

PIONEER RECORD

MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. III, No. 5

April 1983

"October 1949

ABOUT MIDLAND CO.

Marjorie Lefler

EARLY MIDLAND DAYS RECALLED

"George A. Moll, Tittabawassee Street that it was exactly 70 years ago this month he first came to Midland, has many memories of early Midland Days.

'Moll born in Cincinnati, Ohio was going on 10 when he and his mother made the trip to Michigan to join his father here. 'Father met us at the station,' says Moll 'and I well remember the 1st. meal I ever ate in Michigan, it was at Maggie Cunninghams well-known eatery on Main Street, a place where many a logger and traveler in those days stopped to get a good square meal in Midland.'

"The Midland housing situation was critical then too recalls Moll, 'the only building father could find was the old tannery then located at the foot of the upper bridge here; he says so we fixed it up and moved in. I can remember later helping to dig out the big curing vats in the back yard, with their thick, solid planking as good as the day it was laid.'

"Moll was a lumber-woods worker at the age of 17 and recalls the biggest roll away ever known, of the Famous Red Keg, the peak logging years of 1882-1883 on Michigan rivers and the last drives of the Sturgeon and the west branch of the Kawkawlin River.

"'I can remember seeing the Tittabawassee River plugged with logs from here to Liberty Beach in Saginaw', he says, 'where they were sorted out to the 38 different mills in the Saginaw Valley.'

"Places of Employment about Midland that Moll remembers are the Snake Creek shingle mill of John Molone, Cleveland wooden ware or the old elm works on the flats, Reardon Brothers pail factory, the old Grist mill and Salt block on Main Street, Patricks shingle mill and the head works located a little farther down river where he helped saw out the first cedar blocks for Midland Main Pavment (sic).

"'I was one of the Midland Salt and Lumber workers at the time of the big Blow-up in 1892' says Moll, 'and believe I am the last one left to recall an explosion there that injured many and made history at the time.'

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As spring arrives, there are a number of things going on in the Midland Genealogical Society. On March 12, we had a very successful Beginner's Workshop which was organized by Marion Berry, assisted by a number of expert members.

The big project continues to be the preparation for the Michigan Genealogical Society Seminar which we are hosting on September 30 and October 1 of this year. If you haven't volunteered to help with this project, get in touch with Ruth Ann Casadonte (835-5115) who is the seminar chairman.

Another large project is the Midland County Census scheduled for publication this summer, including the 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880 U.S. censuses and the 1894 state census. Jo Brines is chairman for this project.

Nancy Humphrey is preparing the naturalization records (to 1908) for publication and they are almost ready to go to the printer.

We are also approaching the time for election of officers for next year. If you would like to volunteer or have a recommendation for one of the offices, get in touch with a member of the nominating committee. Nominations can also be made from the floor when elections are held at the May meeting.

I hope to see you at the April meeting when Les Berry will tell us how to trace our Civil War ancestors.

Ecol

COMING EVENTS

- April 20 Wed., 7:15 p.m., Library Lounge, "How to Trace Your Civil War Ancestor," with Les Berry.
- April 27 Wed., 7:30 p.m., Genealogical/Computing Meeting, Bill & Pat Worden, 1201 Glendale, Midland (631-7801).
- April 30 Sat., Saginaw Genealogical Society Seminar, Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, Mi., 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., \$19 until April 21, "Researching England & New England" with Meredith B. Calket of Western Reserve, Cleveland, OH.
- May 18 Wed., 7:15 p.m., Library Lounge, General Meeting.
- Sept. 30 - October 1, Fri. & Sat., Michigan Genealogical Council Seminar, Great Hall, Midland, "Canadian Research."

EARLY MIDLAND HISTORY -- WHERE DO YOU START ?

A Midland native can be a rare find in this age of mobility. Yet whether you have Midland roots and wish to learn more about your ancestors or you are merely curious about Midland history and its early pioneers, there is much help available to you.

The name "Dow" is synonymous with the Midland we know today. But, weren't there many settlers here before Herbert Henry Dow arrived on the scene? Will the street names of the area give us a clue to these early pioneers? Will a slow trip down Main Street offer clues to early merchants of the town? Should you visit the Midland Cemetery and/or others to discover who lived and died here? With Midland being the county seat, should you visit the County Clerk and the Register of Deeds for further information?

The answer is "yes" to all of the above. However, I strongly suggest that you make your first stop the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library at the corner of West St. Andrews and Eastman Road. Many steps may be saved and puzzle pieces found by using the resources available there.

If this is your first venture into historical or genealogical studies, ask at the reference desk and they will direct you to the genealogy section on the lower level.

