



PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

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To Have and to Hold

By Gloria Kundinger

Our immigrant ancestors came to America for many reasons. For some, it was religious freedom. For others, it was an escape from famine, poverty, or the military draft. For most, it was a chance to own a piece of land and become part of a middle class society.

In Europe, land was usually owned by the wealthy. Those who farmed it did so as tenant farmers with a share of their harvest going to the landowner. One in one hundred owned land in Europe in the 1800s. Sometimes it was a plot just large enough for a farmer to support his family. When he died, the farmer would leave the farm to only one of his sons to prevent the farm from being further divided into several parcels too small to sustain a family. His remaining sons learned a trade, joined the military, or immigrated to another country with more opportunities for land ownership.

The Homestead Act of 1862 attracted many European immigrants to America with the promise of free land. There had been other land laws previously, but none helped shape the future of so many immigrants as this one. Land owned by the U.S. government, or "public domain," comprised land in thirty states. They ranged from mid-western and some southern states east of the Mississippi to those states created from the land of the Louisiana Purchase and later included Alaska. This land became available for home-

steading on January 1, 1863. The Homestead Act lasted until 1986.

Daniel Freeman was the first person to file a claim near Beatrice, Nebraska shortly after midnight because he and the land agent were at a New Year's Eve party together in Brownville. He got the agent to open his office at that late hour so he could file his claim. His homestead is now the Homestead National Monument of America. The last homesteader was Vietnam veteran, Kenneth Deardorf, who became the owner of his Alaskan claim in 1988.

One hundred sixty acres (a quarter section) was available free to anyone over twenty-one and a citizen of the United States or to someone who had filed a declaration of intent to become a citizen. Civil War veterans of the Union Army were eligible, had to have served for at least fourteen days, and could be under twenty-one. Confederate soldiers were not eligible because they had fought against the United States. Since former slaves became citizens after the Civil War, they too could become a homesteader; and one in twenty did. Also widows, single women, and Indians could homestead.

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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.

February 21, 2007 meeting 7:00 Lounge

"History of the Post Street School"

by Tawny Ryan Nelb

See article on Page 3 of this issue.

March 21, 2007 meeting 7:00 Lounge

"What Killed Grandpa"

By Mary Teachout.

Mary is a Genomics Educator of the Michigan Department of Community Health. Open to the community, Encourage your friends to come.

April 18, 2007 meeting 7:00 Carriage House

"Dating Mens and Childrens Clothing"

By Laressa Northrup.

The Presidents Letter

I ended the last President's letter saying "My brother-in-law, a farmer, used to say "You can lead the horses to water, but you can't make them drink"."

I am sitting at our kitchen window watching the snowflakes slowly float to the ground. I'm also watching the squirrels attack the corncobs suspended from a rotating wheel – some gymnastically strip the kernels from the cobs – while others just wait for the kernels to fall to the ground.

What does this have to do with our Society? It reflects how our current year is going. This is the way I feel at the moment. The fiscal year 2006-07 is more than 50% gone. Some members are hungry to be involved, but most are just waiting. The MGS Board and myself have proposed and sponsored several projects, but participation by the membership has been limited.

At the end of April we will be sponsoring a nine-day genealogical research trip to the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City. We had hoped participation would be similar to the previous trip in 2005. Only seven (7) MGS members will be going. Perhaps the cost and time commitment are too much. To those members participating it will be successful – both with respect to research and enjoyment.

Ruth Ann Casadonte's committee of eight is working hard on the Midland County Marriage Record Project. Many years ago records from 1867 to 1894 were hand copied from the original records at the Midland County Clerk's office onto forms. Records from 1855 to 1866 are in the process of being

copied onto similar forms. Plans are to copy the records from 1895 to 1928, a very challenging proposal since marriages increased as Midland County grew. Actually this is the easy part of the project. Typing the hand written data into a computer format will necessitate a much greater participation by the membership. The goal is to produce a book containing all the marriage records with indices to make the data easily accessible.

