



# PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

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November 2004

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### MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS FOR 2004 - 2005

Meetings are 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 meetings are as follows.

November 17

"Midland, the Way We Were" by Virginia Flory and Leona Seamster

January 19

"Case Studies in Genealogical Research" by Jo Brines and members of our society (needed are members to relate insite on how they made progress in difficult cases)

February 16

"Post Street Archives" by Tawny Nelb

March, April, and May programs are not yet finalized.

## Education for the One-room School Teacher

Almost everyone has a teacher in his or her family tree. Many of them probably taught in a one-room school. The purpose of this article is to give a glimpse of former educational practices and opportunities, and what it took to become a teacher way back when our ancestors were young and starting out in life.

In the past, the first one-room school in a Michigan rural district usually began in a log cabin. The log cabin schools were barely functional and not well suited for the needs of the students or teachers. As time went on, school buildings were built of frame construction with gabled vestibules and bell towers similar to a church. By the late 1890s, the state issued standard plans for rural schools to help local school districts build useful buildings.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, almost anyone could become a teacher in Michigan's one-room schools. The schoolteacher was often a young, unmarried woman sometimes still in her teens. With eight grades to instruct, a teacher in a rural district was paid very little. Once state laws specified a certain number of school days to be taught, a rural teacher made up any absences or sick days she might have taken by teaching extra days at the end of the school year.

Even though some women made a career of teaching, a large number of women taught for only a year or two, got married, and became a homemaker. Besides the low pay, this trend led to a very high turnover among teachers. Many local school boards tried to discourage marriage until the end of the academic year. A number of them required teachers to sign a contract granting the board authority to discharge a female teacher who married during the school year.

The teacher's social life was sometimes regulated by her contract. It required that she be at home by 8:00 p.m.

unless she had approval from the school board for later hours. She was also not allowed to attend social functions unless they were school or church sponsored. Women teachers also had to dress appropriately and were expected to be "models of propriety."

The teacher's day in a one-room school included a wide range of duties besides teaching. Arriving at school about an hour before the students, she was to fill the drinking water pail from the well, have a fire burning in the stove, and raise the flag. Usually at 8:00 a.m., she rang the bell. After school, many teachers also performed the janitorial duties in the building. When the day's classes had ended, the floor was swept, the room straightened, lamps filled and chimneys cleaned, and the teacher brought in fuel for the next day's fire. The teacher was also expected to scrub the floor at least once a week and clean the wood stove when needed. Often student helpers would lighten the teacher's load of janitorial responsibilities.

Since almost anyone who wished to be a teacher could become one, students often had teachers unprepared for the classroom. Early champions of teacher education complained that it was impossible to have good schools for lack of good teachers. Many who taught were deficient in everything—in spelling, in reading, in penmanship, in geography, in grammar, and in common arithmetic. They felt that the majority of teachers would be dismissed if competent ones could be found.

Frustration over poorly qualified teachers was caused partly by new ideas that educational reformers of the early nineteenth century believed education should accomplish. At that time, "schooling" was usually understood to be mainly memorization. Printed lessons were

continued on page 3

**NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Every once in a while something happens to alter our perception of things. I must confess that I was less than enthusiastic about the potential for our October program at MGS. Maybe it was the title "The Postal History of Midland County" - maybe it was just the mood I was in when I first read that title, but somehow, that didn't sound like something that was going to prime my genealogical pump.

**SURPRISE!!!** What a delightful and informative evening we all had as we explored the history of postal service here in the County. I knew Midland had a lot of little places that once were bustling communities, but Earl and Chuck entertained us and educated us with stories of all sorts of places I, at least, had never heard of, including a few ghost towns that have just disappeared into the annals of history. Thank you to both men for their delightful evening at MGS.

Bob Mass has secured Virginia Flory and Leona Seamster to further our exploration of Midland history with "Midland, the Way We Were" for our November 17, program in the Library Lounge. I'll look forward to seeing you there.

