



# PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

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## How Sweet It Wasn't

*By Gloria Kundinger*

Family bibles, obituaries, and census records are the usual sources used when searching for a list of family members' names or other pertinent information. If your family lived through World War II, a valuable source could be old ration books stashed away in a drawer or in a box in the attic.

In the United States, rationing began in May of 1942 with sugar and rubber. An article found in the April 23, 1942, Midland Daily News explained the reasons well. "Transportation, not scarcity of sugar, is said by the government to be the determining factor for sugar rationing at this time. Sinking of freight ships by enemy submarines, plus a growing need to limit railroads to war shipments are responsible for a shortage of supply."

Rubber had to be rationed because the Japanese now held the rubber plantations in the Dutch East Indies. They were the source of the majority of America's raw rubber. President Roosevelt urged citizens to help conserve rubber by recycling old tires, rubber boots, garden hoses, rain coats, and swim caps. A thirty-five mile per hour speed limit and a five thousand mile per year mileage limit were recommended by Washington to save rubber.

The same newspaper article stated that an application had to be filled out to request a purchase of tires from the small quota of tires allowed each

county per month. Only public servants such as police officers, firemen, and doctors were able to purchase new tires. "Rationing of automobile tires, whether new tires or recapped used tires, has not pinched the average family in Michigan yet. However, according to the best advice available in Lansing, only a miracle discovered by some chemist will save Michigan workers--farmers, industrial workers--from severe transportation hardships by 1943 and 1944."

By the fall of 1942, gas rationing went into effect for two reasons--to save rubber and because of a shortage of oil tankers needed to ship oil from the Gulf of Mexico. According to another Midland Daily News article, the government did not want to risk the lives of tanker sailors who traveled through the sub-infested Atlantic so someone on the east coast could attend a ball game.

Other items were added to the ration list later in the year. Coffee made the list at the end of November 1942. One pound had to last coffee lovers for five weeks. It was all that was allowed. Shoes were rationed in February of 1943. As factories shifted to war production, many other items were added to the growing list.

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Midland Genealogical Society Programs for 2007 - 2008

*Meetings are scheduled on the third Wednesday of the month unless otherwise noted..*

*Programs for the meetings are as follows.*

#### **September 19, 2007 meeting 7:00 Lounge**

"Tales from the Circuit Court"

by Kathy McCormick, Chairman of the new Midland County Historical Society project to preserve old records. See article on Page 3 of this issue.

#### **October 17, 2007 meeting 7:00 Lounge**

"Cemeteries and the People of Hubbard, Larkin Township, Midland County"

By Karen Kapanka Schultz, her husband Jerome, and Gordie and Gail Fassett.

See Article on Page 3 of this issue.

#### **November 28, 2007 meeting 7:00 Lounge**

Bob Snyder will coordinate a program on computers, with help from several other members. Note date change.

## The Presidents Letter

At the May 16 MGS Annual Meeting we elected most of last year's officers to serve the 2007-08 year. When I told the Board that I was willing to serve another year as president, the other members indicated that they too had some unfinished business. In 2006-07 we had a pretty good year with respect to MGS activities: eight MGS meetings with excellent programs topped off by our 35<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration; an increase in membership; a one-day visit to the Burton Historical Library in the Detroit Public Library; a three-day visit to the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, an 8-day visit to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah; rejuvenation of our project "Midland County Marriage Records 1855-1927"; and our normal staffing of the Midland Genealogy Room in the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library. Yet something was missing – perhaps the lack of participation by the overall membership in many these MGS sponsored activities? I'm not sure.

Those Board members who volunteered to serve another year are pictured on page 5. They are (right to left): Dona McArdle, Hospitality Co-

Chair; Walt Bennett. "Pioneer Record" Editor; Faye Ebach, MGC Delegate; Bev Keicher, MGC Delegate; Nancy Humphrey, Hospitality Co-Chair; Betty Bellous, Membership Chair; Ron Snyder, Treasurer; Jan Crozier, Co-Secretary; Kathy Bohl, Historian; Jayne Shrier, Co-Secretary; Jo Brines, Program Chair; & Earl Ebach, President. Please support them in their efforts to provide an active MGS program in 2007-08.

At the May Annual Meeting I announced the Board's decision to offer to host the 2009 MGC Seminar in Midland. The Michigan Genealogical Council has accepted our proposal. This is a huge undertaking and will require participation by many of our members, especially during the time of the seminar. The planning for this state-wide seminar is moving forward. I am sure you will hear more about this in the future.

