



PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

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Midland Genealogical Society Programs for 2010 - 2011

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

Programs for the meetings are as follows.

Nov 17, 2010 meeting 7:00 Library

Lounge "Navigating Rootsweb and USGenWeb" by Robert Snyder

January 19, 2011 7:00 pm Library

Lounge "Holdings in the MGS Room" by Catherine Redwine.

February 16, 2011 7:00 pm Library

Lounge "Interpreting Headstone Symbolism" by Kyle Bagnall.

March 16, 2011 Annual program with Library

April 20, 2011 7:00 pm Library Lounge
:Andrick Family History" by Floyd Andrick

Coal: the Alternative Fuel of Our Ancestors

By Gloria Kundinger

In today's society, people talk about "green energy," the need for new fuel sources, and the high price of heating oil and gasoline. Crude oil deposits are not renewable and soon will be depleted. Solar panels, ethanol made from fodder, and battery powered cars are being considered as alternative sources of energy. Those who lived in the Saginaw Valley during the late 1800s faced a similar situation with the depletion of the once plentiful stands of timber which was their source of fuel. With the discovery of coal in the region, came the promise of an inexpensive alternative source of energy.

Most of the nation's coal came from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia. However coal was also mined in Michigan beginning in 1835. Around 46 million tons were produced between 1860 and 1945 when the majority of mining in Michigan ended. The first mine was located in Jackson, but most of it later came from the Saginaw Valley. The presence of coal in Bay County was discovered in 1861 by William Walker who was drilling a brine well in Bay City for the Michigan Pipe Company. He shoveled coal into a sack and gave it to city officials to use in their wood stove. They thought this discovery to be "interesting," but did not pursue it further since there was plenty of wood in the area to use as fuel for boiling brine and heating homes.

In 1866, the Pioneer Coal Company was founded after the discovery of a

vein of coal in south Bay City that was several feet thick. However the endeavor was dumped when company leaders became unsure that a profit could be made mining this find.

Up north in neighboring Arenac County, an old Pennsylvania miner, Ira Bennett, suspected coal in the area from a familiar taste in his water. He dug a shaft horizontally near the Rifle River bank and found a vein. The Eureka Coal Company was formed by Bay City investors who purchased the land and dug a vertical hole. They found good quality coal in a vein eight feet deep. After mining two or three hundred tons, they had many interested coal buyers from around the state. The company officials could not persuade the Michigan Central Railroad to build a five-mile line to the mine because wood was still plentiful as a source of fuel, and the coal venture was too risky.

Elsewhere in the Saginaw Valley, other coal mining companies began operations in the ensuing years. In 1890, there was a mine located near Sebawaing in Huron County. Later the Robert Gage Mine No.10 was dug in Tuscola County near Unionville. It is rumored to have tunnels that reach under Saginaw Bay. A

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The President's Letter

Interesting things are happening in our Society. The Michigan Genealogical Council in its newsletter this summer alerted the member Societies to the need to file IRS reports annually. Dave Russell, Shirley Russell and Jo Brines did extensive research in the old files to verify our status. We have for more than 20 years been a non-profit society in the eyes of the state but had decided years ago not to file non-profit status with the federal government. We no longer have that option. Dave researched this and we now have a federal EIN number and are regarded by the government as a non-profit society. This step was accomplished without the need for filing the proof paperwork or payment of a fee which might become necessary if our status is ever challenged by the Internal Revenue Service.

In the event the documentation of our status is ever required we needed some modifications to our bylaws, particularly concerning what would happen to the assets of the Society if the organization ever disbanded. The committee of Faye Ebach and Bob Snyder worked on proposed changes to present at the November meeting of the Society. These must be presented at one meeting and voted on at the next. It is our hope to have this completed in January. A copy of the proposed bylaws changes is attached to this issue of the Pioneer Record.

As we mailed notices about the new marriage book, the question arose as to why the Society did not have a post office box for conducting business. The Board decided that we should proceed with that and we have accordingly rented a box. Our new mailing address is P O Box 2421, Midland MI 48641-2421. It

will be listed on our web site as a contact address for people desiring assistance from Society members in local genealogical research and as the contact point for purchase of Society publications.

Wilma Diesen, President



Facts cannot be copyrighted.

From The Editor...

As the Holidays draw near, let us reflect on holidays of past with families gathered around the table or family room. Do you still use the same recipe's handed down from your ancestors? Do you remember meeting family members for the first time during the holidays?