A small project on which I've been working is to obtain a hard copy of the publications catalogue for Ancestry.com which I'm placing in the desk at the Midland Room in the Dow Library. If you find materials in that catalogue that are of interest to you, we can receive a Society discount by placing a group order. I'll make several copies of the order form on the back of the catalogue so we can prepare orders for our membership. Take a look at the book and see if there's anything there that might enhance your research.

Bob Mass reported on October 20, that the third volume of the Midland Obituary Index is ready for printing, and should be available for distribution by mid-November. He has about 40 advance orders, and has been authorized by the Board to print 20 copies over the advance orders. He expects to go to press about November 1.

I hope your ancestor hunting has been going well. Don't forget the resources we have available here in Midland, both in the Dow Library as well as in the Family History Center of the

**Latter-Day Saints.** Their collection of microfilms for Michigan counties continues to grow, and the folks there are most helpful in showing patrons how to explore their resources.

Till next time...

—Robert C. Snyder  
President

**From the Editor**

For those of you that missed the September society program, Laressa Northrup presented an excellent program on dating photographs by women's clothing. Although the program was cut short due to time constraints, I found that the presentation was very well done with many example photographs. She was able to cover styles between 1840 and 1914.

The October program was presented by Earl Ebach and Chuck McFarlane. The topic was on Postal History of Midland County. I was not expecting this to relate with genealogy, but found this a very informative presentation. By providing a powerpoint presentation showing first day covers and postcards from early Midland, we were able to learn about towns in the county that no longer exist or were known by another name. We also learned of businesses that operated over the years in Midland county. Were you aware that Midland had a chicory factory in 1916?

Bob Maas reported at the October general meeting that he has received orders for forty one copies of the new obituary index books. The books cover a time period of 1951-1982. These books have been sent to the printers and will be ready to distribute in November. The cost is forty dollars for a set of two.

I am currently researching lowering our postage costs for the PR. In order to qualify for the non-profit bulk mail rate we need to have a distribution of more than 200 copies. One way that we can increase this distribution, is by increasing our membership. Please bring a friend with you to the next general meeting.

If you have a story that you would like to contribute, please e-mail to [wgbennett@chartermi.net](mailto:wgbennett@chartermi.net) or mail to: PIO-NEER RECORD, Midland Genealogical Society, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640.

Walter G. Bennett, Editor



Laressa Northrup - September Speaker

**Education For The One-Room School  
Teacher (Cont from Page 1)**

given to the student to memorize. The teacher's job was to help the child remember the printed word and test the student by holding the book while the child repeated the lesson from memory. In a system with such a simple goal, the teacher's own education could be quite modest—all she needed was to be literate.

Educational reformers wanted schools to teach more than memory work. Teachers needed to help children discover their potential. To accomplish this, reformers demanded more broadly educated teachers who could help children develop their individual skills. To achieve their goals, reformers realized the need for a school to educate teachers.

America's first normal schools were established in Massachusetts in 1839. The Michigan legislature voted in 1849 to establish Michigan's first normal school—the first such school west of the Appalachian Mountains. The legislature believed that having better public school teachers would create a more educated farmer and lead to greater economic prosperity. Ypsilanti was chosen as the site of the first state normal school mainly because the community offered to raise \$13,500.00 to help support this institution and was the highest "bidder" among five communities seriously petitioning the legislature.

Michigan's second normal school was not founded until 1892 causing the state to lag behind Midwestern states Minnesota and Wisconsin who already had three and four normal schools respectively by then. Located in Mt. Pleasant, the school was primarily focused on educating teachers for the rural school districts. The legislature quickly added two more normal schools to the state's roster in Kalamazoo and

Marquette.

The curriculum offered at normal schools was very practical. Future teachers learned reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar, spelling, composition, and other subjects that would help them with their teaching. Music and drawing were subjects added to the curriculum in the 1870s. Teachers who could play an instrument or offer art instruction could more readily find jobs. Although the faculty of traditional colleges often held the normal schools in low esteem because they did not offer a traditional curriculum, those involved in the normal movement often took great pride in the fact that their schools upheld common, everyday learning.

