



# PIONEER RECORD

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## Are Woodmen Lumberjacks?

By Gloria Kundinger

Several years ago while leaving the Williams Township Office in Auburn, Bay County, a large, framed certificate caught my eye. Hanging near the door, this ornate certificate had a heading in old-fashioned font that read, "Sovereign Camp of the Woodmen of the World." It was for Auburn Camp Number 71. I'd never heard of Woodmen of the World. Was this an organization for local lumberjacks? No, it was not. Actually, almost any man could join.

On January 3, 1883 in Rock Island, Illinois, Joseph Cullen Root started a fraternal benefit society called Modern Woodmen of America. Its purpose was to pay benefits to the families of members who died. Any white male over the age of eighteen could join unless he was a person who manufactured or sold alcoholic beverages. However, members could indulge in such beverages unless it was to excess.

When a member died, a hat was passed around the membership and the collection was given to the widow. Unfortunately as membership in MWA grew, this practice began to occur too often and proved costly. This problem was solved when the organization's leaders started selling life insurance policies to their members.

Goals of the MWA were to strengthen families, the community, and the nation. The name Woodmen supposedly came from a parable Joseph Root heard during a Sunday sermon. It was about the good that came from woodmen who created security for their families by clearing forests, building homes, and establishing communities. By clearing away financial burdens for families, Root felt his fraternal organization had found

the right name. According to another story, the name came from the fact that Root's hometown supported a lumbering industry.

In the early 1900s, Modern Woodmen of America built a tuberculosis sanitarium near Colorado Springs, Colorado, to care for members who had TB. It was one of the finest TB sanitariums for its time costing 1.5 million dollars to build. It had 245 patient beds with state-of-the-art equipment. Over 12,000 members were treated there from 1909 to 1947. They received free in-patient care, medicine, dental work, and laundry. Most camps paid for a member's transportation to the sanitarium so that wasn't an expense for the member either. The sanitarium had 70% of its patients recover which was outstanding for that time period. It saved the lives of many members.

The Modern Woodmen of America was also known for its splendidly-attired, precision drill teams. They carried axes instead of guns and were called "Foresters." Over 160,000 men in 10,000 units performed at events across the country such as the World's Fair and in parades called Rainbow Parades because of the pagantry and colorful uniforms. They performed through most of the 1930s. Modern Woodmen of America is still in existence today with over 750,000 members nation-wide. A women's organization of the MWA called "Royal Neighbors" also still exists. They offer insurance, annuities, and other investments and sponsor a free tree-planting program within its membership.

### Midland Genealogical Society Programs for 2006 - 2007

*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.*

November 15 meeting 7:00 Lounge

"Mayflower Society"

by Mr. Terry KcKane

Terry presently holds offices both on the State level and the National level and has been active in the society for many years. He is the husband of assistant library director, Virginia McKane,

January 17, 2007 meeting 7:00 Lounge

"Germans to Russia via Denmark"

By Jake Eichhorn

Jake and his wife, Mary, have been doing extensive research on this subject for a number of years, both from the U.S. and also Germany. He recently gave a talk at a national meeting in Lincoln, NE.

## The Presidents Letter

We, the officers of the MGS, have approached the coming year with both enthusiasm and optimism. We have met monthly - discussed and initiated several programs and projects. Two general MGS meetings have been held. The Membership Chair, Betty Bellous, has done a tremendous job in renewing previous members and obtaining new members. Our total membership is greater than in the last several years.

The September MGS meeting was attended by 38 members. The round table discussion by all present was interesting and enjoyable. Everyone participated, if only briefly.

On Saturday, Sept 30, we promoted a MGS trip to a free seminar at the Burton Collections, Detroit Public Library, highlighting a renowned genealogist and presenter, George Schweitzer. The programs were excellent. Only 4 MGS members attended.

We promoted a MGS trip to the annual MGC Genealogy Seminar in Lansing on Saturday, Oct. 14. Only 4 MGS members attended.

The October MGS general meeting, co-sponsored with the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, was held this past Satur-

day afternoon, on Oct. 28. A nationally known DNA researcher and genealogist, Roberta Estes, was the speaker. Jo Brines, the MGS Program Chair, promoted the program via letters to area genealogy societies, TV announcements and announcements to area newspapers (none were printed).

The Library inserted in the Midland Daily News on the Thursday and Friday before the program a small advertisement. There was no pre-program story or picture. The speaker was very good and presented an interesting and challenging program on DNA in genealogy. We expected hundreds of attendees. Only 52 persons attended (including only 26 MGS members). The rain and football games were possible deterrents.

Hopefully we are learning.

My brother-in-law, a farmer, used to say "You can lead the horses to water, but you can't make them drink".

We are trying but are we accomplishing our goals? Only you, our members, can answer that question.

