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# PIONEER RECORD



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September 1998

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## **CAPTAIN RUSHO ONE OF TWO SURVIVORS WHEN SHIP SINKS**

**Midland Republican, July 7, 1932**

### **Larkin Man Skipper of Sailing Vessel Struck Amidship In Fog**

It was in the spring of '89 that Captain Alex Rusho of Larkin Township went down with his two-master to the bottom of Lake Huron in a fog. Captain Rusho told us the tale the other day of how he and one other man were the sole survivors of that midnight wreck when the iron barge R. P. Ranney ran down his vessel amidships off Presque Isle and sent her to the bottom.

"She was a sailing vessel, 144 foot long, with a 26 foot beam," said the Captain, "and I was making my second trip with her in the spring from Port Austin to Dollar Bay in Lake Superior with a cargo of sand."

"I would have been with him," said Mrs. Rusho, "except that I had all of a sudden made up my mind to go home. I had sailed with him before, just for pleasure. This time I was going to cook for him. We made one trip and ended up at Detroit, when I got a sort of notion that the boat would never make another trip. I didn't tell him, because I knew he'd go anyway, but I told him I was going home. So I went. He got another cook and went on."

"From Detroit," said the Captain, "we went to Escanaba and got a load of iron ore and took it to Cleveland. There we

loaded up with coal, and went to Port Austin, where we unloaded, took on a cargo of sand, and set out for Dollar Bay.

"On the night of the 16th of May a heavy fog set in. I had been on watch and had been keeping the for horn blowing - we had one of our own - and as I went off watch at one o'clock in the morning and the mate came on, I told him to keep it blowing and keep a sharp lookout.

"I've been sailing 25 years,' he says, 'and I've never had a collision, and I don't think I'll have one now.'

"I left him on watch and turned in. I was just taking off my boots when I heard him yell 'Hard down on the wheel!'"

"Then I felt her strike us. I ran out on deck and saw that we were going to sink right away. I went into the cabin and found the woman there, and got her up on deck. But she struggled and when we got up there she got hold of the wheel and hung on. Just then the water came over us. As the steamer backed out of the hole in our side we went down bow first.

"There was about six hundred feet of water there. I went down with the vessel and lost track of the woman altogether. But I was used to the water and I managed to keep my head all of the time. When I came up I could see the steamer's lights.

"A hatch came up right beside me

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## CAPTAIN RUSHO ONE OF TWO SURVIVORS WHEN SHIP SINKS

*(Continued from page 1)*

and I caught hold of that. The steamer had stopped and I struck out for her. I couldn't see anybody else in the water. I reached the ship and climbed a rope over the side. Then we heard another fellow hollering in the water. They started to let down a lifeboat for him but before they got it squared away he got close enough so they threw him a rope and hauled him on board. The other four men and the woman were never heard from."

"It was only two days after I had got home," said Mrs. Rusho. "when I met a neighbor of ours with a newspaper one morning. He said the paper said Alex's boat had gone down and all hands lost. I drove to Midland right away and went into Hinds's drug store (where the Brown Lumber Company office is now) and called up the owners in Detroit, Maitland and Taylor. I asked them if it was true. They said no, that Alex had been saved."

"It was pretty hard work swimming," said the Captain, "with those big boots on, nearly to my knees. But I'd been swimming all my life. A funny thing - when I got on the steamer I found I was all covered with white paint; must have come out of a bucket of we had on board ready to use."

"The captain of the steamer said he hadn't seen us till just as they struck us. There was a lawsuit over it, and they finally divided the damages. The barge had gone about half-way through our vessel."

But although Captain Rusho himself escaped the clutching waters of the big lake, he lost a sister, a brother, and two brothers-in-law in a Lake Erie gale, three years before his own disaster. The brother had a part interest in the vessel, he said, and they put out with a load of 20,000 bushels of wheat.

"Smothered in a gale of wind, the ship was," says Captain Rusho. "Three weeks later they found my sister's body, caught in a fishing net. The rest were never found."

"Another time," he continued, "I was commanding the schooner Reindeer, and we put in at Fairport, Ohio. I had paid off the men as soon as we got into port, as we always did, and they all left. So I had to send to Cleveland for some more men. I was anchored alongside the pier and another vessel came in, so I had to move up the pier to make room for her. When I got in there, the wind and the sea was coming in from the north and made the vessel rise and fall. Ordinarily there would have been water enough for her but there was a sunken pile under her, and she came down on it and it stove a hole through her."

