

# PIONEER RECORD

MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. V No. 1

December 1984

## *The President Speaks*

I hope you all had a Happy Holiday Season. May this be the New Year you make the long needed bread-through in your research.

To aid your research efforts, the board is planning a workshop for early spring. We are putting together a Saturday session on a single subject...and how it can offer you more information for your research and records than you may have obtained to date. After much discussion, the subject, "Land Records", was selected. Since land records offer many differing advantages to researchers, depending on the section of the country, we expect to have presentations for each type of land surveying and recording. As you know, the early colony land grants or sales used differing methods from public land states. Ohio for instance, has several types. We hope this will offer something for everyone.

The project of abstracting death notices from early Midland newspapers continues. The few devoted workers would appreciate a couple hours of your time, either on a weekly or monthly basis. They are now into the year 1906. Please contact Evelyn Fagley: 839-9658.

While it's early in the year, do start thinking about who you would like to serve as your officers in '85. This is my second year as president, and I must relinquish the office in May.

*Les*

- Jan 16 "A VISIT TO THE OLDEST STREET IN AMERICA", Karen McKellar  
Huguenot Street in New York
- Feb 20 "MIDLAND COUNTY RECORDS" Mr. Porter, Midland County Clerk
- Mar 20 "TRACING YOUR IRISH GENEALOGY" Bonnie Gakstatter
- Apr 17 "RESTORATION OF AN OLD HOUSE ON MAIN STREET, MIDLAND" Connie Weaver
- May 15 Business Meeting

## Education

I figure that the reason I haven't heard of any member's needs is because.....

- a) you haven't sat down and analysed your problem;
- b) you don't think anyone can help; or
- c) you don't know you have a problem...which means you haven't worked lately on your 'roots'. There are many members in our society who are knowledgeable in many areas. If you need help, let me know and I will try to put you in touch with the person best able to help you.

For the more seasoned member, I'd appreciate a call to let me know what area of the country/world you would be best able to answer questions about.

Please be sure to sign the list at January's meeting if you want to be included on car-pools to various libraries come spring.

Marion Berry

## Revolutionary Records

Revolutionary War Records are now available on microfilm at \$3.00 per roll. See one of the genealogy volunteers; Maxine McCullen, Nancy Lackie, Jo Brines, Esme Gehoski or Joan Somerville at the library. There are both selected and unselected records included.

Most of the new census indexes are in and available in the genealogy area of the library. Another new addition; bound volumes of TREE TALKS.