Following are some of the materials available, all of which will give you insight into the pioneers of the Midland area. Although none of these may be checked out, all of the material can be copied either on the microfilm reader/printer or the photocopy machines available.

REFERENCE MATERIALS ON EARLY MIDLAND COUNTY HISTORY AND PIONEERS: BOOKS

- RM Portrait and Biographical Album of Midland County Michigan Chicago. 1884
920
Mid
- RM Midland County, Michigan Cemetery Records, Midland Genealogical Society.
929.3 1981
Mi
- RM The County of Midland Michigan Official Register, History, Art Folio and
977.4 Directory Saginaw. 1897
Mid
- RM Michigan Historical Collections - 40 volumes Michigan Pioneer and Historical
977.4 Society. 1877-1929
Mid
- RM Midland County Michigan Miscellaneous Record Book - Marriages 1855-1871
977.4 Saginaw Genealogical Society. 1976
Mid
- RM Upper Tittabawassee River Boom Towns by Stan Berriman. 1970
977.4
Mid

- RM Coleman Area 1871 - 1971 edited by Helen Stickley Mudd and Christine
977.4 Porter O'Laughlin
Mid
- RM Coleman, A Mill Town of Pioneer Michigan 1870-1964 by Alma Jane Preston
977.4 High
Mid
- RM The First White People in Midland by Harold W. Moll 1977 (there are a number
977.4 of other books by Moll concerning the Midland area)
Mid
- RM Various Midland Area Church Histories and Directories
285.109
- RM Midland County Centennial 1950
977.4
Mid
- Numerous Family Histories -- check the top shelf

MICROFILMED MATERIAL

Early Land Records of Midland County 1854-1915 -- indexed

Federal Census: 1820 & 1830 - Michigan; 1840 - Saginaw County (including
Midland); 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900 Midland County

State Census -- 1894 - Midland County

Naturalization Records of Midland County

OTHER MATERIALS

Midland County Plat Map 1897

Index of Obituaries found in early Midland newspapers - 1872 - 1887 (volunteers
continue the indexing of early papers)

"Midland Log" -- a Quarterly Journal of the Midland County Historical Society

"Midland Historic District Report" -- Midland Historic District Study Com-
mittee. October 1978

Midland History Information found in the Vertical File next to the Reference
Desk.

The Library hours are 10 - 9 Monday through Friday, 10 - 5 on Saturday and 1 - 5 on
Sunday. During the summer, the library is closed on Sunday.

Volunteers from the Midland Genealogical Society are on hand to help you on Monday
mornings and Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Often there is a member on duty on
Friday evening as well. Whenever you visit the Library, don't hesitate to ask questions.

Information about early Midland history and the men and women who lived it will be shared in future issues of the "Pioneer Record".

-Ruth Ann Casadonte-

MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL NOTES

Legislative Chairman, Joan Harvey, informed the Council that, at long last, the Administrative Rules from the Department of Public Health were approved in committee. The governor had ten days to sign, and then file with the Secretary of State, to take effect 15 days later. Assuming signature by Governor Blanchard, this means these new rules should be in effect by about April 3 or 4. A copy of the rules is attached...we suggest that you take it along any time you're going to a County Clerk's office in Michigan.

The State Library has been transferred (effective March 30) from the Department of Education to the Legislative Service Bureau. The Governor will be appointing a State Library Board. Michigan Genealogical Council has recommended two possible nominees: Joan Harvey and Dr. Joseph Druse.

Several publication projects are underway by the Council. A County Records Survey will probably be ready for publication early summer. Work continues on abstracting the mammoth surname index. The project is about 1/2 completed at this time. New surname cards will be accepted in a few months but new instructions are being prepared to make future entries easier to handle for publication. The Centennial Certificate file will be filmed soon by the Genealogical Society of Utah. At that time, separate filming of the applications only will be done to record that information on microfiche. Some consideration is being given to purchase of a microfiche copier by the Council.

Member societies are apparently going to be allowed two delegates in attendance at each meeting in the future if proposed constitutional changes are approved. The Council had allowed only one delegate recently due to a change in meeting space, but the executive committee feels that is not the problem they had anticipated.

Wilma Diesen, Delegate

* * * * *

Please send your typewritten or printed news items and queries for PIONEER RECORD to Pat Worden, 1201 Glendale (631-7801) or Marilyn Watkins, 3716 Blarney (631-5337), both Midland, Mi. 48640.

Send also your Surname lists to Pat Worden. Only those names which have not previously been submitted should be sent. For clarity, these lists should also be typed or printed.