"So the Captain had to leave" said Mrs. Rusho,

"to get a tug to haul her up in shallow water. I was with him that time, and he left me alone on board, feeling sure he had time enough to get back before anything happened."

"After a time I began to get scared, and so I climbed up in the rigging when she lay over the pier and I jumped off on the pier. Right after that she lay over on the other side and went clean over on her side in the harbor."

"The captain of another vessel that was laying alongside us invited me to stay on his boat until the Captain came after me."

"I got a diver," said Captain Rusho, "and he went down and sawed off the pile and patched up the hole in the vessel and we got her righted and pumped her out with a steam pump. Then we took her to Cleveland and put her in dry dock."

"How did you happen to start sailing, Captain?" we asked him, "and how did you come to settle down later in Midland county?"

"Well, sir," says the Captain. "I was born on Grindstone Island, in the St. Lawrence river. That's one of the Thousand Islands, you know. Four of us boys and my sister were all sailors. I learned the compass before I ever started out, and of course I'd always been on some kind of a boat when I was a kid. So I started out before the mast and got wages just like the men did. There were a lot of things I didn't know but I kept my mouth shut, and they didn't know I'd never sailed before."

"One time I'd been mate with my brother and we laid off at Buffalo, and I took the train for Red Keg - that's what they called Averill in those days - to see some cousins I had in Larkin. I didn't know anything about Midland then. I landed in Red Keg and stayed all night at the hotel. In the morning I said to the landlord 'Can you show me the way to Archie Parr's?'"

He started to tell me the road.

" 'Never mind telling me any roads,' I said. 'Just point your finger in the direction and I'll find it.'"

"So he pointed up this way, and I started out and I fetched up right here at this very house," he said, "where her father (pointing to Mrs. Rusho) lived. Orson Cady his name was. When I stopped at the house she came to the door. So she was the first girl I met in Michigan. We were married two years later."

The marriage was performed fifty years ago next fourth of December, the Rushos said, in the house on Buttles Street now occupied by Max Wilcox.

"That was the Presbyterian preacher's house,

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**CAPTAIN RUSHO ONE OF TWO SURVIVORS WHEN SHIP SINKS**

*(Continued from page 2)*

then." said Mrs. Rusho. "We went back to Grindstone Island for the next winter, and after that I came back here and he started sailing."

For 25 years Captain Rusho sailed the lakes, always, with one exception, in a sailing vessel. His last trip was made in 1896.

Sailing is no more dangerous than staying ashore, avers the Captain. To which end he testifies that since he's been ashore he was struck down by a car in Flint four years ago and twice has lost his home by fire, once by a stroke of lightning. Another time he had a stroke of apoplexy, from which he has not completely recovered.

"It makes me think," he said, "of a young fellow that wanted to go sailing. And somebody said to him 'Aren't you afraid to go?'"

" 'Why?', he says.

" 'Well, how did your father die?'"

" 'He was drowned.'

" 'And your grandfather?'"

" 'He was drowned, too.'

" 'Then aren't you afraid you'll be drowned, too?'"

" 'Well,' says the boy, 'is your father alive?'"

" 'No.'

" 'Where did he die?'"

" 'He died in bed.'

" 'And your grandfather?'"

" 'He died in bed, too.'

" 'Well,' says the boy, 'don't that make you sort of afraid to go to bed?'"

Mrs. Rusho came with her people when she was three years old, from Toledo, and now at 68 believes she has lived in Larkin township longer than any other living resident. They have one son, Harry.

The Captain will be 78 in January. They live now on the very spot where Orson Cady's girl opened the door nearly fifty years ago.

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**MIDLAND VISITOR WAS COOK FOR SOLDIERS IN CIVIL WAR TIMES**

**Midland Daily News, Oct. 6, 1939**

**Was In Her Twenties At The Time Of The War; Recalls Life Of Hard Work**

Midland had a distinguished visitor yesterday in the person of 99-year old Mrs. Margaret Wells of Saginaw. Not many women — or men are alive today who can proudly look up and say, "I cooked for the Civil War boys."

