation to the other phases of life. A figure representing banking is surrounded by other figures, art, science, and so on.

"For the General Motors Building in New York I did a set of murals in oils since I left Midland. They were

historic, quite pictorial, giving the history of Oakland County, and the Indian history of all America. General Motors seems to be much interested in that type of thing -- their Pontiac and Oakland cars, you know."

Plan for Midland

Excepting for some small things in residences, Mr. Honore says he has done very little with plaster since the Midland building. He showed drawings, however, for panels for the entrance to a community building, which are designed to represent a pageant of social activities. While the work is drawn up for a Michigan town, plans are too indefinite, said the artist, to announce. A feminine figure representing the theatre, and athlete, a male figure carrying food, are grouped with others to signify the affairs which the building will house. A deep tone of blue is the dominant note.

That Midland could use several other buildings in the same type of work without detriment to the ensemble effect is the opinion of Mr. Honore.

"Six or seven public buildings will be all that will be needed here for a great many years," he commented. "I think these should be placed about a community plaza of some kind. It would be a fine thing to take over the blocks between Main street and Ellsworth, so that there would be a vista. In that way, persons passing through would get a very fine effect. [*Just as it is in 1996. --- Ed.*]

Wood Cuts

"I think a more ornamental type of plastic work could be used very nicely. The courthouse is more realistic. What I should have in mind for additional buildings, a city hall, or a larger community center, if one should ever be build, would be the use of patterns of heraldry, symbolical figures, in probably different colors than were used for the courthouse."

Wood cuts for the illustration of books have also been a high point in the Detroit man's success. Most have been done for volumes by Charles J. Finger, particularly "Tales From Silverland," a book of poetry, which brought a medal for the most successfully illustrated children's volume of its year. An edition of Hakluyt's Voyages (Henry Holt and Company), an anthology of poetry called "The Winged Horse," by Joseph Galander and Frank Hill (Doubleday, Page & Co.), and a book of fairy tales entitled, "Tales Worth Telling," and a book of adventure called, "Romantic Rascals" complete the list. The last two published by the Century company, are the work of Mr. Finger.

Mr. Honore will remain in Midland for several

days.

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**From the "Lapeer County Legacy" of the
Lapeer County Genealogical Society
"Surfing the Web!"**

The Net, The Internet, The Web — different names, all the same. Come along with us to "surf" some of the local sights of interest.

⇒ The Lapeer County Library site:

www.Lapeer.lib.mi.us

Choose Lapeer County Library, then choose Genealogy to read about the Lapeer County Genealogical Society.

⇒ Or, how about the Library of Michigan:

www.libofmich.lib.mi.us/welcome/intro/intro.html

⇒ Using a search engine, I found several other interesting sites. Examples of search engines are:

www.altavista.com

or

www.yahoo.com

A few sites I found were a lot of fun:

⇒ The Seventh Day Adventist Obituary List:

<http://143.207.5.3:82/screen/opamenu.html>

⇒ Searchable Genealogy Links:

<http://aerodyn.utias.utoronto.ca/html/l02.htm>

This is a very interesting group of online links to genealogy sources. For instance, I searched cemetery records throughout Ontario with just a name.

Everyday thousands of new web sites are added to the world wide web. The best search engine for genealogy is Alta-Vista; the author's preference is Yahoo.

If you have a question about the quarterly or would like to send a query or article, contact me at:

nrudland@aol.com. If you would like to talk to Alice or Joe Bohnsack, you can contact them at:

ajbohnsack@aol.com. If you would like to contact Bernice Hinz, current membership chairperson, you can contact her at: **75263,1477**- Compuserve. If you have an e-mail address you would like to share with our membership just let me know.