Eventually normal schools developed into teacher colleges that awarded degrees instead of certificates. Ypsilanti was among the first normal schools in the nation to accomplish this transformation into a college. During the twentieth century, some of these schools became universities.

Although normal schools were important to teacher education through the nineteenth and into the twentieth century, many still became teachers without a normal school education. Low teacher salaries of about \$30.00 to \$40.00 a month made it economically difficult for many future teachers to spend a large amount of money for their own education. Since taxpayers weren't about to raise teacher salaries, alternatives to a normal school education were developed.

The two most common alternatives to attendance at a normal school were teacher institutes and "county normals." Frequently sponsored by the normals themselves during the summer months, institutes offered short intensive periods of study in which rural teachers could acquire or improve their skills. Although some normal school faculty frowned on these quick courses, they offered prospective teachers, through the 1920s, a quicker, less expensive way to begin their career.

Similar to institutes, county normals were usually organized by the county school commissioner with the help of the school districts in the county and the state. County normals were held annually during the summer. They offered very short, intensified courses on practical skills. A "master teacher" who dispensed

practical advice and an instructor who delivered the necessary academic training were usually the only two faculty members who taught county normals.

Short and close to home, these courses were often free if the student promised to teach the next year in the county. They helped many young persons enter into the teaching profession who could not afford to attend a summer institute at a normal school. County normal graduates were allowed to teach only in the county which had sponsored the normal, but sometimes counties recognized each other's normal school as acceptable training and let graduates from one county teach in another.

In Midland, Michigan, county normal began in the Union School on Grove Street in 1905 according to the *Midland Log*. Ida M. Huston was principal until 1910. Usually a prospective student graduated from high school and then entered the county normal to become a teacher after studying one year.

After the Union School burned in 1907, the county normal was transferred to the Dow School in the First Ward—a school that had all eight grades. This school burned in 1914, and county normal was moved to the Post Street School where it remained until its removal to the newly built Carpenter Street School in 1926. It closed in 1936.

The Post Street School was built in 1876 to accommodate children too small and young to walk to the Union School. This was a one-room school with grades through third. Later the big room was divided into two rooms and county normal was housed in one of them.

The *Midland Log* tells of one teacher who taught at the Post Street School and lived out in the country. Her father brought her to school on Monday morning in a horse and buggy, left her on the south side of the Tittabawassee River where she came across on a rope-attended ferry, or by rowboat. On Friday, the process was reversed. Sometimes teachers arrived in Midland by train and walked from the Ann Street Depot to Post Street.

It was the custom for out of town or out of county teachers to "board around" with parents of the children. This was one way in which the community helped compensate for small salaries that the teachers received. Families in the community also took turns providing wood for the school's stove.

However, "boarding around" had its drawbacks. Some homes were less than

clean, and the food wasn't always the best. Sometimes bed bugs were a problem. Like the children, the teacher brought her lunch in the customary tin pail from the home where she happened to be staying. Teachers didn't have a choice in the matter and graciously took whatever was offered.

The life of a one-room schoolteacher wasn't easy. Besides teaching lessons to eight different grades, disciplining unruly students, and performing janitorial duties, they were paid very little for all of these responsibilities. In 1875 rural women teachers received \$8.00 a week while a female urban teacher was paid \$12.69. There were big differences between male and female teacher wages, too. A rural male teacher made \$11.46 per week while male urban teachers earned \$36.63. Yet many women chose this profession and some made it a career.

A list of graduates from the Midland County Normal from 1905 to 1936 can be found on the following website: [www.mifamilyhistory.org/midland/directories.htm](http://www.mifamilyhistory.org/midland/directories.htm)

OUR CONTRIBUTOR

Sources

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Phillips, Jim. "The One Room School." Paw Paw Pages. 2002. < http://www.pawpaw.net>.

by Gloria Kundinger

Important News

This Month's Issue includes the current membership list. Please check your information for accuracy and changes and notify the membership chair, Bev Keicher of any changes.

