



# PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

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## RECOLLECTIONS OF A PIONEER OF EARLY MICHIGAN

By Judge Albert Miller

Editor Sunday Times:

Your article "Sixty-two Years Ago," published in the Sunday Times on March 5, 1803, brings to my mind so vividly some of the scenes and events of that early date in the history of Michigan, that I am inclined to jot down a few items which you can publish if you think they will be of any interest to your readers. One of the items in the article referred to, signed by John Farmer, was dated on the twenty-first anniversary of my birthday (May 10, 1831.) I had then been eight months a resident of that portion of the territory of Michigan that is now Genesee county. The old map you refer to was quite familiar to me in those early days. The surveyed portion of northern Michigan included the mouth of the Saginaw river and the forks of the Tittabawassee. I think you will find on that map a tract of country about Port Huron marked Desmond. I believe the territory referred to had been set off into a township by that name. Mr. Farmer gives the boundaries of the territory of Michigan as it existed in 1831, but it was greatly enlarged in 1834 by the addition of all the territory belonging to the United States lying north of the state of Missouri and west of the Mississippi river. By an act of the legislative council of the territory of Michigan, dated Sept. 6, 1834, that territory was set off into two counties—Dubuque county comprising all the territory north of a line drawn west from the south end of Rock Island; and DesMoine county, the portion lying south of said line to the northern line of the state of Missouri.

The population of the territory of Michigan as constituted in 1830 (the census being taken after I became a resident of the territory) numbered 31,000 and some hundreds. Detroit then contained 2,222. The territory that is now

Genesee county, where I then resided, contained seventy whites, and between the Flint river and the Straits of Mackinaw there were twenty-eight.

I was well acquainted with John Farmer, the author of the map referred to. In 1837, when I was a managing director of the Portsmouth company, we employed him to survey the ground and, make what is known as "Farmer's plat of Portsmouth." At the time of the publication of the map referred to in your article the story was that Mr. Farmer was employed by Orange Risdon, a United States deputy surveyor residing in Washtenaw county, to copy the minutes of his surveys and prepare the matter for a map which he (Risdon) intended to publish; that while Farmer worked for Risdon during the day, he made a copy of his work at night and forestalled Risdon in the publication of a map. Risdon afterwards published a map but it had but a limited sale and Farmer had a monopoly of publishing maps of Michigan and Wisconsin for many years. I knew Mr. Risdon very well; he surveyed the United States military road between Flint and Saginaw. I met him at the laying of the corner stone of the State capitol; he was then the oldest Free Mason in the State.

During the winter of 1831-2, I taught a school in Grand Blanc, which was the second term of school in the lower peninsula of Michigan north of Oakland county, and during the winter of 1834-5, I taught a school at Saginaw, which was the first school taught between Flint river and Mackinaw. In November, 1832, I assisted Judge Jewett in navigating a raft of sawed lumber, which was manufactured at the Thread river and hauled across to the

(Continued on page 3)

### 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.*

#### 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

## Genealogical Research Tips

1. When walking a cemetery to locate family bring along a digital camera to take pictures of surrounding stones. Frequently, you may find other relatives surrounding your family's grave site. Pictures may also help you when you are trying to locate the stone of your ancestor again.
2. Another use for that digital camera is making a copy of a microfilm image. The old style film readers that project an image onto a white surface work well for this. If you find there is a glare when photographing the image, try placing blank copies of paper on the surface. You may also need to deactivate the flash unit on the camera. If you need to enlarge an image to make it more readable, you can then use the zoom feature of your photo editing program on your computer.
3. Obituaries hold a wealth of information. When reading the obituary, remember to read between the lines. This helps when trying to locate more information on an individual.
4. Many churches have an open book policy. Try paying a visit to a church and ask to see their baptism, marriage and burial records. You might be surprised and also may find other family members records. Catholic churches also have other records such as First Communion lists.
5. Another microfilm viewing tip. For difficult to read film, try placing a piece of yellow plastic over the viewer. You can buy these at office supply stores where they may be in the form of page separators or report covers.
6. When tracing missing children in census records, try looking at the extended family. Also remember that the child may be listed as a nickname, or frequently as their middle name.
7. Family Bibles usually come with obituaries inserted as well as birth and death dates of family members written onto blank areas and along the edges of the pages. If you don't have any of the family bibles, try asking your cousins if they have them.
8. While storing your research on your computer for quick access is a great idea, it is a greater idea to remember to backup your data. Remember that computer hardware can fail. You might also consider keeping a copy of your backup at someone else's house so that you will not lose all of your efforts in case your house is destroyed.
9. I sometimes need to know what day of the week, a certain date falls on. Within the family tree maker program, the date calculator will show you by entering the date. The day of the week will show on the left of the date.
10. I enjoy reading the gossip columns in the local newspapers to understand what the family did while they were alive. I also find that it provides clues to other family members.
11. When researching relatives from out of town, use [whitepages.com](http://whitepages.com) to look up family members who may be still alive. You may get more information from them if you call them rather than send mail.
12. Attend family reunions. Interview family members.