That's what Mrs. Wells did, however, in Holly, Michigan where she was in her early twenties as the train loads of soldiers went through on their way to the front. "They used to eat an awfully lot of food. I made six dozen apple pies a day," asserted the elderly lady, "and I cooked hard boiled eggs by the wash boiler full." Spry for her age, Mrs. Wells looked up fresh her rocking chair, cane in hand, as she continued her story. "I don't know how it got around, but the boys all knew that my food was good and there was never any left to go to waste . . . some of the soldiers were always there."

Born on August 17, 1840 in Welshingham Center, Canada, then a little village the name of which has since been changed. Mrs. Wells came to Holly where she was married to Cornelius Wells in 1860. Mr. Wells died 40 years ago.

"From the time I was a small child I learned how to work hard and how to use my hands. I did a lot of knitting and quilting and sewing too," reported Mrs. Wells.

Thirty-nine years ago Mrs. Wells left Holly and came to Saginaw where she has made her home since. She has two sons, Harry and Arthur, living there.

Mrs. Wells was in Midland yesterday visiting the home of Miss Sophia Cote and Mrs. Sarah Appleman. "These are my old, old friends — I used to visit their home when they were little girls," said Mrs. Wells. Mrs. Appleman and Mrs. Wells both have the same birth date.

"Until two years ago," Miss Cote stated, "Mrs. Wells has been in almost perfect health. Even now she prefers to dress herself.

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## Pioneer Days Of Midland Are Recalled By Business Group

Midland Daily News, October 12, 1939

### Dinner Marks Midland's Recognition Of Women's 100<sup>th</sup> Year In Business

Pioneer days of Midland were recalled last night at the Country club, and for a short time were relived, by members of the Business and Professional Women's club as they met for dinner to honor the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women in business in America.

Forty-five guests found their places at the uniquely appointed dining table. Pumpkins hollowed out and used as vases for pine branches and nut cups mounted on colored maple leaves made a truly outstanding table.

Guests who were honored by the club for their service in Midland business were Mrs. B. B. Ball, Mrs. Roy Walker, Miss Laura Foster, and Miss Lottie Sias.

Miss Ruth Allen, high school instructor, gave a manuscript compiled from papers and notes of older Midland citizens. Included in the paper were recollections from Midland's pioneer days dating back to 1819 when a treaty was made reserving to the Indians two 6,000-acre tracts of land. One of the tracts was near Midland near forks of the rivers, and the other was over in the Saginaw was reserved to the Chippewa Indians. In 1822 a survey was made by John Wampler and in 1831 the seat of justice was established in Saginaw, Midland not having been located as yet. The first white man to come here was a man by the name of Porter according to Miss Allen's notes. In 1835 other settlers began to come. The Whitmans were the first family here, but were shortly followed by the Rodds, Ellsworths, Cronkrights and Larkins. In 1850 the population of the locality was 65 and a school established and taught by a man named Ashmun who was part Indian.

In 1853 the lumber industry began to thrive with pine and hardwood being cut to the tune of 4,000 cars per month. Government surveys showed that after the lumber was gone, the land in the territory was not good for cultivation. Transportation in the "town" was by canoes and small boats on the river. A pole boat was built which made three trips to Saginaw each week. The Indians moved out of Midland in 1855 when a reservation was established in Isabella County. A 25 ton

steamer was built for transportation on the river but the river was too shallow and the boat discontinued running in about 1860.

At this time there were about 49 buildings in Midland with about 150 residents. The hotel was located on the site where the Cunningham store is now standing. The Sjolander block was then but a swamp.

In 1864 a four-piece orchestra started and the Methodist church meetings were held in private homes. A railroad was built from Saginaw through Midland to Averill and the river was used for lumber transportation. In 1868 the Methodist church was built where the postoffice now stands. In this same year a fire which started at the river burned two blocks wide to Marley's house which was on Grove street.

In 1880 there were wooden side walks in Midland Proper, and Main street was what is called a block road. An ordinance was issued at about this time for residents to put up fences so that the cows could not wander through the streets.

Mrs. B. B. Ball mentioned a number of business places. All awnings were wooden. Miss Mahany's place of business was the gathering place for women. She sold yard goods and everything had to be made; nothing was ready made for sale.

