

# PIONEER RECORD

MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol V No. 3

May 1985

## *The President Speaks*

With this message, I will be addressing you for the last time. My two years as president have come to an end.

Several projects we hoped to see fulfilled have not been accomplished. We had hoped to offer a group trip to Washington D.C. for work in the National Archives, Library of Congress and DAR Library. Some Midland County records have not been compiled in book form. We have had a very good two years, however and I am very pleased with all of your efforts.

This year we had our potluck in conjunction with our May meeting. There will be no meeting in June.

I would like to wish each one of you a very successful researching summer.

Good luck.

*Les*

## *Editorial Notes*

Without articles to print, it is impossible to publish a newsletter, even the size of ours. I am asking again, that you send material for printing. I don't want ten words telling about your trip, but neither do I expect professionally written articles. If you do your best, I will edit whatever needs to be edited, or I will leave it exactly as you write it, if it doesn't need help. Please feel that this is your publication, and give it your personal attention and support.

We will be happy to publish queries. Midland Genealogical Society Members may submit two free queries per year. The fee for non-members is \$1.00 per query, published twice during the year.

Interesting articles that you find printed can be reprinted and sent for publication, but you must give credit to the author, publisher, page number and the title.

Please send articles and queries to: Norma Furlo, 5437 Mangus Rd., Beaverton MI 48640.

*Norma*

# L.D.S. Library News

by Marion Berry

The Torrey Collection of New England marriages prior to 1700, has been acquired from the New England Historic Genealogical Society....7 rolls of microfilm represent over 30 years of research by Clarence Torrey, and are estimated to contain 37,000 pre-1700 marriages and over 100,000 references. It is arranged alphabetically according to husband's surname. Additional information might include husband's birth and death dates along with wife's surname and similar data.

The new library at Salt Lake is scheduled to open October 25, 1985....the present one will be closed October 14-24.

Irish research: The Roman Catholic parish registers have been released for patron use. They include all or part of the following counties:

Armagh, Clare, Fermanagh, Kilkenny, Longford, Mayo, Offaly, Tipperary (north), Wicklow, Carlow, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Londonderry, Meath, Roscommon, Tyrone, Cavan, Down, Kildare, Leix or Laoighis, Louth, Monaghan, Sligo, Westmeath. Films for the dioceses of Killala (Donegal County), and a few parishes in Achonry, Ardagh and Clonmacnois, Clonfert, Raphoe and Tuam will not be available until mid-1985. If the film number is not in the GLC, contact the British Correspondence in the main library at Salt Lake.....ask a Branch Librarian for the form.

## FROM THE ILLINOIS GENEALOGY SOCIETY:

Concerning research in Chicago: The Catholic Diocese has released the parish records of 444 churches in the Chicago area for filming by Utah. These are for the most part post-Chicago fire, but some date pre-1872. The Newberry Library will have these to view....baptisms, confirmations and marriages only, though deaths are available on application by direct descendants, after 1910. Again, you can send a request form to Salt Lake to see what a particular church's record number is, and order the film through the LDS Branch Library.

(In case any of you do not know, there is an LDS Branch Library in Midland. Ed.)

## New Publication

The Oakland County Genealogical Society is publishing the State Census for the year 1845 for Oakland County. The book includes heads of households, statistical data of other residents of household and names of white males over 21 years of age residing in each household for all 25 townships in Oakland in 1845. A brief history and county map are included. It contains 247 pages and is indexed. The price is \$15.00 + \$1.50 per volume, for postage and shipping. Michigan residents, please include 4% tax. Order from Oakland County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1094, Birmingham, MI 48012. Please make check payable to: Oakland County Genealogical Society.

From SGS Newsletter, Vol VI, Number 8, April 1985

# *Surnames Everywhere*

76

The Ohio Historical Society has announced that microfilm copies of the "Ohio County History Surname Index" are now available for purchase or for inter library loan. The index covers 450,000 names on 64 rolls of microfilm. For more information, contact the Ohio Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio.

The Michigan Genealogical Council has announced that the "Michigan Surname Index" is available for purchase only. This index includes 52,000 entries and contains the addresses of 57 Michigan Genealogical Societies. Contact the Michigan Genealogical Council, State Library, Lansing, Michigan for details.

