



PIONEER RECORD

February 2003

Volume XXIII, No. 3

MGS MEETING ** February, 19

The second **Midland Genealogical Society meeting** in 2003 will be held Wednesday, **February 19**, in the **lounge** of the Grace A. Dow Memorial **Library** starting at **7:00 pm**. MGS member **Ken Schweitzer** will present a program entitled: "**Preparation for Publishing Prior to Printing**". Ken has done genealogical research for many years and gathered a great deal of data. Organizing and preparing the data for publishing presents its problems. His presentation should be very interesting and informative.

The normal business of the society will be conducted. Refreshments and conversation will follow the program in the lounge.

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HULL'S SURRENDER OF DETROIT and FAMILY LETTERS

The **Bay County Genealogical Society's** newsletter, "**The Clarion**", has been printing a series of articles on the **War of 1812**. The October-December 2002 issue (vXXIV n4) related: "The **first blows** of the war were struck in the **Detroit** area and at Fort Michilimackinac. President Madison gave **Brig. Gen. William Hull**, governor of the Michigan Territory, command of operations in that area." Later the article states: "Before Brock (British General)



A contemporary sketch of Hull (Courtesy of Galeatin Multimedia)

could launch his assault, the **Americans** (under Hull) **surrendered**. Militiamen were released under parole; **Hull** and the Regulars were sent as **prisoners to Montreal**. Later paroled, Hull returned to face a **court-martial**

for his conduct of the campaign, was sentenced to be shot, and was immediately pardoned."

These articles sparked an interest to learn more. I had earlier found in my brother Richard's **Michigan postal history** collection two letters from a **daughter** of Brig. Gen. **William Hull** while the family lived in the **Detroit** area. One was written in **1805** and the other in **1810**. Reading the letters is somewhat of a challenge. They tell an interesting story about early life in the wilderness territory during the early 19th century.

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From the President

The idea of holding a one-day genealogical seminar in Midland was proposed and discussed several times. Last month a meeting was called to organize a seminar but the response was insufficient to proceed at this time. **Ralph Hillman** will speak at an upcoming meeting to describe a possible seminar project and to see if he can recruit a core group of workers.

The election of new officers will soon be upon us. A few members are needed now for the **nominating committee**. A number of your current officers indicated that they will not be running for an additional term. Obviously it is critical for all of us to take a turn in office to keep our society vital.

The very long-term project to extract obituary information from Midland newspapers is nearing completion. **Virginia Parsons** has personally read about 30 years of newspapers and copied out the obituary information. Over half of the data from 1951 to 1983 has been computerized. The most time consuming **job still to be completed** is the entry (and proofreading) of the names, dates, and page numbers for the years 1965-78 into a data base program, for example Microsoft Works. The compiled and alphabetized book will be a very useful addition to our library collection and will be offered to others in CD form.

I hope you find time to read the story in this issue about my answer to the question, "**When did grandfather Mass sail to America?**"

Bob Mass

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

Whew!!! Another issue of the *Pioneer Record* goes to press.

The above **President's letter** discusses a one-day genealogical **seminar** to be sponsored by the **MGS** and dismisses the idea because of insufficient interest by members. What such a project needs is leadership – someone needs to step forward and do something rather than just discuss the idea. Hopefully **Ralph Hillman** will be that member. As the Nike slogan goes – **JUST DO IT**.

Our President **Bob Mass** is recruiting a **Nominating Committee** for the next fiscal year **2003-04**. This committee will have it's work cut out since it appears that many present officers will not seek re-election. This means our Society will at least be electing a **Program Chair** (plus 2 additional members for **Program Committee**), a **Membership Chair**, a **Treasurer**, a **Secretary** and a **Historian**. Last year many officers returned, including the President, since other **MGS** members would not step forward and serve. This year will be a different story. The **Society** has been well served by the present **Board**. We believe there are many **MGS** members, both new and old, who could promote the **Society** by serving as officers. It would be preferable for continuity if the **MGS Board** were a mixture of experienced and new officers, but it appears that will not occur next year.

Bob has served well as **President** for the past three years. He has also been an active genealogy **volunteer** in the **Midland Room** of the **Library**. He has successfully promoted the inclusion of a **computer** and it's use into the Midland Room. However, we believe it is time for new leadership.

As for us (Faye & Earl), we will continue to serve as *Pioneer Record* **Editors** for the year **2003-04**. We would be willing to serve the **Society** in some capacity other than **PR** Editors, but producing the newsletter is a major, time-consuming job and very important to the **MGS** organization. However, we are putting the **MGS** on notice that this, **our fifth year**, will be our **last year** as **Editors**. Obviously we have enjoyed the job, tried to do our best, and appreciated all the assistance.

During the past four years our own genealogical research has suffered and we hope to change this. Next September 23 through October 5 we will be participating in an **Elderhostel** program in **London, England** titled "**Know Your English Ancestors: Researching Family History**". Earl's maternal side of the family **emigrated** from England in 1881 and settled in Saginaw. During **World War II** his mother communicated with cousins who lived in bomb-ravaged **London**. Communications with these relatives stopped after 1954 – hopefully we may be able to locate some of them.

Hopefully the article on Faye's father's immigration will complement the article on Bob's grandfather's immigration.

Again – the MGS needs your help. Please volunteer to serve when called. The future of the Society depends on YOU.

Faye & Earl

WITH SYMPATHY

It is with a great deal of sadness that we report the passing of the spouses of three long time **MGS members**.

On November 17, 2002 **John S. Somerville**, husband of MGS member **Joan Somerville** passed away in Midland. Joan has been an active and involved member of MGS for many years.

On December 1, 2002 **DonaLee Flaningam**, wife of long time member and former PR Editor **Ora Flaningam**, passed away in Bonita Springs, Florida. DonaLee had struggled with several long-term health problems for many years. Ora and DonaLee spent most of the colder months of the year at their winter home in Florida. A memorial service will be held in Michigan in the spring.

On January 27, 2003 **Robert F. (Bob) Keicher**, husband of long time member **Beverly Keicher** passed away in Midland. Bob struggled with a lengthy illness for some time. Bev has served as one of our MGS delegates to the Michigan Genealogical Council for several years.

Your expressions of condolence will be appreciated.

GENEALOGICAL COMPUTING INFO in the MIDLAND ROOM

The current issue of "**GC – Genealogical Computing: A Quarterly Journal**" contains a valuable feature article entitled "**2003 Family History Software Directory**". The article is a compilation of available software, freeware, websites, research tools and add-on utilities. Specifications are provided for items listed. Many listings also include features, and commentary to assist potential users.

The **Midland Room** in the Library has a copy of this journal on the periodicals shelf for the benefit of genealogists. The next time you visit the Midland Room, take a few minutes to peruse the "**GC Journal**" – you may be surprised at what you find.