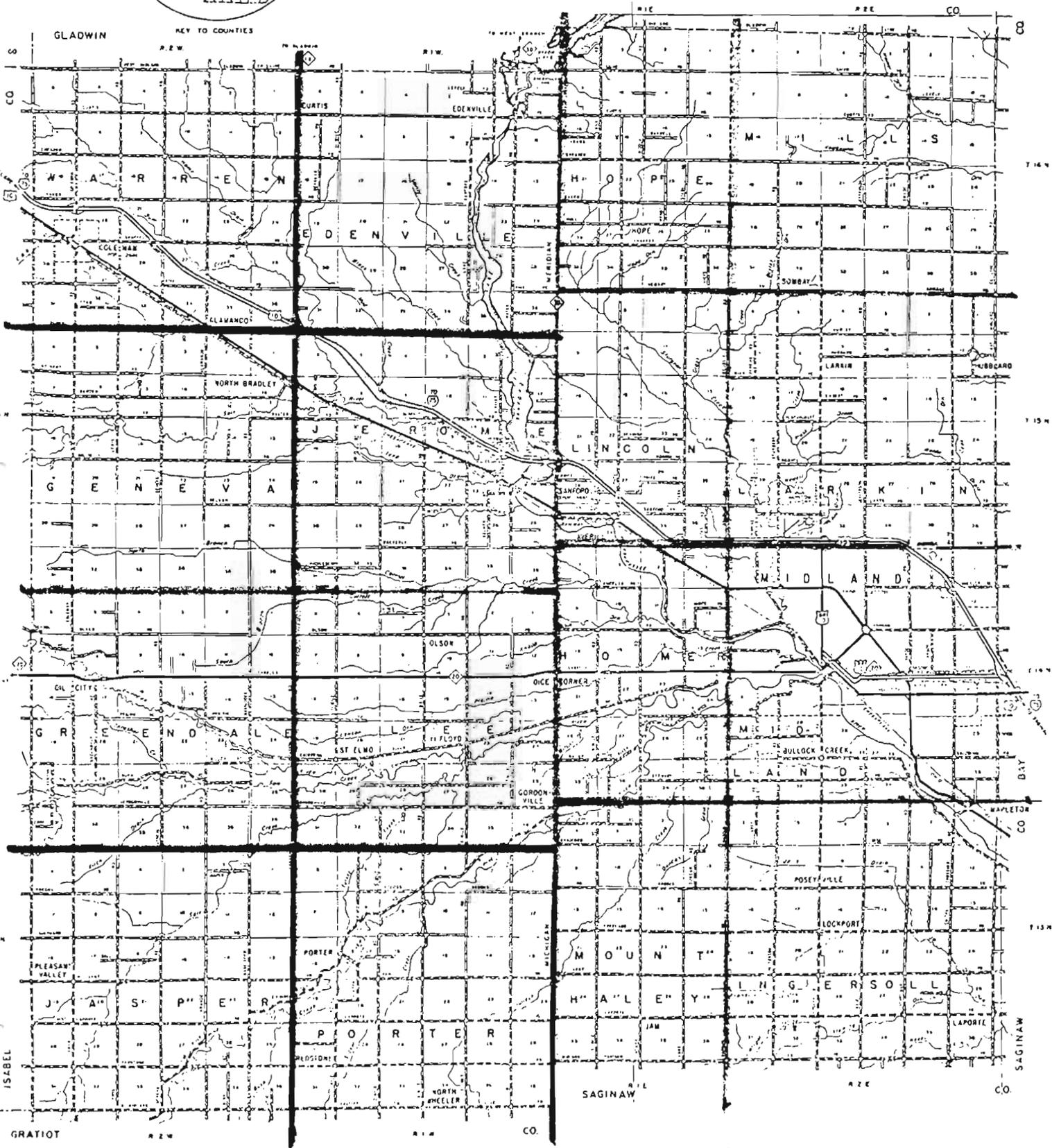
## Editorial Notes

I have included two maps in this issue, for those of you who don't have maps of the townships in Midland County. The map of Ingersoll township connects with the history of Ingersoll township which is in this issue. The map of Midland County should be saved for reference in future issues. Our next issue will have the history of another township. This one was provided by Marion Berry, who found it while working on the obituary project. If any of you have or find the history of another township, please copy it (be sure to note the source) and send it to me or deposit it in the cardboard box in the basement of the library. The box is on top of the newspaper film file cabinet.

There are two membership lists in this issue! May I recommend that you remove the staple, remove the extra list, and restaple the pages together. Keep your list in a safe place. I keep mine in a plastic notebook page cover, near the phone.

Norma Fuslo

# GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP MIDLAND COUNTY MICHIGAN



KEY TO COUNTIES

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# Township History

From the Midland Republican - August 26, 1904

## EARLY HISTORY OF INGERSOLL

Paper Read by Wm. Sly at Meeting of Ingersoll Farmers' Club

Ingersoll township lies in the southeastern corner of Midland County. It is numbered thirteen north and two east and is bounded on the north by Midland township, on the east and south by Saginaw county and on the west by Mt. Haley township.

The northeastern part of this township is crossed by the Tittabawassee River, which flows south, then east into Saginaw County.

Ingersoll is reckoned as one of the best agricultural townships in the county, the east half being an especially fine farming district.

Ingersoll contains no towns, it being so short a distance from Midland City, that point is made its chief market.

Smith's Crossing on the boundary line between Midland, Saginaw and Bay Counties, is a stopping place for all passenger trains, making it convenient for the farmers going to and from Midland City.

At one time Pay-mos-e-gay, the chief of the Blackbird Indians, made his head-quarters on the banks of the Tittabawassee, opposite the farm of John Whitman. The Indians lived there for at least thirty years in undisturbed peace. The bottoms along this river afforded them abundant pasturage for their ponies and abounded with game of all kinds. These lands were accounted their choicest hunting grounds and hundreds of deer, bear and other game have been captured in their precincts.