Jo Brines, Program Chair, has arranged some outstanding program offerings. Meeting attendance has been near 40 (we are limited to 50 in the Library Lounge). The January



program, presented by Jacob and Mary Eichhorn, on their research about "Germans to Russia via Denmark" was outstanding. We expect the programs in the next few month's to also be informative and entertaining.

At the end of February the MGS is sponsoring a three-day genealogical research trip to the Allen County Pub-

lic Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana (refer to Article in PR). The publicity has been limited – announcement at January MGS meeting and signs in the Genealogy Room at the Library. The cost is minimal. At the moment, only seven (7) people have committed to participating. Where are the MGS members who have previously suggested such a research trip?

Some squirrels are active while others just sit and watch.

It is sometimes frustrating when opportunities are present – and only a few choose to participate. Maybe we are all so busy that there is limited time to become involved in any type of activity. Maybe the MGS Board needs to change our focus. Maybe we need to do another member survey seeking suggestions for future activities that will better meet our members' needs

We have suggested some projects, such as seminars – but they will only occur if leaders step forward – then they will only be successful if members volunteer and participate.

The MGS Board is trying – but are we accomplishing our goals? Only you, our members, can answer that question.

Some squirrels are active while others just sit and watch.

Earl Ebach, MGS President

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...

Welcome to another fine issue of the Pioneer Record. I wish to congratulate Earl and all the board members for putting together some great programs this year. We are already starting to plan the coming year and would appreciate any feedback that you may have. If you have a suggestion for a presentation, please contact

Jo Brines our membership chair.

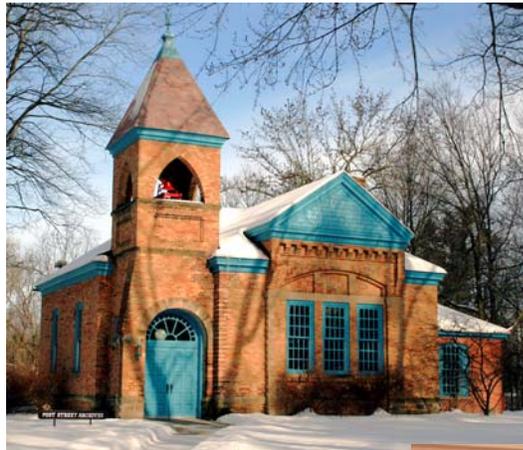
I am still interested in your articles for the Pioneer Record., Please send them via email from the address listed on the back, or to Pioneer Record, Midland Genealogical Society, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640.

Walt Bennett
Editor

HISTORY OF POST STREET SCHOOL

Faye Ebach

On Wednesday, February 21 Tawny Ryan Nelb, Director of the Post Street Archives, will be the MGS meeting program speaker. Her topic will be the extraordinary history of the 120 year old **Post Street School**, now known as the Post Street Archives.



Post Street School

Tawny Ryan Nelb has recently published a written history of this interesting, old building. Included in it are many historical references to the growing community known as Midland, as well as references to many families residing in Midland in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

Over the years, the building has undergone change, but it still remains as a wonderful example of what a one-room schoolhouse, with multiple grades, used to be. Even if you never had the experience of attending a one-room school as a child, you will find this program to be both interesting and fascinating.

Tawny Nelb, Director of Post Street Archives



BOOKS FOR SALE

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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The requirements for homesteading were few. Up to one hundred sixty acres could be claimed by staking its boundaries and writing a description. The claim had to be recorded in a tract book at the government land office for that area. The fees for filing the claim had to be paid. The homesteader had to reside on the land for five years, build a house, and make improvements to the land such as clearing some of it and planting crops.

There was an option that the land could be purchased for \$1.25 an acre after the homesteader had resided on it for six months. Only surveyed land was to be homesteaded. However in 1880, the act was amended to include unsurveyed land. In Michigan, about three million acres of land had been claimed by homesteaders. Almost all of the farmland was taken by 1900.

Before 1863, there were some who settled on land that was not yet surveyed by the government. The Pre-emption Act of 1841 allowed "squatters" who were living on land illegally to buy up to one hundred sixty acres of it once the land was surveyed and offered for homesteading or public sale. The cost was \$1.25 an acre. This kept it from legally being claimed by another as long as the original settler had a house on it and had made other improvements. The Pre-emption Act was repealed in 1891.

