

PIONEER RECORD



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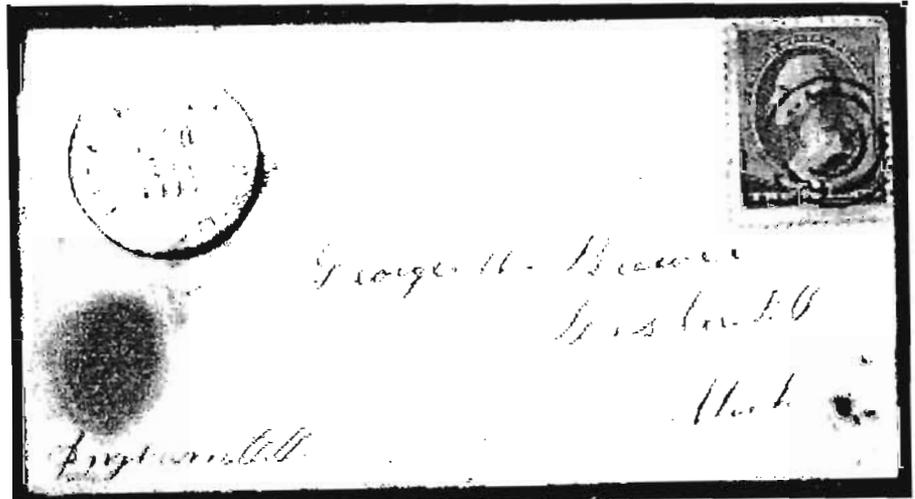
1886 Love Letter - Does Mary Marry George?

by Earl A. Ebach

One of my hobbies is the collection of "postal history" of **Midland County**. Most of my collection consists of envelopes or post cards with **cancel**s from the many **early post offices** now considered as "Ghost Towns". Sometimes the old envelopes contain letters which are quite interesting and reveal information about life in early Midland.

In my collection I have an envelope canceled from **Pleasant Valley, Mich.** dated **Aug. 10, 1886**. It is addressed to "**George W. Brewer; Leslie P.O.; Mich.**" with a sub-notation "**Ingham Cnty**". The cover is pictured on the right.

Pleasant Valley is in **Jasper Township** in the southwest corner of **Midland County**. **Edgar M. Smith** became the **first Postmaster** of this rural community on **6 March 1876**; the Post Office operated only 24 years until **15 October 1910**. It is now a "Ghost Town" consisting of the intersection of **Coleman and Kent Roads** with only a few houses and a Methodist Church nearby.



(continued on page 5)

MGS Meeting – April 18, 2001

The fourth **Midland Genealogical Society** meeting of the year 2001 (and seventh meeting of the fiscal year) will be held **Wednesday, April 18**, in the **lounge** of the **Grace A. Dow Memorial Library** starting at **7:00 pm**.

The **program** will be a **presentation** by **Lee Watrous**, a member of the **Saginaw Genealogical Society** (organizer), and former **editor** of the "**Timbertown Log**". **Mr. Watrous's topic** will be "**Why I chose FAMILY TREE MAKER**".

The business of the society (notices, reports, etc.) will be conducted prior to the program. Refreshments and conversation will follow the program.

IN THIS ISSUE

1886 Love Letter - Does Mary Marry George?	1, 5 & 6
April 18 MGS Meeting	1
This Is The Place (SLC Trip)	2
MGS Membership Report --- Bill Kocher	2
MGS Treasurer's Report --- Jeri Shangle.	2
President's Letter --- Bob Mass	3
March 21 MGS Meeting - BYLAWS	3
Nominations for MGS Officers	7
MGC Delegates Report - Kathy Bohl & Bev Keicher ..	7
Postal History of Midland County	8, 9, 10 & 11
Omellts Anyone? -- Jo Brines	12
Periodical Resources in the Library -- Jo Brines ..	12
Programs & Seminars	13
Books for Sale.	13
MGS Officers & Information	14

"THIS IS THE PLACE"

About one hundred and fifty years ago a small group of courageous people came through a mountain pass and saw a beautiful valley surrounded by striking mountains. Their leader proclaimed "**This is the place**" we've been searching for. So began the beautiful city, near the great Salt Lake, known as **Salt Lake City (SLC)**. Now travelers from all over the world come to SLC to study, research and hopefully discover a bit of family history at the **LDS Family History Center**.

Jo Brines, an active member of the **MGS**, has made arrangements for a **2001 trip to SLC** for members of the Society and their friends. This will be a wonderful opportunity to use the Soundex, explore passenger lists, look at census data, and share the camaraderie of fellow genealogists in the never ending search for more and more family history data.

The trip is scheduled from **Tuesday October 16 to Wednesday October 24**. Arrangements have been made to stay at the **Best Western** at a cost of \$89 /room /night. This price includes tax. The group will fly from MBS to SLC on 10/16/01 and return on 10/24/01.

A number of members have already indicated they plan to participate. If you are interested and have yet to sign up, please contact **Jo Brines** at **832-8312**. According to those members who have gone to SLC on previous trips, they have "LOTS AND LOTS" of fun along with a wonderful way to spend a week away from Midland. According to Jo, "Imagine how many hours you can spend on your favorite hobby and how many hundreds of microfilm rolls and books can be at your fingertips!"

Please check your calendars and **make arrangements** with **Jo Brines** for this outstanding opportunity to visit the **LDS Family History Center in Salt Lake City**.

MGS MEMBERSHIP REPORT by MGS Membership Chair Bill Kocher

The **MGS membership** as of April 13, 2001, remains at **141**. We have 1 complimentary membership and 117 paid memberships (includes 24 family memberships).

No new members have joined the **MGS** since the last issue of the "**Pioneer Record**".

