



# PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

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February 2011

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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.*

**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**

**May 18, 2011 – 6:00 pm Midland County Historical Society's Carriage House**  
**Annual Meeting** - Election of 2011-12 MGS Officers

## The British Emigration Schemes

By Gloria Kundinger

There were several major reasons people chose to immigrate to another country—a chance to own land, freedom from religious persecution, avoidance of mandatory military service, or escape from famine in the fatherland. However in England during the 1830s, many rural families were forced to immigrate to Upper Canada (Ontario) as part of a scheme by British landowners to rid themselves of their excess farm labor. Likewise in the 1860s-1930s, another British emigration scheme sent over 100,000 British Home Children, supposedly orphans, to Canada. Both schemes were hatched to rid English society of those considered a burden. Faced with poverty and an uncertain future, the departing emigrants had little or no choice but to leave.

Returning from the Napoleonic Wars, the surviving men expected things to be better in England than before they had left. They were disappointed to find lower wages and their winter employment jeopardized by the threshing machine. The wealthy landowners were the ones who had persuaded the government to cut farm wages—a move beneficial to them. As laborers had a difficult time supporting their families on six shillings a week, hunger and poverty haunted them.

In 1830, farm laborers in eastern and southern England wrote letters that threatened landowners with arson. They were signed by a fictitious "Captain Swing" which implied being hoisted onto the gallows. They were trying to scare the landowners into raising wages and getting rid of threshing machines. During the "Swing Riots," some landowners had their cattle injured and their threshing machines and hay ricks torched. Few of the authors went to trial. Many of the letters were thought to be phony since most farm laborers were illiterate.

Later that year, a band of 1,000 laborers in Sussex rallied at the church in Horsham and insisted the magistrates agree in writing to higher wages consisting of two and a half shillings a day. This infuriated the magistrates. They had the laborers arrested resulting in months of unrest in the area.

In 1832 at the Petworth, West Sussex parish, their rector, the Reverend Thomas Sockett, George Wyndham, who was the Earl of Egremont, and several other area businessmen met at the Earl's Petworth estate to form the Petworth Emigration Committee. They planned to ease the terrible working and living conditions of hundreds of laborers and their families from local parishes across southern England. They wanted control of their workers' futures, supposedly for their betterment, by assisting them financially in their immigration to Upper Canada where farm labor was much needed. Over 100 parishes in Sussex and surrounding counties contributed to the cause as well as the Earl of Egremont, smaller landowners, and sponsors.

However this generosity did not come from altruistic hearts on the part of the committee. Even though the Earl had no use for all of his laborers, he was still obligated by law to pay the Poor Rate for them. The Poor Rate was a tax collected from landowners within a parish. Similar to welfare in our society, it helped the poor get by and made them feel that someone cared about their plight. Shipping them to Upper Canada at the committee's expense

*(Continued on page 4)*

## The President's Letter

After the onslaught of snow the first week of February, it is good to note that the days are starting to get longer and the idea of field trips to libraries, court houses and cemeteries is getting more appealing day by day. The trip to the Library of Michigan is one of my favorites. Budget cuts have caused some reductions in staff and hours. The hours currently posted on the library web page are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, closed Saturday and Sunday. The rare books room is open only 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The State Archives is also open only 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is important to demonstrate our strong support for these great Michigan facilities by using them regularly.

Katherine Redwine's January program was a good illustration of what all is available for genealogical searching on the internet at the local Grace A Dow Library. If you haven't tried this yet, now is a good time to

learn what a fantastic amount of data is available. Genealogical searching is far easier than it was when I started out 35 years ago! As always, you must operate with the caveat that not everything you find on the internet is necessarily accurate or proven – but having a possible place to start your search for original records is very helpful.

Many filmed vital records of Michigan counties are on hand at the Family History Center at the LDS church on the corner of Eastman Road and Sugnet. The hours there have been cut somewhat, but they still are normally open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The LDS films are of great value. You can also order films of records from many states and nations for temporary usage. If you haven't used the Family History Library before, be sure to ask for some help in getting started.

The most extensive library in our area is the Allen County Public Library at Fort Wayne, Indiana. Going there is a real treat. So many materials are available for use there that you probably will

want to plan a two or three day field trip there.

Spring is coming – and genealogists are ready to hit the road. Be sure to wear your neat little Midland Genealogical Society lapel pin. If you don't have one, just ask how to buy one at the next meeting of the Society.

*Wilma Diesen, President*

## GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



Genealogy - Taking *in* the trash.

## From The Editor...

*The Pioneer Record* again has some interesting articles. I hope that you are enjoying these. If you have something you would like to submit, please send to the new PO Box address in care of editor-PR.

It is once again time for nominations committee to be calling for your nominations for our board. If you are interested in serving on our board, please let one of us know.

I am having fun working on some of my brick walls. I have had much success lately with new resources available online. For those of

you that don't trust online information, you may find that this can lead to clues for looking for those elusive documents. Many times, you can also find a digital image of the original document available online. We now live in a digital universe.

