

Remember the MGS Genealogical Seminar, April 26 at Northwood

PIONEER RECORD



XVII

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Frederick Highgate Dies City Officials, Citizens Mourn Passing of Familiar Figure: Laud His Concealed Philanthropy

Midland Daily News - 12/6/1937 -

Frederick Highgate, 72, well-known colored nursery salesman here, and resident of the city for 56 years, died at Midland hospital about 4:30 p. m. Saturday of apoplexy, after an illness of a few hours.

First indication of his illness came Friday afternoon, when he complained of being lame, and his sister, Miss Ada Highgate, called twice at his apartment at 810 Rodd street. He said he needed nothing, however, but asked her to pay his light bill, which she did.

At six o'clock he went next door for supper, but was unable to eat, and returned home to retire.

Next morning, at ten o'clock he had not left his room, and other residents broke open the locked door and found him unconscious in bed. He never recovered consciousness. At noon he was taken to Midland hospital, where he died at 4:30 p. m.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. tomorrow at the Wilson funeral home with Rev. E. R. Stevenson of St. John's Episcopal church officiating, and burial in Midland cemetery.

City officials this morning expressed their deep regret at the passing of Mr. Highgate, and recalled his numerous

charities.

"He went out of his way", said Mayor Earl R. Stein, "to find people who were in need, and provide them with what they needed most. Out of his modest funds he bought coal, groceries, shoes and other clothing and sent it or took it to their homes.

"The city has lost a fine character. It will miss the familiar sight of him as he went about his work. He will be greatly missed."

Alderman Frank F. Thompson cited cases of needy persons whom Mr. Highgate had aided.

"If he saw a poor child on the street without mittens, he went into a store and bought them for him. If he saw or heard of an old person who was ill, he would call and speak a few encouraging words and the next day a bouquet of flowers would be sent. And when he made his purchases for children and widows and old people, he would never tell where the gifts were to go."

City Attorney Chester E. Morris expressed a similar regret at the death of the well-known Midlander.

"During all the years when I met him so frequently about the streets," he said, "he was always smiling and cheerful, and had an optimistic view of life. It was a real pleasure to talk with him and I will miss seeing him."

Mr. Highgate was born August 20, 1865, at Dresden, Ontario.

His parents were college graduates who met and married at Avery College, Pittsburgh, an endowed institution for

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Another year has begun, and as I write, we are already headed toward the end of the first month. HOW can time fly by so fast? I hope you are able to set aside some time to do genealogy this year, as I myself have set AGAIN the goal of several hours a week to get organized, write letters, and visit new locations. I know that this seems to be no problem for you with computers, but some of us still like to sit in libraries and courthouses. Anyway, good hunting!

The January meeting was very well attended (almost 50 hardy souls), considering the snowy, cold evening. But it was warm inside as four people spoke on their computer experiences and answered lot of questions afterward. Each program of this type, giving new possibilities for using the computer with genealogy, sparks my interest a little more.

I hope you all have circled Saturday, April 26, on your calendar, for that is the date of the seminar the MGS is sponsoring. The four topics selected by a group of our members should be of interest to both the genealogist with a little experience and also the "old-timers". See Ralph Hillman's article elsewhere and also the enclosed flyer for registration. I believe Ralph is still looking for volunteer help previous to and during the actual seminar.

At our board meeting in early January, Bill Worden reported:

Checking account (operating acct)	\$1,267.60
Money Market account (projects acct)	\$2,395.58
CD	\$2,500.00

Total assets	\$6,163.18
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Marie Bebeau, membership chairman, reported that we have a membership of 109, with 20 of those being new members since the spring of 1996. Looking at the individual names on the membership list, there is a large number of new members in the last few years. That indicates to me that perhaps there is a need to ask the new members what they wish in the way of programming for next year and/or what they expect by being a member of the Midland Genealogical Society. Of course, the Society also wishes to receive something from each member! Programs need to be geared to the membership's needs and interests, yet we need to hit a balance between those for the beginner and the "old-timers."

This is YOUR society. When I (or any board member) do not get any comments from members, we assume everything we are doing (program,

procedure, whatever) is satisfactory. Please let someone know if you have suggestions about possible changes or ways to do things differently or better.

Joanne Rupprecht has placed a large blue notebook in the library that contains names of persons doing research in specific counties in the different states. Check it to see if you can exchange info with someone else interested in your locality, or better yet, take a trip together TO the location. The notebook is filed on the shelf in the stacks alongside other Midland notebooks and the ancestor charts books. Joanne invites members who have not submitted their names and localities to write them in themselves (legibly).

