



PIONEER RECORD

Newsletter for the Midland Genealogical Society

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MIMGS.ORG

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In This Issue

Emigration and Immigration in Michigan	1
The Presidents Letter	2
Editorial Comments	2
Programs	3
Books for sale	3
Preserving Old Photo Albums	4
Heritage Quest Online changes	5
Name Changes and Variations	6
MGC Report	7
Coming Events	7
News from Dick Eastman	8
Looking Back in Midland County	9
MGS Officers & Society Information	10

Emigration and Immigration in Michigan

By Walter Bennett

Prior to Michigan becoming a state in 1837, the state was inhabited by Native Americans. The French began coming to Michigan to start Missionaries to give the Native's religion. The French also settled here to hunt and trap and trade goods with the Natives. There were about 140,000 pioneers that came to Michigan between 1830 and 1837.

This was followed by the British as they began expanding their Empire. Settlers then came to Michigan from Canada, New York, Ohio, and the New England states. Many immigrants from Germany and the Netherlands arrived by 1850. Later arrivals were Scandanavian, Irish, Cornish, Italian, and Polish.

Three rivers were important in the migration to Michigan. Those rivers are the Clinton which was the settlements of Mt. Clemens, Pontiac, and Rochester. The Huron River which was the settlements of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti and the Raisin River and the settlements of Monroe, Tecumseh and Adrian.

Michigan had a lot to offer. Fertile land, mines and forests. There were both Iron and Copper mines. The iron industry was needed to create farming implements, stoves and many other things. Michigan Began farming and this grew as the timber was cleared. Lumber was an important industry as it was needed to build. Later on, other industries began to prosper in Michigan, such as the automo-

bile, furniture, cereal and chemical industries.

Immigrants came from other countries where they had experience in the industry. Their reasons to come were many. The mining industry in their respective countries was dying. There was famine and economic hardships where they were coming from. There were political refugees as well as those avoiding war and military service. Religious freedom, low wages and high taxes were also reasons. Many came for the farm lands. Land was cheap and plentiful.

Following World War II, many African-americans came from the south for a better life, and worked in the automobile industry. Hispanics came to Michigan and worked in the farm industry as laborers. After the crops were harvested, they returned south for more work or rest.

Many wrote home to encourage others in their family to join them as they found a suitable life in Michigan. They came for the American dream and a better life.

Major ports of entry to Michigan have been New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Quebec. Coming by land and water and eventually by train. The Soo Locks made travel easier as the immigrants came to many ports in Michigan along the Great Lakes.

(Continued on page 4)

Midland Genealogical Society Programs for 2014 - 2015

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

Programs for the meetings are as follows.

****PLEASE NOTE LOCATIONS****

April 15 —“The National Road” Presented by Betty Bellous.

Meeting at Williams Hall, St. John’s Episcopal Church, Midland.

May 20—“The Dionne Quintuplets”, presented by Floyd Andrick. Meeting at Williams Hall, St. John’s Episcopal Church, Midland. Program at 7 pm. Annual Meeting/Potluck to begin at 6pm.

For a complete list of our meetings, check the meetings page of our website at mimgs.org.

The President's Letter

Exciting things are happening in the genealogy world in Michigan. The Archives of Michigan has added the Death Records Collections to seekingmichigan.org. The collection covers the index from 1897-1952 with images available from 1897 -1939 and a full index from 1940 -1952. If you haven't had the opportunity to access any of these records yet, I think you will be amazed at what is now available. Due to the complexity of such an overwhelming task, there may be a few glitches noted, and the Archives' staff are working diligently to deal with difficulties encountered. Knowing how challenging it can be to locate civil records, this is a welcome addition to readily accessed resource material for researchers.

The Archives have also announced that the Detroit News has transferred all their historical records to the Archives. These records have now been scanned and will be searchable by PDF on seeking Michigan.org. These records not only cover Detroit but out-state as well. In index form, researchers will have access to indexes for a variety of news items covered by the News.

As I look outside the window it looks like spring has finally arrived. The sun is shining and the outside temperature is 60°F. A wonderful sight to behold.

