



PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

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Midland Genealogical Society Programs for 2011 - 2012

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

Programs for the meetings are as follows.

Nov 16, 2011 7:00 pm Library Lounge
"Native American Research Case Study"
by Quita Shier.

Jan 18, 2012 7:00 pm Library Lounge
"Mission Accomplished: The Collaboration between Grace Dow, Midland's Memorial Presbyterian Church, and the Philippine Mission of Bob and Metta Silliman" by Tawny Ryan Nelb.

Feb 15, 2012 7:00 pm Library Lounge
"Michigan Troops in Gettysburg" by Wilma Diesen

The Renouncement of the Edict of Nantes and its effect upon French Huguenot Immigration 1598-1685

By *Yvonne Florance Ashworth*

The Edict of Nantes was issued on 13 April, 1598 by Henry VI of France. It granted the Huguenots of France rights which were generally granted to those of the Catholic faith. The edict offered Protestants specific rights, including amnesty and reinstatement of certain civil rights, with the ability to bring grievances to the King (not previously afforded to non Catholic peoples) It also established boundaries as to where these rights would be afforded.

The edict was aimed at ending hostilities that led to the French Wars of Religion, after the failure of multiple treaties. Henry IV also had personal reasons for supporting the Edict. Prior to assuming the throne in 1589 he had embraced Protestantism, and he remained sympathetic to the Protestant cause. He had converted to Catholicism in 1593 only to secure the throne.

The Edict of Nantes succeeded in restoring partial peace to France, though it was not pleasing to the Catholics, who rejected recognition of Protestantism as an element of any satisfactory form of French society. The Protestants desired to coexist with Catholics, hoping to preserve their religion and be enabled to practice it accordingly, with no restrictions relating to location within France.

The Edict of Nantes that Henry IV signed consisted of four basic texts,

largely based on previously unsuccessful peace treaties which had failed due to the lack of parity between the parties. The Edict also consisted of articles dealing with Protestant rights and obligations. For example, the French state guaranteed protection of French Protestants traveling abroad from the inquisition. Rights of some religious practices were allowed, yet Paris was exempt from any of the provisions of the edict, restricting Protestants to certain regional areas.

In October 1685, Louis XIV the grandson of Henry IV, renounced the Edict and declared Protestantism illegal with the Edict of Fontainebleau. This act, commonly called the '*revocation of the Edict of Nantes*,' had extremely detrimental results for France. 400,000 Protestants chose to leave France, with the majority moving to Great Britain, Prussia, the Dutch Republic, Switzerland, and the new French colonies in North America. This exodus took from France many of its most productive individuals, some of which removed and assisted France's rivals in the Netherlands and in England.

The French crown's refusal to allow non-Catholics to settle in New France may help to explain

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The President's Letter

The fall season is a time when families tend to get together for the holidays and it's a perfect time for sharing stories and information. If you're among the oldest folks in your family, it's a good time to try to interest your children and grandchildren in the genealogy projects you have undertaken. The younger folks are often fascinated by tales of the wayward behavior of some of their ancestors. It's also a perfect time to let those younger folks teach you how to use the Internet with the vast information databases found there. The usual warning stands – you can't believe everything you read so don't write any new "facts" into your files in ink until you can check the sources and prove it for yourself.

One of my resolutions for the new year, perhaps the only one, will be to go back through my files and start tossing some of the old material which has proven useless in my research, perhaps even getting down to the nitty-gritty of saving mostly the primary sources and discarding some clutter which apparently has no value. I have some loose-leaf binders of group sheets and pedigree charts supplied by other people which need a

hard look once more. Many of these were from correspondents more than 20 years ago. Having not managed to connect them yet, I probably should give up and either dig in on the subject again or abandon the effort there.

After I had started this note for the newsletter, I received a copy of a letter forwarded by Tom Koselka of the Michigan Genealogical Council from Cynthia Gorstick, its President. Her letter pertained to changes and potential changes at the Library of Michigan. As you know, under the current management of the Library of Michigan as a function of the Department of Education, the emphasis of the Library has reverted to a more narrow purpose of serving as a resource to the state government. Funding has not been provided for the Library to support the genealogical collection which does not fit this core purpose. The genealogical collection remains in the Library for now, but there is some conversation going on with the State Archives about the possibility of a more significant involvement of the Archives in caring for materials of genealogical significance and making them available for research. No decisions have been made yet in this matter.

In the meantime, I would encourage you to visit the Library, visit the Archives, and learn how to make the best of the situation. The Library is

still open for research although the staff is exceedingly small. It's still worth the trip there. If you have never explored the State Archives, this is also an ideal time to do so and see the good things which are available in their holdings. Be sure to thank the staff for their support!

Happy hunting,
Wilma

GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



I'm sorry, sir. We only allow pencil and paper in the library.

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2010-2011

The collection of MGS Membership dues for 2011-2012 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, PO Box 2421, Midland, MI 48641-2421. Dues for an individual are \$14.00; for a family they are \$17.50.

