



PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

Volume 26 No. 3

www.rootsweb.com/~mimgs/

February 2006

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Midland Genealogical Society Programs for 2005 - 2006

Meetings are scheduled on the third Wednesday of the month.

Programs for the meetings are as follows.

February 15

Bob Mass

"Geography and History of Prussia, Poland, and Germany"

March 15

Bobbi Schirado of Sparta Michigan

"Beyond the Obituary"

This meeting in the Auditorium of the Grace Dow Library

April 19

Ralph Hillman

"The use of Estate Records in Genealogy"

May 17

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

Where Did We Come From?

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How many times have you asked yourself that question? With today's technology, you may find the answer. It was recently announced that new DNA studies say that all humans descended from an African ancestor who lived only 60,000 years ago. Ok, if this is true, then how did we evolve to different skin, hair and eye colors? These are a few of the questions that scientists are trying to find the answer to.

National Geographic and IBM have teamed up to create the Geneographic Project. This is a five year effort to understand the human journey – where we came from and how he got to where we are today. This project does not provide answers to your genealogical questions, but does provide the road-map used by our ancestors to track migration through the continents.

Anyone can contribute to this project. To participate, you need to go to the web site (<https://www3.nationalgeographic.com/genographic/index.html>), and purchase a public participation kit. This kit contains a dvd, map, swab kit, brochure, and a unique ID number. This kit costs \$99.95 plus shipping and handling. After receiving the kit, you swab your cheeks and return your samples to the project. The sample takes about eight weeks to process. After that time, you may logon to the web site using your unique ID number to track your results. You should then periodically return to the site to check for updates as more samples are input. This is a completely anonymous system. There is no database that links the test results with the names of the contributors.

The genographic project would like to collect samples from indigenous people as they may provide a more complete

record.

There are more projects that you can contribute to in order to assist your genealogy research, but first you should understand a little bit about DNA as there are a few options to take.

DNA is the carrier of our genetic information which passes from generation to generation. Every cell in our bodies except red blood cells contains a copy of our DNA.

When we are conceived, we receive DNA from both our father and our mother. We each have 23 pairs of chromosomes and for each pair, we have one received from the mother and one from the father. These 23 pairs are known as the nuclear DNA because they reside in the nucleus of every cell except red blood cells.

The 23rd chromosome is known as the sex chromosome. This one is also inherited from the mother and father. The one from the mother is always an X and the one from the father is either an X or a Y chromosome. The chromosome from the father determines the sex. An X from the father results in XX which is a female, and if it is a Y, then it results in XY which is a male.

We also inherit mtDNA from our mother. mtDNA (Mitochondrial) is found in abundant quantities outside of the nucleus cell. mtDNA is passed from a mother to her children. Only females pass on mtDNA. Testing your mtDNA would tell you about your mother, grandmother and so forth up the direct female line. mtDNA is tested and the results compared to a reference sequence called the Cam-

(Continued on page 3)

Notes from the President

The MGS President Bob Snyder is currently in Florida and will return in April.

Naming Patterns in Britain 1700 - 1875

1st son named after the father's father

2nd son named after the mother's father

3rd son named after the father's eldest brother

1st daughter named after mother's mother

2nd daughter named after father's mother

3rd daughter named after mother

4th daughter named after father's eldest sister

Duplication in Christian names of both families moved to next on the list. Children were commonly named after a child who had died. (from In Search of Your British Roots)

Similar patterns were found among German settlers if the Mohawk Valley with several variations

1 The first two sons were named after their grandfathers

2 The first two daughters after their grandmothers

3 First names were usually John or Anna & not used. Second names were traditionally used e.g. John Nicholas or Anna Elizabeth.

4 An initial usually indicated the first letter of the father's Christian name e.g. John Adam L.

5 A very limited no. of names were used e.g. for males; John, Jacob, Nicholas, Hendrick.

For females; Anna, Elizabeth, Catherine, Margaret.

Library Users

If you are in the library or using the computer, please come into the gene room and sign-in. We do keep a count of people using the genealogical resources and this would add to the room usage.

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2005-2006

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



Cemetery of the unknown ancestor.

From The Editor...

Greetings to all.

