



# PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

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November 2008

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## GEORGE FRASER HEMINGWAY, A MIDLAND PIONEER

### PART 2

**BY THOMAS L. BOWEN**

Correction given by T. L. Bowen to part 1: Geo. F. Hemingway's marriage to Harriet Pierce was given as Dec. 28, 1853 as Hemingway stated in his biography. The marriage record has confirmed the correct date to be Dec. 28, 1852. Their daughter Caroline was born Jan. 17, 1854 according to a family record.

Hemingway had been a Republican when the party was formed and voted for Abraham Lincoln. In early 1882, he began making speeches supporting the Greenback party, which he endorsed from 1880 until the party was dissolved locally in 1883. The term greenback referred to paper money that had been issued during the Civil War and afterward. A primary desire of the party was government control of the monetary system, providing more currency in circulation. A series of articles appeared over the name of Geo. F. Hemingway from March to September, 1882 in the form of letters to the editor of the Midland Sun. The editor of the Sun was Frank Burton, his former law partner and a fellow Greenback supporter. Professor T. W. Crissey, the owner and editor of the competing newspaper, the Midland Republican, responded with Republican arguments and included personal political attacks on Hemingway.

Crissey had been Superintendent of Public Schools in Flint and had spent time conducting and in-

structing teachers' institutes prior to buying the Midland Independent and changing its name to the Midland Republican in December, 1880. Hemingway's first letter, "What Then?" appeared on March 9, responding to a Crissey editorial and explaining why he felt the congress should be more trusted to regulate and control the volume of currency instead of delegating that function to the national banks.

The next letter, on March 23, entitled "The Currency Question," went into greater detail on same question. The third letter of July 6, entitled "Political Taxation," was critical of Crissey's support of the Republican central committee chairman's assessment upon the employees and officers of the government in the amount of two per cent of their salaries to defray the expenses of the next campaign. He also accused Crissey of receiving patronage from the state at no cost to him. To this, Crissey found it necessary to defend himself and his position in his July 13 issue of The Republican. Another long Hemingway response, "A Rejoinder," appeared in The Sun of July 20. This letter was answered by "That Rejoinder" by Crissey on July 27. Hemingway re-

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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.*

**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**

Funeral Home Records by Smith/Miner Funeral Home

**March 18, 2009 meeting 7:00 Auditorium**

TBA. Co-sponsored program with the library.

**April 15, 2009 meeting 7:00 Historical Society**

Discussion regarding genealogy databases

**May 20, 2009 meeting 6:00 Historical Society**

Annual Meeting—Alice Sias—Civil War Ancestors

## The Presidents Letter

Unfortunately we had to **cancel** the Statewide Seminar that our Society was planning for October of 2009. We thank the committee collectively and its members individually for the extensive work that was done in the preparation.

A group of powerful speakers and intriguing presentations were lined up. Much of the work on the facilities and most of the paperwork details were in hand. The financial reality of conducting a first class seminar killed the project. The income side was limited to a realistic entry fee and the size of the facility. The cost of two lunches and a banquet and the facility charges became astronomical. The large deficit could not be covered.

A much pared down seminar may be proposed in the future. Utilization of off season college facilities, off site meals, and a shorter schedule were ideas to cut the costs.

Ken Schweitzer made a donation as a memorial to Earl Ebach. With the money our society purchased a computer projector. Its utility is to put a presentation on the screen in front of our members directly from a laptop

computer. (Warmup, wires, hold down Fn key and press F8). Any computer program can be used for the projector puts a copy on the big screen of anything appearing on the laptop screen. This includes Word documents, PowerPoint presentations, photos, pedigree charts, etc. and also DVD presentations or movies.

My personal challenge has been finding ancestors for my new daughter-in-law's family. It appears most came from the Russian Empire between 1890 and 1920. Since I learned to read the old German script, I think my brain may pick up the printed and cursive Cyrillic alphabet. Many of the city and province names changed as the ownership and borders shifted among Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, and the Ukraine. Ancestry at the library has given many family and sibling hits in the census and passenger lists.

