

**NOTE TIME CHANGE: Meetings will be held at 7:00 P.M.**

# PIONEER RECORD



November 1997

Volume XVIII, No. 2

**In This Issue:**

English not spoken - 1, 3, 4

**Avoiding Genealogy Grief - 5 & 6**

**Helpful Questions - 8**

**British 1881 Census - 7**

**Barton's 50th - 10**

**MGS Members - 9-10**

**Catholic Genealogy Help - 2**

**WWI Draft Reg. - 6**

**Ontario Vitals - 7**

**President's Letter - 2**

**Apologies - 4**

**For Your Info - 6**

**Books for Sale - 8**

**Deeds - 11**

**Web Address - 11**

**Programs and Seminars - 11**

## Speaks No English After 40 Years on Midland Farm

Midland Republican - Jan. 22, 1931

### Herrmann and Mrs. Pluss Make Record at Staying home

One night away from home in 40 years. That's the record of Herrmann Pluss of Larkin. And that one night was one more than Mrs. Pluss has ever spent away from home. Furthermore, as if that were not enough of a record, Mrs. Pluss speaks not one word of English after 40 years in a home, lying as "Mrs. Dr." Grether, expressed it, the sixth road on the left past the three mile corner, a matter of five miles or so from Midland.

But these facts do not mean, as one might suppose, that the Swiss Plusses spend their lives in isolation.

Says her, "The best people in Midland come out to the worst looking place in Larkin. I don't know why. I used to be ashamed to have them come, but I get used to it." she laughed.

The answer is that Herrmann Pluss's \_\_\_\_ (?) house has some indefinable attraction, distilled from the personality of this grizzled Schweitzer (as he calls himself), from his plump frau with the smile in her eyes, and the continental air of the house.

He drew up chairs to the big round heating stove in the corner of the room, the frau came in from the kitchen to warm her hands and smile a greeting.

"I didn't want things any better

than this when I had money." said he.

"The woman doesn't like it here very well. She can't talk to anybody but me. So we were going back to Switzerland to stay, just to please her, but after the bank failed we didn't go. Besides I heard from the Old Country that the price of little farms such as I would want has gone up so high.

"This is a better country for poor people, anyway," he declared.

"In Switzerland if a man gets down and out, he stays there. Nobody helps him. Here it is different. Neighbors help each other."

From Murgenthal in the Swiss canton of Argo came Herrmann Pluss as a youth of 24, following the lore of letters from friends and relatives in this country. Murgenthal was disappointingly in the low lands and the picture I had conjured of his stocky figure among a hypothetical flock of twisty horned mountain goats on some secluded alp was ruined by his more accurate word photo of himself as a farmer on the broad areas north of those historic peaks, as son of the town clerk, formerly a weaver.

His name is a joining of those two German words Herr, or Mister, and Mann, or man, making it entirely unnecessary for anybody to address him as "Mister Pluss," he contends. The last name wears in the Swiss, the umlaut over the U.

And Mrs.. Pluss? Plump Elise Lesenberger she was when, three years after he had arrived in Midland, she came over to live with her brother and married young Herrmann within a few months.

*(Continued on page 3)*

# President's Letter

For those of you not at the September meeting, the members present approved a 1997-98 budget of anticipated income of \$1705 and anticipated expenses of \$1868. The income is a conservative amount and expenses are probably higher than what we will actually be spending. Hopefully, we can maintain the 130 members we had last year, as we need at least 120 to reach the anticipated dues figure, which is about 60% of our total income. If anyone (either present at the September meeting or not) wishes to have a copy of the current budget, call Bill Worden.

The treasurer's report, as of September 17, 1997 shows:

Checking account (operating)	\$1,398.53
Money market account (projects)	\$2517.41
CD	<u>\$2500.00</u>
Total assets	\$6,415.94

As of September 30, Marie Bebeau, membership chairman, reports that a number of members have not paid dues for this year 1997-98, which began July 1. Attached is a list of members who ARE current, with new members since spring indicated. The last several years collecting some dues by September 30 has become a big problem for the membership chairman, and I don't think this should be so. Next year, name labels on the September Pioneer Record will be highlighted in fluorescent chartreuse color to alert members who are in arrears.

The September meeting was presented by Doug Applegath and Ron Snyder, the program cochairmen, and was a profile of members' interests, location of research done, and areas (location and subject-wise) where members need, and would like, help. The facts and figures were compiled by Ron from 32 members' profile sheets filled out at last May's meeting. They would like more members to fill them out so that they can get a better look at members' genealogical interests, accomplishments and needs. At least half the meetings this year will be based on these findings. If you haven't filled out the member profile sheet, call Ron at 631-0765, and he will mail you a copy.

The November meeting will have two speakers – Bill Kocher on "Photographic Methods" and Dave Dornbusch on "Computer Scanners." Remember we are beginning at 7:00 PM so that there can be more one-on-one talking time at the end of the evening. In September

approximately 2/3 of the total attendance was present at 7:00. We will evaluate at the November meeting to see if the earlier hour is still acceptable.

Shirley Renwick is still looking for a few cookie bakers for the winter months. The only requirement is to bring three dozen cookies at the specific months. She and Alice Lund do all the rest of the work. Call Shirley at 687-2290. No refreshments if no one signs up!