I am looking to do some traveling once again this year for working on my family history. I have found some family to have resided in Sanilac county and will explore the area.

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, P.O. Box 2421, Midland, MI 48641-2421. Dues for an individual are \$14.00; for a family they are \$17.50.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The collection of MGS dues for 2010-2011 concluded as of our December MGS meeting. Our current membership includes 91 Individual memberships and 22 family memberships for a total of 113 members. Thank you all for your support of MGS!

Remember, membership in MGS is not just for you. It's also for friends and family who are interested in discovering their family history. It's never too late to invite a family member or friend to one of our monthly meetings and encourage them to join us in this never-ending search for clues to our past.

A reminder also that MGS Membership Pins are available at monthly meetings or by contacting me directly.

Happy February! Happy hunting!

*Dona McArdle, Membership Chair*

## Who Do You Think You Are?

Season 2 of Who Do You Think You Are premieres on Friday, February 4, 2011 at 8 pm on NBC. This season brings you such stars as Vanessa Williams, Tim McGraw, Steve Buscemi, Kim Cattrall, Ashley Judd, Rosie O'Donnell, Gwyneth Paltrow, and Lionel Richie.

They will solve mysteries, make discoveries, connect with family lines they never knew before. They will find ties to America's founding fathers and find details regarding the families rags-to-riches.

Executive Producer Lisa Kudrow, while in Ireland had seen the English version of the tv show and had decided

to bring the show to the US. As of 2010, the England Show on BBC has completed 8 seasons. There are other adaptations of the show in other countries.

Each of the celebrities will follow on a journey of self discovery as they learn some surprising and sometimes tragic stories.

If you miss the show on NBC, you can watch full episodes on line on NBC.

Ancestry.com is also offering you a chance to win your own family history dream prize. For details go to [www.ancestry.com/sweeps](http://www.ancestry.com/sweeps).



## 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.)

Midland County, Michigan Marriage Records 1855-1910 including Groom & Bride Indexes. The book is 8.5 by 11, soft bound, 320 pages. \$30.

A collection of "Some Midland Michigan County Records" have been compiled and extensively indexed by Ora L. Flaningam. 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 Flaningam. 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

(Continued from page 1)

released the Earl and other landowners of their financial obligations to their excess workers. In our society, it has the familiar ring of being downsized and offered a buyout to locate elsewhere.

Over four years, about 1,800 laborers and their families emigrated from Petworth via Portsmouth, England to York, Ontario. The committee paid the cost of passage for adults at 10 pounds, children under 14 at 5 pounds, and infants were free under 12 months old. The committee gave those who accepted their offer a list of items to take: tools, kettles, and bedding. These would help them survive their voyage and settlement in

to get them safely across country to their destinations. Some immigrants settled in the Hamilton area while others went to London, Woodstock, and through Port Stanley to townships around Lake Erie. About 31,000 immigrants arrived in Quebec in 1834 from Munster, Petworth, Norfolk, and Hampshire. Some also came from Leinster, Ireland.

The laborers found work in their new areas that paid wages higher than those earned in England. They wrote letters home to friends and relatives about their new lives. These were collected and published by the Reverend Sockett who used them to persuade others to emigrate as well.

In 1834, the Swing Riots caused the British government to pass the Poor Law

parishes were to form a union to support one workhouse together. A Board of Guardians would collect the Poor Rate, run the workhouse, and report to the Central Poor Law Committee. They were elected by the parish rate-payers.

Life in the workhouse was difficult, and food consisting of bread, gruel and a little meat was rationed. Men, women and children were separated and classified as able-bodied, aged, infirm or lunatic. The workhouse male inmates worked long hours making cloth or other beneficial items and were paid the Poor Rate for their labor. They could not leave until they found a regular job. Women cared for the sick, made shirts, and did washing. Their children lived at the workhouse in lice infested wards. They were given a rudimentary education then apprenticed or sent to the army if old enough.

The Petworth Emigration Scheme ended in 1837 partly because of the new Poor Law. Other reasons were: the death of the Earl of Egremont, the new Canadian Lieutenant Governor, Sir Francis Bond Head, supported the new law, and word of Canadian rebellions and financial troubles had a negative effect on encouraging emigration. The Ship's List website has a database of ships and passenger lists of those who emigrated.

In the 1860s, and lasting into the 1930s, over fifty "charitable child care organizations" were involved in the British Home Children emigration scheme--helping impoverished children find a better life. Considered "orphans," these children had no say in the matter. They were plucked from the workhouses and the streets of England and sent to live with farm families in Canada. The organizations believed workhouse children were homeless so how could home ties be severed. About two-thirds of the children had parents who could not afford to support them.