Books Worth Checking Out

The Atlantic Crossing, by Melvin Maddocks & Editors of Time/Life Books, 1981...begins with "Pioneering Sails on a Trackless Sea." It is an indepth history which covers all facets of the ships, their crews, cargos and passengers sailing primarily between England and America. The beautiful color plates are worth studying in themselves. "Emigration at Full Tide," the final chapter, graphically portrays the lot of the emigrant during the 1200's aboard ship and upon arrival to America. The nightmare journey for the majority of people (only 2% travelled as cabin passengers) was one that defied description; but the author does a good job of placing us at the scene. 1847 became known as the Year of the Plague in transatlantic migration: of the 250,000 who left the British Isles for North America that year, 20,000 died during or shortly after their journey. The drawings showing steerage life, the tales related by passengers, the flagrant disregard (by captains and ship owners) of laws protecting the emigrant/immigrant leave one to wonder in amazement that our forefathers ever completed their journey, or that upon arriving here were ever able physically to carve out a new life for themselves. - Call #0387.5 Ma (oversize book)

As We Were, by Bellamy Partridge & Otto Bettmann, 1946...is a delightful book portraying family life in America from 1850 to 1900, both in words and pictures. The latter are reproductions of pencil sketches which were made into woodcuts used widely by the newspaper and magazine industry of the time. As the authors state, "pictures were merely peep-holes, offering a segment of reality." These "peep-holes" cover every aspect of American life during this time frame from work to customs to play, and are divided into three parts: County Living, The Great Divide: Civil War, and Lure of the City. - Call #0973. - (oversize book)

New Books on the Shelf Downstairs

The Bay County Story, by Leslie E. Arndt, 1982, 635 pp...memoirs of the county's first 125 years. This paperback book was written by an historian and former columnist for the Bay City Times. It contains an interesting calendar of notable events that took place from 1634 to 1977 and has a good surname/event index. - Call # RM 977.447 Ar

Index to Federal Population Census of Macomb Co., Mich., 1880, edited by Donald Worrell, Jr., 1980, 99 pp... - Call # RG 929.377 Wo

Michigan Censuses, 1710-1830 under the French, British & Americans, edited by Donna Valley Russell, 1982, 291 pp...an excellent work. The original documents were checked thus correcting errors of previous published lists...records in the Archives of France, Canada & Washington, D.C. The 1820 Census is especially interesting because genealogical material has been added on each name at the bottom of each page. Indexed. - Call # RG 929.3774 Mi

Books at Chippewa Nature Center Library

Discover Your Roots, by Marilyn M. Heimberg, 1977, 71 pp..."A new easy guide to tracing your family tree"...excellent, down-to-earth information...the best I've seen for a beginner.

MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL 1983 Fall Seminar will be held in Midland September 30 - October 1. As the host Society we are responsible, among other things, for the displays which are to be for the enjoyment of the people coming to the Seminar.

We need your cooperation for them to be a success. We do not need original records. We only want to show the variety of ways vital statistics were recorded.

Following are some ideas of things we would like to have:

family newsletters and society publications -- we need only the front page (can be copied) and a 3 x 5 unlined card with address typed on it.

crafts and needlework projects -- ways to preserve history of family quilts, cross stitch or needlepoint family trees, handmade Coats of Arms, etc., items that symbolize country of origin.

copies of birth - death- marriage - wills - land records - etc.

odds and ends -- interesting or unusual items that would be of interest to genealogy

maps -- since the topics are Canada and Loyalist, maps should have a direct link with Canada

Contact Nancy Lackie, Ruth Ann Casadonte or bring to any genealogy meeting before summer starts. This will enable us to work on them in the summer.

NEWS ' N NOTES

A quarterly newsletter, \$12 yearly, titled WORTHINGTON DESCENDANTS, has recently begun. For further information, write to the Editors, Frances Brengle & Bette Brengle-Poole, 6619 Pheasant Rd., Rte#16, Baltimore, MD 21220.

The Shiawassee County Genealogical Society announces its first published booklet, NATURALIZATION RECORDS OF SHIAWASSEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN. Prices are \$4 for society members and \$6 non-members (an additional \$1.50 should be added for postage). You can order by sending a check to the society, P. O. Box 145, Owosso, Mi. 48867.

The Johnson County Genealogical Society and Library, Inc. has recently published their new 800 page volume containing nearly 28,000 names, JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS, CEMETERIES. You can purchase your copy by sending \$27.50 plus \$1.10 Kansas Sales Tax and delivery cost of \$2 per book (pre-publication price) to the society, P. O. Box 8057, Shawnee Mission, KS 66208.

