

Be sure to attend the May meeting
when we will elect officers.

PIONEER RECORD



In This
Issue:

Grandma
Phetteplace -
1-3

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Volume XVIII, No. 4

Illinois Archives - 4

New Citizen - 5

Unitarian Church
Razed - 7

Hetty Green - 8

Epidemics - 10

Bromo Seltzer

King - 3

Ancestry Charted to
Adam - 4

Nightcrawlers - 6

NY City Records - 6

PA Coal Miners - 10

President's Letter - 9

Deeds - 11

Web Address - 11

Programs and Seminars - 11

Officers - 12

Grandma Phetteplace, 75, Ready For Housecleaning Midland Republican — Thursday, February 5, 1931

Helped 100 Persons Into Ingersoll Neighborhood since '72

Grandma Phetteplace is planning her spring housecleaning. With the shank of the winter still before her and 75 years of hard work upon her shoulders, she has her new wall paper all picked out and she'll be at it with the first crocus.

Grandma almost forgot to tell us that she fell down 16 stairs one day this winter.

"I felt sick for about a half hour," she admitted, "but I was all right after that. My hand's hurt some since then, but that'll be all right.

"I haven't been sick a day in years. I've done lots of hard work. It's better for you too than to hump down and do nothing."

All of Ingersoll knows Grandma Phetteplace, and a lot of the rest of the county as well for they number well over 100 at whose initial arrival in the neighborhood (or any neighborhood) she assisted.

"We got to counting them up one day not long ago," she said, "and we counted to 100 and quit, though I know there are more."

Many more there are too, who can well remember being called into Grandma's on their way home from school in winter, to be warmed and have extra

things put around them.

"There's nothing like being good to kids," she says.

And during nearly 60 years in Ingersoll (more than 50 in one house) she has had ample time and opportunity to be good to them.

Mended Angie's Gore

Reminded by her "children" of certain happenstances in that regard, she laughed and reminisced.

"One Sunday the boys wanted to go to town and have their pictures taken. There was Roy Walker, Ward Brooks, Jessie Coleman, Charlie Betts, Arthur Thayer, Roy Cone, and my two boys, Ed and Will. But most of them didn't have cleaned shirts ironed to go. So they brought them to me, and I ironed nine shirts for them. And then they didn't have it taken," she laughed, "But they went for a sleigh ride.

"Another time some of them, girls and boys in the neighborhood, were at our house having a spelling match, and Angie Betts (She's Mrs. George Wickham of Saginaw now) had on a new dress, and some way she tore one of the gores in the back. So Charlie, her brother, ran home and got another dress without telling their mother. And the next day Angie brought over some of the goods that had been left when the

(Continued on page 2)

Grandma Phetteplace, 75, Ready For Housecleaning

(Continued from page 1)

dress was made and I made a new gore for it. Her mother never knew it. I doubt if she does now.

Arthur Thayer Falls Off

"Arthur Thayer used to like to go hunting on Sunday, but his mother wouldn't let him. Finally he worked out a plan. He used to bring their washing over to our house every Sunday, so he'd take his gun apart and hide it in the washing. When he'd get to our house he'd take it out and put it together and away he'd go. Then he always had to come after the clothes again after dark so he could sneak the gun home. I never told on him. I always thought everybody had enough trouble of their own without telling things.

"I'll never forget a thing that happened to Arthur once. His mother was sick, so he got on his bicycle and rode to town to get some whiskey for medicine. He got back and just as he was riding into the yard about dark, he ran into a cow lying down. She raised up right under the wheel and Arthur went off in a heap. Broke their bottle, too, and he had to go back to town again.

Walker's Colts

"I did a lot of hard work there on the farm, she allowed, "but we had a lot of fun, too. I helped clear the land, did everything anybody could do - helped dig out stumps, hoed corn, dug potatoes, and took care of my family. But we were all happy. Everybody was as good as everybody else. Nobody had an awful lot, but we all had good times together.

"One day Mrs. Geo. Walker and I hitched up their colts to the light wagon and took her two children, Roy and Otie, and my two, Eddy and Andy, and came to town. Then we went to the poor farm to get some stones. On the way we met old Mr. Gaskell, her father, and he said, "Don't you know any better than to drive those colts?" So the man that was with them, a doctor from Laporte, got in and drove the colts home for us.

35 Pies For a Meal

"We had lots of barn raisings. I remember when they raised ours. Everybody turned out and we had a big feed as usual. I made 19 lemon pies and 16 mince. We had between 80 and 90 for supper. I got ready for it all alone, too, and cooked for my family right along.