These organizations were a pious group who felt they were aiding poverty-stricken families and British society in the name of God. Both the British Poor Law Board and the Canadian government supported their efforts. Annie Macpherson, Maria Rye, and

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Upper Canada. The committee also provided each person with four pairs of stockings, and a warm heavy coat.

The ships used by the Petworth Scheme for the trip were much better than regular immigrant ships, but the trip was still long and hard. After arriving in Upper Canada, its Lieutenant Governor, Sir John Colborne, provided the immigrants with guides

Amendment Act. The government felt that financial aid to the poor was creating a dependency on societal support. It also disapproved of the generosity of the Petworth Emigration Committee.

Under the new law, no one able to work would be offered financial help other than that found in a workhouse. Each parish was to build a workhouse where an unpleasant environment existed to deter people from asking for help. Smaller

(Continued from page 4)

Thomas Bernardo were some of the better known and longer lasting of the organizations involved. They had homes located in England where children were boarded and taught educational basics: discipline, religion, and work ethic—doing the same trivial work they did before being “rescued.”

The children ranged in age from 4 to 15 years old. Hundreds of them boarded a ship escorted by a supervisor from the home. Once they arrived in Canada, the children were separated from their siblings and never saw them or their family again. They were taken to one of the homes in Canada owned by the agency. There they learned how to do household chores before being sent to live with a “respectable” Canadian family. After placement, it was the organization’s hope that the children would achieve respectable lives.

The youngest ones were most likely among those who were adopted by Canadian families—burying their past with the changing of their names. It was the homes, not the Canadian government, who contracted the other children to farm families for a profit. They became indentured servants until they turned 18. The farmers were to supply room and board plus clothing and put aside a dollar a year to be paid to the child when the contract expired. Regular school and church attendance were also required for each child.

Supposedly the children were sent to live with reputable families, and most were treated well. However with no inspections made of their circumstances by either the homes or the government, abusive treatment occurred in about 5% of the placements. Children living on isolated farms had no witnesses to their mistreatment and no one to intervene.

Farmers worked some 8 to 10 year-old children from dawn until dusk. Others never were sent to school or church. Some who attended school did so without coats or shoes in harsh winter weather. Other children slept in out-buildings or in the barn. Beatings were common, and girls were molested. One child died of neglect. Many children did not receive the money promised at the end of their contract.

The children were terribly lonely and missed their families—wondering why they were sent so far away from home. Their communities shunned them. They

were looked down upon as trash from Britain. Labor unions complained that they were cheap labor and stirred up consternation among the area residents. Some children committed suicide. Others ran away and ended up in the United States.

In Ontario, the Superintendent of Neglected Children, J. J. Kelso, intervened in their behalf. However his report and suggestions were dismissed. It seems the children did not fall into any category under child welfare. Nova Scotia had them under their Department of Natural Resources!

In 1875, a report by inspector Andrew Doyle from the Board of Guardians ended the emigration of children from workhouses. He listed bad travel accommodations, little training before leaving with no adjustment time after arriving, and absence of supervision after being contracted as problems. Opposing supervision of her homes, Maria Rye spent two years battling it. London newspapers printed her rosy versions of the children’s lives in Canada but failed to mention their homesickness or that they had workhouse parents and were not orphans. It wasn’t until 1893 that protective bureaus were formed to help the children already placed.

Since the average British slum dweller only lived about 35 years, the Home Children were considered fortunate to escape the streets of England. Approximately 12,000 children were settled in Quebec and 70,000 in Ontario out of more than 100,000 sent to Canada. About 10% of today’s Canadians can trace their ancestry to a Home Child. The British Home Children Registry is a website dedicated to listing names of the Home Children. So far 57,000 names have been collected.

Many Home Children have spent years searching for their siblings in Canada and families in England. Likewise English families have searched for them. Most have not been successful. Only the union workhouses kept records of those children who emigrated, and the “Home organizations” will not readily release necessary information.

It is unknown how many of the Home Children came to the United States. There may be over a million of our citizens who have descended from them.

Some of the Petworth emigrants and their descendants also came to the U.S. Maybe their “no choice” situation was a blessing in the end for them as well as the descendants of those pawns of the British Emigration Schemes.

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# Scottish Census

This year, Scotland will record its largest census yet. This will take place on March 27. The census will remain confidential for 100 years. Everyone must be included on the census questionnaire and anyone trying to avoid being recorded will face a hefty fine.

This year also marks the release of the 1911 Scottish census. The release date has been announced as April 5, 2011. This release also marks the first time that the census data will be presented in full color instead of all black and white. This was the last recorded census prior to the First World War.

There has been a census every ten

years since 1801 except for 1941. The early census was in part to determine the number of men able to fight in the Napoleonic War. Another reason was due to a paper written by Reverend Thomas Robert Malthus in 1798 titled "An Essay on the Principal of Population." The first four censuses were

mostly statistical with only headcounts with no personal information. No census was taken in 1941 because of World War Two. Because of the National Registration Act of 1939, a population count was performed on September 29, 1939.

