



PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

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Midland Genealogical Society Programs for 2005 - 2006

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.

September 20

Highlights of the 2005 Salt Lake City Research trip to the LDS Library
By Ora Flaningam and other attendees

October 18

HeritageQuest and AncestryPlus; Access, use, comparisons of these library internet services. By Carol Souchock and Kathrine Redwine of the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library

November 15

Researching Scottish Records
By Richard Michael Doherty of Troy Michigan

Researching French Canadian Records

The French Canadians have had kept very good records throughout the years, So good in fact that I was able to track 6 generations back on one line within an hours time. To research these records you don't have to know French but you will probably need a French dictionary to help you translate. Where I have needed additional help, I have found there are free web sites that allow you to type in the foreign language and have it translated, or if you are looking at a web page, you can convert the entire web page.

To get started, let me discuss some important details. First, keep in mind that the records I am discussing were kept by the Catholic Church, therefore, they are the Baptism, Marriage and Burial records. These are represented in the records as 'b', 'm', and 's'.

"Dit" names are another item that you will need to know about. "Dit" literally means "called". Think of this as "also known as". It was used to distinguish individuals having the same surname from one another and was very common in "New France". Where individuals had common surnames, a second surname was sometimes added. Surnames were derived in several ways including Geographically(where the person came from), a physical attribute of that person, and the individuals occupation. The word "dit" serves to connect the two names.

Women retained their maiden names for their entire life, using their birth names in all official church and government documents. This makes research much easier.

The source that I started with was the Loiselle Index. This is a set of microfiche/film that is available at several locations. A Dominican Priest, known

as Father Antonin Loiselle began collecting information on French Canadian marriages as he traveled to different parishes. His began his work in 1930 and worked on this project for 20 years. He accumulated and printed in index cards, approximately 1, 1000,000 marriages taken from the registers of the Catholic parishes of 15 of the dioceses of Quebec, Madwaska, and Eastern Ontario.

The card sets are sub-divided into two sets, the hommes and the femmes, or male and female. These were alphabetized by surnames. At the surname dividers you will find surname variations such as spelling or dit name. If you don't find the name you are looking for, try looking at these other names. 1,000 newspaper clippings were pasted to the backs of the file cards by Father Loiselle. These newspaper clippings can be found with the set. These newspaper clippings are full of additional information and original news, such as deaths, ages, places of residence and burial, family relationships, professions, circumstances of death, social implications, lawsuits, and some biographies.

On the index cards, you will find the family name (surname) of the individual, his first name, the family name of the spouse, the first name of the spouse, the date of marriage (in the form of year-day/month), The place of marriage, the names of the parents of the individual, the names of the parents of the spouse. If the individual or the spouse was previously married, you would find the name of the previous spouse instead of the parents name. You can use this information to lookup the previous marriage and find either the parents name or another previous

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August 2005

Notes from the President

The Annual Meeting of the Midland Genealogical Society was held at the Carriage House of the Midland Historical Society on Wednesday, May 18, 2005.

We adopted a 2005-6 Income and Spending Budget of \$2,618.50. Two major changes are reflected in this budget:

The expense item for Volume 3 of the Obituary Index has been eliminated because that project has been completed. We've retained a line item for income to account for any future Index sales.

We've doubled the line item for program from \$200 to \$400, so we can add a second program from outside our local ranks in cooperation with the Dow Library. This is in response to the excellent turn-out for the April program with Joanne Harvey.

We elected officers for our next season, and the complete roster of Board and Officers can be found on the back of this issue of PIONEER RECORD.

We need some help for next season:

Earl Ebach and Ralph Hillman have offered to serve as a selection committee for choosing the new materials MGS will place in the library next spring. We need one more per-

son to help with that work. Nancy Lackie has expressed a desire to retire from that job after ten years of illustrious and dedicated service. Thank you, Nancy.

Bob Mass still needs 2-3 people to work with him on a program committee, and we need those volunteers NOW!!!. Please contact Bob if you're willing to help.

