

WHAT IS A "PLATTER?" See page 7.

PIONEER RECORD



November 1998

Volume XIX, No. 2

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Recollections of SE Michigan 1810-1885, Part 1 of 3

BY Ephraim S. Williams, of Flint

EDITORS NOTE: This is the first of four articles which we would like to reprint from the Michigan Pioneer Society collections. These give some family and south-east Michigan history. Since these are lengthy, they will be given in several installments. This first one gives us quite a bit of Fur Trader history in Midland. In many cases this is lost in the index under Saginaw. There is some additional information in William's personal notes, now in private hands.

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MICHIGAN PIONEER COL-
LECTIONS, VOL. 8. 1885. P. 234-259 —
The Williams family dates back in the history of the British islands to a remote age. The name is of Welsh origin, and the descendants among the mountains of Wales claim to trace their ancestry back to the time of "Rodric the Great," king of Britain, about the year 849. Others claim that the family has descended from Brutus, the first king of Britain, 1100 years before Christ. The famous Oliver Cromwell is said to have belonged to a branch of this family. The earliest representative of the name in the American Colonies is believed to have been Robert Williams, who emigrated from Norwich, England, and settled at Roxbury, Massachusetts, about the year 1638. Among the noted men of this widespread family have been Roger Williams, the pioneer settler of Rhode Island; Colonel Ephraim Williams, killed at the battle of

Lake George, in August, 1755; General Otho Holland Williams, a prominent officer in the American army during the Revolution; Hon. Charles K. Williams, chief justice of Vermont; Hon. Norman Williams, of the same state; Hon. Archibald Williams of Quincy, Illinois, and many others prominent in the field, in the pulpit, and at the bar.

My father, Major Oliver Williams, one of the pioneer settlers in Michigan, and of Oakland county, was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts, May 6, 1774. He came to Detroit in 1808, established the mercantile business there, purchasing his goods in Boston, carting them overland in covered wagons to Buffalo, and shipping thence by water to Detroit. He ordinarily made two trips a year, on horseback, between Boston and Detroit. During the winter and spring of 1810-11 he built, at the River Rouge, a large sloop, which he named the "Friends' Good-Will," and in the summer of 1812, just previous to the breaking out of the war between the United States and Great Britain, made a voyage to Mackinaw, acting as super-cargo. At Mackinaw his vessel was chartered by the government to take military stores and supplies to the garrison at Chicago, then a small military and trading post. She was also to bring back a cargo of furs and skins for the government and himself. The commanding officer at Mackinaw, Lieut. Hanks, furnished father with a

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box of ammunition, twelve stand of arms, a non-commissioned officer and six men as a guard against Indians who were then openly hostile, and it was known that War was imminent. Before his return from Chicago he was decoyed into the harbor of Mackinaw, which had in the meantime been captured by the British, they keeping the American flag flying over the fort, and they were made prisoners. His vessel and cargo were taken possession of for the benefit of the British government, on account of his vessel being under a government charter. The name of the vessel was changed by the British to "Little Belt," and it formed a part of the British squadron and was captured the next year by Commodore Perry on Lake Erie. At the time of the battle she mounted three guns. She was burned at Buffalo the following winter, having, with two others, been driven ashore by a gale.

Father was paroled, sent to Detroit under charge of British officers; was at Detroit at its surrender by Gen. Wm. Hall, and, with other citizens, was marched through the province to Kingston as a prisoner of war. In time they were exchanged. He then visited his family in Concord, Massachusetts, and soon after returned to Detroit to look after his business and property, which he found scattered to the winds. Detroit and the entire frontier had been lain in waste. The most that he saved from the general ruin was his residence, on the corner of Jefferson avenue and Bates street, running back into Larned street, in front of St. Anne's Church, and twenty acres in the then called *Bush*, on Woodward avenue, somewhere about Winder street, all of which he sold when he bought his farm in Oakland county.

In the fall of 1815 he moved his family from Concord, Mass., to Detroit. Mother and eight children, myself the oldest, then about thirteen (born February 7, 1802), traveled with spring carriages, and their goods (what were necessary) in double covered wagons, to Buffalo, stopping at the Cold Spring Hotel, near Buffalo, kept by one Col. Miller. Buffalo, we found in ruins, it having been burned by the British. We remained nearly three weeks before passage could be obtained to Detroit. At last, the small schooner "Mink," owned by Messrs. Mack & Conant, of Detroit, was procured, and under the care and kind protection of the late Hon. Shubael Conant, a particular friend of my father, we embarked for Detroit, where we arrived, after the very short passage of nine days. Our vessel was becalmed about one mile below the city, then at or opposite the G. Godfroy's tannery. Father seeing the vessel, expecting us aboard, and passing on the road just at evening,

