



PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

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GEORGE FRASER HEMINGWAY, A MIDLAND PIONEER

BY THOMAS L. BOWEN

George F. Hemingway was an early pioneer of Midland, coming to the village in 1857, where he became an attorney and state representative and held the offices of prosecuting attorney, circuit court commissioner, school inspector, supervisor and justice of the peace. His American ancestry can be traced to Ralph Hemmenway, who was in Roxbury, Mass. by 1833, down through Joshua, Joshua, Joshua, Isaac, Isaac, James, to George. Isaac Sr. and Jr. both served in the Revolution; the elder Isaac became a casualty at Valley Forge. This article chronicles George's life, especially his relationship to the history and personalities of Midland during its formative years. Much information is found in his autobiography, written two years before his death, entitled "Sketch of the Life of George F. Hemingway, Written by Himself, January, 1892," which is quoted herein. In addition, the early Midland newspapers include many references to Mr. Hemingway.

moved with his father's family to Steuben County, New York in 1833 and that winter, at the age of sixteen, he taught the district school at South Dansville. He had eighty scholars from age six to twenty in a small school house with classes in the English branches and two students studying algebra. He set up a shop there to manufacture and repair wagons, putting out a sign over the door with large flaming letters, "G. F. HEMINGWAY, Wagonmaker." After about two years, he sold the shop and moved to Angelica in Allegany County, where he entered into a partnership with Thomas Babcock in the same business. Mr. Babcock married George's sister Hannah. While living at South Dansville, George had begun calling on a young lady named Sarah Ann Flint, who lived on Oak Hill, about a mile from the village.

George was born June 21, 1817 in Chili, Monroe County, New York. His early life was spent assisting on the farm of his father, who was an itinerant Methodist Episcopal minister. He attended the district schools until age thirteen, when his father hired him out to learn the wagonmaker's trade. While learning the trade, he attended the Genesee Wesleyan seminary during the winter term. He

She was a farmer's daughter, and although she was not exceedingly handsome, yet she had a peculiarity of look and manner which to me was more fascinating than extreme beauty. ...she became my wife on the sixth day of April, 1837, and I was twenty years

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Midland Genealogical Society Programs for 2008 - 2009

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

Programs for the meetings are as follows.

September 17, 2008 meeting 7:00 Lounge

"Show and Tell" bring a breakthrough that you made during the last year.

October 15, 2008 meeting 7:00 Lounge

To be announced

November 19, 2008 meeting 7:00 Lounge

"German Research before 1800" by William Laegler

January 21, 2009 meeting 7:00 Lounge

"Orphan Train." Video put out by pbs.

February 18, 2009 meeting 7:00 Lounge

To be announced

The Presidents Letter

I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat" were Churchill's predictions of the war effort that faced Britain in 1940. Our seminar project may not require the blood but will certainly cause plenty of " toil, tears and sweat" and also deflate our treasury.

This 2009 Statewide Seminar will surely challenge our Society and all of its members. Every person and probably their family and friends will need to pitch in to make it happen and to save the leaders of the effort from burnout.

An easy thing we can do now is to open our treasury to subsidize the seminar. A financial analyst would probably advise us that it is a risky venture. But, our charter is to promote Genealogy and not sit on our money.

The money has been in our savings accounts for decades. It was mostly earned from a very successful seminar. Our 2009 seminar needs sponsors in addition to the fees paid by the attendees in order to pay for speakers, facilities, etc.. Now is the time to support the seminar commit-

tee by being one of the sponsors. Our board of directors has voted to present at the September meeting the resolution: "Recommend to the Midland Genealogical Society that we authorize up to \$5000.00 from our reserve funds to underwrite the expense of the 2009 Seminar- if it is needed."

We mourn the death of Earl Ebach who was the energetic head of both the seminar and our president. I put my name on the slate for president in May so part of the void could be filled. (I have had no experience in running or even serving on the committee of a seminar so I left it to those more qualified.) We are fortunate that Bob Snyder has taken on the leadership of the seminar.

We do have another very qualified program director this year: Laessa Northrup. You can expect a year of significant and interesting programs. Your input to her of program leads will help to get programs that are helpful in your research.