When Betts had theirs, they were supposed to have the gang there just for dinner. Then something went wrong and the men didn't get through, so she had to get supper, too. We had to hustle, I tell you. I remember we sent Angie and Fanny Demman over to our house for bread, and they went somewhere and didn't come back to help. Angie's mother was pretty mad."

"What happened when the came back?"

"Oh, nothing. What was the use?" she asked laughing.

The "Bettses" thought Grandma Phetteplace was Grandpa Phetteplace's little girl instead of his wife when they first came to live across the road from them. For Grandma, diminutive then as now, was a slight figure with pigtailed down her back, and did, she admits, look more like a little girl than the wife of the tall Eddy Phetteplace.

She had come, a year or two before in '72, from Palmerston, Ontario (and calls it "Pamerston" in true Canadian fashion).

"I came," she told, "to the home of my half brother, David Thurber. George Thurber, another half-brother, was here then and my own brother, Robert Demman, came with me. The girl he married was my husband's sister. I met Ed at Rob's home. But before that, Rob and Minerva (his wife) and I went out to Reardon's shingle mill out the Eastman Road somewhere to work. She and I cooked for 30 or 40 men. And it was work, I tell you. We'd peel a barrel of potatoes every day.

"I worked there a few weeks and then my brother wanted me to come and work for him. He was lumbering off some logs for old man Keep at Poseyville. Then I met Ed at Rob's when he came there to put up a barn and we were married about a year later. I remember the first place we went together was to a show in the old opera house in Midland. We were married at Carpenter's, the Methodist minister here, and went to Saginaw and stayed at the Bancroft house.

"We went to live on the place right across the road from what they now call the Phetteplace farm. William Betts had built that brick house on his farm, and after we burned out, we bought his place and moved in. That's where we stayed for over 50 years. We had four boys, Will (who's dead now), Eddy (living at Freeland), Andrew (living in Ingersoll - that's where I live with him), and George, who died when he was born.

(Continued on page 3)

Grandma Phetteplace, 75, Ready For Housecleaning

(Continued from page 2)

Family of 12

"All of my brothers and sisters except two came to Michigan to about the same time and settled right around here. My father had been a farmer in Canada, and times were hard, so one by one they drifted here on account of the lumbering. There was Esther, Mrs. John Keaner; and Rebecca, that's Mrs. Milo Brewster; and then Emma, Mrs. Peter Anger; and Fanny, that's Mrs. John Gowing.

"I have one sister, Mrs. Carrie Vines, still in Canada, and a brother, Andrew Demman, who died just last year. He was known here though because he used to work in the woods. Mrs. Anger and Carrie and I are the only ones left alive."

Grandpa Phetteplace died in March of 1915.

Grandma verifies the account given by Aunt Sallie Brooks recently of wild beasts that roamed the nearby woods.

Panthers Here

"When we were at Reardon's," she told, "one night there was a panther gave a yell. It yelled and screamed and Reardon's big Newfoundland dog ran under the house and wouldn't come out for three days.

And one time Lon Wellman, who used to drive for Reardon's, was driving a sleigh with sharpened stakes sticking up at the sides, when a panther jumped down at him and missed him and landed on a stake instead. It went right through it," said Grandma with satisfaction, "and Lon drove on into camp with it."

Now at 75, Grandma (whom many call Aunt Maggie, for her name of Margaret) lives with her son "Andy" within two miles of the place to which she came as a bride. And the merit of her years of helping children and the sick is coming back to her.

Heads the Kin

"Why one Sunday I was sick, a long time ago," she declared, "and the yard and the road in both directions were full of buggies – people that had come to see me. And one other time I was in the hospital and thirty came to see me in one Sunday.

Now at 75 she heads the Phetteplace kin. For the first son, Will has a daughter, Mrs. William Matthews, living near Auburn, with three children. Dorothy, Betty and Bobby. Andrew has a family of five, Eddy, Alta (Mrs. Alvin Welch), Harry, Sidney, and Mary Kathryn. And a fourth great-grandson is small Harry Lee Welch.

Yes, Grandma Phetteplace is finding it hard to wait till spring, with the new wall paper all picked out.

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BROMO SELTZER KING IS DEAD

Midland Republican, January 29, 1931

Mr. Emerson Head of Large Drug Co., Was Good Friend to Midland

Donor of City's Emerson Park

A dispatch received from Baltimore last Saturday carried the news of the death of Isaac E. Emerson, who more than 30 years ago discovered the formula for bromo-seltzer which netted him a huge fortune. His death occurred January 28, after several months illness, at the age of 71.

