

# PIONEER RECORD

MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume VI, No. 3

February 1986

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ROSWELL B. GOTHAM

Submitted by Helen Craig

Dear Sister and Brother

Petersburg VA April 29, '65

and all of you i got yours of the 3 April a long time and was glad you Rote the leter poor Biron was moldren in the Dust a traters ball fetched him a victum to Deth and on that day i was marching a prisner of ware under a Rebel Guard But thank God he has fetched me through safe so fare and i am thankful of it. i feel poor Bies loss But it Dont come so hard as poor franks Did fore he has Ben a way longer from me than he was But i miss him very mutch i was in liby prison a little while i cant tell you all i went through while i was with the Rebs i wasent with them But 8 Dase. But that was 8 Dase to long i will (?) tell you all a Bout the Retriete from Richman if i had time But i hant got time we went in the fite on the 2nd of April and i was captured and Biron was killed the same fite he was hit three times the other Bois Sis (sic) i Dident no he was killed till i got Back to the Co and that was on the 15 of the month i hant had no leters. Before Sense i was captured till now Best our folks Dont no what trouble is if tha had went through what i have tha mint no a little a Bout how to enjoy the comfersts of life when tha cod But we have all got to live and learn i have had a hard lesson and paid Dear fore it to But i thank God it is as well with me as it is i Supose Some of the family is havin a grate time over the money Belongs to the poor Bois that is no more But it is Some thing that i Shant have no fuss over fore want fore the money i Didnt Earn and i want it as fore me to go tords taken care of mother as long as She livs and fore no wone else that is my feelings on the Subject i Dont no as i agree with the Rest as to that But you ..... mind a Bout it She is gitin old and cant help her Self mutch you all no as well as i Do i Got a leter from her i will Send it to you and you can see how things Run thare consernen the pension i Shant Rot to all of our folks what i have Rote to you So when you git the leter that is in Side of this Burn it up and Dont tell that i Sent it to you a tall. Dont tell any wane on the island If you Do she will here of it the ware has plade out i have allways tride to Do Rite By my frends and Relation you no oskir was with me a prisner i cant Rite no more this time so good By Rebeca and Bill and Ell and Clary.

Regards Roswell B. Gotham

(continued on page 13)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: Somehow the time for writing notes from the President always seems to roll around before I have anything to say!

For those of you who may have missed the last couple of meetings, we're trying to use the 15 minutes from 7:00 to 7:15 as a mutual help time when members can bring a question that they need some suggestions for and seek assistance from anyone there...if you have a thorny problem or a report of a particularly helpful source, come early to share.

Our program year keeps moving along rapidly. Our January speaker surprised me when he indicated that men as old as 45 were eligible for the draft in the Civil War. (Perhaps you, too, had thought your great-great-grandfather was too old. I intend to do some research in the military records of a couple other states now!)

February, March and April meetings sound as if they will be of interest also. We try to keep the business meetings short so that we can spend most of our time on the programs.

See you there...Willie

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#### COMING EVENTS:

- February 19 - MGS Meeting, 7:15, Library Lounge, "Organizing Family Reunions," Panel: Marion Berry, Ruth Ann Casadonte
- March 12 - MGS Board Meeting, 7:30, Lucille King, 5417 Sunset
- March 15 - "Pioneer Record Newsletter" Deadline for April issue
- March 19 - MGS Meeting, 7:15, Library Lounge, "Publications," Panel
- April 16 - MGS Meeting, 7:15, Library Lounge, "Lady in the Harbor," Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Naturalization.
- May 21 - MGS Potluck & Election (details to be announced)
- May 28-31 - 1986 National Genealogical Society Annual Conference in the States, Columbus, Ohio (see page 15)

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AVAILABLE NOW!!! 1891 Census on microfilm (Canadian). You may order from: Public Services Section, Federal Archives Division, Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington St., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0N3. Cost, \$21 per reel, payable in advance to the Receiver General for Canada.

