



PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

Volume 25 No. 3

www.rootsweb.com/~mimsgs/

February 2005

In This Issue

Saginaw 100 Years Ago.....	1
Presidents Message.....	2
Editorial Comments.....	2
Books For Sale.....	3
Coming of Age in the CCC.....	4
Five Generations of William Smith.....	6
Copy Fees Rising.....	6
Web Sites of Interest.....	7
Upcoming Events.....	7
Orphans Court.....	8
Orphan Homes of the 19th and 20th Centuries	9
MGS Officers and Society Information	10

Midland Genealogical Society Programs for 2004 - 2005

Meetings are scheduled on the third Wednesday of the month as usual but we will be at three locations and times.

Programs for the meetings are as follows.

February 16

"Genealogical Treasures of the Dow Homestead" by Tawny Ryan Nelb of the Post Street Archives in Midland at 7:00 in the Lounge of the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library

March 16

Overview, Update, and Resource Demonstration at the Family History Center by Nora Volz Meet at 6:30 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints located at 1700 W. Sugnet St., Midland

April 20

"Baptized, Married, Buried, Probated - Helpful Church of England Records" by Joanne H. Harvey Including a sales table of British Isles publications at 7:00 in the Lounge of the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library

May 18

Annual meeting, family gathering, book show and tell, and potluck dinner. Meet at 6:00 at the Carriage House behind the Bradley House at the Midland County Historical Museum at 3200 Cook Road Midland

SAGINAW 100 YEARS AGO [1790] AND THE ORIGIN OF A BAND OF INDIANS, AND OF THE NAME OF A LOCALITY IN GENESEE COUNTY.

But few materials can be gathered from which a history of the Saginaw country prior to 1819 can be compiled.

The well known Indian tradition regarding the conquest of the country by the Chippewas of the north from the Sauks and their last sanguinary battle at Skull island near Bay City, has been written by William R. McCormick Esq., and published in volume number seven of pioneer Collections. In the "Pontiac manuscript," which is published in the eighth volume of Pioneer Collections, it is stated that on the last day of May, 1763, the great chief of the Saulteux (Saulteaux) of Saginaw Wasson, with two hundred Indians of his band, had arrived to reinforce the besiegers. The subsequent conduct of the chief and his followers as related in the manuscript confirms the generally received opinion regarding the savage nature and vindictive character of the Indians of the Saginaw country. It is stated that a nephew of the great chief of the Saulteux of Saginaw Wasson, was killed outside of the fort in a skirmish with the English, and that Wasson, furious that his nephew had been killed, went to Pontiac's camp, abused him, and demanded that Mr Campbell should be given up to him. Pontiac conceded, and Wasson took Mr. Campbell to his camp, where he was stripped and massacred by the young men of Wasson's band, and his body thrown into the river, when it floated near to the residence of a Frenchman who buried it. [Mr. Campbell was an English officer who had placed himself as hostage in Pontiac's power at the beginning of the siege.]

When the country was first known to the whites in the early part of the present century there were found clumps of bearing apple trees at different points along the Saginaw and Tittabawassee Rivers, many of which indicated an age of fifty or sixty years. The generally received opinion as to their origin was that they spring from the seeds of apples brought from Canada by the Indians on their return from annual trips to receive their annuities from the British government.

But a simple calculation will show that those trees commenced their growth long before the Indians had occasion to visit Canada for the purpose above mentioned.

Four or five years ago a stone was found on the banks of the Chippeway River, sixteen miles above Midland City, upon which had been sketched three faces, two Indians and one white man with a French inscription and the date 1771 plainly marked, which is proof the country was known to the French prior to that date, and may account for the origin of those apple trees. But who were the adventurers, what became of them?

The writer has heretofore advanced the theory that an attempt had been made by the Jesuits to establish a mission in that region, but that the savage character of the Indians had driven them from the field. Upon sending a letter of inquiry upon the subject to the late Judge James V. Campbell, a short time previous to his death, the answer came that in all his researches he had never found anything written that would show that an attempt had been made by the Jesuits to establish a mission on the west side of Lake Huron.

But it can hardly be supposed that in the numerous voyages made around the great lakes by the early French explorers and Jesuits that they should have failed to discover the Saginaw bay and river, and the surrounding country, and its discovery would surely attract the attention of such travelers. It was the paradise of the hunter and trader, the animals from which the choicest of fur is obtained, such as the beaver, otter, fisher, marten, mink and muskrat were found there in great abundance, also deer and bears and elk, and moose were found at the headwaters of the streams that empty into the Saginaw.

Large flocks of wild geese and ducks resorted to the stream to feed on the

(Continued on page 3)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A friend of ours here in our Key Largo RV Park once said that two weeks on the Keys and your brain turns to mush. That's apparently my state of mind these days as I opened my e-mail to find a reminder from Walt that my President's column was overdue for the February Pioneer Record. Anyway, I'll make a stab at getting him some information.

When we're away from home for the extended time represented by our status as "snow-birds", most of our genealogical work goes on hold. I have some of my hard-copy materials with us, and all of our data disks, but with very limited on-line time, and our isolation from usable libraries that might have information, we don't do much ancestor work in winter – except perhaps for a few stops along the way going back home in the Spring.