Currently, the MGS Board will have to make sure we plan and carry out present activities as well as plan for the future.

*MGS President, Earl Ebach*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By the time you read this we should be through our drive for renewal of dues for the year 2007. We hope you returned the Member Profile. We will be using the information to build a stronger bond between members by profiling members in our newsletter. Of course, the ideas for future programs will be very helpful in planning the future meetings. So thank you for your help.

Welcome to new member ANN M. MATTHEWS of Pinconning. We hope you can attend our monthly meetings.

Welcome back to ARLENETH SUGNET JUNEAU and BOB & ANDREA BURDITT. We can use your participation.

Please remember to contribute to the NARA jar which funds the efforts of the National Archives to microfilm more records for genealogists and historians.

Looking forward to an active season.

*Betty Bellous*

## From The Editor...

Welcome to another fine issue of the Pioneer Record, the official publication of the Midland Genealogical Society. I would like to hear about your research successes and brick walls. If you have something interesting that you would like published, 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.

I would like to remind readers that the internet is a great research tool. I had attended my 30 year class reunion this summer and made contact with many old friends that I have not seen since high school. Two great sites that reunion planners use to find lost classmates are reunion.com and classmates.com. Remember these sites if you are looking for living relatives that you have lost contact with.

*Walt Bennett*  
*Editor*

## MEMBERSHIP DUES 2007-2008

**The collection of MGS membership dues for 2007-2008 will conclude at the September 19th MGS meeting. The MGS treasurer and Membership chairs have been collecting dues since last May 2007, 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.**

## MGS Meeting Wednesday 19 Sept 2007

The first **Midland Genealogical Society** meeting for fiscal year 2007-08 will be held **Wednesday, September 19**, in the Lounge of the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library starting at 7:00 pm.

The program "**Tales From the Circuit Court**" will be presented by **Kathy McCormick**, Midland County Historical Society member. Kathy is leading a MCHS group of 35 volunteers, who are sorting and organizing the Midland County Circuit Court Records and related manuscripts starting in 1857. Details of early life in Midland are emerging. The stories in the annals of the Circuit Court are sometimes funny, touching, sad, or just plain interesting.

Please come and enjoy a very interesting and informative presentation.

A short business meeting will be held prior to the presentation. Refreshments will be served at the end of the presentation.

## MGS Meeting Wednesday 17 October 2007

The second MGS meeting of 2007-08 will be held **Wednesday, October 17**, in the Lounge of the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library starting at 7:00 pm.

The program "**The Two Cemeteries of Hubbard**" will be presented by two couples, **Karen & Jerome Schultz** and **Gail & Gordie Fassett**. They have been instrumental in restoring the two **Christ Lutheran Church** cemeteries in **Hubbard** located in the northeastern part of Larkin Township. The village of Hubbard was originally established in 1892 as a lumber camp and then as a farming community. The first cemetery existed from about 1893 to 1912 and the second from about 1913 to 1927. Through the efforts of the speakers the cemeteries have been identified, cleared, fenced-in, and gravesites marked. Their stories have been partially documented in the "**Voices of the Past: A Brief History of the People of Hubbard, Michigan**" by Karen Kapanka Schultz in the Spring 2007 MCHS journal, "The Midland Log".

MGS meeting attendees will be treated to an interesting discussion of how four people made a difference.

## New Additions to the Gene Room

Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal Register  
Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to Canada V. 3  
Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to Canada V. 4  
Tools of the Trade for Canadian Genealogy  
Municipal Records in Ontario: History & Guide  
Beginners Guide to Germanic Genealogy  
Indiana Civil War Veterans...transcriptions  
Arkansas 1850 Census  
Handy Guide to Austrian Genealogical Records  
The Antwerp Emigration Index  
Genealogy Online for Dummies  
Ancestors of Rogers—Bruce—Johnson 1620-1996 V.2



I know I hid my ancestors here somewhere!



## 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.

In August of 1941, the government formed the Office of Price Administration (OPA). At first it was responsible for the implementation of wartime pricing of rent and consumer goods. By 1942 it became responsible for rationing as well. The country was divided into regional districts. Cleveland, Ohio was the location of the Region III district office. Region III included the states of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia. There also were OPA offices within Michigan. Detroit, Grand Rapids, Escanaba, and Saginaw each had one. Several duties of OPA were to accept applications and issue ration books. Over one hundred million of each ration book were printed by the war's end.