*Earl Ebach*

## Gene Room Computer

A few weeks ago, the library installed a new computer in the genealogy room at the library, but there is an out of order sign attached to the computer. I will let you know when I find out what services are available on the computer when the library completes setting up the machine.

The previous computer was outdated and had errors. We are hoping that the computer will meet our needs as we journey deeper into the computer revolution.

*Walt Bennett*

## MEMBERSHIP DUES 2006-2007

**The collection of MGS membership dues for 2006-2007 will conclude at the September 20th MGS meeting. The MGS treasurer and Membership chairs have been collecting dues since last May 2006, 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.**

## From The Editor...

I would like to welcome all of the new members to the MGS. A benefit of membership is receiving this informative publication in your mailbox and optionally, your email. This publication is printed 4 times a year in Sept., Nov., Feb., and Apr.

This issue contains our annual publication of the membership list. Please keep a copy of this handy. If you find an error,

we would like to know. Please send corrections to the membership chair located on the back cover of this newsletter.

If you have written an article to submit for publication, please send to me by email or addressed to PIONEER RECORD, Midland Genealogical Society, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640.

*Walt Bennett, Editor*

## Membership Chair

Due to the hospitalization of our treasurer, Ron Snyder, dues checks from Late August through mid October were not deposited in the bank until late October. Please excuse any inconvenience this may have caused.

Thanks, Betty

(Continued from page 1)

The Woodmen of the World came about because of a conflict between several leaders of the MWA. As a result, two of them moved west to start two different Woodmen organizations. One was started in Denver, Colorado, and called Woodmen of the World Pacific Jurisdiction. The other was founded by Joseph Cullen Root on June 6, 1890, in Omaha, Nebraska, and named Woodmen of the World. The WOW formed a women's auxiliary dubbed "Woodmen Circle." The women later became "Supreme Forest Woodmen."

Like MWA, the Woodmen of the World also had drill teams that carried axes and marched in parades and performed at funerals. WOW provided many social events. Its members participated in organizational dances, dinners, picnics, and other gatherings as well as secret lodge-style meetings and ceremonies.

Over two thousand Woodmen of the World lodges (or camps) are still in existence nation-wide.

Since a fraternal benefit society gives back to the community, Woodmen of the World promote volunteer, charitable, and patriotic activities for the benefit of individuals and the commu-

nity. Besides selling insurance policies and other investments, Woodmen of the World have a youth program, provide disaster assistance, and support orphans of members.

Their youth program, called "Rangers," sponsors social as well as volunteer activities and summer camps for member youth. In partnership with the Red Cross, WOW provided disaster aid to Galveston, Texas when it was hit with a tidal wave in 1900. Today it has 1,600 men in 160 disaster relief teams who volunteer to provide relief in their local areas. Over a sixty-year period, they have presented 1.4 million U. S. flags to schools and non-profit groups. They are the leading group in the nation for this patriotic activity.

In the beginning, one of the Woodmen's goals was to provide a gravestone for the deceased so no member would be buried in an unmarked grave. The gravestones were free and the organization paid a \$100.00 extra death benefit to the widow to include their logo on the stone.

These markers were unique since they were shaped like a tree stump and could range in height from one to ten feet tall. The height of the stone was directly proportional to the lifespan of the deceased. Several standard designs found

on the stones were ones designated for deceased members by the organization, but other design variations resulted from local carvers' creativity. More Woodmen stones can be found in western states than in other parts of the country.

The most common designs carved on the stones are those of an axe, maul, wedge, and a dove. They also contained a circle-shaped logo with "Woodmen of the World" inscribed in it. Some logos also included a Latin inscription, "DUM TACET CLAMAT," in the circle. This means "Though Silent, He Speaks." A child's stone had a lamb carving.

In the mid 1920s, the carved stones were becoming too expensive and were no longer provided by the organization. However, there were camps that still wanted to keep the log stone for their deceased members. Instead of following the standard designs, some camps adopted their own style of log stone designs and had vines, ferns, flowers, and scrolls carved in them. Others looked like a pile of stacked logs with no stump.

(Continued on page 4)



## 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.

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**Jesse Almond's stone (1877-1908) has the Woodmen logo. Note the vines on the sides, ferns, a lily, and a log stack.**



**This is a close-up view of the Woodman of the World logo.**

During the 1920s, the stones of some members started becoming smaller and took on a typical gravestone shape. Many still had the WOW logo inscribed on them. After WOW stopped paying the \$100.00 extra death benefit, the logos on stones vanished too.

The MWA members also had the same style of log stump stones with their logo inscribed. These were not paid for by their organization. In the mid 1900s many members of both organizations had small metal logo grave markers or flag holders placed on their graves to designate membership. Not all tree stump tombstones are graves of Woodmen. This style of stone can be found in cemeteries of eastern states before the Woodmen organizations were founded.

If anyone is interested in getting a closer look at the "WOW factor" of these stones, the grave of Jesse Almond is located in the Pine Grove Cemetery on the northwest corner of 11 Mile and Union Rd. near Auburn. It stands about six feet tall and is easy to find in the driveway loop.