For those of you interested in early Michigan births, the Public Records Committee of the Michigan Genealogical Council has finally succeeded in getting legislation passed in Lansing to open birth records to conform with the National Center of Health Statistics model, taking effect on July 2, 1997. However, the legislature thought a birth of 100 years ago was too recent so they put a 110 year time frame in the bill, which means only 20 years (to 1886-87) of birth records were opened up for viewing. Our Midland clerk's office says it will look for a particular name over a span of years for an applicant, but the registration book will not be accessible for genealogists' eyes. If the births have been microfilmed by LDS, that still is the easiest and cheapest way to obtain information. I would be interested in knowing how other county clerks' offices (both Michigan and other states) are handling this; so when you research at county clerks' offices, ask them how they are currently handling birth records from 100 or so years ago.

The volunteers in the Midland Room need the help of anyone using that room. Please sign the register (on the desk as you first come in) every time you use the resources or equipment so that we can have an accurate count of usage to show the management.

I continue not to hear any comments, criticisms, suggestions, or offers of help from members; does this mean everything that is being done by the genealogical society and the board is OK? No one has volunteered to coordinate a Salt Lake City trip. Does that mean no one wants to return for a wonderful week of researching? I am also looking for a second Michigan Genealogical Council delegate (to replace Joan Somerville), who will attend a day-long meeting six times a year in Lansing and then report back to the society. It is FUN to be involved in genealogy with other people. What better way to share information and hints about research than to be working with fellow genealogists on a project. The responsibilities being carried by some of us for so long need to be assumed by new people. Will YOU volunteer in some

## Catholic Genealogical Help From Archives

Two sources of historical and genealogical material for the Catholic Church are: Department of Archives, and Manuscripts, Catholic University of American, Washington,

DC 20019 and the University Archives Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN 46624.

With thanks to *The Madison County Genealogical Society Newsletter*

## Speaks No English After Forty Years on a Midland Farm

*(Continued from page 1)*

"I built this house first," said her husband, "and batched it here all one winter, I tell you I had pancake batter from that door clear through to that one," he laughed. "We were married in the spring right here in this room, with an interpreter to help us understand each other. She came from the canton of Bern and spoke a different dialect.

"I had been in Cleveland before that. I came away from the old country the 22nd of February 1883, although I didn't know then it was a holiday here. My ticket cost \$44 - 220 Francs - from Basel, Switzerland to Cleveland.

"I asked just one man for a job - that was Charlie Strosacker's grandfather - Charlie Frank. That was in Cleveland. He said he had an Irishman, out at his place, 18 miles out, who said he needed a greenhorn.

"I'm a greenhorn," I said.

"How long have you been over?" He asked

"Since last Sunday," I said. "How did I come to Midland? There was a country store-keeper down there that came up here with a carload of horses. He bought a 80 up in Lincoln township and wanted to sell it to me. So I came up here to look at it. But I didn't buy then. I went back to Ohio and stayed there five years more, seven altogether. But I'd always thought about this country, and finally came back and bought some land here."

"In Switzerland so much more beautiful than this country?"

"They call it so," he replied, "I couldn't say. I have never been much in the mountains."

Mr. Pluss had hinted jestingly that he might be asked to tell some of the tricks he'd played over in the Old Country. But reminded, he shook his head.

"Only getting drunk a thousand times," he laughed. "Everybody did that way then. I don't know how they do it now. I was one of those wet fellows years ago," - he grinned. "And when I quit I wanted everybody to quit, too. So I voted dry. I know how to make whiskey, but I don't - I'm a dry bugger. I never made any out of apples and cherries. Not out of potatoes. The poor people would have those to eat - on the table not in the bottle.

Now I asked Mr. Pluss where he stayed the one night away from home during the forty years just passed.

"I used to go often to Saginaw on business," he said, "but always came home at night, only one time I stayed in Saginaw with a friend of mine that had a saloon. He lived right there so I stayed there with him.

But not drunk that time," he said. "Not but what I knew where I was."

"I used to work for the neighbors years ago, getting out some logs, but only by the day. Do you know George Gray?"

"Not well."

"That's too bad," he said. "George Gray, was the best friend I have had for years. He had a mill right on the next corner. I knew the Fosters here, too, for years. I sold wood to them and eggs, onions whatever I had. Mr. Foster had that livery barn there on Main Street, and I used to stop there with my span of oxen. He'd help me hitch them as if they were a fine span of horses. Rich or poor were all alike to him. He was a fine gentlemen.

"I sold Wm. L. Baker thousands of feet of lumber at \$6 per thousand delivered, and wood at 75 cents a cord. Eggs at that time were six cents in cash and seven in trade. I bought shingles for 35 cents a thousand for my barn and its just starting to leak now, built nearly 40 years. For my house, I bought shorts at \$1 a thousand.

Did you ever see a pen like this?" he asked, producing a double pointed pen tied to a wooden handle.

And in a few minutes he had fed one point with red ink and the other with blue and executed as pretty a job of ornamental printing his name as one could wish.

"I've got rheumatism in my paws and everything," he deplored. "I can't do this like I used to." But in spite of this, he turned out a result that accounted for his success with the job of Larkin township clerk, and school director, from which he has twice had to resign against his neighbors wishes.