Miss Lottie Sias used to be a milliner and told how a coil of wire and yards of chiffon and feathers made up hats. She has worked two days on making one hat. Some hats sold for \$35.

Mrs. Roy Walker mentioned the bath house established because of the mineral spring which supplied mineral water both for drinking and bathing.

Miss Foster told of the Memorial day spirit and how everybody marked the day.

*[The article was accompanied by a large photograph which included four of the ladies who were honored at the Business and Professional Women dinner. The ladies in the picture Mrs. Roy Walker, Miss Norine Weinberg (who was dressed in an old fashioned duster which belonged to Mrs. A. S. Arbury's mother), Miss Lottie Sias, Mrs. B. B. Ball and Miss Laura Foster.]*

### Coleman Independent Changes Hands

Midland Republican, April 3, 1914 — Mr. D. B. Menerey of the Coleman Independent last week announced the sale of the paper and entire printing outfit to Charles P. Smith of Rochester, Michigan, who takes immediate possession.

Mr. Menerey has run the Independent almost 25 years, and has been postmaster at Coleman for 16 years. This office he has resigned.

The Republican extends good wishes to the incoming and the outgoing Independent manager.

## Civil War Records

From GEMS of Genealogy (22:3), Fall 1996, Page 2 — On Page 3 of the March-April 1996 (22:1) issue of the *GEMS of Genealogy*, we ran a reprint of a short article about Civil War Medical Records. To summarize, group records #110 at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., has, among many other things, "Medical Records of Examinations." These are apparently medical records of Union Army soldiers during the Civil War. As these records are arranged by congressional district, you must know your ancestor's congressional district as of 1863 in order to get the information.

The wonderful people at the Odom Library in Moultrie, Georgia read our newsletter and passed this article on to their readers (giving us our due credit). Then somebody in Indiana read that issue of *The Family Tree* (the Odom Library newspaper) and reprinted the article again, but somehow got their facts twisted. Within two weeks, the Society's Query Committee was bombarded with requests for Civil War Medical Records! We just don't have these records. The first couple of requests were amusing. After reading through nearly *twenty*, it wasn't funny anymore.

One woman did write with some important questions: did we know 1) how to determine 1863 Congressional Districts; 2) where to write; and 3) what

forms to use? I certainly didn't know off the top of my head, but I went to "the source." I mean, I went to Arlene Eakle and Johni Cerni, eds., *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, 1984). And I thought what I found would interest some of you.

On page 257 of *The Source*, they state that the processing fee is \$5 pre-paid for each name and each type of record, and you need to use Form 26 (revised May 82). Keep in mind that this edition of *The Source* came out 12 years ago . . . the form may be different, and more than likely, the fee has gone up. It's probably best to write to the National Archives and Records Administration (8<sup>th</sup> and Pennsylvania Avenues NW, Washington, DC 20408), and get the most up-to-date info. On page 261, it states, "To use the records you must know the number of the congressional district for the county in which a man lived." And they recommend using the *Congressional Directory for the Second Session of the 38<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States* (Washington, DC: For the Joint Houses of Congress, 1865). I have *no* idea where you might find *that!* Please read the entire section (pages 254-98) on Military Records in *The Source* for more information.

--- Lisa Youngblood, Query Committee

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## For Your Information

The Ohio Genealogical Society has moved to a new 10,000 sq. ft. building at 713 S. Main Street in Mansfield, Ohio. It will house their research facilities and opened February 3. They will be open Tuesday through Saturday. This is an excellent place to research for anyone with Ohio roots.

Are you a Downriver Descendant? (The name of a genealogical society in SE corner of Wayne County, Michigan) They are offering a Downriver Descendant Certificate, cost \$5, available from the Publications Committee. To qualify you must be directly descended from an ancestor who settled in one of the current Downriver communities during the period 1850-1925. You must provide proof resulting from credible genealogical research. Address:

Downriver Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 476  
Lincoln Park, MI 48146

The Saginaw Hoyt Library has just begun to purchase volumes of a 33-volume set of books entitled, *The Roster of Union Soldiers 1861-1865*, edited by Janet B. Hewlett, published 1997, call #973.7 HC. Currently they have nine volumes for the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York (only to surnames of Mc-- and Colored Troops. It is an alphabetical listing by surname and lists the Infantry (or whatever) number, and company number in which the person served. It is a wonderful reference (and will be more wonderful when the set is completed) if one does not have any idea from which state their ancestor served. The index is taken from the compiled military service records residing in the National Archives.