Our current fiscal year is rapidly coming to a close. The annual meeting and pot-luck is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20 at 6 PM in Williams Hall, St. John's Episcopal Church. During the annual meeting, the election of officers will be held.

Please give serious consideration to serving in some capacity during the coming year. MGS board members work diligently throughout the year. The board can benefit from new members with fresh ideas, vital energy, and new direction. To quote the late JFK, "ask what you can do for your" society? WE NEED YOU!!!

Faye Ebach

GENE TOONS by Wendell Washer



But Mommy, all I said was 'You're my first generation ancestor!...

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2015-2016

Collection of dues for the current year has ceased. Collection of dues for the 2015-2016 year will begin in August.

Dues are shown below and can be sent to the following address:

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

Dues for an individual are \$20.00;
for a family they are \$25.00.

From The Editor ● ● ●

I am sorry about this issue coming late. This year has been full of wonderful things. I am hoping the coming year is better.

I am in need of articles for the newsletter. If you are willing to write an article or articles, please let me know. We all research family tree's and must have a story to tell. We would like to hear about your ancestors and your road-blocks and how you got beyond them.

The Midland Genealogical Society is looking for new members who have the same passion that we do

and would like to get involved in our societies projects and help keep the society going. If you know of someone that fits these qualifications, please bring them to a meeting in the near future.

I am planning another genealogy trip this summer and hope to learn a lot about my ancestors. I am not finding much info on one of my lines online so will dig into the archives to see what I can find. I should have a story to write by the fall.

Happy Hunting.

Walter G Bennett

Editor

April 15th Program

April 15th the Midland Genealogical Society will meet in William's Hall at St. John's Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. The program will be "The National Road" presented by member Betty Bellous. Hear about the road that many ancestors took heading west from Maryland to California. This program is open to the public.

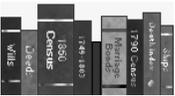
May 20th Program

Due to a cancellation by our previously scheduled speaker, we have scheduled a new program.

"The Dionne Quintuplets" will be the May 20th Program of the Midland Genealogical Society. The speaker will be Floyd Andrick, who at the age of 18, met the Dionne family. In addition to a slide presentation, he will talk about his

resulting friendship with the family. Program to begin at 7pm.

This is also the Annual meeting and potluck which will begin at 6pm at St. John's Episcopal Church, Williams Hall. Please bring a dish to pass and place settings.



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.

(Continued from page 1)

Immigration Department made lists of persons coming to Michigan from Canada. These can be found on microfilm at the family history library. This is titled "United States Immigration and Naturalization Services. *Detroit District Manifest Records of Aliens Arriving from Foreign Contiguous Territory: Arrivals at Detroit, Michigan, 1906–1954*". Another source is "Passenger and Alien Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at the Port of Detroit, MI, 1946–1957", available at the National Archives (National Archives on 23 rolls; series M1479).

Sources:

http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Michigan_Emigration_and_Immigration
<http://www.journeytothepastblog.com/2013/05/pure-michigan-genealogy-migration-and.html>

Free Webinars available online

ANCESTRY: <http://www.ancestry.com/cs/us/videos>

FAMILYSEARCH: <http://tinyurl.com/pkxwnd5>

LEGACY: <http://www.familytreewebinars.com/index.php>

Note: Each webinar is free to view for 7 days after the live event. To see the archived webinars, click on the "Webinar library" tab at the top.

NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (NEHGS):

<http://tinyurl.com/owufabs>

NATIONAL ARCHIVES (UK): <http://tinyurl.com/kyvm6eo>

FAMILY TREE DNA: <http://tinyurl.com/mugb2ed>

ROOTSTECH RECORDED SESSIONS:
<http://rootstech.org/video/4050134760001>

(Northville Genealogical Society Newsletter)

Preserving Old Family Photo Albums

From blogs.ancestry.com

Guest Post by Denise May Levenick, *The Family Curator*

Before the digital photo book there was the Real Photo Album. You're holding an "antique" if you inherited an old photo album with soft black paper and a hand-tied string binding. The prints might have been artfully arranged and placed on the page with paper photo corners, rubber cement, or old-fashioned school paste, or they may have been haphazardly stuck to random paper with cellophane tape. However it was assembled, your family photo album is fast becoming a rare Family Photo Album family heirloom and well worth preserving for future generations.