My thanks to all for the excellent response to the hospitality sign-up. We still need someone to provide refreshments for March's general meeting. Please contact Jo Brines if this is something you can do.

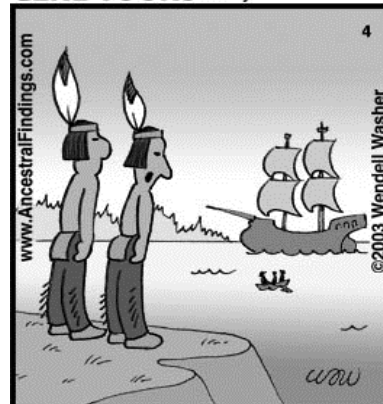
My sincere thanks to all the folks who made my first year as president a good one. With everyone's help, the Midland Genealogical Society will continue to be a strong force in ancestral research here in Midland.

Yours for creative research,
Bob Snyder, president

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2005-2006

The collection of MGS membership dues for 2005-2006 will conclude at the September 20th MGS meeting. The MGS treasurer and Membership chairs have been collecting dues since last May 2005, although there has been no specific request. If your dues are not paid by the end of September, this may be the last Pioneer Record you will receive. Dues may also be paid by mail to: Membership Chair, Midland Genealogical Society, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640. Dues for an individual are \$14.00; for a family they are \$17.50.

GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



So it looks like long-lost relatives find a way around sunken land-bridge.

From The Editor...

As we begin another year of the Pioneer Record, I look to you for your article submissions. If you have an article of interest please email to me at walter.bennett@acm.org or send to me at Pioneer Record Editor, Midland Genealogical Society, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI, 48640.

The genealogy meeting schedule is posted on the front page of this newsletter. Please post these dates on your calendar.

The society still has copies of the Midland County Obituary Index volume #3 which covers the years 1951-1982. The set costs \$40 plus \$5 shipping and handling.

The society also has several of the pins available for sale. You may purchase these at one of the general meetings.

I have received many comments on the articles that I have published concerning the early Saginaw Valley area history. I would appreciate more arti-

cles on this subject, if you know of any, please forward the information.

As requested, I have added pictures to the newsletter. I hope that you enjoy this added enhancement.

Walt Bennett

Editor

spouse.

The Loiselle Index covers a time period of 1608 thru 1963. I was able to start my research by using this index to look up the marriage of my great-great-grandparents Eusebe Desjardins and Lovina Ladouceur who were married in 1872 in St. Andre, Argenteuil, Quebec. Eusebe's obituary had confirmed that St. Andre was his place of birth so I knew that I had the correct marriage. After finding this record which was sorted by surname of husband, first name of husband, then by surname of spouse then first name of parents names. In less than an hour, I was able to follow a line back 7 generations. After researching my direct lineage for a while, I was then able to read thru the family names and gather the siblings names and marriages as well as find later marriages of the individual.

The Quebec National Archives created another alphabetical card index to supplement Father Loiselle's collection adding entire Quebec parishes missing from the original index and extending the coverage well into the twentieth century. The

entire collection of 165 microfilms of the Loiselle Marriage Index and the 51 microfilms of the supplement are available at the Family History Library or may be ordered at the family history center.

Another research resource that is common, is the Tanguay. The proper title for this set of seven volumes is "Dictionnaire Genealogique des Familles Canadiennes" or "Genealogical Dictionary of Canadian Families. This collection was compiled by Reverend Cyprien Tanquay, a Catholic priest and was published between 1871 and 1890. It is presented in alphabetical order in the format of family genealogies (family notices), which flow from generation to generation. The first volume was published in 1871 and contains only families whose marriages took place during the period from the beginning of the French colony circa 1608 to 1700. This first volume contained the entire alphabet A to Z.