TREASURER REPORT by MGS Treasurer Jeri Shangle

Income for the MGS fiscal year to date (14 March 2001) is **\$2174.81**, made up primarily of dues (\$1175), interest (\$150), research (\$278), First Family (\$65) and book sales (\$508), versus a budgeted (2000-2001) total of \$1920. **Expenses** to date, primarily meeting rental space (\$200), "Pioneer Record" (\$540), printing of Obituary book (\$924), memorials (\$25), MGC mileage (\$29), misc. operating expenses (\$33) and research expenses (\$36) are **\$1787.01** versus a budgeted total of \$2235. Large expenditures still expected are: Program (\$300), Library Books (\$600) and "Pioneer Record" (\$200).

As of **14 March 2001** the account balances are: Operating Checking: **\$944.41**; Money Market: **\$3562.43**; and CD: **\$2500.00**. Thus **total assets** are **\$7006.84**.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

This is our **eighth** issue of the "**Pioneer Record**" and because of computer problems probably the most frustrating. Hopefully you'll enjoy the little bit of **Midland history** contained in this issue. Most member's comments have been quite complimentary on our work. We do continue to enjoy publishing the "**Pioneer Record**", even though at times it is a **lot of work**. We must, since we have volunteered for another year.

Most of you have probably noticed that the 3 issues this year have had some cut off from the bottom. This is because we have suddenly experienced problems with the **US Postal Service**. Their claim is that the "**Pioneer Record**" with the label, tab and stamp weighs more than 1 ounce, so **first class** postage requires **55c** per issue. In reality, the weight for the 6 page issue has been 1.01 ounces and the US Postal Service is making an issue of this whereas in the past it has been overlooked. We have been cutting 1/4 inch off the bottom in order to make the first class postage rate of **33c**. This is a lot of extra work and we do not plan on continuing this practice. This issue is 7 pages and probably future issues will be likewise. Obviously, this results in a significant **price increase** to publish and mail the "**Pioneer Record**" and will be part of next year's budget.

From the President:

Our **Nominations Committee** has had a difficult task finding a member to serve as **secretary** for the society for the next term. The position does not require professional skill or equipment. All we need are notes to guide the board of directors from meeting to meeting and to record the formal votes of the board and action taken during regular meetings. A tape recorder and the computer in the library can be used. I prepare the agenda for each meeting which can serve as an outline. The candidates will be announced at the April meeting in preparation for the election at our annual meeting in May. Please consider serving and contact a member of our Nominations Committee: **Doug Applegath, Pat Worden, Quita Shier, or Wilma Diesen.**

The **computer** for the Midland Room has been delayed by an **incompatibility** between its operating system and the **library's** electronic card catalog **system**. Your president will be donating the new LDS catalog disk and a set of 21 CD's of "Vital Records Index-Western Europe" which contains 12.5 million birth, baptism, and marriage records. You can contact me if you have **genealogical disks to donate**.

Our new book, "**Midland County Michigan Obituary Index 1928 - 1950**", is now available for sale by the volunteers in the Midland Room, at the meetings, or by mail. A committee will be formed to send out fliers to genealogy societies and libraries regarding our new book. The board voted to sell the new book for **\$20.00** or a package deal of one copy of the new book and one copy of our remaining "Midland County Michigan Obituary Index 1872 - 1927" for \$35.00.



Your president will be attending the **Publications Workshop** put on by the Michigan Genealogical Council on April 7 in Lansing. The five hour meeting should prepare us to electronically republish the important local history reference book, "Portrait and Biographical Album of Midland County Michigan", 1884, and to put its index on the internet.

My wife and I plan to **visit Europe** for four weeks this May and June. One week will be in the home area for my Mass family; Angeln and Schwansen, Schleswig-Holstein, **Germany**.

Bob Mass

My e-mail address is: **massro@aol.com**

March 21, 2001 - MGS Business Meeting

President Bob Mass conducted a short business meeting following the program. **Faye Ebach**, Chair of the **Bylaws Revision Committee** presented the revised **Bylaws** for discussion and acceptance. Members present **voted to accept** the revised **Bylaws** as presented in the **February, 2001** issue of the **PIONEER RECORD**. These revised **Bylaws** will become effective at the beginning of the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

Earl Ebach presented the recommendation made by the **MGS Board** to increase the membership dues structure for the 2001-2002 year. The society has experienced a deficit budget for the past several years and an increase in member dues is necessary to maintain the solvency of the society. The board recommends a dues structure of **\$14.00 for individual** and **\$17.50 for family** memberships. Members **present voted in support** of the recommended increase in dues structure.

President Bob reported that the Nominations Committee continues to seek candidates for several positions. (Please see "President's Letter" above.)

President Bob also presented a copy of the society's newly published book "**Midland County Michigan Obituary Index 1928-1950**". Price is \$20.00 per copy.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

(continued from Page 2)

Another thought - we have **141 members** in our Society. Members **receive more** from our **MGS** organization by **participating** in our activities. We do have some **very special** people and most of us can learn much from them. Our present Secretary, **Gloria Kundinger**, has done a wonderful job this past year but has a personal commitment to continue her education this coming year and cannot continue to serve. Surely **someone** can step forward to **volunteer as Secretary**.

**March 21, 2001 MGS Meeting
"Famous and Infamous"**

Stephen Keller, professional genealogist, retired educator, editor "French Families", and secretary of the Detroit Society of Genealogy Research presented an interesting and informative program entitled "Famous and Infamous". His focus was on Detroit and Detroiters' history. This is a significant year for Detroit since the city will be celebrating its 300th birthday. Detroit was founded by Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac in 1701. He also founded that same year the Ste. Anne de Detroit Catholic Church - a church that stands today as a historic marker to the history of the city.

The Burton Historical Collection, in the Detroit Public Library, houses all the old records and memorabilia. Unfortunately this collection sustained damage from flooding during the summer of 2000; but it is now open Tuesday to Friday from 1 - 5 PM and all day Saturday .

In 1805 a fire destroyed all catholic church records from the diocese in Detroit. Fortunately an unidentified individual recorded the names of all living residents in the city following the fire. This effort helped preserve a record of those living within the boundaries of the city.