I was surprised to find many contributions for the newsletter for this issue. Please continue contributing articles for publication. If you currently receive other newsletters that contain articles that might interest our readers, please send them on to me. You will now find a new section included in this issue of the Pioneer Record titled "looking Back In Midland County". We will include some interesting points of interest from the early Midland Newspapers.

I have also created a section of Pages From The Past which will have articles from the newspapers.

After writing my article on the DNA testing, I had seen an article on this in the February 6, 2006 issue of Newsweek titled "In Our Blood by Claudia Kalb". This article explores some persons who have done this testing to discover some very interesting things. One woman who was adopted at birth never knew anything about her biological parents and found that she is

native American. Others are finding they carry the Jewish DNA.. Scientists say they can date the earliest male to 60,000 to 100,000 years ago and the earliest female to 150,000 to 250,000 years ago. Why did it take so long for the man to arrive?

Please note the program changes on the front page. I hope to see you there. Bring a friend.

Walt Bennett
Editor

(Continued from page 1) Where did we come from?

bridge Reference Sequence (CRS). By comparing an mtDNA sequence to the CRS, we can identify the name of the lineage to which you belong, which is called a Haplogroup. Many Haplogroups are continent specific and subdivisions of these may be region specific.

There are two areas of DNA testing that have been found useful for genealogy research. The Y chromosome and the mtDNA. The Y chromosome is carried from father to son and for the most part, remains unchanged. This provides information on the direct male line. The locations tested on the Y chromosome are called markers. Occasionally, a mutation occurs on one of the markers in the Y chromosome. A mutation is simply a small change. These mutations are estimated to occur about once every 500 generations per marker and can sometimes be valuable in identifying a branch of the family tree.

Each marker has a name, such as DYS #391, DYS #439 or GATA H4. The scientists classify these markers as Short Term Repeat (STR) markers. The result for a marker is a count of the number of repeats at the location. Now what can we do with this DNA

to help with my research? We can submit our DNA samples to the FamilyTreeDNA site (<http://www.familytreedna.com/>). Pricing on this site is determined by what testing is performed and what discounts may exist. You will find listed on this site, several Surname projects. A surname project is a project to test those with a common surname and variants. A surname project has a leader, known as a group administrator. This person assists members with understanding the results. Y DNA testing can confirm the paper genealogical research for your family tree. The results of a Y DNA test can also provide an estimated Haplogroup which is predicted based on the results from the Y DNA marker tests. The Haplogroup identifies a person's major population group and provides information about the ancient origin of your male line.

The FamilyTreeDNA kit contains two scrapers that when used would be like brushing your cheeks with a toothbrush. The scraper is then placed in the collection tube which contains a fluid to prevent the growth of bacteria. The kit also contains a release form, that if you sign and return will permit FamilyTreeDNA to share your name and email address with someone else who matches your genetic profile exactly.

These matches are called genetic cousins.

Males can join:

A surname project that research individuals what have the same surname or variant.

One y-DNA Geographical project to verify a possible point of origin for paternal line.

Females can join:

One mtDNA lineage project that research individuals that have or suspect having the same maternal line.

One mtDNA Geographical project to verify a possible point of origin for the maternal line.

You can join a project or start a new one. Details are given on the web site.

Looking at the Bennett surname project, they are focusing their research on early American Bennett ancestry back to the revolutionary war but many lines are confused and mixed together. The goal of the project is to help sort our various Bennett families. This will help researchers focus on an area/family instead of trying to research all the early Bennett families.

(Continued on page 6)



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.

A Web Site Worth Visiting

The Ships List (www.theshipslist.com) is a website with a lot to offer, especially to those researching immigration to Canada. With 1,300 free pages to view, it is one of the better ship and passenger list sites on-line.

The Passenger List section contains several listings for ships and passenger lists to America from as early as 1700. The 1800 listing is divided into groups by countries with passenger lists to Australia/New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, and others. The Canadian listing is rather large and includes the Saint John N.B. Customs House Lists from 1833 - 38 and Lists of Peter Robinson Settlers from Cork to Canada 1823 and 1825. These settlers were poor Irish farmers given free land in Canada as an experiment to populate the Canadian wilderness. Peter Robinson supervised this venture for the British government.