I have done some thinking though, about Midland Genealogical Society and our life together as a group. That thinking tends to fall into three general categories:

1. **MEMBERSHIP:** Can you think of ways in which we might be able to "grow the Society" so that our impact on genealogical research in Midland might be enhanced? There is a financial implication to the question, since our only real source of revenue is

through membership dues. We gain very little real income from the sale of our Obituary Books, since we only charge approximately what the cost of the books was in the first place. If we could find a way to increase our membership, that would raise our income and we would be better able to do things that improve genealogical research in our own community.

2. **PARTICIPATION:** By now, your nominating committee is at work preparing a slate of persons to be elected in the Spring for service next year. Most of our present Board and committee members have agreed to continue next year, but if you're contacted to serve in one of our vacancies, please consider saying "yes". Your "yes" will accomplish two things: a) it will greatly further the work we are doing with a full complement of personnel, and b) it will do wonders for the morale of the nominating committee folks. The success of our organization is heavily reliant on the willingness of everyone on our membership roster to participate as fully as possible.

3. **THE LOCAL HISTORY ROOM** at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library needs us. We have a team of regular folks who volunteer to

work in the Local History Room to assist library patrons with their genealogical research. A few of us have wondered how helpful we really are when the room seems so under-used. I believe we all need to be thinking about ways in which the presence of our collection and that space can be publicized so more folks will take advantage of what we have. Also – is there a way we might be able to solicit gifts (Memorials??) that could be used to increase our collection? Recognizing that at the present time at least, the Local History Department isn't the highest item on the priority list of the Administration, what can we do to change that?

I would invite you to think about these things anew (I'm quite sure they've all been discussed in the past). Increased membership, increased participation, and increased visibility all would do much to give our Midland Genealogical Society a boost.

Meantime, I look forward to seeing all of you in April.

Robert C. Snyder, President

From The Editor . . .

Please note the times and locations of the coming presentations that are noted on page 1 as we will not be at the library for all of the meetings.

I would also like to point out that the society still have the MGS lapel pins available for sale. These are available from the volunteer on duty at the Midland room, and also at the general meeting. Consider buying extras for the pin collectors in your family.

I am sure that many of you are talented at writing, so I would like to see you contribute an article for the newsletter. I am most interested in Midland and surrounding county history's and families of importance in the area. Some suggestions could be local place names and a history about the place and how it got its name. Many of the streets in Midland are named after

important persons. If you know any of those persons, let me know their story. I know many of you have had roadblocks to finding your ancestors. Can you write about your experiences and how you overcame the roadblocks?

I am also interested to know what software you use in your genealogical research. If you could, write a review of the program and include where it can be purchased from. Book reviews of genealogical reference books are also greatly appreciated.

I would like to plan for the coming year and would like ideas of what you want to read about. Please send me your suggestions to Pioneer Record, Midland Genealogical Society, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640.

Quick Quotes

"Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong."

—Ella Fitzgerald

"Each of us has a fire in our hearts for something. It is our goal in life to find it and keep it lit."

—Mary Lou Retton

"In the long run, we only have what we aim at"

—Henry David Thoreau

"Books are the most quietest and constant of friends and the most patient of teachers."

—Charles W. Eliot

(Continued from page 1)

wild rice that grew in great abundance on their borders, and the waters were all stored with an abundant supply of the choicest varieties of fish. Aside from all the attractions enumerated above, the fertility of the soil was such that with slight cultivation bestowed by the Indians it produced abundant crops of Indian corn, that indispensable article of food for the red man. As an indication of the extent of the cultivation of corn at Saginaw one hundred years ago we find a letter from Major De Peyster⁽¹⁾ commandant at the post of Mackinaw, dated May 13, 1779, written to General Haldimand commander-in-chief of the British forces, stating that he, De Peyster, had sent to Saginaw to endeavor to procure six hundred bushels of corn to supply the post at Mackinaw. That the idea should prevail that a surplus of six hundred bushels of corn could be found among the Indians at Saginaw, shows that large tracts of land must have been cultivated there, which corresponds with the indications that were found by the first permanent white settlers.

It appears from the report of a committee appointed by, Lord Dorchester in December 1788 for the purpose of bringing to the knowledge of government the condition of inland commerce. that of the four merchant vessels navigating the great lakes in 1789, two of them were built at the Saginaw bay, to wit: The sloop, Saginaw, in 1787, registering thirty-six and one-half tons, and the sloop, Esperance, in 1788, registering twenty and four-tenths

tons. The probability is that the vessels were built on the banks of the Saginaw River, for that whole region was then known as the Saginaw bay country.

After Major De Peyster had been transferred from the command of the post at Mackinac, and had taken that of the post at Detroit, and Captain Sinclair, put in command at Mackinaw, there seemed to have been a prejudice on the part of Sinclair against De Peyster. In a letter from Sinclair to Brehm⁽²⁾ dated July 1780 among other fault findings with De Peyster he writes "canoes are allowed to come contrary to orders. They bring tattling letters. The last canoe brings a Mr. Finchley, known to be ill-disposed to the service. A Mr. Fisher. of Albany is allowed to winter in the Saginaw bay [country] where there are rebel belts."

