

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

PIONEER RECORD



February 1998

Volume XVIII, No. 3

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Midland Farm Boy Given Many Honors By People

Midland Republican, Thursday, April 16, 1931

Retirement From Public Life After 25 Years Recalls Chapters in Rise of Dow Chief Counsel

Something more than a quarter of a century ago a farmer boy walked in to Midland from near Smith's Crossing to go to school. Today he is chief legal counsel for a forty-million dollar corporation. He is still in Midland.

Necessarily, the tale hangs somewhere in between. It began with the day young Gilbert Currie came home from the law school at Ann Arbor and began to look about for a place to practice. But only a few gallons of the traditional water had flowed under the Benson street bridge when he had decided that local affairs needed a little gentle guidance, and he hung out his shingle in Midland. Evil practices, he discerned, were rampant in various county offices. Currie announced himself a candidate for supervisor of Midland township and was elected in 1906. Two years later, he became chairman, defeating Stewart B. Gordon, then Mayor of Midland. Then began his crusade for better government. Here he was opposed by practically every political leader in the county, and by its principal business interests.

A powerful political organization dominated the Board of Supervisors and influenced it to punish the taxpayers of Midland township for electing Currie. The

Board increased the township's equalization, burdening its people with more than a just share of taxes. Yet, notwithstanding higher taxes had been imposed upon them for electing this new leader, the people of Midland township re-elected Currie by an overwhelming majority. Twenty-three votes only were cast against him.

Supreme Court Victory

It was a general custom for the Board of Supervisors to equalize according to whether the supervisor acted with their organization or against it. It was a powerful weapon for bad government, and few supervisors dared stand against the organization. It remained for this young man, entering public service at the age of 23 years, to oppose it, fighting single-handed and with a vigor that commended respect not only in Midland county but through the state.

The result of this skirmish initiated a new era in county politics. The Supreme Court had previously ruled that in equalizing between the several townships within the county the action of the Board of Supervisors was final and conclusive and could not be reviewed by any state agency. Currie challenged that decision, and in an outstanding legal battle succeeded in obtaining from the Supreme Court a reversal of its previous ruling.

The court fully sustained him in

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President's Letter

Another year - 1998! It doesn't seem possible that another year has flown by so quickly and that we seem to be rushing so fast toward the next century.

The year has started off with sad news as far as our MGS family is concerned. One of our quite active members, Arlene Hecht, died on Monday, January 5, after a relatively short illness. Quita Shier and I attended the funeral on the following Friday. Arlene's children and grandchildren were very appreciative of our attendance and all of them told us how much she loved genealogy and how much she enjoyed being with the group several times in Salt lake City. Arlene became a member of MGS in mid-1988 and several years later became the hospitality chairman and "cookie-lady." She LOVED baking cookies of any kind for anyone! I just recently learned that she took a class in genealogy at the Coleman senior center from Ed Birkhimer, a past president of MGS, and that's all it took to get her "hooked." In Arlene's memory, MGS will purchase a book to be placed in the genealogy collection. We will really miss her.

At the last board meeting, Marcia Brandle expressed the thought that she would like to coordinate/plan a trip to Salt Lake City in the spring. However, before that time and particularly after, her husband has had several prolonged hospital stays, and so she is unable to do so at the present time. Maybe things will work for fall 1998 or if not, definitely for spring 1999. Reserving a block of rooms at the SLC hotel for an entire week means that plans need to be made 6-9 months in advance, so be thinking about your future vacation plans if you are interested in joining the SLC group.

In December, the library received \$540 from two different families using the genealogy collection for the purchase of books to be used in the Midland Room. Over the years possibly a dozen families have contributed generously in this respect, and we are really appreciative of their desire to build up our collection.

A new Michigan Genealogical Council delegate has been appointed - Shirley Renwick. She and Kathy Bohl report that Carole Callard has been rehired by the Library of Michigan as a full time genealogy specialist, and will spend all of her time in the collection and helping people use the collection. This is great news for all of us, as we respect Carole's expertise. She evidently preferred Lansing over Washington, D.C. and Fort Wayne.

It was also announced in September that Margaret Walker, a past president of MGC, had received the Lucy Mary Kellogg award for outstanding service to genealogy. She also has been chairman of the Michigan death record project and chairman of the Public Records Committee. You will recall that MGS has submitted the name of Ralph Hillman last year, and with board approval, we will do so again for 1998.