There has been complaints in the past that the Pioneer Record has arrived in unsatisfactory condition due to the machines at the US Post Office. I am able to send the PR in Acrobat format(.pdf) to your email address in addition to your printed copy. If you would like to receive your issue of the Pioneer Record in your email, please send an email to the editor at [wgbennett@chartermi.net](mailto:wgbennett@chartermi.net).

## The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Genealogists

### -Beau Sharbrough

In 1990, Steven Covey formulated the ground-breaking list of Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. They are:

- Be proactive
- Begin with the end in mind
- Put first things first
- Think win-win
- Seek first to understand, then to be understood
- Synergize
- Sharpen the saw

I work in a building that once housed Mr. Covey's company. I work with a guy who once dated his daughter. Upon reflection, I don't think that either of those experiences has given me any special insight into his mind. I'll just do what I do all the time and say what I think. Please don't confuse that with informed commentary.

This isn't a short course in the 7 Habits—they are the kind of thing you want to approach with patience, deep thought, and an open mind. You can change your own life if you want—and you created the one that you have. Enough of that, let's talk about genealogy.

#### **Be Proactive**

That means actively addressing the issues that confront you. Your method of address might range from something as passive as simply making a list of brick walls you have found in your research or areas where you'd like to improve your skills. It might continue through analysis of problems, buying and reading books, joining a genealogy society, meeting Helen F.M. Leary, or attending a national genealogy conference. The idea is to ask yourself what you can do, and then to take some kind of action. You have to be very lucky for the answers in life to come to your door and knock.

#### **Begin with the End in Mind**

How important is it to visualize success? When I was younger, I played golf. If I stood over the ball and could see the shot in my mind, I usually hit the ball something like I wanted. If I drew a blank, I usually duffed the shot. That experience has been generalized in my mind to include having a big picture of what you want to accomplish. If you're doing research, you may want to publish a family history or cover a wall in your house with pictures of castles or coats of arms. You might want

to give a talk on keelboats at a national conference in front of hundreds of smiling people. What steps you take next depend a great deal on where you would like to go.

#### **Put First Things First**

No matter what your goals, they can be accomplished by proactively working a list of tasks you set for yourself. One of those tasks will be the "first thing" you need to do—today, this week, or this month. Only you can choose what is most important, and you should do that first. Covey uses the metaphor of putting big pebbles into a jar before the little ones. He also analyzes things that must be done in terms of whether they are Important or Not Important, vs. Urgent or Not Urgent. Covey points out that we spend a lot of time doing Unimportant Urgent tasks, when we should be doing Important Not Urgent tasks. Ask yourself, "What should I be doing right now?" and then do that thing.

#### **Think Win-Win**

Genealogy is not a solitary pursuit. We not only collaborate with other researchers working on our families, but we put time and resources into our genealogy that our families might wish to see go to other activities. Many situations that you encounter turn out like baseball: one side wins and the other must lose. Covey's habits would suggest that you look for ways that you and the cousin who has the family Bible to both win. Clearly you can't both have the Bible. But can you both feel connected to the ancestors? Can you share the information in it? Can you make the trip to Arkansas and keep your spouse happy?

#### **Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood**

This is an important feature of communication with others. I see meetings where one person is simply waiting for his or her turn to speak and not listening to the other person. One person in particular always starts talking before the other person finishes a sentence. If you can't state the other person's position in your own terms—in a way that the other person would agree describes his or her view—you probably won't resolve the interpretation of that old will or the relationships among all of the Millers in Travis County. It's important to collaborate and to understand.

#### **Synergize**

This refers to the whole being greater than

the sum of its parts and has many applications, but in this instance refers to finding creative ways to communicate with others. It also implies that by being creative when dealing with opposing views, we can sometimes find a Third Way—an approach that isn't a compromise but part of a larger view that incorporates all views. A common example is the argument of whether to use the birth date implied on the census or the one on the gravestone. Look for a wider view of reality, where contradictory information is the rule rather than the exception, and find a way that you and your cousin can agree about the history of your family.

#### **Sharpen the Saw**

I play favorites among the 7 Habits. I like "first things first" the most, but right after that, I like "sharpen the saw." This means do things to help you work better. I spent 15 years as a computer consultant, and it seemed like every 3 years I had to learn a new language, a new database, a new set of tools to work. As a genealogist, you will find that there are many ways you can sharpen your saw through learning, practice, and communication.