From The Editor ● ● ●

At the last board meeting of the Midland Genealogical Society, we discussed purchasing and creating a website. The current website resides on rootsweb's server and although free provides very limited functionality.

Our goal's for the website were defined and discussed. The cost of the website fell below \$100 per year. An amount that was very reasonable and provides us with what we are needing.

The board voted on purchasing and implementing the new website which was unamously-

ly approved. The idea of a new website has been discussed several times in the past but we felt that the time is right.

Over the coming months, the website will be in development by me. A notice will go out to members when this website will be available. The website will have a whole new look and feel to it and also provide a members only section.

Goals for the new website includes the ability to sell our resources online, New membership and renewal membership online, membership email lists and newsletter retrieval.

Walt Bennett
Editor

Membership

This month's report will be very short as the co-chairs of membership have been experiencing computer troubles. We have had a good response to the renewals this fall and have less than two dozen members who have not renewed. We will be contacting these folks and hopefully will have a good response from them. The next report will identify new members and the names of any drops. Have an enjoyable Thanksgiving.

Betty Bellous & Marion Berry

Web Sites of Interest

<http://index.rbhayes.org/hayes/index/>. Ohio Obituary Index. An index to more than 2 million Obituary, Death, marriage notices and other sources from Ohio dating from the 1810's to the present day.

[Www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) A project that was sponsored by the MGC, for an addition to the familysearch database is the Michigan County Marriages from 1820-1957 is nearly finished. These will be online soon. They are also working on another sponsored project of Detroit Border Crossings.

www.genealogyinc.com/uscm.htm
US State County Census Maps

<http://www.n2genealogy.com/> A good resource for state information

and sources.

<http://www.terms.n2genealogy.com/>
This site is a genealogical encyclopedia and describes terminology and meanings of abbreviations.

<http://www.hathitrust.org/> This is another digital book collection that contains more than 2000 books on family history. This contains individual family histories and also family trees of the famous and royalty.

<http://www.gcgsmichigan.org/> Gladwin County Genealogical Society.

[Www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org)
New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. New Site.



B O O K S F O R S A L E

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. 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.

To ORDER A BOOK write: Midland Genealogical Society BOOK: P.O. Box 2421, Midland, MI 48641-2421.

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the fact that the colonies had a slow rate of population growth. (compared to that of the British colonies) By the time of the French and Indian War, a large population of Huguenots lived in the British colonies, with many participating in the British conquest of New France in 1759-60.

Many will find that their ancestry includes those who fled after the Edict of Nantes. Records are often difficult to trace due to the numbers of those who fled, and the fact that baptisms and marriages of Protestants often went unrecorded for fear of persecution/prosecution,

It was not until the French Revolution, 1789 – 1799, that the Huguenots that remained in France regained their civil rights. A large proportion of those who remained were forced into Catholicism prior to the Revolution, never returning to Protestantism.

Herein is the main provisions of the Edict:

The Principal and most salient Provisions of Henry IV's Edict of Nantes, which was promulgated at Nantes, in Brittany, on April 13, 1598, are as follows:

Henry, by the grace of God king of France and of Navarre, to all to whom these presents come, greeting:

Among the infinite benefits which it has pleased God to heap upon us, the most signal and precious is his granting us the strength and ability to withstand the fearful disorders and troubles which prevailed on our advent in this kingdom. The realm was so torn by innumerable factions and sects



Henry IV of France

that the most legitimate of all the parties was fewest in numbers. God has given us strength to stand out against this storm; we have finally surmounted the waves and made our port of safety,—peace for our state. For which his be the glory all in all, and ours a free recognition of his grace in making use of our instrumentality in the good work.... We implore and await from the Divine Goodness the same protection and favor which he has ever granted to this kingdom from the beginning....

We have, by this perpetual and irrevocable edict, established and proclaimed and do establish and proclaim:

I. First, that the recollection of everything done by one party or the other between March, 1585, and our accession to the crown, and during all the preceding period of troubles, remain obliterated and forgotten, as if no such things had ever happened....

III. We ordain that the Catholic Apostolic and Roman religion shall be restored and reestablished in all places and localities of this our kingdom and countries subject to our sway, where

the exercise of the same has been interrupted, in order that it may be peaceably and freely exercised, without any trouble or hindrance; forbidding very expressly all persons, of whatsoever estate, quality, or condition, from troubling, molesting, or disturbing ecclesiastics in the celebration of divine service, in the enjoyment or collection of tithes, fruits, or revenues of their benefices, and all other rights and dues belonging to them; and that all those who during the troubles have taken possession of churches, houses, goods or revenues, belonging to the said ecclesiastics, shall surrender to them entire possession and peaceable enjoyment of such rights, liberties, and sureties as they had before they were deprived of them....

VI. And in order to leave no occasion for troubles or differences between our subjects, we have permitted, and herewith permit, those of the said religion called Reformed to live and abide in all the cities and places of this our kingdom and countries of our sway, without being annoyed, molested, or compelled to do anything in the matter of religion contrary to their consciences, ... upon condition that they comport themselves in other respects according to that which is contained in this our present edict.