Each member of a family, including babies, received a ration book and had to have OPA form No. R-301 completed to get it. The form asked for the applicant's full name, address, age, sex, height, weight, and the color of hair and eyes. It also asked for the number of pounds of sugar the family already possessed. If it was more than two pounds per person, then the appropriate number of ration stamps had to be removed from the book. If the family had six pounds of sugar or more for each person, no ration book was issued to them. Only one family member was to apply at their local ration site for the whole family.

Every county had local ration board and sub-boards or sites made up of local people. Benjamin Voorhees Jr., the Midland County clerk, was the county rationing administrator. Sites were usually set up at township halls or local schools. The volunteers at

the sites were local women or teachers. In Midland County from April 28-29 of 1942, the three area high schools, Midland, Coleman, and Edenville, were used for the registration of non-household consumers who used sugar in large quantities. Wholesalers, retail stores restaurants, bakeries, hospitals, and organizations like granges, lodges, and church groups or others who plan suppers for the year had to register then for their sugar rations. There were six local schools used by housewives and others from May 4-7 to register for rationing. Teachers distribute the ration books. The schools used were: First Ward, Second Ward, Fourth Ward, Carpenter, Dow, and Sugnet. During the summer months, homemakers could apply for extra rations of sugar for canning use.

A series of four different ration books were printed during the war. Ration Book One was a piece of white letter-sized paper with regulations printed on it and twenty-eight war ration stamps. These were to be exchanged, along with the monetary price, for the purchase of the item (shoes, coffee, and sugar) that was designated on the stamp.

To get the second book, each person had to give a written statement of every canned food item in the house. This included the food canned the preceding fall from local victory gardens. For each can listed, eight points worth of stamps were removed from Book Two. This was done on an honor system and not everyone was honorable or happy with this arrangement.

Another gripe was that certain canned goods, like fruit, took more than eight points to purchase them. Some needed as many as thirty or forty points! Other canned goods didn't require any points. Point values on merchandise also went up and down from one month to the next.

Books were postcard size and divided into red and blue stamps that

went from A to Z with sixteen point values under each letter. The stamps had point values of 8, 5, 2, and 1. Dairy products, fish, fats, and meats could be gotten with red stamps. Canned fruits and vegetables required the blue stamps. One letter was worth 32 points and became valid during a set week. The points were usually valid for a month afterwards. Housewives were encouraged to use the largest points first so as not to lose points since stamps expired if not used when designated. There was no "change" system for the extra points given for an item needing fewer points. Therefore the correct number of points had to be used, or the excess points were lost.

Book Three came out with Book Two and had stamps with airplane pictures on them. They could be used for shoes. Book Four was the last to come out in 1944. It consisted of red blue and green stamps. It also contained "spare stamps" that could be used for items designated by the OPA.

After Book Four was issued, merchants were supplied with dime-sized, red or blue colored, cardboard tokens that they could use as change for too many points. These tokens, worth one point, didn't expire like the stamps did. Many families made it a point to use stamps that they would normally lose just to get tokens back as change for later-date purchases.

Ration Book Four only had the name of the individual on its cover and that person's address. Earlier books included more information similar to what was filled out on the application. The later the book, the less personal information it contained on its cover.

Rationing came to an end shortly after the war was over. However certain items, like sugar, were rationed for another year or two. The Office of Price Admini-

stration was closed in December of 1946. A list of its records can be found on the NARA website.

It is hard to determine whether the original book applications (form No. R-301) are on file at NARA or whether they are kept locally, or possibly were destroyed. The Midland County Clerk's office does not have them. Some sub-districts in a few states have these records in their state or university libraries.

The website, [www.genealogytoday.com](http://www.genealogytoday.com), has a database index of 2,500 listings and are looking for more images of ration book covers. They link to images online at other sites, too. Anyone inclined to do so, can also share an image of an ancestor's ration book as well. Unfortunately the database is small and not of much help.

The ration book is unique to our ancestors who lived through World War II. To those of us who were born after that war, it sounds like a hardship to have had to use ration books for purchasing goods. Yet rationing was probably similar to the hardships faced while living through the Great Depression, which many of our World War II ancestors did as well. That was another time of doing without. Their ability to survive such hardships and those harrowing war times are what makes those ancestors The Greatest Generation.

**S o u r c e s**

Genealogy Today. "WW II Ration Books." 1999-2007.

[www.genealogytoday.com](http://www.genealogytoday.com).