#### **Wrap It Up**

If you spend some time reflecting on your genealogy practices, thinking creatively about your opportunities, choosing actions to make a difference, and balancing your ideas and needs with those of others, you might be a more effective genealogist. Covey's 7 Habits apply very well to genealogy and might be a useful discipline for you to adopt.

#### **Links**

The Franklin Covey site  
[www.franklincovey.com](http://www.franklincovey.com)

reprinted from Ancestry.com

#### **MEMBERSHIP DUES 2004-2005**

The collection of MGS membership dues for 2004-2005 will conclude at the September 15th MGS meeting. The MGS treasurer and Membership chairs have been collecting dues since last May, 2004, although there has been no specific request. If your dues are not paid by the end of September, this may be the last Pioneer Record you will receive. Dues may also 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.

## Library Annual Report

For the library year July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004 the volunteers in the genealogy room report that:

1. Approximately 1450 people used the room for research (count taken from sign in book.)
2. The above people lived in 54 different Michigan cities beyond the Midland County communities.
3. We had visitors from 16 other states plus Ontario.
4. Volunteer hours totaled about 660 hours (this figure is down from past years due to prolonged sickness, several surgeries and winter vacations when replacements were not always available.)

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### 2005 MGS TRIP TO SALT LAKE CITY – Faye Ebach

The MGS trip to the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City has been scheduled for next spring from **Tuesday, April 26 to Wednesday, May 4, 2005.**

Arrangements have been made for members to stay at the **Best Western Plaza Hotel**, which is about a 50 yard walk to the entrance of the **Family History Library**. Cost will be \$80.00 per night per room for double accommodations. This hotel provides excellent services, including complimentary genealogy seminars for groups of 12 or more. An attached restaurant is conveniently located for breakfast, snacks, etc. Ten rooms have been reserved for up to 20 persons.

Travel arrangements will be made as a group in cooperation with Circle Travel Agency. At this point in time, 12 members and friends have indicated they plan to participate or are interested in participating. For those who are yet undecided, or would like further information, please contact me, (Faye Ebach) as soon as conveniently possible.

The **Family History Library** has undergone recent improvements, both internal and external, during 2004. One area of improvement is the entrance to the library. Another area is the British records area. There are millions of readily accessible copies of original records from all over the world. These include reels and reels of microfilm, microfiche, books, maps, etc. The opportunity to spend a week researching family history information that is readily available, literally at your fingertips, is incomparable.

We are excited about the opportunity to return to SLC for another week of concentrated genealogical research. Our 2002 MGS trip was a wonderful experience, one filled with mega-hours of research combined with companionship and fun.

If you have questions or would like further information, please contact me, **Faye Ebach**, at **989-835-7518** or via e-mail at **faeae@chartermi.net**



Salt Lake City, Utah

### Volunteer's Wanted

I am looking for several members interested in helping with the January 19 meeting. The subject is "Case Studies: Techniques to Solve those Dead-End Problems". If there were 3 or 4 people speaking 10 minutes each, we would have a program. The case studies would be similar to those published in the national periodicals. Call me, Jo Brines 989-832-8312, if you've found a solution to a difficult problem in genealogical research.

I am researching Orphanages in the Tri city area for an article to appear in the next PR. I am interested in location, dates operated, who operated and any other information about the home. Also, If you have experienced living or working in an orphanage, I would like any stories that could be shared. Please send to **wgbennett@chartermi.net** or **PIONEER RECORD**, Midland Genealogical Society, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640

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### BOOKS FOR SALE

The following books, published by the Midland Genealogical Society, are available for sale at any 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 ½ by 11 inches.

**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 ½ by 11 inches. Note: Both Obituary Books (#1 & #2) are available as a package of \$35.00.

**Midland Pioneers**, edited by Ora Flaningham. 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. (Out of print, 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.