VII. It is permitted to all lords, gentlemen, and other persons making profession of the said religion called Reformed, holding the right of high justice [or a certain feudal tenure], to exercise the said religion in their houses....

IX. We also permit those of the said religion to make and continue the exercise of the same in all villages and places of our dominion where it was established by them and publicly enjoyed several and divers times in the year 1597, up to the end of the month of August, notwithstanding all decrees and judgments to the contrary....

XIII. We very expressly forbid to

(Continued on page 5)

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all those of the said religion its exercise, either in respect to ministry, regulation, discipline, or the public instruction of children, or otherwise, in this our kingdom and lands of our dominion, otherwise than in the places permitted and granted by the present edict. XIV. It is forbidden as well to perform any function of the said religion in our court or retinue, or in our lands and territories beyond the mountains, or in our city of Paris, or within five leagues

of the said city.... XVIII. We also forbid all our subjects, of whatever quality and condition, from carrying off by force or persuasion, against the will of their parents, the children of the said religion, in order to cause them to be baptized or confirmed in the Catholic Apostolic and Roman Church; and the same is forbidden to those of the said religion called Reformed, upon penalty of being punished with especial severity....

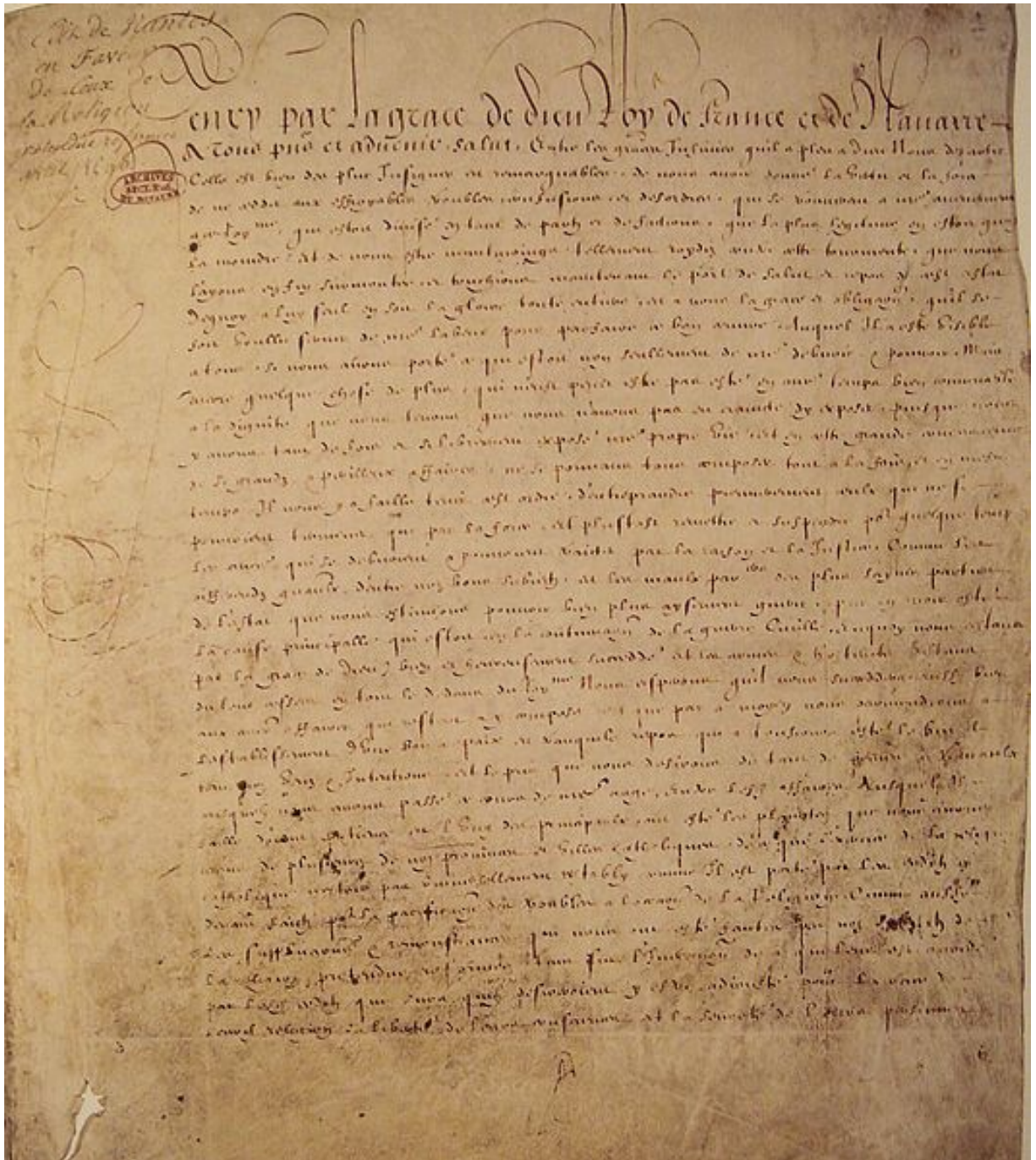
XXI. Books concerning the said religion called Reformed may not be printed and publicly sold, except in cities and places where the public exercise of the said religion is permitted.