GENEALOGY TO MOVE FROM THE MIDLAND ROOM

The **MGS Library Committee** has been informed by the **Grace A. Dow Memorial Library** staff that the genealogical research area will be moved from the **Midland Room** to the **Magazine Room** within the next month. The **Midland Room** has been staffed weekdays from 1:00-4:00 pm by the **volunteer MGS Library Committee**, otherwise **no Library staff** is available in the area. Each year during the period January through April the **Midland Room** is utilized by the Library to distribute **income tax** materials. This function not only occupies a large area but **interferes** with volunteer efforts to assist in genealogical research. In addition the **lack of staffing**, especially during the evening, has resulted in **misuse** of the facilities.

The **Magazine Room** is located in the **northeast corner** of the **Library** (Midland Room is in the southeast corner), is somewhat smaller than the Midland Room and the north wall is all windows. The **Library Committee** believes the move will be **beneficial** in that the area is more isolated and the space is adequate. Income tax information/assistance will not be present to interfere with genealogical research. A potential problem in the new area is where the many microfilm/microfiche readers utilized by genealogists will be located.. Hopefully the name Magazine Room will be changed to **Genealogy Room**.

The **Library Committee** will be seeking **volunteers** to assist in the move from the Midland Room.

MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Kathy Bohl, MGS Delegate

The Library of Michigan has a new mailing address: P.O. Box 30738, Lansing, MI 48909-8238.

A reminder to all genealogists planning to use the **Allen County Public Library** in Fort Wayne, IN. The **Historical Genealogy Department** has been relocated due to the extensive renovation and expansion project just begun. The interim location will be at 200 E. Berry St., Fort Wayne in an area locally known as Renaissance Square. This new location is 5 blocks east of the current library. The projected time frame for this relocation is 2-3 years. The "**Good News**" for users is the genealogy collection shelves will be open, allowing researchers to browse and retrieve their own materials.

Monroe County Genealogical Society announced they are sponsoring a Spring Seminar on Saturday, March 29, 2003 at Monroe Community College from 8:00am – 3:45pm. The cost is \$15.00. Seminar topics are:

- Westward From New England – Migration, Routes and Trails
- Learning More About Your Civil War Ancestor
- Migrations From Germany and in the United States
- New England Research – The Where, When and How, in Looking for our Ancestors

During the 2002 Legislative session, a new law was enacted which prevents local county Clerk offices from restricting genealogists access to public records. There may be restrictions on time and access, but these may not be more restrictive on genealogists than other users. It was suggested that genealogists make a card to carry to County Clerk's offices as a reminder to office staff of this new law.

BUS TRIP TO FORT WAYNE/ ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Friday, March 29 – Saturday, March 30, 2003

The Cass River Genealogical society has scheduled a bus trip to Fort Wayne. The bus has a capacity of 47 passengers. The cost will be \$40 / person. The pick-up schedule is as follows:

- 1st pick-up – Bay City K-Mart on Wilder Rd at 5:30am
- 2nd pick-up – Saginaw Four Points Hotel on corner of Tittabawassee and Towne Center at 6:00am
- 3rd pick-up – Bridgeport public car park at intersection of I-75 and Dixie Highway at 6:30am

The bus will make restaurant stops on the way down and back.

Contact and/or make reservations with:

Mary Ann Malecki
 Mail bus deposit of \$40 / person – make check out to
 Cass River Genealogical Society
 8526 Moorish Road
 Birch Run, MI 48415
 e-mail: malecki_family@netzero.net

Hotel reservations can be made at the Holiday Inn, 300 E. Washington Ave., Fort Wayne, IN, 46802. Please call 1-800-Holiday or directly (260) 422-5511 to make reservations. Cost is approximately \$79 / room (for 1-4 persons). The Holiday Inn is 4 blocks from the Library.

NOTE: To members of **Ancestry.com**, the website now has **all states** online **and indexed** for the **1930 Federal US Census**. To **non-members**, see "**AncestryPlus**" on next page

NEW PROCEDURES FOR THE MIDLAND ROOM

Jo Brines

New procedures for ordering microfilms and **new increased fees** have begun for researchers in the **Midland Room**. The increased fees charged by the Library were precipitated by the shut-down of our source for film rentals in Utah. **NARA** (a branch of the federal government) has picked up the slack and will be able to supply **almost all** the microfilms that the former source did. However, **NARA** will charge **slightly more**. We have tried to keep patron fees within acceptable limits. To further help manage our increased costs, an order **will not be sent** to **NARA** until we have **5 film requests** from patrons, so time between requests and delivery may be greater than previously experienced.

In the future, **fees** will be as follows:

\$4 / roll for census films

\$4 / roll for any Canadian film

\$3 / roll for out-of-state newspapers, with a few exceptions/or extra fees

(The patron fee for Canadian films has never covered the cost of postage into Canada, and the fees for obtaining newspapers have not kept up with our costs)

Now for the new procedures:

1. White "**genealogy request**" card must be filled out as before. Please place in a **box** that will be on the **Midland Room's volunteer desk**.
2. When **films arrive**, a volunteer will check them in, and **call** the patron as before. A two part "invoice" for the fee will be placed with the order. The film and invoice will be taken to the **Library circulation desk**, where the patron will be able to pick the film up and pay the stated fee. Half the invoice will be kept at the cashier's desk, which will enable improved bookkeeping for the library staff.
3. The remainder of the procedure will be the same as before, i.e., the patron reads the film, when finished leaves the film and form on **top of the file cabinet in the back of the Midland Room**, and marks "**done**" on the form. Films will be picked up from the file cabinet by the volunteer and mailed back to **NARA**.

In summary, the **CHANGES** are:

1. Increased costs
2. Payment always on receipt of film from the Library circulation desk
3. Pick up film/films at the Library circulation desk

There **may be** a charge of 25¢ / roll of film for Michigan newspapers ordered from the **State of Michigan Library**. This has always been a stated Library policy, but has never been enforced. The procedures for picking up and paying for newspaper films will be the same as for genealogy films, i.e. at the Library circulation desk.

"AncestryPlus" at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library

AncestryPlus is now available on **all PCs** on the **main floor of the Library**. The Library has licensed with Ancestry.com the use of this program for any patron. This is a special software program which allows genealogists access to all the data available on Ancestry without the extra charges experienced with normal home PC access.

Access to **AncestryPlus** is a simple three-step process:

1. **Left-click** on the bright green box in the middle of the screen that says "**Magazine & e-sources**";
2. **Left-click** on the tab that says "**Biography & Genealogy**";
3. **Left-click** on the blue letters at the top of the page that says "**AncestryPlus**".

This procedure will load **AncestryPlus** and you can then begin research into this program. The easiest way to learn to use **AncestryPlus** is to just begin poking around on the various links in this website. The **1930 US Federal Census**, as well as many others, is available through **AncestryPlus**.

Happy Researching !!!