Ora Flaningam, our PR editor, is always more than happy to receive articles written by members that would be of interest to others. Have you read an article lately or received information that would help others in research? Have you solved an unusual problem or used some unusual techniques or procedures to locate an ancestor? Write an article to let others know about this information. It would really be nice if someone would volunteer to write articles on a permanent basis!

A REMINDER - the February 19 meeting with Beverly Thayer, the Midland County Register of Deeds, will be held in the COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM in the COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING, same time 7:30 p.m.

GENEALOGICAL SEMINAR

The flyer, enclosed with this newsletter, includes a registration form to make it easier for you to send in your registration for the April 26th seminar at Northwood's Griswold Center. Remember that the cost of \$30.00, if paid before March 28th, includes the buffet lunch. Make your check out to "Midland Genealogical Society." If you wish more information, call Marion Berry at (517) 631-3057.

Jo Brines

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whites and freedmen. His mother had been valedictorian of her class. There in the small chapel in 1855 the president of the college read the lines uniting her with Aaron Highgate, and the two set out through the wilderness to Dresden, Ontario.

There the three children, Frederick, Ollie, and Ada were born. But slack times and tales of lumbering activity in Michigan urged them to try their luck here. They had intended to settle in Saginaw but there they met a friend who persuaded them to come to Midland.

They arrived here to work in the mills in 1882, when Frederick was 16 years old.

In the 55 years since that time the elder Highgates have died, and Ollie, after a few years in a barber shop operated by "Johnnie" Johnson, well-known pioneer barber who died a few years ago, opened one of his own which he still runs on East Main street. He and his sister, Ada, live together in a home at 816 Ashman street. All have lived lives of quiet usefulness.

In Frederick Highgate's early days he was employed at the Dow plant, at whatever work he was given, trying to study chemistry on the side. For a time also he attended chemistry classes in high school, but found, he said, that he hadn't a scientific mind and dropped it in favor of the sale of shrubbery, which he has carried on from house to house for many years.

An attendant at several Midland churches and Sunday schools each Sunday, he belonged, he used to say, to two churches, the Methodist and Episcopal. In the latter church he was a vestryman some years ago, as well as a member of the choir.

Highly industrious, he rose at 5:30 each morning, and often carried on his work until dark.

Mr. Highgate was known for his extensive philanthropy, though he went to great pains to conceal it as far as he could. In his work he encountered many people in need and never failed to respond with fuel, food, or clothing. These he ordered sent anonymously.

The story also contained a photograph of Mr. Highgate.

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Highgate Funeral Held Today

Midland Daily News - 12/7/1937 - "For I was hungered and ye gave me meat, thirsty and ye gave me drink, a stranger and ye took me in, naked and ye clothed me, sick and ye visited me, in prison and ye came unto me..."

Rev. John A. Gardner of the Presbyterian church

read these lines this afternoon at funeral services at 2 o'clock for Frederick Highgate. And five ministers of the city's largest churches testified that the Scripture lines might have been written expressly for him. For every word fitted him.

And townspeople who crowded the Wilson funeral home to the doors gave silent assent that Frederick Highgate, Midland's truest philanthropist, had from his small resources all his busy life fed the hungry and clothed the naked and visited those who were sick and in prison.

"He belonged to us all," said Rev. E. R. Stevenson of St. John's Episcopal church. "Though he was a member of my church. I could not claim him, for such was his Christian life that he belonged wherever Christ was preached." Minister after minister told of the encouragement and strength brought them by this colored, shrubbery salesman who attended most of the city's churches. Rev. R. R. Feuell of the Methodist church paid a "simple, humble, tribute" to Mr. Highgate, whom he said, was the first Midlander who visited him. Rev. Howard A. Webster said "He was a friend of mine. More than any other single person, he brought me encouragement and strength".

"This is not a funeral", said Minister-Emeritus V. V. Nicholas of the Presbyterian church, "it is the triumphal entry into the presence of the Almighty of a servant he loved."

Flowers in profusion, sent by Midlanders of all kinds and stations banked the rooms where lay the well-known Midlander, whose death from apoplexy after more than 56 years of work and quiet philanthropy, came Saturday at 4:30 p. m. in Midland hospital.