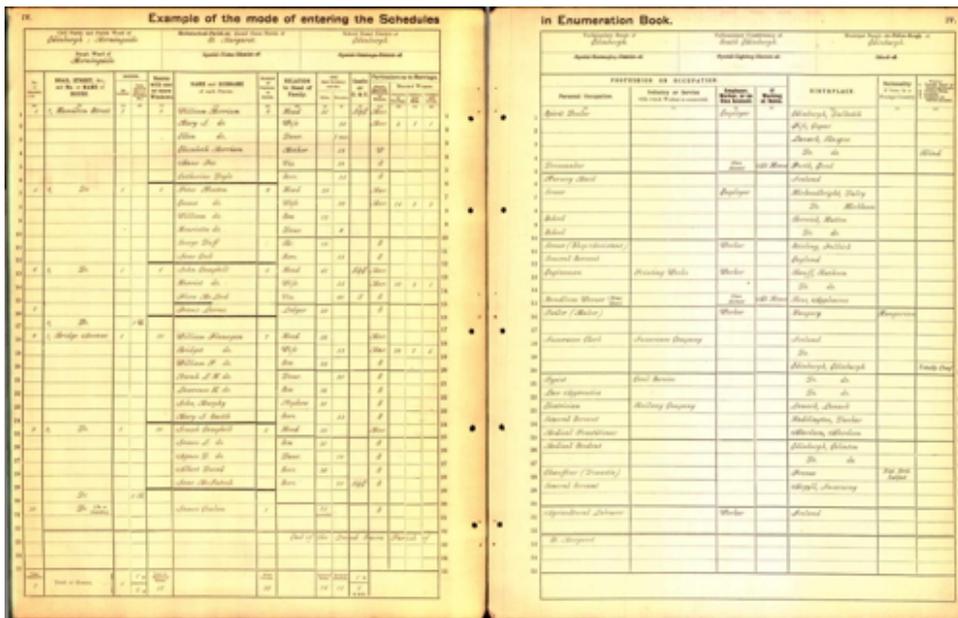
The following censuses included England, Wales, Channel Islands, Scotland and the Isle of Man. The census procedure went like this: To reduce the risk of double entries or omissions, the census had to be completed in a single day. Scotland was divided into enumeration districts based on existing parishes. Larger parishes were subdivided. Schoolmasters frequently served as enumerators. They were each assigned an enumeration district.

the original documents available for viewing. The original forms were then destroyed.

The 1841 census was taken on the night of 6 June 1841. The questions that were asked were name, age, gender, profession and birthplace. This was the first census given by the General Register Office that recorded all individuals by name. The head of household was not noted. The enumerators instructions were to round down the age of persons 15 years and over to the nearest 5 years. This would make the given age of 38 to become 35 on the census. If you had lied about your age, this could become very inaccurate. Some enumerators ignored these instructions and inserted the given ages. Birthplace was not very specific and may have only showed the country of birth. Occupations were abbreviated. There are some online guides for interpreting these abbreviations.

The 1851 census was taken on the nights of 30/31 March 1851. The information requested was place, name, relationship to head of family, marital status, age, gender, profession, birthplace, and whether blind, deaf or dumb. Relationship to the head of family was now shown. The given age was recorded. The birthplace now included place and parish.

The 1861 census was taken on the nights of 7/8 April 1861. The questions that were asked were name, place, relationship to head of family, marital status, age, gender, profession, birthplace, and whether blind,



years since 1801 except for 1941. The early census was in part to determine the number of men able to fight in the Napoleonic War. Another reason was due to a paper written by Reverend Thomas Robert Malthus in 1798 titled "An Essay on the Principal of Population." The first four censuses were

A few days prior to the census, the forms were distributed to the households. The forms were filled out on the census nights and then the forms were collected the following day. If you were travelling or living abroad, you would be recorded in the house where you spent the night. The forms were later sorted and transcribed into the census books which are

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## Coming Events

Mar 5 ,2011 “Genealogy Workshop with Kurt Witcher”, Plymouth Historical Museum, Plymouth, Michigan. PlymouthHistory.org.

Mar 25-26, 2011 “Michigan in Perspective” Historical Society of Michigan. <http://hsmichigan.org/>

Mar 26, 2011 “34th Annual Spring Seminar” Monroe, Michigan. Presented by the Genealogical Society of Monroe County. <http://mimgc.org/pdf/GSMC2011SeminarFlyer.pdf>

Mar 31- Apr 2, 2011 “50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference – Genealogy Through The Centuries”, Columbus, Ohio, The Ohio Genealogical Society. [www.ogs.org](http://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](http://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://wwcruisehq.com>

June 17-19, 2011 “Upper Peninsula History Conference”, Marquette, Michigan, presented by the Historical Society of Michigan. <http://www.hsmichigan.org/> (note:date change)

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](http://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://wwcruisehq.com>