The next phase of the Genealogical Council's death records indexing project will soon be underway. This is a joint effort of the Michigan Department of Community Health. Volun-

teers from our society have worked with this project since its inception, possibly ten years ago, and this phase will begin with the year 1884. Photo-copies of the actual ledger pages are reviewed (in handwritten form) and certain information is then extracted onto forms. This information is then put into a computer at the State level and eventually put into book form. Once published, this index is a wonderful tool for Michigan researchers who do not know a county of death. Already on the shelves in our library is the index to Michigan deaths recorded between 1867 and 1874. This is a great "do-at-home" project, at your convenience. Betty Bellous will be the chairman but is not available at 837-2092 until March 1. If you would like to work on this project in the meantime, please call me at 832-8312. The deadline for completion of extracting information probably will be late spring.

In two different Society publications recently, there have been short articles of concern about what, and how much, information is being put on the Internet pages by individual genealogists. One editor questioned if it is really a good idea to make your files available to anyone in this manner. He suggests limiting information just to basic information - a surname list and dates. Then a serious genealogist could contact you with the request for more information. We would never give all our hard-earned files of information to just anyone; shouldn't it be the same with the Internet?

At the last meeting, someone suggested that the NARA Fund money jar be passed among the members, and it was a great idea. Presently there is a jar full of dollar bills, so I will not mention the matter of donations again until the May meeting, after which our society donation will be sent to the Federation of Genealogical Societies, which collects money from all over the US. You will recall NARA stands for National Archives and Records Administration which microfilms records that can be used by genealogists all over the country, and for which there is not adequate money in the federal budget. Thank you all for your generous contributions.

We have finally received from cataloging a number of books that the society purchased last spring. They cover mostly New York, New Hampshire, a few on Maryland, Virginia, Maine, New Jersey. One book that might be of particular interest to some people is the "Index to Mexican War Pension Files," by V.D. White. I think this war and the Spanish-American War are two we tend to forget when researching ancestors. These books are on the "new books" shelf in the library. If you have used a book at some library that has a lot of information that could be used by a number of people in our library, give the title to Nancy Lackie for consideration of future purchases.

By the time you receive this Pioneer Record, the hours of daylight will have increased considerably (hopefully there will be lots of sunshine, too) and everyone who has had the lingering flu and colds this winter will be on the mend. Spring (the official date) will be only six weeks away!

Midland Farm Boy Given Many Honors By People

(Continued from page 1)

his contention that it was not only the right of the state but its duty to supervise equalization to the end that the burden imposed should be equitably distributed. That decision ended the practice of punishing the taxpayers of a township for selecting a supervisor not in sympathy with the dominating machine. Townships no longer feared to elect supervisors who would oppose whatever they considered wrong.

To State Legislature

Midland county was famous for its political battles, but without question the hardest fought campaign ever witnessed by Midlanders, was that in which Gilbert A. Currie was nominated and elected over Stewart B. Gordon for a seat in the State Legislature in 1908. Here again the former was opposed by the shrewdest of politicians and one of the best organized and financed political organizations in the state. But Midland township's farmer boy won the election, and the influence of that result has been felt in local government to the present time.

In Midland county and elsewhere generally, the county treasurer made his own arrangements with the bank and did not account for any interest received on public funds. To end that practice, Currie, during his first term, introduced and secured passage of what was then commonly referred to as the "Currie county depository act." Under this act, thousands of dollars have been saved to the taxpayers of Midland county and millions to the state at large. He also introduced and fathered the juvenile court act, which brought an innovation in court custom and has proved of inestimable value in handling juvenile offenders.

Becomes Speaker

He was re-elected in 1910. Ingersoll township with the largest voting population cast all but seven votes for Currie. This and a quite similar vote from the adjoining township of Midland where he was born have remained with him as one of the happy memories of that campaign. In this term he was named chairman of the Railroad committee and chairman pro tem of the Judiciary committee, two of the most powerful committees of the House of Representatives. He introduced the Railroad Commission act of 1911, and his name was associated with many other progressive acts of that period.

During his third term, Currie received the unanimous vote of the Republican caucus for speakership. The Bull Moose campaign, which had just ended,

swept into the legislature many Democrats and Progressives. The Republicans had only three majority and it was evident that the party's control was in jeopardy. Yet so ably and fairly did Mr. Currie preside over the deliberations that throughout his speakership not a single appeal was ever taken from his rulings.

These personal characteristics were generously attested editorially by the newspapers of the state, setting him forth as the logical candidate for governor. But Mr. Currie's inclination led him into a different field, and he decided to oppose Colonel Loud for Congress in the Tenth District. A third candidate in the western part of the district divided his support and he was defeated by a few hundred votes.

On to Congress

In the succeeding campaign of 1916, however, he was elected to Congress and served from March, 1917 to March, 1921. Here his name was from the first associated with important national legislation. He was named on the powerful Judiciary committee through friendship with the late Nicholas Longworth, Joseph Fordney of Saginaw, and other well-known national leaders. He was also a close friend of Champ Clark, then Democratic leader and Speaker of the House.