The last item throws light upon the name of a locality in Genesee county and on the origin of a band of white Indians, who have long resided there. The idea prevailed among the early settlers of the locality that the name Grand Blanc (Big White) originated from its having been the place of residence of a big white savage. But the writer has been informed by Peter C. Andre, Esq., of Saginaw, but a native of Detroit, where his ancestors had resided for generations, that the "Big White," from whom the name of the locality was derived, was an Indian trader named Fisher, who was well known to his (Andre's) father in the early years of the present century. Fisher married an Indian woman or half-breed and raised a family and some of his descendants are living in that vicinity at the present time. An obituary notice of one of them may be found in the

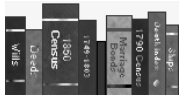
memorial report of Genesee county, published in the seventh volume of Pioneer Collections:

There is but little doubt that the foregoing is a correct statement, and that the Mr. Fisher from Albany, who was allowed to winter in the Saginaw bay country, one hundred and ten years ago, was the progenitor of the Fisher band of Indians who resided at Copenic Conie lake, and was well known to the writer sixty years ago. They had light complexions, light hair and blue eyes, but their habits were wholly Indian. Mr. Andre says Fisher was a large man from which circumstances the name Grand Blanc. (Big White) was given to the locality. The correspondence between the British officers during the time of the revolutionary war: that is published in the Pioneer Collections has but little to say about the Saginaw country, but the statements in reference to transactions in other parts of the northwest, makes it very interesting reading.

⁽¹⁾ Major Arent Schuyler De Peyster. See Vol. IX, p. 352, this series for note in appendix

⁽²⁾ See letter in Vol. VII. P. 578, this series.

Newsletter Subscriptions to the Michigan Genealogical Council Newsletter may be made by sending a check for \$15 made payable to MGC to Laurine Griffin, Treasurer, 22750 Alexandrine St., Dearborn, MI 48124.



B O O K S F O R S A L E

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.

Coming of Age in the Civilian Conservation Corps

World wide economic problems began shortly after WWI. In 1929, the United States was hit with a depression caused by the stock market crash. Across the country, fourteen million men were without jobs. Two million in Michigan were searching for work—one out of every four able-bodied men. Many were on relief rolls, and others took to the roads to find work. Since people had no money, banks, stores, mills, factories, mines, and wood operations closed because there was no market for those services or products. As a result in March of 1933, Michigan had the highest rate of juvenile delinquency in the nation.

President Roosevelt was elected president in 1932 and took office March 4, 1933. As part of his “New Deal” he and a group of six high-ranking officials got together March 9, 1933. By ten o’clock that night, they had formulated a plan to put men to work. This was the beginning of the Civilian Conservation Corps. On March 31, 1933, Roosevelt signed a bill that put the greatest force of men, tools, and ideas into action unrivaled in the peacetime history of our nation.

On April 7, 1933, men began enrolling, and Camp Roosevelt opened on April 17, 1933—the first of many in our country. It was located in the George Washington National Forest near Luray, Virginia. Several days later Michigan’s first company of boys, company 667, F-5 from Detroit and Hamtramck was organized at Camp Custer on April 13, 1933 and arrived at Camp Raco on May 2, 1933—the first CCC camp in the Upper Peninsula. The next one was company 669, F-8 Camp Steuben, which was located north of Manistique. The 670th, F-22 was the first all black company formed in Michigan and went to Camp Mack Lake near Mio. Many camps were formed after that. There were six Michigan camps composed of W.W.I veterans

and veterans of the Spanish American War. Those companies had no age or marital status limits and made up 10% of the men enrolled in the CCC. The camp working near Bay City was made up of veterans.

Originally called the Emergency Conservation Corps, The name was changed to the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1937. The CCC plan was to enroll two hundred fifty thousand young men into camps of two hundred men across the country by July 1933. An enrollment period was six months in length and could be renewed three times for a total of two years of service. In the beginning, enrollees had to be single, between 18 and 25 years of age, and from families on state relief rolls. In 1935, the top age was changed to 28 and in 1937, the age limits were changed to 17 and 23. The relief roll requirement was also changed in 1937 to make any young man, otherwise qualified, eligible for the corps if unemployed and in need of a job. By then, the depression was loosening its grip on the nation.

Even though it was called the Civilian Conservation Corps, it was run by the military in a military fashion. The military had the logistical capabilities to move large numbers of men and the equipment and supplies needed to set up a camp and to do the work. Enrollees underwent a physical exam, received inoculations, and five days of basic training and orientation at a district headquarters. Those who didn’t pass were sent home. Several years later, they were sent directly to their assigned camp for a medical exam, training, and orientation. Some enrollees in Michigan camps came from other states.

The camps themselves were run by regular or reserve military officers from all branches of the military. At first, Michigan camps were under the supervision of the Army’s Sixth Corps headquartered in Fort Sheridan, Illinois. After decentralization, the Camp Custer District was formed in the Lower Peninsula with headquarters near Battle Creek. The Upper Peninsula was called the Fort Brady District with headquarters at Sault Ste. Marie.

The earliest enrollees were trucked to their camp. Sometimes they arrived in the middle of a forest wilderness at midnight, given an axe and told to

clear a spot where they were to live. Tents went up, roads built, wells dug, phone lines constructed, and a lighting system installed. Wooden barracks were built later—usually before winter. Enrollees in later years arrived at a camp that included barracks buildings as well as a bathhouse, mess hall, recreation hall, and maintenance buildings.