hailed us, and enquired if his friend Conant was on board, and his brother's family; Mr. Conant answered, "Yes." Soon after father came on board and requested the captain to set us on shore, which he declined; but two of the children being sick, Mr. Conant requested the Captain to do so, he assuming all responsibility, and we were landed, and, with Mr. Godfroy's carriage and a cart, we were conveyed to our home, on Jefferson avenue. We rode and walked up past the fort, whose frowning guns, pyramids of balls and strong stockade, with its heavy gates were all new and strange to us. The people all turned out to see the Yankees, and as we passed along by the curious, one story and a half French houses, the women greeted the little ones with a kiss saying: "*Ah, to mon petit Boslinien!*" We found Detroit a very strange place, walled in with high pickets, with three large, very heavy gates, and two regiments of United States soldiers lying in tents outside the pickets, on the rise of ground about where now stands the Detroit Opera House, the Kirkwood, market, etc. The old fort also was full of soldiers. At each gate of the city stood a United States soldier on guard, and no one passed in or out without a password. The city contained probably only about five or six hundred whites. Father opened a hotel and boarding house, raised a large gold ball for a sign, and it was known as the Yankee hotel, with the sign of a pumpkin. His house was overrun with eastern people, as the troops were mostly eastern men, many of them from Massachusetts, and father and his family became great favorites. We had many eastern boarders, to wit: Mr. Thomas Palmer, Calvin Baker, Paul Clapp, Wm. Brewster, Levi Cook, and Orville Cook and others. Levi Cook taught school in part of Mr. Thomas Palmer's store, which I and my brothers and sisters attended until he commenced other business.

As I have said Detroit was a strange place. The old market stood in the centre of Woodward avenue south of Jefferson avenue, with a whipping post at the northeast corner, where criminals were whipped for petty crimes, and sold for fines and costs to the one who would take them for the least number of days' work on the streets. I have often seen them whipped and gangs of men at work on the streets, often many with ball and chain, and made to work out their fines and costs of suits, instead of being a city or county charge. We boys had an old two-horse sleigh, with bar-iron shoes (no cast-iron shoes then), and a dozen would often get on and ride down hill in the winter, going on to the river quite a distance. There was no Atwater street then; the river came up to the rear of Mr. James Abbott's store-

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house deep enough for boats and canoes to unload furs, sugar, etc., which was about half of what was then the Abbott block, where he lived and had the postoffice for many years. The old Frenchman used to run the ferry with a large canoe until Mr. Ezra Balding (Baldwin) put on a scow and boats. There were only three brick buildings - The Governor Hull house, that stood where the Biddle House now stands, the Government store house, and the old bank on the Major (Jonathan) Kearsley corner. I clerked it awhile in this building for Mr. Melvin Dorr, a dry goods merchant, who afterwards settled on a farm near Little Springs and was superintendent of the building of the United States turnpike to Saginaw, which was built six miles north of Flint City, one hundred feet wide. Father purchased all the fruits on the orchards on either side of Detroit River and put up many winter apples and made a large quantity of cider — one year picking two thousand barrels of apples and making seven hundred barrels of cider. Apples sold for twenty shillings and twenty-four shillings per barrel, and cider ten dollars per barrel for all he could make, most of which went to Ohio. I recollect I took ten barrels in a boat to Mr. Henry J. Hunt, merchant, for his use and he paid me one hundred dollars, (ten dollars per barrel) everything in proportion. Potatoes were two and two and a half dollars. Whiskey sold for two dollars per gallon by the barrel. Butter, fifty and seventy five cents per pound; roasting pigs, two and three dollars each; turkeys, from twelve to twenty shillings. All these things were brought from Ohio — little vessels plying all the time in this trade, buying our apples and cider.

Many families who left Detroit during the war, returned in 1816. Governor L. Cass brought his family to reside there. The currency was mostly shinplasters and what was called "cut money" — that is, a Spanish dollar, for instance was cut into halves, quarters and eighths, which passed current for small change, and many times it was cut into nine shilling pieces, from one dollar. The troops were paid off for long back pay, and money flowed like water — everybody had plenty. Many of the troops were discharged (times expiring) in Detroit and settled on farms in Oakland and other counties in the state. Being first class eastern men, they made many of our best citizens. Lieutenant Chesney Blake resigned in Detroit, and afterwards became the noted Captain Blake of the lakes, and finally settled on a farm in Oakland county. Colonel John Hamilton, of Flint, was discharged a sergeant in Detroit. I have seen all of these men march Detroit streets, and lived by them in after years. Mr. Samuel Munson, father of Mr. Henry Munson, of Detroit is now living at East Sagi-

naw. He came to Detroit in 1816 or 1817, and tended bar for my father. Being about my age, we used to slide down hill together on Woodward avenue. We boys had a large skating park, of several acres, the water in the fall coming from the upper part of the city and flowing the low grounds in the rear of old Ste. Ann's Catholic church. This water ran out across Woodward avenue on Congress street, making its way to the river down that low ground or valley. It was crossed on Woodward avenue by a bridge, perhaps three or four rods long, made of round poles and pole railing — the same as we were glad to make over streams and mud holes in the country, in the settlement of the same. These places have been filled up by the improvements of the city, and splendid business buildings erected thereon. I have lived in the state ever since those days and am astonished when I look in vain for our old playgrounds. About where the old Michigan bank stands, there was in that hill a small fort open then to the river, where stood one or more guns and mortars, used for throwing shot and shell across the river during the war of 1812; there being the foundation of an old church and a burying ground in Jefferson avenue, we had to crook around to the north side of the street to get down street. I remember seeing this foundation and those burials all removed and the street improved. On the 14th day of August, 1817, President James Monroe visited Detroit and was received with public honors. My father was then city marshal, and was conducting the procession through the city. Passing his residence on Jefferson avenue, mother beckoned to him, when he dismounted, went into the house, called Dr. Brown, next door to us, and in a short time a son was born to him, which was named James Monroe Williams. He now lives in Santa Rosa, California, has raised a large family and is now "grandpa." His wife was a sister to the late Judge (Michael) Crofoot of Pontiac.