"Records of the Office of Price Administration". NARA. [www.nara.gov](http://www.nara.gov).

"Sugar, Tire Rations Face Michiganders." Midland Daily News 23 April 1942: A1.

Smith, Merriman. "Committee Asks U. S. Gas Ration." Midland Daily News. 10 September 1942: A1.

**Reported by Faye Ebach**

The election of MGS officers for 2007-2008 and approval of next year's budget was accomplished in a short business meeting. The program was a 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the founding of the MGS in 1972. Five dedicated, enthusiastic members shared a great deal of history about several of the earlier activities of the Society.

Marion Berry discussed the successful history of the Cemetery Recording Project. This project involved many dedicated members who read every tombstone in all Midland County Cemeteries, including both public and private. They compared their collected data with written cemetery records for accuracy and completeness. All the recordings were published in the Society's first book, "Midland County Cemeteries".

Ruth Ann Casadonte discussed the successful Michigan Genealogical Council Annual Seminar project which she chaired for the host Midland Genealogical Society. This seminar, entitled "Canadian Research", was a three day conference held in late September, 1983 at the Valley Plaza Inn and Conference Center with more than 300 attendees. A strong cadre of dedicated volunteers helped make the seminar successful.

Jo Brines shared the history of the publication of the "Midland County Census" book. Many members were involved in reading old census microfilms, abstracting the data, typing and proofreading the finished copy. One of the highlights of this book was the inclusion of the 1894 Michigan census data for Midland County, a valuable source of data since the 1890 federal census was almost totally lost due to fire. It took over five years to complete this project and make the publication available for community and genealogical research.

Maxine McCullen reported on the highly successful "First Families of Midland

County" project which was begun in 1990. This project solicited specific information about early Midland families and granted certificates to applicants who sought to honor their early ancestors. The initial phase of this project was completed in 1994 with a total number of applicants, from all over the United States, exceeding one thousand. Maxine stated the "project was more successful than anyone ever dreamed it would be". She said many fascinating stories were recorded about early Midland history, particularly about the harshness of days long ago. This project is now in it's second phase under the direction of Mary Lou Hayes, with more "First Family" descendents being honored.

Bob Maas discussed the production and publication of a series of "Midland County Obituary Index" books. The series of three books encompass all the obituaries published in Midland County newspapers from 1872 to 1982. Each book involved the reading of old Midland newspapers on microfilm, abstracting any pertinent information, and recording that information. Bob indicated that this project would never have been completed without the involvement and commitment of Virginia Parsons. She provided a "labor of love" which was invaluable. She was virtually the lone reader of thousands of old newspapers, looking for any articles containing obituary content. This project has proved to be a valuable source of genealogical data for current and future researchers.

The above are just a few examples of the commitment, involvement, and dedication of members of the Society. From a small nucleus of twelve original members in 1972, the Society has grown to 128 members in 2006-2007. It has provided Midland County with an environment rich in not only the history of the community but resources to enhance the pursuit of genealogical interests.

Following the program, a birthday cake was enjoyed by all.



**MGS Officers  
2006-2008**

## “The Rest of the Story”

On Sunday, August 5, 2007, Sandra Sutton of the Midland Daily News had an article titled “What’s in a name?”. She ended her article by saying “A couple of weeks ago I was contacted by a man in Virginia who was looking for someone from mid-Michigan. Something about him – his soft drawl, his round-about way of speaking – signaled me to use Mr. before his last name“. The article continued to its conclusion.

On Thursday morning, 19 July, 2007, I received a phone call from a Mr. Ed Johnson in Virginia. He said Sandra Sutton had referred him to me as a Midland area historian and genealogist. He was looking for a certain person he believed lived in the Midland area. He said that he believed that Laverne Miller and his family had been killed in a train wreck in the Saginaw area (between Freeland and Midland) in either 1971 or 1972 – or perhaps it was in Sanford. He thought that a son survived the accident and he was trying to locate him. I questioned his motive – was he a lawyer? He said “no” – that he had been in the service with Laverne Miller as a young man. He wanted to tell the son about his father. He asked if I could help him locate this son and gave me his phone number.

Ed Johnson sounded like a nice, sincere, concerned man. I wondered why he waited so long to do this – but decided that he is probably retired now and has the time – or, something had happened in his life that brought back earlier memories. So I decided to do some research for him.

First, I contacted Nancy Lackie and asked if she remembered a horrible train wreck in the Sanford area in the 1970’s. She could not recall anything like this happening.