It took a lot of grit and determination to become a homesteader for the work was very hard. In the plains states, plowing was especially difficult because the long

roots of prairie grasses were hard to cut through. In the Midwest states such as Michigan, trees had to be cut and stumps removed before the land could be put to the plow. Only forty percent of homesteaders lasted the required five years. Many abandoned their homesteads before that time.

A homesteader could not have his claim confiscated to pay a debt if the family suffered from financial distress. The federal government exempted the homestead from any foreclosure to protect the homesteader from becoming destitute--thus giving him a chance to get his finances in order.

The processing of homestead claims produced a lot of paperwork known as land-entry case files. These files are kept at the National Archives in Washington D.C. There is no name index for many of them, and they are not on microfilm. For the states of Florida, Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, and Louisiana, there is a name index on file cards for case files before July of 1908.

The case files are of genealogical interest because they contain a variety of information. Besides the homestead application and receipts for fees paid, the file contains a legal description of the land, buildings, number of acres in crops, and other improvements. There is mention of family members but not by name or any other details unless a widow fulfilled the requirements. If the homesteader died during the five-year residence requirement, then a date of death will be listed. A declaration of intent to become a citizen should include a country of origin. There may be a copy of the naturalization certificate if the homesteader became a citizen within the five years. The file would contain any bounty-land warrants used for cash and would tell if the applicant was a Civil War veteran. Statements from two witnesses and

the patent applicant were also included; and a copy of a local newspaper announcement with the names of all of the witnesses (usually four people.) After 1890, three witness statements had to be submitted with the patent application. Witnesses were nearby neighbors.

Last but not least, there is a record of the date the patent for the land was issued. A patent is the title to a parcel of land given to the homesteader by the government. If the parcel is sold at a later time, a deed will then be issued to the next owner. The case file will not include a copy of the patent document itself. This can be obtained from the Bureau of Land Management, its website, or at the registrar of deeds office in the county that the land is located. Sometimes these files are on microfilm from the LDS.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has over nine million land patents on file. Since some of these documents show signs of deterioration, over two-and-a-half million have been scanned and are available on-line at www.glorerecords.blm.gov. Over one thousand patents are added daily. The image can be downloaded, printed from the website, or a certified copy can be ordered from the BLM.

The patent copy gives the legal land description and case-file number, the state the land is in, and the location of the land office that processed the claim. After January 1908 case file numbers were no longer assigned by land office location. When issued, patents were given serial numbers instead.

With this information, a copy of the case file can be ordered from the NARA website or by mail for a fee.

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However, a mailed request must be submitted on form 84 which can be obtained by sending an e-mail on the NARA website under “Order and Copies.” Ask for at least two copies of form 84 (Land Entry Files NATF 84) and fill in your name and address at the bottom of the page.

It helps to send a printed copy of the patent document from the BML website along with form 84 when requesting a case file. NARA will send a post card with a request number upon receiving the information. Within two months a copy of the case file should arrive.

A larger number of abandoned homestead claim case-files exist than completed ones. They too offer possible genealogical information. These land entries are not scanned or indexed in any way. A request for this file also would have to be made on form 84. As much information as possible should be given about the homesteader since there is no patent number. A legal land description might be obtained from the tract books. This may not be a worthwhile pursuit time-wise unless a tale of an abandoned homestead exists in the family legends.

Tract books give a legal description of the land and the homesteader’s name plus other information. It is the record made at the local land office when the homesteader filed a claim. The tract books still exist but not Alaska’s. Except for Missouri, they have been microfilmed and are available at NARA—all 1265 rolls. They are not easy to use without a legal description of the land by numbered section, township, and range. The General Land Office did not use the names of counties and townships. Land was identified by its location from the principal meridian in each state and in the numbered township north or south of it.

The following phrase, or a similar one, can be found within patent documents in the late 1800s: “**To Have And To Hold** the above described (land) and granted premises unto the said (**Homesteader**) and to his heirs and assigns to his and their sole and only proper use, benefit, and behoof, forever, as provided by the Laws of said State against the lawful claim or claims of all persons whatsoever.”