Congress initiated the first census in 1790. Federal marshals were originally assigned to collect census data in all states and territories. In the late 1870's Congress decided they would hire and pay people to be census takers. The 1880 census was the first to be Soundexed, but only for those families with children under 10 years of age.

The US census is done every 10 years on the year ending with the numeral "0", contrasted with the Candian census which is done every 10 years on the year ending with the digit "1". Census data was originally collected and recorded by hand. All data was written in triplicate which may account for some of the errors that occurred.

Veterans of any war after 1840 were recorded separately and are located at the end of the third reel for the 1790 census. Mr. Keller theorizes that there was unused space at the end of this third reel and recorders decided to use the excess space to record the veteran data.

Many Census records from 1800 and 1810 were lost when British soldiers, during the War of 1812, burned them. Washington D.C. was cold at the time and paper records were set on fire to provide heat to keep the soldiers warm.

Prior to 1850 only heads of households were listed in the census. After 1850 all the names of persons living in a household had to be recorded for the census. About this time the government ruled that census data could be released to the public after 72 years. Why 72 years? The government determined that the maximum longevity for citizens was 72 years.

Tragically the 1890 census was destroyed by a major fire in Washington D.C. A few states conducted state census recording in 1894 but national data is non-existent. The 1900 census is completely Soundexed as is the 1920 census. The 1910 census had a secondary focus to determine the amount of industrial employment. The 1930 census has been Soundexed in only 10 states. This data is scheduled to be released to the public in 2002.

A disconcerting fact is that the 1960,1970 and 1980 census data is all stored on old, outdated computer tapes. Unfortunately the computer hardware capable of reading these tapes is no longer available.

Mr. Keller completed his presentation by discussing and demonstrating a few tips when searching vital records. He described a few sample "road blocks" that researchers encounter when looking at census data and described strategies that can be helpful to overcome a variety of road blocks.

NEWS FROM ROOTSWEB REVIEW

FreeBMD is transcribing the birth, marriage and death indexes of England and Wales from 1837-1900 and placing this searchable data base on the Web for free access. Their current data base contains more than five and one half million records. If you have ancestors who came from or lived in England or Wales during that time period you may find this an invaluable source of information via the Web. The FreeBMD web site is: <http://FreeBMD.RootsWeb.com/>

Information provided by RootsWeb Review, Vol.4,No.3, 17 January, 2001.

1886 Love Letter - Does Mary Marry George?

(continued from page 1)

The **envelope** contains **two** very personal yet interesting and intriguing **letters**

The first is a letter dated **Aug. 8, 1886**, from **Miss Mary M. Sheldrake** to **George W. Brewer** and discusses their **marriage plans**. It begins "*Dear intended husband. I received your letter yesterday very glad to hear from you*". **George's letter** apparently informed her that he was **thinking of marrying another girl**. He apparently cited their difference in age as a potential problem. She replied "*but as far as you being so much older than I, I can overlook that if you are suited with me. I know I love you*". She continues "*I know if you can be true to me I can you*". She adds "*I got my picture taken and sent it to you*" and requests that he send his picture to her. The letter closes "*write soon*" and "*from your ever true friend*".

The second is a letter to **Mr. Brewer** dated **Aug. 9, 1886**, from Mary's mother, **Eliza Burtch**, encouraging the marriage. It begins "*Kind and Gentle Friend; We received your long looked for, and welcome letter.*". It infers there have been problems and continues "*I was surprised to hear your age. Mary seems a mere child by the side of you, she is wild and ignorant yet may settle down and be quiet.*". It continues "*she has many callers but you suit her better than any of them.*". George apparently was a teacher since she says "*I think your chance will be good for a school around here.*". The letter closes with "*Yours truly Farewell*".

The letters are very intriguing and raise several questions of genealogical interest. Did **Mary Sheldrake** become the **wife** of **George Brewer**? Why was Mary's mother's last name **Burtch**? How **old** was **Mary** in **1886**? Are there any relatives living today who might be interested in this interesting bit of family history?

One would first assume that the mother had remarried and that her first husband's surname was **Sheldrake**. The **1870** Midland County **census** listed 2 Sheldrick families but neither appeared to match. (Sheldrake was spelled Sheldrick and Sheldrake in various records.) The **1880** Midland County **census** had no Sheldrake surnames listed. The 1890 US census was totally destroyed by fire and many states, including Michigan, conducted their own census in 1894. The **1894** Midland County **census** listed 2 **Sheldrake** surnames as follows: (on pages 247 & 249)

39-41	SHELDRAKE, Eliza	56	F	wife	M	- 7	Canada	Canada	Canada	housewife	13 - 13
	Ephram	27	M	son	S		Canada	England	Canada	farmer	13 - 13
	Sophonria	16	F	daughter	S		Canada	England	Canada	at home	13 - 13
	Morensa	14	F	daughter	S		Canada	England	Canada	at home	13 - 13
69-71	SHELDRAKE, Selah	21	M	boarder	S		Canada	England	Canada	farm laborer	13 - 13

No Mary Sheldrake was listed. Several Brewer's were listed but none matched. Also, no Burtch's (or Burch's) were found that matched the information.

The "**1868-1887 and 1887-1927 Midland County Marriage Index & Records**" showed **no** records for the **marriage** of **Mary Sheldrake** to **George Brewer**. The records did reveal that on **20 Sept. 1884** the Jasper Township Justice of the Peace, Franklin L. Gibbs, married **Eliza Sheldrake** (age 48, from Jasper) to **William Burch** (age 26, from Greendale). This explains the **Eliza Burtch** signature (Mary Sheldrake's mother) in the **1886 letter**.

Jo Brines, voluntary **MGS** librarian, then discovered in the **Jasper Cemetery** records the following gravestones:

Joseph Sheldrake
Eliza Sheldrake

born: 29 Jan. 1840
born: 19 April 1837

died: 28 Oct. 1881
died: 8 July 1903

Thus it appears **Eliza's** first husband, **Joseph Sheldrake**, **died in 1881** and she **remarried in 1884** to **William Burch** (a much younger man). What happened to William Burch is not yet clear since the 1894 census lists Eliza as a widow with the surname Sheldrake. The **plat maps** for Jasper Township during this time period also indicate **E. Sheldrake** as a property owner.