Then I headed to the Midland Room in the Library and turned to the MGS publication “**Midland County Michigan Obituary Index 1951-1982**”. I found the following:

Miller, Laverne Elvina  
25 Feb 1974, p4 & p1 of MDN  
26 Feb 1974, p10 of MDN

The same references were given for Debra Lorene Miller, Douglas Miller and Angela Miller.

I then checked the microfilm for

the Midland Daily News of 25 Feb 1974. On page 4, I found the obituaries for the four members of the Laverne E. Miller family, 3255 W. Barden Road (Coleman). The obituary indicated “thirteen month old Kevin Miller survives the family”. It also said “Mr. Miller is also survived by his mother, Mrs Beatrice Miller of Mount Pleasant, three sisters, Mrs. Karl (Esther) Peters of North Bradley, etc.”

The front page of the Midland Daily News, Monday, 25 February 1974 contained the story and picture of the train-truck wreck. Remember – in 1974 there was no Sunday edition of the MDN. The article headline read: “**Home found for lone survivor of N. Bradley train-truck wreck**”. The first column on the microfilm was half black and difficult to read. It probably said: “A sister of the Coleman father who died Saturday along with three members of his family as the result of a train wreck in North Bradley, said today she was prepared to take custody of the thirteen-month-old baby who survived the wreck. Mrs. Karl Peters of North Bradley, sister of Laverne Elvina Miller of 3255 West Barden Road, said today she and her husband were to take custody of Kevin Miller.”

The article continued:

“The sole survivor is now in satisfactory condition at Midland Hospital.

Miller, age 31, his wife Debra Lorene, 30; and two children, Douglas, 9 and Angela, 6 died after a train struck their pick-up.

A six-month-old daughter, Torry R. Miller, previously died of crib death Feb. 15, 1972.

Mrs. Peters said the Millers had previously told her they hoped the Peters would take custody of the children should anything happen to them.

According to Midland County sheriff’s deputies, Miller was heading north on West Barden Road with his family in his late model, three-quarter ton pick-up when the wreck occurred. The six-car Chesapeake & Ohio freight train was proceeding east toward Midland.

Midland sheriff’s deputies reported the C & O engineer, identified as William Howard Little of Saginaw, said he approached the intersection with “the train whistle blowing”. The engineer reported he slammed on his emergency breaks after spotting the truck, but was unable to stop.

Robert Austin Blake of Saginaw, who was the brakeman on the train, reportedly confirmed Little’s statement that the whistle was blowing as the train entered the intersection.

Deputies said the intersection is marked with a stop sign and railroad markings on both sides, but has no flashing lights.

Authorities said the train was believed to have been traveling 40 miles an hour before the crash. It was heading back to Saginaw from Coleman after a pickup.

Sheriff’s officers said the wreck is still under investigation.

Mr. Miller was employed as a carpenter since May, 1973, for the JW Construction Company of Midland. He was a former employee of Dow Chemical Company’s Bay Refinery, leaving there in 1973.

Douglas was in the second grade and Angela in kindergarten, both at Coleman Elementary School.”

Karl and Esther Peters of Coleman are members of the MGS. They live at “3430 N. Castor Rd., Jerome Township 48657”. Based on his age at the time of the accident, Kevin Miller would be approximately 34 years old. On a hunch, I searched the Midland area phone book and found “Kevin & Hollie Miller, 3259 Bergman Rd., Coleman 48618”.

I then went to Map-Quest and plotted the location of the 3 addresses and found them all to be in approximately the same location, near North Bradley, within a few miles of each other. This means the Laverne Miller family, then living on Barden Road, would have had to cross the C & O Railroad track to go to North Bradley – where the truck-train wreck occurred.

On Friday, 20 July 2007, I called Ed Johnson and told him all the information I had found including the phone numbers. I suggested he first call Karl and Esther Peters before contacting Kevin Miller. He gave me his address and I express mailed to him the copies of the obituary, the newspaper story and a copy of the Map-Quest map.

On Sunday, 22 July, I received a call from Ed Johnson saying that he first contacted Mrs. Peters and verified that the Kevin Miller I had located was indeed the now grown infant son who survived the train-truck wreck. He then called Kevin, introduced himself and related to Kevin stories about his father as a young man in the service. Kevin was very excited and grateful to hear from a friend of the father he never knew.

Kevin and Ed have talked several

(Continued on page 7)

times since the first call. Kevin had some pictures of his father with service buddies, which he has forwarded to Ed for identification.