Write down your remembrances of your uncles, aunts, cousins, grand parents. Don't be afraid to write your opinions of them. Did they smoke a pipe or play music? Your children and grandchildren should appreciate reading this. It helps to un-

derstand family members that you may never have met.

As always, I am always looking for new content for the newsletter. If you have something to contribute, please send it to me.

This issue has more fine articles. I have learned a lot from the article on the coal mines that I had not known before. I hope that you will enjoy it to.

We still have some great speakers lined up for the remaining meetings. I hope that you can attend.

Walt Bennett
Editor

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2010-2011

The collection of MGS Membership dues for 2010-2011 has concluded. The MGS Treasurer and Membership Chair have been collecting dues since early August. If your dues are not paid, this will be the last issue of the Pioneer Record that you will receive.

Midland Genealogical Society, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St Andrews Drive, Midland, MI 48640. Dues for an individual are \$14.00; for a family they are \$17.50.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

During October we welcomed new members Annette Rogers and Thora and Lon Goodnight, and returning members Betty Bellous and Ruth Ann Casadonte. We are happy to have them join us and look forward to sharing an interesting year of discovery!

Our current membership includes 67 Individual and 22 Family Memberships for a total of 111 Members. If you have not yet renewed your membership and wish to do so, please send dues and your updated information as soon as possible. Information you provide on the renewal form will become part of the 2010-2011 MGS directory that is being prepared for distribution to all members.

This is the time of year many of

us visit research facilities and attend genealogical events. On these occasions don't forget to wear your MGS Lapel Pin! It might possibly prompt a question about our society and give you a chance to talk about our programs and publications, or extend an invitation to an interested person to attend one of our monthly meetings. If you don't have a MGS Lapel Pin and wish to purchase one, they are \$5.00 and are available at the sign-in table during meetings, or you can contact me directly. All proceeds support our group projects.

Dona McArdle, Membership Chair

ByLaws Revision Committee Report

Faye Ebach

The ByLaws Revision Committee, following recommendations from the Board, presents the following proposed revision of our MGS ByLaws. In an effort to respond to current IRS rules relating to non-profit organizations, our treasurer, Dave Russell, has investigated the current non-profit status of the MGS. The MGS is a non-profit organization incorporated by the state of Michigan. In reference to the IRS, the MGS is also a non-profit organization and has an EIN number. The proposed ByLaws revision includes specific references to the non-profit status of the MGS, as well as a required statement regarding dissolution of the organization as a not-profit, in the event that should ever occur.

These proposed ByLaws revisions will be presented for discussion at the November 17 MGS general meeting.



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.)

A collection of "Some Midland Michigan County Records" have been compiled and extensively indexed by Ora L. Flaningham. It is available in PDF format on a compact disc from the Midland Genealogical Society. The collection is mainly out of print books from our society, Harold Moll, and Ora Flaningham. Included are: "Midland County Cemetery Records" 1981, "Midland County Michigan Census 1850-1894 (1983)", "Midland County Michigan Obituary Index 1872-1927 (1994)", "Midland Pioneers", vol 1 (1999) & vol 2, "Midland County Michigan Probate Index 1850-1900", "Early Saginaw Valley History", "Bethany Indian Mission 1843-1855", "Bethany Indian Mission 1851-1868", "In the Wilderness With the Red Indians", "Account Book of Charles H. Rodd", "Indian Build a Birch Bark Canoe", and Index to First Families of Midland County". The cost of this CD is \$25 shipping included in US.

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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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couple of mines existed then in Saginaw County as well.

In 1894, the Monitor Coal Company was formed after coal was discovered in Bay County's Monitor Township on the Zill farm while drilling for water. Its founder was Alexander Zagelmeyer who had invented a cement-block-making machine that formed blocks with a face that looked like stone. His coal company was a success even though others did not think it would be profitable. Located five miles west of Bay City, the Monitor Mine began production in 1896. Coal was mined there at the rate of 300 tons per day and transported by ships or train to other areas of the state. This coal was a bituminous grade of high quality.

The Bay City Mine began operations across the road from Zagelmeyer's mine in 1896. The Michigan Mine opened for business in the same vicinity a little while later. The Robert Gage Coal Company of Jackson, Michigan, purchased the Monitor Mine. Other mines were established by other companies in Frankenlust Township and the surrounding area.

