

PIONEER RECORD

MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. IV, No. 5

September 1984

Letter written to Cecelia Lawrence

Rapid City, Mich.
May 31, 1927

Dear Niece,

Was surely surprised to get a letter from you. It was a long time coming, and I was so very poorly, I could not think nor settle my brains enough to write.

Well, you want to know what I know about your Father's life before he married your Mother. His Father, Mathew F. Bebee was born in Rutland, Vermont. As a young man he went to Canada and met Charlotte Sealey. They were married and had 10 children. John Justice who was born in Canada, and I can't remember the name of the town, then they moved to a place called Kincardin, where the rest of the family was born. I can't tell you all the places they were in, but your Father went back to where they had lived and married Maria Leake. They had three children, one boy, Willie, was scalded to death by spilling a tea pot full of boiling tea over him. Then all of the folks moved to where Charlevoix now is. After living there some time, they moved to Elk Rapids, or rather they started, for they were drowned just a little ways from there, Maria and the 2 children, Emily and Warrington.

Then the Civil War broke out, and he, with the others enlisted. I can't tell you what the dates were, but him and 4 other brothers and one brother-in-law, were in the army. Not long after he got back, he married your Mother. You asked what Nationality the Bebee's were. They were English and Scotch, and Grandma Bebee was all Scotch, a descendant of William Wallace of Scotland.

Iseral died in Fitzgerald, Georgia. He never had any family. Mary is with me. Harry is in Manitowe, Wisconsin, he has two boys.

We have had a very great lot of sickness. all winter Mary was very poorly, and her husband has been in bed half of the time. I had the flu a year ago, and it left me with bronkitis very bad. It is such rainy weather I can hardly breath.

Well, in regard to your Father's Father, he was not in any war. His Grandpa Fenton on his Mother's side, was in the Revolutionary War. His Grandma Fenton jumped over a 12 foot ditch and dropped in some bushes and the English army passed by and never saw her. Well come and see me.

With love to you both,
Aunt Bell Bebee

The President Speaks

As the hints of color can now be seen in our trees, we know that the coming of a Midland Genealogical Society meeting schedule is close at hand. I hope each of you was successful in your searches this summer.

Many changes locally need to be brought to your attention. First and most important is that the Michigan State Library is now back to a full schedule of hours. This is one of our important sources. Secondly, the "Bliss Collection" is now on the shelves in the Grace A. Dow Library. This is a fine collection of material and we are lucky to have it made available to us.

Our group will continue trips to area libraries giving you opportunities to travel with others from our group, sharing expenses.

One additional thought: We each need to formulate a goal for this researching year. By careful planning, attention to detail, we can each obtain our goal. As an organization, we must do the same - please pass your ideas to board members so they can be incorporated into our overall goal. Welcome back...

Les

New Surname File

The new system of indexing the surname file is in the genealogy department at the library, awaiting your use. It also awaits the thousands of names that are not in it, but that we have at home in our own families. Carolyn Bacon is the first of our membership to submit her family sheets, and they are in the surname books and are on file in the card catalog. Good going, Carolyn - thank you.

The advantage of having family sheets on file is greater than we can imagine and I encourage all of you to seriously consider getting yours in. Don't forget your ancestor charts...having the family sheets on file doesn't eliminate the need for them to be on file too.

If you fill in blank forms, you are paying four or five cents for each form and then you have the time that you spent to add to that. For five cents per copy, Easy Print on Michigan Avenue in Saginaw, will make beautiful copies. Self serve, of course. If you don't get to Saginaw, I can be persuaded to take your originals there and do it for you on one of my frequent trips. Les mentioned a genealogical goal for this year. Perhaps getting completely on file here could be one of the smartest goals we could have. It is a wise person who has their hours of labor in two places for safe keeping. This surname file could be one of those safe places.

As of this printing, there are 5,650 names on file in our surname books. I sure hope to see yours there soon. Just call me, so I can start your filing.

Program

Quida Shier

- Sep 19 "FUTURE OF OUR LIBRARY", by Rose Marie Byers and
"POSSIBILITIES FOR THE GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE GRACE A. DOW MEMORIAL
LIBRARY", by Joan Summerville
Assisted by Nancy Lackie and Maxine McCullen
- Oct 17 "WHAT'S NEW AT THE LDS LIBRARY", by Ann Boman (A field trip)
- Nov 21 "BURIAL AND FUNERAL PRACTICES THROUGHOUT U.S. HISTORY", by Mary Lou Case
of the Case Funeral Home, Saginaw.
- Dec NO MEETING
- Jan 16 "A VISIT TO THE OLDEST STREET IN AMERICA", Karen McKellar
Dutch Ancestry of New York

Editorial Notes

Your editor will be vacationing from the middle of October until sometime in December. Since the paper will be put together long distance, the deadline for articles will be December 1. Complete, fully written articles must be sent to Carolyn Bacon by that date. We will print what we have and the size of the newsletter will be up to you. It would be nice to have some articles about summer trips. I will correct spelling and do some editing, but please don't send me three turse sentences and expect me to make an article of it. Remember, I'm not a mind reader and I don't remember so good, either. Let's get with it!