John Whitman was the first settler in the township. He located here in 1844 and his daughter, Jane Whitman, now Mrs. Joseph Barton of Mt. Haley township was the first white child born in Ingersoll township. This event occurred in 1844.

In 1856 Mr. Samuel Gaskill who was the first settler in East Ingersoll came to this township. Mr. Solon Hutchins, Mr. John Ostrander, Mr. Solomon Parker and Mr. Daniel Cramton came the same year. It is also said that Mr. Gaskill brought the first cow to Ingersoll township. These men were physically strong, brave, healthy men and well fitted for the hardships of pioneer life.

These early settlers had to carry most of their provisions from Saginaw on trails or boat it up the Tittabawassee river, which was then thickly settled with Indians.

And like the pilgrims of old about ten years later there came another group of settlers to this township which was gladly welcomed by those which were here before. Among this group came some of the most enterprising men that our glorious township has yet embraced.

They are Henry Gould who has been one of the foremost men in helping towards the advancement of civilization.

Joseph Winslow and A.R. McMillan have both been supervisors for several years and held other important offices.

Mr. Thomas McCulloch and Mr. George Beckley have both been highway commissioners.

One of the earliest mentioned, Mr. John Ostrander was always called upon when there was some heavy load to carry.

One after another came till the eastern half of the township was very well peopled but brave and undaunted as they were, they seemed to dread the dark and dismal forest of the west half of the township until Mr. B. B. Bartlett, a well known citizen of Ingersoll township settled on sections 21 and 22 of said township with plenty of money and cleared about 700 acres of the finest farming lands in Midland county. He also paved the way for men with lesser means to penetrate into the forests and make homes for themselves.

Only a few years have passed since the first attempt was made to convert the unbroken forests of western Ingersoll into an agricultural district and homes for civilized man.

The history of this township is possessed of no small degree of interest. While other counties were connected with the frontier with large bodies of excellent lands, these seemed shut off from the gaze of shrewd speculators by reason of its heavy growth of timber they were destined to become the heritage of an honest, industrious people and the income derived from the timber and products of the soil has given many of the first comers a handsome competency.

Less than twenty five years ago there was some brave, strong, healthy men known as the Thurlow brothers, Samuel Garrett, Robert Closs and William Snyder came and settled in this township where with years of hardships, toil and difficulties they hewed down the gigantic elms and where the wildcat screamed in the unbroken forests can now be seen the blooming fields of grain.

The western part of Ingersoll township contains some of the finest schools in the county and we can also hear the glorious peals of the church bell on the Sabbath morning instead of the shotgun of twenty years ago.

In 1882 Mr. Hollingshead of this township was settled on the farm where he now lives and Mr. John Huggard a minister of the gospel while making his circuit for religious work traveled from Mr. Hollingshead's house which he said was an unbroken forest from Mr. Gaskill's to Mr. Hollingshead's farm. As near as he could learn he was the first minister in the western part of the township for religious work. In this same year Mrs. Hollingshead and daughter treed a large black bear and kept it there all day till her husband came home. How many young ladies of Ingersoll would like to fight a bear?

William Franklin was the first settler on section 15 and he is known as one of the most peaceable and quiet citizens of Ingersoll township. Mr. Franklin owns 80 acres of land on section 15 and 16.

Another well known citizen was Mr. Jefferson Cron and Mr. Hepinstall also came with a large family of strong young men which seemed to mow down the forest like grass and soon helped to form one of the most beautiful and quiet neighborhoods in the township.

William McKay chopped the first tree in West Ingersoll and settled on the farm which now belongs to David Thurber in 1869. Mr. McKay got the lumber to build his house from Smith's Crossing and carried it across the river on floating logs and drew it by way of the ridge road past the Sayre farm with a yoke of oxens.

The first white child born in west Ingersoll was Minnie McKay, the second was Fred Argyle and the third was Willie McKay, and after this Mr. McKay says they came too numerous to mention.