By the end of the 1800s, the lumbering industry in the Saginaw Valley had begun to fade with the depletion of timber. Businessmen who were involved with lumbering either moved to a new timber area or invested in new ventures here. Coal mining became a good prospect for them. Names like Fisher, Zagelmeyer, the Handy Brothers, Sovereign, and Westover were local investors. Also larger companies from other parts of the state or nation bought up existing mines, dug them, or leased land for mining in the Saginaw

Valley. Local businesses profited as well from sales of mining supplies and equipment. Michigan coal was not as high quality as Pennsylvania or Ohio coal, but business was lucrative because transportation costs were less for its use within the state than for coal bought elsewhere.

In Michigan about 4,500 men were employed in the thirty-seven mines around the state during the early 1900s. Twenty-five Bay County mines had a labor force of 1,600 men in 1907. In 1910, forty mines were in



Black Diamond Mine

Picture from *Auburn and Williams Township* with permission of Agness Schmidt

operation. Also many mines existed in Saginaw County. A mine's workforce consisted of 180 men on average. The range was 50 to 400 men depending on its size.

In the Saginaw/Bay County area, nine mines were operated by the Robert Gage Company of Jackson. The first two were located near Bay City. Number 3 was where Tri-City Speedway, on Eight Mile Rd., is located. Its slag pile is now the track's base. Number 4's whereabouts is unknown. Number 5 and 6 are in the Eight Mile and Midland Rd. area. Number 7, called the Black Diamond Mine, was located in the vicinity south of U.S. 10 between Seven and Eight Mile

Roads. Finished in the late 1920s, it was the last Bay County Robert Gage mine in operation. Numbers 8 and 9 were located near St. Charles in Saginaw County.

In 1908, there were about 300 villagers residing in Auburn. The village began to grow with the opening of the Wolverine No. 3 Mine—the first in Williams Township. In a five-mile radius surrounding Auburn, nine mines became operational in the next decade. Local residents found jobs in

the mines as well as miners who moved to Auburn to be near their work. Houses were built or moved to the village for the new residents and the population increased. "Company stores" were not erected since miners were paid in cash and not script.

During WWI, the Wolverine Mine was in its heyday. Everyday people in wagons lined up to buy coal. They came from as far as Pinconning and waited long hours to get a load. The coal sold for \$3.50 to \$4.00 per ton.

Mineshafts were dug by hand and

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measured ten feet square or larger and going down 150 feet. Several months or more were required to dig the main shaft. A group of local farmers dug the Wolverine No. 3 mine. They sold it

were dug at the ends of these tunnels to remove coal. Doors were in place to close off a tunnel. Black powder was replaced by dynamite to blast coal chunks loose. This was done at the end of the shift so the dust could settle before morning. As the miners

fueled around the clock all year long. They produced steam pressure needed to operate the “cages” that hoisted coal, men, mule feed, timbers, etc. Steam ran pumps for water removal and a fan 20 feet in diameter and six feet wide that was used for fresh air circulation in the mine. It also generated electricity which came into use in the mines in 1910.

Other buildings on site included a long wooden bath house for the miners. Along the walls inside, there were benches with water pails used for washing-up. The miners bathed and hung up their clothing made wet in the mine. A blacksmith shop was also located at the mine site, and the mine employed an electrician and carpenter as well as a blacksmith. Another building which sat high in the air was used for sorting and weighing. It was called a “tipple.” A chute below it would allow coal delivery into a train’s coal cars.

Mining was very hard work. Sometimes miners dug coal in a vein two feet high while on their knees or sideways while lying down in several inches of water. Most of the county’s mines had a seepage problem that required pumping or carrying out water. Miners worked in pairs in two rooms—shoveling in one and dynamiting in the other for the next day. Mining companies did not furnish them with dynamite, tools, or clothing. The miners were responsible for supplying these items. Rats lived in the tunnels. Miners had stomach gas or headaches at day’s end from poor ventilation. Miners worked an eight to twelve hour day and were paid 86¢ a ton for “pick work.” Three or four ton was the average day’s work for a miner. The other workers, sorters, inspectors, and foremen were paid by the hour or by the day. The job was dangerous and sometimes there were casualties. The company supplied no



Auburn Mine No. 5
Picture from *Auburn and Williams Township* with permission of Agness Schmidt

because the farmers were unsure how to continue mining once they were through the vein of coal at 151 feet.

Robert Gage acquired the Auburn Coal Mining Company’s mine after their workers took fourteen months and got only 30 feet down their shaft—hampered by water and quicksand. The Robert Gage Company used steel panels that locked together to line the shaft. This method acted as a dam to hold the ground in place.