Among the important legislative acts handled by the Judiciary committee was the Volstead or National Prohibition act. This bill was before the House for several weeks before final action was taken, and during this period, Currie was often in charge and defended the bill against attacks on the floor. President Wilson vetoed the bill; upon his message's coming back to the House, Mr. Currie is credited with having induced that body to pass it over the President's veto.

Returns to Business

In the primary election of 1920, Currie was defeated for Congress by the present congressman, Roy O. Woodruff, the large Bay county vote decided the contest. At this time, important leaders sought to influence the Midland man to remain in public service and offered him many inducements to that direction. Appointment to a Federal judgeship or to the office of United States Comptroller were suggested, but by choice, he desired to remain at home and follow the pursuits of private life.

There were also other interests demanding his attention. As early as 1910, he had been engaged by the late Dr. H. H. Dow to handle legal cases from time to time. It was not until several years later, however, that

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Midland Farm Boy Given Many Honors By People

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he was definitely retained as Dow legal counsel by this rapidly expanding industry, a position he still holds with its legal business now many times in volume what it was at the time of his first company suit.

Served City Decade

But Mr. Currie was not to shake the dust of public service quite from his heels. John A. Whitman had just been elected Mayor of the city in 1920, destined to serve for 10 years. He persuaded Mr. Currie to become Midland's legal advisor. In spite of the immense demands of the Dow company on his time, and in spite also of the negligible remuneration the city office could offer in proportion to the work entailed, Mr. Currie held the position for a decade. The association of these two men, Ex-Mayor Whitman and Currie, and their activities upon the Board of Supervisors in advancing the cause of good government are fresh in the minds of Midlanders and need no recounting.

The final act of Mr. Whitman's administration, taken at the council's most recent meeting, was to accept the resignation of Mr. Currie as City Attorney and the two stepped out of public office together. For Mr. Currie, it rounded out 25 years of continuous public service. He was the youngest man, with one exception, to have ever been elected Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, and his retirement at the age of 48 years with a record of public service covering a quarter of a century is probably without known parallel.

Family

Mr. Currie recalls with pleasure his early days on the farm, four miles east of Midland, where now the concrete turnpike leads the way to Saginaw. But there was no concrete road there when Dougald Currie, his

father, at the age of six years, had been brought from Canada by his Scotch parents, late from Glasgow. And there was no smooth turnpike when Gilbert was born on September 19, 1882, nor when with his brothers, Donald, John and Angus, and his sisters, Mary and Flora, he attended the Bluff schoolhouse, then right next door. It was a muddy road when they took their books under their arms and walked to Midland to high school.

Donald Currie died at 16 in 1912. John died five years ago, leaving a family still residing in Midland. Angus has become vice-president and general manager of the Erie Foundry company, one of the largest of its kind in the country, and a leading industry of the Pennsylvania city. Miss Mary and Miss Flora Currie are both Midland residents, the latter having resigned some time since a responsible position in the office of the Securities Commission in Lansing; the former serving as secretary for her brother in his legal offices here.

Fathered Country Club

Speaking of the early days, Mr. Currie grins to recall his janitorship of the Bluff school at five cents a morning; of his return there later for a year of three terms as teacher, during which his remuneration averaged \$30 a month.

In his immediate family now are Mrs. Currie, once Charlotte B. Chapman, also of Midland, and Jean, 16, Betty, 13, and Gilbert Angus, 17. Another child died the day following Mr. Currie's selection as speaker of the House of Representatives.

Speaking of the present, he plays golf for health companionship, and because he likes it, and has been incidentally the father of the Midland Country Club, with the financing of which he is in general charge, and upon which project he has spent endless hours since, the property was purchased several years ago.

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Modern Woodmen of American

If you have an ancestor who was a member of this organization, you may secure copies of his record and application which will include information about his parents and other relatives. Write: Modern Woodmen of America, Mississippi St. at 17th St., Rock Island, IL 61201.

From: *Genealogical Society of Monroe County Record*, November 1995, Volume 3, Number 4.

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Did You Know?

Do you have a French connection and are tracing your French-Canadian roots? There is now a Mid-Michigan Chapter of the F-C Heritage Society of Michigan, which had a meeting on Monday, January 26, at the Hoyt Public Library, 505 Janes Avenue, Saginaw. The Saginaw Society newsletter does not indicate whether this group is just forming or whether they have scheduled monthly meetings, but it is worth an inquiry. Call the Hoyt Library, genealogy section, at 755-0904, or write French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan, PO Box 10028, Lansing, MI 48901-0028.

Do you have Lithuanian ancestors? There is a Lithuanian American Genealogy Society based in the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, 60629. Anyone know of a Hungarian Society located in the US?