Mrs. Pluss, in her apron, was now showing signs of wishing to lay the cloth for lunch, and as I rose, both extended an invitation to join them. Shortly with the wind howling down the stove pipe of the warm heater, we were sitting at the table in the corner. Mrs. Pluss putting in remarks more and more frequently, in fluid Swiss which her husband interpreted with good nature.

"She never learned to talk English," he repeated. "I learned from a neighbor Johnnie Shear. Even when her nieces and Nephews come here she cannot speak to them. It is very hard."

Mr. Pluss admits he put his money in the wrong bank, and was caught in the crash of 1929.

"We've had bad luck the last two years," he said. "But I'm not mad at the Gordons. I had more

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Speaks No English After Forty Years on a Midland Farm

(Continued from page 3)

confidence in those men! If I had my money back now and they were to start a bank, I would put it t in there again. But if the woman could talk now, it would be different. She's mad at 'em." he said with a nod toward the stove.

"I had money in on Midland Bank." he said. I took it out and put it in Gordon's. I had two Liberty Bonds in another bank. I sold them and used \$30 and put the rest there too. Then I got some money from the old country. It came from the postoffice. I didn't even put it in my pocketbook: I carried it in my hand, and on the street I met my neighbor and said to him, "Fritz, what do you think of those, eh."

"Where did you get that!" he asked.

"At the postoffice I said. I didn't know I was going to get it. You'd better go and see if you get any." and do you know I went down and put that all in Gordon's bank?

"Then one day I started for town riding with Fred Siebert. I had over \$20 with me and I said to the woman. 'I'll buy a suit of clothes and in a few days the interest from the bank will be due and we can use that around the place' As we got part way to town, Fred said. 'Did you hear Gordon's bank closed yesterday.'"

"He said afterward he had never seen anyone change color like I did then. I was scared.

I swear a little bit," he admitted. "Who wouldn't swear? But I'm mad at myself. I didn't have to sell the bonds and put the money there. Besides I lost the most of my pile in the Old Country, more than I lost here. I had money in banks there, and I never got anything out of it after the war. They wrote in 1928 that there was going to be a settlement, but I never heard anything after that.

"We're getting old now and we can't do much

any more. Ever since I had my leg broken a few years ago - the horse stepped on my back, and the wagon wheel ran over my foot and I was stung by a bumble bee. Outside of that I wasn't hurt very much." And he laughed at his joke, evidently an old favorite.

"They didn't think I'd get well. Some of them were telling one of my neighbors about it. Old Herrmann Pluss won' last long. They said. But he said. 'Not last long! You couldn't kill him with an elm club. Look at his eyes, just as sharp as ever.'"

"But I had a kind of a funny spell a while ago one Sunday. And I suppose I'll have a stroke one of these days and wind up the whole business." he said cheerfully. I made my will and had Wilbur Main fix up the deeds and things so the woman will get everything. And her folks sent down word they will come and get her when I'm gone.

"That's the reason I don't fix up the house." he explained. "My neighbor says he will buy the land for pasture when we are through with it. Now we don't raise much any more. Dr. Grether had a garden out there two summers. I plough the land for him. He comes out here sometimes with Mrs. Grether and Leonie, Charlie Strosacker and his sister and the Grossmutter - the grandmother." he corrected himself. "They were out last summer. They were Schweitzer's, too. It was funny that I should have known their family in Cleveland."

Lunch over, I helped the Frau carry out the dishes to the kitchen where she smilingly declined further assistance and bent to her work.. Herrmann stirred the wood in the big heater. Under my arm his big book in which was neatly scribed in German the stormy voyage over. I drove away. From his porch, Mr. Pluss, in his boots and overalls, his white hair blowing in the wind, waved goodbye.

### Apologies!!

One of our CALIFORNIA members has pointed out to us that last years PIONEER RECORD Volume number had skipped a year. With this issue we will correct that error. The current practice is for publication of 4 issues per volume, with #1 in Sep., #2 in Nov., #3 in Feb. and #4 in Apr. In earlier years there were sometimes 5 issues and also a few issues were in months other than Sep., Nov., Feb., and Apr. Once there was a "double" Issue. So for those of you that save PR, here is a list of volume numbers by year. "Odd" issues will be highlighted.

1980 Apr. V.I #1; Sep. #2; Nov. #3  
 1981 Feb. V.I #4; Apr. V.II #1; Sep. #2; Nov. #3  
 1982 Feb. V.II #4; Apr. V.III #1; Sep. #2; Nov. #3  
 1983 Feb. V.III #4; Apr. #5; Sep. V.IV #1; Nov. #2  
 1984 Feb. V.IV #3; **May. #4**; Sep. V.IV #5; **Dec. V.V #1**  
 1985 Feb. V.V #2 **May. #3**; Sep. V.V #4; Nov. V.VI #1&2  
 1986 Feb. V.VI #3; Apr. V.VI #4; **Oct. V.VII #1**; Nov. #2  
 1987 **Jan. V.VII #3**; Apr. #4; Sep. V.VIII #1; Nov. #2