After arriving at camp, the enrollees were issued a steel cot, bedding, a toilet kit, towels, and appropriate clothing for work and for the season. They were also given a dress uniform, which was an army leftover from WWI. Their pay was \$30.00 a month, and a \$25.00 allotment from that amount was sent home. The allotment was changed to \$22.00 a month in later years. Camp leaders earned \$45.00 and assistant leaders were paid \$36.00 a month. If an enrollee had no dependents, the \$25.00 allotment was put into a government savings account for him to be withdrawn upon leaving the corps. Many families depended on that allotment to pay the bills—even to save the family farm from a tax sale.

The men worked a five-day week. Their day started at 6:00 a.m. with the camp bugler playing “Reveille” followed by personal clean-up, bed making, exercises, and breakfast. At 8:00 a.m. enrollees reported for work and were turned over to the work supervisor who was not from the military but usually someone in forestry hired by the federal government or from the state conservation department. They walked to the work site or were trucked to it if it was farther away. They returned to the mess hall for lunch if the job was nearby or a hot lunch was brought to a far away site by truck. The return to camp and military control was at 4:00 p.m. The enrollees cleaned up then changed into their dress uniforms for roll call and lowering of the flag. They marched to the mess hall for supper and had free time until “lights out” at 10:00 p.m. Work was cancelled when the temperature was twenty degrees below zero.

The food provided was good and plentiful. Most enrollees put on weight and grew in height as well.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Sometimes there was a problem with the camp cooks selling off supplies to the local residents and pocketing the money while serving inferior meals.

Discipline at the camps usually wasn't a problem even though some of the enrollees were sent there by juvenile courts. Most of the time, other enrollees persuaded "tough guys" to change their attitude. Army regulations took care of them if there was a problem. Offending enrollees could be admonished to "straighten out", reprimanded and given a light punishment such as K.P. or bath house duty, or fined a maximum of \$3.00 per month depending on the nature of the offense. Enrollees could be dishonorably discharged from the corps if guilty of not performing duties in camp, or at work, refusing to work, continuous or serious misconduct, theft, and absence without leave.

If an enrollee was gone for fourteen days without permission, this was desertion. It went on his record, but he could not be forced to return to camp. There was no law for jail time either. An enrollee was not allowed to have a motor vehicle in camp. The local authorities handled criminal offenses such as car theft.

Many boys that enrolled were from metropolitan areas, and it was a culture shock to be shipped to a camp in the forest wilderness of the upper peninsula. A few went "over the hill" and were shipped back home. Some were blacks who were sent to the five all-black camps in the Lower Peninsula. These enrollees were not experienced with living or working in the woods. They came from large cities where forests and lakes didn't exist. After living in the camp barracks and being fed well, they worked hard and took pride in their job and what they had accomplished. One of the black camp enrollees was a Joseph Louis Barrow who later became known as Joe Louis, World's Heavyweight Boxing Champion.

The duties of the enrollees were varied depending upon the camp and its location. In Michigan, forest fires in forests and cutover land were a major problem that the CCC had to get under control. Most of their work time

was spent on fighting fires, clearing miles of trails and roadsides for fire prevention, constructing fire lookout towers, and stringing telephone lines from the towers to the camps. Their priority was fire prevention.

As the threat of fires in the state declined, the people of Michigan became more aware of the rewards of fire prevention. Cutover and tax delinquent lands were turned into plantations for trees that are now today's forests. Bushels of pine cones were collected for their seeds, and Michigan CCC camps led the nation by planting almost fifty million trees!

Other camps cleared streams and checked soil that was wasting through erosion. Near Seney, Camp Gemfask helped turn a marshland into a wildfowl sanctuary. They built dikes and dams and planted acres of aquatic plants. Some camps helped in the clearing of land for Michigan's state parks. The "3C boys" built many of the log and stone pavilions found in the parks. They also planted fish in streams, built truck trails and minor roads and bridges. Gravel for roads was loaded by hand into dump trucks.

An important priority of the CCC in later years was job training to help enrollees return to civilian life. Educational advisors ran the training program in the camps. They were usually an unemployed male teacher paid \$165.00 a month—a little less if they lived at camp. Besides giving instruction, they became mentors to many of the boys and accompanied them on leave to local towns for movies and dances. Sometimes the educational advisor was also the camp recreation coordinator.

Education was voluntary and held in the evenings or on weekends. Most of the enrollees took advantage of it. Some took vocational training while others took academic training. About 20% of the boys who were enrolled in the CCC hadn't finished the eighth grade. Over nine hundred were able to earn their diplomas. Others took correspondence course to earn high school or college credit. The military personnel in the camps could also participate and some studied for promotions. Over thirty different trades were taught in the CCC and

work experience provided. Many boys learned a trade in the camps that landed them a job after their enrollment was up.

The camps offered other diversions for those not interested in studying. There was boxing, baseball, basketball, singing, orchestral groups and even stage shows. The majority of camps had their own newspapers—a couple of sheets printed on a mimeograph machine. Some papers were actually printed on a press. They gave reports on camp activities and highlights.

There was a full-time camp chaplain at each camp who held church services at least once a week. Attendance was voluntary. The chaplains were from different denominations. They acted as counselors and recreation coordinators as well as mentors to the boys.