I wish you good ancestor hunting and hope to see you at the Wednesday meetings.

*MGS President, Bob Mass*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to new members Earlene Albee and Walter Bennett Jr who are actually return members. We are glad to have them back.

About 12 members have not paid their dues for this year. Hopefully by the time of this printing, most will have renewed their membership.

Remember to support the NARA project with your monthly donation to the NARA jar.

*Linda Fisher, Membership Chair*

## GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



Good news, Mr. Smith!...

## From The Editor...

Thanks for reading the Pioneer Record. I am in need of articles for the remaining two issues. If you have written an article and would like it published, please send to me at the address listed in the back of this newsletter.

As many of you know, a donation was made by Ken Schweitzer for the society to purchase a computer projector for our programs. This projector is already being put to use.

We are already working on a plan to offer some training on putting together a powerpoint presentation for presenting your programs. If you are interested in learning powerpoint, please mail or email to our program chair listed on the back.

We will soon finish our Marriage Record project, so be sure to order the book. If you have ideas for new projects, please let one of the board members know.

*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.

## Google To Digitize Newspaper Archives

Google made an announcement in September that it was scanning microfilm from some newspaper archives to make them searchable online. These will first be available thru google news and then through each newspapers own websites. Readers will be able to search the archives using keywords and view articles as they originally appeared.

Google is working with more than 100 newspapers and with partners like Heritage Microfilm and ProQuest. It has already scanned millions of articles.

The National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a joint program of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress is creating a digital archive of historically significant newspapers published in the United States from 1836 to 1922. It will be freely accessible on the Internet.

### Important

As we try to reach you occasionally via email, please check your email address in the current listing. We have several that are bouncing. If yours is listed incorrectly, please notify Linda Fisher our membership chair.

## MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL REPORT

September 9, 2008 – F. Ebach

Annual Lucy Mary Kellogg Award presented to Lucille Wendt Jenson. Ms Jenson has published several books on Polish/Catholic history in Detroit along with performing significant research and presentations regarding Polish/Catholic genealogy and history in Michigan.

The Library of Michigan is currently working with Ancestry scanning and indexing more than 900,000 death records from 1897-1920. This project should be completed by December when these records will be available on [www.seekingmichigan.org](http://www.seekingmichigan.org).

Mark Harvey from the Archives of Michigan reported that Congress has not acted on House Bill 6056 "Preserving American Historical Records". He further reported that the Archives will soon complete the digitizing of Civil War documents project which will then be available online.

Tammy Weaver, Administrative Manager for Vital Records, Office of State Registrar presented an update on "Vital Records Access in Today's Security Age". She covered the various rules and recent changes regarding availability

of records for research. She pointed out that many County Clerks offices are operating with reduced staff, increased workload, and reduced funding leading to difficulty obtaining access to records for genealogical research. She recommended patrons be courteous and patient when seeking vital records data. She also discussed the soon to be available passport cards for persons with or without passports traveling outside the US. For additional information regarding this new, reduced cost, travel document go to [www.getyouhome.gov](http://www.getyouhome.gov)

### Coming Events

March 28, 2009

Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society will be holding their 2009 Spring Conference at the Fetzer Center of Western Michigan University of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Paula Stewart-Warren will be the guest speaker. See the brochure at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mikvgs/>.

April 4, 2009

Monroe County Genealogical Society will also be hold a 2009 Spring Conference at Monroe Community College. More details to be published at a later date at <http://www.gsmc-michigan.org/>.