1988 Feb. V.VIII #3; Apr. #4; Sep. V.IX #1; Nov. #2  
 1989 Feb. V.IX #3; Apr. #1; Sep. V.X #1; Nov. #2  
 1990 Feb. V.X #3; Apr. #4; Sep. V.XI #1; Oct. #2  
 1991 Feb. V.XI #3; Apr. #4; Sep. V.XII #1; Nov. #2  
 1992 Feb. V.XII #3; Apr. #4; Sep. V.XIII #1; Nov. #2  
 1993 Feb. V.XIII #3; Apr. #4; Sep. V.XIV #1; Nov. #2  
 1994 Feb. V.XIV #3; Apr. #4; Sep. V.XV #1; Nov. #2  
 1995 Feb. V.XV #3; Apr. #4; Sep. V.XVI #1; Nov. #2  
 1996 Feb. V.XVI #3; Apr. #4; **Error occurred with Sep. issue.**  
 Correct numbers are: Sep. V.XVII #1; Nov. #2  
 1997 Feb. V.XVII #3; Apr. #4; Sep. V.XVIII #1; Nov. V.XVIII #2

So remember the Sept., 1996 to Apr., 1997 issues as Volume XVII and the Sept. 1997 issue as Vol. XVIII #1.

There is also a subject index to the first 10 years of the Pioneer Record which was published in 3 parts in Volume XI.

## 20 Ways to Avoid Grief in Your Genealogical Research

by Margaret M. Sharon

The following suggestions and recommendations will be helpful to beginners and hopefully will prevent misfortune when learning how to do genealogical research. Many of these tips are "old hat" to experienced genealogists, but it is always worthwhile to remind ourselves of the basics of sound research.

1. ALWAYS note the source of any material you photocopy. If the information is from a library book, note the name, author, date, publisher and also the library where you found the book, or photocopy the title page. Occasionally you will find that you need to refer to the book again, or photocopy more information from it.
2. Make photocopies or carbon copies of ALL letters you write. This will save you from wondering which of your correspondent's questions you answered already, and which of your questions they have or haven't answered.
3. Don't procrastinate in responding to letters or messages you receive. If you don't have time to write a detailed reply, send your correspondent a quick reply or postcard to acknowledge receipt and give him/her a rough idea of when a reply will be forthcoming. Then be sure to write back as you've promised to.
4. When searching for relatives in records, don't pass over the entries that are almost but not quite right. For example, if you are searching for the marriage of John Brown and Mary Jones in 1850, make a note of the marriage of John Brown and Nancy Smith in 1847; this could be a previous marriage in which the wife died shortly after.
5. When writing to libraries for genealogical/historical societies in your areas of interest, ask them for the names and addresses of out-of-print booksellers in the area. Write to the booksellers and ask if they have any old local histories or family histories pertaining to the area.
6. Remember that "if it's in print, it ain't necessarily fact." Information in recently published local and family histories is often based on that from older published works. If the older books are incorrect, the erroneous information is simply repeated and further disseminated.
7. The earlier the time period which you are researching, the less consistent our ancestors were about the spelling of their surnames. Also, many of them were illiterate and could not tell a record keeper how their names should be spelled.
8. Family traditions of close connections to famous figures are usually false, but there may be a more obscure relationship involved. Perhaps the famous person spent a night at your ancestor's country estate instead of (as the legend goes) marrying into the family.
9. Try not to let your research get behind. Establish a filing system for your papers (using file folders or 3-ring binders) and file each page of notes, documents, photocopies, etc. as you acquire it. There are few things more disheartening than contemplating a foot-high stack of unfiled papers and wondering if the birth certificate you desperately need to refer to is somewhere in it.
10. Double-check all dates to make sure they are possible, for example, a woman born in 1799 could not be a mother in 1800.
11. Be on the lookout for nicknames. A request for a birth record for Sadie White may be rejected if the name on file is Sarah White.
12. Beware of mail-order promotions offering personalized genealogies of your surname with titles such as "The Amazing Story of the BLANK Family" or "The BLANK Family New World Registry." These are usually little more than computer-assembled lists of names from telephone directories. Notify the Better Business Bureau, postal authorities and consumers advocate agencies if you receive one of these.
13. Don't assume modern meaning for terms used to describe relationships. For example, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century a step-child was often called a "son-n-law" or "daughter-in-law" and a "cousin" could refer to almost any relative except a sibling or child.
14. Remember that indexes to books rarely include the names of ALL personas mentioned in the book and, in addition, occasionally contain errors. If it appears that a book is likely to have valuable information, spend some time skimming its contents rather than returning it to the shelf after a quick glance at the index.
15. Be precise when making notes and especially when sharing information with others. Write dates using an unambiguous format: Americans interpret 5/6/1881 as 6 May 1881, but in many other countries it would read as 5 June 1881. Always capitalize or underline surnames, some of which can be mistaken for given names, e. g., HENRY,

*(Continued on page 6)*

**20 Ways to Avoid Grief in Your Genealogical Research**  
**by Margaret M. Sharon**

*(Continued from page 5)*

HOWARD. Note place names in full, including parish or township, county, state, or province and country.

16. You will often encounter conflicting information and you will have to weigh it against other evidence to try to determine which is the most likely to be true. Periodically review and verify the conclusions you have reached concerning each of your ancestors' lives; this will help to prevent you from wasting time following blind alleys.