Following the coal vein, a main passageway dug horizontally in opposite directions was used for mule stalls and coal car storage. It could be 100 feet long and 25 feet wide. Smaller tunnels ran at right angles to the main passage for good ventilation. Large rooms

dug out the coal, timbers were used to brace the ceiling in a room. The coal was loaded into cars which were pulled by mules to the bottom of the shaft. There the cars were hoisted upwards to the top.

The mules were stabled in the mines unless the mine was closed for several months, or they needed new shoes. Water and hay were transported down the shaft and a barn boss took care of them. Mules sported heavy leather helmets for protection from the timbers when they bumped their heads. Many mules spent five years in the mines. Eventually they were replaced by electric locomotives.

A large building at the surface held equipment for the operation of the mine. It was powered by three very large furnaces with boilers that were

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health insurance.

A coal cutting machine similar to a chainsaw was used by miners to cut coal chunks into smaller pieces after mines had electricity. Electricity also lit the tunnels instead of tallow candles. Miners no longer needed helmets with lamps attached. These burned a paraffin material and were preferable to oil which used a lot of oxygen. Carbide lamps were available, too.

Robert Randall of the Saginaw based Consolidated Coal Company opened a mine in Midland County in 1923. Named the Randall Mine, its shaft went down the farthest at 255 feet. According to Agness Schmidt, this mine was located near the present vicinity of the Midland County jail. An article from *The Midland Sun* describes the upcoming event:

Many of the Saginaw Valley coal

mines were closed by the 1930s because the coal was a poorer grade than that mined in other coal producing states and not as desirable elsewhere in the nation. Coal in Bay County was costing more to produce because of extra timbers needed to support mine ceilings made unstable from water seepage. Also oil was becoming the new alternative fuel for heating homes and businesses. Midland County's Randall Mine and The New Monitor Mine that opened in 1933 by area unemployed miners were the last area mines in operation. The Monitor Mine closed in 1947.

Many Auburn and other Saginaw Valley families bear the names of those early coal miners. They had the fortitude to endure the danger and do the hard work needed to make a living from the mines. Their names will be forever imprinted in this region's history books and in the hearts of their descendants as pioneers in an ever evolving search for alternative fuels and new ways to produce energy.

Sources

Will Open Coal Mine Here Soon

Consolidated Coal Company of Saginaw Doing Preliminary Work

The Consolidated Coal Company of Saginaw has held coal rights for several years to valuable coal deposits in Midland County. This company is now surveying and having the preliminary grading done on a side track which will connect with the P. M. (Pere Marquette Railroad) near the Dow plant, paralleling the Bay City Road east to the S. Vlier farm, where the company will sink its first shaft.

Actual work on the shaft will commence early next spring, and it is believed that coal will be mined within a year from (the) date.

Estimates place the production at about 500 tons of coal daily, with a supply available for 12 to 15 years operation. Two hundred men will be employed.

This company has had the Dougald Currie farm under coal lease for 20 years and this held will be developed later.

This will be Midland County's first coal mine and will prove an important factor in the county's development.

(Sources marked with * are clippings from my Bay County scrapbooks. Not all have complete publisher information.)

*(Berlin, Wilma?) "Coal Mining Near Auburn." *Tri County Record-Globe*. Grim Publishing Co. (abt. 1977-early 1980s?).

*Berlin, Wilma. "Old Auburn Landmark Restored." *Freeland Globe/Auburn Record*." 7 Nov. 1984. p. 8-10.

Coulter, K. E. "The Local Coal Mines." *The Midland Log*. Spring 1987. p. 5, 16.

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*Kerwin, James L. "Unionville's 'Mt. Slag' Written Up in Detroit News." *Blade-Crescent*, Sebewaing, MI. 24 June 1981. p.B12.

Schmidt, Agness Skelton. *Auburn and Williams Township--Bay County Michigan--*. Agness Skelton Schmidt, Auburn. 2003. p. 41, 43-44.

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Coming Events

November 13, 2010 "Michigan Remembers the Civil War" Michigan State Historical Museum, 702 West Kalamazoo St., Lansing, Michigan. Michigan's First Civil War Sesquicentennial Conference. This event will run from 10-4pm.

Nov. 14, 2010 Ron Arons – WANTED! U.S. Criminal Records, Presented by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Michigan. Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan. <http://jgsmi.org>

Mar 31- Apr 2, 2011 "50th Annual Conference – Genealogy Through The Centuries", Columbus, Ohio, The Ohio Genealogical Society. www.ogs.org.