## Unusual Violin Owned By Homer Township Man; Was 82 Sunday Midland Daily News , April 30, 1940

### Midland County Resident Since 1870; Came Here from Canada

A hickory bark violin 58 years old with the face made of a trunk which came from Ireland to California in the gold rush, is the possession of John Moore of Homer Township who Sunday celebrated his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

Moore was born in 1858 in Morris county, Canada and came to Midland by way of Saginaw on July 4, 1870, one year before the great Chicago fire which he remembers.

The family moved to a farm in Mt. Haley township where they had a homestead for 32 years. The place was about nine miles north of Merrill.

In his younger years, Mr. Moore spent a great deal of time on the John Haley farm, located where the Midland Country club is now established. It was his duty to prepare the horses to go into the lumber fields to work each day.

### Gets Violin In Trade

The history of Mr. Moore's acquisition of his unusual violin goes back to a night 50 years ago when

he was playing in an orchestra for a dance down near Jam. Beside him in the musical group was a man named Al Delmartar, then of Freeland, now of Flint. Delmartar had just made the violin and during the evening, Moore suggested that they swap instruments for one number. When they had finished, Moore asked Delmartar what he would take as difference in the trade. The latter said five dollars would suffice, and so the violin became the property of Moore.

The case for the instrument is almost as interesting as the violin. It is solid wood, probably oak, and is unlined. Moore bought it in Midland at a piano store run by a man named Gunn who died at the age of 104. The store was on the present site of the Glick Optometrist shop.

Mr. Moore said that Delmartar got the celebrated trunk from a man named Rounds who came to Freeland to live.

During the World War, Moore worked at paving streets in Saginaw. He has two daughters, Mrs. John Donker of Saginaw, and Mrs. Arthur Pomranky, Midland; two sons, Harry of Bellevue and Jack of Midland; 13 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

*[The article was accompanied by a large photograph of Mr. Moore playing his unique violin.]*

### I'm My Own Grandpa

**(A genealogist nightmare! - By Maxine A. Larson)**

Many, many years ago when I was twenty three  
I was married to a Widow who was pretty as could be,  
This widow had a grown-up daughter who had hair of red  
My father fell in love with her and soon the two were wed.  
This made my dad my son-in-law, and changed my very life  
For my daughter was my mother because she was my father's wife!  
To complicate the matter even though it brought me joy  
I soon became the father of a bouncing baby boy.

My little baby then became a brother-in-law to Dad  
And so became my Uncle though it made me very sad,  
For if he was my uncle then that also made him a Brother  
Of the Widow's grown-up Daughter who of course was my Stepmother.  
Father's Wife then had a son who kept them on the run  
And he became my Grandchild for he was my Daughter's Son,  
My Wife is now my Mother's Mother and it makes me blue  
Because although she is my Wife she's my Grandmother too!  
Oh, if my wife is my Grandmother then I'm her Grandchild  
And every time I think of it, it nearly drives me wild.

[Source: "Sheboygan County Genealogist," Sheboygan County Genealogical Society, Vol. 13 Issue 2, Winter 1994, Page 5.]

### IGI Error

Dr. Arlene Eakle warns us that the International Genealogical Index at the LDS Family History Center dropped several million names from the newest edition (1991) (or the CD-ROM version) and then to do thorough research one should check both the 1988 and the 1992 versions for our ancestors. Additionally, there are variances between the CD-ROM versions and the fiche versions of both editions, so to be sure you should check all FOUR versions in order to feel that you have made a thorough search. (Geneagram, March 1995)

## Abstracting, Extracting and Transcribing Records

by **GEORGE G. MORGAN**

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Whenever you visit a courthouse, library or archive and work with records, you make records for yourself. Sometimes you can make a photocopy. Sometimes, however, you just want to make notes of the salient points in a document.

This week in "Along Those Lines. . .," let's discuss the three different ways of copying information from records. I'll also talk about why you should be suspicious of books containing printed information about records.