The mystery was far from being solved - but **Jo Brines** put her genealogy detective **expertise** to work. She noted that all the **Sheldrake children** listed in the 1894 census had the following **sequential data** - "all were born in **Canada**, their father was from **England**, their mother was from **Canada** and they had lived in Michigan and the US for **13 years**". Refer to the above listings. She reviewed all the **1894 Jasper Township census** records for similar patterns of sequential data and discovered the following listings.

(continued on page 6)

1886 Love Letter - Does Mary Marry George?

(continued from page 5)

69-71	ALSPAUGH, Leroy D.	28	M	husband	M	Ohio	unknown	Ohio	farmer	12 - 28
	Mary	24	F	wife	M 4-4	Canada	England	Canada	housewife	13 - 13
	Stephen	6	M	son	S	Michigan	Ohio	Canada		6 - 6
	Arthur	5	M	son	S	Michigan	Ohio	Canada		5 - 5
	Alfred C	4	M	son	S	Michigan	Ohio	Canada		4 - 4
	Ervin	2	M	son	S	Michigan	Ohio	Canada		2 - 2
	SHELDRAKE, Selah	21	M	boarder	S	Canada	England	Canada	farm laborer	13 - 13
	McCLAIN, John	60	M	boarder	W	Canada	Scotland	Scotland	farm laborer	28 - 28

First, she noted the "**Sheldrake, Selah** - male boarder" sequential data was identical, indicating he was probably **Eliza's son**. He was living with "**ALSPAUGH, Leroy D.**" (age 28) whose wife was **Mary** (age 24) and who had the **same sequential information** as the other children of Eliza. The conclusion was that she was the **Mary Sheldrake** of the **1886 letter** - and that she **did not marry George W. Brewer** - BUT probably **married Leroy D. Alspaugh** within a year of the date on the letter, based on the age (6) of their oldest child, Stephen. The dates indicate that at the time of the **1886 letter** she was only **16 years old**.

Jo next found in the **MGS Obituary Index of 1872-1927** the name "**Mrs. Dillion Alspaugh**". Perhaps the "**D**" in Leroy D. Alspaugh stood for **Dillion**. The obituary was published in the **MIDLAND REPUBLICAN** on Aug. 7, 1919. She had passed away on **July 29, 1919**, survived by her husband, 4 sons, 3 sisters and 3 brothers.

Proof that this was indeed **Mary Sheldrake** was found in the **Death Record, Book B 1912-1937**, at the **County Clerk's office** at the **Midland County Court House**. The record states that on **29 July 1919 Mary Alspaugh** (female, white, married) age 49 yrs 2 mos 7 days died in Jasper Township. She was **born** (on **22 May 1870**) in Canada to **Joseph Sheldrake** and **Elisabeth Stevenson Sheldrake**.

With the hope that the mother's maiden name would be listed in the birth records, the **Midland County Birth Records** were searched. Three of **Mary Alspaugh's** children were recorded. In the first two the maiden name was blank. The third listing, for **Ervin Alspaugh** born **10 Jan. 1892** but not recorded until 8 July 1940 (Delayed Registration) gave **Mary Sheldrake** as the mother thus providing further proof.

The **death records** for **Joseph Sheldrake** (28 Oct. 1881) and **Eliza Sheldrick** (8 July 1903) also exist. Both are **buried**, side by side, in the **Jasper Township Cemetery** - their gravestones are very weathered but still legible as indicated in the accompanying picture. Surprisingly, there were small bundles of artificial flowers near each gravestone.



Three of the four initial questions concerning the letters have thus been answered - the fourth remains unanswered. **Are there any relatives living today who might be interested in this family history?** Marriage records indicate that 3 of Mary's sons were married in Midland County: Arthur (age 22) on 8 April 1911. Alfred (age 21) on 18 Dec. 1911 and Stephen (age 25) on 26 Nov. 1913. The 1920 Midland County census lists all 4 sons. No Alspaugh's are listed in the 2001 Midland telephone directory.

Perhaps further searching will reveal relatives and another "First Family of Midland County" can be recorded.

POSTAL HISTORY OF MIDLAND COUNTY

The **postal history** of **Midland County** is quite unique and interesting.

The **first settler** in the Midland area was **John Whitman** in **1836**. Gradually the area accumulated several hundred residents and in **1850** it was **organized as a county** by act of the state legislature. However, the legislatures had omitted provisions for the election of county officers and it was not until **1855** that the act was amended to provide for such an election. In November 1855 **county officials** were elected.

On **March 6, 1856**, **John Larkin** became **Midland County's first official postmaster**. **John Larkin**, one of Midland's founders, was involved in operating a logging company, a mill, a hotel and a salt works. **Larkin** also platted the city of Midland, served 10 terms as county treasurer, and served as county supervisor. He served for ten years as Midland's postmaster. The first "**post office**" was located in his frame **hotel** on Main Street - actually located in the bar room.

Following the establishment of Midland city, several **logging towns** and **farming centers** were formed in the **1860's**. The "**Flint & Pere Marquette Railroad**" was built through the county in the period **1867-1871** and small towns grew at the stations. As all these centers became organized, **post offices** were established by the federal government to provide mail services. By 1902, **forty-one** (41) **post offices** had been designated in **Midland County**.

However, the logging centers were **short lived** and many of the farming area **post offices** died when the **farmers moved** elsewhere. Most of the **post offices** were **discontinued** after the turn of the century when **rural free delivery** (RFD) was established. Of the 41 original post offices, only **5 remain** active today: **MIDLAND, EDENVILLE, COLEMAN, HOPE AND SANFORD**.