MGS President, Bob Mass

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

On August 1, 2008 the dues renewal letter was sent out to our members. We ask to have the dues by September 8th and the response has been very good. We have many members who have signed up to receive the Pioneer Record by e-mail.

Welcome to new members Marilyn Eldridge of Phoenix, AZ and Michael and Lois Feider of Midland.

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

I will have the Midland Genealogical Society pins with me at the meeting, they are \$5.00 each and I encourage each member to purchase one.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone September 17th, the meeting will be "sharing of summer genealogical experiences.

Linda Fisher, Membership Chair

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.

As I was preparing this issue, I was informed that one of our members who has been very active with the society has become ill. Nancy Lackie has been diagnosed with leukemia and pneumonia. A website has been created on carepages.com to follow her progress. Please keep Nancy and her family in your prayers.

*Walt Bennett
Editor*

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2008-2009

The collection of MGS membership dues for 2008-2009 will conclude at the September 17th MGS meeting. The MGS treasurer and Membership chairs have been collecting dues since last May 2008. If your dues are not paid by the end of September, this may be the last Pioneer Record you will receive. Dues may be paid by mail to: Midland Genealogical Society, Linda Fisher, 3772 N M-30, Sanford, MI 48657. Dues for an individual are \$14.00; for a family they are \$17.50.

Ancestry Census Records

By Jana Lloyd 05 August 2008

Can't find what you're looking for in the U.S. census? A new agreement made between Ancestry.com and FamilySearch may change that.

The two family history giants are combining forces to make more historical records available—at a higher quality. As part of that agreement, FamilySearch has shared new, improved images of the 1900 U.S. census with Ancestry.

FamilySearch records were created using newer scanning technology and older, higher-quality microfilm copies of the original census to create the improved images, which are now online at Ancestry.com.

But new, clearer images aren't

the only improvement made to the 1900 U.S. census. Sometime in the first weeks of August an index of the 1900 census created by FamilySearch volunteers will be combined with the index on Ancestry to increase your chances of finding an ancestor.

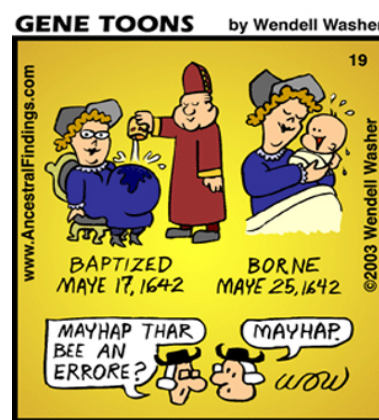
The new index will have several more searchable fields (such as birth month and birth year). Plus, having two versions of each name increases your odds of finding an elusive ancestor; chances are that if a name was transcribed poorly in one index it was transcribed more accurately in the other.

FamilySearch and Ancestry are now working on similar improvements to other censuses in the 1790–1930 U.S. census collection on Ancestry. The 1920 census is the next in the works.

(Ancestry Monthly Newsletter)

Michigan Death Records

Library of Michigan has reported that Michigan Death Records 1897-1920, will be digitized. The microfilm set will be sent for digitization, which will take several months. The digitized death records will be loaded into a free database that will be indexed and easily searchable. Users from across the country will be able to access the database and download death records from the comfort of their home computer.



Some family records conjure up strange images.



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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old on the twenty-first day of June following. My wife was twenty-two days older than myself.

Both couples then moved to Orion, Oakland County, Michigan, where his uncle Needham Hemingway was building a large flouring mill and had platted the village for sale of lots. The first lot in the village was sold to George on March 30, 1838 for \$20, on which he built a small house. George Hemingway and Mr. Babcock soon dissolved the partnership when it was discovered that the country was too new for the wagon making business. George then turned carpenter and joiner and built houses and barns for farmers. He purchased a work on designing and drawing and was soon called upon to draw the designs for carpenters of the surrounding area. In January 1841, George and Sarah sold the lot in Orion for \$125 and moved to Hadley in Lapeer County. About that time, he "came to believe that I was called of God to preach the Gospel of Christ." He received a license to preach about 1842 and was sent to the Mt. Clemens circuit as a Methodist traveling preacher. He continued to travel and preach for eight years in the Michigan conference, then left under circumstances which he described as follows:

The last year of my ministry was spent on the Flat Rock circuit, during the latter part of which year I was afflicted with a peculiar trouble in my throat which produced a strong propensity to gape whenever I commenced to speak or read, so that whenever I commenced

the opening service of the church I was frequently interrupted with a yawn, which was not only very annoying to the church and congregation, but was exceedingly mortifying to me. At the close of the year when I went up to conference my presiding elder, having learned of this difficulty, requested me to locate, and I consented at once to do so, without waiting to consider the consequences that were likely to follow such a step. I went home from conference to engage in some secular employment for a livelihood. I tried daguerreotyping and dentistry for a while but with little success, and then I went to Hadley again and went to work at my old trade of carpenter and joiner. When I left the ministry I soon began to lose my religious enjoyment, and ere long I found myself so far backslidden that I gave up my credentials as a local preacher and withdrew from the church. This may be regarded as an unwise step, and perhaps it was, but I did not wish to make any hypocritical pretensions to Christianity when I knew I was unworthy to the name of a Christian.

George's wife, Sarah Flint Hemingway, died June 18, 1852. Afterwards, George frequently made his home with his brother James, of Hadley, who had been married by George to his wife's sister Lucina Flint. There he met his future wife Harriet Pierce, age 21, who was employed as their housekeeper. On the day of their marriage, Dec. 28, 1853, they went to Marine City, Michigan to spend the winter with her friends who resided there, and he soon found a teaching position for a school with 80 scholars. The following month on January 17, she gave birth to a daughter who died on February 6, 1854. That spring they returned to

his house in Hadley. In his autobiography, Hemingway entertains the following observation on enduring love:

We are told by the writers of romance that a man or woman will never truly love but once; but that doctrine is not in accordance with the philosophy of the mind, neither is it true in fact. The mind of man is so constructed that it acts as it is acted upon. The feelings of love and hatred are produced in the mind by our surroundings. Objects that are lovely produce a sensation of love, while those that are hateful produce a sensation of hatred. Is it true, then, that when a sensation of love has once been produced in the mind by our association with an object or being that was in itself lovely, that the like sensation cannot or will not be produced a second time by our association with another object or being equally lovely? The idea is too preposterous to be entertained for a single moment. Although I have for thirty-nine years bestowed upon my second wife all of the love and affection that I am capable of bestowing upon a woman, yet the memory of the one I lost some forty years ago is none the less dear to me on that account. It is the height of folly to claim that the bestowal of our affections upon one object or person can in the least tend to diminish our love for another equally lovely. The correctness of this statement is verified by my own experience. If I were asked to-day whether I loved my first or second wife best, I could not answer.

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In 1855, Hemingway went to Tittabawassee township in Saginaw County, where he purchased an 80 acre farm along the Tittabawassee River. He soon decided he did not like farming and turned the management of the farm over to his new son-in-law, Marcus Beebe and wife Phebe Isora. George sold the farm in December 1857 and moved to Midland City, where he resumed house building. Soon after, Wilbur F. Woodworth, prosecuting attorney, furnished him with books to read law, and after about a year, Hemingway made application to the Saginaw Circuit Court and was admitted to practice as an attorney. Woodworth, who had been elected circuit judge, then appointed Hemingway to fill the vacancy of prosecuting attorney occasioned by his own election as judge. Hemingway was then re-elected in 1858 to the same office for the full term of two years. During this time, on 18 Oct., 1859, Woodworth sold him lot 5 and 6 in block 23 of the village for \$500.