### S o u r c e s

Davenport, James J., "Background of Woodmen of the World and Associated Organizations," <[www.rootsweb.com/pub.usgenweb/az/Maricopa/cemeteries/wowmaricopa.txt](http://www.rootsweb.com/pub.usgenweb/az/Maricopa/cemeteries/wowmaricopa.txt)>.

Modern Woodmen of America, "History," 2006, [www.modern-woodmen.org](http://www.modern-woodmen.org).

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"Woodmen of the World," Wikipedia, 2006, <http://en.wikipedia.org>.

## Michigan Genealogical Council Report September 14, 2006

Faye Ebach, Bev Keicher-Delegates

Randy Riley from the Library of Michigan presented an update on genealogy related activities at the library. The Abrams Foundation has given the library \$90,000 to be used to digitalize all of the genealogy data.

Joanne Harvey reported that the MGC Vital Records film project is now complete. All Michigan death records from 1899 to 1920 have been filmed and are now available at the Library of Michigan as well as via the library's web site.

It was announced that Dick Eastman's Internet Newsletter has prepared an in depth presentation on how the new federal privacy laws will affect genealogical research.

The speaker for this meeting was Mary Griffes from the Lansing LDS church. She presented an informative program titled "Clues for Reading Old Handwriting". She shared examples of American record handwritings from the 1600's to 1900.

Following the meeting, the Council presented the annual Lucy Mary Kellogg Award. This year's recipient is Mr. James Jackson, member and past president of the Oakland County Genealogical Society. Mr. Jackson has published books, written articles for various genealogical publications, developed THE INDEXER computer program to assist in creating name indexes for society periodicals and books, and developed the free website, [www.michlist.com](http://www.michlist.com). The website includes biographical sketches, cemetery records, census extractions, county histories, first land owners, journals, marriage records, military reunions, naturalization records, plat map transcriptions, probate records, and more all related to Michigan.