Nov 5, 2011 “Save the Date!!”, Livonia. Presented by the Western Wayne County Genealogical Society”, <http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~miwwcgs/>

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

## MGC Report – January 13, 2011

Randy Riley, Library of Michigan (LOM) liaison to the MGC, will no longer function as such. His new assignment will be to work with MeL and improving “relationships”. He reported that the mission of the LOM has changed. The goals will be to provide research for state administration and the legislature, and service to libraries in Michigan. Library staff has been reduced 70 percent due to budget cuts resulting in a current maximum staff of 28. Speciality collections no longer exist, however the genealogy collection is still available at this time. The Library is no longer collecting non-Michigan material. Newspapers will no longer be available for circulation. The website [seekingmichigan.com](http://seekingmichigan.com) will continue to focus on Michigan history. The future of Internet search sites like Ancestry.com, footnote.com, and Heritagequest.com is questionable due to budget cuts. Randy’s closing comments to the Council were to “Keep using the Library”.

Mark Harvey, representing the Michigan Archives, reported that the state census films have been scanned by Ancestry.com and will soon be available

online at [seekingmichigan.com](http://seekingmichigan.com). The next project will be to digitalize state naturalization records and have them available via [seekingmichigan.com](http://seekingmichigan.com). He announced that on April 16, from 9am-4pm, a Civil War reenactment demonstration is scheduled in Lansing as part of the Archives Civil War sesquicentennial celebration. Mark finished his report with a statement that “the offer to accept the Library of Michigan Genealogy Collection is still open” in the event the LOM must remove the collection.

New hours for use of the LOM effective January 1, 2011 are Monday thru Friday, 10am to 5pm. The Michigan Archives are open to the public Monday thru Friday, 1pm – 5pm.

The MGC is partnering with Family Search to index Michigan Marriages from 1820 – 1956. They will be available online at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org). The Council is encouraging anyone with an interest in Michigan genealogy to volunteer in this indexing process. It can be done at home, anytime day or night, as much or as little as one’s time permits. Council has set up a group within FamilySearch called Michigan Genealogical Council. Interested persons can get started by going to [familysearchindexing.org/](http://familysearchindexing.org/) and registering to index.

*Faye Ebach, Delegate*

~ ORDER NOW ~

MIDLAND COUNTY,  
MICHIGAN  
MARRIAGE RECORDS  
1855 - 1910  
Including Groom and Bride  
Indexes

\*

SIZE 8 1/2 X 11

\*

320 PAGES

\*

3,733 MARRIAGES

\*

See page 3 for ordering

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deaf, or dumb.

The 1871 was taken on the nights of 2/3 April 1871. There is a header page located at the beginning of each enumeration book. The enumerator described in detail the area of the census.

The 1881 census was taken on the night of 3 April 1881.

The 1891 census was taken on the night of 5 April 1891.

The 1901 census was taken on the night of 31 March 1901.

The 1911 Census was taken on the nights of 2/3 April 1911.

The census's 1871 thru 1911 contained name, relationship to the head of family, marital status, age at last birthday, gender, occupation and birthplace. There was also additional information on the dwelling and property.

When searching the census, keep these things in mind. The census recorded those persons in the household on the census night. If a person was not there, they could be elsewhere such as in a hospital or prison or working out of town. Married women were usually recorded by their married name but not always. Children could have taken the stepfathers name if the other remarried. A widow could have reverted to her maiden name. Some persons could not remember their age or they lied about it.

### **Where to find censuses**

There are many sources available for researching the census. Scotland's People have computerized

indexes for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901 with images. This service is fee based. Ancestry has indexes and transcriptions but no images. FreeCen Scotland is a project to index Scottish census records and put them online for free access. Some but not all records are available for 1841 thru 1871.

Sources:

*W*[www.larfhc.org/scottishcenpag.htm](http://www.larfhc.org/scottishcenpag.htm)

*W*[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

*W*[www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)

*W*[www.freewebs.com/mmjeffery/](http://www.freewebs.com/mmjeffery/)

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### **Scotland Church Court Records**

The National Archives of Scotland, [www.nas.gov.uk](http://www.nas.gov.uk) has announced that they will open up access to the digital images of millions of pages of church court records.

The records consist of the minutes and accounts of kirk sessions, presbyteries, synods and the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. They also contain a wide variety of other documents, providing a picture of everyday life in Scotland from the sixteenth century onwards and amount to more than 25,000 volumes, about 5 million pages of information .

In the past, it was difficult for researchers to travel to the archive where the records were held. Now the archives is hoping that this new service will be available at several locations across Scotland, including the National Archives of Scotland.

Later, in 2011 it is planned to make the church records more widely available online via a subscription based service such as ScotlandsPeople, the

family history website which runs with the General Register Office for Scotland. Researchers will have the choice of accessing the records free of charge in various Scottish archives, or using the subscription service.