## 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.



sponded on August 3 in The Sun under the caption "Hemingway's Mistake." Crissey's response, also entitled "Hemingway's Mistake," on August 10 includes a slur "But the greatest mistake lies in supposing that if he [Hemingway] had 'space' in the paper where he could really get his platitudes before the public, he could really tell where he has been in the past, where he is now and where he may be found in the future, together with his reasons for the same. If as we have been told he has already been twice in the republican party and twice in the greenback party, - - bobbing backward and forward like an electric puppet, it would take a great deal of space to tell all about where he has been in the past; and the future, judging it by the past, must be dreadfully uncertain..." This was in response to Hemingway's offer to spell out his position in Crissey's newspaper in response to a similar slur in Crissey's July 27 article. The next letter from Hemingway in the August 24, 1882 issue of the Sun entitled "Public Debt," questions whether the public debt of the United States would ever be extinguished under a republican administration.

Hemingway's final article appearing on Sept. 7, again under the caption, "Hemingway's Mistake," gave a well written response to Crissey's personal attacks. He included a summary of his past reasons for his support of the Republican party and his reasons for leaving the party: "But when the republican party called in and destroyed large sums of those greenbacks that had carried us through the war and paid our soldiers, to build up banking

corporations, when they refunded the national debt into long time bonds to delay its payment, when they rechartered the national banks to make them a perpetual curse to the land, then I ceased to be a republican." He is now a greenbacker because "I believe that the government should issue and control the volume of all the money, and when so issued it should be legal tender for all debts public and private." Finally, two articles by Mr. Crissey appeared in the September 14 issue of the Republi-



**GEORGE F. HEMINGWAY**

can, one entitled "Bank Securities" and the other another personal attack, "I, My, Myself, Me, Mine, Hemingway." The latter made light of Hemingway's letter of September 7, concluding that the many times he referred to himself indicated that Hemingway had made himself the subject of the article. This final letter was perhaps the reason no further Hemingway letters appeared in the Sun.

Hemingway found it necessary to defend himself again eight years later, this time in The Midland Republican of October 2, 1890, which was still published by Mr. Crissey. Entitled "A Reply By Mr. G. F. Hemingway," he was re-

sponding to a personal attack by the editor of the Coleman Independent in his issue of September 19, which followed an address by Hemingway at the Coleman Patrons picnic. Quoting from the Independent article, "Mr. Hemingway made a proposition to produce a man that was willing to take the 'stump' against any of the old party speakers upon the issues of the day. Of course he would produce Mr. Hemingway and for the sake of all that is good who would want to tackle Hemingway in a joint debate? It would take the opposition for ever to find out what Hemingway would be talking about. Mr. Hemingway has been 'at home' with all old and new parties and is still on the move. With all due respect to Mr. Hemingway we feel it our duty to say that as a political speaker he is a sad mistake." Hemingway, in his response, stated that he is a Prohibitionist. When he was a Republican, they had professedly been a temperance party until they repealed the Michigan prohibition law [in 1875] after maintaining it for over twenty years. The greenback party had a temperance plank in its platform until it was fused with the democrats, after which he became a member of the prohibition party.

George's wife Harriet became ill in 1884, so they sold their home near the courthouse on July 7 for \$1000 and began to live with his children in Saginaw and Millington for three years. In March of 1884 he had purchased lot 15 in block 5 of Elmwood. This lot was located in Midland township near the old fairgrounds and later on, near the Currie Municipal Golf Course. It became part of the fourth ward of Midland. In 1892, he petitioned the town council asking that a road be opened on the east side of his

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property, which road became Madison St. off Currie Parkway. He sold the lot in April 1894, a few months before his death, on a land contract.

In the spring election of 1890, Hemingway was elected as a city supervisor over Samuel Sias representing the fourth ward. The following year he was defeated by Sias. In the fall of 1890 he ran again for prosecuting attorney on the prohibition ticket but was defeated. He was on the same ballot for Circuit Court Commissioner. He addressed the crowd at Orangemen's Day in Midland on July 12, 1890 with temperance as his leading topic. In the Feb. 5, 1891 issue of *The Republican*, Hemingway commended Prof. W. W. Bennett, a leading instructor in penmanship who was to organize a penmanship class in Midland. In a letter to Bennett, his good friend and acquaintance, he described him not only as a man of unrivaled ability in that art, but as a gentleman who never swears, uses no tobacco and drinks no whiskey.