Old photo albums were designed to accommodate the popular photo prints of the time: you'll find large Victorian parlour albums for 19th century cabinet cards and smaller horizontal snapshot albums for 20th century black-and-white prints. Early albums often used a vertical format that neatly accommodated a single vertical cabinet card to the page, or a selection of multiple smaller cards. Later snapshot albums were often designed to showcase either vertical or horizontal prints or multiple prints per horizontal (or landscape) page.

Heavy card-mounted photographs such as cabinet cards or carte de visite photographs required sturdy album pages and a corresponding binding and cover. Beautiful ornate albums would have been a treasured keepsake and displayed with pride in a place of honor.

The popularity of consumer photography in the 20th century changed album design as well as photography. Snapshots could be mounted on a variety of papers, leading to an entire industry of simple inexpensive photo albums. Many of these albums feature black construction-paper type pages bound together in a cardboard or leatherette cover with a hand-tied twisted cord.

First Aid for Old Photo Albums

The paper, cover, and other materials used in these albums is often fragile or deteriorating, but you can help prolong the life of your album with a few simple, inexpensive steps.

1. Handle With Care

It's not surprising that improper handling is

one of the greatest hazards to any heirloom. Be kind to your album:

- work on a clean, sturdy surface
- wash your hands or wear gloves to protect the paper and photos from oils in your skin
- use both hands to support the book when moving or storing

2. Digitize

Family photo albums are especially valuable because they can tell a story in the arrangement of the photos, as well as from the photo itself. Take time to photograph or scan each page of your album. Oversize album pages may be best digitized with a camera to minimize handling. Use a tripod and remote shutter release with your digital camera, or a document camera with a laptop computer. I like the HoverCam Solo 8 Document Camera to capture full-page TIFF format images of large album pages; view comparisons of scans vs. HoverCam images in my review of this device.

3. Preserve

Professional archivists recommend that photo albums only be dismantled as a last resort for preservation. Loose photographs can be placed in polyester photo sleeves and left in place in the album. Store albums flat in an acid-free, lignin-free archival box to protect from dust and light. Use acid-free interleaving tissue sparingly, being careful not to strain the binding by overstuffing the album. Find more tips at the National Archives website.

If you're tempted to pry photos from album pages to check for identifying comments on the reverse side, you should know that you risk permanently damaging the photo or album page. Preserve the historic contents of the page by capturing a good digital image first, before attempting any photo removal.

Store your boxed album on a flat shelf in a cool, dark location with relatively consistent temperature and humidity. An interior closet in your home is a good place, but avoid the garage, attic, or basement.

4. Share

Do more than just scan and preserve your family photo book. Share a one-of-a-kind photo album with your family by creating a

(Continued on page 5)

faithful reproduction copy using an online photo service like Shutterfly, Snapfish or MyCanvas. I've had good success with small-size books, like the "Desert Maneuvres 1942" photo album my father-in-law created while stationed in the Mojave Desert. You'll need sharp print-quality scanned images of each page for your book. I recommend scanning at a resolution of 600 dpi in full color for black and white as well as color album pages. This will give you more flexibility in final output size of the album. Find complete step-by-step instructions in the project section of my book *How to Archive Family Photos* and examples of reproduction books at my website <http://www.TheFamilyCurator.com/heirloom-books>.