Work is being done on the second Michigan surname book. It is being chaired again by Dr. Don DeZeeuw, who did such a great job on the first book. Locally our new chairman is Norma Furlo, replacing Wilma Diesen. Wilma has moved on to become the Midland Genealogical Society President. Good luck Willie. We know you will be a terrific president. Please call Norma at 689-3498, regarding any questions you may have, about submitting cards. Ten people have submitted cards for the new book and we would like to have as many more as possible represented.

Locally, our surname books and file are moving onward and upward. Evelyn Fagley has submitted her family sheets and ancestor sheets on computer printout and that works fine. Ione Milliman and Helen Craig have both turned in their family sheets to update their files. Now all that needs doing is for the Surname Chairman to get busy and get the cards made and filed. Get with it, Norma.

Paragraphs one and two were submitted by Virginia Parsons

## *Discrimination Again?*

RESEARCH TIME: For those interested in researching in Genesee County, be advised that the Genesee County Clerk's Office is open to genealogists only on Fridays, from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

From SGS Newsletter, Vol VI, Number 8, April 1985

## *Courage in Coleman*

"The Homer Chase family came to Coleman, where the father secured work in one of the mills. This family built a small house on a piece of land south of town, owned by a relative, with the understanding, that when Mr. Chase was able to buy some land of his own, he would move the house onto it.

In due time, he bought some acreage adjoining the relative's farm. When the time came to move the house, the relative forbade Mr. Chase's moving it. Being a meek man, Mr. Chase did nothing. His wife was determined to have what belonged to her. She walked down the road to a neighbor, Matthew Preston's place, and explained her predicament. Mr. Preston, after thinking the situation over, said, "I'll get your house for you". The next morning bright and early, after the neighboring mill-men had gone to work, he drove his team of horses to the Chase residence and skidded the house over on to the Chase land. That evening when Mr. Chase arrived home from work, his wife was cooking supper in their own house on their own land.

In 1905 this courageous woman, with her nine children, left Coleman to follow her husband to Seattle, Washington. They went by train and she packed enough food for the entire trip. Mr. Chase passed away in 1960, at the age of 96."

From: Coleman, A Mill Town of Pioneer Michigan 1870-1964 By Alma Jane Preston High

COMING SEPTEMBER 28: GENEALOGY FAIR AT SIMCOE, ONTARIO, CANADA

by Marilyn Watkins

The Eva Brook Donly Museum which is the home of the Norfolk Historical Society Archives will be having its annual "Genealogy Fair" Saturday, September 28, from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Simcoe is the county seat for Norfolk County (and a four hour and fifteen minute drive from Midland!). The Archives is also open daily from 1 - 5 and would probably be willing to put on some extra hours on Friday night if a group wanted to go on Friday and stay over for the Fair.

"Norfolk County, on the north shore of Lake Erie, was one of the second-stage pioneer settlements of old Upper Canada. Some border regions such as the Niagara Peninsula and the Kingston areas had been an early refuge for United Empire Loyalists pioneers and other early settlers as far back as the mid-1780's. Norfolk's first few pioneers began to trickle in about the period 1793/94 to 1800, with a combination of some families who had settled previously in older settlements such as Niagara and new arrivals from the United States and Britain." \*

The Norfolk Historical Society Archives is fortunate to have the full-time "magic fingers" of curator, Bill Yeager, who has been hard at work indexing, copying, and getting in good working form censuses, assessments, wills, land records, tax records, Bible records, cemetery records, family and church records, and any other records he can get his hands on. They are also making a real attempt to build up their library of resources on the United States homes of some of their early settlers.

I have been to Simcoe two times and have received much help on both occasions, both from the people who are so very willing to cooperate in any way they can and from the records which are in the Archives. I will be happy to answer questions if anyone would like to know more about this Archives.