Can you imagine receiving a phone call out of nowhere, during a birthday party for your son, from a person who knew your father more than 40 years ago. A father you never had the opportunity to know.

Sometimes, as genealogists, we can help others find stories about their past families. It leaves you with a good feeling.

Now you know "the rest of the story"\*.

\* *"The Rest of the Story"* is copyrighted by Paul Harvey

## FGS NATIONAL CONFERENCE – FORT WAYNE – AUGUST 15-18, 2007

Earl Ebach

Faye and I have just returned from attending the Federation of Genealogical Societies National Conference held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, which ran from Wednesday, August 15, through Saturday, August 18. The theme was "A Meeting at the Crossroads of America". The conference was very worthwhile. Our primary purpose in attending was to listen to many of the speakers and talk to the numerous vendors in preparation for the MGS hosting the 2009 MGC Seminar.

The Conference was held in the huge, relatively new Grand Wayne Convention Center and the Allen County Public Library, located within a short walking distance. There were more than 1300 registrants at this 4-day convention. The first day, Wednesday, was primarily for professional genealogists.

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday there were 173 sessions; approximately 10 sessions per track with 6 tracks per day. We attended 26 sessions out of a possible 30. There were 79 different speakers – most with a national reputation. The lectures we attended were all excellent.

The Great Hall in the Convention Center contained 115 vendors and

## ANCESTRY.COM AND FHL

### FIND A SOLUTION \*\*\*

[Editor -- Ceil Jensen forwarded to me a note from Ancestry.com that tells of the solution Ancestry worked out with the Family History Library to access Ancestry databases at Family History Centers. You may recall there was a bit of a stir when Ancestry announced it would no longer allow such access. Apparently they found a way to work it out.]

Dear Colleagues,

We are happy to announce that Ancestry.com has found a solution to enable patrons at the Family History Library and Family History Centers to log in to Ancestry using their personal accounts. We have been coordinating this deployment closely with representatives from the Family and Church History Department, the Family History Li-

brary. Most occupied one booth, but several vendors had areas covering 4 to 8 booths. Several book stores were in attendance. Numerous internet/web sites were highlighted including Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.com. The MGC had a booth and was well represented with several Council officers attending.

Ancestry.com conducted one-hour computer lab sessions in the computer rooms of the Allen County Public Library on Friday and Saturday. These required pre-registration for each session due to the number of available computers. Sessions were extremely popular and always full.

The FGS Youth Fair on Saturday at the Library was interesting. It was free and open to the public

The Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library was open from 6:00 am until midnight on Thursday and Friday allowing genealogists to use the research facilities during the conference.

Most attendees were rather exhausted by noon on Saturday. As noted, the Conference was very long. All in all, we would say the conference was very interesting, enjoyable and worthwhile – and rather expensive.

Go to Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, August 22, 2007, for videos of the opening ceremonies and other highlights of the FGS conference. Chris Haley, nephew of Alex Haley of "Roots" fame, awakened everyone with an opening song.

brary, and administrative representatives of the Family History Centers.

What we have done...

We have created a new domain called [www.ancestryinstitution.com](http://www.ancestryinstitution.com) for the Family History Library and the Family History Centers to use to get access to the collections available to them by contract.

With this new domain name, patrons at the FHL and local FHCs can log in to their own personal accounts using [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) just like they would from home.

Thank you,  
Suzanne Russo Adams, AG  
Professional Services Desk Manager  
Ancestry.com, part of The Generations Network

## Web Sites of Interest

The Civil War Regimenta Index  
[www.civilwararchive.com/regim.htm](http://www.civilwararchive.com/regim.htm)

Civil War Rosters Arranged by State  
[www.geocities.com/area51/lair/3680/cw/cw.html](http://www.geocities.com/area51/lair/3680/cw/cw.html)

Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System  
[www.itd.nps.gov/cwss](http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss)

Find a Grave  
[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)

Downward Bound Great Lakes Shipping  
[www.mfhn.com/glsdb](http://www.mfhn.com/glsdb)

Ancestry.com Military Records Collection  
[www.ancestry.com/military](http://www.ancestry.com/military)  
This collection includes United Newsreel Motion Pictures (1942-1946), WWII Stars and Stripes Newspaper, WWI Draft registration cards, U.S. Marine Corps muster rolls, U.S. WWII Army enlistment records, Military family history books, stories and information, U.S. Veterans gravesite ca. 1775-2006.