Each camp had a doctor or Camp Surgeon. He was usually a reserve officer in the military. A trained orderly was his assistant. He gave physicals, inoculations and treated minor cases of diseases and injuries. More serious cases were taken to army hospitals or local hospitals for treatment. The federal government paid for the cost of medical treatment and dental work.

Enrollees were taught basic first aid and how to keep healthy and clean. There were some serious accidents, and deaths in camps did occur from handling dynamite, vehicle accidents, drowning, suicides, railroads, falls, fires, and falling objects. Each enrollee had to be aware of safety for his own well being as well as that of others.

As the depression lessened, the CCC began competing for workers along with civilian employers. Since the aim of the corps had been accomplished, the CCC was disbanded in 1942. Afterwards some camps were used as training bases for the army during WWII or POW detention centers. Others had their equipment auctioned off as well as many of the buildings. These buildings were moved to a nearby town and used as a community hall or left on site and used for another purpose if close to a town. Others were torn down. Michigan had a total of fifty-seven camps. Only five states had a higher number.

A total of 94,548 enrollees were provided work, and another 8,266 were supervisors in the corps. Nationally, Michi-

(Continued on page 8)

FIVE GENERATIONS OF WILLIAM SMITH...

From the South

By Bob Snyder

“The idea of looking for SMITHS anywhere might have stopped me from ever doing genealogy!!!” – so wrote a genealogist with whom I’ve corresponded for many years, in a letter a few months ago. ...but that’s just what Gwen and I have been doing for many years. She carries that illustrious surname as her maiden name, and when we started research, all we knew was a family story that said there had been five generations of William Smiths... from the south.

How does one even begin? Well, actually, we began the same way you begin any search... at the beginning. Gwen’s grandfather, Ernest Smith, had a brother, William Frederick. We knew that they were the sons of William and Celeste (Wolfe) Smith who, according to Celeste’s obituary in 1927, were married in Dundee, Ohio in 1866. With two generations of Williams identified, we shifted the search to Ohio, where we found, in the Wolgamot Cemetery near Dundee, the burial of Mary Jane (Jeffries) Smith, the wife of William. Dundee is right in the corner formed by Wayne, Holmes, and Tuscarawas Counties, and a courthouse search found that after Mary Jane’s death in 1848, their four children, including William, were placed in the custody of several relatives in Eastern Ohio and West Virginia. Now we had three generations of William, including records that showed that after Mary Jane’s death, William’s property was sold and the proceeds were used to support him in what appeared to be an institution in Athens, Ohio. There, the trail ended.

When Gwen’s aunt, Thora (Smith) Shelley died here in Midland in 1981, Gwen was one of three nieces responsible for disposing of her personal effects. We found, under her bed, a small, tin lock box with a handwritten will dated 1858. It was the will of William Smith of Brooke, Co., VA (now WV). In considerable detail,

it names his children and his grandchildren, including the four children of his son William, for whom he has made careful provision. William is named as an heir, at “such time as his present ‘indisposition’ is removed”.

Suddenly we were up to four generations of Williams, and for later Michiganders, Virginia could certainly be considered “from the south.” Now the challenge was to establish the links to make all this hang together. We found, in Brooke County, WV records, that the fourth William had been buried in the Seceder Cemetery at Mt. Pleasant, Ohio, next to Joseph Smith who had died a few years earlier than William; and in the same lot, is Joseph’s wife, Roseanna.

An Internet search revealed that Joseph Smith and Roseanna BAXTER, were married in York Co., PA in April of 1813.

Off we went to Pennsylvania on our Eastern journey this summer. We traced Joseph and Roseanna to a small place known as The Crossings, where there is a small Seceder Presbyterian church with no less than ten identified SMITH families on the rolls. In the Historical Society Archives for York County we found a land record with most unusual details:

“April 15, 1816. Joseph Smith of Hopewell Twp. & wife Rose-anna; to James Smith of same; for \$1462.75; 115 acres, 57 perches in Hopewell Twp; grantor obtained land from James Smith Ag. 31, 1815 & the two jointly from R. John Smith, Oct 15, 1807. The grantor & grantee as well as R. John Smith and William Smith were issue of Joseph Smith who had obtained land from John Smith & wife Ann Mar 6, 1779.”

Conclusion: William # 4 and Joseph, the husband of Roseanna, were brothers, the sons of Joseph. ...no William # 5 in that family. That’s as far as we’ve gotten on the SMITH clan. We’re not at all certain about five generations of Williams... that land record seems to have slammed the door on finding number five, at least for now.

One of the fascinating things about this particular search has been

the history, because the Se-ceder Presbyterians were folks from the Scotch-Irish Border who broke away from the state church and came to America. The group included the Campbell brothers who were later dis-fellowshipped from that denomination and formed what has become the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ. Most of the folks in that little church in York Co. were either first or second-generation immigrants, so we figure we’re very near to finding Gwen’s immigrant ancestors.

Meantime, we’ve collected quite a few pages of documentation to help us establish that this line from York, PA to Barry Co., MI, is Gwen’s ancestry. It’s been fun.

Document Copy Fees Rising

Gov. Jennifer Granholm recently signed a bill to increase the fee for authentic copies of vital records on December 28, 2004. The new law will increase the fee for authentic copies from \$18 to \$29. The cost for an accelerated search for a vital record will increase from \$5 to \$10. The vital record fee increase is Senate Bill 1143.