17. Place names and boundaries have changed constantly over the years. Always verify them in historical atlases or genealogical texts pertaining to the area. For example, the boundaries of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania have changed four times since it was first settled.

18. Whenever and wherever possible, advertise the surnames you are researching by submitting them to genealogical directories and surname lists published by genealogical societies that you belong to. This will put you

in touch with others who are researching the same surnames, possibly for a much longer time. After all, the most rewarding genealogical research is that which no-one else has already done!

**UP-DATE FOR COMPUTER USERS**

19. Don't forget to make frequent backups of your computer disks.

20. Store back-up copies of your computer disks and photocopies of your irreplaceable documents in your deposit box or someone else's home.

(This article was written by Margaret M. Sharon, Academic Computing Services, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B. C. Canada V5A 1S6. Credit to the British Columbia Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 88054, Richmond, B/C. Canada V5A 1S6. It was written for The British Genealogical Society Genealogist, Vol. 17 #1, March 1988. It was reprinted with some changes by the Florida Genealogical Society in their Journal, Vol. 24 #2, October 1988, and in the Canadian Federation of Genealogical and Family History Societies Newsletter, Vol. 6 #2, October 1993. Then it was reprinted in the Dearborn Genealogical Society Newsletter, Volume XIX Number 1, February 1996.)

**Draft Registrations for World War I**

June 5, 1917: All men between the ages of 21 and 31 years of age were required to register.

July 5, 1918 were required to register.

June 5, 1918: All men who had become 21 years of age since June 5, 1917. A supplemental registration was held on August 24, 1918, at which time were men who had become 21 years of age since

September 12, 1918: This registration provided for the registration of all men between the ages of 18 and 21, and 31 to 45 years of age. This was the last World War I registration.

<<<<<<0>>>>> <<<<<0>>>>> <<<<<0>>>>>

**For Your Information**

The Ft. Wayne Library has updated their phone system recently, and the new number for the genealogy section is (219) 421-1225.

The genealogy "con artists" have surfaced again, so new genealogists beware. Recently, I received a letter from HALGERT'S of Bath, Ohio (signed by Sharon Taylor) advertising a truly unique sweatshirt bearing my surname and my family's coat of arms. First of all, may of us know from experience about all the advertising from this and several other companies concerning "your surname family book," and what a

rip-off the book is. Secondly, what I know about my family so far indicates that they were poor people, and certainly did not have a family crest or coat of arms. I wonder if we compared the coat of arms for several different surnames, if they would all be very much alike. Investigate before you purchase!

Hoyt Library in Saginaw has just received a set of the Loiselle Quebec marriage index 1763-1935. It is on microfiche, one part indexed by female surname, the other by male. It also contains parent's names for both parties, date of registration or marriage, and place.

<<<<<<0>>>>> <<<<<0>>>>> <<<<<0>>>>>

**British 1881 Census Indexed**

**The following is excerpted from a release of the British 1881 Census Project by Stephen C. Young, production coordinator in the United Kingdom.**

Association of Family History Societies applied to have the 1881 census of Scotland included in this project, another estimated 3,700,000 people were added, bringing the total number of names to approximately 30,000,000.

On the night of Sunday, 3 April 1881, the entire population of England, Wales, and Scotland, as well as the inhabitants of the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, paused for a collective portrait. This figurative snapshot in history was the government census of 1881. The resulting image preserved important information features of each person. Until now, the search for one ancestral family by those compiling their family history from among the millions of people in the British 1881 census could be compared to the search for the proverbial needle in a haystack.

The project required that each census entry be input twice onto a computer using a Church-designed software program called Universal Data Entry (UDE). Then eleven thousand computer disks were shipped to the Family History Department in Salt Lake City.

- The indices are alphabetically listed:
- All surnames within each county
  - All surnames grouped by birthplace
  - All surnames grouped by residence
  - All vessels or ships with individuals listed by surnames.
  - All schools, jails, hotels, orphanages, barracks, etc. and their inhabitants.

Researchers who did not know the location of their ancestor in 1881 faced the virtually impossible task of spending years reading millions of names before happening upon the name of their ancestor. Researchers who were lucky enough to know the county where the ancestor lives still faced hours of days of searching. However, thanks to a recently completed indexing project, the name of a specific family member can be located in a matter of minutes.

The cumulative labor of Thousands ensured the success of the cooperative indexing project. The number of volunteered hours devoted since 1987 is estimated at two and a half million! The nearly nine thousand transcribers of other faiths were joined by another eight thousand Church members, including 263 full-time-family history service missionaries from throughout the world. Completing the balance were British Latter-Day Saints called by local priesthood leaders to fulfill part and full-time missions.

Thousands of professionals and volunteers have worked for eight years to create the most comprehensive and detailed census index yet devised. The enormity of this task is obvious" Vital statistics for some 26,300,000 residents in the above mentioned locations. Then in January, 1991 the Scottish

Source: *Pastfinder*, Genealogical Association of Southwestern Michigan. \Volume 25, Issue 4, page 39.

<<<<<0>>>> <<<<<0>>>> <<<<<0>>>>

**Ontario vital records**

As of May 1994, the Archives of Ontario have Birth, Marriage and Death indexes & Registration Books from the Office of the Registrar General of Ontario. The following records are on microfilm:

Military service (Canada, England, Scotland, etc.) can write to the following address for information on place of burial, etc. This is free of charge.