Mr. Emerson is well-known to a number of local people, and for years was a personal friend of the late Dr. Dow. The Emerson Drug company was one of the large customers of the Dow Chemical company, its biggest purchases of bromides being the principal ingredient in the well-known bromo-seltzer product.

The American Bromine plant, erected at the west city limits, and closed down for the past ten years, was owned by Mr. Emerson. Later a portion of the land which was a part of the American Bromine, was donated to the City and, in honor of its donor, is called Emerson Park. This beautiful strip of property extends from the Upper Bridge to Snake Creek and includes the attractive wooded section between the Pere Marquette tracks and the Tittabawassee river.

Emerson, a native of Chapel Hill, N.C., went to Baltimore 50 years ago and started a small drug store. At his death he had a large business interests, owned the Emerson hotel there and the De La Page at Narragansett Pier, R. I., and maintained three homes. He is survived by his widow and a daughter, Mrs. Charles M. Amory, owner of the Sagamore racing stable.

Illinois Archives

The following is a list of IRAD locations. This information came from a pamphlet distributed by the Illinois State Archives. It is current as of September 1993. IRAD stands for Illinois Regional Archives Depository System. It is very similar to Wisconsin's ARC (Area Research Centers) system.

IRAD - Booth Library
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920

Serves the counties of: Clark, Clay, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Edwards, Effingham, Jasper, Lawrence, Moultrie, Richland, Shelby, Wabash, and Wayne.

IRAD - Williams Hall
Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61761
(309) 452-6027

Serves the counties of: Champaign, DeWitt, Ford, Grundy, Iroquois, Kankakee, Livingston, Logan, Marshall, McLean, Piatt, Tazewell, Vermilion, and Woodford.

IRAD - Regional History Center
Swen Parson Hall
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115
(815) 753-1779

Serves the counties of: Boone, Bureau, Carroll, DeKalb, DuPage, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Putnam, Stephenson, Whiteside, Will, and Winnebago.

IRAD - Brookens Library
Sangamon State University
Springfield, IL 62794

(217) 786-6520

Serves the counties of: Bond, Cass, Christian, Fayette, Greene, Jersey, Macon, Macoupin, Mason, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Sangamon, and Scott.

IRAD - c/o Special Collections
Morris Library
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901
(618) 453-3040

Serves the counties of: Alexander, Clinton, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Madison, Marion, Massac, Monroe, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, St. Clair, Saline, Union, Washington, White, and Williamson.

IRAD - Ronald Williams Library
Northeastern Illinois University
5500 N. St. Louis Avenue
Chicago, IL 60625-4699
(312) 794-6279

Serves only Cook County.

IRAD - University Library
Western Macomb University
Macomb, IL 61455
(309) 298-2717

Serves the counties of: Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Knox, McDonough, Mercier, Peoria, Pike, Rock Island, Schuyler, Stark, and Warren.

For more info, contact: IRAD, Illinois State Archives, Springfield, IL 62756. (217) 785-1266.

Source: *GEMS of Genealogy*, (22:3) Fall 1996, Page 7

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Mathematician Charts Ancestry back to Adam

Midland Daily News Sept. 9, 1938 - Campbell, Cal. (UP)- After years of research work and genealogical tracing, T. A. Cutting, retired teacher of mathematics, affirms that he can trace his ancestry back to Adam. His genealogical tree, he asserts, runs back through an unusually long list of persons famous in history.

Cutting traced his tree through birth records, family bibles, diaries and standard genealogy works.

From these, he said, he has found himself to be descended from Charlemagne, U.S. Grant, Abraham Lincoln, Taft, Robert E. Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, Emerson and Lowell.

(ED. NOTE: Since this is such a recent article, perhaps it would be a worthwhile pursuit to attempt tracing ourselves to Mr. Cutting. This would cut out a lot of researching on our lines.)

Worked 15 Hours for 5¢ to Save \$3 for Year's School

Midland Republican, March 5, 1931

People In This Country Lucky, Says Mrs. Surath, Now U. S. Citizen

"When I am on the street," said Mrs. Surath, "and see the children going to school, I think to myself, 'They don't know how lucky they are.'"

"When I was nine or ten, in Russia, I used to work in a silk mill near Moscow, fifteen hours for five cents and save every cent to earn \$3 to go to school."

Her five years of school, dearly bought, are highly prized for they made it possible for her to secure in the February term of court here, her coveted citizenship papers. It was after this occasion that Mrs. Abe Surath, Midland business woman in her own right, voiced in an interview her thankfulness for the America that many took for granted.