April 3, 2011 "The Michigan Antiquarian Book & Paper Show" held at the Lansing Center in Lansing Michigan.

May 11-14, 2011 "2011 Family History Conference", presented by the National Genealogical Society to be held in Charleston, South Carolina. www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference.info

May 13-15, 2011 "Remembering Our Past...Projecting The Future", Hamilton Convention Centre in Hamilton, Ontario. Presented by the Ontario Genealogical Society. <http://ogs.on.ca/>

June 5-12, 2011 "Exploring Your Roots Cruise". This is a 7 day Genealogy Cruise sailing from Cape Canaveral, Florida. Sail Aboard the Royal Caribbean Freedom of the Seas. Cruise includes a top-notch genealogical seminar taught by qualified professional genealogists. This cruise sails to the Eastern Caribbean. <http://www.cruisehq.com>

June 24-26, 2011 "Upper Peninsula History Conference", Marquette, Michigan, presented by the Historical Society of Michigan. <http://www.hsmichigan.org/>

Sept 7-10, 2011 "Pathways to the

Heartland", Springfield, Illinois, The Federation of Genealogical Societies with local host The Illinois State Genealogical Society. <http://www.fgs.org/2011conference/>

Sept 23-25, 2011 "State History Conference", Traverse City, Michigan, presented by the Historical Society of Michigan. <http://www.hsmichigan.org/>

Oct 1, 2011 "OGS 2011 Fall Seminar", Columbus, Ohio, With guest speaker, Dick Eastman, author of the popular Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter. Presented by the Ohio Genealogical Society. www.ogs.org.

Oct. 22-27, 2011 "Exploring Your Roots Cruise". This is a 7 day Genealogy Cruise sailing from Cape Liberty, New Jersey. Sail Aboard the Royal Caribbean Freedom of the Seas. Cruise includes a top-notch genealogical seminar taught by qualified professional genealogists. This cruise sails to Bermuda. <http://www.cruisehq.com>

Sept 28-30, 2012 "State History Conference", Monroe, Michigan, presented by the Historical Society of Michigan. <http://www.hsmichigan.org/>

Lanark County Ontario

My wife and I were taking a much needed vacation this fall and we had decided to travel to Vermont for the annual tree color display. Although we did see some beautiful colors, the trees did not peak like I had expected. I had decided that we would drive north into Canada to see the color there and head East to Smith's Falls, Ontario.

Smith's Falls is situated in Lanark county in the Eastern part of Ontario. The Rideau canal passes thru this town which has a few locks. South of Smith's Falls is Leeds county. Some of my ancestors and related families came from this area, some from Westport in Leeds county and some came from northern Lanark county. My GGG grandfather, Hugh Thurlow had lived in Lavant Township which is in northern Lanark county, near Joe's Lake.

After spending a nights rest in Smith's Falls, we headed out to locate his property. I had done some research on the internet and found a document that the township had produced called the Lavant Tour. This document provided a map and notes of a self guided tour of the township, pointing out historical buildings and towns along the way. On this tour guide, I found a description for the North Lavant Community Centre located at 2082 Black Creek Road. The description stated, "The North Lavant Community Hall was originally the Thurlow one-room schoolhouse. Hugh Thurlow donated part of his farm for the school and was buried here in 1892. A document explains "at the time of the death of the said deceased the weather was so hot that it was found impracticable to bury him in the usual burying ground, and his body was temporarily buried in the vicinity of the house; your petitioner has therefore, included in the claims filed against the estate the sum of \$10 for removal of body when the same becomes possible." The log home of Hugh Thurlow, behind the wood shed on the northwest side of the community centre, is now a private residence."

On the way to visit this site, we went thru Hopetown, of which I remem-

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The Land of Scotland

While researching my Scottish ancestors, I found that I needed to know a few things about the geography of the county. I have only included the basic of facts as to not overwhelm you. The history of Scotland began about 14,000 years ago when humans began to inhabit Scotland after the last ice age.

The Roman invasion of Britain began in AD 43. The Romans failed at conquering Caledonia but they built military outposts and roads to gain control, but eventually withdrew. Scotland at that time was described as a great forest and was inhabited by the Picts.

The Romans occupied what is now England, Wales and lower Scotland and was called Britannia. North of this was territory known as Caledonia and was inhabited and ruled by the Picts.