- Births 1869-1912
- Marriages 1801-1912
- Deaths 1869-1912

INFORMATION OFFICER  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
2 Marlow Road  
Maidenhead, Berkshire S16 7DX

Anyone who is researching family that was Killed in Action while serving in any branch of the Commonwealth

<<<<<0>>>> <<<<<0>>>> <<<<<0>>>>

**Ancient Proverbs**

One's destiny is determined, not by what he possesses, but by what possess him.

## Questions, Questions

It is very important that we periodically review and evaluate our research notes. This will help determine what documentation is needed and hidden clues may be uncovered. The following questions should be asked of the Family Group sheets:

1. Are all dates for all events in proper order?
2. Are all abbreviations correct?
3. Is every fact documented?
4. Have you found your ancestor in every census of his/her life?
5. Have you looked for citizenship or naturalization papers?
6. Was the father married more than once?
7. Do all the children belong to one wife?
8. Is a pattern evident in the children's names?
9. Did the father serve in the military? If yes, what war?
10. Did the family own land?
11. Have you found the father's will and probate records?
12. Figuring the dates, how many children could the mother have had?
13. Do all her children belong to one husband?
14. If widowed, did she live with her children in later years?

15. Do you have the children listed in correct birth order?
16. Do you have place of birth and marriage information for each child?
17. Have you followed each child in the census to see if a parent or grandparent is living with them?
18. Have you checked to see if a book was ever written about your family?
19. Have you checked to see if your families are in the Family History Center's IGI (both microfiche version and computerized)?
20. Have you considered that your ancestor may have kept a diary?
21. Have you plotted your family's migration path?
22. Have you placed queries on your families in all the genealogical periodicals?

Review documents acquired over time. New clues will surface that were missed the first time, or the information didn't fit with your data at that time.

Source: *Twigs and Branches*, North Central Illinois Genealogical Society. Volume XVIII, No. 1. December, 1995, page 3.

<<<<<0>>>>> <<<<<0>>>>> <<<<<0>>>>>

## BOOKS 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

**MGS 1997 - 1998 Membership List**

\*/Bold indicates a new member

<b>LAST</b>	<b>FIRST</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>ZIP</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
ALSIP	James B.	1710 W. ST. ANDREWS	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-7151
ANDRICK	Floyd	4928 ARTCREST	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-1274
ANGER	Marge	960 NOYES	MIDLAND	MI	48640	839-9545
APPLEGATH	Anne & Doug	4010 WOODLAWN	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-6074
BAKER	Shirley	1100 AIRFIELD LN	MIDLAND	MI	48642	835-2818
BAKER	Lois	3273 PATTERSON	FREELAND	MI	48623	631-9549
BEBEAU	Marie	821 BADOUR RD	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-4035
BELLOUS	Betty	6100 JEFFERSON APT# 113	MIDLAND	MI	48642	837-2092
BERRY	Marion	5813 WOODBRIDGE ST.	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 LAWDALE DR	MIDLAND	MI	48642	832-9430
BRAUSCH	Joan	106 COVENTRY CT	MIDLAND	MI	48642	631-6684
BRINES	Joanne	4300 CASTLE DR	MIDLAND	MI	48640	832-8312
CARR	Betty J.	13318 Dixie Hwy., Lot 127	HOLLY	MI	48442	
CASADONTE	Ruth Ann	5104 NURMI DR	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-5115
*CLINE	Sharon	2883 N. ORR RD	HEMLOCK	MI	48626	642-8909
* CRONKRIGHT	Phyllis	1407 E. SUGNET RD	MIDLAND	MI	48642	
DICKERT	Jack	611 CHATHAM DR.	MIDLAND	MI	48642	832-8768
DIESEN	Wilma	5802 FLAXMOOR	MIDLAND	MI	48640	832-8485
DOBSON	Orv	5403 CAMPAU	MIDLAND	MI	48640	
DOSTAL	Bob	4406 ORCHARD DR.	MIDLAND	MI	48640	
ERRATT	Jan	2152 LYNN DR	SANFORD	MI	48657	687-2932
FIKE	Mary Ellen	1895 MACK RD	SAGINAW	MI	48601	
FLANINGAM	Ora	3227 E. STEWART RD.	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-3227
FOSGITT	Iris	1907 EASTLAWN APT F7	MIDLAND	MI	48642	832-8462
FOX	Barbara	5220 HEDGEWOOD	MIDLAND	MI	48640	839-9349
FRY	David L.	3210 BOSTON	MIDLAND	MI	48642	631-9329
*GEISERT	Bruce A.	3706 APPLEWOOD RD	MIDLAND	MI	48640	
HAMLIN	Marjorie	2205 E. COLLEGE AVE.	VISALIA	CA	93292	
HAYES	Mary Lou	PO BOX 312	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-1220
HECHT	Arlene	3630 MANDO CT.	COLEMAN	MI	48618	465-1363
HILLMAN	Ralph	4302 JAMES DR.	MIDLAND	MI	48642	839-9070
HOCK	Gail	7071 MIDDLE RD	HOPE	MI	48628	689-3763
HODGES	Rebecca & Robert	3211 RIGGIE	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-5582
* HOLSBKE	Barbara & Fred	2172 LYNN ST	SANFORD	MI	48657	687-7058
HUND	Sharon L.	3906 MOUND PASS	FT. WAYNE	IN	48609	219/478-6723
HUNTINGTON	Sherrie	1529 AUSTIN	LINCOLN PARK	MI	48146	313/382-3229
*JOHNSON	Kyle	4542 ELKINS DR.	CENTERVILLE	TN	37033	729-9953
KEICHER	Beverly	4107 SWEDE	MIDLAND	MI	48642	
KENNEDY	Marjorie & Robert	2515 E. SUGNET	MIDLAND	MI	48642	832-3593
KENNETT	Bonnie & Bill	4209 ARBOR DR.	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-9494
KOCHER	Bill	907 DEERFIELD	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-4015
*KRAUSE	Jean	3815 SWEETBRIER	MIDLAND	MI	48642	631-1050
LACKIE	Nancy	585 PATTERSON	SANFORD	MI	48657	687-5327
LAFRENIERE	Bryant	4765 N. EASTMAN RD	MIDLAND	MI	48642	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 & Mary	5507 WHITEHALL ST.	MIDLAND	MI	48642	631-1229
LUND	Alice	4683 MONROE RD	MIDLAND	MI	48642	835-9586
LYONS	Thelma	1604 7TH AVE	KEARNEY	NE	68847	308/237-5744
* MACDONALD	Brett	469 STEPHORA	COVINA	CA	91724	818/339-0871
MCKEY	David	1323 RUMBAUGH	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-3692
MARTIN	Clifford	4815 SWINSON NEUMAN	RHODES	MI	48652	879-5454
MARTIN	Elizabeth	2325 Rockwell Dr. Apt 154	MIDLAND	MI	48642	832-8492