After years of hardships Mr. McKay became weary of deprivations and sold his farm to David Thurber and as he states it, became a wanderer for some years and then becoming weary of wandering McKay came back and settled on the farm where he now lives. Mr. McKay has proven himself a prophet as well as a pioneer. Mr. Chancy Anible, a former citizen of Ingersoll made this remark to Mr. McKay: "McKay, you will starve to death up there in that swamp," and McKay being somewhat touched at this remark replied: "Anible, when the bushes and weeds drive you off your farm I will be running a binder on mine," and this has all come to pass.

Mr. David Thurber taking up the spade where Mr. McKay laid it down has made one of the most beautiful farms of the county, and he has held some of the most important offices of the township. We don't find him as a follower, but as a leader in all honorable work.

The beautiful farm now owned by Mr. Wm. Hepinstall was settled soon after Mr. McKay's farm by Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Kiep also settled on the farm which now belongs to Mr. Sol. Gowing where he chopped and logged sixty acres. Afterwards he sold out to Mr. Gowing. Although Mr. Gowing started in humble circumstances, he has gone forward until he has now 160 acres all under good cultivation and is called the model farmer of Midland county.

One after another came till what we know as Poseyville, which was rightly named, was quite thickly settled, and as a landmark where Mr. McKay chopped the first tree was built one of the most beautiful little churches that Midland county affords, and it also has one of the best country stores of the country, which is owned and managed by James McDermott.

Last but not least of the great enterprises of Poseyville is the school which is called the best in the county, and they can boast of taking the prize at the school picnic of 1902.

After all these great enterprises were accomplished several attempts were made by Mr. Cook and other enterprising men to build a cheese factory, and after spending a great deal of money and time it seemed impossible until Mr. Aisle Locke, a prosperous young man took hold and built and managed the factory to a complete success.

Following the road which leads west from Poseyville corner we find some more of the good citizens of the township. Mr. Joseph McLaughlin, Levi McLaughlin, Colon Johnston, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Cook, Johnnie Franklin, Mr. Winchell and Mrs. Demmons, which forms another of Ingersoll's best neighborhoods.

The first school of the township was established in the early 60's where the school now stands at Laporte, and the first religious service was held in a log shanty near where David Milla's house now stands. The minister had to walk from Haynes's to what is now known as Laporte his only guide being blazed trees.

Our present town officers are George Riefenberg, supervisor, who was raised in Ingersoll township, Township Treasurer John Marshall; town clerk, who has lived nearly all his life in Ingersoll, is Patrick Nagle. Thomas Reeves, our highway commissioner who has held his office for nearly twelve years, has built a great many new roads and has improved nearly all the roads in the township.

Last but not least of the great enterprising men of Ingersoll is known as Thomas Fisher. Mr. Fisher came to this township 18 years ago, although not a pioneer, and built a shanty and began clearing his land and now he has one of the finest homes in the township. With the help of Mr. Fisher and other enterprising men, we now find Ingersoll township on the foam crested wave of prosperity.

The first mail route of this township was established in the early seventies. In 1902 another great event occurred in the history of Ingersoll township when the free delivery route was established, which brought every one's mail to their door.

In the spring of 1904 we are surprised to find a large steam dredge dredging out the channel of Swan Creek, so as to drain the waters from off the fertile land and make it suitable for cultivation. We also find the people of the eastern part of the township busily engaged in erecting a telephone which will soon be into every farm house of the township.

The End

## MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS

1984-1985

(as of December 1, 1984)