The first steamboat upon Lake Erie, the "Walk-in-the-Water," visited Detroit in the summer of 1818. She was a great wonder to the French and Indians, in fact to us all, being the first I or any of our family had seen. I recollect one circumstance which I never shall forget. The steamer landed at what was then Wing's wharf, at the foot of Bates street, originally built by Henry Hudson and called Hudson's wharf. It was built on bents and planked over, about ten feet wide, running to the channel; at the end was a large pier, with an ice-break, laid of spruce timber and filled with stone, also a pier built in (the) same way about half way, and carts could drive out there, turn round, fill their barrels with pure water and water the city. I have described

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the wharf; now for what took place. On the deck of the old "Walk-in-the-Water" stood Lord Selkirk, with cocked hat, English coat and breeches and buckles, talking with some gentlemen, when Hon. Austin E. Wing, United States marshal, walked up and arrested the lord for crimes committed against the Hudson Bay Fur Co., in the Hudson Bay country years before, and the lord and Marshall Wing walked up town together.

In the fall of 1818, my father, Calvin Baker, Jacob Elliott, my uncle Alpheus Williams, and others, made a journey to Oakland county, on horseback. He had a French guide. Following the Indian trail towards Saginaw, they crossed the Clinton River at Pontiac. After exploring the surrounding country, my father selected three hundred and twenty acres of land in the vicinity, or upon a beautiful lake, which he afterwards named Silver Lake. After an absence of three or four days, the party returned. Their report electrified the staid, quiet inhabitants of Detroit, among whom the belief was general that the interior of Michigan was a vast impenetrable and uninhabitable wilderness and morass. In the winter of 1818 and 1819 father started with his horses and wagon, provisions and tools, and three men for his new home, to build a house for the reception of his family in the spring. This was the first team and wagon ever driven to Pontiac, taking three days, cutting his road and bridging streams and bad places. The few families then at Pontiac had packed their supplies on ponies or on their own backs. There were Maj. Todd, Orson Allen, son-in-law of Maj. Todd, and one other man and his wife all living in one (not large) log house. Father's house was of hewed logs laid up very nicely, fifty feet long and twenty wide, one and a half stories high, with a shake roof. In March, 1819, he moved his family into his unfinished yet comfortable house and all commenced to make a farm among the Indians, flies, mosquitoes, snakes, wild game, and fever and ague. Father used to say when asked if we had the ague, "Yes, we had a little bit about thirteen months in the year." Our family suffered much from sickness, privations and lack of the comforts of life. Mother and sisters lived there six months without seeing the face of a white woman; then my aunt and her daughter made us a visit from Detroit, stayed with us a few days, helped us and cheered us up. The summer of 1820 father raised and finished a large barn, 40x40, which was the first frame raised in Oakland county and which still stands upon the old homestead in a good state of preservation. I was one who drew the pine logs from a pinery, about one and a half miles from the old home, for the finishing and enclosing the barn. The plank

boards and shingles were sawed and made on the place. The Indians were kind and very friendly during our sickness, bringing us many luxuries in the shape of wild meat and berries of the choicest kind. We found them not bad neighbors. The winters of those days were not much like 1885; no snow of any consequence until March, and then we got barely enough to enable us to get up our year's stock of wood. I have driven team to break up our land through the months of January and February, as we would now in May and June. We used three and four yoke of good heavy oxen, to plow the oak openings, among what we called the "nigger-heads" (the heads of the oak scrubs that had been burned off). I recollect the first field of wheat of about six acres we had; when in the milk the yellow birds commenced coming. The first we saw delighted us, but they increased and destroyed every head of grain, and we never cut a straw. This we thought rather rough on the start.

Father kept a few goods and we boys traded considerably with the Indians, collecting a good many furs and skins, sugar, wax, etc., which we sold in Detroit, procuring in exchange many comforts we could not get from the new farm. Every spring while I remained at home I would take a load of furs, sugar, etc., to Detroit. I could not go direct, the roads being impassable; consequently I used to go by way of Mt. Clemens, taking two and three days, usually staying at Mt. Clemens overnight with Colonel Clemens, going from there out to the lake and then down the lake and river road (this was a little like pioneer life). Often I had to stop, when night overtook me, (very few taverns, if any), with farmers who had nothing to eat but baked potatoes and milk, but who afterward became fine farmers and leading men. The road direct from Pontiac to Detroit became, after some travel almost impassable, so wet and muddy to any depth.