"For every child, like me, that went to school in Russia," she said, "there were 1000 that didn't go. It cost money, \$3 a year at first, but later \$10, and most could not afford it. After I began going, I used to work in the factory from 5:00 in the morning until 12:00 to earn \$2.00 to \$2.50 a week. Then I would go to school in the afternoon."

"In the factory we made cloth for silk dresses and those things that priests wear around their necks. They were shipped all over Russia, all over the world. After a time we had a strike and the hours were cut down from 15 to eight, although we still got five cents a day."

It was in the village of Dubrovna (a little larger than Midland) that as Bessie Karzanewich, Mrs. Surath took up this business of living in the log cottage of her father and mother with six sisters and a brother.

"My father had a small grocery store and what you call a large garden. We had geese, chickens, a cow, but no money. Then my aunt died and left us a better log house with a basement."

"Whenever I dream now of Russia, I am always dreaming of how I can get away again. To go to the factory we had to cross a river, the Dnieper. In the spring it would flood, like the river here, and then it was hard to get across, even with the boat they had. And if anyone was late, even a couple of minutes, three times, she was fired."

Calls U. S. Heaven

"It is heaven here in this country," she said. "There everybody was poor; there were no rich people."

They had the Czar then, and everything had to be as he wanted. Here if I buy a piece of land, it is mine. But not there. A man could not sell land there; it could only be left to his sons after he was dead.

"If you said the Czar was not needed, you would be arrested. No trial. And they don't bring you back, ever. They send you to Siberia or some place. Sometimes somebody you knew would disappear, and you wouldn't know where he had gone. He would never come back either."

"There the Judge was everything – no jury, like here. The people had nothing to say."

"My people lived better than some of the rest, because we were Russian Jews who have some customs that are better. And Abe's people lived better because they were well-to-do. He lived in another town, about thirty miles away, although I had seen him a few times before he came to America. He bought and sold grain."

Came Here To Marry

"I remember how I envied him because he could come here. That's all I thought of, how I could get money to come, too. I used to talk to my mother about it, and she said maybe God would help us. After a time Abe wrote to his sister and asked her to see if I would come to America and marry him. My mother said maybe I could go, only she thought maybe he was not good enough for me. You know how mothers do."

"I said I would go and see if I liked him, and if I didn't I would not marry him when I got there. I had seen him in the Old Country, but I had not thought about marrying him then."

"His sister said she would buy me some clothes and my ticket with money he sent. And so I came. I was only 17. I came to Bay City where Abe was. He said, 'If you want to marry me, all right. If not, I will give you money to go to your aunt's in New York.'"

NO English

"At first I thought I didn't want to. And a lady that I met there offered to help me. She said, 'You look as if you didn't want to get married.' So she offered to help me find work in Bay City so I could pay Abe the money he had spent for me. But after three weeks I changed my mind. I got lost trying to go three blocks to this woman's store. So I got lonesome and told Abe I would marry him."

"We lived there six years before we came to Midland. Bill came (my son) while we were there. Abe was away a lot on business, two or three weeks at a time sometimes, and I had

Worked 15 Hours for 5¢

(Continued from page 5)

such a time because I could not speak the language. If anybody would come to the door, I could only give them a smile and stand there until they'd talk and finally go away. I could not buy groceries or anything without so much trouble.

"One time Bill was sick. He turned all black and blue and I knew I had to get a doctor. But I couldn't leave him alone. So I ran to the neighbors and tried to tell her. But I couldn't make her understand, so I brought her back with me to the house and showed her the baby. Then she went and got a doctor. I wouldn't like to live through that again," she said.

Read Signs

"I lived between Gentile neighbors and they helped me a lot. I remember when they would see me taking in the clothes, they would come and help me. But I started to read and I used to read the signs in street cars. And gradually I got so I could understand and be understood well enough to get along, although I still don't talk as well as I expected I would be able to.

"My father and mother, all my sisters and my brother came over to this country. We sent them money; we wouldn't leave one of them there. But we get letters from other relatives in Russia and they say that things are terrible there, even now. They have the Soviet now and if a man has worked hard and has more money than somebody else, the Soviet takes it from

him and gives it to others. They will put him in jail if he resists. The people in this country should be glad they are here. We have to send money to our people there. There is no work; they don't improve the country. Here, if we own a piece of land we dig for oil and copper under it. And they would find it in Russia, if they would look. But all they know how to do is sleep. The people are smart, but they have no education, no chance.