XXII. We ordain that there shall be

no difference or distinction made in respect to the said religion, in receiving pupils to be instructed in universities, colleges, and schools; nor in receiving the sick and poor into hospitals, retreats, and public charities.

the source followed by most modern historians is the *Histoire de l'édit de Nantes*, 3 vols. (Delft, 1693-95). E.G. Léonard devotes a chapter to the Edict of Nantes in his *Histoire général du*

protestantisme, 2 vols. (Paris) 1961:II:312-89.



Family History Told from Photos

We all have a box of family photos whether they are recent, old, or a mixture of both. In her workshop held October 8, 2011 at the Grace Dow Library, Rebecca Stimson asked her group of thirteen individuals to choose a photo from the several they had brought and write a story about it. Her inspirational presentation showed the group how to go about the process of writing in a step-by-step fashion with nothing more than using insights gathered from looking at the photo.

As a free-lance writer, personal historian, and editor, Rebecca began giving workshops for genealogical groups near Lansing. She believes that preserving a family's story is important. "If you don't do it, who will?" is something Rebecca said that the half dozen members of the MGS in attendance could take to heart.

"Every Photo Tells a Story" was the name of her family history writing workshop. Rebecca's love for old photographs seems to have been inherited from her grandfather who was a photographer. She thinks scrapbook hobbyists should include descriptive writing, known as journaling, on their decorative pages. This would help tell the story behind the pictures on their pages and preserve it for future generations. She was very adamant about not letting others tell you that your memory of the event or person is wrong. **It Is Your Memory!**

After participants chose a photo from the ones they had brought, she gave everyone a sheet of paper with column headings: **World, Country, State, Community, and People.** These were memory prompts. Using only phrases and not sentences, each participant was to fill in what was going on in the

world during the time of the photo. What was happening in our country and in our state was what was filled in next. Each participant described the community in which the picture was taken and the people in the photo.

Rebecca gave volunteers time to share their thoughts with the group once they filled in each column. Memories brought out by this exercise ranged from a dog in a family photo that had mange and was put down because of it to a barber who made house calls—setting up shop under an apple tree in a back yard and cutting the neighborhood children's hair.

After a short break for refreshments, participants were handed a second sheet with column headings: **When, Where, Who, What, What, and How.** These were called a fact foundation. When was the photo taken during the year, or when in this century (or previous one) was the event captured? Where was it taken in the immediate vicinity, local area, state, or country? Who were the people in the photo—their names or relationship to the photo owner?

What (#1) was the reason the photo was taken—a birthday party, reunion, holiday, etc? What (#2) was the activity going on in the photo? How described how the people in the picture were feeling when it was taken. Once again, participants volunteered to share what they had written.

At another short break, each person was encouraged to view the photos of the other participants. There were a variety of interesting subjects. The pictures showed several family groups wearing period clothing. Other photos were of a family reunion, another of a child's birthday party, and a third of a mother and two children taken at a wedding. There was an interesting one of an outdoor tavern in Munich, Germany, during an Oktoberfest.

A barn blown over by a Kansas tornado was the subject of another unusual photo while maple syrup making in the late 1930s and a diesel caterpillar passed down through a family were pictured in

two others. The most amusing photo was a Norman-Rockwell-type setting. It was of a 1950s brother and sister gathered around the piano in the parlor singing Christmas carols while the family dog played the piano! Everyone got a chuckle from it.

The sensory sheet was the third and final one handed out by Rebecca. **Seeing, Hearing, Touching, Tasting, and Smelling** were the column headings. Participants had to list what sensations for each heading could be experienced by the people in the picture. Several volunteers shared what they had listed.

Finally each participant was to write a story of several paragraphs using the information from the first two sheets with the sensations from the last sheet thrown in later. Rebecca did not allow a lot of time for this. Everyone wrote furiously since all of their information was lying in front of them. She asked for several volunteers to read what they had written. Four or five stories full of detail and description were heard. They were inspired by the information gleaned from each photo.

This was a very worthwhile workshop for those wanting to write a family history. Rebecca Stimson was very motivational in her delivery. She encouraged ideas and memories that seem to go off on a tangent from the subject of the photo. They were personal and time-period memories brought to the surface by the questions on her hand-out sheets that the writer may not have thought of otherwise. Those "forgotten gems" are something children and grandchildren would find interesting and cherish.

Rebecca Stimson teaches classes and does writing of memoirs and for funeral stories. She can be reached at www.clarkwoodconnect.com.

Coming Events

Feb 2-4, 2012, "Rootstech Family History & Technology Conference", Salt Lake City, UT. "Innovation through Collaboration". Rootstech.org.