Father purchased a corn mill, which was put up in a tree in the yard; the hopper would hold half a bushel or more. With two cranks we boys would grind out a bushel of corn when wanted, which gave us nice corn meal. The neighbors also came and ground their corn, and this proved a very great convenience to the neighborhood.

Deer and all wild game were very plenty. We boys became quite expert hunters. I hunted considerable, but for a long time could kill nothing, often having deer stand all around me, distant from three or four rods to ten, fifteen and twenty. I would take the nearest, aim and fire, but could not get one though I was an expert marksman — could hit the size of a quarter of a

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dollar twice out of three times at twenty rods. The trouble was, I was excited and in sighting a deer I would see the deer's body, and, of course, I would fire above the deer. My younger brothers had killed many, and they laughed at me, to my great annoyance. I started out one morning early and said to myself, Now, if I get a shot, I will be calm and take time and take good aim, as if shooting at a mark, I will have no more fooling. I had not got out of sight of the house before I saw a deer about twenty or thirty rods from me. I took deliberate aim, drew a fine sight, and my deer fell. Then to get him home. I thought I could carry him on my back, as I had often seen the Indians do. So I fixed him, got him on to a log, and then on to my back, and started, but did not go far before I backed up to a log and let him off. After a little I started again, but it was no go. I was in sight of the house for which I had started. Such a looking object as I was! I had daubed myself from head to foot with blood and deer hair. Oh, how I looked, but I marched bravely home, for I had killed a deer. The family were at breakfast as I went in. As soon as my father saw me, he and my brother shouted, "He's killed a deer!" Mother, good woman, smiled and said, "Why Ephraim, how you do look! Just look at your clothes." I said, "Never mind mother, I have killed a deer." I was then over the buck fever and could kill a deer every time I fired on one. Father took his horse and wagon and we went and brought him in. We never spent much time in hunting, for we could go out an hour or two, morning or evening, and kill a deer. Our lakes were almost black with ducks, spring and

fall. We could kill a mess in five minutes near our house. I recollect father and myself crawling beside a fence leading from the barn to the lake, and, upon his giving the word, we fired together into a flock of ducks near the shore and we got eleven large, fine, black-neck ducks. An Indian family by the name of Wa-me-gan lived on the high bank near the house, and were a fine, friendly family. Wa-me-gan started out one morning a-hunting, went in north a few miles, when it commenced snowing. He fell upon an old bear lying under a turned up tree. We supposed he found and wounded him, and the bear made fight. The old man defended himself, losing his knife and tomahawk in the fight. The bear struck him on the head, cutting gashes with each claw like a blow from a tomahawk, the thumb claw taking out one eye. We supposed this blow knocked him down, then the bear bit him through the legs and arms terribly, and left him for dead. The old man recovered, went a few steps, set his rifle beside a tree, sat down with his head on his hands and knees, and was found frozen dead. His sons found him, after one or two days' search. It had snowed several inches; his knife and tomahawk were never found. The sons followed the bear, but never found him. My brother and myself took the horses and sleigh, and, with his sons, brought him in. He was buried on the farm. This grave was always protected, and I presume it is to this day.

Editor's Note: Ephraim Williams' personal recollections will be continued in the February Issue of the Pioneer Record

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Laporte Couple in 65th Wedding Fete

One Hundred Relative, Friends Honor J.M. Chamberlains

Midland Republican, July 9, 1931 - Last Thursday evening marked the occasion of the 65th wedding anniversary of Dr. and Mrs. J.M. Chamberlain of Laporte, and in honor of the day, one hundred relatives and friends gathered for an informal evening on the lighted lawn at the Chamberlain Home. Long tables were attractively laid, centered by bowls of roses, and ice cream and cake were served to the company.

All of the six daughters and sons were present with their families — Mrs. P.R. Brophy of Midland, Mrs. William Etherington of Freeland, Allie, Amos and Daniel C. Chamberlain of Ingersoll, Ross of Saginaw, and in addition there were many, very old friends.

Dr. Chamberlain who is 84 years of age, was born in Saginaw County and moved to Laporte when a small boy. His wife, 81, was born in Lapeer County and came to Laporte when only two years of age. They were married there on July 2, 1866, and since have made their home in the village, just a few doors from the church, the schoolhouse and Thompson's store. "Doctor" was a veterinary and traveled to all parts of the county in the days when doctors of his kind had large practices here. Of late years he has been retired and devotes his time to his garden and lawn and to nearby friends. Mrs. Chamberlain cares for their small home with almost no outside help, according to her daughter, and both are said to be in excellent health.

(A photograph of the couple accompanied the story.)

Announcing the Genealogical Death Indexing System (GENDIS) for the Internet

The department of Community Health is pleased to announce that information on Michigan deaths before the turn of the century are now available on the Internet. This rich resource for historical information provides a complete recording of all of the facts from the death ledgers, which includes the name of the decedent, the date, place, and cause of death, information on the decedent's occupation, parent's names and the places of birth for the decedent and for each parent. This comprehensive data file, which will be maintained by the Division for Vital Records and Health Statistics, is housed in a computerized indexing system that allows genealogists and others to use key facts, such as the decedent's name or year of death, to locate and view the records they are searching for.