A Little Chance

"In this country, they gave me a little chance, and I can do as well as any man. I bought a house for \$90 and sold it for \$250. I bought 45 lots and already I have sold many. In Russia I could not do so."

Neither the old Russia, where the little sheep and pigs slept under the big family bunks and chickens and people vied with each other for the nightly warmth of the big elevated oven, nor the new Russia where marriage and divorce are matters of writing in a big book, have any allurements for these Midland people. For Abe Surath remembers too, when he carried brick 12 hours a day for twenty cents.

With the contrast between the two countries always in her mind, Mrs. Surath treasures her new citizenship papers. "I am very proud to have them," she says. "They are worth more than \$300 to me - more than anything," says Mrs. Surath.

Jim Doran Entertains As He Tickles Crawlers With a New Sensation

Midland Republican, July 7, 1932 - When Floyd Wood saw Jim Doran poking around with a stick in his back yard on Eastman road, the other day, he thought Jim was working a doodlebug and trying to put up oil derricks, or else looking for a place to put a town pump.

But Jim allowed instead he was prospecting for night crawlers, and he had a crowd of people watching the curious sight.

Jim would poke his brass rod into the ground and in just a minute, here and there the night crawlers would

appear, wiggling out of the ground until all but an inch or so of their persons was above ground and then making a sort of flying leap clean out of their holes. Floyd said they seemed to jump right up above the grass.

Jim'd gather them in, then prod with his brass wand again and wait for the performance. It wasn't long until he had a big pail about three inches deep with them.

Come to find out Jim is an electrician and had his brass rod hitched up to the city current, just to give the night crawlers a new sensation.

Waiting on NY City Records

Genealogists and others who think their requests for New York City birth or death records must have been lost in the mail or mistaken. The City's Vital records has them . . . in closets, desks, boxes, file cabinets, and other handy hiding places.

Authorities have uncovered 12,545 request letters containing \$272,000-plus in checks, some of them dating back months, even a year or more.

The Vital Records Office says its staff positions were cut back by more than a third, and the cut plus current vacancies in the office meant it just couldn't keep up with the requests.

The plan is to hire extra help to clear the backlog, but there is a problem with that in that checks are not normally honored by financial institutions six months after they are written.

Begin Razing Old Unitarian Church Here

Midland Republican, August 9, 1938 - Workmen for the Midford company began today to pull down the 51-year-old structure at the corner of Ashman and Ellsworth streets, built as a Unitarian church in 1887, in order to replace it with a streamline super-service station and sales room.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Among them was William Patrick who lived on West Main Street where Mrs. Hazel Camp now lives and owned the shingle mills and salt well south across

the Tittabawassee to the right of Benson street bridge, in partnership with John Larkin. Larkin, for whom the street was named, lived where Frank Thompson's Mercantile company is located now, in a large house with spacious grounds and a pump which was visited by all children in the course of a trip downtown.

Associated with Patrick in organizing the church was D.W. Hitchcock, attorney, whose family has since moved away. Hitchcock had a large house on what is now the site of the Midland tennis club. B.F. Bradley was also prominent among the organizers of the church. He was a merchant, and occupied the house now property of St. Brigid's Catholic church and used as the home of Rev. Joseph B. Illig.

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

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

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

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

For several years the group rented the building to other sects. The Nazarenes held services there for a time. About seven years ago, the Unitarians turned it over to the Western conference of the Unitarian church, which has had the disposal of it. Some eight years ago, Rev. Daniels returned to Midland for a visit, was the house guest of Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Lee and conducted services for a few Sundays. He has since died. Windsor, Vermont, being his last parish.

The Time Hetty Green Came to Midland Early Settlers Still remember

Midland Republican Dec., 1919 - An article in The Scientific American this month noting the purchase by Col. H.R. Green, son of the late Hetty Green, of a new type of gas-electric automobile brought Alfred Price into The Republican office with the suggestion that Midlanders might be interested in a story of the time Hetty Green, the world's richest woman came to Midland in a box car.

The box car part of the episode could not be verified by other townspeople who were here at the time. But Mr. Price affirms he was told by Mrs. Larkin herself, who entertained the famous guest, that she had really arrived in a car fitted up as living quarters.

"Johnny" Johnson, main street barber, remembered her visit well.

"I remember when Hetty Green came to town," he said. "She came right into my barber shop, sat down in that corner. Went home to dinner with me. I remember she had a ferret with her. You know what a ferret is? Well, she had one of those in her lap.