About the Author

Denise May Levenick is a national speaker and author with a passion for preserving family keepsakes of all kinds. Denise inherited her first family archive from her grandmother in 2000 and is now the caretaker and curator of several family collections. She is the author of *How to Archive Family Photos: A Step-by-Step Guide to Organize and Share Your Photos Digitally, with 25 Easy Keepsake Projects* (FamilyTree Books, 2015) and *How to Archive Family Keepsakes*. Follow Denise and learn more about preserving and sharing family heirlooms at her blog, <http://www.theFamilyCurator.com>

Millions of Wills from England and Wales Available online

The wills of more than 41 million people, some dating back 156 years, are now available online for the first time in a huge online archive. The new database allows the public to search a government archive of wills dating back to 1858. The search is free, but payment of a £10 fee is required to download and view the complete details. A name and year of death is required to find wills, which should be ready for download within 10 days of order. Previously, copies of many such documents could only be accessed by a face-to-face request. <http://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills>

Heritage Quest Online

Overview

Coming March 4, 2015, HeritageQuest Online (HQO) will be materially improved and enhanced with a much richer content set and a more powerful intuitive interface.

Complete 1790-1940 U.S. Federal Census with images and every name indexes for all years

Additional census records such as mortality and non-population schedules, Indian Census rolls, and more

Expanded collection of genealogy and local history books and city directories with an all-new user interface, thumbnail images and hit highlighting.

Complete Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land record collection (NARA M804)

Freedman's Bank Records with full page register view

Periodical Source Index Archive (PERSI) 1800-2000

U.S. Serial Set Memorials, Petitions and Private Relief Actions

All-new research aids

Interactive census maps

And more

The product will have a more modern look and feel that will make it easier to use and help streamline the research process for genealogists.

New Browser Requirements

HeritageQuest Online will be optimized to perform best on current versions of Google

Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, and Microsoft Internet Explorer 9 or newer (we recommend IE 11+). This gives libraries the most up-to-date security, as well.

Microsoft Internet Explorer 8 or older will no longer be supported. The new HeritageQuest Online may work in discontinued operating systems (such as windows XP) and browsers, but will not guarantee compatibility or more fixes.

Useful Microsoft Support information about each version of Internet Explorer can be found at <http://support2.microsoft.com/gp/microsoft-internet-explorer>

MGS Half Price Liquidation Sale

The society has an accumulation of MGS's published books waiting for new homes. They include:

Obit Index 1872-1927

Obit Index 1928-1950

Obit Index 1951-1982 (2 volume set) counts as 2 books.

Marriage Records 1855-1910

All the above books are softcover and are \$10 each.

Marriage Records 1855-1910 hard cover \$27.50.

If mailed, postage would be determined on weight. Cheapest rate used.

If anyone is interested in these very expertly, compiled books, please notify me; They will be mailed or can be picked up at the Genealogy room on Tuesdays 1-4 pm.

Jo Brines

4300 Castle Dr

Midland, MI 48640

989-832-8312

Name changes and variations

By Walter G Bennett

From research, we find that some of our ancestors changed names. There are many reasons for this happening. One common theory is that the name was changed at Ellis Island. In fact, names were rarely changed intentionally at Ellis Island. Some of the immigrants requested a name change as a new beginning. Historical records and individual testimonies show that name changes occurred during the naturalization process and not at Ellis Island. There were many interpreters at Ellis Island that were there to make sure the names were spelled correctly.

Changed Spelling

Sometimes the spelling of the name changed to either make it easier or shorter than its earlier version. Polish names such as Adamczak or Adamczyk may become shortened to Adams. Many others ending in 'ski' may have the 'ski' dropped.

Some names may have known Jewish origins. Many Jews changed their names or changed the spelling when migrating to America to avoid those that were hunting them.

Census records as well as other legal records show that the person recording the events spelled the name like it phonetically sounded. This was common.

Surnames that begin with a vowel, could appear as the remainder of the name without the leading vowel or many other variations. H within names are also a problem as well as R as these can be silent letters.

Variations occurred for many reasons. Here are some of them.

Necessity: typewriters couldn't handle the diacritical marks used in foreign languages. This was fixed with a slight spelling variation.

Inability to spell: Many immigrants could not spell.

Difficulty in pronouncing or spelling a name: Names difficult to spell or pro-

nounce were often changed.

Desire to break from the past: North America and Australia as well as some other countries were considered a new beginning and the ancestor wanted to break from any reference to the past, including their names.

Disagreement with relatives: Some family may have changed their names to avoid being associated with other family members living close by. I have found that to be true while researching related family.