Contributed by Walt Bennett

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### From The Editor...

And so ends another year of the Pioneer Record. I have learned a lot from this past year. I am looking forward to next year's issues and I've already started researching for new and exciting articles. If there is a topic that you would like to hear about, send your suggestions by email or snail mail to the Pioneer Record editor using the address listed on the back of this newsletter.

I recently attended the funeral of a relative and I found myself explaining the defini-

tions of cousin and cousins removed. Here is the definition that is the easiest to relate to.

First cousins are two persons who share a common grandparent. Second cousins are two persons who share a common great-grandparent. Third cousins are two persons who share a common great-great grandparent. The "removed" part comes in when there are generations apart. For example: your mother's first cousin would be your first cousin once removed.

Your grandmothers first cousin would be your first cousin twice removed. You count the generations apart. Your mother's second cousin would be your second cousin once removed.

Please remember that the May meeting will be held at the carriage house. I hope to see you there.

Walt Bennett

Editor

(Continued from page 1)

Flint and run down that river to the drift wood, and during the winter of 1832-3 was hauled on sleighs to a point opposite Green Point. That was the first raft of sawed lumber that ever floated on any of the tributaries of the Saginaw river. In the summer of 1833 I erected a frame dwelling with a portion of said lumber, which was the first of the kind outside of Saginaw city that was ever erected between Flint river and the Straits of Mackinaw. In the summer of 1834 I assisted Charles A. Lull, late of Bridgeport, to cut boards by hand to lay floors in the log house he then erected near where South Saginaw now is, when there was not a saw-mill within forty miles of the Saginaw river.

In February, 1833, I removed from Grand Blanc to Green Point. I had never lived within twenty miles of a voting place after becoming of age and had never voted. I did not attend the spring election at Saginaw, but was elected to an office that constituted me a member of the board of inspectors of elections and held that position for fifteen years in succession-during the first five years of which time I handled all the votes that were cast on the lower peninsula between Flint river and the Straits of Mackinaw.

Saginaw County was laid off by proclamation of Gov. Cass in 1822,

including four townships now in Midland County. In the winter of 1830-31 Saginaw Township was organized embracing the Territory of Saginaw County as it then was. Previous to that, the whole of northern Michigan to Mackinaw was in Oakland county and under the Township jurisdiction of Pontiac. In March, 1831, after the organization of Saginaw Township, the four townships referred to were set off into Midland county. In February, 1835, Saginaw County was organized with the boundaries as they then extended. Upon the organization of the county I was appointed to the office of judge of probate, the first to hold the office on the lower peninsula north of Oakland county, and I think my commission bears the earliest date of any person now living in Michigan that has held that office. Hon. Oka Tonen, of Allegan, who is living still, was commissioned to that office a few months later. One of the first estates I undertook to settle was of a person who died in my own town of Saginaw, but in the territory that had been set off to Midland County. It was soon discovered that the estate although in the township of Saginaw was in Oakland County and it was afterwards settled in that county.

In July, 1836, I projected and laid out the town of Portsmouth which was the first move towards building a town at this end of the river, and erected on said plat a saw-mill, which was the second put in operation in the Saginaw valley. In February, 1837, I was appoint-

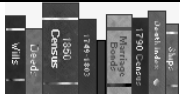
ed postmaster of Portsmouth, the first appointment of the kind in the lower peninsula north of Saginaw.

In February, 1839, I united with the First Presbyterian church of Saginaw, it being the first and then the only religious organization in the valley. In 1850, with my business partners, I erected at Portsmouth a small edifice to be used for religious purposes, which was the second in the valley that was ever dedicated to the worship of God, the first being the Indian mission church at Kawkawlin. I was a director in the company that procured the building of the first railroad to Bay City and procured the organization of the second company that manufactured salt in the valley, and I caused to be thrown up the first embankment with a view of reclaiming the marsh lands from the overflow of the waters of the Saginaw river.

I was president of the first Pioneer society organized in the Saginaw valley and the first president of the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society. This is not what I intended to write when I commenced, but I mention these facts to show that I am entitled to the appellation of Pioneer which I have assumed.

Bay City, March 10, 1893.

Source: Michigan Historical Collections Vol.XXII pgs. 461-463.