Hadrian's Wall was built by the Roman's, beginning in AD 122 during the rule of Emperor Hadrian and was mostly completed in six years. The wall extends the width of what is now, northern England. This was built with stone and timber and includes forts and gates every Roman mile. This wall served as a military fortification but also may have served as a customs post to allow trade and levy taxation. Most of the wall still exists today.

Scotland is mainly divided into two sections, named the Highlands and the Lowlands. The use of the term clans mostly referred to the highlands, but may have been adopted in the lowlands also. In the lowlands,

they were commonly called families. Although a large part of the highlands were mountainous, this wasn't the determining factor in calling this the highland's.

The Scottish lowlands includes all parts of Scotland that are not referred to as the Highlands and is due South and East of a line between Stonehaven and Helensburgh. The Lowlands include these counties: Ayrshire, Berwickshire, Clackmannanshire, Dumfriesshire, East Lothian, Fife, Kinross, Kirkcubrightshire, Lanarkshire, Mid-Lothian, Peebleshire, Renfrewshire, Roxburghshire, Selkirkshire, West Lothian and Wigtownshire. These counties are part of both Highland and Lowland: Angus, Bunbartonshire, Stirlingshire, Perthshire, Kincardineshire, Aberdeenshire, Banffshire and Moray.

The counties of Scotland, closest to the border of England are known as the Borders. The capital of Scotland resides in the borders. The borders region is hilly, with the River Tweed flowing west to east through it.

The highland area is sparsely populated. There are many mountain ranges throughout the region and includes the highest mountain in the British Isles. Prior to the 19 century, the Highlands had a much larger population. One of the largest factors in this decline, was the mass migration to urban areas during the Industrial Revolution. The Highlands includes the counties of Caithness, Inverness-shire, Nairnshire, and Ross and Cromarty.

The Hebrides are a widespread chain of Islands off the west coast of Scot-

land. There are comprised of two main groups: the Inner and Outer Hebrides. The Inner Hebrides are closer to the mainland and include Islay, Jura, Skye, Mull, Raasay, Staffa and the Small Isles. This includes 36 inhabited islands. The Outer Hebrides contain more than 100 islands and small rocky islands located about 43 miles west of the mainland. There are 15 inhabited islands in this group and include Barra, Benbecula, Berneray, Harris, Lewis, North Uist, South Uist, and St Kilda.

The Hebrides may be the best known group of Scottish Islands, but there are other islands such as the Islands of the Firth of Clyde, Islands of the Forth, and the Northern Isles. The Island of Arran, is sometimes mistaken for part of the Hebrides. The majority of the people living in the Hebrides speak Scottish Gaelic and are the largest concentration of Scottish Gaelic speakers in Scotland.

The office of Sheriff was introduced in the 12th century, and the sheriff's jurisdictions were known as "shires" or "Sheriffdoms". A sheriffdom is a judicial district. These used to be composed of groupings of counties but have been redefined to reference regions, districts and islands. These were later known as counties of Scotland, following the union of Scotland with England and Wales.

Sheriffdoms are divided into Sherrif Court Districts, with one or more sheriffs. Each sheriffdom has a full time Sheriff Principal. The duties of a sheriff principal are judicial and partly administrative. A sheriff principal some-

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times sits in criminal courts or conducts fatal accident inquiries. This position is primarily an appellate judge who determines appeals from the decisions of sheriffs in civil matters. The appeal goes to the Inner House of the Court of Session and thereafter to the House of Lords.

St. Columba arrived in Iona in the 6th century AD. He was an Irish-Scottish saint who was credited as being the first to bring Christianity to the islands. He was one of the twelve apostles of Ireland. St. Columba became a monk and later was ordained a priest. He became involved in a quarrel with St Finian and was exiled from Ireland. He was credited with founding several monasteries., In Scotland, he was credited with converting the pagan king Bridei, king of Fortriu to Christianity.

The capital of Scotland is Edinburgh and is the second largest city of Scotland after Glasgow. Edinburgh is located in the south east of Scotland along the Firth of Forth, near the North Sea. It is the seat of the Scottish Parliament.

There is a part of Edinburgh known as Old Town, being the older part of the city. Due to space restrictions at the cities boundaries, multi-story dwellings began to spring up about the 16th century. These were some of the earliest known high rise residential buildings. Many of these were ten or eleven stories high with some reaching fourteen stories. There were also rooms built below street level to handle the immigrants during the Industrial Revolution.