“To have and to hold,” brings marriage to mind—not land ownership. However, there are parallels between the two. Like a good marriage, owning land first began as the hopes and dreams for which the homesteader worked hard to make come true. Like in a good marriage, the homesteader faced hardships and grief as well as good times and joy. Like a good marriage, owning land could be a forever, till-death-do-us-part, relationship that the homesteader’s descendants will continue into the future as their heritage. Many of our State’s prosperous centennial farms had their humble beginnings as an immigrant ancestor’s homestead.



References

Adams, Bob. “The Homestead Act of 1862.” *Huron County Early History*, 2001.

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Creek/5479/huroncounty/earlyhistory.html>.

Debnam, Betty. “The Homestead Act.” *The Bay City Times* 9 August. 2005:

“The Mini Page.”

Grifaldi, Michael C., and Charles L. Hornbeck. “Homesteading – A Short History.” Shasta County, California, Historical Society. http://www.shastahistorical.org/pages/h_history.htm.

New Additions to the Gene Room

Yeakle Family History Geneva and Beyond by R. Yeakle

Combination Atlas Map of Washtenaw Co. Michigan.

The Gransden Family

Courtright—A Family Name

Marriages De Saint Benoit 1799-1984

Marriages of Ste. Scholastique Quebec 1825-1981.

Your Ancient Family Ties

Marriages St. Hermas, Quebec 1837-1984

Ste Monique, Quebec 1970-1984

\$\$ DOLLARS FOR DOCUMENTS \$\$

In 1983 the Genealogical Coordinating Committee (GCC)-NARA gift Fund was established with a dramatic goal of raising \$1.25 million dollars for the preservation of the War of 1812 pension and bounty-land warrant records and the United States Colored Troops service records. The Federation of Genealogical Societies invited the genealogical community, private donors, corporate sponsors, lineage societies and other interested parties to help make this happen. The Michigan Council wholeheartedly supports this program.

The gift fund is a nationally supported program to finance the creation of finding aids and the microfilming of valuable research materials now preserved by the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington DC. These microform copies, produced without government funding, are then distributed to the 13 Regional Archives for use by researchers.

The contributions of genealogists throughout the country have assisted in the preservation of hundreds of rolls of microfilm. Some collections which may be of interest to us include: Records of Immigration and Naturalization Service from 1891-1957; Canadian Border Crossings indices 1895-1954; Index to records pertaining to the War of 1812 and Prisoner of War lists; Card records of headstones provided for deceased Civil War veterans who died between 1861 and 1903 and most recently in 2002, the Investigative Case Files of the FBI from 1908-1922.

The fund name is the Stern NARA Gift Fund named in honor of Rabbi Malcolm Stern (1915-1994). Rabbi Stern was the founder and first president of the GCC and creator of the gift fund.

Our participation in previous years has run hot and cold. In 2000 and 2003, we donated a little over \$100.00. In the in between years we donated an average of \$50.00. In 2006 we donated \$17.00 !

We have dusted off the NARA fund jar and will ask for member contributions at future membership meetings. A dollar from each of us will add up to a nice donation in May. Thank you !

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

The following members have joined the MGS since the start of the 2006-2007 year in September. We welcome each and every one and hope you will feel free to seek out the experience of our members as well as to share your stories with us. We encourage you to become involved in some of the activities of the society. Looking forward to your attendance at the monthly meetings.

Randy Hock, husband of member Gale

William Crozier, husband of member Janet

James and Lois Anderson

Johanna and Stuart Frohm

Donna Zeitler

Phyllis VanderBush

Catherine Skalnican

Tina Hicks

Audrey Hirsch

Eugene Skelton

Linda Kennedy

Lee Norling

Linda Fisher

p.s. Be sure to check out the membership pins on display at the check-in table.

Our current membership totals 84 single memberships and 23 family memberships for a total of 130 members !

Ancestry Library Edition

From the computers in the library, you can access Ancestry Library Edition. What will you have access to?