George MacKenzie, Keeper of the Records of Scotland, who heads the National Archives of Scotland, said: "Church records have long been among the most popular records in our care. Using digital technology, and with the help of local archives, we are making the remarkable information they contain available to a much wider audience. We're confident that these exciting developments will make family history and academic historical research much easier. We expect many people will discover new avenues to follow when they begin to explore the records."

The Scottish Reformation saw the introduction of a new system to run church affairs: The General Assembly, synods, presbyteries, and kirk sessions. Presbyterians who later broke away from the Kirk also adopted a church court system.

The records created by the church courts are very useful for family history, local history and academic research. Of most interest for genealogists and local historians are the minutes of the kirk sessions, which typically contain a detailed and often colorful record of the discipline the minister and kirk elders handed out to errant parishioners for offences such as drunkenness, swearing, breaking the Sabbath, quarrelling and sexual misdemeanors. Other records include proclamations of banns, communion rolls, seat rent books and poor relief accounts.

## Free Genealogies

The following article was printed in the Troy Northern Budget newspaper of Troy New York in 1913. I found this to be very interesting.

### **FAMILY "TREES" WHILE YOU WAIT**

**The Congressional Library's Expert Fixes Them Up Free Of Charge.**

### **BUT NOT TRIFLERS ARE INVITED**

Widow of Civil War Veteran is an Expert at Genealogical Research – She Takes a Few Moments to Tell About Her Interesting Work.

Washington Feb. 8. Seated at a little desk half hidden from the gaze of the curious thousands and tons of thousands who annually invade the Congressional Library in a search for reading matter or to admire the world famous paintings, mosaics, and statuary which adorn the many million dollar palaces of learning, is an old woman bent with age and palsied with the passage of time, who probably is the most unique employee in the government service.

She is the widow of a Civil War veteran and remembers vividly the time when Lee's soldiers marched northward through her native Maryland, devastating everything in their path until turned back at the field of Gettysburg. Thrown penniless upon the world at the close of the struggle between the north and south, Mrs. Katherine Cavanaugh Dorsey looked around for some employment in which she would be able to

make her living without departing too far from her home.

If there is any one thing of which Marylanders make a fetish is family. Ancestry, to them is that of which one should be more proud than anything else. Wealth, position, fame—all are good, but Family is above them all.

So Mrs. Dorsey commenced the study of genealogy and in a comparatively short time, became one of the best known genealogical experts on Maryland. Her fame soon spread to the National Capital and Uncle Sam, desirous of securing a person who was rich in the lore of past centuries and generations, picked her to head his "Genealogical indexing bureau" in the Library of Congress. There Mrs. Dorsey has remained from that day (15 years ago) to this, secreted in her little alcove above the reading room of the library, delving into old books of records, picking up clues here and there which will fulfill the anticipations of the real descendants of royalty or blast the hopes of the parvenu.

### **Family Trees are Free**

The genealogical indexing bureau is probably one of the least known branches of the government. Very few persons, comparatively speaking, know that upon application from their congressmen they can have their family tree examined, its branches traced and the very roots discovered with absolutely no cost. At first it was intended to make this branch of the Library service free and open to all, just as is the Library itself. But it was soon discovered that

the food of applications for ancestors and coats of arms which poured in transcended the ability of one person to attend to. Also that there were a number of "fake" or "freak" applications received which consumed too much time investigating. Therefore the librarian of Congress passed a rule that all applications of this nature should pass through his office and there be approved, after first having received the signature of some member of Congress.

So the result is that Mrs. Dorsey is not bothered with applications which do not bear at least a partial semblance of truth and she is enabled to use her somewhat limited time in tracing genealogies which are really "worth while." All the lore of medieval times, of titles, of heraldry and of crests are at her beck and call. Parvenue and aristocrat alike come to her—the one to have his hopes of ancient lineage crushed with a word. The other to learn what his forty-ninth grandfather was doing at the time of the Norman invasion.

Mrs. Dorsey's most interesting activities are of an unofficial nature. Her questions come in great numbers, most of them from women who are more fascinated by the glamor of titles and of coats of arms than are men. The most numerous requests come from Americans of the newly rich type, who seem to think that a coat of arms painted on their automobile will complete their claim to aristocratic lineage without a doubt.

One woman, the most ambitious of all, who determined to trace her descent to the mythical Helen of Troy,

(Continued from page 9)

whose elopement with Paris would seem to make her an ancestor of doubtful desirability. This women's family was traced back to the year 834, which by most persons would have been considered amply sufficient—but she was not at all happy at the host of ancestors thus unearthed. Nothing would satisfy her but to be descended from the woman whose beauty “launched a thousand ships and burned the topless towers of Ilium.”

Mrs. Dorsey kindly interrupted her work to say a few words concerning her duties.