Dislike of the original name: Many disliked the names that were forced on them from the original countries.

Fear of bad treatment: Immigrants fled their countries because they were mistreated. Changing their names was thought to avert further problems. This happened frequently after WWI and II.

Getting rid of Semantic objection: Names that sounded funny to Americans were changed such as Lipschitz.

Desire for material success: Some Americans thought that changing their names might help lead them to a more successful job.

Marriage

Names were changed because of marriage. The bride took the name of her spouse. The bride was not always the only one to change names here. Sometimes the step-father of her children legally adopted them and the children's names were then changed to his.

Illegitimate children also may be giving the name of the father or the maiden name of the mother. If you are looking for the father's name, and you can't get to the records, try looking at local newspapers of the era for clues.

Foreign names

While working with my French Canadian Ancestors, I learned a bit about changing French names. As an example, the French name Desjardins, translates to English as gardeners or gardens. This would also apply to other languages.

French names also had what was called 'dit' names. These were other names attached to or associated with French names. My grandmother's surname was Lacroix. The family had only known the name Lacroix. This was a roadblock

for a long time as I knew the French Canadian Catholic records were exquisite. My GG Grandfather's tombstone read Pierre Lacroix. How come I couldn't find the marriage record in Canada for him. I eventually found a clue on the internet that I needed to research further, to see if the clue I found was my gg grandfather. I ordered the parish microfilm at the LDS Family History Center that referenced the clue. What I found was indeed the marriage record for my gg grandfather with the name Pierre Langevin dit Lacroix. This also led to the finding of my g grandfather and his siblings birth/baptism records. Dit names were often names of places where they came from or occupations. This was used to identify two people in a geographic area with the same name.

Simple Spelling changes

Beware of the theory that because someone has a different spelling for the same name, they aren't related. When researching my Bennett ancestors, I was always searching for 'Bennet'. After tracing the family back to Scotland, I found that the name was spelled "Bennet". The second 't' was added after arriving in North America. My immigrant ancestor's brothers also had the second 't' added. The name can also be found with one 'n'. Knowing this helped me find more information.

Nicknames

I have found census records where names were recorded with nicknames or middle names. No consistency between census's. One census has the correct first name and ten years later, the middle name was used. At the time, I didn't know what the middle name was, and I thought this may have been a brother. After researching what I thought was another brother, I was going to give up and assume that the person had died. After looking at clues in the census because the person's had the same approximate birth years, I began to look deeper. I eventually found the middle name reference that I needed.

As you can see there were many reasons the

(Continued on page 7)

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name could have been changed, both intentionally and accidental. When searching for your ancestors, be sure to check all variations.

Look for letter transpositions, Names beginning with vowels, add the letter H to the beginning, try different vowels, add or remove ending 's', look for silent letters and add or remove suffixes. Also, consider the country of origin.

Sources:

http://rwguide.rootsweb.ancestry.com/lesson8_text.html

<http://www.uscis.gov/history-and-genealogy/genealogy/genealogy-notebook/immigrant-name-changes>

[http://www.genealogyintime.com/NewsStories/2009/March/](http://www.genealogyintime.com/NewsStories/2009/March/why_immigrants_change_their_name.html)

[why_immigrants_change_their_name.html](http://www.genealogyintime.com/NewsStories/2009/March/why_immigrants_change_their_name.html)

Irish Parish Registers To Be

Available Online

The National Library of Ireland is to digitize more than 400,000 images of Catholic parish register microfilms and publish them online for free. In what is being described as the most significant ever digitization project for Irish genealogy, the microfilms will be available online for free by the summer of 2015. Details may be found at <http://www.irishcentral.com/>.

Dating from the 1740's to the 1880's, they cover 1,091 parishes throughout the island, and consist primarily of baptismal and marriage records.

**You live as long as
you are remembered.**

-- Russian proverb

Michigan Genealogical Council Report for March 12, 2015

Abrams Foundation Historical Collection
– Kris Rzepczynski

Abrams Foundation Seminar July 10-11, 2015. Michael Lacoko topic is "Between the Census Years". Schedule will be on Seeking Michigan. FREE Lock in July 10—pizza available between 5-6. Need to sign in as there is limited space.