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>ZIP-PLUS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
Allen	Garald & Dorothy Allen	801 Crescent Dr.	Midland	MI	48640-3477	989-835-5116	<a href="mailto:GALLEN1006@aol.com">GALLEN1006@aol.com</a>
Anderson	James & Lois	5000 Drake St	Midland	MI	48640-3236	989-631-3009	
Andrick	Floyd	4928 Artcrest Dr	Midland	MI	48640-2128	989-837-0870	<a href="mailto:hfandrick@aol.com">hfandrick@aol.com</a>
Anger	Margery S.	960 E Noyes Dr	Midland	MI	48640-8617	989-839-9545	<a href="mailto:MANGER2007@chartermi.net">MANGER2007@chartermi.net</a>
Applegath	Doug & Anne	4010 Woodlawn St.	Midland	MI	48640	989-631-6074	<a href="mailto:applestems@aol.com">applestems@aol.com</a>
Baker	Lois	3273 Patterson Rd.	Freeland	MI	48623	989-631-9549	
Baker	Robert	5820 Highland	Midland	MI	48640	989-631-1764	
Barnard	Melissa	1710 W St. Andrews Rd.	Midland	MI	48640	989-837-3430	<a href="mailto:grbarrett1@Yahoo.com">grbarrett1@Yahoo.com</a>
Barrett	Thomas R. & Germaine	32260 Avondale St.	Westland	MI	48186-4904	734-728-7833	<a href="mailto:bmbellous@sbcglobal.net">bmbellous@sbcglobal.net</a>
Bellous	Betty	6102 Jefferson, Apt. 1418	Midland	MI	48640	989-837-2092	<a href="mailto:wgbennett@chartermi.net">wgbennett@chartermi.net</a>
Bennett	Walter G.	4608 W. Wackerly St.	Midland	MI	48640-2148	989-631-5247	<a href="mailto:marionjoan32@aol.com">marionjoan32@aol.com</a>
Berry	Marion	205 Morning Mdw. Way	Midland	MI	48640	989-631-3057	none
Blymyer	Elva	515 E. Ashman St.	Midland	MI	48642-4691	989-835-1368	
Bohl	Roger & Kathy	5003 Barto St.	Midland	MI	48640-6743	989-839-9016	<a href="mailto:kbohl30265@aol.com">kbohl30265@aol.com</a>
Bork	Emmy	5701 Sturgeon Creek Parkway	Midland	MI	48640-2228	989-832-8794	<a href="mailto:pgbork@aol.com">pgbork@aol.com</a>
Bowen	Thomas	13341 N. Carefree Ct.	Camby	IN	46113-8712	317-856-4188	IndianaBow-
Brandle	Marcia Kay	4434 E. Wise Rd.	Freeland	MI	48623-9434	989-832-9430	<a href="mailto:ens@comcast.net">ens@comcast.net</a>
Branson	Mary	5901 Sturgeon Ave.	Midland	MI	48640-3224	989-631-4737	<a href="mailto:mkbrandle@chartermi.net">mkbrandle@chartermi.net</a>
Brines	Jo	4300 Castle Dr.	Midland	MI	48640-3490	989-832-8312	<a href="mailto:molly688@chartermi.net">molly688@chartermi.net</a>
Bruce	Mary J.	1734 S. Smith Crossing Rd., Rt 10	Midland	MI	48640-8519	989-631-2846	<a href="mailto:brucem@mindnet.org">brucem@mindnet.org</a>
Burrow	Richard F. "Dick"	3811 Chestnut Hill Dr.	Midland	MI	48642-6208	989-835-8257	<a href="mailto:rbrurow@aol.com">rbrurow@aol.com</a>
Carr	Betty J.	P.O. Box 383	Au Gres	MI	48703	989-876-8901	none
Casadonte	Ruth Ann	5104 Nurmi Dr.	Midland	MI	48640	989-835-5115	<a href="mailto:bobruth@tm.net">bobruth@tm.net</a>
Clason	Douglas Peter	1119 Jeffrey Drive	Northville	MI	48167-2758	248-349-8175	<a href="mailto:dpscce@aol.com">dpscce@aol.com</a>
Collins	Daniel E. & Mary M.	606 Linwood	Midland	MI	48640	989-631-2566	<a href="mailto:mmandan@aol.com">mmandan@aol.com</a>
Crane	Roland E. & Colleen C.	2808 Scarborough Ln.	Midland	MI	48640-6907	989-631-8327	<a href="mailto:mobydeck@aol.com">mobydeck@aol.com</a>
Cronkright	Phyllis M.	1407 E. Sugnet Rd.	Midland	MI	48642-3713	989-832-3196	<a href="mailto:cybermom2@prodigy.net">cybermom2@prodigy.net</a>
Crozier	Janet E.	30 Brown Ct.	Midland	MI	48640	989-631-9653	<a href="mailto:jwcrozier@juno.com">jwcrozier@juno.com</a>
Diesen	Wilma	201 Seminole Ct.	Midland	MI	48642-3559	989-832-8485	<a href="mailto:thediesens@chartermi.net">thediesens@chartermi.net</a>
Dobson	Orville	1609 State St	Midland	MI	48640	989-631-1538	<a href="mailto:odobson@aol.com">odobson@aol.com</a>
Dostal	Bob	4406 Orchard Dr.	Midland	MI	48640	989-835-8986	<a href="mailto:bdostal@aol.com">bdostal@aol.com</a>
Dudewicz	Douglas M.	6500 Whittlesey Blvd., #1009	Columbus	GA	31909-7278		<a href="mailto:dudewicz@yahoo.com">dudewicz@yahoo.com</a>
Ebach	Earl & Faye	4610 Andre	Midland	MI	48642	989-835-7518	<a href="mailto:faeae@chartermi.net">faeae@chartermi.net</a>
Eichhorn	Jacob & Mary	4501 Arbor Dr.	Midland	MI	48640	989-835-7823	<a href="mailto:jama9312@prodigy.net">jama9312@prodigy.net</a>
Fike	Mary Ellen	1895 Mack Rd.	Saginaw	MI	48601-6873	989-755-3210	
Fianingam	Ora	3227 E. Stewart Rd.	Midland	MI	48640	989-839-9349	<a href="mailto:orafian@aol.com">orafian@aol.com</a>
Fox	Barbara	4915 Tucker St. Apt. 3	Midland	MI	48640	989-835-8440	none
Frohm	Stuart & Johanna	201 Wilson Dr	Midland	MI	48642	989-835-8440	<a href="mailto:if_virtual@yahoo.com">if_virtual@yahoo.com</a>
Funk	John	3374 North Waldo Rd.	Midland	MI	48642	989-631-8903	<a href="mailto:Funkyprints@aol.com">Funkyprints@aol.com</a>
Geisert	Bruce "Bud" A.	3706 Applewood Rd.	Midland	MI	48640	989-832-7030	<a href="mailto:budgeisert@aol.com">budgeisert@aol.com</a>
Gohrband	Roger	1806 Norwood Dr.	Midland	MI	48640-	989-631-6119	<a href="mailto:rgohr@aol.com">rgohr@aol.com</a>
Goodwin	Rick E.	4714 Water Rd.	Sanford	MI	48657	989-689-4784	<a href="mailto:thrawn661@aol.com">thrawn661@aol.com</a>
Hahn	James R. "Jim"	2988 Martin Ct.	Midland	MI	48640-8537	989-835-9227	<a href="mailto:jhahn1021@aol.com">jhahn1021@aol.com</a>