April 12-14, 2012 "OGS Annual Conference", Cleveland, Ohio, "History and Genealogy: Finding clues to ancestral lines" www.ogs.org

April 27-28, 2012 "Gene-a-Rama" Green Bay, Wisconsin. This seminar has 5 lectures, Behind the cheese curtain: A look at Wisconsin genealogy resources, Facebook for genealogists, Managing your genealogy data, They're alive—searching for living persons, Genealogy party line—Hung up on technology" wsgs.wetpaint.com.

April 28, 2012 "Indiana Genealogical Society Annual Conference", title not yet available, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Wwww.indgensoc.org.

May 9-12, 2012 "National Genealogical Society Family History Conference", to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio. The theme "The Ohio River: Gateway to the Western Frontier". Nngenealogy.org.

June 22-24, 2012 "Upper Peninsula History Conference", Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan. Presented by the Historical Society of Michigan. Wwww.hsmichigan.org.

July 13-14, 2012 "2012 Abrams Genealogy Seminar", Archives of Michigan, Lansing, Michigan. Further details at a later date. Mimgc.org.

August 29-Sept 1, 2012 "Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference", Birmingham, Alabama. Wwww.fgs.org.

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

MGC REPORT

Faye Ebach, Delegate

The Council met on Sept. 15 in Lansing at the Michigan Archives. Due to budgetary and administrative changes at the state level, the Library of Michigan (LOM) is no longer readily available to the MGC for Delegate meetings. At this time the state Archives has invited the Council to hold their delegate meetings in their meeting facilities.

Several reports were given from Council members who attended the recent Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) annual meeting in Springfield, IL. The focus of the conference was on societies, and dealt with topics such as, Why a society exists?, Purpose of a society?, Value of a society?, How to market a society?, How will a society survive?, and How to develop and increase member benefits? Members reporting the conference was exciting, and presented numerous opportunities to network with other society members from all over the country. The FGS website (fgs.org) contains more detail about the conference.

The FGS along with the National Archives and many volunteer genealogists are currently digitizing War of 1812 pension files. Over 71 thousand have been completed. Goal is to complete this project by 2015, 200 years after the end of the war. Further details are available on the FGS website.

Roger Moffat, MGC member, announced that the Family Search project to index U.S. Michigan-County Marriages from 1820-

1957 is nearly finished. The MGC group who assisted with this project indexed over 170,000 images out of a total 574,000 images. It will take 2-3 months for Family/Search to process the project and make it searchable online. When it is available, the indexes and images will be free. The Council has committed to work on a new project, to index Detroit Border Crossings.

The Archives of Michigan announced that it continues to function and promote service to genealogists doing research, now that the LOM is reducing the availability of genealogical resources. The LOM will no longer accept family histories, society newsletters, society books, or non-Michigan gifts. In the future, it is anticipated that any LOM holdings that are genealogical and/or Michigan related will be transferred to the Archives. The Archives will soon take control of the Seekingmichigan.org website, and the DNR will soon launch an online [site DNR.seekingmichigan.org](http://DNR.seekingmichigan.org). The hours for the Archives are 1 – 5PM, Monday – Friday.



Conquering the Challenge of Reading Old Handwriting

By Echo King 28 January 2009, Ancestry Archives

Whether you are just beginning or have done research for years we can all appreciate the value of a good index. At the same time we are all aware of the advice to always go back to the original source document because the index may be incomplete or it may contain errors. How true it is! But what do you do when you are trying to create the index in the first place? You may not have fully appreciated what it takes to create a good index before you participated in the Ancestry World Archives project.

Not being able to read old handwriting can be a problem for even experienced researchers. Sometimes we assume that just because we can read and write we should be able to read anything, but reading old handwriting is skill that has to be learned like any other. The best way to master the skill is to learn guidelines and then practice, practice, practice.

The first rule is one that I learned while studying paleography in college and that is "Don't Panic!" Once you've mastered rule number one we can move on. While you don't need to have an advanced degree in history or years of experience it is important for every beginner to realize that self-discipline and patience are required when reading old documents. When most of us read we are recognizing shapes and forms and recognizing words on page but we are not really reading every letter on the page. When you are reading and transcribing an old document it is important to change that approach and read letter by letter. If you do not look at each letter it is much more likely that you will be misled or make an incorrect assumption about what you think a word should be. Just remember to slow down and really look at what is on the page.

When you come across a letter that is unclear the first step is to continue reading the page and look for other letters that are similar to the one you are trying to decipher.

Look for common words such as dates or months where the letters are predictable. After reading more on the page come back to the word you are having trouble with and see if it makes sense. Sometimes you just need to become familiar with a person's handwriting. If you are working on several pages entered by the same person you may want to create a sample alphabet based on that handwriting for reference.