Detroit News Project is done. The archives received well over 1 million index cards for The Detroit News at the end of 2014. These cards have been scanned into batches of 500-1000 cards per pdf file. The tables of files are organized alphabetically by starting and ending subject. These index cards appear to cover from the beginning of The Detroit News into the late 1990's. The Archives doesn't have the microfilm of The Detroit Newspaper at this time. Because the cards are organized by subject, be prepared to look for different but related subjects if the first subject you try doesn't yield a result.

Death records Project is done. Images available on seeking Michigan from 1921-1939. The index for records from 1940-1952 will be available in the next few weeks, with additional certificate images to be released each year as privacy restrictions are lifted. EX: 1940 images will be released in January 2016.

The Naturalization Records Project is the next big job to be tackled.

Materials from societies to be placed in crates that travel to various sites. These materials promote you society. There should be no time sensitive data and 25-30 pieces placed in the crate.

The September out of Lansing meeting will be in the Gladwin area.

Coming Events

Apr 25, 2015 "Indiana Genealogical Society Annual Conference", Held on campus of Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. Featured speaker is Judy G Russell of the Legal Genealogist. For further info go to www.indgensoc.org/conference.php.

May 2015. "Ann Arbor Antiquarian Book Sale" Actual Date TBA. Ballroom of the Michigan Union, Ann Arbor, Michigan. annarborbookfair.com.

May 29-31, 2015 "Tracks through Time", Ontario Genealogical Society Conference, Barrie, Ontario. For further info see [/www.ogs.on.ca/conference/](http://www.ogs.on.ca/conference/).

July 10-11, 2015 "Abrams Foundation Family History Seminar", Featuring Michael Lacopo. Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St, Lansing, Michigan. Online registration is available at Seekingmichigan.com.

Sept 17-19, 2015 "New York State Family History Conference" Also a Federation of Genealogical Societies Regional conference, with a full day focused on managing societies, followed by two days of New York focused lectures and sessions in general topics. See nys-fhc.org for further info.

Oct 9-10, 2015 "Got Ancestors?", hosted by Western Michigan Genealogical Society. Website Gotancestors.com will be updated at a later date.

Oct 24, 2015 "Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan Annual Seminar", American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 East Maple Road, Troy, MI 48083 go to PGSM.org

News from Dick Eastman

(blog.eogn.com)

Findmypast adds more than 1.3 Million US Civil War Pensions

More than 1.3 US million military pension records of Civil War veterans have recently been added to Findmypast.

The United States Civil War Pension Files Index, 1861-1934, is an index of pension application cards for veterans and their beneficiaries. The records actually cover veterans of all conflicts during this period including the Indian Wars, the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection and World War I. The bulk of these files pertain to service in the U.S. Civil War, which saw millions of Americans enlisted into the Union Army.

America's "National Library" is Woefully Out of Date According to the Government Accountability Office

The federal government's watchdog agency released a critical report Tuesday on the Library of Congress's longstanding failures to manage the complex computer systems that are vital to its mission. The result of a year-long investigation by the Government Accountability Office, the report reveals a work environment lacking central oversight and faults Librarian of Congress James H. Billington.

The report reveals a work environment lacking central oversight and faults Librarian of Congress James H. Billington for ignoring repeated calls to hire a chief information officer, as required by law. The 85-year-old Billington doesn't use e-mail and rarely uses a cellphone. He may or may not understand the need for technology within his organization. The report's findings repeat the conclusions of previous reports dating back 20 years. Taken together, the reports reveal library mismanagement costing taxpayers tens of millions of dollars, and outdated and inefficient systems in the U.S. Copyright Office. Despite the library's reputation as an early Internet pioneer, various reports have found that it hasn't kept up with the rapidly evolving digital times.

You can read more in an article by Peggy McGlone in the Washington Post at <http://goo.gl/Cp7CeW> while the full GAO report is available at <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-315>.