## 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) – 1028-1950. 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.

## The Life of a Lumberjack

While looking through the 1800 or even the 1900 census records of various Michigan counties, it is easy to find an entry with many men listed under the head of household who are all unrelated. Upon examination, it becomes obvious that this entry is a lumber camp—a good place to search for a young male relative or a husband not listed with their family on the farm. Sometimes they can be found in the camp rosters of neighboring counties, working to help their family make it through an economic low.

The Saginaw Valley of Michigan was a prime area for timber speculators after the forests of Maine and New York were exhausted. In the spring, numerous lumber camps flooded the Saginaw River and its tributaries with logs headed for the sawmills along its banks downstream. Saginaw and Bay City became boomtowns overnight. However the Saginaw Valley boom did not last long. Once the timber was gone, the logging companies followed the pine northward and eventually into the U.P. They made boom-towns of many northern cities and left ghost towns and cutover lands in their wake.

The larger camps had a bunkhouse, cook shack with a dining room and kitchen, a blacksmith shop, granary, and barn. The buildings were not well constructed since camps were only temporary and were moved once the trees were cut. Each camp had a carpenter, blacksmith, and usually two foremen, seventy or more men, and twenty teams of horses as well as seven yoke of oxen.

The men who worked as lumberjacks in the camps did not have an easy life. The work was hard and dangerous not to mention lonely. The camps began operations in October and workers did not get paid until the spring thaw in April when wet rough terrain made logging too difficult. The men who had families re-

turned to them for the summer. Worst of all, there were many ways to relieve the men of their hard-earned wages from start-up until spring break-up and beyond.

The lumberjacks brought down giant white pine using axes and one or two man crosscut saws. Logs were dragged from the woods and loaded onto a hauling sleigh by men using a team of horses to pull the logs up skids with decking chains. The men at the top of the pile positioned the logs using cant hooks. These were very large loads.

A team of horses would pull the load to the riverbank over ice-covered roads. A sprinkler wagon would wet down the road with water. After it froze, tracks would be gouged into it to keep the sleigh runners from slipping off the road. Logs were unloaded and stacked on the bank of the river. A scaler measured the pile and recorded the amount of “board feet” then the end of each log was stamped with the company log mark. The piles were rolled into the swollen river in the spring, and men known as “river hogs” would drive them to the sawmills. (Later on Big Wheels and logging railroads enabled logging to go on year round.) The hardwoods were left because they didn’t float like pine. Also craftsmen, with hand tools, found that pine was easier to use for building and furniture making.

The lumber barons bought timberlands cheaply for \$0.65 to \$1.50 an acre. They made fortunes from them while paying their lumberjacks low wages. If camp troublemakers demanded higher wages, they were black listed by the camps of lumbermen who were organized to resist their demands. The wages paid were \$16.00 to \$30.00 a month for six days of work. A bunk, filled with straw, and meals were also provided. The men had Sundays off but spent them washing their clothes, picking lice, and sharpening tools and axes.

The lumberjacks got up around 4 a.m., ate breakfast, and headed for the cutting area before the sun came up. Lunch was brought from the camp to the men. When it was too dark to safely use an axe, work stopped; and they walked two or three miles back to camp. By then, it was dark. They ate their supper and went to bed.

Not many camps served fresh meat at meals because it was too expen-

sive. Food was abundant but mostly the same thing. Salt pork, corned beef, beans, potatoes, bread, occasionally some canned vegetables, and stewed prunes were the usual fare at camps. Some camps hired a hunter to supply venison. If the camp was fortunate to have a good cook, there were plenty of baked goods for dessert.

Cooks were usually male. Sometimes the wife of a supervisor who lived in a separate building would get the job as cook or she became the cook’s assistant or “cookee”. The cook was up at 3 a.m. to make breakfast of pancakes, sausage and potatoes for eighty to one hundred men. With a horse-drawn sleigh, a meal of beef stew with dessert and a boiler of coffee was hauled into the woods around 11 a.m. The coffee was kept hot over a fire once it got there. Supper was similar to lunch but with more desserts. The cook baked thirty-five pies a day and bread every other day.

Silence was observed at meals except to ask someone to pass food. This was so no arguing or fighting could occur. The men weren’t allowed to criticize the cooking at the table or in camp but could once they were out in the woods.

After working all season, the men were paid at spring break-up. Some camps required the men to sign a contract. If they quit before spring, 20% was deducted from their pay. The camp clerk would figure out what each man had coming and deduct any purchases of clothing or tobacco from the camp supplies, any doctor or hospital bills, and any donations made to cripples, churches, or charities who came to the camps for that purpose. The amount was written on a piece of paper called a time slip and given to each man as pay. After all the deductions, some had little pay coming. Usually the amount was \$150.00 or more.