## Coming Events

October 20, 2007

MGC Seminar

"I Didn't Know That"

21st Century Techniques for the Genealogist. Library of Michigan, Lansing for further information on this seminar see: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mimgc/>

2007 State History Conference

Sept. 28-30 2007

Macomb County/Mt. Clemens, MI

For further information see:

[www.hsmichigan.org](http://www.hsmichigan.org)

Family History Cruise sponsored by Rootsmagic will take place on Nov. 11-18, 2007. This seminar takes place aboard the **Royal Caribbean Mariner of the Seas**. Join on this 7 day cruise while you learn from some of the most respected speakers of the genealogical community. See [www.rootsmagic.com](http://www.rootsmagic.com).



MGS group going to SLC in 2007.

## MGS APRIL/MAY, 2007

### TRIP TO SLC

*Faye Ebach, Trip Coordinator*

On April 24, 2007 seven MGS members flew to Salt Lake City to spend the next 8 days researching the largest collection of genealogical data at the Family History Library. Temple Square was absolutely beautiful, with spring flowers, shrubs and trees in full bloom. The camaraderie between members of our group helped make the week successful. Every day began with breakfast together prior to the 8 am opening of the Library. This provided a great opportunity to

## Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS)

Earlier this year, the MGS board voted to join the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

With membership, we receive their publication "forum" which we have in the gene room. We also can recognize our volunteers through one of the FGS Awards. Members of FGS Member Societies receive discounts on *FORUM* and in the FGS Store. FGS Member Societies have a Federation delegate who serve as an information conduit between the society and FGS. FGS Delegates also elect the FGS Board. Subscription rate to the forum magazine for members is \$15.

For further information see their website at [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org)

## MAY, 2007 MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL REPORT

*Faye Ebach*

The May 10, 2007 Council meeting was held at the Library of Michigan in Lansing. President Marilyn Hebner conducted a very brief business meeting due to the planned "Thinking Day" brainstorming program for all members in attendance. The annual election of Council officers for 2007-2008 was held.

President Hebner announced that the Midland Genealogical Society has volunteered to host an MGC Seminar in October, 2009.

The following conferences, seminars, and/or workshops were announced:

August 15-18, 2007 FGS Conference in Fort Wayne, IN

September 29, 2007 Family History Festival "Not Far From the Tree" at the Detroit Public Library, 9:30 am-6:00 pm. Admission **FREE**

October 20, 2007 MGC/Family History Month Seminar at Library of Michigan, Lansing, 9:00 am-5:00 pm **Fee: \$17 /or \$25 inc. box lunch/person**

See MGC website [www.rootsweb.com/~mimgc](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mimgc) for information.

share information, ask questions, and generally interact with one another.

One of the big changes encountered at the Library was the fact that the FHL's contract with Ancestry.com expired the end of April. This meant that Ancestry.com's database was now unavailable on the FHL computers. Ancestry.com had previously allowed the FHL free access to their database, but was now requiring an unacceptable annual charge for continuing access. As a result, the FHL has begun a huge indexing project of worldwide scope to digitalize their census records. As of the end of April, more than 100,000 volunteers, worldwide, had been recruited to work on this project. Many state genealogical

societies have volunteered to enter all of their state and U.S. census data into the computer software developed for the project.

The FHL anticipates that this indexing project will be completed by 2012. When completed, their web site, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), will provide access to this database at no charge to the user.

While we were doing our individual research, indexing volunteers were inputting census data into the FHL database. We had many opportunities to interact with some of the volunteers and learn about the project. Information regarding this project is available on [www.familysearchindexing.org](http://www.familysearchindexing.org).



## Looking Back in Midland County

Taken From *The Midland Sun* October 14,  
1898 p. 5

### City and Country

Mrs. J. W. Snell is visiting friends at Flint and Mt. Morris.

W. B. Remington of Grand Rapids was in the city last week.

Mrs. Eugene Guillotte of Chicago is visiting Mrs. N. Foreman.

M. B. Johnson has returned from visiting his family at Cleveland.

Henry Hart returned from Harper Hospital at Detroit Friday night, and is much improved in health.

At a business meeting of the Baptist society the 6<sup>th</sup> a call was extended to Rev. Francis Hope of Battle Creek.

S. Peterson is again filling his old position, having charge of the hardware department at Reardon Bros. Mercantile Co.

The K of P. sick and funeral benefit fund was paid to the mother of Samuel Orth Monday morning, less than five hours after his death.