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIP-PLUS	PHONE	E-MAIL
Hartnagle	Fran	1515 Pheasant Ridge	Midland	MI	48640	989-832-8084	<a href="mailto:franann2@chartermi.net">franann2@chartermi.net</a>
Hayes	Mary Lou	P. O. Box 312	Midland	MI	48640-0312	989-835-1220	<a href="mailto:mhayes6731@aol.com">mhayes6731@aol.com</a>
Hayes	Toni	5210 Water Rd	Sanford	MI	48657	989-689-4241	<a href="mailto:tahayes@centurytel.net">tahayes@centurytel.net</a>
Higgins	Mary J.	1112 Airfield Ln.	Midland	MI	48642	989-832-8687	
Hillman	Ralph E.	600 Lakeside Circle	Midland	MI	48640-7252	989-839-9070	<a href="mailto:rlphedwd@aol.com">rlphedwd@aol.com</a>
Hock	Gale & Randy	7071 Middle Rd.	Hope	MI	48628	989-689-3763	<a href="mailto:hocksters@aol.com">hocksters@aol.com</a>
Hodges	Robert M. & Rebecca S.	3211 Riggie St.	Midland	MI	48640-6438	989-631-5582	none
Hoyle	Niki	1902 E. Ashman St.	Midland	MI	48642-	989-631-2083	<a href="mailto:niki_hoyle@charter.net">niki_hoyle@charter.net</a>
Humphrey	Nancy H.	2903 Mt. Vernon Dr.	Midland	MI	48642-6653	989-631-5123	<a href="mailto:nanphrey@sbcglobal.net">nanphrey@sbcglobal.net</a>
Keicher	Beverly	4107 Swede Ave	Midland	MI	48642-6249	989-631-9455	<a href="mailto:BeyloanK@netscape.net">BeyloanK@netscape.net</a>
Kundinger	Gloria J.	2201 W. North Union Rd.	Auburn	MI	48611	989-631-0969	<a href="mailto:gjkundin@yahoo.com">gjkundin@yahoo.com</a>
Lackie	Nancy	585 Peterson	Sanford	MI	48657	989-687-5327	<a href="mailto:lacnan58@aol.com">lacnan58@aol.com</a>
Lee	Robert & Katherine	3416 Pine Grove Dr.	Midland	MI	48640	989-631-1632	<a href="mailto:rels3@prodigy.net">rels3@prodigy.net</a>
Lenz	Mary Grace	PO Box 2724 *****	Midland	MI	48641	989-631-0131	<a href="mailto:mgl16322004@yahoo.com">mgl16322004@yahoo.com</a>
Levy	Patricia	1336 Boulevard Way Apt 208	Walnut Grove	CA	94595		<a href="mailto:pale46@aol.com">pale46@aol.com</a>
Levy	Sheldon G. & Mary A.	5507 Whitehall St.	Midland	MI	48642-3156	989-631-1229	<a href="mailto:samlevy@aol.com">samlevy@aol.com</a>
Longsdorf	Charles J. & Fran E.	1515 Sandow Rd.	Midland	MI	48640-8603	989-832-2838	<a href="mailto:pstrlongsdorf@chartermi.net">pstrlongsdorf@chartermi.net</a>
Lorton	Kaye	5111 Dale St	Midland	MI	48642-3223	989-631-0323	
Martin	Barbara	2325 Rockwell Dr., Apt 215	Midland	MI	48642-9333	989-835-5045	
Martin	Clifford D.	4815 Swinson-Neuman Rd.	Rhodes	MI	48652-9746	989-879-5454	<a href="mailto:cliffd@centurytel.net">cliffd@centurytel.net</a>
Mass	Robert "Bob"	5205 Van Buren St.	Midland	MI	48642-3045	989-835-8519	<a href="mailto:massro@aol.com">massro@aol.com</a>
McArdle	Dona	3610 Valley Dr.	Midland	MI	48640-6606	989-835-7895	<a href="mailto:dmcardle1@chartermi.net">dmcardle1@chartermi.net</a>
McCullen	Gerald E. & Maxine	1755 S. Smith Crossing Rd.	Midland	MI	48640-8519	989-832-8749	<a href="mailto:MCMaxler@aol.com">MCMaxler@aol.com</a>
Mead	Keith C. & Betty	117 Jones Ct.	Midland	MI	48642-3650	989-835-8832	none
Miller	Harriette	4610 Jefferson Ave.	Midland	MI	48640-3532	989-835-4866	none
Miller	Janet Marlene	2134 Fairway Acres Dr.	Argyle	TX	76226	940-464-7468	<a href="mailto:jimpm_659@earthlink.net">jimpm_659@earthlink.net</a>
Miller	Karen R.	17179 Stanton St.	West Olive	MI	49460-9273	616-850-9273	<a href="mailto:millerscove@sbcglobal.net">millerscove@sbcglobal.net</a>
Northrup	Laressa	1859 N. Nine Mile	Sanford	MI	48657	989-687-7268	<a href="mailto:laressa@a4isp.com">laressa@a4isp.com</a>
Parsons	Virginia	508 E. Ashman St.	Midland	MI	48642	989-835-5248	none
Pease	Mary Lou	1410 Glendale St.	Midland	MI	48642	989-631-8536	<a href="mailto:gramlumom@aol.com">gramlumom@aol.com</a>
Rogers	Joe & Joan	1404 Winchester Dr.	Midland	MI	48642	989-839-0171	<a href="mailto:JHR1404@aol.com">JHR1404@aol.com</a>
Root	Judy A.	4475 E. Tyler Rd.	Breckenridge	MI	48615-9527	989-875-4463	<a href="mailto:JAR8MI@aol.com">JAR8MI@aol.com</a>
Rupprecht	Walter & Joanne	6109 Thornberry Ct.	Midland	MI	48640	989-631-8945	<a href="mailto:wrupp@concentric.net">wrupp@concentric.net</a>
Russell	David "Dave" & Shirley	4415 James Dr.	Midland	MI	48642-3785	989-631-0885	<a href="mailto:sndruss@centurytel.net">sndruss@centurytel.net</a>
Schneider	Max	5412 Nurmi Dr.	Midland	MI	48640	989-832-9506	<a href="mailto:maxschneider@chartermi.net">maxschneider@chartermi.net</a>
Schweitzer	Ken	515 Crescent Dr.	Midland	MI	48640	989-832-9732	<a href="mailto:ruth2ken@aol.com">ruth2ken@aol.com</a>
Shier	Quita V.	3322 E. Hubbard Rd.	Midland	MI	48642-7209	989-835-3278	<a href="mailto:vsgavia@aol.com">vsgavia@aol.com</a>
Shoffner	Ann	4647 N. Stark Rd.	Hope	MI	48628	989-689-3169	<a href="mailto:dosams@tm.net">dosams@tm.net</a>
Shrier	Jayne	722 Shorefront Cir.	Midland	MI	48640	989-835-6900	<a href="mailto:shrier72@qx.net">shrier72@qx.net</a>
Sitrine	Patricia C.	2629 Circa Drive	Matthews	NC	28105	704-847-5820	<a href="mailto:pmesir@aol.com">pmesir@aol.com</a>
Skelton	Eugene	P. O. Box 21, 5285 N. M-123	Paradise	MI	49768	906-492-3571	
Skochdopole	Richard E. "Dick"	2525 Lambros	Midland	MI	48642-4034	989-835-6433	<a href="mailto:reskoch@aol.com">reskoch@aol.com</a>
Skory	Gary	115 Ripley St	Midland	MI	48640	989-839-0011	<a href="mailto:skory@mcha.org">skory@mcha.org</a>