At the end of his term in 1860, Hemingway was elected to the office of state representative to represent the Midland district, which embraced six counties besides Midland. At the close of the legislative session in the spring of 1861, he moved to Buchanan, Michigan, a farming community of about 1000, compared with the 1860 Midland township population of 560 plus 200 more in the rest of the county. He felt he could establish a more lucrative law practice there than the young village of Midland would afford. He did well there, but decided to return to Midland in 1865 after the Civil War because his wife's mother had died and his father-in-law, Phineas Pierce, was in ill health and wanted to live with them while remaining among his circle of friends in Midland. In addition, Midland had become considerably settled during the war and might soon become a desirable location for a lawyer. On Nov. 9,

1866, he purchased lot 1, block 15 from John Larkin for \$150 and built a home. The lot was next to the Midland county courthouse which had been built on Main Street in 1856 by Timothy Jerome. This frame building stood for 70 years until it was razed in 1926 following the construction of the current courthouse, which was located next to it. Hemingway's lot was on the northwest side near the end of Jerome Street, part of which now occupies the M-20 bridge approach. Later he bought lot 8 in the same block. In the May 23, 1912 issue of the Midland Sun, it was noted that the old Hemingway residence was moved by John E. Sayre from its location on Main St. and divided into three sections, two becoming parts of homes on Eastman and Carpenter streets and the third going to the first ward.

In 1865, there were two lawyers in Midland besides Hemingway. According to Hemingway, one by the name of C. W. Wright had considerable experience and average abilities but was considerably impaired by the use of strong drink. The other was Henry Hart, a young man who had recently graduated from "Ann Arbor university." He had considerable natural ability, a fair education and excellent morals. In addition, there was J. W. Cochrane, who pettifogged some in justice courts, but was not yet admitted to practice in courts of record. In 1867, Hemingway formed the partnership, "Hemingway & Hart," with Mr. Hart, who had become prosecuting attorney in 1866. This was an amicable partnership lasting until the fall of 1871. In 1868 their office was in the court house. Hemingway was an Assistant Marshall responsible for enumerating the 3261 individuals in Midland County in the 1870 census as of June 1. The population count for Midland village totaled 1160 and Midland township, 456. In the fall of 1870, Hemingway was again elected to

a two year term as prosecuting attorney after Mr. Hart held the office four years. He was a member of the Board of Trustees for the village of Midland City, and on March 26, 1872 he was appointed to the committees for fire and printing and a committee to draft such new bylaws as may be necessary and to compile the old laws, with a view to have them published.

In the summer of 1873, Hemingway entered into a partnership with Frank Burton, who was at that time editor and proprietor of the Midland Independent, which became the Midland Republican. They had their law office over Burton's printing office. Hemingway grouched "we continued in partnership about three years, during which time Frank never complained at my doing all of the work and dividing the proceeds of the office with him." In 1874, Hemingway was put up for the Republican nomination for prosecuting attorney, but James Van Kleek was nominated. Hemingway and the third candidate were called "soreheads" by the Midland Times because they said they would not support Van Kleek. In 1876, Hemingway was elected Circuit Court Commissioner for one term.

About 1878, Hemingway entered into a partnership with William D. Gordon, whom he described as "a young man of fair education and more than average abilities. He possessed those mental characteristics which were well adapted, with proper culture and a few years of experience, to distinguish him as one of the first lawyers in the state. He was also an agreeable office companion and cheerfully performed his due proportion of the work, both in the office and in the trial of causes in the court." The Hemingway & Gordon partnership continued with a "tolerable degree of

financial success” until it was dissolved in November, 1883.

The Methodist Episcopal Church began to erect the first church edifice in Midland in 1868 and got it framed and enclosed. In the summer of 1869, Mr. Hemingway was engaged to finish the interior for \$500. The children of the Sabbath school bought a large bible that was presented to the pastor at the dedication for use at the pulpit. Hemingway also noted in his autobiography that, in the summer of 1857, he organized the first Sabbath school held in Midland, from which the Methodist and Presbyterian Sabbath schools originated.

In early 1872, Hemingway signed a contract to build a three story brick union school house in Midland for \$18,400. (It became the Midland high school on Grove St. at the end of McDonald Street, which was destroyed by fire in 1908.) After the contract was signed, he took in James Eastman as an equal partner, with Eastman agreeing to furnish clay from his farm, make the bricks and furnish hemlock logs. Each would pay half the costs and share equally in profit or loss, which was expected to be \$3000 - \$5000 profit. However, when a severe money panic struck the country causing prices of labor and materials to rise by 50 to 100 per cent, Eastman declared bankruptcy. Although the job resulted in a loss of \$3000, Hemingway paid off every bill at one hundred cents on the dollar, including hod carriers at \$3.00 per day and brick layers at \$5.00 per day.