"She came here about a mortgage she had on John Larkin's property. I had just bought this piece of land from Mr. Larkin after the mortgage was put on. She came in to tell me not to lose any sleep over it, that I wouldn't lose a nickel.

"When she came in," said Mr. Johnson, parting his Customer's hair, "she asked me if I ever heard of a lady named Hetty Green. I told her I had."

"Well, I'm the lady," she said. She sat there and talked till noon, and I said I was going home to dinner, and asked her to go along. She said she only ate fruit for dinner, but she'd go along down, anyway. So I took her home to dinner with me and introduced her to my wife. She stayed quite a while after I left to come back to work."

Asked what the famous Hetty Green had "looked like", Mr. Johnson said she looked "just as common as anybody else."

"She was a little woman," he remembered, "and dressed just like anybody else. You would never know she was rich to look at her." Asked where she had stayed during her time here, he believed she went to Mr. Larkin's house, "But was on the street all the time."

She told him to pay his money to Lawyer Hanchett of Saginaw.

Mr. H.W. Beckwith remembered well the Hetty Green episode.

"It made quite a flurry at the time," he said, "to think that the world's richest woman was in Midland."

But he didn't think she had come in a box car.

"Why we had comfortable coaches then on the railroads," he laughed. "Of course she was a very economical woman -- a miser, one might say -- and she might have done so when it wasn't at all necessary, but I never heard of it.

"She came to Mr. Larkin's with her husband and son, who must have been about ten or twelve then. It was really a business trip -- she placed a mortgage on a great deal of his property.

"At that time Mr. Larkin's home was just about where Thompson's store is now, and all the land this way as far as Johnny Johnson's shop was his garden, with shrubbery, and flowers. He had quite a home with a maid and a gardener.

"Yes, I remember her visit well," he finished, "but don't ask me what year it was."

Mr. E.H. Lyon and "Grandma" Guillotte knew of it too, at the time.

"I think Hetty Green knew a milliner her -- a Miss Mahoney -- and it was through her that she went to Mr. Larkin's," said Mrs. Lyon.

Mrs. Guillotte had heard her husband tell of having seen the Green family at the Larkin mill.

"He said they looked like tramps," she said. "The boy was about ten years old, and he wore overalls. He had a horned toad with him. They went to the Findlater Hotel and got a room."

Mr. Ira Fales knew of her advent here. "She had a \$25,000 mortgage on Larkin's mill and other property," he said.

He, too doubted that she had come in a box car fitted up for living quarters.

In brief, with differing details because of the passage of years since the time and the fact that no social event was given on the occasion to bring the village at large into contact with the noted guest, early Midlanders still remember and discuss the time "Hetty Green came to Midland."

Col. Green, the overalled youth remembered as accompanying her on the trip is shown in December's Scientific American at the wheel of the new gas-electric car equipped with a new type drive, operating without transmission clutch pedal, or gear shift. A standard auto engine under the hood, says the article, drives a generator, the current operating a motor with shaft geared to the rear axle. A Double height windshield enables the colonel to enter his car without bending over.

President's Letter

As I write my last letter to you as president of the MGS, I am contemplating what has been accomplished in the last three years. On the one hand, I would say, "not enough," especially in this year 1997-98. Then as Teyve (*Fiddler on the Roof*) would say, on the other hand: the society has gained a number of new members while not losing too many of the older ones; Ralph Hillman chairmanned a successful, informative seminar with a nationally known speaker; we had a very good series of workshops for beginners; we have had a variety of monthly programs with outside experts plus our own members; we donated a respectable amount of money to the NARA and Carole Callard funds; we helped abstract Michigan death records for the Michigan Genealogical Council and the Michigan Department of Community Health; we continue to donate our society funds for the purchase of new genealogy books at the Library.

However, there are many more projects waiting to be worked on, some of them new, some just need to be given new life. One of my regrets this year is that I have not personally had the extra energy to expend on new ideas. I am leaving the presidency with mixed emotions because next year will be the first time in at least 15 years that I will not have an active position on the Board. (The past president does stay on the Board as ex-officio/adviser.)

I will not be leaving genealogy; I will continue to pursue this hobby as long as I can walk, read, and write. I have always been very committed to the MGS and its projects, programs, etc. and that will not change. I have always felt that membership in any organization means commitment, involvement, responsibility. Without these qualities on the part of a group's members, the group will become stagnant and die. For the incoming new officers, I can always be available for advice.