Six additional volumes were published over the next 20 years and begin with the letter A in Volume 2 and end with the letter Z in volume 7 and cover the periods 1700 to 1760. Some families are carried to the 19th century but this is not common. The volumes contain over 100,000 family notices and include references to over 1 million baptisms, marriages, and burials. Many errors and omissions have been discov-

ered and a supplemental volume called "Complement au Dictionnaire Genealogique" and authored by J. Arthur Leboeuf. If you are using the Tanguay to research, you should also reference this volume for additional information.

The Tanguay can be found in many libraries and may also be purchased on CD in acrobat format.

The next research resource is the Jette. This is a genealogical dictionary that gives information (pre-1731) about French Canadian families. It was compiled from Catholic parish records of baptisms, marriages, and burials kept by the clergy.

The records were corrected and entered into a computer database. Distinctions were made between births and baptisms, deaths and burials. Illegitimate children were identified. The information covers from the beginning of the French regime in North America from about 1621 to 1730. The information is provided in either of two formats, the individual notice or the family notice.

The individual notice provides information about an individual whereas the family notice contains information about a family. The indi-

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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 about 8,000 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 County Obituary Index (#3)-1951-1982 This book consists of 30,900 entries including about 4000 maiden names covering 22 years extracted from Midland Daily News. The 387 page, 8½ by 11, soft bound book consists of two volumes A through L and M through Z. The set costs \$40 plus \$5 postage and handling.

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.

vidual notice are shown in alphabetical order by the surname of the individual and the family notices are shown in alphabetical order by the surname of the husband.

Dates are shown in the Day-month-year order. Birth and death dates were not required but can sometimes be found. Abbreviations used are b=baptism, m =marriage, s=burial, n=born, d=died. If the parents names are not known they are shown as three dots in parenthesis. If the husband was born in New France or emigrated with at least one parent, you will be referred to the family notice of the parents. If the individual immigrated and the parents names are known, then the place of origin in France may be shown.

The individual record may include the profession. If additional information about ancestors in France is known, then this information may also be included. Additional information may be included from censuses, such as the date of the census, age, place of residence and profession. The date of arrival and the date of the first mention of the individual in civil documents such as a witness to a contract, or as a party to a land transaction might also be noted.

The PRDH, created by the Programme de Recherche en Démographie Historique (Research Program in Historical Demograph) at the University of Montreal is also an excellent source of information. This is a 47 volume set of books. This was started as a project to transcribe all of the parish records of ancient Quebec. As the project progressed, other records were added such as censuses, confirmations, recantations, ships lists, hospital sick lists, and notary records of marriage contracts. The information was computerized and the volumes were published in 1966. The database is available on the internet for a fee.

The information includes the full names of everyone listed on the record, including witnesses and spouses. Also, for every individual

mentioned, their sex, age, marital status, whether living or deceased, occupation, kinship, and places of residence and origin if known. The time period covers from the beginning of Old Quebec to 1765 through the entire French Regime. This is probably the most complete set of records ever published. This set of books can be found at the Saginaw Library.

The volumes are divided into five distinct time periods. Volumes 1-7 Up to 1699. Volumes 8 to 17 are 1700-1729, Volumes 18 to 30 are 1730-1749, volumes 31 to 45 are 1750-1765, and volumes 46 to 47 are 1700-1765. Each record has been given a type code. These codes are A=Recantation, B=Baptism, C=Confirmation, H=Hospital Sick List, L= List of Migrants, M=Marriage, N=Marriage Contract, R=Census, S=Burial, Z=Marriage Annulment. Each parish was given a three digit code. The three digit code represents the source or place of origin of the document.

An index to the volumes are located in the end volumes of the time period. Volume 7 contains the index to Volumes 1-6. Volumes 16 and 17 contain the index for periods 1700-1729. Beginning with volume 8, each volume contains an index by parish that is found right after the parish records. The records are listed in sections by the parish by the time period. Within the parish you will find sections from baptism, marriage, burials, hospital sick lists, etc.