The **map** on Page 9 shows the location of the **41 post offices** situated in **Midland County** prior to or around the turn of the twentieth century. Many of the names of towns where post offices were established are unfamiliar to most residents today. If someone were to ask about **SLY**, or **GRAY**, or **COLDEN**, or **HEADACHE**, or **JOLIET**, or **PANSY**, or **MATLOCK**, or **CRANE**, or **BENTLEY CORNERS** - we would probably be at a loss to explain what or where.

Several post offices changed their names during their short lives.

AVERILL'S STATION , Lincoln Township, became **AVERILL**.

SANDFORDVILLE , Jerome Township, became **SANFORD**.

SMITHVILLE , Ingersoll Township, became **SMITH'S CROSSING**. Post offices were recognized by their official cancels - **SMITH'S CROSSING** existed from 1873 to 1893 - but became **SMITHS CROSSING** (without the apostrophe) from 1893 until it's closing in 1911.

LEE'S CORNER , Ingersoll Township, (1874-1894) became **LEES CORNER** (1894-1895) and then became **LAPORTE** in 1895 until it's demise in 1910.

HEADACHE in Mount Haley Township existed less than one month, before it became **BRADFORD** (after the postmaster's name) for the period 1875 to 1906. The name was changed to **GORDONVILLE** in 1906; the post office was closed in 1910.

Several of the post offices took the names of the community founders or lumber company owners, who also probably became the first postmaster. Examples are:

KETCHAM, Lincoln Township named for **James G. Ketcham**

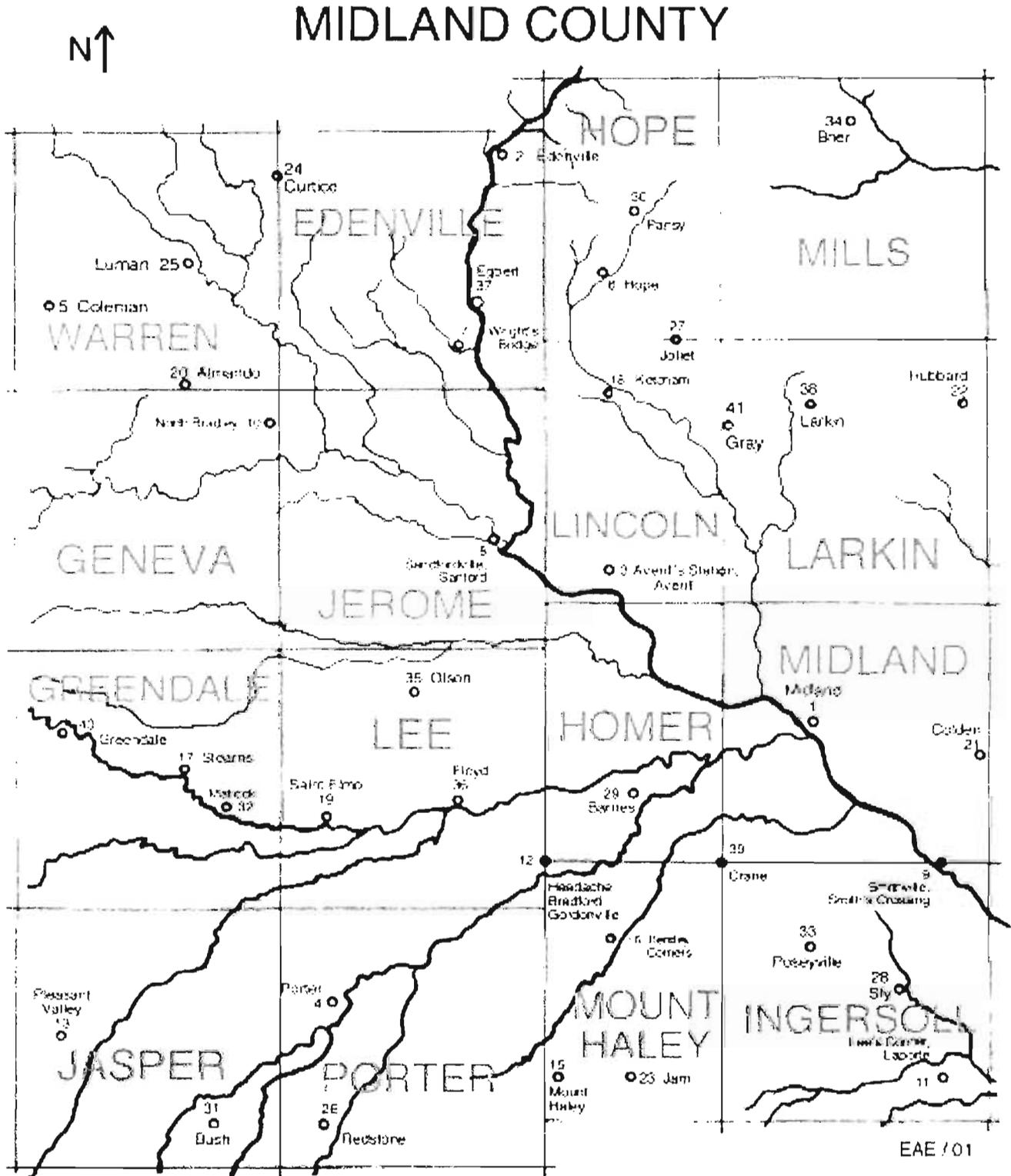
LUMAN, Warren Township named for **Luman A. Bliss**

BARNES, Homer Township named for **John F. Barnes**

GRAY, Larkin Township named for **Orson Gray**

One of the small towns lies underneath Sanford Lake. **WRIGHT'S BRIDGE**, located in Edenville Township, had a **post office** which operated for **twenty years**, from 23 June 1871 to 31 Oct. 1891. **WRIGHT'S BRIDGE** was covered with water when the Sanford Dam was built in 1924 by Frank I. Wixom, owner of the Wolverine Power Company.