### Interesting Work

“There is a fascination about crests and emblems,” said the keeper of family trees, “which is as old as the human race itself. The totem poles and tattooed devices of savage tribes prove that even the most primitive

peoples felt it. The ancient Greeks and Romans wore devices on their shields and some writers believe that the tribes of Israel wore figures on their standards devised from Jacob's prophecy—the ravening wolf from Benjamin and the lion's whelp for Judah. The five clawed dragon is emblematic of China and the chrysanthemum of Japan. Even the monograms and letters are but a survival of their custom.

“The work of the genealogical indexing bureau is most interesting, but, on the other hand, it is far from easy. I speak four languages—English, French, Italian and Latin. All these are constantly occurring in the hunt for authentic ancestral records or coats of arms, and it is practically impossible to make any progress unless one has at least a superficial knowledge of these.

“The recent wave of International marriages which has swept over England and the United States has

brought in its wake what might be termed the renaissance of heraldry. An American heiress who is about to marry a foreign title always like to have her ancestry traced as far back as possible—though most of them conveniently forgot it as possible—and they also want to know who are the progenitors of their husband-to-be. But there are many American families who can really trace their royal descent. Among these are Locs of Virginia and the Diggs of Maryland.

“The Daughters of the American Revolution and the Colonial Dames, who have done so much for American History, are also responsible for a great deal of the ancestor craze. A good colonial descent is all that is required for membership in these organizations, but when a woman once gets on the track of an interesting ancestor she cannot bear to let him go.

*The Troy Northern Budget – February 9, 1913*

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### New Books

Passengers arriving at the New York Port 1830-1832”

“Erin's Sons” Vol. 1 1761-1853, Vol. 2 1761-1853, Vol. 3 1751-1855

“The Great Migration” Immigrants to New England 1634-1635 Vol. 6

“Germanic Genealogy”

“San Francisco Passenger Lists” by Rasmussen Vol. II April 1850 – Nov. 1851, Vol. III Nov. 1851 – Jun. 1852

“Saint Mary's Church Funeral Records, Alpena” 1887-1925

“Saginaw Daily Courier” 1870 –

1876, Deaths, Births, Marriages, compiled by Mary Felton.

“Yesterday's School Kids of Isabella County” by Westbrook & A Sponsella

“Remembering our Past: history of Saginaw Township” by Toft

“Looking Back – Saginaw County, the 1800's to Today”, published by the Saginaw News

“History of Muskegon County”, vol. I

### 161-Year-Old Graveyard to be Bulldozed to Make Way for New Runway at

#### Chicago's O'Hare Airport

A 161-year-old graveyard could be bulldozed to make way for a new runway at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. A court ruling upheld an earlier decision which said Chicago had legally condemned St Johannes Cemetery and could begin removing around 1,000 graves.

Thirty graves have already been voluntarily relocated and families have received permits for another 345 to be moved. But church officials have criticised the ruling for not considering the religious protection arguments.

# Looking Back in Midland County

(Taken from *Portrait and Biographical Album of Midland County, Michigan 1884* p. 319)

## Thomas J. Carpenter

Thomas J. Carpenter, dealer in real estate at Midland, was born July 15, 1807 in Wheatland (then) Genesee Co., N.Y. He is the son of Powell and Lucy (Kellam) Carpenter, and was reared as a farmer's son, obtaining his education in the common schools.

In 1831 he came to the Peninsular State. He bought 320 acres of "oak openings" in Orion Township, Oakland County, and cleared 200 acres, forming a first-class farm. In 1855 he bought 400 acres of land in the western part of Midland County, lying on the Chippewa river, to which he added by subsequent purchase until his aggregated real estate amounted to 3,000 acres, of which he still retains about 2,500 acres. In 1859 he bought a half interest in a saw-mill in the eastern part of the village of Midland, in company with A. W. Thompson. A shingle mill was added to this, and six years later the entire establishment was burned, involving a loss to Mr. Carpenter of \$2,000. In 1859 he bought 160 acres of land now included in the site of Midland and constituting the northeastern portion of the village. It was platted in 1860, and includes 120 acres in extent. In 1860 Mr. Carpenter disposed of his property in Oakland Co. He has held numerous township offices, and has been closely identified with school interests since his settlement in the county.

Mr. Carpenter was married May 7, 1831, in Montgomery County, N. Y., to Juliette Clarke. She was born February 10, 1805, in the State of New York, and is the daughter of Samuel Clarke. Of seven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter, five are living. Delia, wife of Alfred Owen of Kansas (who died in Kansas, March, 1884), was born Feb. 14, 1832; Sylvia P. (Mrs. B. F. Thorne, residing at Bay City) was born Jan. 12, 1835; Powell, a farmer in Orion, Oakland County, was born Feb. 8, 1837; Samuel C. born June 7, 1839 is a carpenter in Midland; Stephen L., born Dec. 28, 1841 died Dec. 27, 1842; Juliette C., born Sept. 29, 1844, is the wife of James Van Kleek, of Midland. Thomas J., born June 26, 1850, died Sept. 19, 1854. The mother died eight days after the death of the youngest child. Mr. Carpenter was a second time married May 26, 1856 to

Catherine Casamer, daughter of Isaac and Prudence (Buchner) Casamer, born in Greenville, Sussex Co., N. J., Jan. 15, 1831. Mr. Carpenter has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church since 1827; his wife has been a member of the same religious body since 1847. (He is) a pioneer citizen of Midland City and County.