This new service is possible thanks to the efforts of volunteer genealogists from across the state and with the support of the Michigan Genealogical Council and the Abrams Foundation. The file is being made available and has been developed through a project to automate Michigan's earliest recordings of deaths. This project which began in 1987, has been conducted under careful coordination of Margaret Tager Walker, a genealogist and general coordinator of the project for the Michigan Genealogical Council. Copies of these early

death records are prepared and distributed to volunteer genealogists across the state to be carefully deciphered and transcribed. These transcriptions are then captured electronically and inserted into the data file used by the GENDIS indexing system.

This new system currently contains information on 81,540 Michigan deaths which occurred and were recorded during the years 1867 through 1874 and into 1875. When completed, the database will contain 481,000 death records to the years 1867 through 1897.

This automated system is greatly superior to the traditional method of searching for a specific death recording. It allows direct access, for the first time, to the entire statewide file of deaths for these years. Until now only indexes consisting of name listings or unsorted microfilms were available to researchers on a statewide basis. The indexing features of this new system allows genealogists and other historians to quickly hone in on those records that match their search criteria. GENDIS also has the capability to search on a range of years or varied spellings of names, which is important for genealogical work.

The website for GENDIS is located at:
<http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/gendis/index.htm>

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Epitaphs from Real Tombstones

On the grave of Ezekial Aikle in East Dalhousie Cemetery, Nova Scotia:

Here lies
 Ezekial Aikle
 Age 102
 The Good
 Die Young.

In a London, England cemetery:

Ann Mann
 Here lies Ann Mann,
 Who lived an old maid
 But died an old Mann.
 Dec. 8, 1767

In a Ribbesford, England, cemetery:

Anna Wallace
 The children of Israel wanted bread
 And the Lord sent them manna,
 Old clerk Wallace wanted a wife,
 And the Devil sent him Anna.

Playing with names in a Ruidoso, New Mexico, cemetery:

Here lies
 Johnny Yeast
 Pardon me
 For not rising.

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GENEALOGICAL ONE-LINERS — From "The Downriver Seeker," Aug. 1998.

A family tree can wither if nobody tends its roots.
 Many family trees were started by grafting.

THE PRESIDENT'S PLATTER

By Bill Kocher

DEFINITION:

Platter: 1) dish for serving food; 2) phonograph record; 3) [slang] agenda; 4) [jargon, rare] computer hard disk memory

PERSONAL

Three weeks ago today I received e-mail which started "Bill, I think we have another connection". Exciting? Sure. You all know the feeling, I hope. Anyway, as a result I have found another cousin (second half-cousin once removed), a ton of family information, and all of this information is related to my great-grandmother for whom we had the first name (garbled), maiden name (misspelled), birth and death dates, and a photo. This new information starts with her grandparents and includes many of my living cousins, a total of more than 1100 individuals. Boggling! The database is complemented by my father's remembrance of a couple of great-grandmother's siblings and by letters (1943 vintage) from my new cousin's family that refer to several people who are in my Kocher lineage.

All having to do with one individual. Well, not quite: two of gg-mother's cousins married into the Kocher clan (this was in the hills of eastern Pennsylvania and the folks seldom traveled far to find spouses) and I notice some Keelers too, who also married into the Kocher bunch . . . This could be complicated. To say

nothing of those fringes where there is more or less uncertainty and disagreement. Me? Related to Samuel F. B. Morse? To Lizzie Borden? Aren't we all?

I don't know how some of you folks keep up with the family structures. Over the years I have studied quantum mechanics, the theory of molecular orbitals, have read of modern chaos theory, the Big Bang theory, string theory, the Theory Of Everything, and the structure of string quartets (having nothing to do with string theory) - for most of which I have extremely little understanding - and the study of family relationships promises to need at least as much concentration and visualization ability as any of these. The computer offers little help - I have to have a piece of paper with marks on it. Family Tree Maker estimates that gg-mother's family data alone would require twenty-four feet of paper. I have a 16-foot wall available in the basement rec room if I ever get around to printing it out, but even with trifocals I can't comprehend such a sweep in just a glance. I have to concentrate on parts.

I love it. I can indulge in data collection (which all by itself can be a real passion), deductive reasoning, travel to exotic places (well, maybe the Kocher Cemetery isn't very exotic to you but I found it interesting), find myself as part of a lineage (this is psychologically satisfying), and meet interesting people through the mail and the Internet. So that's part of what is on my personal platter. Great fun.

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QUERY

STEVENS - Searching for parents of Charles and Polly Stevens. Charles, b. Dec 25, 1883, d. Sep. 15, 1952 Pinconning, MI. Polly, b. Mar 8, 1862 Tisge/Tioga(?) Co., PA, d. Pinconning, MI. Polly married (2nd) Mr. Mapes. Children of Charles & Polly were Harry & Arthur of Pinconning, Delbert of Bay City & Ella Dixon of Pinconning. Their son Harry married Harriette LaPan. JUNE ASKEW, 807 Bradfield, Bay City, MI 48706. (517) 864-0976.