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>ZIP-PLUS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
Smeltzer	Richard W.	4432 Turtle dove Way	Miamisburg	OH	45342-0863	937-847-1765	<a href="mailto:richardsmeltzer@woh.rr.com">richardsmeltzer@woh.rr.com</a>
Snyder	Robert C. & Gwen A.	312 W. Collins St.	Midland	MI	48640-5729	989-839-9644	<a href="mailto:rcsnyder2@earthlink.net">rcsnyder2@earthlink.net</a>
Snyder	Ronald "Ron"	3 Robin Ct.	Midland	MI	48640	989-631-0765	<a href="mailto:resnyder1@chartermi.net">resnyder1@chartermi.net</a>
Strong	Dolores	306 Morning Meadow Way	Midland	MI	48640	989-631-6316	<a href="mailto:dstrong04@chartermi.net">dstrong04@chartermi.net</a>
Thurston	Gene & Gini	127 Koerner Ct.	Midland	MI	48642-3652	989-835-8932	<a href="mailto:ginigenet@aol.com">ginigenet@aol.com</a>
Tomlinson	Ruth M.	1111 E. Chippewa River Rd.	Midland	MI	48640	989-835-1747	<a href="mailto:rtomlinson@tm.net">rtomlinson@tm.net</a>
Vanderbush	Phyllis Beebe	4205 Nolan Rd	Carleton	MI	48117-9574	734-587-3655	<a href="mailto:pavanderbush@yahoo.com">pavanderbush@yahoo.com</a>
Vincent	Bird J.	2775 Smith Crossing Rd.	Freeland	MI	48623	989-695-5290	<a href="mailto:bvincent@chartermi.net">bvincent@chartermi.net</a>
Walker	Fredrick	520 Chatham Dr	Midland	MI	48642	989-839-8218	<a href="mailto:fl_walker1@sbcglobal.net">fl_walker1@sbcglobal.net</a>
Ward	Gilbert J.	2325 Rockwell Dr., Apt. #214	Midland	MI	48642-9325	989-835-6292	none
Waters	Loretta J.	4110 Washington St.	Midland	MI	48642-3567	989-832-1611	<a href="mailto:ljh2o@chartermi.net">ljh2o@chartermi.net</a>
Zager	Jean M.	4230 Rosewood Dr.	Saginaw	MI	48603-2053	989-793-9397	<a href="mailto:zagerjm@yahoo.com">zagerjm@yahoo.com</a>
Zeitler	Donna M	4175 S Meridian Rd	Merrill	MI	48637-9411	989-643-7528	<a href="mailto:dmnzftf@aol.com">dmnzftf@aol.com</a>
Zorsch	Jody L.	386 Brewster town Rd.	Sunbright	TN	37872	423-628-5471	<a href="mailto:izorsch@highland.net">izorsch@highland.net</a>