According to a “Twelve Years Ago” column in the March 23, 1882 issue of the Midland Republican, a singing convention in the Methodist

Church in 1870 included the old folks leap year party. "Mrs. Squire Carpenter led forth attorney G. F. Hemingway in Quaker costume as William Penn and lady." Several newspaper articles appeared in 1881 mentioning Mr. Hemingway. On his 64th birthday, June 21, 1881, George received a gold watch chain with a book-locket charm from his daughters Ella Hanks and Cora, which cost \$45 according to an article in the Midland Sun. On June 23, it was reported that he and H. N. Elmer threw sand at a swarm of bees, causing them to settle in a Maple on the court house lawn. On July 21, the Sun reported that Hemingway told of a cat belonging to a friend near Zilwaukee that had a young family of three maltese kittens and two perfect grey squirrels, which he had seen. On August 18, the newspaper reported that Geo. F. Hemingway got the job of moving the Baptist church structure on the south side to a site by the riverside near the Benson Street bridge; however, the idea was later given up. On August 31, George was participating in a soldiers and sailors reunion, responding to a toast, "The Republic! May its glory never be dimmed." On Sept. 26, he, Judge Hart and Professor Crissey gave addresses at the memorial services for President Garfield. He also participated in public debates, the question of one being "Resolved, That the Bible should be excluded from the public schools," Hemingway arguing on the affirmative side. Another was on the subject "Resolved that English Spelling be Reformed." Other newspaper reports showed that he defended various individuals in court, including a man who was arrested for drunkenness and acquitted when Hemingway and Gordon "made touching appeals for the man, setting forth that he staggered because his feet were sore."

(To be continued)

DID HE, OR DIDN'T HE??

Chasing Family Stories Can Be Informative

By Robert C. Snyder

Sharing family stories is one of the great joys of doing genealogical research. One of the great adventures of research is to take that family lore and those stories, and determine how much of what we've heard is truth, and how much is fiction. My mother, Gertrude, was named after her aunt, a sister to her mother. Since childhood, I've heard stories about Aunt Gertrude, particularly the story that she was murdered by her husband, and that he was executed in the electric chair for the crime.

Anna Gertrude was a twin, with her sister Emma. As I pursued the genealogical research on that line of the family, I kept hearing rumors about "the twins". One story told by a second cousin of mine, had to do with the fact that they lived, for a time, in a "stilt" house on the banks of the Mississippi River north of St. Louis, and when the river flooded, they would have to abandon their home. Because they seemed to be abandoning ship every time there was a flood, some in the family referred to them as "the river rats."

Later, interviewing yet another second cousin, he told me that his father, before his death, had confided in him that the twins "ran a house" in St. Louis. That, to me, was some evidence that showed how Anna Gertrude could have fallen in love with and married a client who might have been disreputable enough to have killed her.

Still later, I was talking with my mother's sister, whose only comment was: "Those twins... they certainly had a reputation."

That did it! I decided that I needed to get to the bottom of the story and find out what really happened to Aunt Gertrude. One day I was doing research on another family in the Library of Michigan in Lansing, and was getting nowhere. It occurred to me that with the immense collection of newspapers in their archives, I might be able to find something that would help me get to the bottom of Aunt Gertrude's story. I approached a librarian and told him the tale. "Did I have any idea when her death might have occurred?" he asked. I thought, from what I had been told, that

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she probably died in the early 1920's. He moved to his computer and brought up the Illinois death records, and found two entries for a woman with the correct name, both of whom died in Chicago, where I knew Aunt Gertrude had lived. Investigating further, he determined that one of those entries was listed as a homicide! Jackpot!