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Midland Stage Line

East Saginaw Weekly Enterprise of December 29, 1864: The Midland Stage line lately started by A. W. Gates & Co., is, we learn, doing a good business - the travel being quite as much or more than the proprietors expected, and frequently requiring an extra coach. The line is supplied with good teams and covered coaches running three times a week, ordinarily, and daily when the roads are good.

MGS 1998 - 1999 Membership List

LAST	FIRST	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE
ALSIP	James B.	1710 W. ST. ANDREWS	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-7151
ANDRICK	Floyd	4928 ARTCREST	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-1274
ANGER	Marge	960 NOYES	MIDLAND	MI	48640	839-9545
APPLEGATH	Anne & Doug	4010 WOODLAWN	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-6074
BAKER	Shirley	1100 AIRFIELD LN	MIDLAND	MI	48642	835-2818
BAKER	Lois	3273 PATTERSON	FREELAND	MI	48623	631-9549
BARTLEY	Terri	39954 LYNN	CANTON	MI		
BEBEAU	Marie	821 BADOUR RD	MIDLAND	MI		
BENNETT	Walter & Colleen	4608 W. WACKERLY ST.	MIDLAND	MI		
BLMYER	Elva	515 E. ASHMAN	MIDLAND	MI	48642	835-1368
BOHL	Kathy & Roger	5003 BARTO ST.	MIDLAND	MI	48640	839-9016
BOOTHMAN	Rose	505 N STATE	PIONEER	OH		
BRANDLE	Marcia	3615 LAWNDALD DR	MIDLAND	MI	48642	832-9430
BRAUSCH	Joan	106 COVENTRY CT	MIDLAND	MI	48642	631-6684
BREDEWEG	Kay	5709 LEEWAY DR.	MIDLAND	MI		
BRINES	Joanne	4300 CASTLE DR	MIDLAND	MI	48640	832-8312
CARR	Betty J.	13318 Dixie Hwy., Lot 127	HOLLY	MI	48442	
CASADONTE	Ruth Ann	5104 NURMI DR	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-5115
COCHRAN	Gordon	1141 E. SANFORD RD.	MIDLAND	MI		
COLLINS	Dan & Mary	606 LINWOOD DR.	MIDLAND	MI		
CRANE	Roland & Colleen	2828 SCARBOROUGH CT.	MIDLAND	MI		
CRONKRIGHT	Phyllis	1407 E. SUGNET RD	MIDLAND	MI	48642	
DICKERT	Jack	611 CHATHAM DR.	MIDLAND	MI	48642	832-8768
DIESEN	Wilma	5802 FLAXMOOR	MIDLAND	MI	48640	832-8485
DOBSON	Orv	5403 CAMPAU	MIDLAND	MI	48640	
DUCOMMUN	Gilbert L.	2952 E. BOMBAY RD.	MIDLAND	MI	48640	
EBACH	Earl & Faye	4610 ANDRE ST.	MIDLAND	MI		
ERRATT	Jan	2152 LYNN DR	SANFORD	MI	48657	687-2932
FIKE	Mary Ellen	1895 MACK RD	SAGINAW	MI	48601	
FLANINGAM	Ora	3227 E. STEWART RD.	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-3227
FOSGITT	Iris	1907 EASTLAWN APT F7	MIDLAND	MI	48642	832-8462
FOX	Barbara	5200 HEDGEWOOD	MIDLAND	MI	48640	839-9349
FRICK	Mary K.	1844 MATY RD.	FERNDALD	WA		
FRY	David L.	3210 BOSTON	MIDLAND	MI	48642	631-9329
GEISERT	Bruce A.	3706 APPLEWOOD RD	MIDLAND	MI	48640	
GOODWIN	Rick	4714 WATER RD.	SANFORD	MI		
HAMLIN	Marjorie	2205 E. COLLEGE AVE.	VISALIA	CA	93292	
HAYES	Mary Lou	PO BOX 312	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-1220
HILLMAN	Ralph	600 LAKESIDE CIRCLE	MIDLAND	MI	48642	839-9070
HODGES	Rebecca & Robert	3211 RIGGIE	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-5582
HOLSBEKE	Barbara & Fred	2172 LYNN ST	SANFORD	MI	48657	687-7058
HOOVER	Thomas L.	2 WHIPPOORWILL LN.	PALMYRA	VA		
HOUGHTALING	Tom	126 TOWNSEND	MIDLAND	MI		
HUND	Sharon L.	3906 MOUND PASS	FT. WAYNE	IN	48609	219/478-6723
HUNTINGTON	Sherrie	1529 AUSTIN	LINCOLN PARK	MI	48146	313/382-3229
HURLEY	Nancy & Mike	118 VARNER CT.	MIDLAND	MI		
JOHNSON	Kyle	4542 ELKINS DR.	CENTERVILLE	TN	37033	729-9953
KEICHER	Beverly	4107 SWEDE	MIDLAND	MI	48642	
KENNEDY	Marjorie & Robert	2515 E. SUGNET	MIDLAND	MI	48642	832-3593
KOCHER	Bill	907 DEERFIELD	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-4015
KOCIBA	Dorothy	4412 ELEVEN MILE RD.	AUBURN	MI		
KREGER	Joan	5870 S. GARFIELD	AUBURN	MI		
KREMER, JR.	Albert E.	4603 CRUZ DR.	MIDLAND	MI		
LACKIE	Nancy	585 PATTERSON	SANFORD	MI	48657	687-5327
LEBEAU	Linda	1339 E. ISABELLA RD.	MIDLAND	MI		
LEE	Helen	2410 RODD	MIDLAND	MI	48640	
LEIGEB	Vicki	5107 PLAINFIELD ST.	MIDLAND	MI		
LENZ	Mary Grace	4512 N. SAGINAW RD # 321	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-4393
LEVY	Sheldon & Mary	5507 WHITEHALL ST.	MIDLAND	MI	48642	631-1229
LUND	Alice	4683 MONROE RD	MIDLAND	MI	48642	835-9586
MACDONALD	Brett	469 STEPHORA	COVINA	CA	91724	818/339-0871
MARTIN	Clifford	4815 SWINSON NEUMAN	RHODES	MI	48652	879-5454
MASS	Robert	5205 VAN BUREN ST	MIDLAND	MI		