Pall-bearers were James Howard, Seth W. Larrabee, William Lincoln, Ellsworth Brown, Ernest Parrish, and Thomas Hagen.

Mr. Highgate was buried in Midland cemetery. But in the words of Rev. Nicholas, "His memory will never die. His halting steps will still be seen by those he loved".

A hush fell over theater crowds at the Frolic last evening as a tribute to Mr. Highgate was flashed on the screen, It read:

IN MEMORIAM
 FRED HIGHGATE
 "What I spent I had
 What I saved I lost
 WHAT I GAVE I HAVE"

City officials explained today the absence of a proclamation closing business places during the hour of the funeral.

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"The custom, which was adhered to here for a number of years was discontinued a few weeks ago," Mayor Stein said today, "at the request of the Chamber of Commerce." It was asked that proclamations be issued only in the most special cases, which would not likely occur more than once in many years.

"This request was granted by the City Council, and in view of the high esteem in which Mr. Highgate is held here, it is deemed necessary to inform the public of the change in policy. In the future business places will not be closed during funeral hours, excepting in most exceptional cases."

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MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL REPORT.

GEORGE NEEDHAM NEW STATE LIBRARIAN AND A FRIEND TO GENEALOGISTS.

The Abrams foundation in 1996 pledged \$60,000 to genealogy and spent \$120,000. For 1997 they committed \$60,000 and recently upped the ante to \$100,000. \$55,000 was spent on census microfilm. The library filled in all missing parts of census, if they had soundex. In the next few years they should have virtually all census for the Eastern U.S.

They ordered all of the slave census schedules to the Federal census.

The U.M.I. genealogy and local History collection of 35 units on Micro-fiche are here. Another set is the Civil War series, 80/85% of all Civil War Unit Histories.

They have 898 reels of microfilm on military pension-bounty land warrant applications for Revolutionary War soldiers. They are easy to use, alphabetized by surname.

They have ordered Canadian Parish Registers on microfilm and some older census records for the Eastern Provinces of Canada (these can be ordered from Grace A. Dow Library).

The last new records on the shelf are the Michigan Vital Records. The actual microfilm record of births, marriage, death and divorce. Births are only the index. Death index - 1867-1914, actual records - 1867-1897. Marriages - 1867-1921, a gap, then 1950-1965 - indexes, actual records - 1867-1925. Divorce some 1897-1969 indexes, actual returns 1897-1922 (not complete).

\$30,000 BLAZE WIPES OUT THE CHARLES BROWN LUMBER BUSINESS AND HON. W. D. GORDON HOME

COSTLY FIRE THOUGHT TO BE OF INCENDIARY ORIGIN OR CAUSED BY CARELESSNESS OF LAWLESS PERSONS

Midland Republican Sept 24 1914 - Newly Organized Business of The William Guillott Gasket Manufacturing Company, Which Had Just Installed New Machinery and Was in Connection with Brown's Lumber Business, is Also a Total Loss in One of Midland's Biggest Fire Disasters

The extensive lumber sheds and office owned by Charles Brown today are in ashes, and the beautiful Main street home of Hon. William D. Gordon stands in ruins, a total loss, caused by the fire which started in the William Guillott Gasket Manufacturing plant about three o'clock Monday morning. The site of two busy industries and 500 feet of lumber sheds and office and the once luxuriously furnished home and surrounding property now closely resembles the view one might get in the battle-swept city of Louvain, Belgium, or in several cities in northeastern France today.

Mr. Gordon Is First to Discover Fire

It was just a little after three o'clock in the morning when Mr. Gordon awoke, choking from the dense smoke which was pouring into his room. His first thought was to arouse the other five members of the household: Mrs. Gordon, Miss Alice McCann and her mother, Mrs. J. T. McCann; the maid, Miss Edna Lehr, and their chauffeur, William Bold. All of them managed to get out of the house in safety, though clad only in their night apparel. Miss McCann telephoned the alarm to the water works.

The fire started in the rear of the Brown lumber shed, in the part occupied by the gasket manufacturing company, and nearly one-half of the main building was in flames when first discovered. On account of the construction of the building it was impossible for the fire company to check the flames, though seven streams of water were kept in play. So intense was the heat and so rapidly did the flames advance that the roof and third floor of the Gordon home were soon all on fire.

It required two hours of strenuous work before the fire department could get the flames under control and the valiant efforts of the fire fighters

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brought forth many remarks of praise from the spectators.