The Drouin or Dictionnaire National Des Canadiens Français (1608-1760) published by the Institute Généalogique Drouin of Montreal, Canada is the last source that I will discuss here. This collection was created after researching the archives and libraries of Europe and North America. The work is composed on 3 volumes. Two volumes contain marriage records in alphabetical order and the third volume contains historical notices, coats of arms, and copies of the signatures of various ancestors.

Each marriage in Drouin is presented in two lines. The first line contains the names of the husband and wife. The second line contains the names of parents of the husband and the wife. To the right of the names is the place and date of the marriage. Additional lines may show parish of origin or residence.

There are more sources which I have not yet discussed and will include in another article. If you are researching your French Canadian lines, you should invest in a few books which you may purchase from Quintin Publications. You can find them online at www.QuintinPublications.com. These books are:

1. Miller's Manual by Douglas J. Miller. This book explains the sources that I have listed here with more detail. Also in this book you will find some French -English translations as well as an index of the codes used.
2. The "Dit" Names, French Canadian Surnames, Aliases, Adulterations, and Anglicizations by Robert J. Quintin. This is an excellent list of dit names.
3. Parish/Town Guide to the Province of Quebec by Robert J. Quintin. This is an excellent list of parishes, towns, counties, and you will find the list sorted in each of these orders.

I have researched several of my lines back to the 17th century. I have found some of my ancestors have come to Quebec in 1611 with Champlain. After researching, your lines, search these names on the Internet. You will find many biographies have been written on these early settlers.

After locating your families in the different indexes, you can then research the registers which you can order from the LDS church, which has most of these parishes on microfilm.

Each baptismal record was written using a format defined by the Roman Catholic Church. Marriage records were standardized even down to the specific wording of most phrases. The handwriting is the biggest obstacle to overcome.

—Walt Bennett

An Introduction to the Filles du Roi

– Michael John Neill

Promises of royal lineage attract the attention of many. There are millions of descendants of the “king’s daughters” who arrived in Quebec between 1663 and 1673. Their relationship to the king is purely financial, not genetic.

When I purchased Peter Gagne’s book *King’s Daughters and Founding Mothers: The Filles du Roi 1663-1673* last year at a conference, my knowledge was minimal. I knew two things: that one of my wife’s ancestors was a *fille du roi*, and that these “king’s daughters” were not literally daughters of the king. Over 700 of these women were brought from France to Quebec between 1663 and 1673. King Louis XIV was concerned about the growth of the colony and the subsidized importation of women was seen as a way to strengthen Quebec and increase its independence from France. In 1663 the population of Quebec was only 2,500 and the gender ratio was highly unbalanced. The state importation of women would help to balance the gender ratio and eventually increase the population of the colony through the resulting births of children. These women were called *filles du roi* as the French crown bore the responsibility for their transportation and settlement expenses, not because they were related to the French nobility. In many cases a dowry was also provided upon their marriage and women were given a chest containing needles, thread, and other supplies to help them begin their households. A quick look at several of my wife’s forebears in the book cleared up some unspoken assumptions I had about these women.

J e a n n e D e n o t

Born about 1645 in Paris, Jeanne left for Canada in 1666 after the death of her father. Her first husband in Quebec was actually not a Frenchman, but rather a Spaniard, Andre Robidou. Andre died after ten years of marriage and five children. Within five months of Andre’s death in 1678, Jeanne married Jacques Suprenant and subsequently had eight more children. Many widows or widowers with small chil-

dren would remarry quickly if another suitable spouse could be found—Jeanne was no exception.

L o u i s e L e c o u t r e

Louise was born about 1648, but her specific origins in France are unknown. This is somewhat unusual, as the specific French origins are known for the majority of the *filles du roi*.