MGS 1998 - 1999 Membership List						
LAST	FIRST	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE
MCCRARY	Marcia	1679 LEFORGE	YPSILANTI	MI		
MC CULLEN	Maxine & Gerald	1755 SMITH CROSSING	MIDLAND	MI	48640	832-8749
MEAD	Keith & Betty	117 JONES CT.	MIDLAND	MI		
MILLER	Harriette	4610 JEFFERSON AVE	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-4866
MILLER	Karen	17179 STANTON ST	WEST OLIVE	MI	49460	
MILLER	Richard L.	615 RIVERVIEW DR.	ANN ARBOR	MI	48104	
NOLD	Helen	307 CHERRY VIEW DR.	MIDLAND	MI		
PARSONS	Virginia	3721 ISABELLA	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-5248
PEMBERTON	Paul J.	P.O. BOX 1 125 3RD ST	BEAVERTON	MI	48612	517/435-7786
PETERS	Karl & Esther	3430 M 18	COLEMAN	MI		
RENWICK	Shirley	2154 E. PRICE RD.	MIDLAND	MI		
ROCKWELL	Lorlie Maison	1199 S. VAN NESS	SAN FRAN- CISCO	CA		
RUPPRECHT	Walter & Joanne	1201 AIRFIELD LN.	MIDLAND	MI		
RUSSELL	David & Shirley	4415 JAMES DR.	MIDLAND	MI	48642	631-0885
SCHWEITZER	Shirley & Ken	516 CRESCENT DR	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-1219
SHIER	Quita V.	3322 HUBBARD RD	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-3278
SHRIER	Kenneth & Jayne	722 SHOREFRONT CIRCLE	MIDLAND	MI		
SIEGMUND	Karl	405 MORNINGSIDE	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-2051
SKELTON	Eugene	P.O. BOX 21 M-123	PARADISE	MI	49768	
SKOCHDOPOLE	Richard E.	2525 LAMBROS DR.	MIDLAND	MI		
SNIDER	Bob & Glenna	318 MAYFIELD LN.	MIDLAND	MI		
SNYDER	Ronald	3 ROBIN	MIDLAND	MI	48640	632-0765
SNYDER, SR.	George	2605 MANOR DR.	MIDLAND	MI		
SOMERVILLE	Joan	3217 W. WACKERLY	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-6654
SUNDQUIST	Sharon	2408 LONGFELLOW LN	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-3972
TOMLINSON	Donald	26 DONSASTER DR.	MIDLAND	MI		
TOMLINSON	Ruth	1111 CHIPPEWA	MIDLAND	MI		
VINCENT	Bird	2775 SMITH'S CROSSING	FREELAND	MI	48623	695-5290
WARD	Gilbert	1007 BALFOUR	MIDLAND	MI		
WEYENBERG	Barb & Don	4601 ARBOR DR	MIDLAND	MI	48640	835-9976
WILSON	Debby	4408 W WACKERLY ST	MIDLAND	MI	48640	631-1494
WINTERBOTTOM	Juanita	1210 DILLOWAY DR.	MIDLAND	MI		
WISE	Florence	4013 LOWELL CT.	MIDLAND	MI		
WORDEN	Bill & Pat	1201 GLENDALE ST.	MIDLAND	MI	48642	631-7801

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McDANIELS-MAXWELL
Midland Republican, April 3, 1914

Hope, March 31.

Saturday evening at the home of William Maxwell, Jr., brother of the groom, a pretty wedding ceremony was solemnized., the contracting parties being Robert Maxwell, Jr. of Hope and Miss Freda Mc-Daniels of Billings, Rev. Wade, pastor of the M. E. church, saying the words which united the happy couple.

The bride is a highly respected young lady of Billings and has lived for the past few month with W. W. Williams, while the groom is a highly respected and prosperous young farmer here. Both have many friends who join in wishing them a happy and prosperous life.

They will begin housekeeping at once at the former John Lively residence and will be at home to their many friends there.