REMEMBRANCES OF EARLY DAYS  
IN SAGINAW IN 1833

by Ephraim Williams, of Flint

Michigan Pioneer Collections, Vol. 10,  
pages 142-147.

In those days there lived in Saginaw City an old Indian trader (then retired) by the name of John Baptiste Desnoyers. He became very much excited over stories the Indians had told him over and over again, that there were copper mines, very rich ones, far up Pine river in Gratiot county. He had several pieces of native copper, which the Indians had given him, which they said they had obtained from the rocks, and they said the place was a secret and they dare not inform the white man where it was, for the Great Spirit had enjoined upon them secrecy, under penalty of some severe punishment. But Desnoyers worked upon one who professed to know all the secret by promise of presents, and paying him well if it proved a success.

Under a solemn promise that he, Desnoyers, would never tell who gave him the information, the Indian agreed to pilot and go with Desnoyers to a spot near where the copper was. He could not go to the place, for he would be struck down by the Good Spirit, yet he would go so near as to point out or tell where to find the copper rock. After all this having been accomplished by Desnoyers in great secrecy, he came to me and gave me the secret as a confidential friend, and proposed that I should join him in the enterprise, and we would make an exploration privately.

I must say that I had very little faith in the story, knowing the Indian character and their strange ideas, but I could make the trip a business one, as we were going through a good country for trade with the Indians, therefore I went prepared to trade. We made our arrangements and in a few days started in a canoe, with our wise Indian for a guide up the Ta ta ba was say to forks, thence to Pine river, far above the present St. Louis, in Gratiot county. It was tedious, for the stream was quite rapid, but at last we came to high bluff banks and some little indications of rocks and gravelly shore. The banks were perhaps from twenty to thirty or forty feet high, the shore was about twenty to thirty feet wide and in about the centre of it there was a large boulder. As we drew near this place our Indian became very nervous and uneasy, manifesting some fear. As we landed here

our Indian said that in the high bank was the copper mine, but he could not and would not go any farther. He lay in the canoe a little farther down the stream from where we landed. We then went up and examined the surroundings, but could not find any indications or signs of mineral.

We then examined the boulder and found it worn smooth by the Indians. It was a sacred Indian god, which they all stopped and worshiped by a speech and friendly smoke. They made speeches and left pieces of tobacco for the spirits to have a smoke. They also left other articles, and among them were pieces of copper, which we afterwards learned were cut from the copper boulder on the Ontonagan river, Lake Superior, by Indians. They looked upon them as sacred, and by leaving the pieces they dedicated them to their god, Boulder, and this was one cause of our informant's being so fearful of his being known, for probably he was the one who robbed their god. The Indians are very peculiar in such matters, standing in great fear of offending the Good Spirit. This was the foundation of his story and trick upon Desnoyers.

We explored the high land back from the river, but did not find any rocks or indications of copper, but we found splendid farming land, which has since been converted into farms. Thus ended our early exploration for copper on Pine river, yet, I made it a profitable trip as I gathered many valuable furs, going prepared for trade. These rivers, in those days, abounded with Indians and game, and the Indians were good hunters and trappers. So ended one of many silly Indian humbugs.

Speaking of the copper boulder that was taken from Lake Superior and dedicated to the Washington monument by the State of Michigan, my father visited that boulder in the very early days, even before the war of 1812, and he cut quite a piece of the pure native copper from it, and took it to his family in Concord, Massachusetts, before we moved west. I remember it very well; it was looked upon as a great curiosity and wonder, hardly credible in those days, especially in that old Yankee land. I think that when the family came west it was donated to some of my father's and mother's friends.

I give a description of a trip I made to Lake Superior in the year 1846; The party consisted of Mr. Sherman Stevens, Mr. Hinsdale, who was a brother

in law of Mr. Stevens, my brothers, A. F. Williams, late of California, and James M. Williams, now living in California, and myself. On our arrival at the Sault Ste. Marie we purchased a good boat, well equipped with oars, sails, etc., with a good tent and plenty of supplies, and started to coast it up Lake Superior, a jolly crew. The Sault canal was being excavated, and a steamer was being hauled across the portage from the head of the rapids into Lake Superior. She was then near to being launched into Lake Superior, but she was having some trouble, and was delayed several days. This steamboat was built at Black Rock or Buffalo by a Mr. Palmer. She was built and rigged as a full rigged brig, a beautiful vessel and the only brig on the lake at the time. Not proving a success as a brig she was made into a steamboat and named the Julia Palmer. I think she was named in honor of Mrs. Palmer, wife of the owner.