POSTAL HISTORY OF MIDLAND COUNTY
(continued from Page 8)



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POSTAL HISTORY OF MIDLAND COUNTY

(continued from Page 9)

The **table** on Page 13 briefly summarizes the history of the **41 post offices** in **Midland County**. The **post offices** are listed in chronological order based on the date established. The columns indicate the **NAME** of the post office, the **TOWNSHIP**, **DATE ESTABLISHED**, **DATE of CHANGE** (or closing), **DISPOSITION** of the mail service after change, **YEARS of SERVICE** and the **FIRST POSTMASTER**. In the **DISPOSITION** column, "D" is an abbreviation for "mail delivery transferred to"; thus, "D Midland" means "mail delivery transferred to the Midland post office". In the same manner "NC" means "name changed".

Exact **location** of several post offices is **unknown**. Specifically:

MATLOCK in Greendale Township (operated less than **10 months**, from 24 Feb. 1898 to 15 Dec. 1898).

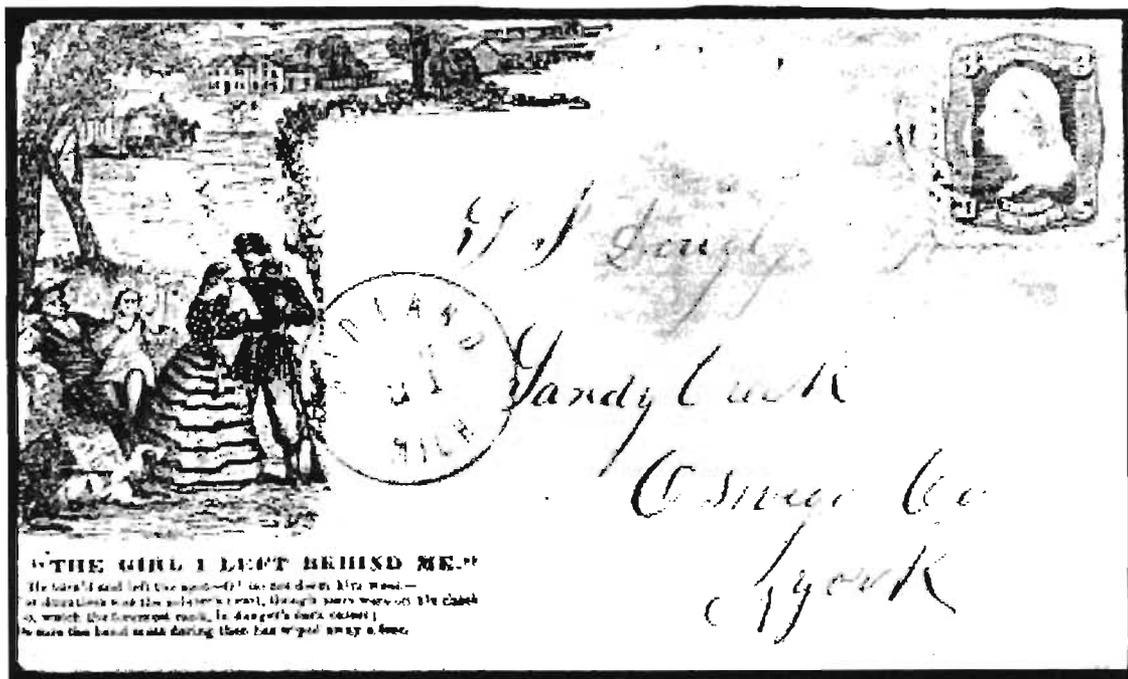
PINE ROAD probably in Porter Township along the Pine River (operated only **6 months**, from 26 July 1876 to 9 Jan. 1877).

BENTLEY CORNERS, probably in Porter or Mount Haley Township, near Gordonville (operated less than **8 months**, from 20 Oct. 1879 to 17 June 1880).

Quite often **post offices** were located in the General Stores of a community and the owner (or his wife) became the postmaster. Locations of the **post office** within a community moved often depending on who was the postmaster. Sometimes it would be the postmaster's home. Women were often named postmasters. Two who were first postmasters were **Elizabeth Gingrich**, 8 Feb. 1900, in **EGBERT** in Jerome Township and **Elizabeth A. Gould**, 21 June 1902, in **GREENDALE** in Greendale Township.

Postal history collectors are persons who save covers or post cards bearing cancels from the various post offices of the past. Obviously, many of the covers from **Midland County's** numerous small towns or ghost post offices are **difficult** to obtain because of the short existence of the stations and the fact that few persons saved their mail. Thus **collecting** old **Midland County** postal history covers is a **challenge**.

The **Pioneer Record** editor is obviously a collector. If anyone has old Midland County postal history covers, the editor would be very interested.



The above cover is a **Civil War** patriotic cover from very early **Midland** in the period **1862-65**. The cancel is a clear red circle dated "**Aug 31**" with "**MIDLAND**" and "**MICH**" inside. Any mail from Midland this early is quite scarce. Census data gives a county population of 787 in 1860 and 3285 in 1870.

(continued on Page 11)

POSTAL HISTORY OF MIDLAND COUNTY

(continued from Page 10)