### \*\* Copying Records

As you search for records that establish and document information about your ancestors, there is nothing like seeing the original record. Holding an original document about my ancestors or seeing a microfilm image of it can sometimes move me like nothing else. Not only do I feel more closely connected to the person or persons involved, I get a great deal of satisfaction that I am finally able to corroborate information with my own eyes.

If I can obtain a photocopy of the record for my files and future reference, I usually go for it. There is nothing like having a copy of a record I located in a courthouse in Georgia when I'm sitting at home in Florida. That copy is important when I'm trying to decide if the new piece of information I just uncovered contradicts the "fact" I found in Georgia or not.

There are some occasions, however, when I don't care about making a copy of the record. This is usually true when I'm reviewing a collateral line--not an actual ancestor. In those cases, it may be enough for me to make detailed notes. The big question here is whether I write an abstract, an extract or a transcription. Do you know the difference between the three?

### \*\* Abstracts

An abstract of a record is, essentially, a list of the important points. It does not always include every point in the record. When you abstract a record, such as a deed or a will, you list the date, the place, the names of the people involved or mentioned, and include as much detail as you feel provides a complete representation of the contents of the document.

There are a number of abstract forms available from genealogical supply houses and from some genealogy vendors on the Internet. Some that I use are "Abstract of Will" and "Abstract of Deed" forms. They provide spaces for the most common information that you would want to include in your assessment and

recording of the document.

### \*\*Extracts

An extract is similar to an abstract, however it includes exact quotations of text from the original document. An extract does not seek to copy the entire document; it simply copies one or more parts of the original document. The quotations make certain points clearer. They may also include other important information, such as spelling variants of names.

The most important things to remember when writing an extract are as follows:

- Copy the information exactly as it appears in the document, including spelling and punctuation. A different spelling of a name in a will may be exactly the clue you'll need later to locate a record for that individual. The presence of an unexpected comma between names in a will may be the only indicator you'll ever find that there were really six children instead of five in a family.
- Enclose in quotation marks all material that is copied exactly from the document.
- If you insert a notation in the quoted text, enclose it in brackets with the word "sic," followed by a comma. This indicates that this is the researcher's comment and not a part of the original document.

EXAMPLE: "I hereby devise and bequeath to my most dearly beloved wife, Hezzie [sic, Hepsevah] all of my earthly possessions including the house, the barn, the horses, mules and other livestock."

### \*\*Transcriptions

A transcription is an exact, word-for-word copy of a document in its entirety. Like the extract, all text should be enclosed in quotation marks. Spelling and punctuation should be copied exactly as written. In addition, maps, plats and land drawings should be traced for inclusion in the extract. Signatures should be represented exactly as written. For instance, if someone signed with an "X" as their signature, it is usually represented as follows:

Thomas X Weatherspoon  
The names of witnesses are always included.

### \*\* Which Format Should You Use?

A complete reading through the entire document--not just a quick scan--will usually tell you how important it is that you transcribe the entire

*(Continued on page 8)*

**Abstracting, Extracting and Transcribing Records**

*(Continued from page 7)*

document or whether extracts of specific passages will suffice. You may start out writing an abstract and then find that you really want more detail. Transcribe or extract as appropriate.

Here's one thing I always do. Perhaps it will work for you. If I create an extract, a transcript or even get a photocopy of a document, I always write an abstract later after I get home. I keep the abstract with the other copies. Why? Because it becomes an easy "at-a-glance" resource, telling me with one quick look what is inside the document.

**\*\*Using Printed Abstracts, Extracts or Transcripts**

Often, the road to the original records we want or need involves referring to printed materials. Many well-meaning people have abstracted marriage records, will books, land records, court cases and even cemetery records and tombstones. While their intentions are excellent, they occasionally make errors. Perhaps they had trouble reading the handwriting on the record and gave it their best guess. Maybe they transposed letters or misspelled a name. Or maybe a date such as 10-3-22 was typed incorrectly as 3-22-10. What a difference these things can make!

Another problem with abstracts and extracts is that the author may omit names and other facts that might be the only clue you'll ever find to corroborate a fact. For instance, the omission by an abstracter or extractor of a list of slave names in a will would hinder an African American researcher looking for information about a slave ancestor. Simply put, what may seem unimportant to one person may be of paramount importance to someone else's research.