## WEB SITES OF INTEREST

If you have Civil War Ancestors, you've got to check out the new National Graves Registration Database posted by the sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. [www.suvcwdb.org](http://www.suvcwdb.org)

Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. of Baltimore, Maryland is America's foremost publisher of genealogical books and CDs. The company recently revamped its website, which now features a free name search to over 2 million names, indexed from over 2000 publications. GPC also has a free e-newsletter, called Genealogy Pointers, which is free to anyone that registers. [www.genealogical.com](http://www.genealogical.com)

The Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana is scheduled to reopen the newly remodeled main library in Early 2007. To view a list of resources available at the library, visit their website at [www.aapl.info/genealogy](http://www.aapl.info/genealogy).

Michigan Biographical Index at [www.michlist.com](http://www.michlist.com) contains over one million citations for individuals extracted from many sources. Statewide, county and local resources include Cemetery Transcripts, County Histories, First Land Owners, Naturalization Records, Plat Maps, Probate Records, Tax Lists and Vital Records. Also included are Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers, Michigan in the War, List of Pensioners on the Roll 1883, Michigan 1890 Census of Civil War Veterans, U.S. Soldiers Living in Michigan in 1894, Portraits of Soldiers at the Archives of Michigan, Regimental Histories, GAR publications and ~~Veteran Obituaries.~~

### Digital Sanborn Maps

The Detroit Public Library has introduced a new, digital map search service. The Sanborn® fire insurance maps, 1867-1970, are detailed property and land-use records that chart the growth and development of over 12,000 cities and towns throughout the United States. The maps are a valuable resource for urban planners, local and social historians, archi-

tects, genealogists, geographers, environmentalists and anyone who wishes to research the history and development of American cities, towns and neighborhoods. These maps provide information such as property boundaries, building outline and size, construction materials, location of windows and doors, street and sidewalk widths, as well as street names and house and block numbers. Textual information on construction details is often given along with extensible information on building names, owners and use.

Access to this product is available from within the Detroit Public Library to customers who have a Detroit Public Library card.

The digital Sanborn maps compliment the paper and microfilm sets for Michigan that are also available at the Main Library. Sanborn is one of the most heavily used map sets at the DPL. The Detroit Public Library is the only library in Michigan to own the complete national digital set.

## WORLD WAR II "OLD MAN'S" DRAFT REGISTRATION DATABASE \*\*\*

The U.S. officially entered World War II on 8 December 1941 following an attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Just about a year before that, in October 1940, President Roosevelt had signed into law the first peacetime selective service draft in U.S. history, due to rising world conflicts. After the U.S. entered WWII a new selective service act required that all men between ages 18 and 65 register for the draft. Between November 1940 and October 1946, over 10 million American men were registered.

This database is an indexed collection of the draft cards from the Fourth Registration, the only registration currently available to the public (the other registrations are not available due to privacy laws). The Fourth Registration, often referred to as the "old man's registration", was conducted on 27 April 1942 and registered men who born on or between 28 April 1877 and 16 February 1897 -- men

who were between 45 and 64 years old -- and who were not already in the military.

Information available on the draft cards includes:

- Name of registrant
- Age
- Birth date
- Birthplace
- Residence
- Employer information
- Name and address of person who would always know the registrants whereabouts - Physical description of registrant (race, height, weight, eye and hair colors, complexion)

Additional information such as mailing address (if different from residence address), serial number, order number, and board registration information may also be available.

Which states are currently available in this database? This database currently contains draft cards for the following states:

- Arkansas
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Indiana
- Maryland
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey\*
- New York\*
- Pennsylvania
- Puerto Rico
- Rhode Island
- Vermont
- Virginia
- West Virginia

\*The collection of records for these states in this database is incomplete. Therefore, it is possible that an ancestor who fits the age requirement of this registration and is from one of these states, will not currently be found in this database. Records for additional states will be added to this database as Ancestry can acquire them.



## Looking Back in Midland County

Taken From *The Midland Sun* Fri. Jan. 8, 1897 p. 8

### Averill

(December 30 1896)

Santa Claus forgot to stop at Averill.

G. R. Berrie's parents spent the holidays with him.

Tessie Stratton came from St. Louis the first of the week.

Mrs. James McMullin of Midland was in town last Saturday.