The New Town in Edinburgh, was designed and constructed in the 18th century. There was a contest in 1766 to design the town which was won by a 22-year-old architect by the name of James Craig. The New Town is considered to be one of the finest examples of Georgian architecture.

Scotland families are well known as being members of a clan. A clan was a large group of people that supposedly descended from one person. The clan also included related families, known as septs. The leader of the clan was known as the clan chief.

Clans were territorial, and the clan boundaries changed often. Members of a clan may have been unrelated and have different surnames, but over time, those living on the chief's lands would eventually adopt the clan surname. A chief could adopt other families, and could legally outlaw anyone from his clan. If anyone offered allegiance to the chief, they could be members of the clan, unless the chief did not accept the allegiance.

Clans today, may have lists of Sept's. These are families or clans which have been associated with that clan over time. Sept's can be shared by more than one clan. The individual may have to use their family history to find the clan they are associated with.

In Scotland, Parishes are units of local government and were abolished by the local government act of 1929. A Parish was historically served by a parish church or local church. Parishes were replaced with communi-

ties and was created by the local government act of 1973. Parishes sometimes extended beyond one county, but were realigned with the local government act of 1889 so that each parish was wholly within a single county.

These civil parishes have had no administrative role since 1930, but continue to exist. They are still used for census purposes. Scotland currently has community councils but have no real powers.

Scotland has gone thru many changes and has evolved the changing times. The country has many scars having suffered through many wars. I hope this helps those that are researching their Scottish ancestors. I will have another article with the next issue.

Sources:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Highlands

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Lowlands

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_clan

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edinburgh>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrides>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sheriffdom>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_parish

Walter G. Bennett

(Continued from page 7)



North Lavant Community Centre

bered that some relatives were buried in the cemetery there. We pulled into the cemetery and began looking around when an elderly man came from across the street and greeted us. After explaining to him who I was and what I was looking for, he took us around the cemetery and pointed to the grave markers and said this one is yours, this one is not. He also had told us of family members that had come to visit the graves over the years, some having long passed. Hugh's first born child, George Edward and his wife are buried in this cemetery. He explained that there are six Thurlow children buried in this cemetery in an area void of markers very close to where George is at rest. When I asked whose children, he was unsure. I have since identified some of these by the obituaries with some of these being George's children, but not all. I then had told him where we were going too. He knew the place and had given us directions to get there. We left and headed on our way after taking many pictures.

We found the Black Creek Road, which was a dirt road that was very curvy. The area was very wooded and houses were very sparse. We eventually came to the Community Centre. I walked up to the building and headed over to the woodshed that was on the left (northwest) side of the building and looked over a fence to see a clearing with a log cabin at the other side of the clearing. There were signs that people were living in the cabin. I would have

liked to have had a closer look at the cabin, but decided against it. I was told by the man at Hopetown that the house was no longer owned by family and that the family had long disappeared from the area.

Joe's lake sat on the opposite side of the road from where this cabin was located. The lake looked like a very nice lake, but was not surrounded with cabins like the lakes in Michigan. We had seen maybe two cabins in the vicinity of the lake. We next traveled to the closest cemetery to the proximity of the cabin which is Clyde Forks Cemetery. This was a small cemetery, located behind a house and woodshed. I did not find any Thurlow's buried here, but did find related family members.

After returning to Smith's Falls, I went to the Lanark County Genealogical Society that was located in the museum. After paying a small fee to do research, I was led downstairs where there were many folders and books on the shelves. There were also books for the surrounding areas which were helpful. Next to the museum,

was one of the locks on the Rideau called "Old Sly's Locks". This was named after a gentleman named William Sly who had built a home and barn on the land which was subsequently flooded while building the canal. I am not sure if he is related, but my Sly ancestors had lived nearby in Westport in Leeds county. Westport was also home to the Haskins family as well as the Thurlow's.

Hugh Thurlow was father to 19 children, with 3 wives, having outlived the first two. Many of these children had moved to Midland and settled in Ingersoll Township. These Thurlow children had married into the Garrett, Smith, Closs, Ferguson, Sly, Thayer and Turner families. Some of these families had also come from the same area of Canada.

Not only did Hugh's children move to Midland, but also some of his siblings. These are Jane wife of Lester Bagg, Harriet wife of Joseph Haskins, and Mary wife of Hugh Garrett. Another family with roots in the area that came to Midland was the Echlin's, who also have ties into these families.

This journey was very rewarding with giving me a sense of where my ancestors came from. I have been tracing the Thurlow family for many years and have documented many descendants. I hope to write a biography on this family one day and I may return there to follow up on my research.