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President's Letter

COMPUTERS/INTERNET

Kathy Bohl and Shirley Renwick are our representatives to the Michigan Genealogical Council (MGC). They'll be attending a meeting next Thursday, where they will take part in the general program and in committee activities. At the September meeting the program presenter was Fred Bonjour, coordinator of the Michigan GenWeb. You've been hearing about GenWeb from our present Program Chair Joan Brausch, who is the Midland County GenWeb person, through our computer/Internet sessions. The MGC is interested in the Internet applications to genealogical studies, and Kathy and Shirley will be our conduit - both directions - to these activities. I believe that our MGS has a head start on computer/Internet activities because of the programs we have already had, and I believe that we can contribute to the deliberations of the MGC. We have already started discussions within your Board of Directors about the place of computer/Internet activities within this group, and we will be looking at the possibility of publishing some indexes or data on the Internet.

At the last MGS meeting we passed around a sign-up sheet to find out just who would be interested in taking part in a separate computer/Internet group, which might meet as needed or regularly, whatever folks want, and surprise, surprise!!! a great majority of the folks at that meeting signed up. We have a couple of members, Doug Applegath and Ron Snyder, who as part of their duties as Program Chairs last year did some fine work getting surveys of members for programming purposes - this has been very useful this year for the Program Chair, so thanks both to Doug and Ron and to you who responded to the surveys. I have asked Doug and Ron to get in touch with all of the people who are interested in computer/Internet applications to, first, get e-mail addresses so we can address surveys to them, and second, to get information about just what it is that these people want. We expect eventually to have some sort of structured program, separate from the MGS regular program, which can meet the needs of interested persons.

Please note that we do not expect to have the computer tail wag the genealogical dog. The MGS will continue with the stated purpose (by-laws, 1990) of serving "as a focal point for genealogical activities in the

Midland County area." That covers a lot of territory, of which the computer/Internet topics are a small part. There are many exciting activities ahead for MGS members.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The MGS members have a long and extensive record of volunteerism; our volunteers are vigorous and active. Besides the Library volunteers who provide a helpful presence in the Michigan Room five afternoons a week, we have folks working on Michigan Death Records for the MGC, a marriage project, an obituary index book project, a church records project, the Midland Pioneers Book, First Families name index, microfilming, workshops for beginners, book bash, and outreach into schools - that I know about - and then there are group trips, including the major expedition to Salt Lake City next April. I don't know how active each of these projects is but I intend to find out and I'll report to the MGS through the newsletter and notes at the meetings. The Board needs to know about these activities when major MGS resources may be required to do the best possible job - i.e., money and volunteers. If you are working on some of these now, I'll be getting in touch with you. If you want to work on any of these (many signed up last year) I'll be happy to guide you to the appropriate folks.

PRIVACY

I'd like to have some feedback from you about your feelings of the ethics of distributing genealogical information (birth dates, addresses, relationships, and so on), particularly about living persons, both within and outside your family. I've done some pondering about my own databases and I have received some which might possibly be a bit too intrusive on the privacy of living persons. I know what to do with incoming data - I delete it. My new cousin told me that she included only dead persons - but she did point out her father, so within the family at least I know a bit about her. My experience is that it is altogether too easy to get carried away with generating a database which might be distributed. How do you maintain your family records? Thanks.

Bill Kocher

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MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY WEB SITE ADDRESS: <http://members.mdn.net/billword/mgs.htm>

MICHIGAN GEN WEB SITE ADDRESS: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mimidlan/Midgnweb.htm>

Genealogical Death Indexing System (GENDIS): <http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/gendis/index.htm>



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 1878-82.

1) Discharge of mortgage recorded in Liber H of Mortgages pages 537-8 dated 27th Feb 1879 from Daniel Ryan to Michael Ryan and Mary Ryan discharged 26th Apr 1882.

2) Discharge of mortgage recorded in Liber E of Mortgages page 490 dated 17th May 1878 from Leeman Barnes of Macomb Co. to Hiram P. Parker & wife discharged 3rd Nov. 1882.

3) Warrantee deed from Lorinda M. Hubbell of Warren Twp., Midland Co. to Wilbur Z. Rickard of Akron Twp., Tuscola Co. \$600 for SW 1/4 SE 1/4 and the W 1/2 of NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 Sec 29 T16N R2W, also a three cornered piece of land on the SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 lying S of railway in same sec. being 65 acres, more or less. Dated 11th Sep. 1876. Recorded 23rd May 1882.

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:

November 18, 1998:

Don Comtois of the Saginaw River Historical Society will speak on, "Importance of Preserving Saginaw River History."

January 20, 1999:

Richard Struthers of Ware Smith Funeral Home will speak on, "Use of Funeral Records in Genealogical Research."

February through May, 1998 topics have yet to be finalized, but are expected to include: "Women's Maiden Names," "Internet for Genealogical Research," and "Genealogical case Histories."

Epitaph

Someone in Winslow, Maine didn't like Mr. Wood:

In Memory of Beza Wood
 Departed this life
 Nov. 2, 1837
 Aged 45 yrs.
 Here lies one Wood
 Enclosed in wood,
 One Wood
 Within another.
 The outer wood
 Is very good:
 We cannot praise
 The other.

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

To ORDER A BOOK write:

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



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.