Do you have an ancestor for whom no birth certificate has been found, and the person was 65 years or older in the late 1930's, early 1940's? The Social Security program started in 1937 and for those who

wanted to obtain a SS card in 1940, a birth certificate was required. If there was NO official certificate, a delayed birth certificate (requiring plenty of proof and verification) was issued. This also holds true for a younger person who was working in a war related industry. If you have been unable to locate your ancestor's birth certificate, you might want to check the 1940 birth indexes.

Did you ever wonder about the position of the Justice of the Peace? It has existed in Michigan from the time of statehood (1837) until the 1960's when the duties were assumed by the District Court. JP's were not required to be lawyers, and were generally authorized to handle only minor criminal and civil matters. Each township was authorized to elect JP's, as were cities. They kept records. many marriages were performed by JP's. Because they dealt with a wide variety of concerns, their records often contain information of genealogical value. I wonder if any of their actual records exist?

Legacy of an Adopted Child Author Unknown

Once there were two women,
Who never knew each other.
One you do not remember;
The other you call mother.

Two different lives
Shaped to make yours one.
One became your guiding start;
The other became your sun.

The first gave you life,
And the second taught you to live it.
The first gave you a need for love,
And the second was there to give it.

One gave you a nationality;
The other gave you a name.
One gave you the seed of talent;
The other gave you an aim.

One gave you emotions;
The other calmed your fears.
One saw your first sweet smile;
The other dried your tears.

One gave you up.
It was all she could do.
The other prayed for a child,
And God led her straight to you.

And now you ask me,
Through your tears,
The age-old question
Through the years:

Heredity or environment —
Which are you the product of?
Neither, my darling, neither.
Just two different kinds of love.

* * * * *

JUST SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT — The higher you climb in your family tree, the more you'll realize that the tree is not really a tree. For as its branches divide again and again, more and more of them reconnect with one another, as well as with the branches of the family trees of everyone else on Earth. The further you look into your own genealogy, the more you're struck by the fact that we're all related to Dante and Mozart and Churchill . . . and to one another. That's the ultimate lesson of genealogy: a lesson not in snobbery or self-importance, but in the fact that we're all members of one large family.

* * * * *

"50 Years Ago" Joins "Glimpses Column" Now Midland Republican - February 12, 1931

Early Midland Journalists Spoke Right Out In Meeting, Old Files Show

"J.F. Charboneau, better known as Shab, left this town last week to do a Shab-by thing, and when he returned with a smiling piece of female loveliness upon his arm, recently the property of one Tompkins, it was apparent that he'd went gone and done it. Drunkenness was the cause of the former separation, and we congratulate the bride upon having secured for a husband a man who never tips 'the social glass'".

This frank discussion of family affairs was the style of early journalism in Midland taken from the fifth issue of Volume "L" of "The Midland Times", put out by one Bartram in 1871.

This famous publication also announced, "Cherry, the white barber with a colored wife or the colored barber with a white wife or a white man with colored blood or a colored man with white blood has returned in feeble health."

"Hotel proprietors and saloon keepers who desire to furnish their customers with a good morning beverage, one that will largely neutralize the inbibations of the proceeding day, will do well to supply their bars with the Midland Mineral water. It is much preferred to the waters of the celebrated Congress spring at Saratoga and the famous Seltzer water of Germany."

A column of space is devoted to an explanation of the circumstances surrounding the "disciplining" of a Midland lady for attempting to receive Episcopal communion when she had not secured from her former parish a statement of membership in good standing.

The "Times" was a four page, six column weekly and compared very favorably in 1871 with "The Evening News," Detroit as the latter appeared 17 years later, according to copies of each in the possession of Lewis E. Eesley here.

For nearly fifty years two newspapers ran side by side in Midland. The Midland Republican and Midland Sun, both begun under these names in 1881, and continuing as such until they were consolidated under the name of the former four years ago.

Before and during that time however, various other sheets appeared and died. The story has been told of Nathan T. Carr, who started the Midland Sentinel in 1858, evidently the first publication here. Four years later he sold to Carpenter and Bailey who continued three years and sold to Geo. H. Gies, who named it the Midland Journal. As such it ran a few weeks, when G.W. Hughes acquired it and named it the Midland Independent. In 1866, W.H. Bartram took it over, and with F.F. Hopkins continued. Owners came and went,

until in 1881 Frank Burton sold the sheet to T.W. Crissey, who came from Flint where he had been superintendent of schools to begin his new enterprise.

Jan. 8th the first Republican appeared. On Feb. 17th Burton issued the first number of a competitive sheet, the Sun, and with typical personal enthusiasm of the early newspapers, the two had it back and forth at each other for many years.