Some companies operated both a camp and a mill. The men would shift between them when the seasons changed. General stores were run by several of the companies, and their workers were required to make purchases at these stores. They issued time slips that could not be cashed anywhere but at those stores. Needless

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to say, the merchandise was priced 10% to 15% higher than at similar stores in other towns.

After working in the woods all winter, the lumberjacks were ready to go to town. The businesses in the local towns kept plenty of cash on hand for their forthcoming visit. Saloons stocked up on liquor and dry goods stores brought in a large supply of suits, shirts, derby hats, and Sunday shoes that many men bought after cashing their time slips. They were tired of their rough winter clothing. Any grocery store, saloon, or bank would cash the time slips, but 10% would be deducted for this service.

Many of the lumberjacks owed money to local boarding houses and general stores for bills that were charged last summer. They would pay these first. Those who were wise would pay in advance for a room at a boarding house and apply money to a credit at a general store. Family men would go to the post office to send their family money orders and save enough out for a round of drinks before going home.

The men who hit the saloons and bawdy houses first were soon parted from their money. Five dollars bought a round with no change coming back. To keep patrons from leaving, a free lunch of cheese, rye bread, and pretzels was on hand at the end of the bar. Since boarding houses were filled to capacity, many men slept in the back rooms of the saloons and awoke to pockets emptied by saloonkeepers and others.

Hell's Half Mile in Bay City was said to be wilder than the west's Dodge City when the lumberjacks came to town. Terrible fights between liquored-up men occurred. Even a murder was not uncommon there. Besides saloons, there were sporting houses where gambling and prostitution could be found. An assortment of theaters featuring bawdy performances was also in abundance. Regular citizens of Bay City avoided this area, which ran along Water and Saginaw Streets between Woodside and 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

A series of tunnels connected

the buildings and were called the "Catacombs". Sometimes lumberjacks who had little money left could sleep there for five cents a night on a blanket furnished by the owner. Of course they did so at their own risk. Any money they had was probably stolen while they slept.

The lumberjacks were easy victims of the ladies from the bawdy houses in the local boomtowns. Many men were "rolled" for their money after getting drunk at such establishments. Women made their fortunes this way and had enough to live on until next spring.

Once their money was gone, the lumberjacks were not welcome in the saloons. Some "went on the bum" for the summer. Others found jobs in the local sawmills or at a farm. Some drifted to other towns until the camp operations started up again in the fall.

For many men with little or no family ties, this was a way of life.

For others, it was temporary until they got themselves a nest egg or were helped over a financial crisis with the money they made. A few lumbermen were immigrants who started with nothing and made fortunes by working hard in the lumber camps then did some smart investing in timberland of their own. Either way, they all took part in this colorful era of Michigan history. Some of these men were our ancestors.

Sources:

Reimann, Lewis C., *When Pine Was King*, Avery Color Studios, 1989.

Michigan EPIC, "A Brief History of Lumbering in Michigan," 2001.

<[www.michiganepic.org/lumbering/LumberingBriefHistory.html](http://www.michiganepic.org/lumbering/LumberingBriefHistory.html)>.

Younkman, Tim, "The Wild West Was Tame Next to Bay City," *The Bay City Times*, 1998?

Contributed by Gloria Kundering

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## First Families of Midland County

First Families of Midland County is a continuing MGS project which recognizes descendants of early residents. "Pioneer" certificates are issued to individuals who can prove they are descendants of residents living in Midland County between 1850 and 1900.

### Descendant

2003

Arthur James MacArthur II  
Cheryl Ann Massa  
Kathryn Ann Ecarius  
Charlena Vernita Hall Mason  
Deanna Bauss Mitchell  
Deanna Bauss Mitchell  
Betty Jean Bauss Moca  
Betty Jean Bauss Moca

2004

April Lynn Paluszak Laughlin  
Carol Yvonne Daniels  
Julie Lyntha Cavanaugh  
Velma Luculle Kleinhans

### "Pioneer" Ancestor

Edwin Simons  
Edwin Simons  
Edwin Simons  
Mabel Irene Woodcock  
Heinrich Johann Carl Haker  
Friedrich August Bauss  
Heinrich Johann Carl Haker  
Fredrich August Bauss

Joseph Tripp  
Everett Kleinhans  
Everett Kleinhans  
Charles Smith

Forms for the PIONEER First Families of Midland County project are available in the MGS Genealogy Room at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library.