Another link deals with the Famine Immigrants from Ireland to Canada in 1847. A page describes the hardship and illness endured by many of the immigrants and how they perished from typhus on board or at the Grosse Isle quarantine station in Canada. Included are lists of ships quarantined there and lists of orphans at Quebec and Montreal.

The Fleet List is a listing of companies that were involved in ocean shipping. It includes the names of their ships and ships fares for passengers in British guineas and pounds, some in francs, and in American dollars. This listing is not yet complete.

Ships Descriptions is an index of ships names. There is a paragraph

or two about each ship listed telling which company owned it, from where it sailed and where it went, a description of the ship, and a brief history from launch to demise. It contains ships from many countries.

The Shipwrecks section contains two areas. A "General" area brings up a list of wrecks with the date lost, where, and how many perished. The "Specific" area gives a detailed description of the ship and the sinking. It also lists, by name, the passengers and crew that were lost and those rescued.

The Ship Pictures section also has several areas. The first area contains many photos of immigrant passenger ships. The second area is of immigration pictures. Some of these are photos and others are black and white drawings of immigrant arrivals, inspections, and other experiences. There are four Canadian immigrant train pictures and another area devoted to ship company logos. Next are maps and charts then there is a large area of pictures from different ports of the world. Four pictures of immigration stations are in the last area.

The Castle Garden station has a nice historical article as well as another link with five or more pictures. Ward's Island also has several pictures. The Grosse Isle link is not operable yet.

Ships Rigging lists the names of different sailing vessels. It shows pictures of each and how they were rigged. There is also a brief description.

An Events of 1862 link deals with the happenings in Canada and England during the American Civil War. (England was afraid of an American invasion of Canada by U.S. troops during this time period.) It is a listing by month of articles found in the Il-

lustrated London News.

The Ships Arrivals section has a listing of the numbers of immigrants by different years that arrived in America. There are other schedules of arrivals in various American ports. All seem to be statistics and not passenger lists. There are also some reports for ports in other countries.

Marriages at Sea is a large chart with the name of the bride and that of the groom. It gives the name of the ship on which the marriage took place, date of marriage and occupation and status of each. It also tells where the couple was from and who performed the ceremony.

There are several other links with accounts of voyages and entries from diaries and journals. A trivia section has a variety of listings from Passenger Fares to U.S. war brides. An FAQ section answers questions on immigration forms and records that apply to the U.S. There are three update listings—one for the last three months of 2005. These contain passenger lists for the "Lady Sherbrooke" from Quebec to Montreal.

This is a website that is rather heavy in passenger lists to Canada—even early ones. However, its variety does offer something for everyone. This is one of the few sites that gives information on the cost of passage. Very little information on ship fares existed on the web previously. Frequent new page additions keep this site very informative and worth returning to it. The Ships List is a really great site to visit if you have never been there.

By Gloria Kunding

Upcoming Events

On February 18, 2006, the Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan is hosting their tenth anniversary seminar. The guest speaker will be Nora M., Hickey of County Cork, Ireland. For details, contact Sue Cromwell at 248-477-5846.

The 43rd Antiquarian Book and Paper Show will be held in Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI on Sunday, April 2, 2006 from 9:30AM to 5PM. For further information see www.curiousbooks.com/abf.html

The Flint Genealogical Society is planning a trip to Allen County Library at Ft. Wayne, Indiana on May 9. They will be leaving at 7:00AM and returning around midnight. The cost will be \$35 for non-members and \$30 for members of the society. For further information call 810-655-4957 or email lonewulf@localnet.com.

The Ohio Genealogical Society is hosting the 2006 OGS Annual Conference "planting the Seed: Tools for Growing Your Family Tree" April 27-29. Some of the workshops are: Reading Old German Script, Mapping Workshop for Genealogists, Tools for Researching your Revolutionary War and Civil War Veteran, Newspaper Research, A study of Croatian, Serbian, and Bosnian Names, Using Manuscripts to create a Family History, Do's and Don'ts of Deed research, Searching for the Lost Children, Finding Rare Materials, Writing a Compelling Family History, Locating Digitized Images Online, Finding Your German Ancestors Place of Origin, Sources for Finding Your Border Crossing Ancestors. You can find the schedule and application form at www.ogs.org.