POSTAL HISTORY of MIDLAND COUNTY

No.	Post Office	Township	Date Established	Date of Change	Disposition	Years of Service	First Postmaster
1	Midland	Midland	3/6/1856	ACTIVE	48640-48642	140.32	John Larkin
	Midland-Circle		9/15/56	3/14/69	D Midland	12.50	Bernard F. Bailey
	Midland-West Main St		3/15/69	ACTIVE	48640	27.29	John S. Kilbride
2	Edenville	Edenville	3/16/1868	ACTIVE	48620	128.29	Henry Church
3	Averill's Station	Lincoln	9/30/1868	6/22/1883	NC to Averill	14.64	Harrison S. Averill
	Averill		6/22/1883	11/15/15	D Midland	32.40	John W. Stratton
4	Porter	Porter	6/5/1869	5/15/07	D RFD Breckenridge	37.95	Lewis K. Brewer
5	Coleman	Warren	5/13/1871	ACTIVE	48618	125.13	Jonathon Pierce
6	Hope	Hope	5/19/1871	ACTIVE	48628	125.11	Marshall Carr
7	Wright's Bridge	Edenville	6/23/1871	10/31/1891	D Sanford	20.35	Lot Holmes
8	Sanfordville	Jerome	6/23/1871	7/13/1871	NC to Sanford	0.06	Jay F. Hamilton
	Sanford		7/13/1871	ACTIVE	48657	124.97	Jay F. Hamilton
9	Smithville	Midland	7/3/1872	11/18/1873	NC to Smith's Crossing	1.38	Henry B. Stowits
	Smith's Crossing		11/18/1873	9/9/1893	NC / Dropped '	19.83	Frank L. Koon
	Smiths Crossing		9/9/1893	7/15/11	D RFD Freeland	27.85	Samuel Cone
10	North Bradley	Geneva	11/5/1873	4/27/84	D Coleman	110.48	William A. Babcock
11	Lee's Corner	Ingersoll	1/26/1874	9/9/1894	NC / Dropped '	20.62	Curtis J. Winslow
	Lees Corner		9/9/1894	4/6/1895	NC toLaporte	0.57	Edward C. Hutchins
	Laporte		4/6/1895	1/31/10	D RFD Freeland	14.77	Edward C. Hutchins
12	Headache	Mount Haley	8/10/1875	9/1/1875	NC to Bradford	0.05	Charles C. Bradford
	Bradford		9/1/1875	3/16/06	NC to Gordonville	30.54	Charles C. Bradford
	Gordonville		3/16/06	7/15/10	D RFD Midland	4.33	Maude C. Wayne
13	Pleasant Valley	Jasper	3/6/1876	10/15/10	D RFD Saint Louis	34.61	Edgar M. Smith
14	Pine Road	Porter ?	7/26/1876	1/9/1877	D Porter	0.51	John W. Bailey
15	Mount Haley	Jasper	4/1/1879	10/20/1879	D Bradford	0.64	Anthony Dean
16	Bently Corners	Porter/Mount Haley ?	10/20/1879	6/17/1880	D Midland	0.65	Luman E. Pratt
17	Stearns	Greendale	1/30/1882	10/31/12	D Midland	30.75	David J. Look
18	Ketcham	Lincoln	9/18/1883	4/15/1888	D Averill	4.58	James G. Ketcham
19	Saint Elmo	Lee	5/22/1884	9/30/04	D Greendale	20.36	John Suiter
20	Alamando	Warren	2/29/1888	12/31/05	D RFD Coleman	16.83	Hager Stevenson
21	Colden	Midland (Bay Cnty)	4/22/1891	4/7/02	to Bay County	10.97	Myron T. Johnson
22	Hubbard	Larkin	11/21/1892	8/31/1895	D Duel	2.81	Isaac M. Barr
23	Jam	Mount Haley	7/11/1894	9/30/03	D RFD Merrill	9.22	John H. Murphy
24	Curtice	Edenville/Warren	3/2/1895	7/15/01	D Luman	6.37	Joshua E. Curtice
25	Luman	Warren	3/27/1895	4/14/04	D RFD Coleman	19.05	Luman A. Bliss
26	Redstone	Porter	11/30/1895	12/14/04	D RFD Breckenridge	19.04	Alfred March
27	Joliet	Hope/Lincoln	12/6/1895	10/31/1896	D Hope	0.90	Timothy Kelly
28	Sly	Ingersoll	1/22/1896	10/15/01	D Poseyville	15.73	Albert A. Anible
29	Barnes	Homer	1/9/1897	8/31/03	D RFD Midland	6.64	John F Barnes
30	Pansy	Hope	1/11/1897	3/30/01	D (mail Hope) & R	4.22	John W. Crawford
	Pansy		7/14/06	1/15/07	D RFD Hope	0.51	James W. Fraidenburg
31	Bush	Jasper	7/7/1897	10/15/1901	D Saint Louis	4.28	Alanson Gould
32	Matlock	Greendale ?	2/24/1898	12/15/1898	D Stearns	0.81	Albert E. Carey
33	Poseyville	Ingersoll	7/12/1898	1/15/07	D RFD Midland	8.51	Patrick Nagle
34	Brier	Mills	10/19/1898	7/31/15	D Rhodes	16.78	John Falls
35	Olson	Lee	4/5/1899	1/15/14	D RFD Midland	14.78	John B. Moore
36	Floyd	Lee	11/24/1899	11/30/07	D Midland	8.02	John A. Mallory
37	Egbert	Jerome	2/8/1900	6/30/08	D Sanford	8.40	Elizabeth Gingrich
38	Larkin	Larkin	8/14/1900	1/15/07	D RFD Midland	6.42	Frank E. Burton
39	Crane	Mount Haley	10/15/1901	8/31/1903	D RFD Midland	1.88	Louis J. Maus
40	Greendale	Greendale	6/21/1902	3/15/11	D Stearns	8.73	Elizabeth A. Gould
41	Gray	Larkin	11/1/1902	1/15/07	D RFD Midland	4.21	Orson Gray

OMELETTES ANYONE? - Jo Brines

Looking Back at the MIDLAND REPUBLICAN

Feb. 4, 1932 An ad was placed by the newspaper itself "**Wanted 5000 eggs** at once, paying 25¢/dozen". Any family could bring in up to 6 dozen eggs and have the \$1.50 applied to a year's subscription to the REPUBLICAN. The offer was **good for a week**. The newspaper also offered their **explanation "to do our bit in times of stress when prices for farm products are low"**.

Feb. 11, 1932 Another article **extended** the offer until Saturday, Feb. 13. The newspaper had been overwhelmed with eggs. Many modern day readers would wonder **what was done with all those eggs!**

March 24, 1932 **JACK'S STORE for MEN & BOYS** (no address given other than Midland) placed this ad "**Wanted 12,000 eggs**". No limit on the amount of eggs that could be brought to the store, but offer good for only 3 days. JACK'S will pay 13¢/dozen, but not in cash, rather a credit slip for present or future purchases of merchandise from the store. Management explained their action was "**to help stimulate the price on one of the farmer's products which has recently sunk to outlandish levels**".