O. G. S. Library

In search of new resource material in Ohio, we ventured over to Mansfield to the headquarters of the Ohio Genealogical Society. Finding the library was easy compared to locating the parking lot, which is entered through an alley way behind the building.

The librarian was cordial and provided a brief explanation of their holdings which includes a 125,000 3x5 card file appropriately called an "Everyname File". A volunteer staff has prepared a card for every name found in their collection of old Bibles; all First Families of Ohio and their ancestors; and cards submitted by members on families being researched. We found our cards in file awaiting discovery! Four, five-drawer file cabinets house over 1,150 surname folders containing valuable information. The library itself houses a nice collection of books and specializes in family genealogies.

We feel that the Ohio State Library and Ohio Historical Library offer a goldmine of reference materials which cannot be matched by the OGS in Mansfield. However, it is worth a trip to peek at the "Everyname File" and vertical files to see if your "lost" ancestor is there. If you cannot take a trip, the library has a volunteer research person who, for a small fee, does a complete search on one name. The library staff allows out-of-towners to use the library on Monday when they are normally closed but be sure to call ahead! 419-522-9077. 419 W. 3rd, Mansfield.

While in the area, we visited the Crawford County Court House in Bucyrus and were impressed with their easily accessible, neatly preserved bound copies of vital records, as well as "hands-on" review of wills and inventories. Copies are quickly made, if requested. The personnel here were extremely friendly and helpful, resulting in a pleasant (and profitable) experience.

From the Shelves

by Marion Berry

"OUR FRENCH-CANADIAN ANCESTORS", Vol I, by Gerald Lebel and translated by Thomas Laforest.....225 pp.....published 1983.....an excellent paperback book on 24 early settlers in Canada.....includes background material plus early maps and chapters on translated French terms, bibliography, surname index. Large print and interesting reading even if you don't have ancestors from the region. (Being catalogued: look for it later.)

"A COMPLETE GUIDE TO HERALDRY", by A.C. Fox-Davies, 647 pp, originally published in 1978, indexed....."thorough explanation of rules governing establishment and use of coats of arms..detailed compendium of individual elements and designs in said coats of England and Scotland." Book is divided into chapters on various symbols, i.e., beasts, birds, etc.....8 color plates, 779 illustrations in addition to origin and background information on heraldry in general. Excellent. (On shelf upstairs.)

"MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS AND THEIR COUNTIES-", from the Flint Genealogical Quarterly. (Computer printout)

Bliss Collection

The Bliss family has been researching their roots for several years. They went all out---and sent a letter to every Bliss in the nation, some two or three thousand of them. They bought all of the books that might be of any help in researching the Bliss ancestors.

A three volume set of the "BLISS FAMILY" was published and we were given a set. Now we have been given all of the reference works that were used by the author.

Be sure to read the lists carefully and keep them for your reference. I'm sure you will find at least one that will prove helpful in your search.

Our thanks to the Bliss Family for sharing with us!

BLISS DONATIONS, MAY 1984 CENSUS INDEXES

- 1776 - New Hampshire.
- 1790 - New Hampshire, North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, Maryland, Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania.
- 1800 - North Carolina, Massachusetts, Delaware.
- 1810 - North Carolina and Kentucky.
- 1820 - Georgia, Kentucky (2 Vol), Virginia and North Carolina.
- 1830 - Georgia.
- 1840 - Texas.
- 1850 - Delaware, California and Michigan.

Continued on next page

See Grace A. Dow Librarian file

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THE STOVALL TRICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Richmond Va, Aug 17-19, 1984

Wilma Diesen

Picture yourself with so many "cousins" in one place at the same time that you couldn't possibly meet them all. That's what happened to me in August, when I went to Richmond, Va for a celebration of the tricentennial anniversary of the immigration of my ancestor Bartholomew Stovall. Approximately 1,000 people registered for the celebration and apparently all of them attended the Sunday picnic on the site of the original Stovall plantation on the James River about 35 miles from Richmond. Most of the "cousins" were from Georgia, the Carolinas and Texas, but a scattering of us were Midwesterners. There were several from California, and even Robert Stovall's son and daughter-in-law from England. Prize for the farthest away, though, went to the young woman who had married a Japanese man and came home with her young son for a visit. One of the women behind me was surprised when they announced the farthest visitor...she was sure there weren't any Japanese Stovalls. Well, there is one now!

Several years ago Rollo Stovall, of Sarasota, Fl., suggested in the Stovall Journal that the descendants of Bartholomew Stovall meet in 1984 to commemorate the anniversary. Out of that suggestion grew a couple of people in informal committee, kicking the idea around, and almost two years ago a slightly more robust committee of six or eight actually began making tentative arrangements.