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Genealogy Seminar
April 26, 1997

The Genealogy Seminar sponsored by the Midland Genealogy Society on Saturday, April 26, 1997 will be an all day affair. Registration will start at 8:30 A.M. at the Griswold Communications Center on the campus of Northwood University. Two lectures will be given in the morning and will include question/answer sessions. A buffet luncheon from 12:00 to 1:00 is included in the cost of registration. Two additional lectures, each followed by question/answer sessions, will be given in the afternoon. The doors will close at 4:30 P.M. The cost, including lunch, is \$30.00.

Our lecturer, Mr. James L. Hansen, has taught beginning and advanced genealogical courses over Wisconsin's Educational Telephone Network and has published a handbook for an introductory genealogical research correspondence course offered by the University of Wisconsin Extension Service. He is a nationally known speaker, having lectured on genealogical topics around the United States, at the National Institute on Genealogical Research at the National Archives, and at numerous national conferences in the U.S. and Canada. He was the 1994-95 president of the Association of Professional Genealogists and is a fellow of the American Society of Genealogists.

We are expecting a capacity audience for this seminar. Attendance is limited to the first 200 persons to register. It will be important to register early. Marion Berry is the registrar and can be contacted by phone at (517) 631-3057 or by writing her at 5813 Woodbridge, Midland 48640.

WHEN OUR DADS WERE LADS

(Continued from page 6)

direction of self-reliance and self-poise, that comes with the experience of travel that is coming into use and is of high value to the high school student.

During the Easter vacation, Prof. Fairman of the Midland High School, Midland, Michigan, accompanied by a number of women teachers, took a party of some thirty students from that school on an automobile trip to Lookout Mountain, where one of the great battles of the Civil War was fought: visiting on their way, the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky,

and the many places in southern Tennessee made interesting by the tragic incidents of the great war. When you learn that a number of the students composing the party, had never been out of the state of Michigan before, and had never eaten or slept in a public hotel before, you can understand -- in a measure -- what a trip like this meant to them.

There is no country in the world that is doing for its youth, what is being done today for the American boy, and his sister, by his beloved country for in him, she sees the hope of her future greatness and her future

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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:

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. Panel, "Internet, America On Line, Etc. — More than you ever expected to know.

February 19, 1997. Beverly J. Thayer, "Register of Deeds and Genealogy."

March 19, 1997. Kyle Bagnall, "Michigan's Abandoned Cemeteries"

April 16, 1997. To Be Announced

April 26, 1997. MGS Seminar at Northwood University.

May 21, 1997. Panel, "Answering All Genealogical Questions by the Experts."

June 18, 1997. Annual Meeting

UPCOMING SEMINARS

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.

May 7-10, 1997. National Genealogical Society Conference in the States will be held at Valley Forge, PA. The local host society is the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. A brochure will be available in early 1997.

June 11-13, 1997. The National Conference of Palatines to America will be held at Fort Wayne,

Shelfside

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

929.3774 - The French Connection.

929.3774 - Guide to the Genealogical and Historical Collection at the Library of Michigan and the State Archives.

929.1 - Guide to Genealogy Software.

369.15 - List of the G.A.R. Posts in Michigan.



MGS EDITOR IS ON THE INTERNET

Another way to contact your MGS Editor is via e-mail. Information for the Pioneer Record and articles to be submitted for publication can be sent to: OFLANINGAM@JUNO.COM

MIDLAND PIONEERS BOOK

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



MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
 Grace A. Dow Memorial Library
 1710 W. St. Andrews Drive
 Midland, Michigan
 48640

Pioneer Record

PIIONEER RECORD is published quarterly (Sep., Nov., Feb., and Apr., by the Midland Genealogical Society. Queries are free to members and should be sent to: PIONEER RECORD, Midland Genealogical Society, G.A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640. We welcome genealogical material which would be of interest to the general membership. Articles to be included in PR should be submitted to the above address by the 15th of Aug., Oct. Jan., and Mar.

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835-1220 and Bill Kocher
631-4015
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687-5327 and Joan Somerville
- Historian Bev Keicher
631-9455
- Editor Ora Flaningam
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.