

PIONEER RECORD

MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume II, No. 1

April 1981

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello again! Looking back on February...a big THANK YOU to members Jan Erratt, Nancy Lackie, Norbert Bufka, Wilma Diesen, Esme Gehoski, Dick Skochdopole, Karen McKellar and Les Berry for sharing their ancestors with us. 'Twas such fun...we may have to make this program an annual affair!

March 17th brought forty-six attentive listeners to the Latter Day Saints' Stake Library at the corner of Eastman and Sugnet to hear Bea Hodson tell of the resources available there and through the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City. The traffic has increased at the stake library since that informative evening. Thanks again, Bea, to you and your marvelous staff!

National Library Week is always a fun time at Grace A. Dow Memorial Library. This year, Tuesday, April 7th from 1 - 4 and 7 - 9, we can help others become familiar with the basics of genealogical research. For our novice members, please take advantage of Joan Somerville's talk at 1 p.m. and view the excellent filmstrip from the Michigan State Library on "Finding Your Ancestors". If you are available during these hours, please come to the library lounge and offer your services on a one-to-one basis. Remember...those who care, share! For further information, call Ruth Ann Casadonte at 835-5115.

April 15th, our next regularly scheduled meeting, will be at 7 p.m. in the library lounge. After the business meeting, our very own knowledgeable and articulate Ralph Hillman will speak on "Demography and Genealogy".

May 20th will be the election of officers, voting on the revision of our by-laws, a "help" night for those wondering which way to turn next, and we'll discuss where and when to have our June potluck!

Pending approval of the revised by-laws, dues for 1981-82 will be \$7 for a single membership and \$3.50 for each additional family member. Dues are payable at the annual meeting in May. All paid members will receive the newsletter (one per family).

See you in April!



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REMEMBER the seminar in Frankenmuth on Saturday, April 25 regarding German Research - (\$18 before April 20).

WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
I'VE BEEN TO BATTLE CREEK, MI.

The Willard Library at Battle Creek has a remarkable historical collection which I stumbled upon several years ago. My grandfather had been brought to Battle Creek as a babe in arms and had his early schooling there before his father WARREN COOLEY took his family to Wisconsin in 1849.

When I arrived at the library, I was directed to a crowded little historical room filled with ancient volumes, commercial directories and other records, including maps...all kinds of published works on Calhoun County. In addition, they had a long wooden cabinet with many drawers filled with clippings and notes, filed under surnames. There seemed to be no way of telling which individuals belonged to a specific family, but I went to work sleuthing and soon came up with a lot of exciting material.

One of the very first settlers of Battle Creek, HENRY THIERS, was married to Warren Cooley's sister CHARLOTTE. The Thiers family grew up in Battle Creek, so my main interest that day was in finding out more about them.

The surname which I was then researching was COOLEY. Other names which I found in Battle Creek, all related to my family, were THIERS, MOTT, ADAMS, GEDDES, TILLO, STALEY, STONE, RANSOM, MEAD, HOAG, and ORBECK.

Henry Thiers died in 1850 and in 1852, Aunt Charlotte married ISAAC MASON. Their home became a station on the underground railroad. I found an obituary for Aunt Charlotte and one for her daughter ELLEN, whose letters to my grandfather during the Civil War have been preserved in our family. Ellen Thiers was a nurse in an Army hospital in Paducah, Ky. during the war. My grandfather must have teased her about not marrying, because she wrote him that "with such a large family of girls of us" she didn't think her chances were very great... and besides, she was satisfied as she was, thank you. Her obituary was full of respect for her good works and indicated that she had continued as a nurse caring for sick people in their homes until shortly before her death in 1890.

As I left for home that afternoon, I knew I had found enough to tell a connected story of Aunt Charlotte's entire family of eight children. Jane Ratner, local historian of the library, indicated an interest in seeing what I could put together, so I wrote a paper for the library and received this heartwarming letter in November 1976:

"Thank you so much for the product of your work on the Thiers family. The kind of original research which the document represents is the most valuable kind of contribution which we can receive to our local history collection and will be of great value to future historians."

This letter was certainly a prized reward, in addition to all I had unearthed for my own family's history.