M a r g u e r i t e A r d i o n

Marguerite was born about 1638 into a Protestant family in La Rochelle. I had assumed (incorrectly) that all the *filles du roi* were Catholic. Marguerite came to Quebec in 1663, but she did not come alone. She was a widow with one child, Laurent Beaudet. In Quebec in October 1663, she married Jean Rabouin. They had several children. **M a r i e C h e v r e a u** Marie was born in France about 1652 and came to Canada in 1665 after her father’s death. In October of 1665 she married Rene Reaume. *The King’s Daughters and Founding Mothers* includes a transcription and translation into English of the marriage contract between Marie and Rene. The contract was unusual because Governor Courcelles and several other notables signed it. The likely reason is that the Marie was thirteen at the time of her marriage. The couple had several children and Rene had several brushes with the authorities before his death in 1722.

N u m e r o u s D e s c e n d a n t s

These women have millions of descendants scattered throughout North America. Those of us with French-Canadian ancestry may be related to many of these early settlers. In fact, my wife descends from Jeanne Denot and both her husbands!

B a c k t o T h e I n t r o d u c t i o n

After reading about my wife’s specific ancestors, I turned my attention to the book’s preface and introduction. It was time to learn more before making any conclusions. Reading or photocopying only the portion of the book that “has my name on it” is not a good research practice. Responsibly using any reference text requires that the preface and introduction also be

read, not just the information or pages on the desired individual. A book of biographies such as the one I was using should include an introduction to the topic and a discussion of how the individuals were chosen for inclusion in the reference. Additionally, the reader should determine if the book contains bibliographies or citations to specific documents. Introductions may also refer the reader to additional texts and more comprehensive background material. Gagne’s book provided an excellent overview of the *filles du roi*, including why they were sent to Quebec, how they were chosen, what the trip was like, and how they chose their suitor. It was an extremely interesting history lesson.

W h o ?

Not all the “king’s daughters” were orphans. According to Gagne, only 11 percent of the women had lost both their parents before their emigration. One interesting distinction of the *filles du roi* was that only 11 percent of these women had other relatives who immigrated. They are one of the few groups of individuals who did immigrate to a new land as part of a larger chain migration. The women tended to be poor.

H o w ?

Women were generally taken from French institutions, recommended by various officials of the Catholic church, or (in a few cases) individuals who volunteered themselves. Most came willingly, but some probably felt they had no real choice and were hoping for a better life in Quebec. Women who wanted to immigrate to Quebec had to be of childbearing age and in good health. The majority of these women were from the northern part of France.

T h e M a t c h i n g

Those suitors who were looking for a bride had to do more than simply knock on the door of residences housing the women. They would have to apply to the directress and indicate how they made a living, how much property they owned, and how many possessions they had. The men tried to select women who would adjust to the climate and lifestyle, and the

(Continued on page 7)

The Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection

Ahoy there, MGS Members! Anyone who has an interest in old Great Lakes Ships might want to pay a visit to the George N. Fletcher Library in Alpena, MI. Also known as the Alpena County Library, it has housed the Thunder Bay Sanctuary Research Collection since 2004 and manages it jointly with The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve. This collection is a unique resource that was gathered over a forty-year period by historian C. Patrick Labadie who, along with his wife June, donated it to the sanctuary in 2003. He retired from a career in various Great Lakes maritime museums in 2000. Now he's an exhibit coordinator and historian for the sanctuary.

While at the University of Detroit in 1958, Mr. Labadie began his research of nineteenth century Great Lakes ships. Then his focus was on wooden shipbuilding technology. Now his Research Collection includes many other subjects—Great Lakes ports and waterways, docks, cargoes, ships, shipbuilders, owners and fleets, machinery and riggings, notable maritime personalities, and shipwrecks. His goal was to index every vessel to sail the Great Lakes between 1800 and 1900.

The collection contains over 65,000 vessel images. There is a card index that includes a roster of over 15,000 vessels with descriptive data and details of the ships history and its demise out of a total of 60,000 data cards. Approximately 56 linear feet of vertical files, 40 feet of periodicals, 1,000 published works, 100 navigational charts, 350 shipbuilding plans, manuscripts, and other pieces make up the rest of the collection. It fills up a whole room! Located on the second floor inside of the Michigan Room, the collection is part of the genealogy area in the George N. Fletcher Library.