A further difficulty arises when one author uses the information of another author who has made an error. Not only is the error perpetuated, some researchers may erroneously conclude that, since two sources say the same thing, it is "instant corroboration." It is good to maintain healthy skepticism and that insatiable curiosity to see the actual record. While the printed abstracts, extracts and transcriptions may be helpful, they are no substitute for personally examining an original record.

**\*\*Conclusion**

Now that you understand the difference between abstracts, extracts and transcriptions, you should be able to make better decisions about how to make copies of those important records. Just remember, though, that it's always better to have too much information than too little.

Happy hunting!  
George

\*\*\*\*\*  
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*"Along Those Lines. . ." is a weekly feature of the*  
*Genealogy Forum on America Online (Keyword:*  
*ROOTS). You may send e-mail to alonglines@aol.com.*  
*George Morgan would like to hear from you but, be-*  
*cause of the volume of e-mail, is unable to personally*  
*respond to each letter individually. He also regrets that*  
*he cannot assist you with your personal genealogical*  
*research.*  
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**LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN UPDATE**

Recent acquisitions include the 1870 Census Index for Missouri, Alabama Soundex, and Confederate Pension Records (check Michigan Librarian's Newsletter for details).

The library now has all of the Census East of the Mississippi. Other additions include St. Albans Manifests and Vital Records for Ontario. The library has published a booklet Beginning Your Genealogical

Research-Guides & Forms to Get You Started (available at the desk in the Midland Room).

It contains Genealogy and Local History resources at the Library." Visit the Library Of Michigan Website through the U.S. Gen Web Project. Once there you can connect with ANSWER -Online Catalog from your computer.

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# President's Letter

I'm anticipating a busy, challenging, and satisfying 1998-1999 season for the Midland Genealogical Society. Many familiar activities will be continued: we'll have the usual eight wide-ranging and exciting program meetings, September through May, cookies and all, with no December meeting; the Library program will continue, with the help of those hard-working volunteers you see down there in the Midland Room every week-day afternoon; our busy representatives will be working with the Michigan Genealogical Council carrying information both ways; and I'll be passing the NARA jar regularly.

There will be a number of special projects going this year - you will have seen the sign-up sheets at the May 1998 meeting and already have chosen your favorites for further work. You'll be hearing more about these at the regular meetings.

Your officers expect to organize a genealogical trip to Salt Lake City in the Spring of 1999 and if there is interest (this means, of course, sign up on the sheets to be passed around at meetings) we'll organize trips to Fort Wayne and other places as needed.

One of the most interesting challenges to us now is finding the best way to use the Internet for genealogical purposes, both for getting information for our researches and as a publishing medium. We will all be seeing more of this from now on and, if we react to the opportunities properly, we'll all benefit.

Your officers will be listening carefully to you while preparing this year's program. Doug Applegath and Ron Snyder started a program last year of surveying members for interests, and these surveys have been useful in designing this year's program. I expect to carry on this tradition. Please talk to your officers about your interests, problems, and ideas - and you don't have to wait for the surveys.

Many people have been kind enough to tell me they were happy to see me take the challenge of this job - some of them have done this job themselves, so they know what it's all about. I'm happy to have this opportunity, and I expect to find ways to share the fun of working with the people of the Midland Genealogical Society by using the special talents of as many members as possible, mostly for special projects and tasks.

And finally your officers will be working to make the program so interesting that it will be really easy to find other groups of people willing to carry on the organization well into the 21st century.

All of this while everybody works on personal research and remember, folks, that many of us are now Grandma and Grandpa and we should take the lead in telling our offspring all the things we wished we had asked our own grandparents. Get busy, write it down, and put names on all of those old photographs. Remember, if you want to archive anything, paper is still by far the best medium.

Bill

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## Genealogical Stew

Take:	1 curious beginner
Add:	1 age discrepancy
	1 unreadable microfiche
	1 census record written in "disappearing ink"
Fold in:	1 ton of Correspondence

Simmer while awaiting answers.

This is enough to make any genealogist stew!

*(From "The Bulletin", East Texas Genealogical Society Newsletter Vol. 22 No.8)*

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### Ocupayshun -- Census Taker!