When George wrote his autobiography in 1892, he expressed a feeling of regret that his life had not measured up to his hopes or standards, and hoped that the reader might learn from the results of his life. The following is quoted from the final paragraphs of his autobiography:

Some fifty years ago God called me to preach the Gospel of Christ, but like Jonah of old I disobeyed the divine command and ran away from my duty to engage in some secular avocation in pursuit of wealth: but the Supreme Ruler of events has not allowed me to succeed in any worldly business. I have engaged in various secular employments for over forty years, and although I have appeared to prosper for a while at different times, yet within a few years some cir-

cumstance would invariably arise that would sweep away all of my accumulated wealth and leave me as poor as when I first began; so that at the present time I am but little better than a pauper. In fact, if it were not for my government pension I should to-day be dependant upon my friends or the public for the means of support. But why should I fret against God, or complain against the hardship of my lot, while it is evident that I am receiving but a small portion of the punishment I deserve for my disobedience to the Divine command?

And now in conclusion let me entreat that my children and all others who may read this narrative may learn wisdom by the unfavorable results of my misspent life. And then if the Blessed Savior could accept the repentant thief upon the cross, may I not hope that in his infinite mercy He will accept the feeble remnant, even the dregs of a life, so much of which has been misspent, and in the last day award me some humble place in the society of the blessed?

Hemingway was called upon at least twice in 1893 and 1894 to occupy the pulpit of the Methodist Church at times when the Rev. Mr. Lowry was away. A short time before his death, Hemingway appeared on the ballot for Circuit Court Commissioner on the Democratic ticket, the Peoples' ticket and the Prohibition ticket, with James W. Cochrane, his opponent, running on the Republican ticket. Cochrane received 1316 votes to Hemingway's 806 votes.

He died on November 19, 1894 of the grippe, or influenza, after being confined to his bed a little over two weeks. The pall bearers were his former law part-

ner Henry Hart, George B. Stanford, M. J. Gue, J. W. Cochrane, Will E. Reardon and H. L. Fairchild, all members of the Midland County Bar. In his will, he stated his desire to be buried in a plain, cheap coffin without any vain show or parade, and that his relatives refrain from putting on crape or any other change of apparel in token of mourning, remembering that sorrows of the real mourner lie too deep down in the heart to be expressed by the vain mockery of outward symbols that cause the wearer to appear unto men to mourn. His will was not probated until after his widow had died on April 6, 1898 in Saginaw.

His children by his first wife Sarah Ann were Phebe Isora Hemingway Beebe Rider Aldrich; Joseph Flint Hemingway; George Smith Hemingway; James A. Hemingway; Lucretia Darleska Hemingway Marston; Franklyn William Hemingway, who died at age 2; and Sarah Elmira Hemingway Barnum. By his second wife Harriet, he had Carolyn A. Hemingway, who lived less than a month; Frank L. Hemingway; Ella May Hemingway Hanks and Cora E. Hemingway Terrill. Three of his sons volunteered in the Civil War, the older two from Lapeer County. The oldest, Joseph, was killed in the battle of Chickamauga, for which his father George received a pension of \$12 per month in 1887. The son James lived with his father until he enlisted in Berrien County. James must have been in Midland in about 1872, because *The Midland Republican* reports on March 10, 1899 that he was in Midland that week paying long since outlawed bills, including \$3 for an old livery bill and \$10 for a pair of boots he bought 27 years ago or more. He claimed to have had a new religious experience and wanted to pay his debts. He then moved to Washington state to live with his sister Lucretia Marston. Soon after, he moved to Los Angeles

County, California, where he was married for the first time at age 57 and then three more times as the wives predeceased him. A son was born to him by his first wife when he was 59.