During my last visit there, I talked with Marlo Broad who is the librarian for this collection and the genealogy area. I asked, "What benefit would this collection be to a genealogist?" She told me that no Great Lakes steamer passenger lists are to be found in it. Some biographical information on the captains of the various vessels may be available but no crew lists unfortunately. There are



The card index, files, and books that are part of the Labadie collection

some ships' logs. However, these are for cargo vessels—not passenger ships. She explained that someone who may want more information on a particular Great Lakes ship on which an ancestor was known to have sailed would find it here.

The cards in the card files on each vessel contain the following information: ship's name, vessel type (such as steamer, barge, or

schooner), the place it was built and who built it, measurements, tonnage, and a synopsis of its history. Marlo explained that if a card was written in red ink, there Librarian Marlo Broad shelving one of the binders.

was more information on this ship in the binders lining the wall shelves. This might include a photo of the ship, newspaper clippings, and enrollments. Enrollments are builder information, owner information, any ship name changes, information on the captain, and the port at which it was enrolled. There may also be charts and shipbuilding plans for that vessel in the collection.

The 1,000 books in the collection contain information on different cargoes as well as other things. Also there are files on Great Lakes ports and on ship construction. The collection contains some videos and a few DVDs. None of the collection is available for checkout. It must be viewed there within the room. Digitally scanned copies of ships photos are available for a fee. Recently the library was the recipient of a grant from the Library of Michigan to digitize a large portion of the collection. This would make it available to researchers on-line in several years. The library is located on the corner of First St. and Park Place. Hours for the collection are Mon.-Wed.-Fri. 9:30 – 3:30, Tues. 9:30 – 5:30, and Thu. 4:30 – 7:30. Any other time is by appointment.



Librarian Marlo Broad shelving one of the binders.

By Gloria Kunding

WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR, GRANDPA – and other genealogical questions...

Gwen and I, both history majors in college, have often thought that if we ever actually taught history in a school setting, we would begin a class year by introducing our students to genealogical research – seeking to help students understand that they had ancestors who participated in the major events of history. For instance:

In our research we've learned that the Deerfield Massacre during King Phillips' War in the early 18th century played a major role in shaping the future of my family. My sixth great-grandparents, Benjamin and Sarah (Belden) Burt were residents of Deerfield when a band of Indians attacked the village. Sarah's parents and aunt and uncle were killed, and Benjamin and Sarah were taken captive and carted off to Quebec. They were later rescued by local militia from the Colonies, and returned to New England by sea. On the voyage home, they delivered a son, Seaborn Burt, my fifth great-grandfather, so named because he was born at sea.

Seaborn's son, Theophilus Burt, ran a gristmill on Mamanasco Pond in Ridgebury, CT, but he was a British sympathizer and had his mill confiscated by the Patriots. We've twice visited the ruins of that mill, and can only imagine what life might have been like for Theophilus and his family.

Another of my ancestors, fourth great-grandfather Simeon John Covell was a well-known British sympathizer, living near Albany, NY at the time of the revolution. He raised a company of farmers from Washington Co., NY, and fought with General Burgoyne and Jessup's Rangers. at the so-called Battle of Bennington. Simeon's daughter later married the son of Capt. Jessup. At the end of the war, in 1780, Simeon was brought up on charges before the New York Assembly and, after having all his property confiscated, was deported to the Eastern Town-

ships of Quebec, Canada as punishment. The family eventually moved west, down the St. Lawrence and settled in Prescott, Leeds County, Ontario.

I've found, when I share these stories of how our ancestors were part of the historical development of the nation, that other family members suddenly develop a much more intense interest in what we're doing with the family history.

Where were your ancestors when...? It's a cool question, and looking for the answer can go a long way toward keeping our own interest in genealogy alive, as well as involving other family in the search for the relatives we never knew.