\*taken from Searching For Your Ancestors in Norfolk County by William Yeager

Marilynn Watkins, 3716 Blarney, Midland, MI 48640 517-631-5337

(If you write, be sure to enclose a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope. Editor)

*Query:*

IN SEARCH OF DESC. OF: Dr. John Heslop and wife Palma Gaumont Heslop of the Gladwin or Beaverton area. Wish to share Gaumont Genealogy with other descendants. I am descendant to sister of Palma (Marie Delvina Gaumont Lynch) both daughters of Damase Gaumont and Marie-Arthemise Gastonguay of the Quebec Prov. (Goumond/t; Gaumont/d; Gaumont/d)

Mrs. Patricia (DeMund) Griffore, 14153 Garfield, Redford (Detroit), MI 48239

*Welcome, New Members!*

81. KELLY, Dorothy  
82. COURT, Rolland & Lida

5122 Russell, Midland, MI 48640 631-8734  
416 Center St., R #3, Coleman, MI 48618

# Poseyville

"For the benefit of some of the readers of the Midland REPUBLICAN who have never heard about Poseyville, here is a short description: Poseyville is a small city of about 135 inhabitants, situated about five miles south of the city of Midland. It has a two-story brick building, store and post office below and hall above, a brick school house, a brick church and other brick buildings. Among its early settlers were: Mr. David Thurber; Mr. Argyle, the present Jack's father; Mr. Steve Williams, now living near Freeland; Mr. William Johnston, Mr. George Anger, and a few others. Poseyville is noted for its good behavior, good looking girls and homely boys."

From the Midland Republican, 10 Feb 1899, page 8. Submitted by Willie Diesen

# Old Obit.

## Death of a Native Pioneer

"one by one the early settlers and residents of Midland and vicinity are laying down the burdons of life and are being gathered to the everlasting rest. The one whose death is now recorded is called a native pioneer, because she was born December 14, 1839, at "The Forks", which was then the name for what is now Midland.

Mrs. William Vance was the daughter of John and Sarah Wyman, pioneers of the still earlier times; they having come here February 14, 1887, by sleigh from Saginaw. Miss Wyman was married March 21, 1856 to William Vance. For forty years they have lived on the farm where Tuesday, June 27, at five p.m. she breathed her last after a long illness.

Their children were: Charles and John of Midland, Mrs. Thomas Beamish of North Bradley, Mrs. Phineas Cunningham of Crane, Mrs. G. B. Hammond who died June 1900 and Frederick E. Vance who was killed by a horse cart in Midland in 1887. There are 12 grandchildren.

Mrs. Vance became a member of the Baptist church of Midland twenty years ago. The funeral was held Thursday at that church and a larger number followed the mourners of the good woman to the cemetery.

Charles Vance, who was away at work, arrived the morning after the mothers death. Among those from away present at the funeral were Mrs. Robert McLain, a sister; Mrs. Weston of Saginaw, Mrs. John McLain & Miss Cora McLain of Alpena, Mrs. Scrafford of Gladwin, Mr. & Mrs. W. Perkins, Miss O. Bennett, Miss Jessie McLain, Henry Vance of Saginaw, Thomas Beamish & wife and 3 sons of No. Bradley."