On the Net:

Michigan Legislature:

<http://www.michiganlegislature.org>

Gov. Jennifer Granholm:

<http://www.michigan.gov/gov>

Sponsor: Sen. Burton Leland

BRIEF SUMMARY: Senate Bill 1143 amends the Public Health Code to establish increases in fees paid by the public for vital records documents and searches. Vital records fees were last increased in 2001, 1992, and prior to that in 1980.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Department of Community Health (DCH) estimates that the fee increases will provide up to \$1,434,300 annually in additional revenue for the state vital records program, and assumes a reduced demand for record requests to the State. A \$1.5 million increase is included in the DCH Fiscal Year 2004-05 budget as Enrolled (SB 1063), which assumes these fee increases. The intent of the fee increase is to fully support the state vital records system with state restricted fees and federal funds, and eliminate the use of General Fund/General Purpose funding for vital records.

Web Sites of Interest

Recently while doing some research which was very fruitful...thought that perhaps I should share a website for others that may be endeavoring to find information in the same area. This concerns finding information on Passenger ships that our ancestors traveled on to America. I had learned a few years ago the name of the ship that my ancestors sailed on in 1846 from LeHarve, France to New York, but, was unable to find information about the ship itself. While reviewing dozens of sites related to this topic...found one that was most helpful. The site is: don.hazeldine@virgin.net Don is located in England and has a wealth of information available on hundreds...perhaps thousands of ships. For many from the 1860 era forward...he has photos as well. Dons' charge for the information is 5 British pounds which equates to about \$9 US. He has a secure on line site for using a credit card for the fee which I found to be most reasonable.

In my particular case, he was able to provide the name of the builder of the ship, when built, tonnage, dimensions, building material, master names, etc. It was a wealth of information to receive for a mere \$9.

Thought that I would share this information in event that others in our group are likewise attempting to learn more about the ancestral ship voyages.

Floyd Andrick

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness. A good place for persons who are looking for relatives is Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK). It is a volunteer driven search site. Check this out at <http://www.raogk.org>.

Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) has recently introduced the Lutheran Roots Genealogy Exchange as a part of a larger section of AAL's web site, called Lutherans Online. Using this exchange, messages can be posted seeking lost relatives, ideas may be shared, and surnames can be researched.

Recent Additions To The Midland Room

- History of Macomb County, Michigan.
- Passenger and Immigration Lists Index 2005 Supplement.

Web sites (cont)

Lutherans tend to come from Germany, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, but many families also came to the church after arriving in America and not finding their church of faith established.

Lutherans Online can be found online at <http://www.lutheransonline.com/lutheransonline/genealogy/>.

Saginaw Cemetery Records

Thanks to an agreement with the City of Saginaw, the Burial Registers of Brady Hill, Oakwood and Forest lawn cemeteries are now housed at Hoyt Library. The records start in 1859, with records from Brady Hill, Saginaw's oldest cemetery and continue through 1997. More recent registers will be placed with the library as soon as they are full. The registers include valuable family history information, including the name, date, of death, place of birth, latest residence, occupation, and cause of death. Researchers can use these valuable records to trace public health trends in Saginaw, such as the influenza epidemic of 1918. The registers have been microfilmed for preservation. A computerized version of the City's cemetery database is also available.

The online obituary index has been redesigned and divided into three frames so that users can search and see their list of results, and view the record all at once. It's also faster. Find it on the web at <http://www.saginawlibrary.org>.

Upcoming Events

Gladwin County Genealogical Society has two offerings for the month of April.

On Saturday, April, 9, 2005 there will be a seminar at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 331 W. Clendenning in Gladwin. Vendor booths will be setup all day. The cost will be \$25 if paid by 3-1-05 or \$30 after. Send checks to Sharon Thurston, 312 W. Ceder Avenue, Gladwin, MI 48624.

On 4-28-05 thru 4-29-05, they are hosting a bus trip to Allen County Public Library. The trip includes round trip motorcoach transportation, lodging at Signature Inn and Library transfer. Please contact Sharon Thurston (989-426-1347) for more information. A deposit is required.

The Stockbridge Area Genealogical/Historical Society is hosting a seminar on April 23, 2005 from 9 am until 4 pm at Heritage Elementary School, 222 Western Avenue, Stockbridge, Michigan. Attendance is limited to 80 and registration is a must. The cost is \$25/person or seniors 60 and over is \$20. Topics covered are Genealogy 101, Holdings of the Library of Michigan and the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Genealogy on the Internet. There will also be a tour of the Town Hall starting at 4:15 pm. Please bring your own lunch.

Celebrating 30 years Palatines to America

June 9-11, 2005 Hilton Hotel and Grand Wayne Center, Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Come celebrate 30 years of Society history and while there, take time to research at the Allen County Public Library where everything is now in open stacks. Hotel seminar rates are available for two days before and after the sessions.

Questions and further information, contact: ralphkroehler@prodigy.net or Ralph & Marge Kroehler, 6920 M. Rockvale, Peoria, IL 61614.

(Continued from page 5)

gan had the eighth highest total with 102,814 men.