S. B. Gordon acted as cashier of the savings bank Tuesday during the absence of F. E. Barbour to attend the funeral of his grandfather.

George B. Howe of Coleman, Union-Silver nominee for register of deeds, was looking after his fences in this vicinity this week, and feels much encouraged by the outlook.

J. A. Gardner, grandfather of F. E. and Will G. Barbour, died at his home at Petoskey Sunday morning, aged 82. The interment took place at Fenton Tuesday, six grandsons acting as pallbearers.

Miss Anna Reardon has returned from visiting her father at Detroit, who is undergoing treatment with a specialist. Mr. Reardon's friends will regret to learn that he will lose the hearing of one ear.

Herbert Talbot and Fred Chase arrested on the charge of larceny of chickens from Washington Dutcher, were discharged upon the promise of their parents that they would be kept in school, and that such action should not occur again.

F. C. Parker of Ann Arbor was in the city this week.

Leslie Madill is assisting in the register of deeds office.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brink Sunday, a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. John Whipple of Larkin, a daughter, Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hawks left Monday evening for Hot Springs, Ark.

A. E. Cramton of Detroit visited his sister, Mrs. M. E. Gark, Wednesday.

Salt inspected at Midland for the month of September was 2316 barrels.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Spaulding of Poseyville Tuesday.

A brand new baby arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Marion Stearns Tuesday.

Mrs. J. S. Allen will hold her millinery opening today and tomorrow—the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Geo. Palmater has left at this office samples of potatoes grown by him, one of which weighted 2  $\frac{3}{4}$  pounds.

Wm. Mackay, while out hunting Sunday, was shot in the hand by the accidental discharge of a gun.

Geo. F. Gordon Wednesday purchased 160 acres of land in section 7, Ingersoll, of F. C. Parker. Consideration, \$1,000.

Circuit court adjourned until Saturday, October 22, at 8 o'clock a. m., to give parties who desire to become citizens a chance to do so.

Mr. and Mrs. Porter J. White were entertained while here by Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Lewinstein. Mrs. White and Mrs. Lewinstein were schoolmates.

Licensed to wed: Frank Blumenthal, 32, Mills, and Sarah Glasgow, 38, Edenville; Elmer Vorse, 23, Webberville, and Elizabeth McFarland, 18, Geneva.

One hundred and twenty-three tickets were sold for the special train to Clare Wednesday to attend the funeral of Samuel Orth. Fifty were members of the Masonic order.

The board of supervisors organized Monday by electing Duncan Wayne chairman. The full stenographer's report of the proceedings of the board will be circulated in all the papers of the county, the same as last year.

Joseph Marienthal is in the van of the procession this year with a fine selection of cloaks, jackets, furs, besides an exceptional stock of dry goods and clothing. We would call attention to his advertisement on the second page.

Geo. C. Thompson will occupy the Mahaney building about November 1.

## Annual Report from Genealogy Room

July 1, 2006—June 30-2007

Volunteer hours: approx. 670+

Room count by volunteers(2pm, 4pm): 973

Sign in sheet count: 1530

People visited from about 25 cities from Midland, Bay, Saginaw, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, and Clare Counties.

People visited from other Michigan Cities included Clio, Comins, E. Lansing, Flint, Grandville, Indian River, Lambertsville, Ludington, Kalkaska, Madison Heights, McBain, Northville, Novi, Oscoda, Sears, Spring Arbor, Traverse City, Waterford, Westland, West Branch.

People visiting from other states included, Alabama, Arizona, California, Canada, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, New Jersey, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia. Washington, Wisconsin.

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After many years, Genealogy Services at the State of Ohio are ending completely as of April 19, 2007. The entire genealogy collection is being moved to the main location of the Columbus Metropolitan Library at 96 S. Grant Ave. on the east side of downtown Columbus. The new location is a public library that includes evening and weekend hours, larger staff, and a larger budget.

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Paul Klein created a database of Jewish marriages performed in Cuyahoga County from 1837-1930. Ancestry.com posted the database but somehow they posted incorrect dates, off by four years. Paul had alerted Ancestry and sent them the correct dates again, Ancestry has still not updated their database. This brings into question all of the information on their databases that is not supported by digitized images.

If this concerns you, you might want to email Ancestry and urge them to correct the database. The title of the database is "US, Ohio, Cuyahoga County, Jewish Marriage Record Extracts, 1837-1930."

*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.