After several years without a death in our MGS, we have had two in two months. Elizabeth Martin, a relative newcomer to our group, but having a lifelong interest in family history, died March 2, age 90½. She became a member in 1992 after she submitted her application for First Families of Midland County. Her great-grandparents, James A. and Rachel Kent and their adult son, Simeon, were on the 1860 Midland County census. In Elizabeth's memory, MGS will purchase a book to be placed in the genealogy collection.

At the April meeting there will be a number of lists being circulated - some asking for your help on the revitalization of several older projects and the possible beginning of some new ones; an evaluation of this year's programs; a list asking for suggestions (what subject you would like to know more about) for next year's programs. Perhaps these comments will help next year's officers.

The May meeting (the 20th) will be an election of officers, with distribution of an annual report for 1997-98, plus a speaker, and probably some informal conversation leading to summer activities. Have you considered attending the Federation of Genealogical Societies annual conference in

Cincinnati August 19-22? Theme is "Immigrant Dreams:" brochure on the bulletin board in the Midland Room. If you are interested in going to Salt Lake City next spring, have you told Marcia Brandle, who is going to coordinate the trip? Her phone at home is 832-9430. She will begin planning this summer and will appreciate knowing of your interest.

The NARA Fund money jar will be brought to the May meeting for the last time this year before our society's contribution (but done on an individual basis) is sent to the Federation of Genealogical Societies headquarters. Thank you all for contributing so generously this year to help fund the microfilming project of records in the National Archives for later use by genealogists. As a convenience for members, there will be for sale in May census forms for all the years, family group sheets, five-generation, eight-generation, twelve-generation, and fifteen-generation charts. Prices range from 5¢ to \$1.10. With so many computer users who generate their own forms, is there a demand for paper forms anymore; or should the MGS dispose of the quantity we have on hand? Comments?

In the last fifteen months or so, the GenWeb Project has generated a lot of enthusiasm among some genealogists and computer people. Joan Brausch brought us up-to-date when she spoke at the February meeting. She mentioned that the people involved with the project and the local genealogical societies need to work out a relationship with each other, and I agree. I have been attempting to find out how other genealogical societies are handling this. The Michigan Genealogical Council has begun to discuss this subject and will continue to do so in future meetings. Our MGC delegates, Kathy Bohl and Shirley Renwick, are on the Public Relations Committee, who heard a Charles Lapp give information in March. Before the MGS gets more involved, I think we need more facts and guidelines.

At the April meeting the Nominating Committee will submit its recommendations for officers for 1998-99. I have not spoken with them as to how they are progressing. I was hoping that after my request last May to "have a shadow follow me around this year," a potential president would appear. But that didn't happen. In many organizations the VP usually steps up to be president. In recent years that hasn't happened, either. If there are vacancies in the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee, I think every member needs to do some serious soul searching to determine how he/she can serve the MGS for the benefit of all. As the president of another society stated in his letter to members, "Donations are always appreciated; and NO, I don't mean money. YOUR TIME is very valuable."

I would like to thank all the officers who have worked with me in the last three years. Even though some of you were relatively new to MGS and definitely new to the office and Board, I think we've worked fairly well together.

— Jo Brines

Major Epidemics

Ever wonder why your ancestors disappeared during a certain period in history? This might help.

Epidemics have always had a great influence on people, as well as the genealogists trying to trace them. Many cases of people disappearing from records can be traced to dying during an epidemic, or moving away from the affected area.

Some of the major epidemics in the U. S. are listed below. Thanks to *Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County, CA* and the *Source: Ancestors west, SSBCGS, Vol. 20, Fall 1993, South Bend, IN.*

1657.....	Boston	Measles
1687.....	Boston	Measles
1690.....	New York	Yellow Fever
1713.....	Boston	Measles
1729.....	Boston	Measles
1732-3....	Worldwide	Influenza
1738.....	South Carolina.....	Smallpox
1739-40..	Boston	Measles
1747.....	CT, NY, PA, SC.....	Measles
1759.....	N. America	Measles
	<i>(areas inhabited by white people)</i>	
1761.....	N. America & West Indies	Influenza
1772.....	N. America	Measles
1775.....	North America	Epidemic
	<i>(especially hard in N. E.)</i>	Unknown
1775-6....	Worldwide	Influenza
	<i>(one of the worst epidemics)</i>	
1783.....	Dover, DE (" <i>extremely fatal</i> ") ..	Bilious
		Disorder
1788.....	Philadelphia & New York.....	Measles
1793	Vermont	A"putrid"
		fever
1793.....	Virginia.....	Influenza
	<i>(killed 500 in 5 counties in 4 weeks)</i>	
1793.....	Philadelphia.....	Yellow Fever
	<i>(one of the worst epidemics)</i>	
1793.....	Harrisburg, PA (many unexplained deaths)	
1793.....	Middletown, PA (many unexplained deaths)	