The CCC turned boys into men who worked hard in the wilderness of Michigan. Many completed their eighth grade education, studied for a higher education, or learned a trade. Juvenile delinquents were shown a better direction for their lives. Others, who joined the military as WWII approached, found their CCC training very useful. No matter who they were or what path their lives took afterwards, they all remember their time spent in the CCC and the fact that they lived up to the CCC motto: "We can take it."

By now, anyone reading this article is probably wondering what it has to do with genealogy. I was surprised to learn that each enrollee was fingerprinted, issued dog tags for identification purposes, and a serial number—like military men. I also discovered that, like military men, on file with NARA are enrollment and discharge papers as well as an enrollee's service record etc. Some earlier papers will list inoculations given depending upon the year enrolled. They can be obtained by sending in the full name of the enrollee (last name first), date of birth, branch of service (CCC), approximate dates of federal employment (especially separation). As an added option, list the camp name and number (if known) and location of the camp. **A signed and dated written request** must be sent to access information from civilian personnel records. Written authorization of the person of record or proof of that person's death is also needed.

Mail to:

National Personnel Records Administration
Civilian Personnel Records
111 Winnebago Street
St. Louis, MO 63118-4199

Sources:

Charles A. Symon, *We Can Do It!*,
Richards Printing, Escanaba, MI,
1983.

The American Forestry Association,

Orphans' Court Records

— Kathi Sittner

In most states, the county orphan court's responsibilities included appointing guardians for orphans, overseeing bastardy proceedings, and providing for the poor. However, lesser-known functions were that the court also bound-out poor children as apprentices, heard complaints of apprentices or hired servants against their masters, committed unruly children to a house of reform, and decided estate disputes between a widow and her children or among the children alone. Because of the personal nature of these cases, the researcher can often find genealogical information in orphans' court records which cannot be found anywhere else.

In some cases, the names of an orphaned child's parents can be located. In others, the maiden name of a wife, not recorded anywhere else, may be found. The example which follows shows the case of the family of Samuel Truax, who died in 1803 in Belfast, Bedford County, Pennsylvania. He died without a will and left a house and two tracts of land amounting to 659 acres. The petition and eventual settlement show the names of the wife and children and grandchildren, including the names of the husbands of the female children.

Because so few marriages and births were recorded during this early time period, this information could be invaluable to someone who has been unable to find proof of the marriage of one of the daughters or of the ancestry of the grandchildren.

However, locating these records is usually not easy. At first the proceedings were handled by the Courts of Quarter Sessions, then by the circuit Courts, and later by the Chancery Courts, which heard equity cases dealing with property. It may take a bit of investigation to find the correct court for the place and time in which you are searching.

Some counties have indexed orphans' court records, making them fairly easy to search, at least for the names of the plaintiff and the defendant. However, not finding the names in the index does not necessarily mean that they are not in the records since the indexes generally do not include the names of those found within the body of the case's text. Thus, the names of the Truax

children and grandchildren found in the above example would not be in the index.

Other areas have abstracted the original records or have transcribed them; some early transcriptions are all that survive today. While easier to read than the unfamiliar and old-fashioned handwriting of the court clerk, these transcribed copies should be used only as a guide and a first step to searching for your ancestors.

If the ancestors' names are not in the court record indexes, or if there are no indexes to the court records in the specified area, you must search page by page for pertinent cases. Begin by looking at the court minutes, if they are available. Start with the first page for the period of time in which the ancestor lived in the area and examine each page through several years following the ancestor's death. If this method does not yield the names you are seeking and if you are still without the proofs you need, you may need to examine the individual papers case by case. More and more of these records are being filmed, and they can often be found at the Salt Lake City Family History Library and its branches, the Family History Centers.

Source: Ancestry Magazine, Vol. 12, No. 4

Orphans' Court

Probably the least used resource of all are the Orphans Courts found in many states. These courts do not deal only with small children without parents, but also handle a variety of records which can be most profitable. First, we must understand that the legal definition of an orphan is one who lost his natural father. It is not tied to the mother or to any specific age. Orphan court records called dockets, are used to appoint or change appointments of guardians for orphans, incompetents, and sometimes indigents. They also record administrators for estates and frequently trustees. Many property transfers, inventory of estates, marriages, births and deaths are to be found in these (Orphan Court dockets.) You may even uncover an elusive maiden name for when a widow asks that an individual be appointed guardian for her son, it's possible that they are related.

Source: Saginaw Genealogical Society, Inc. newsletter. Vol. 26, No. 1.

Orphans Homes of the 19th and 20th Centuries

Recently while researching a related family member, I was able to locate the family members two children living in Saginaw at the Home For the Friendless. This caught my curiosity, so I began research to learn what this place was. I enlisted the help of Jo Brines who was able to locate several newspaper articles on the place.

As of 1800, there were no more than seven institutions in America. The number of orphanages grew throughout the first half of the nineteenth century, largely in connection with an outpouring of evangelical benevolence. Every epidemic created orphans. By 1850 there were between 71 and 77 in America. Individuals and church contributions paid most of the cost, but it was not unusual to have municipalities pay up to a third for expenses with orphans doing some of the work themselves. The Civil War also created a need putting the number of orphanages over 600 by 1880. In the late 1800's. children of destitute single parents also found there way into the orphanage.

From about 1850 through the early twentieth century, thousands of children were transferred from the overcrowded orphanages in the large cities and placed with families and farms throughout the Midwest. There was a need for help on the farm with daily chores and these children filled that need. It was not uncommon for young boarders to be living on the farm. While some of these may have been orphans, others were merely indentured servants working off a debt owed by the parents of the children.