We left and coasted as far as the Ontonagon river, stopping at all the points of interest, such as Eagle River, Eagle Harbor, and all the then mining points of interest. We encountered several heavy winds that we could not stand, always making for land, endeavoring to make some outlet of a small stream down the mountains, where we found splendid trout fishing, and we enjoyed catching the beautiful little fellows. They would take the bait about as fast as we could take care of them. The mouths of these little runs down the mountains would be dammed up with sand that was washed up by the winds, forming little ponds that were full of trout; our bait was a small piece of white pork, and we often took a hundred trout in a very short time. While two fished, two cooked and kept camp, taking turn about. As we left the Ontonagon river on our way down, after a while we saw down the lake in the distance what we supposed was the steamer Julia Palmer, steaming for the first time up the lake for Copper Harbor. We were rejoiced to see her, for we were about tired of coasting. Giving three cheers for the Julia Palmer, we put in our best energies to get to Eagle Harbor before night, supposing the Julia Palmer would leave the next morning for the Sault, which she did, and we sold our boat and took passage down on way home, on board the first steamboat that was ever on Lake Superior.

There were several passengers on board and we requested the captain to run down by the Pictured Rocks, which he did, it being a beautiful, bright afternoon. The view of the rocks was beautiful beyond description. On our passage down the lake we passed near

to and the spot was pointed out to us where Dr. Douglass Houghton was drowned. I felt sad, very for I was intimately acquainted with him; he was with us much of the time at Saginaw when he was locating the salt well for the state at Salt Spring on the Ta ta ba-was-say. Messrs. G.D. & E.S. Williams took the contract and made the brick for the well. The doctor often urged us to use our mill steam power for boring a salt well near the mill at the foot of Mackinac street, city of Saginaw. Here pointing to the spot to bore, saying we were in just the best place to strike the salt basin, which in after years proved so, and was and is now worked by the Williams Brothers, sons of Gardner D. Williams. They manufacture from one hundred to one hundred and fifty barrels per day, using the surplus steam from their saw mill.

In years 1836, '37, and '38 we had living with us in Saginaw a gentleman and his family consisting of his wife and two beautiful daughters, by the name of Joseph J. Malden, formerly a sea captain. The captain and his family were very much esteemed and respected. Mrs. Malden was a good, motherly, lovely woman; the daughters were married in Saginaw; the eldest was married to James Busby, one to a Mr. Beach, and the other to a Mr. Palmer. Mr. Palmer established a tannery, the first in Saginaw. In a few years he died, and at about the same time Mrs. Malden died. Both were (much missed in our little settlement. The captain remained with us a few years; he received the appointment of light house keeper at the Island of Mackinac.

Mrs. Palmer went with her father to Mackinac and kept house for him, and the last I knew of the captain he was at the Mackinac light house. He subsequently became blind and died about 1880 at Alpena. In 1861 I visited the captain and his daughter while we were stopping at the Mission house on the island for a few days.

In after years the city procured and located a fine cemetery ground above the city and the citizens purchased lots; all who had been buried in past years were removed to the cemetery. Mr. Palmer and Mrs. Malden were removed. On attempting to raise the casket of Mrs. Maiden, it was found, that it could not be raised by the ordinary means; a power was provided to raise the casket, and upon examination it was found that the body had become petrified to solid stone and was just as natural in looks as it was on the day she

died, not a particle of change. This was a very singular incident. as no other body in the same ground, even near Mrs. Malden's, was so changed. Mrs. Malden in life was a fleshy woman, weighing probably, 175 or 300 pounds.