Editor Burton thus announces his new enterprise: "We couldn't keep out of the newspaper business - in the language of the Kinchin: 'How could we?' And then the kind and persuasive words of so many of our old patrons who wanted to be again reading our epigrammatical paragraphs! We couldn't resist it all.What could a fellow do? What, indeed but start another paper? And so here's our Sun, and yours."

The new sheet bore the legend, "Be just and fear not," and items of local interest were listed under the caption, "Local Sunshine and Shadow."

"Being almost as good as new," said Editor Crissey, "in the editing business and absolutely so in the publishing, we hope to be treated with due allowance by our patrons. We have come to stay among you and give you one of the best weekly papers in Central Michigan."

And so by the dint of early subscription payments consisting largely of cords of wood, bushels of potatoes, and similar household necessities, the two fought merrily along for a half century.

The Sun, too changed hands a few times, owned successively by F.S. Burton, S.J. Holden, John N. Bailey, Jas. J. Savage, Chas. H. Stiger, Frank J. Werkheiser, Jas. J. Savage, the Midland Publishing company and Neil C. McKay from whom it was purchased in 1927 for consolidation with the Republican, owned by W.R. Crissey and Philip T. Rich.

But during this time, other newspaper ventures here waxed and waned. Most spectacular was Bartram's Cheek, put out by the owner of the Times, which had failed. Bartram's sheet was the terror of wrong doers, as it waged open and embarrassing warfare against vice. Bartram finally fled from the consequences of his temerity and the paper died. In 1878 the Midland courier appeared, later sold to Smally and Stair (E.D. Stair, now owner of the Detroit Free Press), who changed it to 'The Review. Later under Ed Cornelius it became the Midland Democrat and finally it too expired.

A fly-by-night little remembered locally, but described by Frank Teal, was "The Toxin" - perhaps it

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ASHMAN STREET WAS A MUDDY ROAD

Midland Republican - February 3, 1938

Homer Snell, probably the community's foremost authority on the early days of Midland, gives a history of Ashman street on which he lives.

Ashman street was named after Henry C. Ashman, early Midland supervisor, prosecuting attorney and representative in the state legislature.

This street originally extended from the north bank of the Tittabawassee river to the northeastly limits of the village of Midland City, which was a short distance beyond what is not known as Reardon street.

Sand on the street during dry weather was in such a condition that the wheels of a buggy or wagon sank in nearly to the hubs. In wet weather, conditions were worse, the street being almost impassable a good part of the way.

On both sides, extending from Buttles to about Union, deep ditches had been dug to a depth of about five or six feet. A large tile drain had been constructed along the southwesterly side of Buttles street, and extending southeasterly so as to allow water to run toward "Paddy Hollow", or "the gully", from which point it found its way into the river. These tile still remain along a large part of the route. During severe rains the water at the corner of Ashman and Buttles would reach a depth of from 18 inches to two feet.

Portions of the streets were covered with shingle shavings in an attempt to better conditions. later Ashman street was continued to what was generally known in early days as Dagle's corners. Solosky's grocery now stands at this point on part of a 40-acre tract called "the bear swamp."

A large portion of this extension consisted of "corduroy road". By this is meant that logs were cut of a sufficient length to lie crosswise of the road, and after they were placed in position were covered with earth. It was a somewhat rough highway, but better than mud. During periods of heavy rainfall, vehicles travelling this part of Ashman street would bound up and down, forcing water up between the logs and converting the earth between them into soup.

At times travel to Northeast Midland and Larkin township was forced to use a detour. It was

diverted to the ridge near the old City limits, following "hog's backs" to a point which was at one time the site of a mill operated by the late Justus Thorington, on what is now known as the State Road.

It was a common sight to see ox teams, as well as horses, hauling loads of shingles, logs and lumber along these routes.

There were several mills operating at points tributary to this road and run by different concerns. Among them were Duncan Brothers (Alex and Sandy), D.P. Waldo, and others.

At this time the last house on the right hand side of Ashman street was known as the Morgan house and now stands at the corner of this street and East Reardon. The last house on the opposite side of the street for a distance of nearly a half mile still stands at the corner of Ashman and Pine and has been remodeled into a two family apartment.

The block across the street from the high school was a beautiful baseball ground upon which were played many close games by nines known as Midland's, and the P.C.H.'s. The initials were of Pearly C. Heald, son of Solomon Heald first president of the village of Midland. Among the teams Midland outplayed in those teams were those from Flint, Bay City, Saginaw, Manistee, and other cities. In fact the Midland boys were a hard lot to beat.