Complete images of the U.S. Federal Census 1790-1930.

U.K. Census Collection 1861-1901, census data and images.

U.S. Immigration Collection— Ships logs and passenger indexes, linked to images of original documents.

Congrats Are in Order:

The Midland John Alden Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will celebrate it's 85th anniversary this year. The Chapter was founded on April 3, 1922, by Grace A. Dow who served as it's first Regent. The local chapter currently has more than 50 members.

The mission of the DAR is to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism. God, Home and Country serve as their motto.

Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible to join. If you would like more information, please contact the John Alden Chapter Representative, Kathy Bohl, 989-839-9016.

MGS TRIP TO SLC

Faye Ebach

Seven MGS members have signed up for our spring research trip to Salt Lake City. We will fly to SLC on Tuesday, April 24 and return on Wednesday, May 2. Arrangements have been made for convenient lodging at the SLC Plaza Hotel, adjacent to the world renowned LDS Family History Library. This should be an exciting opportunity to explore the holdings of the library as well as a wonderful opportunity to interact with fellow researchers in our search to gather more information about our ancestors and families. The library staff and volunteers provide an outstanding environment for research. Immediate access to all their records, microfilm, books, maps, etc. makes genealogical research not only faster but more interesting.

We are looking forward to this opportunity to join fellow genealogists in our quest.

Vital Records and Social Security Death Index.

Military Collection—WW I draft registration cards—98% of males under 46 in 1917-1918.

Comprehensive Reference Collection— Search major genealogy reference books, browse over 700 historic and modern maps.

Remember when using the facilities to sign your name at the register in the Gene room. This information is reported to library board which provides us with the space.

MGS Trip to Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN

The MGS is sponsoring a three day trip to the **Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN** on **February 26, 27 & 28, 2007**. The MGS Board approved this project and it was presented at the January General MGS meeting.

The genealogical section of the ACPL contains the most complete collection of records second only to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. The expanded and renovated main Library is now open. The building is larger, includes a café, bookstore, auditorium, art gallery, computer center, underground parking garage, and the Great Hall featured in the accompanying picture.

The proposed trip will be as follows:

- 26 Feb – Monday
 - Morning – leave parking lot at Dow Memorial Library at 8:00 AM - drive 215 miles (3 1/2 hours) to Library in Fort Wayne
 - Afternoon – one hour meeting with Library Staff with introduction to new genealogy facilities - research
 - Evening – research – open until 9:00 PM
 - Night – Stay at Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
- 27 Feb – Tuesday
 - Morning – research – opens at 9:00 AM
 - Afternoon – research
 - Evening – research – open until 9:00 PM
 - Night – Stay at Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
- 28 Feb – Wednesday
 - Morning – research – opens at 9:00 AM
 - Afternoon – return to Midland arriving about 5:30 PM



We will drive in several personal cars/vans sharing the cost of gas. The number of vehicles will depend on the number of participants. Total estimated cost for transportation should be about \$15 per person.

We will stay at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites on E. Washington Blvd, approximately 3 blocks from the Library. Estimated cost for a room, with 2 beds non-smoking is about \$90 per night. If we share rooms, total hotel cost should be about \$90 per person.

Meals will be up to the individual (3 lunches, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners).

At this writing only seven (7) members have committed to making this trip. Hopefully readers of this article will be interested and indicate a commitment to participate. Members have complained about the cost of the nine-day MGS sponsored trip to Salt Lake City – here is an opportunity to visit an extraordinary genealogical research library at a much lower cost.

This trip should result in approximately two full days of research at the Allen County Public Library. For those who have never visited this exceptional genealogical facility it will be a wonderful experience. For those who have visited it in the past it will be an opportunity to see the improvements as well as do research.

MGS members interested should contact Earl Ebach at (989) 835-7518 or via e-mail <faeae@chartermi.net>

Genealogy Computer in Library

In December 2006 the **Grace A. Dow Memorial Library** installed in the **Genealogy Room** a new **HP computer** with internet capabilities only to the most important genealogical sites. The computer has a flat-screen monitor and keyboard.