Walter G. Bennett



Cabin of Hugh Thurlow built in 1856.

Looking Back in Midland County

(Taken from *Portrait and Biographical Album of Midland County, Michigan 1884* p. 320-21)

Francis J. Barry

Francis J. Barry, proprietor of the Sherwood House, Midland, is the son of John and Frances Barry, and was born in County Fermanagh, Ireland, April 29, 1842. He learned the trade of cigar-maker, and when 15 years old came to Toronto, Can. Thence he went to Georgian Bay, where he had an uncle on a farm, and two years later returned to Toronto, following his trade of cigar-maker.

In 1865 he came to Detroit, and in 1867 to Saginaw City, in this latter place being for seven and a half years foreman in a cigar manufactory. The ensuing three years he was in the same business at Saginaw for his own profit; and in September, 1877, he came to Midland City and opened a saloon. This he conducted until November, 1881. At that time he began the erection of the Sherwood House in company with William Sherwood, and in April following the house was opened to the public. It is a three-story brick, 50 by 80 feet in size, with cellar 35 by 40 feet, containing 21 single apartments and 16 double rooms; and having a large stable attached. A carriage goes to all trains, carrying passengers to the hotel free, or to any part of the city for 25 cents, and horses are also boarded and sold at this stable. Since May, 1882, Mr. Barry has been alone in the management of the hotel, which has a good reputation, and does a thriving business, all well deserved.

He was first married in Detroit, April 1, 1865, to Miss Margaret Parrett, a native of Canada. To this marriage were given two children: Richard J., born at Detroit, May 1, 1866; and Ulysses G. born in Saginaw City, June 15, 1871. Mrs. B. died in the latter city. He was wedded to his present wife in Milton, Holton Co., Can., May 29, 1877. Her maiden name was Hannah L. Sherwood, and she was born in Holton Township, Holton Co., Can. By this marriage Mr. Barry has a daughter, Harriet F., born at Saginaw City, July 25, 1878; and a son, Thompson G.,

Born at Midland, Nov. 13, 1879; and an unnamed son born June 20, 1884.

Mr. Barry owns a house and lot in the east part of the village, five lots on Ellsworth Street and two lots and a half near his hotel. He is a member of the Royal Arcanum and the Knights of Maccabees. Politically, he is a staunch Republican.

Taken From *The Midland Sun* June 16, 1899 p. 8

Coleman

Union prayer meetings are being held preparatory to the evangelistic services.

A nice rain Tuesday night was just the thing for gardens. Strawberries are large and abundant.

Frank Gibbs has purchased two lots from C. A. Niggeman and will build his barn on his new possession.

A petition is being circulated among the merchants for closing stores at 7 p. m. during the summer months.

The Junction House has been sold and Mrs. Sanford, who has been running it for the past year, has moved out.

The baccalaureate sermon for the high school graduates will be preached next Sunday evening in the M. E. church.

Mrs. Halley made a short call here en route from Onaway to the southern part of the state to spend the summer with friends.

Rev. Huff of the M. E. church and Rev. McGraham of the Presbyterian have engaged the evangelists who held meetings in Midland last spring, and expect to begin a series of revival services June 2.

The Presbyterian Sunday school observed Children's day with a fine program under the management of Miss Josie French. The church was beautiful

ly decorated with potted plants, and was packed to the doors. The M. E. S. school will have their exercises next Sunday morning.

LaPorte

The ladies' aid society meets with Mrs. Joseph Lewis next week Friday.

The Children's day exercises held in the M. E. church Sunday were a success.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Smith are visiting their son, Hubert Smith, at Wheeler.

Miss Almeda Frost closed a spring term of school in the Wiltse district last Tuesday.

Howard L. Griffin of Merrill closed a successful term of school in the Burd district Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Chamberlain visited Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Ryan at Midland the first of the week.

Miss Mary Griffor and Egbert Goodspeed were united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents last week.

Mrs. John Raleford and little daughter Anna, who have been visiting relatives in Hadley, have returned home.

Mr. Adzet and daughter, Miss Ada of West Branch, visited his daughter, Mrs. Powley Smith, the first of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Corwin and Dell Noakes of Sage, Ogemaw county, visited Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Winslow the first of the week.

Miss Harriet Pierce and Will Elliott were united in marriage at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. George Minor, at Saginaw last Wednesday.

Pioneer Record

Midland Genealogical Society
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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.