1.	ANDERSON, ROSE MARIE	1360 W. Midland, Auburn	48611	662-4505
2.	AULTMAN, JANET	5220 Hedgewood, Apt. 307, Midland	48640	---
3.	BABCOCK, SID & ORENE	1190 W. Stewart Rd., Midland	48640	835-5925
4.	BACON, CAROLYN	391 W. Shearer Rd., Hope	48628	689-3806
5.	BAKER, DONA	4516 Chatham Dr., Midland	48640	835-8478
6.	BAKER, LOIS	3273 Patterson Rd., Freeland	48623	631-9549
7.	BERRY, LES & MARION	5813 Woodbridge, Midland	48640	631-3057
8.	BIRKHIMER, ED & BARI	3212 Swede Rd., Midland	48640	631-5161
9.	BRINES, BEN & JO	4300 Castle Dr., Midland	48640	832-8312
10.	BUFKA, NORBERT & ANN (niece)	611 Coolidge, Midland	48640	835-2832
11.	BUTCHER, DIANA	660 E. Olson Rd., Midland	48640	835-4528
12.	CARD, MARY	2306 S. 5 Mile Rd., Rt.2, Midland		631-6563
13.	CASADONTE, RUTH ANN	5104 Nurmi, Midland	48640	835-5115
14.	CASSIDAY, SANDRA	3833 Johns Lane, Midland	48640	835-8684
15.	CELL, JERRY & ALICE	1820 Lawrence Dr., Midland	48640	631-9564
16.	CHASE, HAROLD & VIRGINIA	Box 156, Lake, Michigan	48632	
17.	COOPER, BEATRICE	4449 N. M-30, Sanford	48657	689-3641
18.	CRAIG, HELEN	2396 W. River Rd., Sanford	48657	687-5356
19.	DAVIS, MARJORY	110 W. Nelson, Midland	48640	835-1924
20.	DePLONTY, HELEN	4130 E. Baker Rd., Midland	48640	835-4013
21.	DICKERT, JACK	611 Chatham Dr., Midland	48640	832-8768
22.	DIESEN, WILMA	5802 Flaxmoor, Midland	48640	832-8485
23.	ENGDAHL, PAULINE	3724 S. St. Joseph, South Bend, Indiana	46614	
24.	ERRATT, JAN	108 Hunters Ridge, Midland	48640	636-7979
25.	FAGLEY, BILL & EVELYN	2700 Glendale, Midland	48640	839-9658
26.	FRANKLIN, SHIRLEY	2301 Kent Rd., Freeland	48623	835-5996
27.	FURLO, NORMA	5437 Mangus Rd., Beaverton	48612	689-3498
28.	GEHOSKI, ESME	4964 S. Carter Rd., Auburn	48611	662-6322
29.	GIBSON, ANDREW & FRANCES	599 Whitehorne, Midland	48640	631-2672
30.	HILLMAN, RALPH	4302 James Dr., Midland	48640	839-9070
31.	HOLLIDAY, BLANCHE	331 Hemlock, Midland	48640	496-3792
32.	HUMPHREY, NANCY	304 Harper Lane, Midland	48640	631-5123
33.	HUND, SHARON	398 Wisteria Rd., LaFayette, Georgia		30728
34.	HUNEMORDER, ELWOOD & HELEN	908 Balfour, Midland	48640	835-1534
35.	JOHNSON, JIM & DO	805 Wyllys, Midland	48640	832-3376
36.	KEICHER, BEVERLY	4107 Swede Rd., Midland	48640	631-9455
37.	KENNEDY, ROBERT & MARJORIE	2515 E. Sugnet, Midland	48640	832-3593
38.	KENNETT, BONNIE	4209 Arbor Dr., Midland	48640	835-9494
39.	KINDEL, BERNICE	Route 2, Box 228C, Forest Grove, Oregon		97116
40.	KING, LUCILLE	5417 Sunset, Midland	48640	631-5640
41.	KLESNEY, STAN & MARY	3609 Boston, Midland	48640	835-2515
42.	LACKIE, NANCY	565 Peterson Dr., Sanford	48657	687-5327
43.	LAUR, ROSE MARY	2589 Lakeview, Sanford	48657	687-5197
44.	LEE, HELEN	610 E. Ashman, Midland	48640	835-6932
45.	LENZ, MARY GRACE	5626 Pembroke Pl., Apt. 12, Lansing		48917
46.	LEWIS, BERNADETTA	906 Holyrood, Midland	48640	835-1314
47.	MARTIN, VIOLA	111 William, Midland	48640	835-6894
48.	MASTIC, LE ROY	1500 Wildwood, Midland	48640	835-7847
49.	McCULLEN, MAXINE	1755 Smith Crossing Rd., Midland		832-8749
50.	MILLER, HARRIETTE	4610 Jefferson, Midland	48640	835-4866
51.	MILLIMAN, IONE	508 Capitol, Midland	48640	835-6205
52.	NOLD, HELEN	307 Cherry View, Midland	48640	832-2937
53.	NUECHTERLEIN, AUDREY	4604 Bristol Ct., Midland	48640	835-5269