With a firm date for Gertrude's death, I moved to the CHICAGO TRIBUNE for that date and found a death notice: Gertrude _____, beloved wife of the LATE John _____, died March 14, 1922 (other details omitted for confidentiality). Well... if her husband John was LATE, then he didn't do the deed, did he? A later search of the death notices in Gertrude's home

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New Additions to the Gene Room

Ontario People: 1796-1803
Connecticut's Pennsylvania colony: volume 1, 2, and 3
Pennsylvania births, Berks County
Pennsylvania births, York County
Pennsylvania births, Carbon County
Pennsylvania gravestones, Northampton County
History of Woodbury County, Iowa, volume 1
Lest We Forget, book 1
Lest We Forget, book 2
Index to marriage and death notices in the New Yorker
Naturalizations in the Marine Court, New York 1827-1835
Naturalizations in the Marine Court, New York 1834-1840
500 Brickwall solutions to Genealogy Problems
More Brickwall solutions to Genealogy Problems
The Arc and the Dove Adventurers
Ancestral Trails: The Complete Guide to British...
Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace
German Churches of Metropolitan New York

Web Sites of Interest

Downward Bound: Honoring Those who Served on the Great Lakes. <http://www.mfhn.com/glsdb/>

Great Lakes Maritime Personnel Database. http://ul.bgsu.edu/cgi-bin/mpi_pub.cgi

Shipmate Search. http://www.usmm.org/shipmate_search.html

Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping. www.boatnerd.com Try using the Information Search to ask for information about a particular person.

Great Lakes Maritime History Project <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/WL/subcollections/GreatLakesAbout.shtml>

Family Search Labs has several projects they are working on. If you have not tried the new search engine which will present images of original documents, you don't know what you are missing. They also will accept volunteers to help with the indexing project. See these and more at: <http://labs.familysearch.org/>.

Paper Trail www.paper-trail.org
The 19th Century migration on the overland trails to the far West is illuminated by the writings of thousands of pioneers who took this long and dangerous journey.

Pioneers went to Oregon, California, Utah and Montana for land or for gold and they wrote of their experiences in diaries, letters, remembrances and newspaper articles. As the covered wagons rolled west on the Oregon Trail, the pioneers recorded their travels in documents that have survived in libraries and private collections.

The Oregon-California Trails Association, known as OCTA, is the guardian and promoter of the exciting story of the 19th Century westward American migration. Paper Trail is the website created by OCTA based on a searchable index of these remarkable journeys, with names, places and a survey of the text. This database includes a list of libraries where the original historic documents may be found.

J. William Gorski

16667 Fieldstone Ridge

Macomb Township, Michigan 48042

June 13, 2008

Dear Society Member:

As members of one of Michigan's eighty-six genealogical societies, you know what a vital resource the Library of Michigan Genealogy collection is for family researchers like us. Recognized as one of the United States largest and located right here in our own backyard, the collection includes more than 100,000 books, microforms and electronic resources serving 160,000 visitors a year, including researchers from around the country and the world.

Today, I am writing to all the genealogical societies in Michigan to ask that they support the resources we value so highly. It is only with the help of people like us that the library can keep updating its collection. Our gifts help where state and federal funding is lacking and ensure that the Library continues to add new electronic subscription, annually updates books, microforms and periodicals and digitizes older materials before they become too fragile to handle.

I know you share my pride in the Library of Michigan and its commitment to serve the genealogy community with a top-tier collection. My personal support is in the way of an estate gift to benefit the collection because that is how I can make the biggest difference. Please do your part. Make a generous gift to the Library of Michigan Foundation, 717 West Allegan, P. O. Box 30159, Lansing, Michigan 48909. Every year let's together ensure that this exceptional institution remains vital and up-to-date for our benefit and for generations to come.

Thank you for consideration and support.

Sincerely,

J. William Gorski

Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan, Member of Board of Directors

The Polish Eaglet, Editor-in-Chief

Coming Events

Sept 3 2008-Sept 6, 2008 Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference: Footprints of Family History, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Open to the public. Registration is required.

Sept 12-13, 2008 Documenting the Past: A Journey to the Heart of the Future. Cleveland Public Library, Louis Stokes Building, 325 Superior Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44114. African-American Genealogical Society of Cleveland, Ohio. Open to the Public. Registration is required. Come join J. Mark Lowe (African American Lives), Tim Pinnick, Jana Sloan Broglin, Deborah Abbott and many others for a weekend of discovery. http://aagsclev.org/aags_2008_conf.htm.