Over Four Million Feet of Lumber Burned

Mr. Brown had two immense lumber sheds, the one along the P. M. tracks being 200 feet long and 20 feet wide. From the end of this up to his office and stock room extended the largest building, which was constructed only about three years ago. This was 260 feet long and 60 feet wide and was a double deck affair inside. Besides the loss of all the buildings, including the stock room full of window sash and doors, building paper and wire, Mr. Brown estimates that the lumber destroyed in the sheds would total 4,500,000 feet, or an approximate loss of \$10,000 on the stock. Mr. Brown's loss is practically covered by insurance, he having \$8,000 insurance on the stock, \$5,000 on the buildings, \$4,000 on machinery.

The William Guillot Gasket Manufacturing Company, which was operating in the rear part of Mr. Brown's building, and which had installed some very fine new machinery, suffers a total loss including valuable dies and tools and a stock of sheet copper and steel. The Gasket Company has insurance of \$3,000.

A shed back of the Gordon garage, containing a stock of wire etc., belonging to W. A. Markey, was burned to the ground. Mr. Markey's loss is about \$200, not insured.

Mr. Brown says that he will begin at once the construction of a modern, fireproof building on the old site to replace the one destroyed in Monday's fire.

Mr. Gordon's Loss Over \$13,000.00

The elaborately furnished three story home of Hon. William D. Gordon is practically a total loss. Merely the shell of the building, first and second story, remains on two sides.

But a very few pieces of furniture from the two front rooms were saved and these were damaged by water and smoke and badly marred. A large wall tapestry from the front room was saved without damage.

Mr. Gordon owned a valuable watch worth about \$225, which was a present to him from the members of the House of Representatives when he was Speaker in 1897. As he stood in front of the burning house he thought of the watch which was left in his bedroom, and he shouted that he would give \$50 to the person who would recover it. Henry McFall rushed in the building and upstairs and feeling over the top of the dresser he reached the timepiece. Henry received the \$50 next morning.

When the ruins had sufficiently cooled to permit search of the place Mr. McFall found among the ashes of Mr. Gordon's chiffonier (sic) the latter's valuable diamond and ruby horseshoe stick pin, undamaged. The best of Mrs. Gordon's jewels were also saved from the fire.

Mr. Gordon estimates the value of his house furnishings at \$5,000, upon which there happened to be only \$2500 insurance. Mr. Gordon's library alone was worth at least \$1500. The residence was worth approximately \$8,000, upon which there was insurance amounting to \$6,000.

Mr. Gordon purchased this home from Mrs. Maude McCallum 14 years ago, since which time Mr. and Mrs. Gordon have resided there.

This week Mr. and Mrs. Gordon have been staying at the T. E. McCann home, but expect to rent a house for the winter. Mr. Gordon stated Tuesday that he had no definite plans yet made, but that he had no intention of making his home away from Midland.

[A large photograph of the Gordon property accompanied this report. The caption reads:

This elegantly furnished home, which has been the residence of Hon. William D. Gordon for the last 14 years, was destroyed by fire which started in the back part of the Charles Brown lumber building early Monday morning and was probably caused by the carelessness of some person or persons who had crawled in under the old mill, where there was plenty of sawdust and shavings.

In this picture, which was taken several years ago, Mr. Gordon is seen standing in the center of the party of three in the foreground.]

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BEGIN RAZING OLD UNITARIAN CHURCH HERE

Midland Daily News, Tuesday, Aug 9, 1938 - Workmen for the Midford company began today to pull down the 51-year-old structure at the corner of Ashman and Ellsworth streets, built as a Unitarian church in 1887, in order to replace it with a stream-

line super-service station and sales room.

The new structure, planned for occupancy by October 1, will cost upwards of \$10,000, according to the building permit figure. It will cover an area 71 by 117 feet, with the long side fronting on Ellsworth street.

A business servicing modern transportation

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will occupy the site where once Unitarians, and later the Nazarenes, conducted their worship, and at another period bookish Midlanders conned the literature of the day at tables before the old grate.

PLAN ONE-STORY BUILDING

The shingled frame structure with its quaint cupola will give way to a concrete and steel one-story building with glazed tile exterior, probably white, the owners said today. A show room for automobiles will face Ashman street, with offices and stock room in the rear. On the Ellsworth side there will be service equipment, including lubricating and wash racks, gas station offices, paint shop, bumping equipment, and similar apparatus, with comfort stations.