1794.....	Philadelphia.....	Yellow Fever
1796-97..	Philadelphia.....	Yellow Fever
1803.....	New York	Yellow Fever
1820-23..	Nationwide.....	Asiatic
		Cholera
	<i>(brought by English immigrants)</i>	
1832.....	NY City and other major cities	Cholera
1837.....	Philadelphia.....	Typhus
1841.....	Nationwide (<i>severe in South</i>)..	Yellow Fever
1847.....	New Orleans	Yellow Fever
1847-8...	Worldwide	Influenza
1848-9...	North America	Cholera
1850.....	Nationwide.....	Influenza
1852.....	Nationwide.....	Yellow Fever
	<i>(New Orleans 8,000 die in summer)</i>	
1855.....	Nationwide	Yellow Fever
1857-9...	Worldwide	Influenza
	<i>(one of greatest epidemics)</i>	
1860-1...	Pennsylvania.....	Smallpox
1865-73	Philadelphia, NY, Boston, New Orleans, Baltimore, Memphis, Washington DC	Cholera
		& Typhus
1873-5...	N. America and Europe	Influenza
1878.....	New Orleans	Yellow Fever
	<i>(last great epidemic)</i>	
1885.....	Plymouth, PA.....	Typhoid
1886.....	Jacksonville, FL.....	Yellow Fever
1918.....	Worldwide	Influenza
	<i>(high point year)</i>	

(More people were hospitalized during WWI from the 1918 influenza epidemic than from wounds. U.S. Army training camps became death camps with 80% death rate in some camps.)

Other specific instances of cholera cited: 1833, Columbus, OH; 1834, New York City; 1849 New York City; 1851 Coles Co., IL, the Great Plains and Missouri.

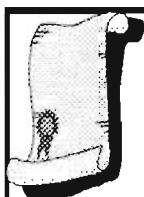
[Source: Clark County Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vancouver, WA, (25:7), March 1998]

Pennsylvania Coal Mines

If you have an ancestor who worked in the coal mines of Schuylkill Co., PA, contact Frank Blase. He has established an historical research library in the office building of the Reading Anthracite Company in Pottsville, PA where the company has permitted its files to be viewed by the general public. Mr. Blase does volunteer work there two days a week to help people with their research.

Even though an ancestor might have worked for a different company at a different location, and you are stuck in Pennsylvania, Mr. Blase MIGHT be a good source to tap with the hopes that he can lead you in the right direction.

[Source: Jackson Co., MI Newsletter, May 1, 1997]



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) Warrantee deed 28th Feb. 1882 from William Patrick and Rebecca S. Patrick, his wife of Midland City to Louis L. Eastman of Midland \$400 for a parcel of land in the Village of Midland commencing 40 feet from the north corner of lot 4 of block 23 of said city on Ashman St. continuing thence southwesterly along said street 20 feet thence southeasterly and along a line at right angle with said street 90 feet thence northeasterly and on a line parallel with said street 20 feet thence northwesterly and on
- a line at right angles with said street 90 feet to the place of beginning, being part of lots 3 and 4 of said block 23.
- 2) Warranty deed dated 24th April, 1882 from Albert West & Anna West, his wife, of Jerome Twp. to David C. Porter of Geneva Twp. for \$400 a parcel of land in Jerome Twp. described as NW 1/4 of SW 1/4 and the S 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 Sec. 17 T15N R1W containing 60 acres.
- 3) Warranty deed dated 9th August 1882 from George First of Jasper Twp. to Caroline A. Roberson of Jasper Twp., for \$500 a parcel of land in Jasper Twp. described as SW 1/4 of NW 1/4 Sec. 29 T13N R2W containing 40 acres.
- 4) Quit Claim deed dated 22nd March 1882 from Watson Harris and Addie Harris, his wife, of Hope Twp. to Henry W. Russell of Midland City for \$200 for a parcel of land in Larkin Twp. described as NW 1/4 SW 1/4 Sec. 32 T15N R2E and containing 40 acres.
- 5) Discharge of Mortgage dated 6th December 1880 from Martin V. Sayre of Meigs Co., Ohio to Mamie(?) E. Presley and George C. Presley. The mortgage as recorded in Liber L, page 152. Mortgage discharged as of 4th November 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:

April, 1998 - Publishing Your Family Tree -
Leroy Baker and Ora Flaningam

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

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.

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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.