When Did Grandfather Mass Sail To America

Bob Mass

“Der 20 Maerz 91 ist ein sehr wichtiger Tag meines Lebens. Es war der Tag meiner und meiner Mutter abreise nach Amerika.” Translation: “The 20 March 91 is a very important day of my life. It was on that day that my mother and I departed for America.” These words are the first few sentences of a **diary** of a **16 year old German boy** on his way to a new home in America in the year **1891**.

He continues: “In the morning of that day we arose early in order to pack our clothes. And I very hurriedly marked addresses on our boxes. Arnold Leeman, Stolborns carriage driver, brought us to **Suederbrarup**. From there we went by railway to **Bremen**.”

This boy was my **grandfather**. He is leaving the small village of **Wittkiel** or the nearby “Gut” (plantation) called Schweltholm. Two years earlier his father had died. I expect that my 54 year old **great grandmother** needed aid in raising her 16 year old son, who became my grandfather. Several years earlier an older son had emigrated to Iowa and an older daughter to Minnesota.

My **Dad** had shown the diary book to me while I took German in high school. The front of the book consists of many pages of religious instruction. Toward the middle was this diary. From the few words in Roman letter script and the date I knew this section concerned his **emigration**. My German teacher could not read the script either. We probably thought it was Platt-Deutsch or low German which is spoken in the low country of northern Germany.

After my Dad passed away, I got possession of the diary. My next door neighbor was a **German teacher** here in Midland. She could not read the script but **her mother could**. So first was the conversion from the **old German Schrieb schrift** to typed **German** by her mother, and then a translation to **English** by the teacher. In these last several years, after getting several guides and reading a number of photocopies of church records, I can now translate the Deutsch Schrieb schrift, but very, very slowly.

The **train trip** from Suederbrarup to Bremen via Kiel and Harnburg took most of the **first day**. They spent the **second day sightseeing** in Bremen. My 16 year old grandfather and his new friends saw many sites in the city. On the **third** morning (March 22, 1891) the **ship departed** at 11 o'clock for America.

The **diary** states: “On the third morning we went in 1 1/2 hours to Bremerhaven. When we arrived there we were greeted with music from the ship. And when we looked out our small window we noticed that the ship was already in motion. Nobody had noticed earlier. We went up on deck. Since we had departed at 11 o'clock we soon had to go down and get our eating utensils.”

On the second day at sea they saw the White Cliffs of Dover. The third day they were in the main **ocean**. He wrote: “A stiff breeze came up, and the ship **swayed** quite a bit and again we had to vomit. One man on either deck was kept busy with cleaning up the mess.” The diary ended probably due to his **seasickness**.

From the above translation it seemed very clear that I could easily find them on an immigrant passenger ship. From the book, “**Morten Allen Directory**”, I figured out the round trip time and guessed the ship was the “**D.D. Lahn**”. Later that year, I had free time in Washington D.C. while my wife was attending a conference. I went to the **National Archives** and searched the arrival passenger lists of that ship -- no luck! So I searched the ship after, the second ship after, the ship before, the second ship before, the third after until I gave up on ship arrivals in New York. I searched ship arrivals in Baltimore, Boston, Freeport, etc. **with no luck**.

When the **Hoyt Library** got their 1991 copy of “**Germans to America**”, I got momentarily excited for there was a **Friedrich and an Anna Maas** (alternate spelling of Mass), but the sailing date was two months later than my grandfather had “told” me in his diary. It was a very important day in his life so he surely would have gotten it correct.

My brother Leo had received the family house in Minnesota as part of the estate settlement. While I was visiting him in the autumn he gave to me **two German letters** that he had found. One was from a local government office in Kappeln (Germany), which approved the **termination** of our grandfather's German (Prussian) **citizenship** on the **21 April 1891**. The second letter was the

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When Did Grandfather Maas Sail To America

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official **granting** of the termination of citizenship. It read: "Entlassung aus der Preussischen Staatsangehoerigkeit" on **6 May 1891** by the Royal Presidential Office in Schleswig (then the capital of the Schleswig-Holstein state). It had the provision that he had to live outside of German territory (Reich gebiet) within 6 months, otherwise he would be taken back as a citizen of the German state where he lived.

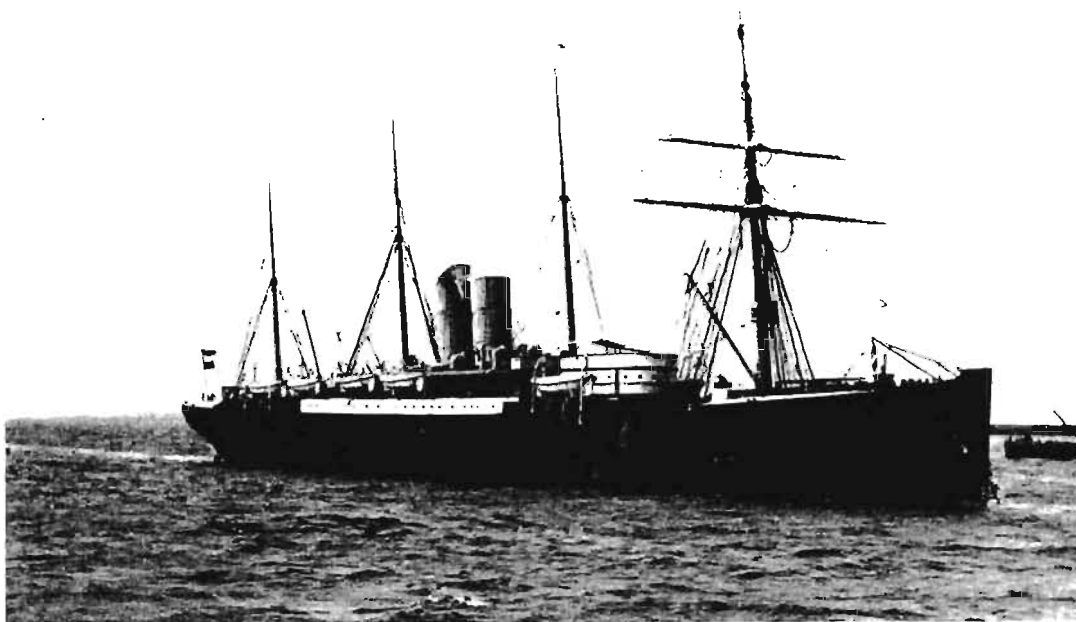
I have a **conflict** with the timing: the diary told of a ship departure on March 20 but the release of citizenship occurred at a later date, on May 6. I had my translation confirmed by an immigrant from Germany. Could Friedrich have been two months wrong in the diary? Note: Friedrich's birthday was March 20, 1875 according to all of the available records.

The diary gives two other pieces of useful information. Friedrich toured the town of Bremen with a man named **Carl Wulf** and they boarded the ship together. "Germans to America" lists a **Carl Wulf** along with **Anna and Friedrich Maas** on the ship "**S.S. EMS**" that docked in New York on **June 2, 1891**. Friedrich also states that the train passed **fields of rye**. Like winter wheat, rye is planted in the fall and harvested by mid-summer. This October, I planted a small patch of rye to see what it looks like on March 20, 2003 and then on May 20, 2003.