**MGS 1997 - 1998 Membership List**\***Bold indicates a new member**

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>	<b>HomePhone</b>
MASTIC	Leroy	500 FRONT ST. UNIT 19	BOYNE CITY	MI	49712	
MAXWELL	Shirley & William	7795 SPRING TRACE	BRIGHTON	MI	48114	
MC COLLISTER	Ruth & Mac	4414 WASHINGTON	MIDLAND	MI	48642	835-5209
MC CULLEN	Maxine & Gerald	1755 SMITH CROSSING	MIDLAND	MI	48640	832-8749
MILLER	Harriette	4610 JEFFERSON AVE	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-4866
MILLER	Karen	17179 STANTON ST	WEST OLIVE	MI	49460	
MILLER	Richard	615 RIVER VIEW DR	ANN ARBOR	MI	48104	
NICHOLSON	Anne	4412 ROBINHOOD TERRACE	MIDLAND	MI	48642	835-2416
OLIVER	Frances	1326 BOOKNESS	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-5852
PARSONS	Virginia	3721 ISABELLA	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-5248
*PEMBERTON	Paul J.	P.O. BOX 1 125 3RD ST	BEAVERTON	MI	<b>48612</b>	<b>517/435-7786</b>
RENNIE	Reva	1624 VERMONT DR.	ELK GROVE VILLAGE	IL	60007	708/924-1518
RENWICK	Shirley	2154 PRICE	MIDLAND	MI	48640	687-2290
ROBEL	Ruth	<b>4968 LETTS RD.</b>	MIDLAND	MI	48642	<b>835-8235</b>
RUSSELL	David & Shirley	4415 JAMES DR.	MIDLAND	MI	48642	631-0885
SCHWEITZER	Shirley & Ken	516 CRESCENT DR	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-1219
SHIER	Quita V.	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	
SNYDER	Ronald	3 ROBIN	MIDLAND	MI	48640	632-0765
SOMERVILLE	Joan	3217 W. WACKERLY	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-6854
STEELE	Rose	2832 McMULLOCH	BEAVERTON	MI	48612	435-7157
* SUNDQUIST	Sharon	<b>2408 LONGFELLOW LN</b>	<b>MIDLAND</b>	<b>MI</b>	<b>48640</b>	<b>631-3972</b>
TRUMBLE	Marjorie	2166 E. SCHAFFER	MIDLAND	MI	48640	689-4966
VINCENT	Bird	2775 SMITH'S CROSSING	FREELAND	MI	48623	695-5290
WEYENBERG	Barb & Don	4601 ARBOR DR	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-9976
WILKINSON	Ray	6108 TITABAWASSEE RIVER	MIDLAND	MI	48642	832-8269
WILSON	Debby	4408 W WACKERLY ST	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-1494
WORDEN	Bill & Pat	1201 GLENDALE ST.	MIDLAND	MI	48642	631-7801

**A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS!!!**

**BARTONS HAVE A GOLDEN WEDDING****Married in Homer Township November 16, 1882. Pioneer Resident Here**

Midland Republican Nov. 24, 1932 - Friends and relatives were invited to the West Larkin Street home of Mrs. Arthur Beden last Wednesday in honor of the Golden Wedding Anniversary of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Barton. There was an informal reception in the afternoon and tea was poured by Mrs. C.J. Glick and Mrs. A.H. Deisher.

Mrs. Barton (Mary Malon Carrow) came to Midland County from Windham, Ontario, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Carrow, when a young girl. Mr. Barton was born in Homer township, Midland county, where they were married in the Carrow home on November 16, 1882. Rev. H.W. Hicks, pastor of the Midland M.E. church performed the ceremony.