Gas tanks will be installed at the corner, where driveways will cut off two "islands" of grass. Neon lighting will decorate the building and interior lights will be of the indirect flush type.

DELAYED BY ZONING PROBLEM

The building, planned for several years, has been delayed by zoning problems, and during the past year, by uncertain business conditions, according to Otto C. Wienecke, president of the firm, and his brother, Eric F. Wienecke of Saginaw, who was in Midland today on business connected with the new structure.

"However, business is showing an upturn," the latter said today, "and we can look forward to a better fall and winter."

Razing of the old church building is recalling to older residents many names and events connected with its history.

FIRST MEETINGS IN 1885

First meeting (sic) of the Unitarian society were conducted about 1885 in the "Old Opera House" with a number of prominent families in Midland at that time sponsoring the movement.

Among them was William Patrick who lived on West Main Street where Mrs. Hazel Camp now lives and owned the shingle mills and salt well south across the Tittabawassee to the right of Benson street bridge, in partnership with John Larkin. Larkin, for whom the street was named, lived where Frank Thompson's Mercantile company is located now, in a large house with spacious grounds and a pump which was visited by all children in the course of a trip down town.

Associated with Patrick in organizing the church was D. E. Hitchcock, attorney, whose family has since moved away. Hitchcock had a large house on what is now the site of the Midland tennis club. B.

F. Bradley was also prominent among the organizers of the church. He was a merchant, and occupied the house now property of St. Brigid's Catholic church and used as the home of Rev. Joseph B. Illig.

CHURCH BUILT IN 1887

Fred Sias was also one of the influential members of the society.

The church was built about 1887 to seat approximately 300 people. In accordance with the liberal ideas of the Unitarian society, the building was constructed to be more homelike than most churches, and a fireplace was one of the attractive features. Many well-known religious figures of the day spoke in the church. For the dedication ceremony the Unitarians sent brilliant men from Boston, New York City, Chicago and Ann Arbor to lend their eloquence to the occasion.

Through the vestibule of the building one enters the auditorium, which comprises the whole of the main floor. The ceiling is vaulted. Sunday school classes were held at the left of the entrance, in the back of the auditorium, and the dining room and kitchen occupied the basement. The church never had a bell.

HELD SERVICES 15 YEARS

Unitarians held services in the building about 15 years, during most of which their pastor was Rev. L. R. Daniels, who, with his family was well-liked in the city. Then he was called to another church and after a time the Midland group disbanded. Older members died or moved away, and the other Protestant churches liberalized so much that there was not the need that there had been for a Unitarian church in the city.

For several years the group rented the building to other sects. The Nazarenes held services there for a time. About seven years ago, the Unitarians turned it over to the Western conference of the Unitarian church, which has had the disposal of it.

Some eight years ago Rev. Daniels returned to Midland for a visit, was the house guest of Mr., and Mrs. E. J. Lee, and conducted services for a few Sundays. He has since died, Windsor, Vermont, being his last parish.

[A photograph (Daily News Photo), showing the old building, some cars parked on the lot, and a sign "Used Car Lot" accompanied this article, with the caption:

Razing of the old Unitarian church, a 51-year-old structure at Ashman and Ellsworth streets, was begun today by workmen for the Midford Company, which will replace the church with a super-service

WHY NOT TRY A PHONE CALL? by Jack Dickert

This is an example of how I searched for some data on my family. I had obtained a family sheet from Salt Lake City of my earliest ancestor. It listed his brothers and sisters along with the name of the person doing the research who said that he was descended from a brother of my ancestor. This was about 1990 and I tried to contact the person, Howard Salisbury, but could not by phone or mail. Since he had entered this data in 1966, I figured that he was probably deceased, which I found out later was true.

Recently, 1996, I decided to try again to find some of my cousins so I went to the LDS Library and with some help found the name and address of a James Salisbury who had entered some data on Howard. I looked for him on my CD of phone numbers and found a Joe Salisbury with the same street address. So I called that number and talked with the mother of James. I told her of our connection but she was not quite sure. She had never heard of the name Schleich. Later her husband, Joe, wrote me and expressed an interest in pursuing this genealogy, so I sent back some material that would show my connection. It turns out that Howard was an uncle who had worked up the Schleich data. James was the son of Joe and he was in China as a Missionary for the LDS Church and was out of contact with his parents at this time. Apparently, James had done some genealogy work on this family that his parents were not able to examine at this time. So I have made contact with some cousins that date back to the early 1700's and were descendants of a brother of my ancestor, Hans Ulric Schleich, born 26 Mar 1705 in Weisloch, Germany. Hopefully I will be able to get the data to show the connection to the Salisbury's.