Mrs. Wm. McMullin is the guest of her son, A. McMullin, this week.

Mrs. Bert Montgomery of Hope was in town Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mrs. Wm. Monroe went to Coleman to spend the holidays with friends.

Miss Civa Pawlin, who has been at Saginaw for some time past, has returned home.

Mrs. Charles Inman went to see her daughter, Mrs. Kinney, who lives at Gladwin, the first of the week.

Mrs. Joe Briggs came up from Saginaw Wednesday morning. She is the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Light.

The candy pull held at Mrs. Brown's Christmas night was a success in every way. The young people had a most enjoyable time.

Mrs. Hettie Lamphierd left here last Thursday to visit her daughter, Mrs. D. Briggs, who lives at Holden, Muskegon County.

Mrs. A. Briggs and three little boys of Saginaw were the guests of her parents last week. Mr. Briggs came up Christmas morning, and they all returned home Christmas night.

B. C. Madison attended the farewell party given Tuesday night by Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Higgins for their son Bert, who was to return to Ohio, where he has been employed the past year. A pleasant time was had by all as Mr. and Mrs. Higgins know so well how to entertain.

## MGS TRIP TO SALT LAKE CITY

Faye Ebach

As of this writing, fourteen members have indicated they would like to participate in our research trip to SLC in April, 2007. A block of 10 rooms at the SLC Plaza Hotel have been reserved from Tuesday, April 24 to Wednesday, May 2. The cost per room is \$82/night, for single or double occupancy.

This is a wonderful week spent researching the massive records, books, microfilm, etc. housed in the LDS Family Research Library in SLC. Following pre-planned research activities, one can easily access data bases, photocopy material, locate volumes of books that would otherwise be non-accessible, attend genealogy seminars, all within the confines of one easily accessible building. There is no cost to use the library. The only charges are for photocopying material, and that is very nominal.

I have explored the possibility of obtaining group airfare from MBS to SLC, but at this point in time there is no advantageous group airfare available flying out of MBS. Kathy Arthur at Circle Travel is aware of our trip and will be willing to assist participants in making travel arrangements.

For further information or questions, please contact (Faye Ebach) at 989-835-7518 or via e-mail at fae-ae@chartermi.net.

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### NARA UPDATE

National Archives officials have provided a clarification of the budget situation. Outlined below is their assessment.

Their facts show that action is again needed from NARA users. To affect NARA's current budget and future funding, action is needed within the next WEEK, while the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is considering NARA's budget!

Assessment of the financial situation at NARA:

--The National Archives (including the presidential libraries) faces a budget shortfall of between \$10 and \$12 million for FY 2007. The shortfall is in base funding that supports the day-to-day operations of the archives and represents fixed must-pay bills (people, buildings, utilities, security).

--The shortfall is caused by steep increases nationwide in utilities, security, information technology, and rent. (NARA comprises 36 facilities in 20 states and the District of Columbia).

---In addition, NARA had to absorb across-the-board appropriation reductions and fund civilian pay raises for several fiscal years.

--To survive, NARA has cut back on building security, instituted a hiring freeze, offered retirement buyouts, and reduced hours of service to the public.

--It is no news that funding is tight for the non-homeland security civilian side of government right now...but what may be news is its impact on a program like the National Archives and the presidential library system.

Consequently, everyone in the genealogical community is strongly urged to help. Here's what we all need to do in the next week:

1. Write to our congressmen and senators expressing our support for full funding of the National Archives program for FY 2007-including operations, the Electronic Records Archives (ERA) program, the repair and restorations projects, and the National Historic Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

2. Write to the director of OMB to ask for major "catch-up" funds in the NARA budget for FY 2008. Ongoing operation of NARA, a vital agency, requires it. Moreover, NARA's ability to take in the president's records and support his library in 2009 demands it. Write to:

Mr. Rob Portman  
Director, Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20503  
Fax: 202-395-3888

Action in the next ONE WEEK is crucial, while the Office of Management and Budget is considering NARA's budget. Thank you, in advance, for helping the National Archives!

Marie Melchiori, CG, CGL  
Claire Bettag, CG, CGL

*Pioneer Record*

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



## MGS Officers

President :	Earl Ebach	835-7518
	faeae@chartermi.net	
Co-Secretaries:	Janet Crozier	631-9653
	jwcrozier@juno.com	
	Jayne Shrier	835-6900
	shrier72@qix.net	
Program Chair:	Jo Brines	832-8312
	none	
Membership Chair:	Betty Bellous	837-2092
	bmbellous@sbcglobal.net	
Treasurer:	Ron Snyder	631-0765
	resnyder1@chartermi.net	
MGS Reps :	Faye Ebach	835-7518
	faeae@chartermi.net	
	Bev Keicher	631-9455
	bevjoank@netscape.net	
Historian :	Kathy Bohl	839-9016
	kbohl30265@aol.com	
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.