Using Basic Genealogy Tools and Methods to Show that Your Family Name Was NOT Changed at Ellis Island

There is a common misconception, call it an old wives tale or an urban legend, that family names were often changed at Ellis Island. Such myths gain a great deal of credibility when newspapers such as the New York Times, the country's "paper of record", perpetuates these myths by repeating them, in this case in obituaries.

Kenneth A. Bravo, JD did a bit of research and found about half a dozen Times obituaries with similar erroneous Ellis Island stories. After doing the research on each, he was able to show the original name for each of them.

Bernice Bennett recently interviewed Kenneth Bravo about the experience. He describes the common misconception in Bernice's podcast at <http://goo.gl/nf511c>.

Google Books Reduces its Digitizing and Preservation of old Books while Internet Archive Increases its Efforts at the Same Thing

An article in The Message states that Google is reducing its efforts at digitizing old books. That certainly is a loss for genealogists, historians, and many others. In what appears to be an unrelated move, the Internet Archive is INCREASING its efforts at digitizing old books, adding 1,000 books to the online collection EACH DAY. Perhaps there is hope for genealogists after all.

In 2004, Google Books signaled the company's intention to scan every known book, partnering with libraries and developing its own book scanner capable of digitizing 1,000 pages per hour. Since then, the company has digitized millions of old books, creating a

valuable archive. Google Books is still online, but has curtailed its scanning efforts in recent years, likely discouraged by a decade of legal wrangling still in appeal. The Google Books Blog stopped updating in 2012 and the Twitter account has been dormant since February 2013.

In contrast, the Internet Archive, a non-profit organization, has created one of the world's largest open collections of digitized books, over 6 million public domain books, and an open library catalog. The digitized books available from the Internet Archive also are available in many more formats than those from any other online service, including PDF, Kindle, EPUB, and more. Of course, you can also read any book simply by displaying it on your screen in a web browser.

The Internet Archive has also digitized 1.9 million videos, home movies, and 4,000 public-domain feature films. It has also added 2.3 million audio recordings, including over 74,000 radio broadcasts, 13,000 78rpm records, and 1.7 million Creative Commons-licensed audio recordings, more than 137,000 concert recordings, nearly 10,000 from the Grateful Dead alone. Other items added to the FREE online archives include more than 10,000 audiobooks from LibriVox, 668,000 news broadcasts with full-text search, and the largest collection of historical software in the world.

The Internet Archive also offers scanning services. The non-profit offers FREE and open access to scan complete print collections in 33 scanning centers, with 1,500 books scanned daily. Best of all, the scanning of books is performed in a non-destructive manner. That means there is no need to cut the bindings off the books before scanning. The Internet Archive either operates or partners with 33 scanning centers on 5 continents.

You can read more about the demise of Google Books and the rise of the Internet Archive at <http://goo.gl/DFYq7W>. The Internet Archive may be found at <http://archive.org>. Information about the Internet Archive book digitization efforts may be found at <http://archive.org/scanning>.

Looking Back in Midland County

Midland Republican, Thursday, July 3, 1919

They Had to Send Our Boys—Now They Rejoice at Soldiers' Safe Return

Compelled to Operate the Army Draft Machinery, the Midland County Draft Board Will Now Have Just as Happy a Fourth of July Holiday as the Families of the Returning Midland County Soldiers

Tomorrow, Midland will doubly celebrate America's National Holiday and a victorious peace. Prominent and specially honored in this celebration will be the Midland County soldiers who have returned from military service.

Reflecting for a few months into the past brings the recollection of the awful anxiety existing everywhere throughout our land; reminds us of the departing soldiers and in that connection that most prominent organization—The Draft board—whose praises were unsung and upon whose shoulders were not only heaped unusual burdens of work but censure and criticism from many about them.

2300 Examined

Midland's draft board came into existence in June 1917 and was officially disbanded March 31 this year. During that time about 2300 registrants were put through the physical examination. Of this number more than 400 entered actual service, and to date 150 discharge records have been made out and entered by County Clerk Bliss who has cared for the soldiers both "going and coming." In addition to the tremendous duties which demanded his constant attention practically night and day during all three of the drafts, Mr. Bliss also supervised the work of his county office as County Clerk.