MGS ANCESTOR CHARTS (continued)

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Member</u>
KNEPP	MC KELLAR	MAC CHRISTENSON	THORNTON
KNIGHT	BRINES, BUTCHER, HOFFMAN	MAC CULLOCK	ANDERSON
KNOWLES	MOYER	MAC(K)FARLAND	BUTCHER
KNOWLTON	FREER	MACEY	HILLMAN
KNOX	MOYER	MACHELL	HILLMAN
KNUTH	K SCHWEITZER	MACHUM	HILLMAN
KOESTER	WORDEN	MACY	B BIRKHIMER, BUTCHER
KREIGHBAUM	NUECHTERLEIN	MADDOCK	MOYER
KREYSTER	WORDEN	MAGDOX	TOMLINSON
KROGER	PHILLIPS	MAGUFFEY	NUECHTERLEIN
KUPFER	R KENNEDY	MAHIEU	BRINES
KURINA	DEBORSKI	MAI	HOFFMAN
LA POLLA	HOFFMAN	MAKEPIECE	HILLMAN
LACKIE	LACKIE	MAKIN	POMRANKY
LAISON	LACKIE	MANN	NUECHTERLEIN
LAKE	FREER, HILLMAN	MANNING	POMRANKY
LAMB	FREER	MANSFIELD	BRINES
LAMBERT	ANDERSON, BUTCHER	MANSON	HILLMAN
LANCOCK	NUECHTERLEIN	MARBLE	LACKIE
LANG	WORDEN	MARR	BUTCHER
LANGDON	CASSIDAY, FREER	MARSH	BUTCHER; R KENNEDY
LANGLEY	WILSON, BUTCHER	MARSHALL	WILSON, HILLMAN, BUTCHER, ALBEE, HOFFMAN, GRISWOLD, THORNTON
LANKTON	FREER	MARTIN	BRINES, FURLO, E JOHNSON, LEWIS, R KENNEDY
LANPHIERD	WILLIAMS	MARTUCCI	WATKINS
LATHAM	B BIRKHIMER, BRINES	MASON	BUTCHER, PANKEY, WILSON, ANDERSON
LATHEY	S SCHWEITZER	MAST	LACKIE
LATIMER	BRINES	MATHER	LACKIE
LATOCKI	GEHOSKI	MATTESON	BAKER
LATOSKI	GEHOSKI	MATTOCKS	FREER, MOYER
LAWRENCE	DIESEN, NUECHTERLEIN	MAUDEN	K SCHWEITZER
LE PEAK	GEHOSKI	MAVERICK	WILSON
LEACH	HILLMAN, B BIRKHIMER	MAXHAM	BUTCHER
LEARNARD	BUTCHER	MAXIM	BUTCHER
LEARNED	BUTCHER	MAYHEW	WILSON, BUTCHER, HILLMAN
LEAVITT	HILLMAN, CASSIDAY	MAYO	BUTCHER, WILSON
LEE	LEE, OWEN	MC ALLISTER	RAYBOURN
LEEDS	BUTCHER	MC ARTHUR	ALBEE, GRISWOLD, THORNTON
LEETH	E BIRKHIMER	MC CARTHY	FURLO
LEFFINGWELL	BUTCHER	MC CARTY	CASSIDAY
LEICHLITER	WILSON	MC CORMICK	E BIRKHIMER
LEMASTERS	POMRANKY	MC COUN	NUECHTERLEIN
LEONARD	BUTCHER	MC COWEN	WORDEN
LEPEK	GEHOSKI	MC CRACKEN	CASSIDAY
LEPPEK	GEHOSKI	MC CULLEN	MC CULLEN
LEPPINGWELL	BUTCHER	MC CULLEY	WALING
LERCH	DIESEN	MC CULLOUGH	PANKEY
LEWIS	BUTCHER, CRUMMETT, HILLMAN, MC KELLAR	MC DERMOTT	LEWIS
LINDALL	B BIRKHIMER	MC DONALD	K SCHWEITZER
LINTZ	LEE	MC FARLAND	BUTCHER
LIST	TOMLINSON	MC FARLEN	BUTCHER
LITTELL	HILLMAN	MC FARLIN	BUTCHER
LITTLEFIELD	BUTCHER, B BIRKHIMER	MC FAUN	BUTCHER
LITTLETON	PANKEY	MC GILL	BUTCHER, E BIRKHIMER
LIVINGSTON	VIRGIL	MC INTIRE	PANKEY
LOBDELL	B BIRKHIMER	MC KELLAR	MC KELLAR
LOCKHART	WATKINS	MC KINNON	GEHOSKI
LOCKWOOD	B BIRKHIMER	MC KOWN	WORDEN
LOMBARD	BUTCHER	MC LEAN	ALBEE, GRISWOLD, THORNTON
LONG	BUTCHER, HILLMAN, NUECHTERLEIN	MC LOCK	WATKINS
LONGLEY	S SCHWEITZER, ANDERSON	MC MILLIN	R KENNEDY
LOOMIS	NUECHTERLEIN	MC MULLIN	PANKEY
LORD	GRISWOLD	MC NAMEE	HOFFMAN
LOREING	WILSON, POMRANKY	MC NEAL	DIESEN
LORING	WILSON, POMRANKY	MC PHERSON	CASSIDAY, WORDEN
LOSSING	MC CULLEN	MC QUISTON	E JOHNSON
LOTHROP	B BIRKHIMER, BUTCHER	MC VAY	WALING
LOVE	S SCHWEITZER		
LOVELL	GEHOSKI		
LOVETT	LACKIE		