By Cimon B. Rite

I am a cencus taker for the city of Bufflow. Our city has groan very fast in resent years and now, in 1865, it has becum a hard and time consuming job to count all of the peephill. There are not many that can do this work, as it is nesesarie to have an ejudashun, witch a lot of pursons still do not have. Another atribute needed for this job is good speling, for many of the pepil to be counted can hardly speek inglish, let alon spel there names!

For instens, yestirday I visited the Shoecart family, who only came here from Gernamy this year. They have fifteen children and they hardly rememburr there names, let alon spel them. The Donnybrooks are another famjily resently arrived from Gernamy that could not even spel there name for me. When I put it down, they complained that it was rong, but I just ignored thos poor unejudated persins!

When I picked up the censes forms from Mr. Mury, he emfasized that all of the names should be correctlee speled. My Murry also sais to number them in order -- the first family I visit, number won, the secont failie, number too and son on. This is very important, but he duz not nee to wrry as I am one of the best cencus takers he has. I am also well awquainted with what to do and the rezuns it must be done only won way.

There are a great many diferant places I get to visit. Last week I was at the Fondling Asylum. There are not too many childan thare wright now as there has been a tifoid epedemec and many of them were strikin with this decease. Some that did servvive are still sic with a conjection of the brane or some other kind of infamation. It is sad to see the little wons so ssic. I have

becume partikulerlee good friends with the bakarrey and frute store owners. I have also gotten to no naborhood poleacemen quite well, speshually Patrik Lockin. He has had a lot of problems -- his wife just died, the physsissan said it was peritinis!

It is very pitchersesk along the waterfront and is my favrete place to werk. I get to meat peephill that have traveld all over the werld! In the boring houses down her I can find salors, marean inspectors, mare-niers, and see captens. Meny of them have told me storys of there travels and exploits.

Along the rezidentshal streets I get to meet beir-peddlers, tiemsters, and sailesmen as they are pedding there wairsl, but, the most interesting places are inside the manufactorys, where the macheanests work and also inside the oile refinerys, where the oil is possessed.

Altho it may sound like a glamrus job to you, the work is hard enuf right now, from beaing out in the wether so much of the tyme, I have a bad kase of Brown Kittis. Besides that, it gets so it costs a few dolars, for all that walking is very had on sessus takers souls and the shooemaker must be pade. If I could get sertifyd for my penshon I would retir from this peephill countin and help my nefue edit his newspaper. He needs the help badly for he can't spel worth a dam!

But, now don't think I am not devoted to my job. I relise that these recurds will be very impoortnent to jeneolijests sumday and I am shure they will be empressed with the fine work I have dun!

Beverly B. Miller  
*(Found in WNGYS Journal)*

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### FIFTY YEARS IN MIDLAND

Midland Republican, April 3, 1914

#### Mrs. Benton Crippen, formerly Mrs. Ostrander, Passes Away

Mrs. Sarah Ursula Crippen, known to many as Mrs. E. P. Jennings, died Tuesday at midnight, in her 76<sup>th</sup> year. She was born in New York state June 14, 1837, and came to Michigan 50 years ago.

Mrs. Col. Ellsworth is a sister of the deceased. A brother and a sister life in Detroit, but are too old and feeble to come to Midland.

Ed Ostrander is a son, and Milo and Claude grandsons. A daughter, Mrs. James Willard lives in Onaway.

The funeral will be held at the home in the forth ward Friday, 2:00 p. m.

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## MEMBERSHIP DUES 1998 - 1999

Collection of membership dues for 1998 - 1999 began at the May meeting and will conclude at the September meeting. If your dues are not paid by the end of September, this will be the last Pioneer Record you will receive. Dues may be paid by mail to: Membership Chairman, Midland Genealogical Society, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640. Dues for an individual are \$10; for a family they are \$12.50.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

### MGS PROGRAMS FOR 1998 - 1999

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:

### UPCOMING SEMINARS

*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.*

### *Do You Like Our Programs?*

Our programs were selected because of the "NEEDS" expressed in the questionnaire which, members filled out last year. If any member has not filled one out, but would like to, please contact the program chairperson at a meeting or call her at 631-6684. 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>



**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.