In a speech made by Lord Northcliffe, in which the chief topic was the remarkable assistance given to the Allies by the United States, he went into details giving this government due credit for the work accomplished. He stated "The service and the raising of their Army under the Selective Service Law was the greatest achievement of the United States government in this crisis."

While it is known indirectly that Provost Marshal General Crowder has under consideration some form of the proper recognition by the Government of the service rendered by the Local Boards. It is not known in what form it will result although the popular belief is that it will be in the form of a brevet commission and the awarding of a medal. Whether a brevet commission is awarded or not let us give our own Local Board due credit for their work and not forget that their position was one of the hardest to be filled and that the result of their work has brought the praise of not only Lord Northcliffe but of many others.

From Portraits and Biographical Sketches, Prominent and Representative Citizens of Midland County, Michigan

Michael E. Kane, farmer, section 9, Midland Township, is a son of Lawrence and Esther (Fox) Kane, parents natives respectively of Ireland and Canada. He was also born in Canada, April 29, 1851, went to common school and worked on the farm until 1871; then spent three summers in Washtenaw Co., Mich., working in the woods during the winter; next, he bought a farm in Lenawee Co., Mich., where he lived until the spring of 1878, when he exchanged this farm for 90 acres of land where he now resides, and has 20 acres in cultivation.

Mr. Kane was married in Flint, Genesee Co., Mich., July 1, 1879, to Miss Eliza, daughter of Alson and Alice (Butler) Sanborn, the latter natives of Canada: she is a native of the Peninsular State. Mr. and Mrs. K. are members of the Catholic Church. They have had three children, namely: Lawrence, Michael, who died when about a year and a half old, and James Alson.

On national questions Mr. Kane holds the views of the "National" party.

William E. Hewitt, lumberman on section 8, Larkin Township is a son of Benjamin H. and Sarah (Westcott) Hewitt, natives of Vermont, and was born in that State Aug. 18, 1851. He came to Midland County in 1871, and has

since made his home here. In October, 1883, he purchased a shingle mill on section 8, Larkin, where he is now doing a thriving business. He employs seven men, and his mill has a capacity for turning out 25,000 shingles daily. He was first married in Lincoln Township, March 8, 1873, to Miss Christina J. Howe, daughter of James Howe, of Larkin Township. Mrs. H. died Oct. 24, 1883, leaving two daughters, Sarah E. and Phebe E.; and Feb. 22, 1884, he chose for his present wife Miss Viola Howe, a sister of the first Mrs. Hewitt. Politically, Mr. H. is a Democrat.

William Mills, farmer, section 27, Hope Township, was born Sept. 29, 1851, in Ontario, Can., and is the son of Samuel and Sarah (Filmore) Mills. The parents are of English descent and were born in Nova Scotia. The family moved to Ontario in 1849, where he remained until their removal to Midland County in 1861.

Mr. Mills, of this sketch, was six years old when he made his first acquaintance with the Peninsular State, and grew to man's estate in the township in which he now resides. He is the proprietor of 70 acres of land, which includes 30 acres improved and cultivated.

His marriage to Annie Ostrander occurred June 11, 1877. She was born March 8, 1859, in St. Clair Co., Mich., and is the daughter of John C. and Anna (Pratt) Ostrander. The mother of Mrs. Mills died before she was three years old, and her father marrying soon afterward, she grew to womanhood under the care of a step-mother. Following is the record of the children born to Mr. and Mrs. Mills: Ernest W., Nov. 19, 1878; Estella R., Nov. 10, 1880; Clayton D. W., Aug. 2, 1883. They were born in Hope Township.

Mr. Mills has been Township Clerk two terms, and is now discharging the duties of Treasurer for the second time.

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 or at the St. John's Episcopal Church on the corner of Saginaw and St. Andrews Streets in Midland. Visitors are always welcome. Watch the Midland Daily News or local Midland MCTV channel 189 for upcoming speakers, dates and times as well as location.

Membership dues are \$20.00 for single and \$25.00 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,