My conclusion is that Friedrich and his mother got the citizen termination papers on May 6, departed home on May 20, **arrived in New York on June 2, 1891 on the ship S. S. EMS**. Friedrich mistakenly wrote in his birth date as the departure date when he wrote in his diary.

In genealogy, at times we need **several pieces of evidence** to counteract data that we expected to be true – a fact written at the time of an event by a person in attendance at the event **may not necessarily be true**. (**Editor's comment:** It is more likely that the **translation** of the handwritten diary entry of the old German Schrieb schrift is in **error**, that it was really May and not March.)

A picture of the ship **S.S. EMS** which carried my grandfather and great grandmother to America is shown below.



The **EMS** was a North German Lloyd vessel built in 1884 by John Elder & Co., Glasgow. Her weight was 4730 gross tons, length 429.8 feet, beam 47 feet, two funnels, four masts, iron construction, and single screw. She had a speed of sixteen knots. She accommodated 125 1st class, 130 2nd class and 1000 3rd class passengers. Her maiden voyage was from Bremen to Southampton to New York. In 1896 her masts were reduced to two. Her last Bremen to New York voyage was in 1896. She was used in Genoa – Naples – New York service until late 1900. In 1901 she was sold to the Elder Dempster Line and renamed LAKE SIMCO. She ran the Liverpool – Quebec – Montreal and Liverpool – St. John NB service until 1903. She was scrapped in 1905.

MGS MEMBERSHIP REPORT - Mary & Sheldon Levy, Membership Co-Chairs

Our **membership total** is now up to **103**. We continue to maintain a three to one balance of single to household memberships.

Our newest members are:

Robert Baker	Midland
Toni Hayes	Sanford
Terry & Virginia McKane	Midland

Please make a point to welcome **Robert, Toni, Terry** and **Virginia**. You will be interested to know that **Virginia** is the **Assistant Director** of the **Grace A. Dow Memorial Library** and **Terry** is the **Governor** of the **Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan**. Several members will want to talk with Terry about their own Mayflower connections.

While 103 members is a **respectable** number, we have done **better**. Another dozen members would bring us back to the level we were at several years ago. (We have gained many new members, but for some reason have lost many who have been long time members.) If you know any **former members**, please talk with them about **re-joining** to revitalize their interest in their family's history. You may have **friends** that have talked about their genealogy or have an interest in preserving their family's history for future generations or are working independently but could use encouragement, guidance and fresh ideas. Give these folks our new lime green **membership flyer** and suggest that they come to a meeting or two without obligation.

MGS PIN - Mary & Sheldon Levy, Membership Co-Chairs

Your **Board** is considering a **Midland Genealogical Society** lapel/hat **pin** to give members of the Society ready **identity** at genealogical functions and to raise money for MGS.

A **small committee** is needed to explore the possibilities and feasibility. **Please** contact any Board member (e-mail addresses and telephone numbers are listed on the back page of this issue of the *Pioneer Record*) if you are interested in participating. It will be a fun and worthwhile project.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Dave Russell, MGS Treasurer

Income for **MGS 2002-2003** fiscal year to date (January 22, 2003) is **\$2169**, made up primarily of donations (\$138), dues (\$1379), First Family (\$60), interest (\$67), NARA (\$58), research (\$160), and book sales (\$296), versus a budgeted income total of **\$2682**. Expenses to date are **\$1294**, made up primarily of Membership Committee (\$360), MGC mileage (\$40), Pioneer Record (\$583), program expenses (\$50) and rent (\$200), versus a budgeted expense total of **\$2682**.

The account balances are: Operating Checking: **\$2520.78**; Money Market: **\$3827.45**; and CD: **\$2500.00**. The total assets are **\$8848.23**.

IMPORTANT WEB ADDRESSES

MGS WEB SITE	http://www.rootsweb.com/~mimgs/
MIDLAND COUNTY GenWeb SITE	http://www.usgennet.org/usa/mi/county/midland/
MICHIGAN GenWeb SITE	http://www.rootsweb.com/~migenweb/
LDS Church Family History WEB SITE	http://www.familysearch.org
National Genealogical Society	http://www.ngsgenealogy.org
Social Security Death Index	http://www.ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com

My Father's (John Siersma) Immigration to USA

We knew my father, **John Siersma**, had immigrated to the USA at age four in **1906** from the **Netherlands** with his parents but had no records. A distant cousin in the Netherlands, Rob Vink, had found in the **Groninger Archieven**, records that indicated the **Siersma family** had left **Groningen** in March 1906. The Dutch records are normally very good – whenever people moved they had to report it. However, we had no records telling us exactly when they departed, from what port, on what ship, or when they arrived in the USA.

In **1997**, we visited my only living Siersma aunt or uncle, **Dorothy Siersma Church**, aged 80, who we knew had many old pictures of the Siersma family and also much information from the past. Following much conversation and viewing some pictures, she showed us four "**Inspection Cards**" for the immigrating Siersma family in 1906. Each visit with her has provided more and more pictures and information.

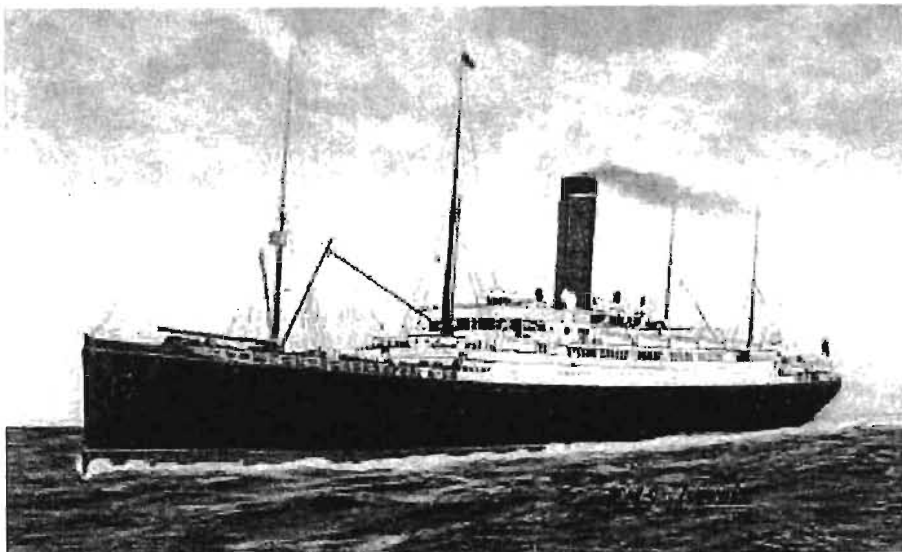
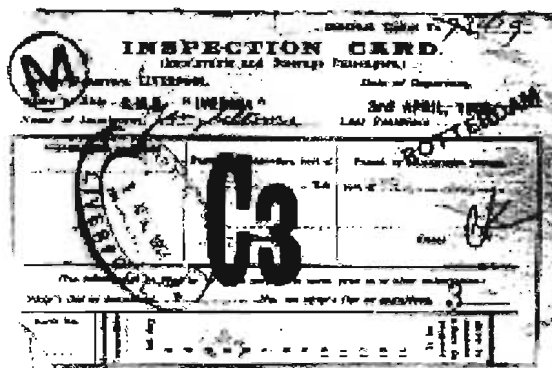
To our delight, the "**Inspection Cards**" contained a great deal of information. The name of the ship was **RMS IVERNIA**; the port of departure was **LIVERPOOL**; and the date of departure was **3 APRIL 1906**. The family ticket number was **73419**. The names of the immigrants were hand-written: **Georgius Siersma** (Number on ship's manifest #1); **Saardina Siersma** (#2); **Jan Siersma** (#3); and **Herman Siersma** (#4). All were stamped: "**C3**";