Another example of research involved some work I was doing at the LDS Library.

The article on a Cannon family was written by an Edward Cannon in MO as stated by a mailing label copied on the last page of the article. I called information to get the phone number and then called that number. It turned out that Mr. Cannon was deceased but his wife referred me to their daughter. I called and talked with her and she was interested since I was the only person from SC to make contact with her regarding the MO Cannons who had originated from my home town in SC. She agreed to copy some data for me at a price.

She was more closely related to another Cannon, Rep. Clarence Cannon, the Democratic Representative from MO for many years and she supplied data on him. I learned that Clarence had written a Cannon book and I wanted to see a copy, naturally. One day there was a copy at my door. I immediately called this lady, Carolyn Cannon, and offered to pay for the book. She explained that there were only a few copies printed and that some relative had died and that she, Carolyn, already had a copy. So this was mine for free. It traced the Cannon family from a James Cannon, born in Newberry SC and a relative, who was a scout in the Revolutionary War and scouted the territory in TN, and KY and later moved there with his family.

Through another correspondent I was able to make contact with a lady who is a professor at a college in OK who is also a Cannon descendant. She is younger and volunteered to write the Cannon book with help, of course. She is also Online so we are able to correspond easily. She has two other lines common to me.

So don't hesitate to get on the phone if you have a lead and talk with the person. They are probably as anxious to make contact as you are.

WARNING ABOUT GENEALOGY POX

Genealogy begins as an interest, becomes a hobby, continues as a vocation. Then it takes over as an obsession, and in its last stage, it is an incurable disease. GENEALOGY POX IS VERY CONTAGIOUS TO ADULTS!

SYMPTOMS: Continual complaint as to the need for names, dates and places. Patient has blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and children; has no taste for work of any kind, except feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses; has compulsion to write letters; swears at mailman when he doesn't leave mail; frequents strange places such as cemeteries, ruins, and remote desolate country areas; makes secret night calls; hides phone bills from spouse, and mumbles to self; has strange far away look in eyes.

TREATMENT: NO KNOWN CURE! Medication is useless. The disease is not fatal, but gets progressively worse. The patient should attend genealogy workshops, subscribe to genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner in the house where he or she can be alone.

REMARKS: The usual nature of this disease is that the sicker the patient gets, the more he or she enjoys it.

PRESERVING YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY

From "Gems of Genealogy," Bay Area Genealogical Soc., Vol. 22, No. 4, 1996-7. By Laurie Evans.

The world's oldest existing photograph was made in the summer of 1827. Although you may not have any photos that old, as a family historian and genealogy buff, you probably have some early 1900 photographs. The life expectancy of black and white photos (printed on fiber-based paper) is over 100 years. Today there are far more air impurities that can be extremely damaging to photos. Therefore it becomes even more important what environment you keep your photos in.

The six main enemies to photos and negatives are: acid and other chemicals; humidity, temperature extremes; light; corrosive particles; and human carelessness.

How do you preserve newspaper clippings? There are a couple of products that deacidify documents: Wei To Deacidification solution and Bookkeeper. Both are available in sprays. They may be ordered through archival catalogs.

How do you "uncurl" old B&W photos that have been stored in shoe boxes? If they are not too damaged or are fairly recent photos, try the "book stack" method. However for very old or valuable photos I recommend taking them to a photo restorer.

How do you remove photos from the magnetic (peel and stick) albums? Gently lifting the photos with your fingers or a dull instrument may work - using caution is the key. I have found that using a hair dryer on a low setting will sometimes help loosen the adhesive - again, use caution! If a photo appears to be too difficult to remove, leave it and have a negative or reprint made directly from the album.

Can you separate old photos from the thick cardboard they are mounted on? No, not safely. A better solution is to mount them in your album using acid-free mounting corners which are available in a variety of sizes. Again, having a reprint or negative made directly from the original is another alternative.

How and where should you store negatives? The same things that are a danger to photos are a danger to negatives. However, negatives can be stored where they are rarely in contact with light or touch - this may help their life expectancy. Be sure to use acid-free storage. I recommend storing your negatives in a different place than your photos, in case of a fire.