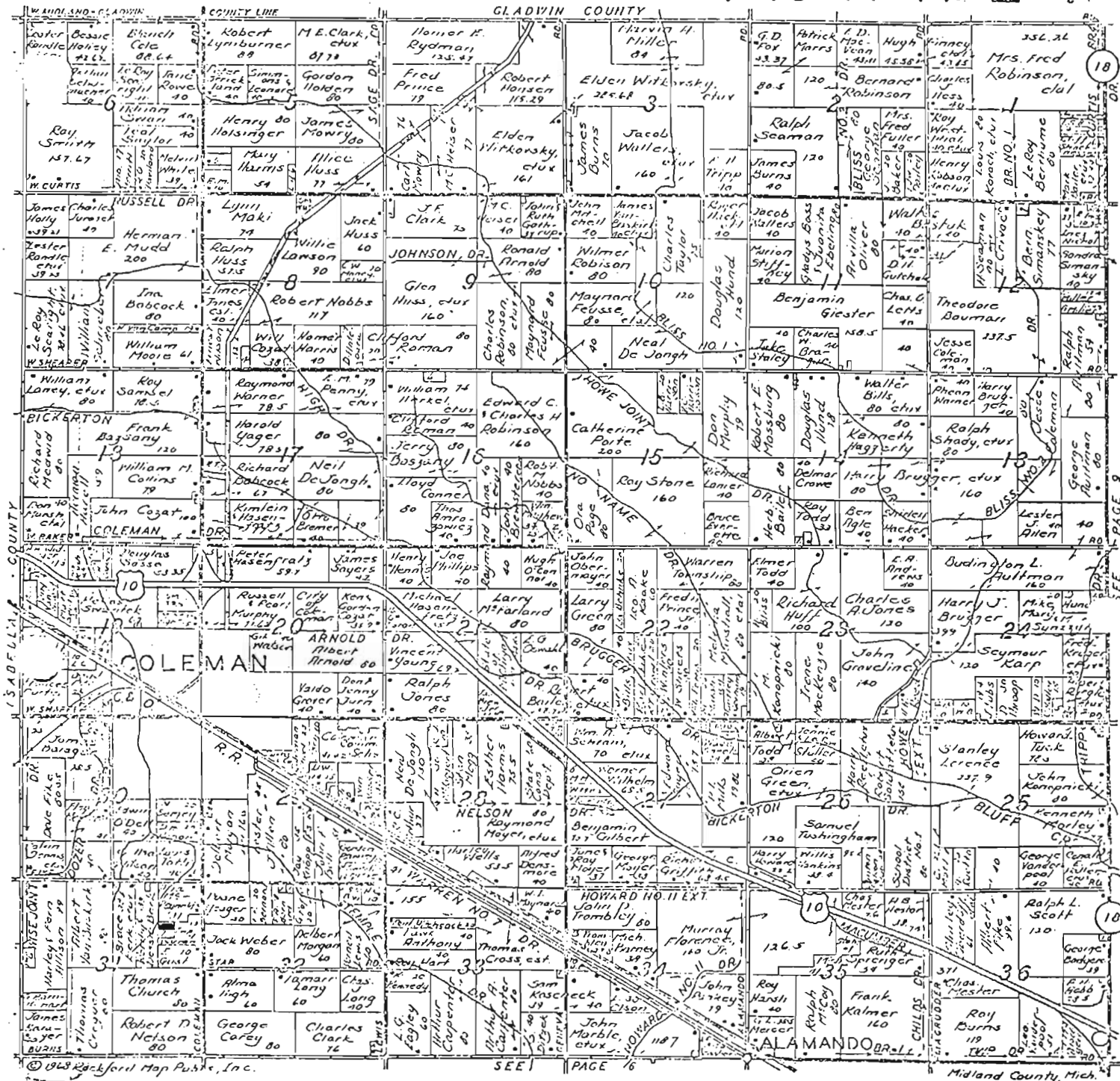
(Obit from the Midland Republican, June 30, 1905)

# Help! Help!

HELP WANTED: Reporters needed for the Pioneer Record, if it is to continue!  
Please contact: Norma Furlo, 6893498

# WARREN

# T. 16 N.-R. 2 W



Section 31 Warren Twp. Cemetery

## Warren Township

The history and people of Warren Township as related here, was taken from a book found in the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library. It is a really fascinating book and gives a complete history of "Coleman, A Mill Town of Pioneer Michigan, 1870 - 1964". It was written by Alma Jane Preston High after much searching and time-consuming digging. As genealogists we know all about searching and digging. Well, here's some Midland County History at your fingertips. I urge you to go to the library and check this book out in it's entirety. If you have Coleman beginnings, you will be glad you did.

Chap. Xi, page 87 WARREN TOWNSHIP

"Warren Township, in which Coleman is located, is bounded on the west by Isabella County, on the north by Gladwin County, on the south by Geneva Township, and on the east by Edenville Township. Warren Township was originally part of Jerome Township. When Midland County was reorganized in 1871, Warren Township, as it is now, was set off by itself. The first election in the township was held in the Jonathan Pierce "Exchange Hotel" the first Monday in February 1872. Mr. Pierce, N.S. Ferguson and L.H. Higgins were inspectors of election. The first Justice of the Peace was Mr. Samuel Hubbell. When the settlement of Coleman was incorporated as a village in 1887, the township of Warren began to operate independently as a township, but held all township meetings and elections in what was known as the old town hall in Coleman, until the year 1904 when Warren Township built a town hall of its own in the exact center of the township. This building is still used and has recently been reconditioned.