The computer cannot be used for word processing, spreadsheets, or any other typically normal software. It can only be used for specific genealogical sites on the internet. The three primary sites available are: "**Ancestry/library edition**", "**Heritage Quest Online**" and "**FamilySearch (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)**". Other primary genealogy links are:

- Midland Daily News Index 2003, 04, 05 & 06
- National Archives & Records Administration (NARA)
- Rootsweb
- Social Security Death Index (Rootsweb)
- US Gen Web Project
- MI Gen Web
- MI Family History,

Information can be researched and documents found. These documents can be printed on a Library printer located in the Library computer area – not in the Genealogy Room.

Genealogical research on the internet is a powerful tool for persons tracing their

family history. The MGS encourages its members to utilize the new computer. It is available whenever the Library is open, not just week-day afternoons. Since the new computer has no other software, it can only be used for genealogical research on the internet. It has no capability to utilize the 300 genealogy discs accumulated by the Society.

Coming Events

The Ontario Genealogical Society is hosting a seminar "The Peopling of Canada", June 1-3, 2007 at Algonquin College in Ottawa, Ontario. Various Canadian subjects will be covered including the computer and the web. For further information see the green sheet on the bulletin board at the library or visit www.ogsseminar.org/.

A Meeting at the Crossroads of America Presented by the Federation of Genealogical Societies, Allen County Public Library will be held August 15-18, 2007 at the Grand Wayne Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Many topics will be covered, including African American and Native American, the British Isles, European, German, Indiana, Internet, Land Records, Library/Archives Research, Military records, occupational Records, Preservation and Photography, Writing and Publication. For further information please visit www.fgs.org/2007conf/FGS-2007.htm.

The National Genealogical Society is

hosting the Conference in the States and Family History Fair 2007 in Richmond, VA, May 16-19 2007. Copies of the Registration Brochure can be found in the Gene room of the Library. You may also get further information by visiting their website at www.ngsgenealogy.org or by emailing them at conference@ngsgenealogy.org.

Finding Indiana Ancestors LIVE! A family history workshop taking place on Saturday, March 24, 9 a.m. 4:15 pm. At the Indiana History Center, located at 450 W. Ohio Street in downtown Indianapolis.

This daylong workshop is an opportunity featuring experts on the repositories and records vital to every family historian and other historical scholars. It is also a celebration of the upcoming HIS Press Publication Finding Indiana Ancestors: A Guide to Historical Research, which will be released in March 2007. The book identifies resources and methods for starting, organizing and researching family history.

Cost for the workshop is \$30 for the general public (\$24 for HIS members) and the registration deadline is March 16. Lunch is available for \$12 (place order when registering). The book Finding Indiana Ancestors, normally priced at \$29.95, will be available to participants at a 20% discount during the day of the workshop.

For more information or to register for the workshop, call the Indiana Historical Society at (317) 232-1882 or (800) 447-1830.

Those interested in pursuing or continuing work on family history will want to attend.

WHAT IS IT AND WHY SHOULD WE BE INTERESTED?

Faye Ebach

The March 21 MGS meeting will be on an unusual topic which most of us know little about – but on a subject, which in this modern world, should be of interest to us all. Our speaker is Mary Teachout, Genomics Educator for the Michigan Department of Community Health. To quote from the Department's web site, "**Genomics** is the study of all of the

genetic material of a person, including the complex interactions among multiple genes as well as between genes and the environment. Rapid scientific advances over the past two decades have led to an appreciation of the important role genomics plays in the etiology (cause) of common chronic diseases." One of Ms. Teachout's roles is to educate the public about the impact of ancestors' health histories.

In addition to all the other data genealogists research and gather about ancestors, how many actually record

data regarding health history? Maybe a bigger question is how much data regarding an ancestor's health history is actually available?

Ms. Teachout presents a fascinating program on why it is important to record information regarding an ancestor's health history, as well as the impact that information can have on current research as well as descendant's lives.