In 1836 Mr. Palmer went to New York business, and while there he bought a very fine gold, English lever capped watch. paying for it one hundred and twenty dollars. After his return and while erecting his tanner building and putting down his tan vats, he found it was costing more than he had expected. He then proposed to me to trade watches, saying he rather have more lumber and not quite so much watch. I had an English watch with the works similar to his, but in silver cases; it cost me forty five or fifty dollars; we traded and I paid the difference in lumber. My reason for speaking of this is that I have the same watch now and I have carried it since the year 1838 (fifty years) and it has always been and still is a faithful old friend, but it will not run on railroad time, or wrongly called I think, standard time. I concluded to let my clock run on old solar time, and as I was around among our town's people, and the city had adopted railroad time, I would start my old companion watch of fifty years on standard time. To my surprise after a day or two my old friend stopped; I thought nothing, but started it again. The next day it stopped again, struck, perhaps, for better time. I tried it again, but at twelve o'clock in the day or night it would stop. I thought it strange, so I said. now my dear old friend, I will not ask you to do that I dislike to do myself and I cannot approve of, so I set the old fellow on the good old solar time, God's time, and I have had no trouble since, except that it runs a little slow, like its master.

Perhaps you may think this is a little mixed, but it is true, and I assure you that the old watch and myself are pretty good friends and much attached to each other. The cases of this watch of fifty years are as bright and perfect as most of the new ones of the present day.

[The following lines were composed by my old esteemed friend, Capt. Jos. I. Malden, Saginaw City, 1838, while suffering under the horrors of fever and ague, and addressed to the malignant spirit supposed by the writer to preside over it.]

Avaunt, gaunt fiend, why, wicked demon, why

Comest thou again on me thy art to try?  
 Sure, I've not challenged thee, in dews, mist  
 or rain,  
 Then why here now to torture me again?  
 What, twice in one season, why, thou worse  
 than devil,  
 Bane of my health, and source of every evil,  
 Will you not stay your hand until you cause  
 my death?  
 Say, would it not give thee pleasure to stop  
 my breath?  
 May not perdition catch thy shivering form?  
 To fiery regions may'st thou quick be borne,  
 Thence drowned in sulphur, if thou need must  
 shake,  
 Nor here again to come my health to break.  
 Or, if cold thou lov'st, must thou to Greenland  
 go.  
 There buried in some everlasting snow.  
 Or in some iceberg's icy heart be bound.  
 And ne'er again by mortal man be found.  
 Or bound on some snow cap'd height on  
 sterile Labrador,  
 And never have permit to haunt my family  
 more,  
 Nor ere again in triumph thus to roam  
 O'er this fair land which I have made my  
 home.  
 Oh, for the tonic mixture's efficacious power!  
 With that good will a bottle or two I'd shower  
 On thy curs'd form, thou wicked elf,  
 But that I could not get to save myself.  
 Ah, did friend E.S. Williams know of thee,  
 thy tricks,  
 I think a remedy he could quickly fix  
 Would drive thee hence sulphur or quinine,  
 Salts or Peruvian bark mixed with generous  
 wine.  
 Or did our Bunnel know of this, my case,  
 With nostrums certain he would hither pace;  
 But, Oh, I'm left alone the war to wage  
 With thee, cursed imp, thou hast the  
 withering gaze.

Contributed by Ora Flaningam



<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>ZIP-PLUS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
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Anger	Margery S.	960 E Noyes Dr	Midland	MI	48640-8617	989-839-9545	
Applegath	Doug & Anne	4010 Woodlawn St.	Midland	MI	48640	989-631-6074	applestems@aol.com
Baker	Lois	3273 Patterson Rd.	Freeland	MI	48623	989-631-9549	lois_baker@juno.com
Baker	Robert H.	5820 Highland Dr.	Midland	MI	48640-2203	989-631-1764	
Barnard	Melissa	1710 W St. Andrews Rd.	Midland	MI	48640	989-837-3430	
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Grace A. Dow Memorial Library  
1710 W. St. Andrews Drive  
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*Pioneer Record*



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**Information about Midland Genealogical Society**

The MGS meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr. & May at 7:00 PM 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 Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640.