Recent Additions to the Gene Room

Aldrich—George Aldrich Genealogy Vol I-II-III-IV-V by A James Aldrich

Historical and Genealogical Record of the Michigan Daughters of The American Revolution 1988-2000

Historical and Genealogical Record of the Michigan D.A.R. 1930-1940

Jacobus—Index to Genealogical Periodicals.

National—History & Lineage Book V and VI. National Society Women Descendents of the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company.

South Lyon Area Centennial.

Ionia County World War II

Bio Project

The Ionia County Genealogical Society is compiling information and photo's about the men and women from Ionia County, Michigan who served in WW II. They would like to invite anyone who has a member of their family that served during this time to be a part of their book. To be eligible, the veteran must have been a resident of Ionia County at any time during their lifetime. They are seeking information on ALL veterans, living or deceased. The book will be published and available for purchase at a future date. There is a 500 word limit per veteran. Only one service photo be included with each submission. The photo will be scanned and returned. For more information, contact Bonnie Jackson at (616) 642-6704 Or write to her in c/o Bonnie Jackson at Ionia County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 516, Lake Odessa, MI 48849-9561.

Jackson County Pioneer Project

The Jackson County Genealogical Society and the Jackson County Historical Society has announced the creation of the Jackson County Pioneer Certificate Project. Jackson County was founded in 1832 and through the dedication, sacrifice, and hard work of the families that came during the early years, the county has grown and prospered. They would like to honor and collect data about the early residents of Jackson County, Michigan and their descendants. They are asking the descendants of these early pioneers to apply for a Jackson County Pioneer Certificate, which will be given in four categories recognizing the settlement and growth of Jackson County. The certificate will be based on the year that the ancestor first settled in Jackson County/ The Jackson County Pioneer Certificate Application form with instructions may be requested from the : Jackson County Pioneer Certificate Project c/o J.C.G.S. Library., 715 W. Michigan Ave., Suite #2, Jackson, Michigan 49201 or from the website: www.rootsweb.com/~mijackso/jcgs.htm.



Web Sites of Interest

[Www.alphatoomega.us](http://www.alphatoomega.us) - Alpha to Omega, the genealogy bookmaker,. Check out this new program.

Hubbardston Area Historical Society.

The society would like to inform you of their four year existence. The organization serves four counties as HAHS is located in the "hub" of Ionia, Montcalm, Clinton and Gratiot Counties where the four corners meet. The society is looking for any materials relating to their area. You can check out their web page at www.hubbardston.org. Their address is Hubbardston Area Historical Society, Box. 183, Hubbardston, Michigan 48845.

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In the late 1990's, a DNA study was done to determine if a descendant of Sally Hemings, a slave of Thomas Jefferson, was a descendant of Thomas Jefferson. In January of 2000, a report was published that stated that there was a strong likelihood that Thomas Jefferson was the father of at least one and perhaps many of Sally's children.

Another study suggests that up to 3 million men could be descended from a fifth century Irish king. Niall Noigiallach had 12 sons and took 9 key hostages including Saint Patrick in order to subdue opponents and consolidate power. The study was based on DNA samples from 800 males across Ireland.

If you watch the crime investigation TV shows, you will hear them talk about the CODIS database. This is the Combined DNA Index system convicted offenders and suspects. The database contains as of December 2005, about 2,826,505 DNA profiles of convicted offenders and 126,315 forensic profiles from DNA collected from crime scenes which have not been connected to a particular offender.

The FamilyTreeDNA project currently has over 53,500 Y-DNA records in their database and more than 17,300 mtDNA records. I was unable to determine the number of records cur-

rently in the genographic project.

If you find yourself at a road block or would like to determine if someone is related to you, consider contributing to these projects. If you need additional information please check the websites which contain important FACS and email addresses for submitting questions.

By Walter G. Bennett

RESEARCH TIPS

1. Beware of ages reported in census records-many people, particularly women, tended to be secretive about their ages. And someone reporting for absent household members might have incorrectly guessed their ages.

2. The 1870 census could help you identify survivors of the Civil War. If your service age male relative is unexpectedly absent from that census, he might have been a casualty. Also, his presence could point you to military records.

3. Know census milestones: The 1850 census was the first to name everyone at a residence, not just the head of household. In 1880, the census began recording each person's relationship to the head of the household.