--Bob Snyder

(Continued from page 5) Filles du Roi

women were also allowed to ask questions of the men. A man who had a suitable residence was at an advantage over those who did not. The majority of the women found suitors, but those who did not typically had to settle for a position as a household servant. Remember that descent from the "king's daughters" does not mean a royal lineage. What it does mean, though, is that genealogy continues to be a never-ending history lesson.

A Few Links

Peter Gagne's book, *King's Daughters and Founding Mothers: The Filles du Roi: 1663-1673*

[La Société des Filles du Roi](#) et soldats du Carignan, Inc.

Louis Hébert--[The Filles du Roi](#)

Those wishing to learn more about researching French-Canadian ancestors (including the "king's daughters") may also refer to "French-Canadian Sources: A Guide for Genealogists," Chapter 25. [Les Filles du Roi--The King's Daughters](#) published by Ancestry in 2002.

From: Ancestry Daily News, 4/7/2004

Upcoming Events

The 131st Annual Meeting and State History Conference will be held in East Lansing, Michigan on September 23-25, 2005 by the Historical Society of Michigan. The meeting coincides with the 150th Anniversary of Michigan State University. Keynote address by former governor James Blanchard. The conference is open to the public. Registration, including three meals, is \$119 for members of the Historical Society of Michigan and \$149 for non-members, which includes a one-year membership in the Society. You can register online at www.hsmichigan.org or call toll-free 800-692-1828. The deadline to register is September 16, 2005.

Web Sites of Interest

After much debate, the Post 1901 Canadian Census issues have been resolved. You can access the 1911 Canadian National census at : www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/1911/indexe.html

ProGenealogists Family History Research Group. This web site offers many useful links to many databases and utilities. www.progenealogists.com/genealogysleuthb.htm

PRDH Database - Online database on French Canadian research as described in accompanying article. www.genealogie.umontreal.ca/en/

Sources For Genealogical Research In Canada <http://www3.sympatico.ca/bkinnon/cangenealogy3.htm>

MGS TRIP TO SALT LAKE CITY

Faye Ebach

This past spring fifteen MGS members enjoyed a week researching family history at the LDS Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City (SLC). On April 26, eleven members left Midland early to fly to SLC. Our flights were uneventful and we arrived in beautiful SLC prior to noon. We were later joined by an additional member from California and three more members from Midland. Our Plaza Hotel was located adjacent to the recently renovated FHL – so access was never a problem.

The latest renovation to the FHL includes an increased number of computers on the first floor, and expansion of the third floor to include all the reference books formerly located on the first floor in addition to the reference material formerly located in the Joseph Smith Building. The Library has reduced their scheduled open hours, now opening at 8 AM (instead of 7:30 AM), closing at 9 PM (instead of 10 PM) on Tuesday through Saturday, and closing on Monday at 5 PM. The Library continues to be closed on Sunday.

The Plaza Hotel sponsored a seminar on “Using the Internet for Your Research” for our group while we were there. Members found this a useful source of valuable information.

Participants were involved in various types of research, using many of the Library’s numerous resources. One of the many advantages to traveling to SLC is the fact that a microfilm you need is as close as a nearby file cabinet. If



you need a book, it’s on the shelf. Ancestry.com is freely available via banks of computers. British Isles, European and other worldwide resource materials are readily available on separate floors.

Salt Lake City and particularly Mormon Square are absolutely beautiful in the spring. The mountains surrounding the city were still covered with snow in the higher altitudes. In fact the city received 4-5 inches of new snow the day before Earl and I flew home. The flowers in Mormon

Square were absolutely beautiful. Walking through the Square elicited “Oohs and Aah’s” from the many visitors. Having the opportunity to see and hear a live performance of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir on Sunday morning was very special.

All in all, we had a very valuable, productive visit to SLC. Some of our “finds” opened up links to other hard to locate information. There are so many positives to doing research in SLC: the immediate availability of

(Continued on page 9)



the largest genealogy resource center in the world, the opportunity to spend a week or more totally focused on genealogy research, the camaraderie of fellow genealogists, the free access to all resource material, and the open, friendly environment provided by the FHL and its staff.