Directly across the page from the first egg ad appeared this ad:

"FREE: Fly with Jack Barstow in his Stinson Junior Cabin Monoplane". This offer was placed by the MIDLAND REPUBLICAN for a one-year paid subscription to their newspaper. The offer was open to children and adults. One subscription = one free ticket for an airplane ride. One wonders how many adventurous people there were.

Authors note: The **Midland Republican** had been in existence since 1881, so it was not a case of establishing a new paper. Perhaps subscriptions had dropped because of the economy at that time.

PERIODICAL RESOURCES AT THE LIBRARY

Jo Brines

In the November issue of the **PR**, it was mentioned that the library now has on the shelf a periodical entitled "**Family Chronicle**". We would like to thank the anonymous member of the MGS who has paid for a subscription to this magazine for two years.

Family Chronicle is published bi-monthly in Canada. It is very readable, easily understood, and contains general information on a variety of subjects of interest to genealogists. It is not technical, it has no queries, but it does have several pages each issue on "**Genealogy Web Sites Worth Surfing**". Check it out - the issues will be in a plastic file box on the shelf with the other periodicals.

Incidentally, if you are not using or reading magazines or periodicals in your genealogy research, you are **missing** out on some useful information that might never be found elsewhere. There are so many types of magazines and periodicals:

- from individual societies or state groups
- from family groups
- from national organizations (these tend to be technical but give problem-solving tips)
- from lineage societies

The few volumes of the **PERSI** on our shelf (first stack facing into the room) give an example of how much information is available in periodical form. **PERSI** is published by the **Ft. Wayne Library**.

If anyone ever wishes to donate books from a personal collection or money to purchase books for the genealogy collection, please **discuss with a volunteer** before making your donations. Books **MUST NEVER** be left with anyone but the volunteers. The volunteers also need to be aware of proposed monetary donations. Your assistance in these matters will benefit the continuing **growth of our genealogy collection**.

SPECIAL WEB SITE ADDRESSES

MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY	http://users.tm.net/brauschj/mgs
MIDLAND COUNTY GenWeb	http://www.rootsweb.com~mimidlan/
MICHIGAN GenWeb	http://www.rootsweb.com/~migenweb/
LDS Church Family History	http://www.familysearch.org
MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL	http://www.rootsweb.org/~mimgc/

MGS PROGRAMS FOR 2000-2001
<p>MGS Meetings will be scheduled at 7:00 PM on the third Wednesday of the month in the lounge of the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library. Programs for the spring will be as follows:</p> <p>April 18, 2001 Subject: "Why I chose FAMILY TREE MAKER' Speaker: Lee Watrous, Saginaw Genealogical Society (organizer), former editor "Timbertown Log"</p> <p>May 16, 2001 - Annual MGS Meeting Speaker: Ralph Hillman Subject: Genealogy Research in New York Business: Election of MGS Officers 2001-2002 Budget presentation</p> <p>.....</p> <p>MGS Week in Salt Lake City</p> <p>October 16 - October 24, 2001 Stay at Best Western Conduct research at LDS Family Research Center</p> <p>Contact Jo Brines at 832-8312 for more details and/or make reservations</p> <p>.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Annual MGC Seminar Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 18-20, 2001 Northfield Hilton Hotel Troy, Michigan</p>

UPCOMING SEMINARS										
<p>Michigan Genealogical Council 2001 ABRAMS Genealogical Series</p>										
<p>The MGC is sponsoring a series of 6 workshops at the Library of Michigan in Lansing as follows:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>April 28</td> <td>- Passenger Lists</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 9</td> <td>- Family Reunions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>August</td> <td>- Ontario</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oct. 27</td> <td>- African American Research</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dec. 1</td> <td>- Military Records</td> </tr> </table> <p>Cost is \$10 per workshop or \$50 for entire series.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.rootsweb.org/~mimgc/</p> <p>.....</p> <p>French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan All-day Seminar — June 23, 2001 Three-Centuries, Two Nations, One French-Canadian Heritage - 21st Century Explorations in Genealogy Speakers: D. Beauregard, J. DuLong, P. Halford & S. Trembley at the St. Simon & St. Jude Church Hall Belle River, Ontario</p> <p>For more information refer to http://habitant.org/fchsm or contact Gail Moreau (248) 625-4988 gfmoreau1@aol.com</p>	April 28	- Passenger Lists	June 9	- Family Reunions	August	- Ontario	Oct. 27	- African American Research	Dec. 1	- Military Records
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BOOKS FOR SALE	
<p>The following books, published by the Midland Genealogical Society, are available for sale at any MGS meeting or by mail. Price of each book is \$20.00 plus \$3.00 for postage and handling.</p>	
<p>MIDLAND COUNTY MICHIGAN OBITUARY INDEX - 1928-1950 Newly published. This softbound book is 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches. Price for two volume package of both Obituary books - \$35.</p>	
<p>MIDLAND COUNTY OBITUARY INDEX – 1872-1927. The book consists of 16,000 abstractions covering 55 years from the Midland Times (1872-1875), the Midland Sun (1892-1924) and the Midland Republican (1881-1927). The softbound book is 8 1/2 by 11 inches.</p>	
<p>MIDLAND PIONEERS, edited by Ora Flaningam. This book is a compilation of the most interesting genealogical, historical and humorous reprints from newspapers published in the Pioneer Record. The book is 6 by 9 inches, softbound, 259 pages. (less than 12 remaining)</p>	
<p>To ORDER A BOOK write:</p>	<p>Midland Genealogical Society BOOK; Grace A. Dow Memorial Library; 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr.; Midland, MI 48640</p>



MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Grace A. Dow Memorial Library
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2000-2001**

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Pioneer Record is published quarterly (Sep., Nov., Feb. & 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. & Mar..

**INFORMATION
ABOUT
MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

The **MGS** meets on the **3rd Wednesday** 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 **MGS** meeting or may be sent to the Membership Chair, Midland Genealogical Society at the **MGS Room, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library**, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640.