4. County names and boundaries have changed over the years. To find out which court had jurisdiction over your family, learn your ancestral county's genealogy, including its birth date and parent counties. Use a reference to sort out county lineages and learn which counties have which records for which eras.

5. Check the date range of records in the database or index you're using to ensure you're searching records from the right time period. Such compilations of passenger-arrival information may not cover all ships or years-EXAMPLE Ellis Island's web site doesn't include records for 1925 to 1954.

6. You may find ancestors who immigrated before 1820 on baggage lists. Shipmasters recorded the names of passengers carrying baggage so those travelers wouldn't have to pay duties on

their belonging once they reached their intended port.

7. Declarations of intention, which states an immigrant's desire to become as US citizen, are referred to as "first papers." You'll sometimes see petitions for naturalization-the next step in the citizenship process-called "second papers."

8. Pay attention to names in deeds and other land records. Your ancestors often settled near family members and friends-researching those people can yield clues that will help you hurdle genealogical brick walls.

Reasons Why a Search May be Unsuccessful

1. The event was not registered (gaps in the records)

* In 1870 only 1/5 of all deaths, 1/3 of all births, and 2/3 of all marriages were reported.

* By 1880-81, it was calculated that 90% of marriages, 70% of births and 60% of deaths were being recorded.

* As late as 1891, birth certificates were down so far from estimated birth rate in Ottawa that some observers considered the statistics worthless.

* As late as 1893, the Inspector appointed under the Vital Statistics Act concluded that registration of vital events in many communities was a "dead letter". The deaths of young children were said to be among the least often reported events.

2. Inaccurate information.

* a) Wrong Date: If the year is wrong then the record will not be found. It is suggested that you search the index books for surrounding years.

* b) Incorrect Spelling: In many instances the name was actually spelled differently than it was entered in the register.

3. Information Missing From Computerized Index.

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LOOKING BACK IN MIDLAND COUNTY

The following news items were taken from *The Midland Sun* for September 15, 1881, page 1.

W. H. Morgan of Edenville was in town Monday. He has settled that vexatious lawsuit about the title to his homestead and now feels comparatively happy.

G. B. & S. I. Wiggins are establishing a lumber camp on the Pine about a mile from Bradford P. O. at which they will work some 30 men and put in about 2,500,000 feet of logs. The same company will probably put in 2,000,000 feet on the Chippewa (&) Salt.

In Jasper Township, the fire ran briskly for a season, and threatened much but did really but a small amount of damage. Probably John C. Sias was injured most, having lost about one half of his orchard. The flames ran from tree to tree in the strawy manure recently spread. Good sized trees they were, and many of them well laden with fruit.

M a r r i e d

At the Parsonage of Hope August 17th, 1881 by Rev. W. H. Allman, Wm. J. Keys of Cavan, Canada and Florance (Florence?) A. Havens of Hope, Mich.

In Midland at the residence of Willard Cates Sept. 11th, 1881 by Rev. Geo. T. Ellis, Mr. Willard H. Freeland and Miss Ida Martindale all of Midland.

P e t i t J u r o r s

Following is the list of Petit Jurors drawn the 6 inst. For the October term of circuit court; viz:

George Wells, Edenville
William D. Tripp, Geneva
John S. Mace, Geneva
Fred Wesson, Homer
Phineas Swift, Homer
Silas Wright, Hope
Henry Wisner, Hope
Phineas F. Pierce, Ingersoll
Uriah Fritz, Ingersoll
John Robinson, Jasper
Neal McDougal, Jasper
Thomas Cooper, Jerome
Chales (Charles?) Sanford, Jerome
Robert Clark, Lincoln
Paul Pearson, Lincoln
John H. Kelley, Midland
Edward Lyon, Midland
John Moore jr. Mt. Haley
Duncan Wayne, Mt. Haley
Michael Ryan, Porter
Lewis Rogers, Warren
John Milner, Larkin
George Openo, Lee
Charles S. Shephard, Edenville

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* a) Incorrect Transcription of Material During Re-indexing: There is a small chance that the registration may have been missed during the indexing process.

* b) Missing Pages From Index: Occasionally pages have been found to be missing from the main index books when they were transferred to the Archives of Ontario from the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. This is very rare and every effort is being made to recover lost pages.