## DIARY OF MY 19th YEAR

Sept. 27, 1906

Achsah Tippin

Breckenridge, West Side

Resolved that we will study our Sunday School Lesson Daily as given in the Quarterly

(signed) Achsah Tippin Jessie Sexton

Memoranda 1906

Sept. 21

Nice day-school opened with out any trouble. Mr. Pike visited school, stayed from 9:15 to 10:45, helped with history class about Stamp Act, Parliament and Congress corrected some of the pupils Russell, Arlie, Kuiney (Kenney?). Must put a tighter rein on them from now on. Grandpa (Chase) came after me. Left school at 4 o'clock. Aunt Alice came home with me. Grandma (Chase)sick with a fever.

Sept 22

Helped do up the work, went to Grandma's and stopped at Lena's. Lena was patching her underwaist. Grandma better. Mother sick. Went to Grange. A.W. came as Grange was out, had been over to talk with John. He, John, will furnish everything that is needed to run the farm, horses, cattle, sheep, etc. His mind is uncertain about it but I think it's because he expected to go somewhere else and do different work. It is impossible for

him to come Sun. because the girls were going to use the horse. I invited Gladys and Lloyd (Pratt) over Sun. to eat watermelon.

Sun. Sept. 22

Gladys and Jennie and Lloyd came over about eleven o'clock. Leslie (Tippin, brother of Achsah) and Lloyd brought in a great big watermelon and mush melon. The melons were not good. We ate all we could then waited awhile. Lena came down, stayed

about 10 minutes and went home be-

cause her mother was sick. Got all ready for S.S. but it was so late, had to go back to Sexton's to meet Jessie's Aunt Mattie. Went to church with J., had a splendid service found in Daniel 13-41 and St. John 11. Leading thought God cares for his own no matter what may befall. That we have severe tests but if we have the love of God in our hearts we shall triumph.

Sept 24

Went to school at 7:30. Sweep. Gave children 6th grade addition and subtraction. Told children that they would have to do better or change seats, etc. and that they must have lessons. Made Russell, Willie M., Martin McKinley, etc. sit on floor. Mary, Susie, Willie, Otto set on front seats and Ervin and Martin change seats. Mrs. Morrow came down to see about some money that was taken from her machine drawer. Was late for supper. Sent by Mr. S.(exton) to get 2 long sleeve shirts to-day. Studied my S.S. lesson.

Sept 25

Sick in the night, pain in side. Children went to funeral. Fred disobeyed. Whip. Studied S.S. lesson.

Sept. 26

Real chilly to-day. Whipped Willie McLean because he would not mind. Had pupils study with lips closed. Sent a letter home to Mother. Bertha wants me to stay all night with them Fri. night. Would like to. Wrote two letters, one to Myrtle and one to Olive. Studied S.S. Lesson.

Sept. 27. Thu.

Was late for breakfast. Ironed my waist and apron. Sweep the school house. Studied S.S. Lesson.

Sept. 28.

Friday morning. Studied S.S. Lesson. Had a good day at school Grandpa came after me. Stopped at Bertha's, helped her serve supper. It rained that night (but?) 8 there.

Sept. 29

Rained all night, all Sat, forenoon. They took me home Sat. evening. Was sick. Went right to bed.

Sept 30 Sun.

Got my clothes ready to bring back. We all went over to Joe and Bertha's. They brought me back to Sexton's. Studies Sat. and Sun. Lessons.

Oct. 1 Mon.

Frost Sun. night. Chilly in the morning but warmed up during the day. Studied S.S. Lesson. Started to read In His Steps. Helped children find pieces.

Oct. 2 Tue.

Tue morning went over to Salisburys to apply for school. He said it was right as far as he was concerned but for me to go over to George Hurst. I went over there Tue night, not at home. Waited. He came, said that he thought I would get school, but board had better meet. Studied S.S. Lesson.

Oct. 3 Wed.

Begun to make out the reports, had a time with the percentage of attendance. Studied S.S. Lesson far as I could. Part of the lesson was in the Old Testament which I didn't have. Will read lesson as soon as possible. Had Edna send me 4 fancy lead pencils.

Oct. 4 Thu.

Rained Thu morning when I was going to school. Taught 7 grade the circulation of the blood in their phys.(iology) Jessie rebelled, had a circus all over the platform. Brought books home to make out reports. Studied S.S. Lesson from 'In His Steps'.

Oct 5 Friday.