"**Rotterdam**" (last residence), "**M**" in a circle; and an oval stamp containing "**?? Consulate, 3 April 1906, Inspection, Liverpool**". All were approved with a handwritten "**OK**". In 1997 we knew much about the departure but nothing about the arrival. How the family traveled to Liverpool from Groningen via Rotterdam is not known.

In **August 1998** at the **Family History Center** in Salt Lake City, we spent an entire Saturday afternoon looking for the manifest for ships arriving in New York in mid-April 1906 with **no results**. On Monday morning we started searching again, but this time an **LDS** volunteer asked what we were searching for. He smiled and told us we were looking in the wrong port, the **Ivernia** traveled between **Liverpool** and **Boston**. From a book he ascertained that the **Ivernia** arrived in **Boston** on **12 April 1906**. However, we never found the ship's manifest list.

In **April 2002** at the **FHC** in Salt Lake City, we searched again. **Technology** has improved the search techniques at the FHC, and this time we located the **Ivernia's** manifest for **12 April 1906** with the **Siersma** family records. The form has the Name **Siersma Georgius Frederickus** age 30 with 3 Family Members: **Saardina**, age 29; **Jan Henderickus**, age 4; and **Herman**, age 2 – Citizen of **Holland** – Steamer: **Ivernia** - Line: **Cunard** - Date: **April 12 1906** - **Boston** - Group No.: **?????** - List No.: **L @ 24**.

The moral of this story is - **if at first you don't succeed, try and try again**.



The steamship **Ivernia** was built in **1900**, by C.S. Swan & Hunter Ltd. in Newcastle. Her weight was 14000 gross tons, length 582 feet beam 65 feet, one funnel, steel construction and twin screws. She had a maximum speed of 17 knots. She accommodated 164 1st class, 200 2nd class and 1600 3rd class passengers. Her normal service was **Liverpool-Boston**. In 1912 her service was switched to Trieste-New York. On **1 January 1917** the **Ivernia** was **torpedoed** and sunk near Cape Matapan by the **German** submarine **UB 47**; 36 died.

HULL'S SURRENDER OF DETROIT and FAMILY LETTERS

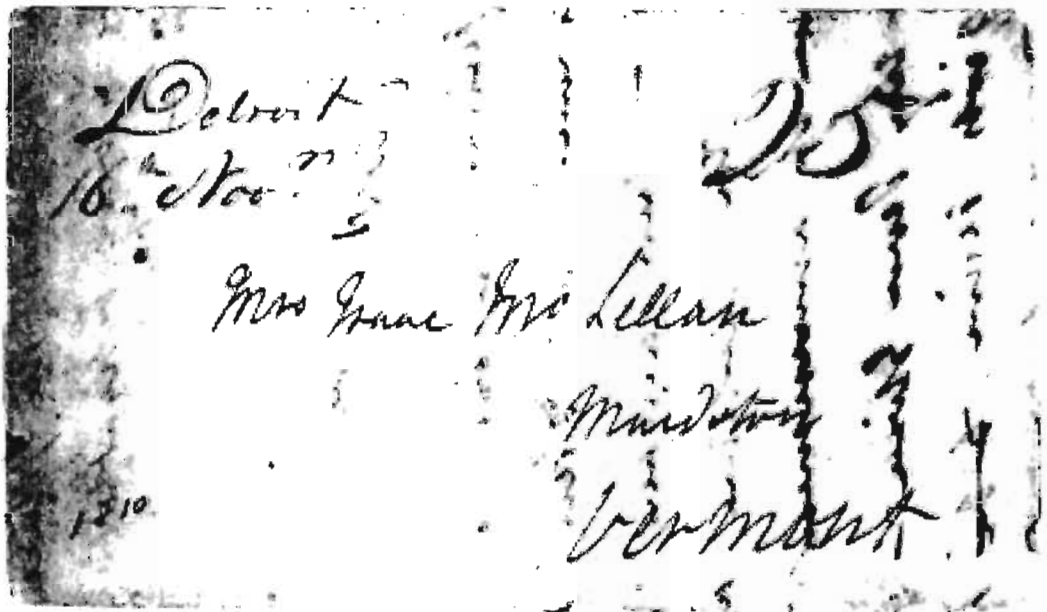
(continued from page 1)

The article in the "**The Clarion**" provides little background about the circumstances of the "**Surrender of Detroit**", and infers only one interpretation of the historical politics of the period. Research provides the **other side of the story**.

William Hull was born 24 June 1753 in Derby, CT to Eliza Clarke Hull and Capt. Joseph Hull. He graduated from **Yale** in 1772 and was admitted to the Bar in 1775. The **Revolutionary War** began and **Hull** immediately became involved. He **served valiantly** in Washington's army, participated in many critical campaigns and rose to the level of Lt. Colonel by war's end. In 1881 he married **Sarah**, daughter of Abraham **Fuller**, a distinguished patriot and farmer in Newton, MA. In 1883, following the war, he began a **twenty year**, very successful practice of **law** in Newton. During this period he also served in the **army**. He served as **senator** in the Massachusetts Legislature from 1798-1805.

During this period, **William and Sarah** adopted one son and had eight children (seven daughters and one son), all born in Newton, Middlesex, MA. The Hull's were a **patriot, military family**. The adopted son, **Isaac Hull**, commanded the **USS Constitution** during the War of 1812. Their 3rd child, **Abraham Fuller Hull**, was slain in the battle of Bridgewater in 1814 at age 28. The daughters all married: **Sarah** (b: 1783, d: 1810) married John **McKesson** in 1802; **Elizabeth** (b: 1784, d: 1864) married Isaac **McLennon** in 1805; **Ann Nancy Binny** (b: 1787, d: 1847) married Capt. H.H. **Hickman** in 1808; **Maria** (b: 1788, d: 1845) married Edward F. **Campbell** in 1815; **Rebecca Parker** (b: 1790, d: 1845) married Samuel **Clarke**, MD in 1805; **Caroline** (b: 1793, d: 1825) married Rufus K. **Page** in 1819; and **Julie Knox** (b: 1799, d: 1852) married Joseph **Wheeler** in 1825. There were many grandchildren.