Burned Out Courthouses

If you come across the dreaded words The Courthouse burned and all the records are gone. Don't Panic.

1. Find out what was the extent of the loss.
2. Find out if the older papers might have been moved to another location.
3. Next find out everything you can about the history of the county.
4. Narrow your time period as much as possible. See if there might be information from another branch of the family from a time period that records still might exist.
5. Check county boundaries. See if the boundary for the county has changed and then check the time frame for the family. The records might be safe in the next county if there was a boundary change.
6. Check the state level and see if any records that might have

been sent on.

7. Check church records for marriages, abstract offices for land records, military pension records for proof of birth and marriages, newspaper offices for old newspaper to find obits, marriages, birth, tax records, deed transfers, probate filings, etc.
8. If your ancestor lived near a county or state line, check across to see if they owned land. If they did check for a probate file for that county.
9. Check family for copies of letters, diaries and bibles to construct dates and information.

Although a burned courthouse may seem tragic at first, it offers you more opportunities to explore Un-known territory to find more than just records, history of the area and people that might lead to more family.

Pages From The Past

Midland Republican - February 12, 1931 * "J. F. Charboneau, better known as Shab, left this town last week to do a Shab-by thing, and when he returned with a smiling piece of female loveliness upon his arm, recently the property of one Tompkins, it was apparent that he'd went gone and done it. Drunkenness was the cause of the former separation, and we congratulate the bride upon having secured for a husband a man whomever tips ' the social glass' ". This frank discussion of family affairs was the style of early journalism in Midland taken from the fifth issue of Volume " L" of " The Midland Times", put out by one Bartramin 1871. This famous publication also announced, " Cherry, the white barber with a colored wife or the colored barber with a white wife or a white man with colored blood or a colored man with white blood has returned in feeble health." " Hotel proprietors and saloon keepers who desire to furnish their customers with a good morning beverage, one that will largely neutralize the inbibations of the proceeding day, will do well to supply their bars with the Midland Mineral water. It is much preferred to the waters of the celebrated Congress spring at Saratoga and the famous Seltzer water of Germany." A column of space is devoted to an explanation of the circumstances surrounding the " disciplining" of a Midland lady for attempting to receive Episcopal communion when she had not secured from her former parish a statement of membership in good standing. The " Times" was a four page, six column weekly and compared very favorably in 1871 with " The Evening News," Detroit as the latter appeared 17 years later, according to copies of each in the possession of Lewis E. Eesley here. For nearly fifty years two newspapers ran

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side by side in Midland. The Midland Republican and Midland Sun, both begun under these names in 1881, and continuing as such until they were consolidated under the name of the former four years ago. Before and during that time however, various other sheets appeared and died. The story has been told of Nathan T. Carr, who started the Midland Sentinel in 1858, evidently the first publication here. Four years later he sold to Carpenter and Bailey who continued three years and sold to Geo. H. Gies, who named it the Midland Journal. As such it ran a few weeks, when G. W. Hughes acquired it and named it the Midland Independent. In 1866, W. H. Bartram took it over, and with F. F. Hopkins continued. Owners came and went, until in 1881 Frank Burton sold the sheet to T. W. Crissey, who came from Flint where he had been superintendent of schools to begin his new enterprise.

Jan. 8th the first Republican appeared. On Feb. 17th Burton issued the first number of a competitive sheet, the Sun, and with typical personal enthusiasm of the early newspapers, the two had it back and forth at each other for many years. Editor Burton thus announces his new enterprise: : We couldn't keep out of the newspaper business - in the language of the Kinchin: ' How could we?' And then the kind and persuasive words of so many of our old patrons who wanted to be again reading our epigrammatical paragraphs! We couldn't resist it all. What could a fellow do? What, indeed but start another paper? And so here's our Sun, and yours." The new sheet bore the legend, " Be just and fear not," and items of local interest were listed under the caption, " Local Sunshine and Shadow." " Being almost as good as new," said Editor Crissey, " in the editing business and absolutely so in the publishing, we hope to be treated with due allowance by our patrons. We