Here are a couple of homes that could be found in Saginaw. I believe there were others like them throughout the tricity area. If you have not had luck locating some family members children, try checking these places out. In my case, I had used Ancestry.com to locate the children in the census and was then able to check them in the images available online.

The Home for the Friendless, was founded by a group of civic minded men and women in March 1870 to provide a temporary home for the poor and destitute children and adults. This was organized with cash contributions of \$300 and pledges of \$900. The first formal meeting took place on April 6, 1870 and a board of managers was organized.

The institution was first housed on a rented home on Owen Street. In 1871, the organization acquired its own building at Thompson and Park, and two wings were added to the small house.

During the first five years, it cared for 643 persons.

The last home was completed in February 1887 at a cost of thirteen thousand dollars on the corner of McCoskry and Howard streets. The home was financed for many years through the solicitation and work of the members of the board. The members went for business to business and door to door to ask for donations and supplies. Other sources of funds came from fairs, concerts, balls and rummage sales. The institution later became the recipient of bequests with the first large donation from Harry Bates who gave \$25,000. An endowment fund was then started.

In 1919, the Welfare League was started which took over performing the money raising activities, which allowed the board and staff to focus more attention to the social welfare of the children.

The home was operated using advanced practices and life in the home had a friendly atmosphere. A recreational program included parties, story hours, movies, music, dramas and crafts. An industrial school was also part of the home and provided an opportunity for many to receive instruction and training in specialized fields looking forward to their future employment. There was a nursery that was equipped with modern facilities and provided care for 25 infants.

Many of the youngsters were children of servicemen. All of the children were temporary residents and provided a haven until their homes could be reestablished or new homes could be found through the welfare system. On the average, there were from eighty to one hundred children cared for each year. Most of the children were school age. Some of the children come from families who could not care for them and others from homes not fit for children. Others are their due to separation of the parents or death of one or both parents. Some of the children had relatives who paid for their board. In 1937, it cost \$8 per week to care for a child. Parents paid what they could or nothing at all but all of the children were treated the same.

The children are taught good manners and not spoiled. There is also no attempt at institutional discipline nor the stern orphan's home atmosphere that was the subject of many books. The boys and girls each had a playroom and when the weather permitted them, they were allowed outdoors in the equipped playground in back of the building. In the basement was an auditorium where they presented programs or were given programs by other organizations.

One five year old child was de-

serted by the mother, and the father was critically ill. There were no relatives to take the child, so the father placed the child in the home and named the matron his guardian. The father left a small insurance policy for when the boy grew up, he would have start in life. The father died soon after leaving his son.

The home was the only institution in Saginaw which took care of babies. They were placed in a nursery away from older children and protected from contagious diseases. When Children were first brought to the home, they were isolated from the other children, until proven they were disease free.

Another orphan home in Saginaw was located a few blocks away from the home for the friendless. This was known as St. Vincent's Orphans Home. This was directed by the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul and was founded in 1875 by Sister Cecelia Casey. The home was first opened in a small house on Hoyt street, but this was quickly outgrown and a new wooden building was erected on the corner of Howard and Emerson streets. The institution continually grew in influence and public favor until the great fire of May 20, 1893, when the home and its contents were entirely destroyed.

The sisters set out to rebuild on the same site. They appealed for aid and Roman Catholic's and others not connected with the Church responded liberally and in 1895 the new building was opened. Sister Cecelia ran the activities of the home until July 1915 when she retired and was succeeded by Sister Marie Murphy.

At one time there were one hundred and fifty children cared for in the home, with a staff of nine devoted Sisters. The home was not dedicated to the children of Catholic families, but all indigent children were welcome. No child under any circumstances were refused. The child's life is made as bright and cheerful as possible. Eight grades of schooling are conducted by the Sisters and instruction given in sewing, darning, cooking and house work. After the eight grade, the children are sent to industrial schools conducted by the Church to prepare them for the practical work of life.

If you are looking for records for the Home of the Friendless, they can be found at Child and Family Services of Saginaw.

Contributed by Walter Bennett

Pioneer Record

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



MGS Officers

President :	Robert Snyder	839-9644
	trcsnyder2@earthlink.net	
Co-Secretaries:	Janet Crozier	631-9653
	jwcrozier@juno.com	
	Jayne Shrier	835-6900
	shrier72@qix.net	
Program Chair:	Bob Mass	835-8519
	massro@aol.com	
Membership Chair:	Bev Keicher	631-9455
	BevJoanK@netscape.net	
Treasurer:	Ron Snyder	631-0765
	resnyder1@chartermi.net	
MGS Reps :	Kathy Bohl	839-9016
	kbohl30265@aol.com	
	Colleen Bennett	832-8644
	Bennett_wl@juno.com	
Historian :	Gayle Hock	687-5567
	hucksters@aol.com	
Hospitality Chair:	Jo Brines	832-8312
Web Master:	Max Schneider	832-9506
	maxschneider@chartermi.net	
PR Editor:	Walt Bennett	631-5247
	wgbennett@chartermi.net	

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, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. 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 August, October, January and March.

Information about Midland Genealogical Society

The MGS meets on the 3rd 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.