...Esther A. Savage
(Edited by
Bari Birkhimer)

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NEW MEMBERS

- No.
 116 - COTTER, Pauline, 1410 E. Maple St., Mt. Pleasant, Mi., 48858,
 1(517)-773-5041
 142 - PAVER, Jane, 2614 Abbott Rd., Midland, Mi. 48640, 631-0268,
 (636-2770, work)

NEWSLETTER EXCHANGES

Our Society also exchanges newsletters with the following genealogical societies:

- 1) Brazosport Genealogical Society, Lake Jackson, Tx.
- 2) Genealogical Society of Vermont

NEW HOURS

The Detroit Public Library, Burton Collection, 5201 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Mi. 48202, (Ph. 1-(313)-833-1480) has new hours:

Tues., Thurs., Fri., Sat. - 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 Wed. - 1 - 9 p.m.
 Closed Mondays

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Continued from Volume I, Nos. 3 & 4 - in conclusion
Stories of Men Who Travelled Through Midland Before 1835:

"John Sias, another great lumberman, came from Maine to Michigan in 1858 and at once went into the lumbering business. In company with his brother, Sam Sias, he bought extensive tracts of pine lands. In the spring of 1860 he brought his family and they went to live in a house on what is now the Poor Farm. They lived there until Fall, then came to Midland City, living in a house where the Baker residence now is. Mr. Sias owned a large stock farm. Mrs. Ed Lee was his daughter. Sam and John Sias were interesting characters. One time they went to the Bancroft for a meal. Sam Sias had on a coat while John was in his shirtsleeves. When they came to the dining room door the girl at the door told them no one could go in without a coat on. Sam went in with the coat, and when he got into the room he took off the coat and threw it out the door to his brother John, saying 'Come on in, John'.

"About the year 1860 William Cressey, a little Englishman, came and started a grocery store on the corner where the Farr Grocery now is. This store was called the Blue Goose, and it is said that Mr. Cressey always kept a barrell of whiskey in the back room in case of an emergency. In 1863, he built a store where the Wethy Block now is, and moved the Blue Goose there. The Cresseys lived upstairs over the Blue Goose. My mother and Mrs. Cressey were great friends, and one time my mother came to visit Mrs. Cressey. At that time the Larkin drygoods store stood where the Midland County Savings Bank now is, and my mother was looking out of the window one morning, when a dapper looking young man crossed the street. My mother called Mrs. Cressey and asked who that fine looking young man was. Mrs. Cressey said that was Will Balland that is how I am writing this paper.

"George Ball and family moved to Midland in April 1861, from Saginaw. They came up the river on a boat, the Belle Seymour, leaving Saginaw

at 7:00 in the morning, reaching here at 12:00 at night. The first night they stayed at the hotel of Sam Sias and the house was so crowded that my father and uncles had to sleep on the floor. The next day they rented a little house on the river bank opposite where the Malcolm residence now is. In the summer of 1861 they built a hotel on the corner now occupied by Austin's drug store. Mr. Ball kept the hotel which was called the Midland City House, for six years, then bought the Ball farm buying a part of it from Charles Fitzhugh, Colonel Little and the rest the old Mission farm with the Mission buildings still standing.

"At the time of my grandfather's coming here, there were no churches and the schoolhouse stood where the Unitarian church now is. William Cordley, brother-in-law of the later Mrs. Charles Brown, was teacher. There were about 150 inhabitants. Main Street was the only Thoroughfare. There were sand and stumps everywhere. On the north side of the Tittabawassee River and down were the settlements of Sim Kent, Buttles, Arrance, Hubbards, Majors, Higgins, Whitman and Ellsworth. On the south side of the river were the Cranes, Wilcox and Odell settlements. On the Chippewa river were the Cronkrights, Wymans, Pattersons, Rathborns, Bartons, and Kelleys. Above Sturgeon Creek on the north side of the Tittabawassee, a family by the name of Cunningham, and on the south side of the Tittabawassee were the settlements of Wells and Martin. Above the mouth of the Salt river were the Holmes, Allswede and Babcock settlements. There were two or three families up in what is now Hope. Riley Marsh lived where the old Marsh house still stands on Main Street, and his brother, Alvin Marsh, had a house on the corner where the Oil Station now stands. Riley Marsh was a character. When I was a child I always associated him in my mind with Santa Claus. He wore his hair long and his face was covered with whiskers; he had little merry brown eyes peeping out from his gray hair. He always had a bright smile and a jolly word for the children. He took his cows to pasture in the morning, getting home about dinner time. Then he had to go after them in the afternoon and it was nothing remarkable to hear him bringing them home about ten o'clock at night. He never was in a hurry. In the early days he and his brother Alvin were trappers, making a good living.