Friday morning after breakfast went over to J.R.S. (Salisbury) to get my order and see about my contract. He exhausted my patience and I told him that I did not have to beg for the school and if the school board wanted me they could give me my contract before I left. I came back and talked with Alba S. (Sexton) he said he was going over to Nevin's. He would go down and see George (Hurst). Before he went J.R.S. came over and after a few minutes conversation they both over they was no fault to find, only a little stricter order, which they shall have if I have to knock them down. I found it pleases them better. Oh! I am learning what it means to teach school. The children spoke and sang good. I was disappointed because my folks did not come, waited until half past four and then started home. S. went to funeral at B.(reckenridge), brought back word that

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they would be at B. tomorrow. My eyes have been bothering me for some time, very red and swollen to night, have bathed it but it didn't do very much good. Will study S.S. Lesson now. P.S. Jessie Witherspoon gave me a pretty vase today.

Oct 6

Waited for Jessie until I was late for breakfast. After breakfast it rained so I pressed my coat, cleaned it also. Jessie was sick so I helped Blanch do up the dishes then I went

over to Salisburys for my contract and to take the books. After dinner I came with Mr. Sexton to B. Meet Leslie at Johnny Fuller's. He was cold. We went in there to warm up. I washed the dishes for Johnny and talked to him about Aunt Rena. Then we stopped in town and I paid for some pencils which Edna had sent me. bought some other things, got my pictures of (Porter?) 1 ½ doz. Came home, had supper, helped Mother pick 2 bushels of green tomatoes, then we went down to Grandma's and now I will study my S.S. Lesson.

Oct 7

Leslie built fire and Alma and I got breakfast, helped Mother do baking for men to take back on ditch. L.K.(Lena Kelsey) stopped on her way home from C.B.'s. C.B. was sick. said that she would stay with me if I would go home with her first. I did so. In the afternoon we went to SS. L.K. wanted me to go home with her but I told her she had better come home with me, which she did, but would not take her coat off. C.B. came along and she was gone. Read S.S. Lesson to Mother.

Oct 8 Mon.

After I washed the breakfast dishes I pared tomatoes for tomato butter and chili sauce. B.S.C. (Burns S. Chase, Grandpa Chase) took C.C.(Clarissa Chase) to see doctor, left Oliver (Uncle Ollie) here. Picked tomatoes, green and ripe. Studied S.S. Lesson.

Oct 9

Raining in the morning, finished making the butter, had five quarts. Had a quarter to buy meat, but would not buy meat because he wanted me to buy too much. We went down to Grandma's in after-

noon, stayed to supper, had 3 or 4 snow squalls. When we got home, men were here, had to get their super. Studied S.S. Lesson.

Oct. 10

Helped Mother with breakfast. There was a heavy frost and freeze in night, was all forenoon preparing 7 pictures to send one to G.T.(George Tippin), S.E.C.(Selleck E. Chase) I.E.,O.R.,A.T. also sent a letter to (Piki?) Cold with spits of snow all day this after noon.

Oct. 11

This was a lovely morning and father birthday. In the morning before breakfast I placed six dollars under his plate. When he went to turn his plate over he found it and it pleased him very much.

Oct. 12

Friday we washed and all forenoon. I ripped up my red and pink waists. We colored them red in the afternoon. Then B(ronsons) were thrashing also K(elseys) at (Bronson's). We had a load of beans which we took down to B(ronson's). We see that they were going to be there for supper and mother told me I might go down and help her for she was not well. I was all ready to go when L(ena) and Mrs K(elsey) went by so I didn't go. There was a social at the south school house. I wanted to go very much but could not.

Oct. 13

I worked until eleven o'clock doing up the front room work but I did it good. Mother did the kitchen work. I ironed in the afternoon and at night I went to Grange. A came home with me.

Oct. 14

S. We went to Grandma's. I was sick and couldn't go to S.S. We came home about seven o'clock Leslie went away and the rest of us had a good talk.

Oct. 15 Mon. to Nov. 3

Made pickles and chili sauce and tomato pickles. Helped in the beets. Made Alma a dress. Helped mother all I could. Like Bess ever so much better than I did. She seems so much different. Bought me a new coat. Visited the B.H.S.(Breckenridge High School) on Friday. Meet Mabel, Satie Bernice and Floyd at school. Had a fare well talk with Clara. How soon we part before the year is over each one to pursue his path

## Upcoming Events

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.

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### **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.

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## Web Sites of Interest

<http://www.mifamilyhistory.org/dibeanindex/>

The Dibeau Michigan Marriage Index is a compilation of records from various places contributed by researchers. There are currently over 400,000 records. Although there are many mistakes in the database, it should be used to help you locate the original record.



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that has been marked out for him by the great Creator. What we shall be fate shall decide. (We our selves) if we put our trust in Him we shall succeed in the end. My heart, shall my life be what I am trying to make it or shall it end in a dismal failure as it has in the past. God alone can tell. And I pray thee that it will help someone before I die.