George's oldest daughter Phebe, called Isora, left descendants in the Midland area. Born on September 12, 1838 in Orion township, Oakland Co., Michigan, she was married three times. She had several children by Marcus Beebe before he enlisted in the Civil War. He deserted at the beginning of the battle of Stone's River at Murfreesboro, Tenn. and went to Canada. Isora then divorced him and married John Wesley Rider in South Dansville, Steuben Co., New York. Mr. Rider was an older man and died in 1878. She moved to Midland in 1881. In December of that year, Mr. Beebe visited Midland from his home in Ionia County. It was reported in the Midland Sun of September 7 that he had "caused some commotion by making certain demonstrations indicative of a disposition to kill his (and Mrs. B's) son George. Beebe was locked up and his case will be looked into tomorrow." In the next issue of December 15, the following appeared: "They let off the poor old slouchy and divorced Beebe after keeping him in jail over Thursday night. Things were not quite so bad as was currently reported about town. Guess he just wanted to see his wife and children and had no thought of shooting any of them."

It was related to me by Isora's daughter-in-law Mrs. Leona Rider that at some point Mark Beebe convinced Isora to follow him to Kansas. She had her furniture shipped there; but when she arrived, neither he nor the furniture was to be found.

Her father Mr. Hemingway sent her money to return home to Midland. Then on Christmas of 1882, Isora announced that she had been married in nearby Bay City to Garner Aldrich, whose wife Sarah Albee had died of diphtheria a year earlier. This marriage apparently never actually occurred, but they lived together as husband and wife until about 1900, when Garner went to Sandpoint, Idaho and married Mrs. Curtis, whom he had met in Midland. A wealth of family information and depositions is found in the Civil War pension file of Garner Aldrich, resulting from a question of whether Hester Curtis was free to marry Garner. The final decision was that she was not eligible but was finally granted a pension by an Act of Congress. However, this would be another story. Isora had two children by John Rider; Fritz and John. Fritz had several children who lived in Saginaw, while several of John's children remained in Midland. John Rider, my grandfather, married Gertrude Aldrich, a daughter of Garner Aldrich. John died in 1828 as a result of an automobile accident in Saginaw County. Gertie died in 1942 in Midland.

Thomas Bowen

### Tips

I have scanned obituaries and news articles from newspapers that I have found in several collections from deceased relatives. One thing that I found was lacking was the presence of a newspaper name, date and page number which are all very necessary for citing sources. Especially in the instance of an obituary, a date would be very beneficial as an obituary might not include the date of death. Some may only say that the deceased passed to the other world on Friday last.

If you are in the habit of clipping articles, remember to write this information down on your clipping.

### Web Sites of Interest

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/>.

DistantCousin.com is an online archive of genealogy records and scanned images of historical documents from a wide variety of sources, such as newspaper obituaries, city directories, census records, ship lists, school yearbooks, military records, and more. In all there are more than 6 million genealogy records from over 1,500 sources online. There are no fees or memberships required to use the records at DistantCousin.

Online searchable death indexes and records can be found at <http://www.deathindexes.com/>. This website is a directory of online death indexes listed by state and county. Included are death records, death certificate indexes, death notices & registers, obituaries, probate indexes, and cemetery & burial records. You can also find information here about searching the Social Security Death Index online.

Findmypast.com. With millions of family history records online, Find My Past makes it easy to research your UK ancestry and create your family tree. Search census records and trace births, marriages and deaths to bring your family history to life.

Familytreemagazine.com The website for the magazine offers many free downloadable forms and listing of genealogical terms to assist you with your research. There is also a monthly podcast. (podcast: an online audio file). While you are visiting their site, sign up to receive their email newsletter which offers tips and news.

[www.ancientfaces.com](http://www.ancientfaces.com) is a free website for sharing family history and family photos online.

<http://www.obitcentral.com/> Obituary Central is an obituary database for finding obituaries and performing cemetery searches

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*Pioneer Record*

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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.