If you are you are transcribing an index or document where there is only one name on a page you may not have a lot of context to compare against. In this case it is helpful to consider which letters look alike and narrow down your choices by a process of elimination. For example, if you are trying to decipher a letter that has a "tail" or descends below the line of writing consider which letters of the alphabet match that description. They are q, y, p, g and j. You have just eliminated most of the alphabet. From here you can determine if one letter make more sense in context with the surrounding letters.

It will also help if you become familiar with letters that are most commonly confused with one another. For example a capital L is often confused with a capital S. Other examples include:

T and F
J, G, and Y
I and J
K and R
O and Q
P and R
U and W

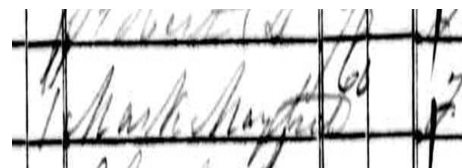
Additional examples like this can be found in the knowledge base article Tips for Reading Old Handwriting on Ancestry.com.

If you still do not have success you can try to guess at the word, it can help to say it out loud, but make sure that you cross check those guesses for accuracy. It is only too easy to imagine a word and trick yourself into making it fit if you do not discipline yourself into actually reading letter by letter to see if it really fits. This is much more difficult to do when transcribing names and dates rather than a full document because there really isn't any context to help you judge your accuracy.

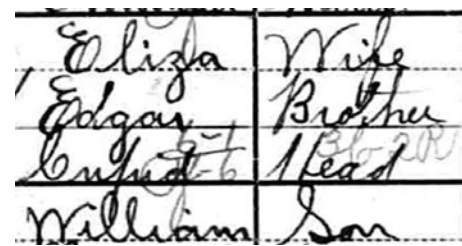
If you are still struggling, get someone else to look at it, or take a break yourself and come back to it later. Some-

times a fresh pair of eyes and a fresh perspective can make all of the difference. One of the advantages of technology is that even if you are working on something on your own you can reach out to the community for a second opinion.

Finally, it is also important to remember that no matter how many rules are put in place handwriting is unique to an individual. Spelling is not standard and local dialect can effect how words are spelled if they are spelt phonetically. Whatever the challenge with a little patience, discipline and practice you can make reading old handwriting easier and even one of the more fun aspects of indexing.



This name was transcribed as Mark Maryland. While the last name is difficult to read if I compare the number of letters in Maryland to the image I can tell that there isn't an extra letter between the "a" and the "y", and the letter after the Y seems much too long to be an "l." The name is actually Mayfield although the final "d" is hard to see.



The name on the third line can be a real challenge. It was originally indexed as Cufud – which doesn't make a lot of sense. When we compare the middle letter to the "f" in Wife – it's clearly not an "f." so what could it be? Think about which letters descend below the line of writing. The name is actually "Cupid" – this extra tall letter "p" frequently causes problems.

Ask the Expert--Changing Your Surname

By Lou Szucs 07 April 2009
Ancestry Archives

Question: If my grandparents changed their last name when they came to the U.S., how do I research them?

Answer: There are a number of ways you may be able to find the answer to this frequently asked question. Ideally, the name change was recorded in court records in the county in which your grandparents lived. It was especially common for individuals with foreign-sounding or hard-to-pronounce surnames to "legalize" name changes in American courts, so that would be the best starting place for your search. If you are not able to visit the courthouse where your ancestors lived, check online for the website of the clerk of that particular court and see what their research policy is. Frequently, local court sites will direct you to the division of that court where "name changes" were filed.

Other sources to consider are naturalization records, in which name changes or "aliases" are often recorded. When a naturalization document can't be found, try finding that person in alien registration files. Both naturalization (citizenship) and alien registrations are usually cross-indexed so the old and new names should show up. Churches and other religious institutions were other places where these events may have been noted. We found a name change recorded in a church marriage register in one case, and on the civil recording

of a marriage for another ancestor. Probate records and property ownership records are other potential sources to consider. It's also a good idea to study the census records for all known family members because clues may be found in the listing of other people living in the household with your ancestors.

Unfortunately, many of our ancestors didn't have the means to change their name in official records, so it might be necessary to tap into the memories of older relatives or even long-time family friends. Family feuds and the advantage of having an anglicized surname were often reason to change names "off the record" but someone, even a distant cousin, may have the missing information you need. After learning from my husband's aunt that her family surname was unofficially changed for just a few years, it made it possible for us to find his mother's "Delayed Birth Registration." Her original birth record had been recorded under the temporary surname, making our first efforts to find it a waste of time and money.

If you can't find evidence of a name change in the records you find for your direct ancestor, gather as many records as you can about his or her siblings and cousins. Their records will often lead you back to the common ancestor and the long-lost surname.



New Online Resource for County Kerry, Ireland Researchers

From Eastman's newsletter

The Kerry County Council (in County Kerry, Ireland) has placed online the burial records from 140 cemeteries in the district that the council either owns or controls (church and private cemeteries are not included in this collection). In total there are some 70,000 records in the database. The records date back as far as 1898. A typical entry lists the name, age, marital status, occupation and cause of death.