In 1805 William **Hull** was appointed by **President Thomas Jefferson** to be the first **Governor of Michigan Territory** and also the **Indian Agent**. There were less than 5000 white inhabitants (mostly French) in Michigan Territory, mainly in the Detroit area -- whereas there were numerous large **Indian** tribes of warlike nature, **not friendly** to the Americans.



16 Nov 1810 Letter from Maria Hull in Detroit to her sister Eliza in Vermont

Hull reached **Detroit**, with his **family** (wife Sarah and children Ann, Maria, Caroline and Julie), in **July 1805**, shortly after the **fire** which **destroyed the city**. He immediately proceeded to supervise the **rebuilding** of Detroit, established **governmental** authority, and attempted to negotiate with and civilize the **Indian** tribes. The Federal government was **not** very helpful. The politics of the period were to **conquer Canada**. When **war** with the **British** and **Indian** tribes around Detroit appeared imminent, **Hull**, at age **59**, reluctantly consented to command the Northwest **army**, which was being assembled in Ohio. The **government** in Washington **failed** to support his requests for more provisions and men – **failed** to defend Lake Erie (only supply route to Detroit) – **failed** to support

(continued on page 11)

HULL'S SURRENDER OF DETROIT and FAMILY LETTERS

(continued from page 10)

the invasion of Canada from the east. In **July 1812**, **Hull** brought his small army from **Ohio** to the **Detroit** area, crossed into Canada but was reluctant to take the offensive. The army retreated back to **Fort Detroit**. In July **Fort Michilimackinac** surrendered to the Indians. On August 15 the garrison from **Fort Dearborn** was massacred and the fort destroyed. At **Fort Detroit** provisions were scarce, communications impossible, surrounded by hostile Indians and faced by a well equipped British army – **Hull surrendered Fort Detroit on August 16, 1812** rather than have a **massacre** of the soldiers and citizens (including his family).

While a prisoner in Canada, his political and military **enemies** publicly **blamed** him for their mistakes. According to B.J. Lossing (monograph published 1875), the **trial** was a disgraceful one, its sentence unjust. Lossing says that the court was constituted to offer **Hull** as a **sacrifice** to appease public indignation and to preserve the administration from disgrace and contempt. The campaign against Canada was a **huge blunder** and not fully supported by the government.

Following the court-martial and pardon, **Hull** was dismissed from the army and returned to his farm in Newton where he lived until his death in **1825**. He was surrounded by his family and enjoyed the peaceful pursuits of agriculture. **Hull** defended his actions to the end stating: "**I have sacrificed a reputation dearer to me than life, but I have saved the inhabitants of Detroit, and my heart approves the act.**" His family also continued to justify his actions.

The **letter of 1810**, referred to earlier and pictured above, was written by Hull's daughter, **Maria**, in Detroit to her married sister, **Eliza** Hull McLellon, living in the east in Vermont. It refers to her sister, Sarah Hull McKesson, who had just recently died. It points out her father's love for farming. Her mother obviously dislikes the wilderness and misses the civilization and comforts of the east. It reads:

I have a few moments to write you my Dear Eliza by Judge Masters who has spent some time with us. You know not how much I think of you, how much we all talk of you my Dear Sister. - I wish with all my heart that I was with you to assist you to support this dreary situation you are in. - But I know not if it is more unpleasant than ours - but I will not complain, while I see my sister, my now eldest sister, setting an example of fortitude so worthy of imitation. - By a letter from Mrs. Clarke we hear that you are still persecuted by misfortunes of a pecuniary nature - we feel, each one of us feel much for you my Dear Sister. It seems hard, where there is so much patience and goodness on your side, with so much exertion and industry on that of your husband - that your efforts should not be crowned with success - but thanks be to God, his superintending care is over everything - in that I have the fullest confidence.

I wrote the above in great haste, some time since my Dear Eliza - my intention was to have sent it by Judge Masters who spent a month with us - but he went away suddenly and I shall now send it by the post. - I wish you would try to write us a letter oftener - If it was only a few lines to assure us of your health and that of your husband and children, it would be a great satisfaction to us. Papa has decided to visit his friends in the States the next season should he receive his re-appointment for this government within three years - that will be decided in March, and we shall most certainly go if he is not appointed. Papa enjoys good health and spirits - he has purchased a farm about three miles from our place of residence - from that he gets all his produce for the family at a much cheaper rate than by purchasing as those things are very dear in this country - besides it brings us amusement, and very much promoting his health. You know that he is very fond of farming and thinks the life of a farmer the happiest in the world ~~

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HULL'S SURRENDER OF DETROIT and FAMILY LETTERS

(continued from page 11)

~ - he got this farm very cheap - indeed for almost nothing.

Mamma is not contented with her situation in this place - nor do I think ever will be. The society is poor indeed - and there is nothing to amuse you or fill up an hour pleasantly without the circle of your own family. We stay at home altogether, and receive few visitors. - There is greater difference between the winters and summers in this place. - There are a great many strangers here in the summer which renders the place much more lively. The country is very delightful for walking, riding etc. - water parties are very common in the warm season. - We engage ourselves in gardening and the season passes away very pleasantly.

Mrs. Hickman desires her love to you. Nathan, her husband, will spend this winter with us - her daughter is a most charming little creature and is a great source of amusement to us.

Write me to my Dear Eliza - Papa, Mamma and the girls desire their love to you and your husband - and your dear children. - I write in haste and must bid you adieu my dear sister.

Yours ever

Maria Hull

Detroit November 16 1810

MY OWN GRANDPA

Family Tree

When I was twenty-three,
I got married to a widow
Who was pretty as could be.

This widow had a grown-up
daughter
Who had hair of red.
My father fell in love with her,
And soon the two were wed.

This made my **dad** my **son-in-law**
And changed my very life.
My **daughter** was my
mother,
For she was my father's wife.

To complicate the matters
worse,
Although it brought me joy,

I soon became the father of
A bouncing baby boy.

My little baby then became
A brother-in-law to dad.
And so became my **uncle**,
Though it made me very sad.

For if he was my **uncle**,
Then that also made him
brother
To the widow's grown-up
daughter
Who, of course, was my
stepmother.

Father's wife then had a son,
Who kept them on the run.
And he became my
grandson,
For he was my daughter's
son.

My **wife** is now my **mother's**
mother

And it makes me blue.
Because, although she is my
wife,
She is my **grandma** too.

If my **wife** is my
grandmother,
Then I am her grandchild.
And every time I think of it,
It simply drives me wild.

For now I have become
The strangest case you ever
saw.
As the husband of my
grandmother,
I am my own grandpa.