Among those living on Ashman street in the early 1880's were the following: B.F. Bradley, Wrights, Maloneys, Crimms, Beardsleys, Hecox, Eddie Hughes (a base drummer in the Midland Band), Ed Smith (an early village blacksmith), J.W. Cochrane, Charles Webster, Rufus Clason, George W. Covert, Peter L. Tremper, George Selley, Joe Hatfield, Al Higgins, Sandy Bradley, the Highgates, Amos Hatfield William Morgan Spicers, Oscar Gotham, Owen Hands, D.P. Waldo, and the Rogers family on the present site of the city hall.

The members of the last-named family were among the early settlers in Midland. Mrs. John Madill, now living in Detroit, the late Mrs. Charles Vance, and Mrs. George Selley were daughters of the Rogers and lived on the above mentioned premises.

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Michigan County Clerks Online

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

"50 Years Ago" Joins "Glimpses Column" Now

(Continued from page 6)

wasn't spelled that way - Frank isn't sure - published for about a year as a radical sheet by Paul Marrin, cigar maker here. It appeared about 1885, it is believed. With the files of the Midland Sun now in the possession of the Republican, items from that newspaper will be included whenever possible in the column entitled

"Glimpses of Midland County's Past." Many of these files are being bound, however, and the record will not be complete as yet.

This week for the first time, "Fifty Years Ago" will be added from The Republican's first volume and the same volume of the Sun.

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Shelfside

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

974.9 - Pioneer Families of Northwestern N.J., by W.C. Armstrong

929.3 - Genealogical & Family History of Southern N.Y. - and the Hudson River valley - 3 Vol., by C. Reynolds.

929.3744 - Genealogical & Personal Memoirs, Relating to the Families of Boston & E. Mass., 4 Vol., by W.R. Cutter.

929.3755 - Southside Virginia Families, by J.B. Boddie.

973.3452 - Muster Rolls & Other Records of Service of Maryland in the American Revolution, by Maryland Hist. Soc.

929.3415 - Registry of Deeds, Dublin Abstract of Wills - Vol. 1 1708-1745, Vol. 2 1746-1785, by P.B. Eustace.

973.314 - The New Loyalist Index, 2 Volumes, by P.J. Bunnel.

973.314 - Research Guide to Loyalist Ancestors: Archives, Manuscripts, Published Sources, by P.J. Bunnell.

929.2 - Mayflower Families through Five Generations, volumes 7 & 8, Peter Brown & Degory Priest Families.

929.3747 - Upstate N.Y. in the 1760s (Albany Co.), by F. Christoph.

942 - A Topographical Dictionary of England, 4 Vol. in 2 books, by S. Lewis

929.3 - Genealogical Resources in English Repositories, by J.W. Moulton.

929.3 - Index to Mexican War Pension Files, by V.D. White.

929.3713 - Early Ontario Settlers, by N.K. Crowder.

929.3713 - The Personalities of Melvin Hill Cemetery, Phelps, Ontario Co., N.Y., by D.L. Burnisky.

929.3742 - Probate Records of the Province of N.H. C.G. Hammond. Parts I and II.

929.3742 - N.H. Militia Officers, 1820-1850, by S. Lanzendorf.

929.3755 - Pioneers of Old Frederick Co., Virginia, by O'Dell.

929.3747 - Membership Records of Seventh Day Baptist Churches in West N.Y. and N.W. Penn. 1800-1900.

929.3747 - Directory to Collections of N.Y. Vital Records, 1726- 1989, by Bowman.

929.42 - Families of Co. Wexford (Ireland), by Hilary Murphy.

929.374 - Early New Englanders & Kin, by R. Burgess.

431.1 - Deciphering Germanic Records, by Bentz.

929.5 - Oakgrove, Goldenridge & Oakdale Cemeteries in Taylor, Wayne Co., MI 1997.

929.2 - Genealogies of the Baker Family, by L.O. Baker.

929.2 - Intermarriages of the Clifford & Dow Families, by L.O. Baker.

929.2 - Genealogies of the Waddell Family, by L.O. Baker.