We recommend a MGS return trip to SLC in 2007. I will be happy to help facilitate another trip.

REVIEW OF APRIL 20, 2005 MGS MEETING

Faye Ebach

The availability of Heritage Quest genealogy software was announced at the beginning of the meeting. This new addition to the Grace A Dow Memorial Library is now up and running. It can be accessed at the library and from your home computer. For home use, access www.midland-mi.org/gracedowlibrary, click on Research, then click on Genealogy Resources, click on Heritage Quest, and finally enter your library card number onto the screen requesting a password.

Joanne Harvey, professional genealogist, was introduced as program speaker. She talked about Accessing Your British Ancestors.

Primary resources for British ancestors are the records of the Church of England – Anglican. Each shire (county) has a map with all the Anglican parishes identified. Parish records began in 1538 and are called parish registers.

Birth, marriage, and death (BMD) records are primary resources for genealogists. Priests tried to include the name of a child, mother, and father (if known) in their registers.

Marriages have three sources of primary data. The first are the Banns – a declaration of intention to marry announced by the parish priest prior to the actual ceremony. Second, the marriage license which contains a great deal of information. However, anyone who wanted to marry in other than their home parish had to have a license to marry outside their home church. The Bishop also maintained records of marriages – a third source of marriage information.

Ms. Harvey noted that people “sometimes went to Marriage Mills where no licenses were required, priests were shaky, and records may or may not have

been kept”.

Death records were recorded where the death occurred. Therefore probate records are a valuable resource. Up to 1858 the church probated all wills. Personal property was left to descendants via a Testimony which was also probated. A Topographical Dictionary exists that lists all the parishes in England and tells what probate courts service each parish. Few women had wills prior to 1880 unless they were a spinster or widow. When searching wills or testimonies, Ms. Harvey recommended, “copying the entire, original will rather than the abstracted will”.

Records of people who were residents of Workhouses are still available in applicable parishes.

Almost all records are located at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. The IGI is an index of extracted entries done by the LDS. This data has been filmed and is usually accurate. Entries to the IGI made by individuals have not been checked for accuracy, therefore errors may have occurred.

Ms. Harvey ended her presentation by stating “Civil Registry records from 1837 to the present are available on the Internet”. Her talk included numerous resource handouts plus various research references available for a fee.

REVIEW OF MGS ANNUAL MEETING – MAY 18, 2005

Earl & Faye Ebach

President Robert Snyder called the meeting to order. The Proposed Budget for 2005/06 was approved as presented by Treasurer Ron Snyder.

The annual election of MGS officers was held. The officers and committee chairs for 2005/06 are as follows:

President	Robert Snyder
Program Chair	Bob Maas
Co-Secretaries	Jayne Shrier, Jan Jrosier
Membership Chair	Beverly Keicher
Treasurer	Ron Snyder
Historian	
MGS Delegates	Jean Zager, Faye Ebach
Hospitality Chair	

President Bob expressed a need for volunteers to serve as a Selection Committee to select books for the Genealogy Room.

2005/06 BUDGET

<u>INCOME</u>	\$	<u>EXPENSES</u>	\$
Dues	1500.00	Membership	
		Rent	200.00
Interest	79.50	Program	400.00
		Committees	75.00
Projects		Books for Library	600.00
Research	150.00	Member Memorials	25.00
First Family	20.00	State Registration Fees	20.00
Obituary Books	300.00	MGC-Dues & Mileage	175.00
Obit Copies	20.00	Projects	
Mail&Handling	25.00	Research	20.00
NARA	100.00	Mail&Handling	35.00
Misc Donations	100.00	NARA	100.00
Pins	10.00	Pioneer Record	
		Printing	600.00
PR Subscriptions	14.00	Other	68.50
PR Stamp Donations	300.00	PR Postage	300.00
Total	2,618.50	Total	2,618.50

Pioneer Record

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