Jan. 1, 1907

I have neglected my diary for a long time. After I had written on Nov. 3, 1906 I had but little heart to continue for a while and then during my Christmas work I forgot it. I taught school today. After the days lessons I sweep and put my no works on board came home and after supper wiped the dishes then translated 3 sentences in German. Then I went with Mr S(exton)'s down to Cum\_\_ to wait for Jessie. We waited until about 10. I started today to read my new Bible thro. Read 1st chap. I will go to bed or I shall not want to get up in the morning.

Jan. 2, 1907

I heard news which lightened my heart very much today. Lilah came to me and told me that I was going to have 3 new scholars the Kelley children. She said that Mrs K. said that I was a real nice girl and that she wanted her children to come to school to me. How a kind word lightens a heart especially when you feel down hearted. I had a good influence on my heart any way because I thought Mrs N. didn't think I amounted to very much (from the note). I sweep and put my number work on the board after school which closed about 4.05 P.M. I was real tired to-night. After supper I corrected my 7th Grade arith. papers. Ate an apple. And looked up a little German. Studied my Bible.

Jan. 3

It rained last night and was still foggy this day and very muddy. I put my work on the board to-night, sweep, brought in kindling put it under the stove to dry. Came home and found two letters waiting for me one from Aunt Rose and one from Com. R. Af-

ter

supper we went to F. Methodist Meeting (revival) and heard a real good sermon about "Seed sown by the way side." or the 'Reaper.' Translated a little German. Studied my Bible. Went to bed.

Nov. 4, 1907

After a long absence I will return to my diary. Since I last visited you 'my diary' many things has happened. Among them God given me so far 37 pupils to guide and led to broader fields of knowledge to train them to better and more useful lives. Oh Father in Heaven. I pray thee that I may succeed in this trust that has-been placed in me. Today I hired Eva to sweep for me a week and to-night I took my music lesson. This our test week for second month. Had Phy. and Gramm. test to-day Mon. This morning I read the first chapter of Percimmons to the children. They enjoyed it very much. Will read some in my Bible and go to bed. P.S. I wonder what Jessie is doing if she ever thinks of the time when we wrote together. I like her very much. Love to all those at home.

Nov. 5, 1907

It has rained nearly all day. Lora came after me to-day. Then this evening she corrected my spelling papers. We had our spelling tests this afternoon. As I sit in my chair by an improvised writing desk I can hear the patter of the drops on the roof and whippy clothes on the line. Now the stillness is broken by the mew of a kitten or by the deep breathing of my companion who has been sleeping for over an hour. So I will say good-night and seek repose. P.S. Have studied a part of my S.S. lesson.

Nov. 17. Sunday

I stayed over this week to Lora's birthday. We gave her a whipping before she was dressed. I was sick but managed to keep up until after dinner. Was sick nearly all night. Had 3 new scholars drop in today, don't know hardly what to do with them. But will try and do my best until other arrangements can be made. L.P. (Lora) and I studied our S.S. Lesson tonight together. Heard that C.B.(Clif ford Bronson) was at S.L. (St. Louis) boarding at J. N.'s this week. Works nights. Must send post card. Took music lesson this morning. Owe Mrs. P. until Nov. 18 \$2. From now on if I

take every week to be \$1. a week. Must begin to do some Christmas work. With many thoughts of those at home.

Nov. 19

Hired Lora to sweep. Has sweep 5 morn. Also hired Malt, to build fires, each at \$1.25 a week.

Dec. 14

How things do change. Received a telephone from Momma. They were all down to Mr. B.(ronson's) at night. Today it is snowing has snowed all day and I could not go to town as I had planned don't know what I will do. Lena and C.B.(Clifford Bronson)

are married. The eventful thing happened last week Thursday. I hope they may be happy. I have been almost sick with a cold and-----but think time will cure it. I have neglected

everything lately that I could. I seem to have but little life.

Mar. 23 (1908)

Well, this Mon. I thank thee Father in Heaven for the blessings which thou hast bestowed upon me. And I pray thee for strength to do thy will. I want to be upright and honest in all things, doing that which is best for all. Forgive my selfish thoughts and help me to think more about others. Oh, Father help me to reach Maitland's heart. I know he is not bad at heart but he is getting into ways which will not help to make the gentleman

we would have him. Help me to do right for all my scholars and that I may make an impression on their lives for better. I feel that I did wrong in not going to see Grandma. Forgive. Thou who knowst all my sins, forgive. I would ask again a hear my prayer. Bless those at home.