have come to stay among you and give you one of the best weekly papers in Central Michigan." And so by the dint of early subscription payments consisting largely of cords of wood, bushels of potatoes, and similar household necessities, the two fought merrily along for a half century. The Sun, too changed hands a few times, owned successively by F. S. Burton, S. J. Holden, John N. Bailey, Jas. J. Savage, Chas. H. Stiger, Frank J. Werkheiser, Jas. J. Savage, the Midland Publishing company and Neil C. McKay from whom it was purchased in 1927 for consolidation with the Republican, owned by W. R. Crissey and Philip T. Rich. But during this time, other newspaper ventures here waxed and waned. Most spectacular was Bartram's Cheek, put out by the owner of the Times, which had failed. Bartram's sheet was the terror of wrongdoers, as it waged open and embarrassing warfare against vice. Bartram finally fled from the consequences of his temerity and the paper died. In 1878 the Midland Courier appeared, later sold to Smally and Stair (E. D. Stair, now owner of the Detroit Free Press), who changed it to The Review. Later under Ed Cornelius it became the Midland Democrat and finally it too expired. A fly-by-night little remembered locally, but described by Frank Teal, was " The Toxin" - perhaps it wasn't spelled that way - Frank isn't sure - published for about a year as a radical sheet by Paul Marrin, cigar maker here. It appeared about 1885, it is believed. With the files of the Midland Sun now in the possession of the Republican, items from that newspaper will be included whenever possible in the column entitled " Glimpses of Midland County's Past." Many of these files are being bound, however, and the record will not be complete as yet.

Contributed by Ora Flaningam

MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL REPORT

January 12, 2006 - Faye Ebach, Delegate

Randy Riley, from the Library of Michigan, expressed the Library staffs' great sorrow at the sudden passing of Carole Callard on Dec. 10, 2005. Carole had been honored at the Nov. MGC meeting for her many contributions to the world of genealogy upon her retirement from the Library. An endowment fund has been established at the Library in her memory.

Randy also reported that the Library is experiencing budget reductions and as a result has reduced their hours when open to the public. They have also eliminated all student positions, resulting in delays in returning references to the shelves. A new volunteer program has been established to assist staff.

He further announced that due to declining enrollment, all Abrams genealogy sessions will be combined into a one-day session sometime in July, instead of six separate sessions. A fee will be charged for the one-day session.

The Library plans to conduct a survey in February of all users for demographic data, e.g., how far users travel, frequency of use, etc. The Library has also scheduled a one-half day session for April 1 with the focus on "Internet Access to Genealogy Resources". This will be a free workshop.

The meeting speaker was Mary Teachout, Genomic Educator – MI Dept. of Comm. Health who spoke on the topic "FAMILY HEALTH HISTORY".

Joanne Harvey reported that Senate Bill 795 was passed by the Senate and is now in the House as Bill 795. Bill will allow filming of old vital records and placement of those films in the Library of Michigan. She also reported that Abrams Foundation funds have been used to purchase single page DEATH RECORDS on microfilm from 1895-1931. No fee will be charged for copying these records. Funds have also been used to purchase microfilm of 4,000 MI family lineages from 1837-1985.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Allen County website FriendsOfAllenCounty.org has on file American Ancestors of MI Governors – a file of former MI governors and their families

Notice received that Federal Govt. land office is now back on line – includes after colonial times

SCHEDULED WORKSHOPS:

Saturday, March 18, 9am-4:30pm. MGC sponsored workshop. Topics: "MEMBERS: How to Get Them and Keep Them" and "PUBLICATIONS: How to Publish Them and Sell Them". Cost: \$10.00, inc. lunch. Where: Library of Michigan

Saturday, April 1, 2006, 9am-3:45pm, Genealogical Society of Monroe Cty. 29th Annual Spring Seminar. Speaker: Amy Johnson Crow. Cost: \$20. Where: Monroe County Community College.

Thursday-Saturday, April 27-29, Ohio Genealogical Society Annual Conference. Headline speaker: George K. Schweitzer. Details, scheduled events, registration, etc. available on web site OGS.org

MGC Family History Month Seminar, co-sponsored with Library of Michigan, scheduled for October 14, 2006.

Pioneer Record

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



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Pioneer Record is published quarterly (Sep., Nov., Feb., & Apr.) by the Midland Genealogical Society. Queries are free to members and should be sent to: PIONEER RECORD, Midland Genealogical Society, 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.