"Maggie Cunningham came with Mr. Ball's family, working in the family five or six years. Then she went into the boarding house business, which she kept up nearly as long as she lived. Her boarding house was located where the Sjolander Block is."

(This book can be located in the Genealogical section at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library for further stories by Mrs. H. H. Dow.)

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"Both in England and America, an unmarried woman of certain social position was called 'Mrs.'"
(Volume II, Chamberlain's History of Chelsea, Mass., shared by Diana Butcher)

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"The scenes of childhood are the memories of future years.", Choules.

A FORMULA TO DETERMINE A DATE OF BIRTH FROM A TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTION

Let us say you have found the tombstone of an ancestor, and on that stone you find the date of his death and his age at death. You want to determine the date of his birth. He died 16 April 1904.

	1904 (year)	4 (months)	16 (days)	
He was age	<u>61 (years)</u>	<u>1 (month)</u>	<u>10 (days)</u>	
	1843 (year)	3 (months)	6 (days)	= 6 March 1843

But, too often it is more complicated than that. He died 16 April 1904.

	1904 (year)	4 (months)	16 (days)
His age was	83 (years)	8 (months)	21 (days)

What you do is borrow 30 days from April for a total of 46 days... and borrow 12 months from 1904 for a total of 15 months, having already borrowed a month. So you get...

	(3)	(3)	
	1904 (year)	4 (months)	16 (days)
		<u>+12 (months)</u>	<u>+30 (days)</u>
age	1903 (year)	-15 (months)	-46 (days)
	<u>83 (years)</u>	<u>8 (months)</u>	<u>21 (days)</u>
	1820 (year)	7 (months)	25 (days)...or born 25 July 1820

To check this, say he was born 25 July 1820, and lived to the age of 83 years, 8 months and 21 days. Put everything back that you have borrowed.

	1820 (year)	7 (months)	25 (days)
	<u>83 (years)</u>	<u>8 (months)</u>	<u>21 (days)</u>
	1903 (year)	15 (months)	46 (days)
	<u>+12 (months)</u>	<u>+1 (month)</u>	<u>-30 (days)</u>
	1904 (year)	16 (months)	16 (days)
		<u>12 (months)</u>	
		4 (months)	

(From The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine, Volume XXXI, No. 4, 1980, pg. 290, by Dorothee Hughes Carouso)

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"Midland was called by the Indians Ne-Sau-wau-ko-sing, meaning the forks of the river."

"Midland County: This county has a population of 5,306 and but one paper, The Independent, printed at Midland and Republican in politics."

"The first paper printed in the county was called The Midland Sentinel. It was established by Nathan T. Carr in April, 1858. The name was afterward changed to The Midland Independent, and it passed through several hands until it reached those of the present proprietor, Frank S. Burton."

(Tom S. Applegate, Compiler, Adrian, (Mich.) May 1, 1876, Mich. Hist. Collections, Mich. Pioneer & Hist. Soc., Vol.6, pg. 88 and Vol 7, pg. 277)

MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

The Midland Genealogical Society meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Grace A. Do Memorial Library Lounge unless otherwise announce

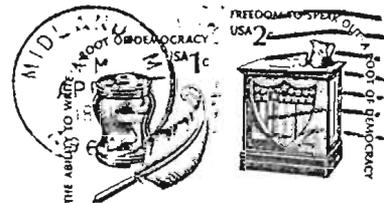
Dues are \$5.00/year or \$8.00/family. Members will receive the Midland Genealogical Society's newsletter, PIONEER RECORD, at no additional cost. Non-members may subscribe to the newsletter at a cost of \$3.50/year or \$1.00/copy. The newsletter will be printed quarterly September, November, February and April.

Membership Application

Midland Genealogical Society
1201 Glendale
Midland, Mi. 48640

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Amount Paid: _____ \$5.00 _____ \$8.00

Midland Genealogical Society
1201 Glendale
Midland, Mi. 48640



MARILYN WATKINS
3716 Blarney Dr.
Midland, Mi. 48640