Some early supervisors in Warren Township: 1873-76 Samuel Hubbell, 1877-78 Lafayette Howard, 1879-80 George Miller, 1881 Lafayette Howard, 1882 George Miller, 1883 Floyd Post, 1884 George Miller.

### FARMS AND FAMILIES

Jacob Pontous owned the farm on Lewis Road, now owned by Kenneth Cozat. William Smith owned the farm across the road where Glen and Grace Doren live. Peter Wasser owned and cleared the Don Jurn farm. Ben Thorington, who came from Saginaw to Midland on the "Belle Seymour", bought and lived on the present Ken Owens farm on Schaffer Road.

Matthew Preston lived on and cleared his farm on South Coleman Road. He built a log house and moved his family there in 1891. His daughter, Alma High, has used one of the hand-hewn logs from this house as a mantle for a fireplace in her home which joins the old farm.

Albert Cairns built the house on the Jack Webber farm on South Coleman Road. He worked in the Headliner Mill until he had paid for his farm.

Dorr Calkins, Chris Berk, and William Hayes bought and cleared farms west of the cemetery corner. Franklin Stemple built the house on the Tony Toth farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clark (nee Luella Hubbell) lived on the farm now occupied by Bob Beacom's dairy business. Fred Clarke cleared the farm now owned by his nephew, Charles Clarke, on Lewis Road. John Jones built and lived in the house now known as the Vought home.

Mrs. Bauder's house, south of the creamery, was built by Mr. Luke.

Elias Yager (father of the late Emma Wickham) lived on the Ellis Penny farm. Mr. Yager hewed the logs and built the house for his family. Mr. Yager also ran a lumber camp at the Halfway as Lyle was then called.

There were five Yager brothers who came to Coleman from Capac in 1873; Elias, Levi, Henry, Russell and Oscar. George Cudney and Mrs. Cormars, step-children of Oscar Yager, were small children when they arrived in Coleman.

Mrs. Clara Hubbell Luxton, sister of Mrs. Luella Clark, ran a boarding house at the coal kilns, which were along the Beaverton railroad tracks between Coleman and Lyle. These kilns were on the Spicer farm. There was a settlement of five houses.

M.E. Budge came to Coleman from Maine and built a home east of town, on "Old 10". Mr. Budge was a blacksmith.

Mr. and Mrs. William Samsel cleared their farm and built the house where their grandson, Roy, and family now lives.

The late Mrs. Lena O'Conner, mother of Lloyd O'Conner, was one of three cooks at a shingle mill on the Gladwin Road at the corner of Midland and Gladwin County Line. They fed 80 men. They baked bread every day, and often served biscuits for breakfast, serving them with black-strap molasses. Dried apple pie was the favorite dessert.

Today there are about 20 farmers in Warren Township who make their living by farming.

#### WE REMEMBER

Well remembered, as the woman who discovered and developed musical tendencies and talent in children, youth and adults, Minnie Green was both a vocalist and pianist. Mrs. Green was an outstanding woman of the town who gave freely of herself and her talents when entertainment was desired.

Florence Phiel came to Coleman as a young girl, to live with her sister, Mrs. J.E. Curtice. She completed the high school course, attended Mt. Pleasant Normal School, and became a successful teacher in Coleman's Elementary School.

Most of us will remember her as the gracious, refined lady we came to know over the years after her marriage to Edwin Simons. A versatile woman and an excellent pianist, always ready to serve the community. For over sixty years she has been an outstanding woman in church, lodge and community affairs.

Florence High, wife of Dr. C. V. High, Sr., was an ardent enthusiastic worker in the Episcopalian Church, civic projects, a leader in woman's rights, a strong worker for the Republican Party, an organizer of Women's Club, young people's groups and recreational programs. This outgoing woman served as mayor of Coleman for two terms, during which time many effective measures were put in operation, benefiting the city.

Coleman's most beloved and respected teacher of all time, was Miss Agnes Menerey. She was the principal of the high school for twenty years. Miss Menerey was a gentle, patient teacher, with a sharp sense of humor. She did much in molding the character of many fine citizens who were privileged to attend her classes. Many remember her for the lessons taught in honesty, decency and good citizenship.