Taken From *The Midland Sun* November 18, 1898 p. 5

## City and County

Miss Belle Wright is visiting her brother in Chicago.

James W. Eaton of Hope has been granted a pension of \$6 from February 1, 1894, and \$8 from April 13, 1896.

Ralph Bishop has severed his connection with the T. C. Prouty Co. and returned to St. Joseph. His wife and parents will follow him in a few weeks.

The little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Publow fell down stairs Tuesday cutting so severe a gash in her head that a doctor's services were required.

The bad roads and the scarcity of good wood has caused many to put in soft coal stoves. At the price asked it is much cheaper and makes a much better fire.

The sparrow bounty is getting to be such a serious drain upon the taxpayers of this state that the repeal of the law is being seriously considered. It should never have been passed.

If we think we have nothing to be thankful for, we better begin taking account of stock, so that by Thanksgiving day we will have some appreciation of our many mercies.

The game wardens and their deputies are laying for the fellows who go to the north woods with dogs to hunt deer, and woe to the dog that is caught roaming through the woods.

Geo. Rutter, while hunting last Saturday, by the accidental discharge of his gun had the thumb on his left hand shot off. About a year ago it was found necessary to amputate his left foot.

Jas. Phetteplace is in a sad dilemma. Two muskrats have taken possession of his barn, and believing there is a law that prohibits killing them, together with the fact that he paid a fine of \$10 for infringement of the game law, he sees his apples vanishing and does not know how to

prevent it.

The post office department has made a ruling that forbids postmasters giving mail to school children while going to and from school. So if your children are refused the mail at the post office, don't swear and curse the postmaster—it is no fault of his. The post office department at Washington has seen the necessity of making a ruling of this kind.

Geo. Wilson will dispose of his livery stock at auction tomorrow.

Miss Maude Munsell spent Sunday at Clare, the guest of Miss Sara Orth.

Mrs. L. Peer of Fenton, niece of Mrs. Wm. Berryman, is visiting relatives here.

Mrs. E. Randolph entertained a number of her lady friends Wednesday afternoon.

Bert Peterson left Monday for Wisconsin where he expects to secure a position.

Miss Dot Waldron has accepted a position as (an) attendant in an insane asylum in Wisconsin.

Mrs. Alfred Munsell of Lansing, who has been the guest of Midland relatives, went to Mt. Pleasant Wednesday to visit her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Dow left the 11<sup>th</sup> for New Haven, Conn. After a week's visit there with Mrs. Dow's sister they go to the Bermuda Islands for the winter.

James Rowe, arrested for the murder of Wm. Rabshaw of Mills, was arraigned before Justice Brown the 3d, plead not guilty and demanded an examination, which was set for next Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. H.H. Dow celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary Wednesday by entertaining their immediate relatives in this city at dinner. There were 17 present, four generations being represented.

Warrants have been issued for the arrest of John and Amos Turney, jr., for assault and battery upon Jos. Kebblebeck of Homer. The Turneys have not been found, and it is thought they have gone to Arkansas.

Licensed to wed:--Chas F. Gustir, 21, North Bradley, and Marian A. Dumont, 18, Gladwin county; Louis Radau, 18, and Sarah Dibble, 18, Mt. Haley; Chas. W. Schwartz, 22, Midland, and Clara J. Duffett, 22, Saginaw.

*Pioneer Record*

Midland Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 2421  
Midland, MI 48641-2421



## MGS Officers

President	Wilma Diesen	Theadiesens@att.net	832-8485
Secretary	Shirley Russell	hdrussell4415@att.net	631-0885
Program Chairs	Bob Snyder	rcsnyder2@earthlink.net	839-9644
	Linda Fisher	fisherl@tm.net	687-9131
Membership Chairs	Dona McArdle	dmcardle1@chartermi.net	835-7895
	Elva Blymer		835-1368
Treasurer	Dave Russell	hdrussell4415@att.net	631-0885
MGC Delegates	Faye Ebach	faeae@chartermi.net	835-7518
	Bev Keicher	bevjoank@netscape.net	631-9455
Historian	Fran Longsdorf	pstrlongsdorf@live.com	832-2838
Hospitality Chairs	Mary Eichhorn	jama9312@prodigy.net	835-7823
	Joanne Rupprecht	wrupp47@chartermi.net	631-8945
Web Master	Walt Bennett	wgbennett@chartermi.net	631-5247
PR Editor	Walt Bennett	wgbennett@chartermi.net	631-5247

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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 Genealogical Society, P. O. Box 2421, Midland, MI 48641-2421.