Sept 13, 2008 Free Genealogy Workshop, Marguerite deAngeli Main Branch, 921 West Nepessing St., Lapeer, Michigan 48446. Hosted by the Lapeer County Genealogical Society and the Nipissing Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. This workshop is focused at beginning and intermediate genealogists. <http://mimgc.org/pdf/2008LapeerWorkshop.pdf>

Sept 20, 2008 Eaton County Heritage Conference, Sunfield United Brethren Church, 8436 W. Grand Ledge Hwy., Sunfield, Michigan, 48890. Presented by the Sunfield Historical Society. Open to the public. Registration is required. The speaker is Shirley Gage Hodges. "The Importance of Preserving Your Family History and Heirlooms". <http://mimgc.org/pdf/EatonCountySeminar2008.pdf>

Sept 26-27, 2008 Military Symposium, Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Hosted

by the Allen County Public Library. Open to the public. Registration is required. The key speaker will be Marie Varrelman Melchiori, CG, CGL. <http://mimgc.org/pdf/EatonCountySeminar2008.pdf>

Sept 26-27, 2008 North American Cornish Genealogy Seminar, Comfort Inn, 1345 Business Park Road, Mineral Point, Wisconsin, 53565. Sponsored by the Southwest Michigan Cornish Society. Open to the public. Registration is Required. Speakers are David Holman, James Hibbard, David McDonald and Shirley Morrish. http://www.cornishfest.org/genealogy_schedule.html

Sept 27, 2008 Family History Festival. Detroit Public Library. Burton Historical Collection, 5201 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Michigan. Open to the public. <http://www.dsgr.org/>

Oct 18, 2008 Michigan Genealogical Council Family History Month Seminar., Library of Michigan, Lansing, Michigan. Open to the public, Registration is required. <http://mimgc.org/pdf/MGC2008seminar.pdf>

Oct 18, 2008 2008 Annual Polish Research Seminar, American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple Rd., Troy, Michigan. Sponsored by the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan. Open to the public. Registration is required. http://pgsm.org/index_040.htm

Nov 1, 2008 Magnifying Brick Wall Clues. Prince Conference Center at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Sponsored by the Western Michigan Genealogical Society. Open to the public. Registration is required. <http://wmgs.org/seminar.htm>

MAY, 2008 MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL REPORT

Faye Ebach, MGS Delegate

New officers for the Council were installed for the 2008-09 year commencing in July, 2008. Joanne Harvey continues as President of the Council.

Corresponding Secretary Cynthia Gros-tick presented a new form to be sent to all member societies. This new form will provide an updated database of all member societies for the Council.

Council reported on a survey conducted of all member societies regarding preferable days for future Delegate meetings when the Library of Michigan is open all day. Results indicated an equal recommendation for future delegate meetings on either Tuesdays or Wednesdays of the second week of uneven months. As a result, future Delegate meetings will be scheduled on either a Tuesday or Wednesday during the 2008-09 year.

Mark Harvey, representative from Michigan Archives, reported that Congress has a current bill related to preservation of historical records that will provide grants to individual states to assist in the preservation of state records. Grants will be allocated based upon population. Michigan is scheduled to receive \$1.7 million if and when this bill is passed.

Randy Riley from the Library of Michigan reported that Dr. George Schweitzer will be the keynote speaker at the annual Abrams Seminar – July 25-26, 2008. He also reported that the microfilms of 1897-1920 Michigan death records will be removed from the Library for most of the summer for the purpose of digitalizing all those records. When digitalized, the death records will be available on the Library's web site.

Special speakers were Richard Ramsdell, Stockbridge Genealogical Society, who talked about their society's Reader/Printer Project. He discussed the why and how their society obtained a new microfilm reader for the Stockbridge Library. The second speaker, Karren Reish, from the Library of Michigan, discussed the basics of identifying, qualifying, and obtaining grants for genealogy. Her presentation was accompanied by a pamphlet of various organizations, foundations, etc. that provide a variety of grants for various purposes including genealogical projects.