A history of Coleman would not be complete without an account of the stupendous undertaking carried on by Harry and Cora Bolenbaugh, during World War II. Mr. Bolenbaugh started writing one letter per month to every service man from Coleman and vicinity, and kept this up as long as the war lasted. Mrs. Bolenbaugh typed and addressed the letters. At first the Bolenbaughs used their own money to finance the project, which included packages of cigarettes, gum, film, stationery, etc. Mr. Bolenbaugh worked as an attendant in the Gulf Service Station, so he decided to install a slot machine and use all proceeds for his boys in the service. When the State Police heard about the slot machine, they allowed Harry to keep it when he explained that every penny went to the armed forces.

When the Midland paper company learned what Harry was doing, it offered to furnish all stationery at cost. Mr. T.W. Daniels, editor of the Coleman Tribune, gave a cut-rate price so that a copy of the local newspaper could be included. The Bolenbaughs urged folks to write a few lines each month to our boys. Mr. T.W. Daniels printed this sheet free of charge.

In 1945, a Gulf salesman appeared at the local Gulf Station, and after much persuasion on his part, Harry and Cora accepted an invitation to go to New York, where they appeared on the program, "We, The People", at Rockefeller Center.

The idea of an Honor Roll, for the city originated from the Honor Roll which Mr. Bolenbaugh had attached to a wall in the Gulf Station.

#### FIRSTS

Doctor - James Laurin Budge	Settler - Jonathan Pierce
Supt. of Schools - Mr. Rice	Druggist - Basherville
Teacher - Della Pierce	Undertaker - J. M. Doherty
Village President - Floyd Post	City Mayor - William Tower
Automobile - Dr. C. V. High, Sr.	Justice of Peace - W. S. Hubble
Meat Market - Frank Schoonmaker	Shoemaker - David Taylor
Newspaper - Henry L. Linton	Sawmill - W. S. Hubble
Bathroom - C. H. Niggeman	Plastered house - Abraham Fraser
Harness maker - Horace Knight	Jeweler - Mr. Dinwoody
Hotel - Exchange	Grain Reaper - Matthew Preston
Blacksmith - John Walton	Lawyer - Edwin Dawe
Bakery - Frank and Philo Stemple	Cheese Factory - Graves Brothers
Creamery - Charles Keyworth	Veterinarian - Charles Fenwick
	Church - St. Andrew's Episcopalian
	Marriage - Levi McCone and Lucinda Brown
	12th grade graduates - Claudia Pontious and Lena West
	Threshing machine - Joseph and Jake Warner
	First Commercial ice cream - B. J. Evans

In 1895 Claudia Pontious was the successful winner in a country-wide spelling contest.

All sidewalks were made of boards until about 1904. Mr. Ken Fromiller, a stone mason constructed the first cement sidewalk. Mr. Fromiller's name may still be seen on some of the earliest cement walks. Edward Nelson worked for Mr. Fromiller in construction and received \$1.50 per day in wages.

The first section boss on the P.M. Railway out of Coleman was Gus Nelson. Mr. Nelson held this job for over 40 years. Five Nelson brothers came from Sweden to Michigan, and all worked for the P.M.R.R.

Any reference made to a person having been born in Virginia as early as 1728, OR as late as 1863, could indicate that he was born in :

Any part of ILLINOIS from 1781 to Statehood, 1818  
 Any part of INDIANA from 1787 to Statehood, 1816  
 Any part of KENTUCKY from 1775 to Statehood, 1792  
 Any part of MARYLAND from 1775 to Statehood, 1792  
 Any part of NORTH CAROLINA from 1728 to 1779  
 Any part of OHIO from 1778 to Statehood, 1803  
 Any part of PENNSYLVANIA from 1752 to 1786  
 Any part of TENNESSEE from 1760 to 1803  
 Any part of WEST VIRGINIA from 1769 to 1863.

Copied from Trail Breakers, Vol. XI, No. 1, pg. 8, which appeared in the North-east Texas Genealogical Society Quarterly, Vol. 10, Number 2 (1979).  
 Submitted by Pat Worden

*Dues!*

DUES ARE PAYABLE NOW AND NO LATER THAN THE SEPTEMBER MEETING. Stay on the action list and mail your check NOW, if you haven't already.

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!