Looking Back in Midland County

Taken From *The Midland Sun* March 17, 1881 p. 4

WE WANT MORE GOOD FARMERS

One great need of Midland County in common with all neighboring counties, is more good, thorough-going, pioneer-farmers. It is the immigration hither of this class of people and the purchase of property by them within our territory, which should be encouraged by every good citizen. Our true wealth as a community must consist largely in our farm property. Our continuous prosperity will depend upon the full development of our agricultural resources. Our agricultural interest is permanent and solid, though all else be only of transitory and equivocal value.

The above propositions we hold to be axiomatic--so self-evident to the intelligent citizen as to need but to be stated to be accepted as absolutely true. This being the case what a lively interest the business-men of our town who intend to make this their permanent home, should take in the work our farmers are doing, and how earnestly should they seek to increase the number of substantial husbandmen within our county limits.

We should all, whatever our occupation position and condition, interest ourselves in what our farmers are doing. Hundreds of sober, earnest, industrious, noble men are quietly at work enlarging their clearings, removing stumps, lending their manliest efforts to increase the yearly sum total of our agricultural products. They blow not a trumpet before them, and the progress of each may seem slow and the net result of the labor in a limited period may appear trivial; but upon them, nevertheless, hang all the hopes for the future growth and grandeur of our town and community.

Taken From *The Midland Sun Times* Fri. Jan. 8, 1897 p. 5

A son was born to Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Dow Monday.

A. H. Bradley spent New Year's with friends in Porter.

Joseph Phelan of Porter has been visiting Midland friends.

Miss Avis Chapin of Saginaw visited Midland friends last week.

D. D. Rockwell and Ray Ball have returned to their school duties at Detroit.

Mrs. Sugnet has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. N. F. Southwick of Harrison.

S. L. Mann of Wallaceburg, Ont. Spent New Year's Day with his brother, W. H. Mann.

Mr. & Mrs. T. C. Prouty returned Monday from spending the holidays with Kalamazoo friends.

Lumbering operations at Hubbard, which have been at a standstill because of the mild weather, will commence next week.

The next B. V. R. C. will meet with Mrs. H. S. Cooper, roll call to be answered by reading correspondence from the late war in United States.

Fred Lankin of Bad Axe greeted old Midland friends this week. He is on his way to Big Rapids, where he will attend the Ferris Industrial School.

Gus Goodrich, who pitched for the D. H. S. and Orchard Lake teams, and incidentally for Midland on several occasions, is now captain of the Baltimore Athletic club.

Wm. Wilford who has been working in a pail and tub factory at Detroit, returned home this week, the factory having been absorbed by the association and closed up.

Mrs. Thos. Garniss has moved back to Midland from Detroit.

Miss Maggie McKeith is visiting her sister, Mrs. A. Reinhart.

B. V. Walton will remain in the treasurer's office another year.

Leslie Bacon has started the manufacture of brooms in Foster's Rink.

Mrs. A. McDonald and Miss Madge Matthews are visiting at Lansing.

Miss Emma Chesney and O.T. Crissey have resumed their school duties at Kalamazoo.

Mrs. D. P. Waldo and Misses Flora and Florence Anderson returned this week to Ann Arbor.

Dr. F. A. Townsley, wife and children spent New Years with Mr. Townsley's mother at Galesburg.

Josie LeFevre, who spent Christmas with his parents, returned to Jackson, where he is attending school.

J. Q. Avery and wife of Weston, O., were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. Mills last week. Mrs. Avery is a niece to Mrs. Mills.

Miss Maude Bradshaw, Miss Nellie V. Turner and James E. Munseller, of Saginaw, were the guests of Miss S. Agnes O'Neil New Years.

A young men's Christian union has been formed in this city and starts off with a membership of 17. Meetings are held weekly in the office of P. C. Heald in the Reardon Block.

Sheriff Madill has appointed L. F. Babcock of North Bradley as under sheriff, and H. D. Northway of Midland, Jas. Babcock of Coleman, and A. H. Brooks of Ingersoll as deputies.

The pastor of the M. E. church was unable to speak last Sabbath on account of a stifling cold. Therefore he will take up the subject of dancing next Sabbath evening. His subject in the morning will be "God's call in the garden to the first pair."

Pioneer Record

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



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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.