Complete List of CDs Available in the Midland Room, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library

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1850 Census Microfilm Records		Family Queries:	
Indiana	302	Evertons Roots Cellar 1640-1990	18
Kentucky	303	General Records: VA Land, Marriage	
Virginia	309	& Probate 1639-1850	513
Illinois	301	Genealogist's All In One Address Book	115
1860 Census Microfilm Records		German & Swiss Settlers in	
Indiana	304	America 1700-1800s	267
1870 US Federal Census Indexes		German Genealogy Guide	199
Connecticut & Rhode Island	ACD0023	Germans to America 1850-1874	355
Washington DC & Maryland	ACD0016	Germans to America 1875-1888	356
Delaware & New Jersey	ACD0033	Histories & Genealogies of Essex	
Illinois	ACD0013	Cnty MA (Heritage Books)	100008
Indiana	ACD0038	Huguenot Settlers in North	
Kentucky	ACD0035	America & Europe	600
Maine, New Hampshire & VT	ACD0042	Immigrants to PA 1600-1800s	501
Michigan	ACD0022	Griffith's Valuation of Ireland /	
New York	ACD0018	Index 1848-1864	188
Ohio	ACD0014	International Land Records:	
Pennsylvania	ACD0184	Tithe Applotment Books	262
Upper Plains & Midwest States	ACD0040	Irish Flax Growers List 1796	271
Virginia & West Virginia	ACD0015	Land Records:	
Wisconsin	ACD0039	AL AR FL LA MI MN OH WI	255
1880 US Census & National Index		Lewis's Gazetteers of	
by Family Search 56 discs	xxxx	England, Ireland & Scotland	270
American Source Records in		Lineages of Hereditary Society	
England 1600s-1800s	364	Members 1600-1900s	506
Berks County (PA) Church Records		New England Local & Family Histories	449
1752-1825 (by UFT)	100009	Loyalists in American Revolution	144
Bible Records: New England		Mackinac Register: 1695-1888	100010
Historical Genealogical Society	xxxx	Marriage index:	
Canadian Genealogy Index	100007	AR MS MO TX	5
Canadian Genealogy Index:		AZ CA ID NV	225
1600-1900	118	IL IN KY OH TN	2
Confederate Soldiers	119	MD NC VA	4
Connecticut Local & Family Histories	515	KY NC TN VA W	229
County & Family Histories:		Maryland Settlers & Soldiers 1700-1800s	521
Ohio 1780-1970	450	Massachusetts Civil War	
Pennsylvania 1740-1900	193	Soldiers & Sailors 1861-1865	134
Early New England Settlers:		Massachusetts Genealogical	
1600-1800s	504	Records 1600-1800s	526
Family History		Massachusetts Town Probate &	
CT Genealogies #1 1600-1800s	179	Vital Records	502
Early NY Families 1600-1900s	157		
KY Genealogies #1 1700-1800s	185		
MidAtlantic Genealogies 1340-1940	156		
NJ Genealogies #1 1600-1800s	182		
Southern Genealogies 1500-1940s	500		
RI Genealogies #1 1600-1800s	180		
Family Pedigrees:			
Evertons Publishers 1500-1990	15		

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November 20, 2002 MGS Meeting

Midland native, **Toni Hayes** presented a well-attended program about researching her ancestors in **Romania**. Fortunately, she has been able to visit **Romania** on several occasions. As part of her presentation she wore an old, cream colored dress with a red patterned apron which was **typical dress** for a married woman in Romania. She stated that Romania is a very poor country and citizens sell their old family heirloom garments that may be 50 to 100 years old.

Toni reported that **hiring a professional genealogist** in Romania was worth every penny she spent. She was very **fortunate** to locate a professional genealogist who was able to not only research both her grandfather's and grandmother's ancestors, but also willing to serve as a guide, a travel agent, a concierge, a travel companion, and occasionally a gracious host. He charged \$500 for each family line he researched. When he served as a guide during her visits, he charged \$5/hour. He kept very detailed records related to all of his charges



Because a professional genealogist has access to as well as knowledge of the types of records that are available, they can locate data that would be difficult, if not impossible, for a visitor from a foreign country to obtain. One of the most important things one can/should do when employing a professional genealogist is to maintain good, if not excellent, **communications**. This can be done via the Internet, telephone or regular mail. Toni emphasized the importance of making sure that you are very clear about what information you want, otherwise you may get information that is of no value to you in your search and carries an unfortunate price tag that must be paid

Toni identified what specific information she was seeking and sent whatever data she had that would facilitate the research being done by "her" professional genealogist. She expected and received frequent communications from the researcher. She paid for the research with American dollars, sending payments via wire.

Because Romania is such a poor country, she found that it was essential to carry enough US funds, in cash, with her whenever she visited. She paid "her" professional genealogist in cash for all the services he provided during her visits.

Locating a professional genealogist, particularly in a foreign country is a challenge. But once found, the information obtained is extremely valuable to those genealogists who do not have the time or the resources to do their own personal research. Using the services of a professional genealogist can be well worth "every penny spent".

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2002-2003

The **MGS** Treasurer and Membership Chairs have been collecting dues for the fiscal year 2002-2003 since last May, 2002. If your dues were not paid by the end of November, 2002, you have been dropped from the mailing list and will not receive this issue of the *Pioneer Record*. Dues may be paid by mail to: Membership Chair, **Midland Genealogical Society**, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640.

Dues for an **individual** are **\$14.00** ; for a **family** they are **\$17.50**

Undocumented genealogy is mythology.

January 15, 2003 MGS Meeting

Mary Branson, Program Committee Chair, introduced the following panel of members who presented a program titled "**Learning From Our Mistakes**". Panel members were **Wilma Diesen, Nancy Lackie**, and **Dick Skochdopole**.

Nancy Lackie discussed an experience she had, as a novice genealogist, while researching ancestors beginning in the 1600's. She was seeking information about her ancestor **John Webster**. Unfortunately she discovered that there were **two** John Websters living in the area during the time of her research. She found that data became so intertwined regarding the two families that it took her a great deal of time and effort to eventually separate out the data which pertained to her correct John Webster ancestor. She stated that she had missed some of the "**clues**" which would have helped prevent the mix-up that occurred.

She also shared an experience she had while researching an ancestor named **Albert Aldrich**. She communicated with a relative who provided information about Albert's birthdate, etc, which she accepted as accurate. Additional research eventually proved that the data she had accepted from her relative was incorrect. When Nancy contacted her relative and informed her that her data was inaccurate, the relative never communicated with her again. She emphasized the importance of always checking for **primary information** when doing genealogical research.

Dick Scochdopole shared one of his mistake prone experiences while researching his **great-grandfather**. As a child growing up in Nebraska he used to see his g-grandfather's tombstone frequently. On the front of the **tombstone** the date of his

g-grandfather's death was carved "**1903**". When his interest in genealogy was sparked, he returned to Nebraska and scoured the 1903 newspapers in the library looking for the obituary for his g-grandfather. He came up empty handed. He eventually learned that his g-grandfather had founded a local organization of immigrants from Czechoslovakia. This organization published a monthly newspaper, written in their native language. Research led him to these old newspapers, and with the help of a translator, he eventually found an obituary for his g-grandfather dated September 1902. The tombstone was incorrect. His comment was that "Sometimes things that are chiseled in stone are not really chiseled in stone". You still need to locate the **primary information**.