Access to local and state wide genealogical events is readily available on the Council's web site at www.mimgc.org.

Looking back In Midland County

Taken from the Midland Republican

May 5, 1881 page 5

Ingersoll Items

What has become of Jide & Magee?

Lee's Corners is to have a resident shoemaker. Bring on your cobbling.

Mrs. Riefenberg, who has been quite ill for some time past is recovering.

The happiest men in our town are Frank Winslow and Frank Smith the former being the sire of a blue-eyed daughter and the latter of a bouncing boy.

A little daughter of George Merritt's while playing with the other children, fell and unfortunately broke her arm. The fracture was reduced by Dr. Emory and the child is doing well.

Our school is progressing nicely under the judicious supervision of Miss DePratts of Zilwaukee.

The principal streets of this place are being paved, not with the De Golyer pavement, but with saw dust.

Richard Davis, who has been confined to his room with rheumatism for the past nine months, is suffering from a diffuse abscess.

A new school house is being built in district No. 2 of this township. The site was established by the board of school inspectors and consists of one acre in this southeast quarter of section 29, town 13 north of range 2 east.

The Poor Indian Drowned

On Sunday last, some little boys discovered a body in the river about a mile and a half below the village. They brought the news to town, where coroner Townsend and others went to the place and found that it was the body of Major Francis, an Indian, who was known to many in the village, and who was not long since selling baskets here. The body presented the appearance of having been in the water some time. There was also a very noticeable discoloration of the forehead as though he had possibly been struck there with a club or some heavy instrument. Dr. Salisbury upon examination, decided that there was no evidence of violence. In the pants pocket were found two half dollars and a pocket book in which was a freight receipt from Mr. Horton. In his vest pocket was a folded paper, soiled and with the folds much worn, on which paper appeared the following somewhat remarkable series of promises:

" I, Major Francis, do here by promise and agree to and which ___ Francis, my wife, that I will give her my Bay mare about 7 years old, In payment of moneys I have collected for her and retained them wrongfully. I also promise and agree to and with her that I will hereafter endeavor and do all within my power to let intoxicating liquors entirely alone, and also to let all other women alone but my wife, and I will try to live a better life. March 16, 1872."

The above written with ink in a fair business hand. No signature can be made out. There were some unimportant pencil memoranda on the

paper. It is believed that Francis's home was at Mt. Pleasant, but word was received from there by telegram that he had nothing there. An inquest was hold Monday morning, but nothing of importance was elicited and the verdict was "accidental drowning." At any rate the poor Indian's earthly troubles are over. Judge him not harshly.

(Continued from page 7) Didn't He?

town newspaper confirmed that we really did have the right person, because there, her maiden name was given, proving that she was my great-aunt. Back to the librarian I went with my death notice. He indicated that he had access to the police records for Chicago in the time period in question, and he went searching to see what he could find.

The widow, Gertrude, was shot on a street corner in South Chicago in the wee small hours of the morning, and alcohol was a factor in the murder (This was during prohibition). Further, the murderer was apprehended and named in the report.

My librarian was having fun with this one.... "Let's see what happened to the perpetrator", says he. A further search determined that the murderer died in jail BEFORE HE WAS EVER BROUGHT TO TRIAL. We'll never know why Aunt Gertrude was out on a corner in the middle of the night... and we're probably better off not knowing, but we know the answer to whether Uncle John was responsible for her demise... he wasn't, and I was rather glad to hear that.

When we hear family stories, its great fun to chase them down and find out the truth behind the lore. It helps set history straight, and cleans up at least some misconceptions that have lingered for generations. Good luck hunting down your stories... you'll never be sorry for doing it.

Pioneer Record

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

The MGS meets on the 3rd Wednesday of Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr. & May at 7:00 PM in the lounge of the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640. Visitors are always welcome. Watch the Midland Daily News or local Midland MCTV channel 5 for upcoming speakers, dates and times.

Membership dues are \$14.00 for single and \$17.50 for a couple and can be paid after July 1, but must be paid by Nov. 25, to continue receiving the Pioneer Record. Dues may be paid at any MGS meeting or may be sent to the Membership Chair, Midland Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, MI 48640.