Eventually, what came about, was a weekend celebration beginning at 4:00 on Friday with a family history session, and ending with the picnic on Sunday. The Saturday sessions included genealogy for those of us who are hopelessly addicted and/or tours of Williamsburg or Richmond for the ones who either knew it all or, in many cases, those long-suffering spouses who went along for the fun. Saturday night had dinner parties scheduled at two locations; ours at the Hyatt was in honor of John Stovall Sr., son of Bartholomew, and included a marvelous monologue by G. Spencer Beasley of Colorado Springs, in which he assumed the character of John Sr. in the months shortly before his death.

The celebration was on a grand scale with souvenir hats and cookbooks. Two of the descendants kindly provided cardboard fans in lieu of air conditioning the tent for the picnic on Sunday. A gathering room was set up in the Hyatt with various displays of charts and photos as well as tables for the sale of Stovall Journal back issues, prints of Queena Stovall's paintings, etc.

All degrees of knowledge of family history were represented...from those who didn't really know (or care much) where they fit into the family, to those half a dozen or so experts who are most learned and have published books on the descendants. One young man stopped by our room in response to my query on the bulletin board to tell me that my ancestor Sarah Reat/Seat? was definitely listed on the original marriage record in Granville County, North Carolina, as SEAT. My information had come from a microfilm copy...just shows you again how it pays to go to the original whenever possible. I gained some new correspondents on the Stovall family. Unfortunately my brother and I appeared to be the only people there who were descendants of Bartholomew's grandson William Stovall.

A really exciting development from the celebration was a decision to collect small amounts of money from everyone interested in pursuing the family history further with some English research and some work on the first three generations in America. Two committees will be working to determine what needs to be done. The goal was \$4,000 for research, and by Sunday it appeared that almost that amount was pledged for the purpose. Maybe in this fashion we can learn the last name of Dorcas..... (wife of John Stovall Sr.), which has eluded us all so far.

Continued next page

THE STOVALL TRICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, Cont.

One of the delights of the celebration was sharing it with my older brother and his wife. Mac is interested in what I know of family history but not so much so that he has any yen to do it himself. He seemed to find himself caught up in the historical context of the family, though, and apparently enjoyed the trip almost as much as I did. All in all, it was a grand celebration. I can't promise to be there for the next centennial celebration, but perhaps if they do one in 50 years???

Special Schedule

The Special Schedule---"SURVIVING SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AND MARINES, AND WIDOWS, ETC." which you will find in this issue, was designed and executed by Sidney and Orene Babcock for their own use. He has graciously consented to pass it on to you so that you can also make use of it. Thank you, both. I am going to put all of my service men on it so that I can see just where they were at a glance, no matter which part of the family they were in.

Attention!

Our fiscal year runs from July 1 - June 30. Dues that have not been paid this year are over-due!! If you are going to the Sept. meeting, plan to pay your dues there. If you aren't going, please use the Membership Dues form below, and send them post-haste.

If your dues are not paid, you won't receive further issues of the PIONEER RECORD!!

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| NEW _____ | RENEWAL _____ |
| Individual. | \$ 7.00 |
| Family (any number at one address). | 10.50 |

MEMBERSHIP MAILING ADDRESS:

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: _____

Things I am willing to volunteer my time to help the Society grow.

Telephoning _____ Education _____ Typing _____ Library _____ Other _____

If other, please specify _____

Your membership entitles you to a query to be published in the Pioneer Record. Please send it to: Norma Furlo, 5437 Mangus Road, Beaverton, Michigan 48612

QUERY:

Welcome, New Members

Bernice Cooper, 4449 North M-30, Sanford, Mi
Sharon L. Hund, 398 Wisteria Road, Lafayette, Georgia

48657 689-3641
30728

Queries

MURRAY Wm and Elizabeth Thorpe Murray came to Pleasant Valley, Jasper twp in 1879
THORPE from Ontario, Can. Their ch Wm m Jennie McLaine, Mary m (1) David Armstrong
(2) Bernard Hogan. Henry m ?. Margret m Stephen Doland. Deborah m George
Bunker in 1894. Tom m ?. James m Mary L ?. Elizabeth died 1881 at age 12.
She and her parents are buried in St. Patrick Cem., Groit Co., Mi.
Any help on this family would be appreciated. Thank you, Bernice Kindel, Rt 2, Box
228-C, Forest Grove, Ore 97116.

BALCH Will anyone with information of John BALCH SR., John BALCH JR. & Ebenezer
DAVIS Rogers DAVIS families who lived in Pleasant Valley, Jasper Twp. area of
Midland County from 1861 to 1934 please write: Pauline Engdahl, 3724 S. ST.
Joseph Street, South Bend, Indiana 46614. Will refund postage.

PIKE Anyone needing info about these three lines may contact Frederick T. Pike,
MINGUS 3121 Fulton St., Saginaw, Mi, 48601. His grandparents lived in Gladwin,
WRIGHT Mi, and he has these three lines back to 1635 and Minguus to 1450.

MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Grace A. Dow Memorial Library
1710 W. St. Andrews Drive
Midland, Michigan 48640



All meetings of MGS are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise specified...SEE YOU THERE!