Wilma Diesen shared a frustrating experience she had while researching in Montgomery County, Ohio (Dayton) for the birth record of her great grandfather Milner. She had always **understood** that he had been born in Dayton. She could never find anything. Later when she found her grandfather Milner's death record she noted that the record stated that his father (g-grandfather Milner) had been born in Van Wort County. Now she had the **clue** she needed to locate g-grandfather Milner's birth record. After much wasted time and effort, she finally located the correct birth record.

Sometimes you need to look for **other clues** when your research hits a **brickwall**. After the panel finished their presentations **several members** shared a few of their personal challenges / mistakes.

President Bob Mass conducted a brief business meeting following the panel presentation.



Wilma, Dick & Nancy

Complete List of CDs Available in the Midland Room, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library
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Mid-Atlantic Genealogies	56	Pilgrim Genealogies & Histories 1600-1900s	23
Midwest Pioneers Genealogical Records 1600-1800s	508	Civil War Union Soldiers: Roll of Honor	351
Military Records: Confederate Soldiers 1861-1865	119	Select US/International Marriage Records	403
Military Records: US Soldiers 1784-1811	146	Social Security Death Index 1937-97	110
Mortality Index: US 1850-1880	164	Southern Biographies & Genealogies	100002
Naturalization Records: Philadelphia	100005	Settlers of the Beekham Patent – Doherty	100011
Naturalization Records: Philadelphia 1789-1880	258	Virginia Land, Marriage & Probate Records	100001
NY Births & Baptisms: SE Region 1660-1916	100016	World Family Tree Family Finder Index Vol 1-4	wft43
NY in the Revolution & War of 1812	143	WFT Discs Vol 1-82	wft1
NY Marriage Index 1740-1880s	402	WFT PA Genealogies #1	100012
North American Births & Christenings A-Z	100014	WFT VA Genealogies #1	100013
North American Marriages A-Z Six Discs: 2-7	100015	WFT European Origins V.E1	100006
Ohio Land & Tax Records 1787-1840	651		
Ontario & Nova Scotia Settlers 1790-1860	274		
Passenger & Immigration Lists: Boston	256		
New York	273		
New York	100004		
PA Colonial Records 1600-1800s	512		
PA Vital Records 1700-1800s	172		

NOTE:

All the above **CDs** are located to the right of the **MGS computer** located in the **Midland Room** on the **Disc shelf**. In the above listings, the numbers to the right of the titles are the numbers on the **CD**.

Most of the **CDs** are **read utilizing** the **Family Tree Maker** software installed on the **MGS computer**. **Some** of the **CDs** are read utilizing **special software** which has already been installed on the **MGS computer** but require going to that reading program rather than the **FTM** program.

OH IF IT WERE ONLY THIS EASY.....

An older friend, recently returned from her hometown in North Carolina, says they've **spruced up** the churchyard **cemetery** since her last visit several years back. "Lots of new greenery," she said. "And families are together now."

"**Together?**" I asked, puzzled.

"Well, years ago they never much worried where they buried someone because everyone was a neighbor anyhow. They'd just dig a grave **wherever it seemed to balance things**. But, they've **redone** it so people are with their children and grandchildren, **instead of scattered**."

"You mean they exhumed all those people and buried them again?"

"Oh no," she said. "**They just shifted the headstones**. Everyone agrees it **looks** ever so much **nicer**"

Thanks to: Bernard Brooks benbrooks@new.rr.com

MGS PROGRAMS FOR 2002-2003

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 fall will be as follows:

Feb. 19, 2003

"Preparations For Publishing Prior to Printing" speaker: Ken Schweitzer, MGS member.

March 19, 2003

"Growth, Services and Opportunities of the MCHS" speaker: -Gary Skory, Director of Midland County Historical Society.

April 16, 2003

Helen Eichstaedt, author of the book "ALLA LIZZIE", will relate the struggle to start a new life in early twentieth century America for her German/Russian ancestors.

May 21, 2003

Mystery Night, Annual Meeting & Election of 2003-2004 MGS Officers

Refreshments & conversation will follow the program at all meetings

Next issue of the *Pioneer Record* will be published and mailed

About April 8-10, 2003

The MGS NEEDS YOU - VOLUNTEER
The MGS NEEDS YOU - VOLUNTEER
The MGS NEEDS YOU - VOLUNTEER

UPCOMING SEMINARS

Michigan Genealogical Council 2003 ABRAMS Genealogical Series

The MGC has sponsored a series of 6 Saturday workshops, each with a special subject, that focus on genealogical resources available at the Library of Michigan in Lansing.

Feb 1 - Genealogy Resources at Library of Michigan and Historical Center

April 10 - Federal & State Land Records

June 7 - Researching Your Female Ancestors

Aug. 2 - Using Vital Records for Genealogical Research

Oct. 4 - Genealogy & the Internet

Dec. 6 - Polish Genealogy

Cost is \$10 per workshop. The 90-minute sessions begin at 9:15 am. For more details go to www.rootsweb.org/~mimqc

Conferences, Workshops & Seminars

Feb 8 - Workshop "Black Roots", Researching African American Families

9:30 am to 3:30pm at Library of Michigan
Reg.Fee: \$20, \$15 for students.

March 29 - 2003 Annual Spring Seminar
Genealogical Soc. Of Monroe County

9:00am to 3:45pm; Reg. Fee \$15

May 28-31 - 2003 NGS Conference in the States
Celebrating 100th Anniversary

David Lawrence Conv. Center, Pittsburgh, PA
Contact www.ngsgenealogy.org

BOOKS FOR SALE

The following books, published by the Midland Genealogical Society, are available for sale at any MGS meeting, at the Midland Genealogy Room, Grace A. Dow Public Library or by mail. Price of each book is \$20.00 plus \$3.00 for postage and handling.

MIDLAND COUNTY OBITUARY INDEX (#1) - 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 soft bound 238 page book is 8 1/2 by 11 inches. (45 copies remaining)

MIDLAND COUNTY OBITUARY INDEX (#2) - 1928-1950. The book consists of 16,000 abstractions covering 22 years from the Midland Republican (1928-1937) and the Midland Daily News (1937-1950). The soft bound 238 page book is 8 1/2 by 11 inches. Note: Both Obituary Books (#1 & #2) are available in as a package for \$35.00; plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling. (85 copies remaining)

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, soft bound, 259 pages. (0 copies remaining, but orders being compiled at Genealogy desk)

To ORDER A BOOK write:

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



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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 \$14.00 for single and \$17.50 for a couple and can be paid after July 1, but must be paid by Nov. 25, 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.