Access is free at <http://www.kerrylaburials.ie/en/>

Associated Press

10/27/2011

LONDON -- The truth is out: Prince Charles is related to Vlad the Impaler.

The heir to the British throne says he is related to Vlad the Impaler, the cruel 15th-Century Romanian warlord who helped inspire Bram Stoker's 1897 vampire novel "Dracula."

He makes the comments on an upcoming TV show to promote his interest in protecting the forests of Romania's Transylvania region.

Charles says genealogy shows that he is related to Vlad, giving him a stake in the future of Romania. The prince has long worked to conserve the forests and has bought a home in the region.

On a visit to Romania earlier this year, he called Transylvania a national treasure because of its unspoiled landscape and centuries-old rural farming traditions.

1940 Census

The 1940 census will become available to the public on April 2, 2012. The date was chosen to comply with the requirement to protect privacy for 72 years. If you want to watch a vintage video, you can learn more about the contents of the 1940 census in a 10-minute movie created by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. The movie was created in 1939 or 1940 and is typical newsreels of that time.

The movie focuses on the role of the enumerators (census takers) but explains who was counted and also provides many details about the 1940 census. You can watch the video on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/OwZk6rASC8k>

Important Changes Made to the Public Death Master File (DMF) and the Social Security Death Index (SSDI)

Effective yesterday, 01 November 2011, the Social Security Administration (SSA) changed its policy on what records it will use as source material for adding new entries in the Public Death Master File (DMF) which, in turn, is used to create the Social Security Death Index (SSDI).

The Agency decided that it can no longer use state death records to add new entries to the DMF. Furthermore, the SSA will remove approximately 4.2 million records currently on the SSDI because those entries were made based on information from state death records.

Library and Archives Canada Announces a New Version of the Home Children Database (1869-1930)

Between 1869 and the early 1930s, over 100,000 children were sent to Canada from Great Britain during the child emigration movement. Library and Archives Canada holds multiple records in different series regarding the Home Children. In the latest update, more than 20,000 names of children, who came to Canada between 1925 and 1932, were added to the extended version. The names were extracted from passengers lists held at Library and Archives Canada.

You can find the Home Children Database (1869-1930) at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/>

Ancestry.com and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Release First Searchable Online Records Collections from World Memory Project

The following announcement was written by Ancestry.com and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum:

Information on Holocaust survivors and victims of Nazi persecution available online at no cost through efforts of World Memory Project

WASHINGTON, D.C./PROVO, Utah, November 2, 2011 - The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Ancestry.com announced that material from four Museum collections containing information on more than 30,000 victims of Nazi persecution is now available online at Ancestry.com and can be searched at no cost. The collections contain information on thousands of individuals including displaced Jewish orphans; Czech Jews deported to the Terezin concentration camp and camps in occupied Poland; and French victims of Nazi persecution.

The collections are being made available through the World Memory Project, launched in May 2011. The project is recruiting the public to help build the world's largest online resource on Jewish victims of the Holocaust

and millions of non-Jews who were targeted for persecution by Nazi Germany and its collaborators, allowing victims' families and survivors themselves to discover missing chapters of their history, learn the truth about the fate of their relatives and honor those who were lost.

World Memory Project contributors are continuously keying information that will form new searchable databases of historical collections when complete. To date, more than 2,100 contributors from around the world have indexed almost 650,000 records. Anyone, anywhere can contribute to the project by simply typing information from historical records into the online database.

"World Memory Project contributors are helping Holocaust survivors and their families learn the truth about what happened to loved ones," says Lisa Yavnai, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum WMP project leader. "It is an incredible gift that anyone can give to those who survived the horrors of Nazi Germany. In a few months, the contributors' efforts have resulted in more online searchable records than the Museum alone could have produced in many years."

The World Memory Project utilizes proprie-

tary software and project management donated by Ancestry.com, which hosts its own online archival project to transcribe historical records. Once Museum records are transcribed, the indices are hosted exclusively on Ancestry.com and are permanently free to search. The Museum provides copies of documents upon request at no cost. The original documentation remains in the Museum's archival collection.

"We've been inspired by the steadfast efforts of the thousands of contributors who have in some cases spent hundreds of hours transcribing this important material," remarked Tim Sullivan, CEO, Ancestry.com. "These early results would likely have taken years without the dedication of the many individuals who have embraced the mission of the World Memory Project."

To find out more about the World Memory Project or to learn how to become a contributor, please visit www.WorldMemoryProject.org.

What World Memory Project contributors are saying:

"I chose to try to make available to the public a few documents from Poland during WWII. I found it to be a very emotional and most privileged moment in my life."

Looking Back in Midland County

Looking Back in Midland County

(Taken from *Portrait and Biographical Album of Midland County, Michigan 1884* p. 181- 182)

T. B. Simons

T. B. Simons, farmer, merchant and shingle manufacturer, residing at Coleman, Warren Township, was born Oct. 19, 1846, in Alymer, Ontario.