Moll (continued)

"Moll also worked on the Pere Marquette railroad and was section boy for more than 11 years before quitting to go to work at Dow, where he states on September 27, 1932, he suffered an accident which cost him the fingers of his left hand.

"Moll was married to Mrs. Angeline Bancroft in 1894 and children born to that union include Mrs. Clare O'dell of Sanford, Mrs. Mattie Matthews, Midland, Mrs. Bruce Wray, Midland, Charles Moll of Gaylord, John and Vernon Moll of Midland, one son George died about four years ago. Moll's stepchildren include Mrs. Roy Hicks, Route 3, Midland, Mrs. Nettie Love, Midland, and the late Mrs. Alice Pomranky. He has 24 grandchildren and 44 great grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren. His wife Angeline Bancroft Moll died in 1933.

"Moll who served as City Councilman for 4th Ward for 12 years will celebrate his 88th birthday December 23 of this year. 'I can remember many, many things of the old days,' he says, 'but few are the folks left hereabouts who can remember and talk over the old times with me. Nearly everyone I worked with or went to school with is gone now.

"Moll who for all his 80 years is still very active says he walks downtown most every day in hopes of finding someone to visit with and he is often seen enjoying the ball games at Emerson Park.

"In 70 years of residence on the banks of the Tittabawassee I've seen many, many changes, he concludes. 'Time was when the best suit in town could be bought for \$9 or \$10 and shoes \$2.50 and time was when Tittabawassee Street, here by the upper bridge was lined with houses on both sides.

"But 'one thing that still remains is the same everlasting Tittabawassee River floods,' he declared a bit testily 'which for 70 years I have hoped to see controlled and for 70 years have still kept coming.'"

(George A. Moll died June 18, 1954)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, c/o Membership Chr.

1710 W. St. Andrews Drive, Midland, Mi. 48640

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL _____ NEW _____ Membership Year July 1 - June 30

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

(_____) INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP - \$7 (initial family member)

(_____) ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS - \$3.50 (one newsletter/family)

THE BACK PAGE

Books (continued.)

A Celebration of American Family Folklore, by Zeitlin, Kotkin, Baker, 1982, 291 pp...tales & traditions from the Smithsonian Collection. 2,000 family members were interviewed from 1974-77 at Smithsonian's Festival of American Folklife. The result is this compilation of stories, expressions, keepsakes and customs which characterize family life, plus five family histories...to show you what you can put in yours.

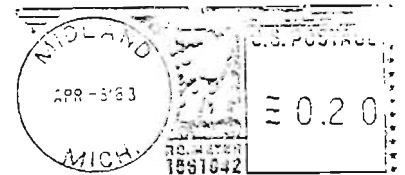
Marion Berry, April 1983

JEFFERSON'S TEN RULES

- 'Take things always by the smooth handle.
- Never spend your money before you have it.
- We seldom repent of having eaten too little.
- Pride costs more than hunger, thirst, and cold.
- Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly.
- Put not off till to-morrow what you can do to-day.
- Never trouble another for what you can do yourself.
- Never buy what you don't want because it is cheap.
- How much pain the evils have cost us that never have happened.
- When angry, count ten before you speak; if very angry, count a hundred.

There are two kinds of people . . .
 Those who do the work
 and those who take the credit.
 Try to be in the first group.
 there is much less
 competition there.

MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
 Grace A. Dow Memorial Library
 1710 East St. Andrews
 Midland, Mi. 48640



Marilyn Watkins
 3716 Blarney Drive
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