54. PARSONS, VIRGINIA	Route 12, Midland	48640	835-5248
55. PAVER, JANE	2602 Abbott, Apt. B9, Midland	48640	631-0268
56. PHILLIPS, HELEN	1114 Bus Rd., Freeland	48623	496-3957
57. POMRANKY, AUDREY	857 E. Olson Rd., Midland	48640	835-5304
58. RENNIE, REVA	1015 E. Park Dr., Midland	48640	631-0072
59. SCHNEIDER, NORMA	1018 Willard, Midland	48640	835-5484
60. SCHWEITZER, KEN & SHIRLEY	516 Crescent Dr., Midland	48640	631-1219
61. SEWELL, FRED	2508 Abbott, Apt. Q8, Midland	48640	
62. SHANK, JUNE	PO Box 16212, Portland, Oregon	97216	
63. SHIER, QUITA	215 W. St. Andrews, Midland	48640	835-3278
64. SHRIER, KEN & JAYNE	1012 Helen, Midland	48640	835-6900
65. SOMERVILLE, JOAN	3217 W. Wackerly Rd., Midland	48640	835-4835
66. TOMLINSON, DONALD W.	26 Doncaster Dr., Bramalea, Ontario,	Canada	
67. VAIL, JOHN	112 Vail Ct., Midland	48640	835-2253
68. WATKINS, MARILYNN	3716 Blarney, Midland	48640	631-5337
69. WHELAN, PATRICK	2311 Carolina, Midland	48640	835-5284
70. WILBERTON, DELORIS	2201 Carolina, Midland	48640	631-7642
71. WILSON, DOROTHY	3312 Kentwood, Midland	48640	835-2814
72. WISE, FLORENCE	4013 Lowell Ct., Midland	48640	832-8673
73. WORDEN, PAT	1201 Glendale, Midland	48640	631-7801
74. ZILINCIK, SANDRA	33 Pine, Sanford	48657	687-5729
75. STULL, DANIEL & MARY	1113 W. Park Dr., Midland	48640	832-3154
76. VOELKER, CLARENCE & ELAINE	300 Sinclair, Midland	48640	835-5718
77. HAMLIN, Marjorie B.	2205 E. College Ave, Visalia, Calif	93277	

*San Francisco*

On April 18, 1906, an earthquake measuring 8.25 on the Richter Scale rocked San Francisco. The quake, lasting 48 seconds, and the subsequent fire, lasting three days and nights, caused tremendous property damage. The number of casualties, never completely tabulated, was in the hundreds.

To arrive at an accurate total for the number of dead, Mrs. Gladys Hansen, San Francisco City Archivist, has made a thorough search of all available records. Her total of 826 known dead far exceeds the official figure of 478 given by the 1907 Board of Supervisors. Yet even with her careful calculations, Mrs. Hansen believes the revised figure too low. She appeals to anyone having knowledge of any person killed in the 1906 disaster to write to her with whatever information they have. The names of the dead will be entered in the

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ever information they have. The names of the dead will be entered in the official roster in the Public Library, available to researchers of history and genealogy.

We encourage anyone seeking information on people killed in the 1906 earthquake and fire to write to:

Mrs. Gladys Hansen  
San Francisco Archives  
Public Library  
Civic Center  
San Francisco, California 94102

Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

The Grand Traverse Area Genealogical Society is a young organization with a lot of energy and enthusiasm. The members who comprise this group are planning a seminar to be held August 22-24 at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City. Their theme is Immigration and Migration and it promises to be an outstanding seminar. It certainly is a subject which touches on everyones lines at some point.

At this time they are putting their speakers under contract and I will keep you advised of who they will be.

One of the highlights of their first two-day seminar will be the housing and meals accommodations on the beautiful Northwestern Michigan College campus. For the fantastic price of \$36.00 per person, you will have on-campus housing and the price includes 6 meals on the spot. This of course does not include the cost of the seminar. There are lots of camping spots available in the area. It is a beautiful vacation spot for the family.

I already have my reservation marked on my calendar for August 22-24 and you will find me in Traverse City, having a ball and learning a lot about my lines.

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!