Additions to MGS 1997 - 1998 Membership List

LAST	FIRST	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIP	PHONE
BAIN	CHRIS	68 FISHER ST	WESTWOOD	MA	2090	
BARRETT	MICHAEL	244 WALNUT	WYANDOTTE	MI	48192	
BENNETT	WALTER	4608 W. WACKERLY	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-5247
BABCOCK	SID & ORENE	1190 W. STEWART	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-5925
BREDEWEG	KAY	5709 LEEWAY DR	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-6404
COLLINS	MARY MARGARET & DAN	606 LINWOOD	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-2566
GOODWIN	RICK E.	4714 WATER RD	SANFORD	MI	48657	689-4784
HOOVER	THOMAS L.	2 WHIPPOORWILL LN	PALMYRA	VA	22963	
HOUGHTALING	TOM	126 TOWNSEND ST	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-2323
HURLY	NANCY & MIKE	118 VARNER CT	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-0928
KOCIBA	DOROTHY	4412 ELEVEN MILE RD	AUBURN	MI	48611	662-4567
KREMER, JR	ALBERT	4603 CRUZ DR	MIDLAND	MI	48642	
LEIGEB	VICKI	5107 PLAINFIELD ST	MIDLAND	MI	48642	631-2148
LONGSDORF	CHARLES & FRANCES	375 N. SANDOW	MIDLAND	MI	48640	832-2838
LUND	ALICE	4683 MONROE RD	MIDLAND	MI	48642	835-9586
MASS	ROBERT	5205 VAN BUREN ST	MIDLAND	MI	48642	835-8519
MC GRARY	MARCIA & BOB	1679 LEFORGE	YPSILANTI	MI	48198	313/483-2799
NOLD	HELEN	307 CHERRY VIEW DR	MIDLAND	MI	48640	832-2937
OLSON	LYNNE	P.O. BOX 310	FREELAND	MI	48623	695-9439
RUPPRECHT	WALTER & JOANNE	1201 AIRFIELD LN	MIDLAND	MI	48642	631-8945
SHRIER	KENNETH & JAYNE	722 SHOREFRONT CIR	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-6900
SKOCHDOPOLE	RICHARD	2525 LAMBROS	MIDLAND	MI		835-6433
SNIDER	BOB & GLENNA	318 MAYFIELD LN	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-3121
TOMLINSON	DONALD	26 DONCASTER DR	BRAMPTON	ON	L6 1S7	905/793-2070
TOMLINSON	RUTH	1111 E. CHIPPEWA RIVER RD.	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-1747
WARD	GILBERT	1007 BALFOUR	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-6292
WINTERBOTTOM	JUANITA	1210 DILLOWAY DR	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-2459
WISE	FLORENCE	4013 LOWELL CT	MIDLAND	MI	48642	832-8673

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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 — SOLD OUT

MIDLAND COUNTY CENSUSES - 1850-1894. 450 PAGES, SOFTBOUND. \$20 plus \$2 postage. (ONLY 20 COPIES LEFT).

To ORDER A BOOK write:

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

Last Will and Testament of a German Immigrant

I am writing of Will minselluf that damn lawyer want he should have too much money, he asked too many answers about family.

First ting I want I don't want my brother Oscar have a damn ting what I got. He done me out of forty dollars fourteen years since. I want it that Hilda my sister she gets the norty sixty akers of at where I am homing it now. I bet she don't get that loafer husband of hers to broke twenty akers next plowing time. She can't have it if she lets Oscar live on it. I want it should have it back if she does.

Tell Momma that six hundred dollars she been looking for for twenty years is berried from the back-house behind about ten feet down. She better let little Frederick do the digging and count it when he comes up.

Pastor Lucknitz can have three hundred dollars if he kiss the book he won't preach no more dumhead polotiks. He should have a roof put on the meeting-house with the elders would the bills look at.

Momma the rest should get but I want it that Adolph shud tell her what not she do so no more slick irishers sell her vokum cleaners. Dey nooise like hell and a broom don't cost so much. I want it that mine brother Adolph be my execter and I want it that the Jedge make Adolph plenty bond put up and watch him like hell. Adolph is good business man but only a dumkoph would trust his with a buster pfennig. I want dam sure that schlemic Oscar don't nothing get. Tell Adolph he can can have hundred dollars if he prove to Jedge Oscar don't get nothing. That dam sure fix Oscar.

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**MCREAVY BURIED MONDAY; ILLNESS BEGAN NEW YEARS
Midland Republican - March 5, 1931.**

Veteran Lumberman Succumbs as a result of Fall; Here Many years

CAME FROM MAINE WHEN YOUNG MAN

Samuel T. McReavy, pioneer lumberman throughout this county and the Upper Peninsula, was buried here Monday after services at 2:30 p.m. at the home of his daughter, Mrs. D.G. Mode. Rev. V.V. Nicholas conducted the services.

Mr. McReavy's death came in Mercy Hospital, Bay City, at 11:15 Friday evening as the final result of a fall on the stairs of the Mode home New Year's night. This 84-year old man suffered a broken hip at that time and was confined to his bed for several weeks, before his removal to the hospital three weeks ago.

He was born in Northfield, Me., Sept. 11th, 1846, and came to Midland as a young man, where he engaged in the lumbering business for himself after a

short time in the employ of Sam Sias, Midland. In 1877 he was married to Miss Ella Sias, who predeceased him years ago. Of their family, Mr. McReavy is survived by two daughters, Mrs. D.G. Mode of this city and Mrs. Ernest Whipple of Marquette, and two sons, Harry and Irving McReavy of Detroit. In addition, there is a niece, Mrs. C.V. High, Jr., of this City who grew up in the McReavy home.