April 7

I am feeling much better physically and my cough is better. This week is almost gone and I haven't really settled all my work at school. I do hope that I can help my eighth graders to pass. Lora twitted me of loving Roy. Oh how mistaken she is. I do regard him as a very dear friend and respect him very much. But love him, no. I don't feel now that I can ever love anybody. My heart feels like lead. How I enjoy teaching although I do get so tired some days. God will forgive me all the

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wrong which I have done and help me to lead a nobler life. How well I remember of a playmate and myself as we sat on the grass playing saying there was no God and how sorry we have both been

to think that we even as thoughtless children not knowing what we said denied our Lord.

-----  
Achsah Tippin died of pneumonia September 12, 1908, after teaching one week. She had taught in District #10 in Wheeler, Gratiot County, and had just started her second year in Bethany township, District #4, Gratiot County.

Some of her teacher's contracts were for 2 months, and some for 3 and some for 4 months. I have the following teacher's contracts:

District #10, in Wheeler Township, Gratiot County for 2 months dated 4th of Sept. 1905 for \$30 per month. I also have the original official book of the organizing of the school district July 6, 1901, and the record of expenses including the notation of payment of teacher's salary for Achsah Tippin.

For School District #4, Bethany Township, Gratiot County, for 4 months beginning the 5th day of November, 1906 for \$35 per month, "said Achsah Tippin does her own Janitor work"

For School District #4, Bethany Township, Gratiot County for 3 months, commencing the 19th of August, 1907, for \$35 per month, "said Achsah Tippin to do the janitor work, It is also agreed that (sic) shall be a vacation at such time as the district board shall decide."

For School District #4, Bethany Township, Gratiot County for 4 months commencing the 10th of December for 4 months at \$38. per month, with the stipulation that she do her own janitor work. I'm sure there were other contracts, but I do not have them. \_\_\_\_\_ Niki Hoyle

## Michigan Territory subdivisions

Wayne County, Michigan, originally part of the vast Northwest Territory, was eventually whittled down into its current size by the separation of several tracts: Monroe in 1817, Michilimackinac County, Michigan (later called Mackinac and subdivided seven times further) and Macomb Counties in 1818, St. Clair and St. Joseph Counties in 1820 and Washtenaw County in 1822. (Chippewa County was created from Mackinac in 1826, four other Michigan counties were eventually created from that land, and other parts went to Minnesota.) The first township organization was Detroit, in Wayne County, in 1802.

Also organized in the territorial period was Showano County, Michigan in 1818, later called Crawford County, Michigan, and originally covering much of what is now Minnesota.

Oakland County, Michigan, which was created in 1819, and later was subdivided into all or parts of Genesee, Lapeer, Sanilac, Shiawassee and Saginaw. Saginaw was then split further, into eight separate counties, three of which, Isabella, Arenac and Midland, were established during the territorial period.

Lenawee County was created in 1822 from what had been Indian lands, and Hillsdale County was separated out in 1829. Other parts of Lenawee were turned into Cass and Berrien. Branch also sprung fully formed from Michigan Territory in 1829.

Kalamazoo County, Michigan, established 1829 from St. Joseph County, was the dominant tract in Western Michigan and was divided and subdivided into many other counties: Allegan, Barry, Calhoun, Eaton, Ionia, Montcalm, Kent, Ottawa and Clinton (some created during the territorial period, others split off later).

## Recent Additions To The Midland Room

- The Maryland Germans
- Baden-Atlantic Bridge to Germany
- Warren Co. Cemetery Records Vol I
- Warren Co. Cemetery Records Vol. II
- Bucks Co. Declarations & Naturalizations
- Printed Sources—A Guide to Published Records.
- Microfilm—Oregon Marriage 1906-1910
- Microfilm—Oregon Deaths 1921-1970

Jackson and Ingham were created in 1829 from Washtenaw; Isabella was created from parts of Saginaw and Midland in 1831. Gratiot County was also put together from pieces of Saginaw, and Clinton, in 1831.

Seven of the 12 counties created in 1829 were named for members of President Andrew Jackson's Cabinet, another was named for Jackson himself.

Iowa County, later in the state of Wisconsin, was established in 1831, and part of it was later returned to Michigan as Keweenaw on the Upper Peninsula.

Brown County, organized 1818 in Michigan Territory, was a huge tract covering a great deal of present-day Wisconsin.

West of the Mississippi River and south of Rock Island, Dubuque and De Moines Counties were created in Michigan Territory in 1834 and transferred to the Wisconsin Territory in 1836. These areas later became part of Iowa.

Milwaukee County was established in 1834 and was also transferred to Wisconsin in 1836.

*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	

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### 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.