PHOTOS ARE NOT FOREVER

This title describes the information in a article from the "Family Tree Topper," newsletter of the Mission Oaks Gen. Club of Carmichael, CA. The discussion involves the differences in lasting ability among various types of film. Accelerated aging tests run by professional labs, such as that of Eastman Kodak, have studied when color fading occurs and estimate the dark storage life of various films. Dark Storage Life is estimated by the time it takes for fading of primary colors (red, yellow, blue).

LASTING TIME FOR FILM:

Black and White Negatives	300+y
Black, white selenium tone print on fiber based paper	200+y
Cibachrome(from slide)	100+y
PolacolorII	75+y
VericolorII on Ektaplus paper	75+y
Kodachrome 25 & 64 slides	75-100y
Kodachrome II slides	50y
Video film & movie	30y
Kodacolor II prints	6-10y
Ektachrome, Agfachrome slides	30y
Kodak Instant Prints	abt 6m

It is suggested that pictures which you want to save for a long time should be done in black & white (over 300+ years life span for negatives). The article also reminds us that, while the video film may last for over 30 years, with the rapid development of equipment, we may have the film but nothing to play it on!

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MY TWO CENTS WORTH ON THE ABOVE SUBJECTS

By Ora Flaningam

Now that the experts have spoken, let me tell you my thoughts on preserving newspaper articles and on preserving photographs.

My thought about preserving newspapers is that the paper they are printed on is not worth preserving. I believe that the best thing to do it to transfer the article to better paper. The easiest way to do this is to Xerox/ photocopy it. If the article is of such shape that it does not easily fit on a 8 1/2 x 11 page, I cut and paste it to fit. If you can find some way to copy them onto acid-free paper, so much the better.

On the subject of preserving photos, it is easier to make your own copies than you might think. Assuming the photographs are to be preserved as they are, with no restoration needed, all that is needed is a single-lens reflex camera (so you can see exactly what you are photographing), a set of 3 screw-on close up lenses (about \$20), a tripod, and a cable release. You need a little care, but your photo can look great.

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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:

February 19, 1997 - Beverly J. Thayer, Register of Deeds. "Deeds and Genealogy" **meeting will be at the Commissioner's Room of the Midland County Services Building, this time only.**

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

April 16, 1997 - Barbara Myers - "Dating Costumes and Photos."

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

SUNDAY, April 6, 1997 - 8th Genealogy and History Book Fair - Lansing Center, Lansing; new and used books on all subjects; \$1.50.

SATURDAY April 26, 1997 - Genealogy Seminar sponsored by Midland Genealogical Soc. Four lectures by John Hanson. 8:00 to 5:00 at the Northwood Institute, Griswold Center, Midland, MI. Cost \$30 (Includes buffet lunch). See flyer included with this newsletter.

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY - May 7-10, 1997 "Pennsylvania, Cradle of a Nation" Sponsored by National Genealogical Society and the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania; at Valley Forge; cost unknown, but we will get a brochure.

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY - June 11-13, 1997 "National Conference of Palatines to America," Fort Wayne, Indiana.

MONDAY-THURSDAY - July 7-10, 1997 4th Annual Genealogical Institute of Mid-America - Springfield, Illinois; sponsored by Illinois State Genealogical Society and the Univ. of Illinois; four intensive courses taught by experienced, nationally recognized genealogists; cost \$310 plus housing.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY - September 25-27, 1997 - Annual seminar sponsored by the Michigan Genealogical Council and Western Michigan Genealogical Society, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids; also 25th anniversary of the council.

See bulletin board in the Michigan/Genealogical room at the G.A. Dow Memorial Library for more information.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members:

BELLOUS, Betty
 BRAUSCH, Joan
 COBB, Terry
 COLLINS, Mary Margaret & Dan
 COOLEY, Lois
 LAFRENIERE, Bryant
 LIGEB, Vicki
 MCCRARY, Marcia & Bob
 NICHOLSON, Anne
 OLSON, Lynne
 PASHAK, Mildred
 RUSSELL, David & Shirley
 SIEGMUND, Karl
 SNIDER, Robert
 WILSON, Debby

Also note in the November issue of the Pioneer Record under list of new members. "LEVY, Sheldon & Mary Grace," should be "LEVY, Sheldon & Mary."

WEB SITE ADDRESS OF THE MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY HOME PAGE:

<http://members.mdn.net/billword/mgs.htm>



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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Pioneer Record

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.