The father of Mr. Simons, John K. Simons, was born Oct. 19, 1810, in West Flamboro, Can., and died in Alymer, Ont. in June 1868, and was of Scotch descent. The mother, Margaret (Hopkins) Simons, was born June 22, 1812, in East Flamboro, and is of English and German descent. She is living with her son, the subject of this notice, with whom she has resided for seven years. The father's family consisted of eight children, all of whom lived to the age of maturity except for two. One died at the age of four years and the other in infancy.

T. B. Simons, the subject of this biographical notice, remained under the parental roof-tree until he attained the age of 17 years, when he came to this State, but shortly afterward, on the death of his father, returned to Canada and assisted his mother in conducting a bakery, which his father had left, for a few years.

In 1870 he came back to this county, and with the exception of one year has resided here ever since. He was united in marriage July 3, 1876, to Miss Mary E., daughter of S. W. and Lorinda (Bennett) Hubbell. Her father's family was the second to locate on the present site of Coleman, this county, Ira Adams and his family being the first, and only settling three days previous to Mr. Hubbell. The railroad was not completed to Coleman when Mrs. Simons' parents settled there, and the hand of improvement was hardly visible. He (Mr. Hubbell) brought the first shingle mill to that place (Mr. Ira Adams the first saw mill), and the family of Mr. Hubbell underwent all the trials of pioneer life. They lived in a tent for six weeks, and during the entire time were not discommoded by rain. Mr. Hubbell's family consisted of 15 children. He lived in Coleman for seven years and then moved to Tuscola Co., this State, where he is engaged in farming.

Mrs. Simons was born June 11, 1857, in "Big Flats," Chemung Co., N. Y. She has borne four children to her husband, two of

whom are deceased. The living are Frank Wm., born Feb. 19, 1882, in Coleman, and an infant born Feb. 29, 1884, at Coleman. The deceased are Gertrude, born April 6, 1877, and died Feb. 14, 1879; and Leonard, born Sept. 11, 1880, and died Sept. 17, 1882.

After his marriage to Miss Hubbell, Mr. Simons took his bride to Saginaw and was there engaged in buying and selling shingles and in conducting the running of a shingle-mill as employee for about a year. He then returned to Coleman, in 1877, and took charge of the mill his father-in-law, Mr. Hubbell, had erected at that place, and lived in the same house his father-in-law had vacated. He soon afterward purchased the mill property and ran it for his own profit.

Mr. Simons is a true representative, in a financial point of view, of what energy and perseverance, backed by good judgment, can accomplish. He started life's journey with comparatively nothing, and by energetic effort has banished want from the household, and content sits in the lap of plenty around the family hearthstone. He owns a shingle mill three miles north of Coleman, and store building stocked with goods. His landed interests include some 1,700 acres, 600 of which is pine timber land, and 1,100 acres hard wood. It is calculated there is some six or seven million feet of pine lumber on his 600 acres, and he is constantly engaged—the year round—in converting this timber into lumber. The capacity of his shingle-mill per day is 45,000 feet, which average it has maintained for the last three years; and Mr. Simons contemplates the utilization of the most of his timber in that way.

Mr. Simons has been Township Treasurer for two terms, and was Highway Commissioner last year. He belongs to that class of citizens who are regarded as a benefit rather than a hindrance to the community in which they live, and is identified with the moving, advancing element residing in his township.

Taken from *The Midland Sun* October 29, 1909 p. 8

Larkin

Sam Murdock of Harbor Springs came to visit his mother who is ill.

Mrs. George Blackhurst was taken ill suddenly. Her son Morley came home from teaching and remained a week with her. Her daughter, Mabel (is) also coming home from Midland.

Mr. and Mrs. John Whipple and Mr. and Mrs. George Gray spent the Sunday with

George Frost and family of Midland.

J. W. Cross of Flint came last Saturday to visit old neighbors and look after his farm interests. Sunday he was called home by the sudden death of his youngest son, Gilbert, who was working in Detroit. For many years Mr. Cross had been a resident of Larkin until death took the wife and mother then the family moved to Flint, where his sons lived. Gilbert just left for Detroit about two months ago and was taken with typhoid pneumonia. The funeral will be held at Flint and burial besides his mother.

East Geneva

Born to Mr. and Mrs. David Barnes October 21, an eleven pound boy.

D. N. Maxwell was in this vicinity Friday on business.

Albert Griswold purchased a fine cow of L. F. Babcock last Wednesday.

Mrs. A. Griswold is caring for Mrs. Barnes and baby for a few days.

Harvey Pearsall and Mrs. H. Wood visited Mrs. Wood's parents at Estey Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Griswold called at Lyman Haller's Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McCormick were in Coleman one day last week.

Beet harvest is moving along and will soon be done.

Lyman Haller called at Geo. Webster's and A. Griswold's Sunday.

There were no services at the school house Friday evening as the minister failed to show up, hence no appointment for next week.

Gordon & Maxwell have improved the looks of the Coe farm by clearing and plowing a nice strip along the road.

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