More than 30 years ago, Mr. McReavy left Midland to engage in lumbering operations near Gaylord for a short time after which he spent a few months in Louisiana and then went to the Upper Peninsula, where near Marquette he spent the later years of his activity in lumbering and timber cruising. Since his retirement twelve years ago he has spent most of his time with relatives here.

Pall bearers for the service Monday were six nephews: Herbert Hardy, Dr. F.L. Hardy, Merle Sias, Donald E. Sias, Porter Hart, and Dr. W.D. Towsley.

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AHEM! — According to Kentucky marriages, 1797-1865, Moses Alexander, age 93, was married to Mrs. Frances Tompkins, age 105, in Bath, Steuben County, N.Y., June 11, 1831. They were both taken out of bed dead the following morning.

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Midland County Deeds

The Midland Genealogical Society has been given a box of several hundred ORIGINAL legal papers, mostly deeds, but also a few wills or mortgages. The deeds are to land transactions in the county or by county residents. The time period covered is from 1857 to the 1930's. A number are completely hand written and some are original land grants. Many of the papers are of more than passing interest. Here and in future newsletters we will summarize some of them. The following are from the 1880's.

- 1) Homestead Certificate 1093 from Chester A. Arthur, President of the United States to Robert Pot-

- ter for the SE ¼ Sec. 26 T13N R1W containing 160 acres. 1st August 1883.
- 2) Land Warrant 110086 for 100 acres from Unites States by U.S. Grant to Harriet Wiles, Widow of El-isha Wiles, Junior, Private, Captain Mattison's Company New York Militia, War of 1812, and assigned by her to William Van Warter and by him to Prespiere Pateneau. For the SE ¼ Sec. 28 T13N R1E containing 160 acres. Dated 15th July 1871, Recorded 5th Oct., 1882.
- 3) Homestead Certificate 1093 from Chester A. Arthur, President of the United States to George W. England for the N ½ of the NW ¼ and the NE ¼ of Sec. 2 T14N R1W containing 134 and 6/100 acre. Dated 1st June 1882. Recorded 17th Jan. 1883.

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:

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

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.

WEB SITE ADDRESS OF THE MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY HOME PAGE:

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

UPCOMING SEMINARS

Sat., April 4 - Indiana Genealogical Society Annual Meeting & workshop - Indianapolis, IN. Contact the IGS, PO Box 10507, Ft. Wayne, IN 46852-0507.

Sun., April 5 - Genealogy & History Book Fair - Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing \$2. Michigan Antiquarian Book & Paper Show - at the same place, \$4.

Thurs-Sat., April 16-18 - Annual Conferences of the Ohio Genealogical Society - Columbus, OH. "The Heart of our History: Putting your ancestor in Historical Perspective". Contact OGS, PO Box 2625. Mansfield, OH 44906-0625.

Wed.-Sat., May 6-9 - National Genealogical Society and the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies - Denver, CO. "Annual Conference in the States". Write NGS '98 Conference Registration Brochure, 4527 17th St. North Arlington, VA 22207-2399 or call 1-800-473-0050.

Fri-Sun., May 30-31 - Ontario Genealogical Society Seminar '98 - University of Western Ontario, London. "From Settlers to Satellites". Write to Seminar '98, Grosvenor Lodge, 1017 Western Road, London, Ontario N6G 1G5.

Wed-Sat., August 19-22 - Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference - Cincinnati, OH Also sponsored by the Ohio Genealogical Society. "Immigrant Dreams." Contact FGS, PO Box 980220, Richardson, TX 75083-0220. Conference will be held at the Cincinnati Conventions Center, downtown Cincinnati. Perhaps this seminar is close enough to us that a group might be interested in attending.

Whenever any brochures are available for any of these meetings, they will be posted on the bulletin board (now partially obscured by the census index table) or on the genealogy desk.



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

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.

OFFICERS 1997 - 1998

- President Jo Brines
832-8312
- VP (Programs) . . . Doug Applegath
631-6074 AppleStems@aol.com
and Ron Snyder
631-0765 RESnyder@aol.com
- VP (Membership) . . Marie Bebeau
835-4035 RMB@journey.com
- Secretary Marcia Brandle
832-9430 MBrandle@toast.net
- Treasurer Bill Worden
631-7801 BillW56128@aol.com
- MGC Reps Joan Sommerville
631-6654 and Kathy Bohl
839-9016 KBohl30265@aol.com
- Historian Kay Bredeweg
835-6404
- Editor Pioneer Record Ora Flaningam
835-3227 OraFlan@aol.com

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, channel 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.