The Bartons were residents of Homer for the first 15 years of their marriage, moving to Midland in 1897. He

owned large tracts of timber land in this and adjoining counties on which he operated several camps at one time. He has indulged two hobbies during the course of his lifetime, hunting and fishing, and has been the companion of many Midland sportsmen on interesting jaunts to the woods and streams.

Of the original wedding guests, only one is still living, the Bartons say, Mrs. Aurelius Sinclair of Lansing. The Midland couple has only one daughter, Mrs. Beden. Many old friends called on Mr. and Mrs. Barton last Wednesday afternoon while they were receiving at their daughter's home. The tea table was laid with a linen cloth and a silver service. There was a lovely centerpiece of yellow chrysanthemums flanked by burning yellow tapers.

Rooms of the Beden home were gay with a profusion of lovely bouquets, many of which had been sent as gifts.



## Midland County Deeds

Midland to Geo. C. Presley of Midland for \$25 an indenture of mortgage bearing date 6th Jan. 1880 by George Button Sr. of Sanford and recorded in Liber K of mortgages page 75.

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 1880's.

1) Quit Claim Deed from Robert E. Eddy & Emma V. Eddy his wife to Adam W. Poe: Consideration, 1 dollar & other property. S1/2 NE1/4 and the NW1/4 SE1/4 Sec. 19 T16N R1W containing 120 acres by Gov't survey. Dated 1 Feb. 1881.

2) Assignment of Mortgage from L. May Dwyer of Midland to Luman E. Pratt of Midland for \$75 & interest, an indenture of mortgage bearing date 4th Feb. 1880 and recorded in Liber K of Mortgages page 89.

3) Assignment of Mortgage from James Vankluck of

4) Assignment of mortgage from Richard Hirley of Midland to Geo. C. Presley of Midland for \$100 an indenture of mortgage bearing date 5th Sep. 1876 by Edward Francis to Richard Hirley and recorded in Liber E of mortgages on page 324.

5) Satisfaction of mortgage from Franklin H. Pierce of Tittabawassee Twp, Saginaw Co. to Phineas F. Wiggins, an indenture of mortgage dated 8th Feb. 1874 for Lots 3, 4, 5, 6 of block 124 and recorded in Midland Co. Liber E of mortgages, page 239, for the sum of \$60 is fully paid. Dated 9th June, 1881.

6) Quit Claim Deed from Harriet Paine of Saginaw to Alderman B. Paine for \$1 all the parcel of land situate on the County of Midland entire Sec. 1, T15N R2W. dated 4th Aug. 1881.

7) Warrantee Deed from John E. Brown, and Louisa J, his wife and Charles S. Brown and Esther A, his wife, all of Midland county to Daniel Ford of Midland Co. for the sum of \$800 a parcel of land in Jasper Twp. described as: SW1/4 NW1/4 of Sec. 10 and the SE1/4 of the NE1/4 of Sec. 9 all in T13N R2 W in Midland. Dated 7th Jan 1882.

### MGS PROGRAMS FOR 1997 - 1998

Programs will be held as usual, at 7:00 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 19, 1997** - "Reproducing and Improving Old Photos and Documents" David Dornbusch will present scanner/computer options and Bill Kocher will cover photographic options. David is a computer graphics publisher, and Bill has his own photo darkroom, enlarger, etc. Real genealogy projects will be exhibited.

**December, 1997.** No Meeting.

**January, 1998.** Case histories of genealogical research in Germany and in Czech, by two Midland researchers

**February 18, 1998** - Workshop on the Internet.

**March 19, 1998** - Genealogical Case Histories from the British Isles, by Local researchers.

**April, 1998** - To Be announced

**May, 1998** - Annual Meeting

### WEB SITE ADDRESS OF THE MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY HOME PAGE:

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

### Do You Like Our Programs?

Our programs were selected because of the "NEEDS" expressed in the questionnaire which, so far, 32 members filled out. If any member has not filled one out, but would like to, please contact Ron Snyder at a meeting or call him at 631-0765. Future programs of our Society will be based on information given in members' questionnaires.

### UPCOMING SEMINARS

**WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY - August 19-22, 1998** - The National Federation of Genealogical Societies Seminar held in Cincinnati, Ohio. Many well-known speakers from all over the USA.



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

# Pioneer Record

PIONEER RECORD is published quarterly (Sep., Nov., Feb., and Apr.) by the Midland Genealogical Society. Questions are from 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.

## OFFICERS 1997 - 1998

President . . . . Jo Brines  
832-8312  
VP (Programs) . . . Doug Applegath  
631-6074 and Ron Snyder  
631-0765  
VP (Membership) . . Marie Bebeau  
835-4035  
Secretary . . . . Marcia Brandle  
832-9430  
Treasurer . . . . Bill Worden  
631-7801  
MGC Reps . . . . . Joan Sommerville  
631-6654 and Kathy Bohl  
839-9016  
Historian . . . . Kay Bredeweg  
835-6404  
Editor . . . . . Ora Flanigan  
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 7:00 P. M. 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 "or, local Midland MCTV, chan 5 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 the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr. Midland, MI 48640.