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## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ROSWELL B. GOTHAM (continued)

Dear Brother and Sister

Peters Burg VA May the 24,65

i Reseved your kind leter to nite and was glad to here from i am well thanke the lord fore i cant tell you nothing a Bout Biron this time and he is Bered a Bout 8 or 10 miles from whare frankey is and he has got a Beter grave then thousands of other Bios fell our Biron didnt live But a little while i went out on the old Battle ground a spell a go and i seen lages and feete in Boots and Skulls that wasent under ground there poor fellows was killed last June and the Rebs wadent let us Bery them our lins wase so close But some of our men last Sumer Crep up in the nite and covered Some of them up as well as tha cod these men i have just Spoke of Poor frank save himself i cant Rite mutch to nite for it is gitin late and most Role call i dont think that we had Beter medell with the Bois fore it ant a toll likly that thare is eny thing But frankes Bones left ant it is gitin So warm that i Dont think it will Be prudent to medell with them i hant Seen Osker Sense i come Back i Dont think we will get out Before our time is out mutch i cant think of any more to rite. tell Ell to Be a good Boy and give my love to him and famly and Rily to i shall like to see him and Bill and Rily So i will close i will find out all i can a Bout Biron and let you no So good By

Wh and Rebeca Lattimer

R.B.G.

(Roswell B. Gotham enlisted in the 10th NY Heavy Artillery August 1862. His brothers, Francis [Frank] and Byron were also in the 10th. Roswell married Julia Farrow in New York, and after the war, they settled in Larkin Township, Midland County, MI. They had 14 children.

Roswell was a brother of Fidella Gotham Howe. Fidella was the great-grandmother of Ken Craig. For further information, you may contact Helen Craig, 2396 W. River Rd., Sanford, MI 48657).

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Midland Republican

May 10th 1923

## GRADUATING CLASS OF 1923

## Class Officers

Pres. Frances Mode.....Valedictorian

Vice Pres. Leah Cone

Sec-Treas. Helen Getts.....Salutatorian

Class Flower: Rose

Class Colors: Gold and White

Jack Anderson	Hazel Bowen	Milton Carey	Mary Conklin	Alice Frost
Howard Arbury	Joe Bradley	Ovon Colbert	Helen Courter	Helen Getts
Fred Basse	John Bradley	Andreah Cole	Helen Deisher	Marguerite
Roy Baldwin	Frances Boynton	Arthur Collins	Genevieve Dorr	Glasgow
Vada Bennett	Leigh Bryan	Leah Cone	Bertha Egert	Harold Goulet
Florence Bessey	Harriett Carter	Marion Conklin	Bernadetta Francis	

Lida Grasley	Loretta Macomber	Delton Schafer	Mabel Varner
Helen Hart	Helena McLean	Ella Schiesswohl	Henry Wassaloski
Porter Hart	Frances Mode	Lloyd Schlosser	Juanita White
(finished	Clarence Leath	William Schetzley	Kenneth Wildes
1st.sem)	Elwood Naugle	Theodore Shudark	Marguerite Winkler
Edward Hyde	Robert Rice	Rosie Small	Elsie Woodcock
Isabelle James	Chester Ritenour	Isabelle Snyder	Cecelia Yott
Thelma Kleinhans	Marjorie Robinson	Byrtle Suber	

(Copied by Esme Gehoski)

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### GENEALOGICAL NEWS FROM SALT LAKE CITY

There are now 600 branch libraries of the LDS main library in Salt Lake City. They are always interested in obtaining books on vital records, census, immigration records, and family histories. If you would like to donate any such items, write to the Acquisitions Dept. on Floor 3, Genealogical Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah, 84101.

Salt Lake will preserve your research and share it with others through the library if you will submit it for filing in the Ancestral File. (This is a computer system being developed to include records of individuals and families, showing family relationships in addition to the LDS ordinance dates.) Submit genealogy on legal size Family Group Record forms & Pedigree Charts available by writing Salt Lake Distribution Center, 1999 W. 1700 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84104. Send completed forms to Ancestral File Operations Unit, Genealogical Dept., 50 East North Temple St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84150.

Remember that our local library on Sugnet & Eastman is open Wednesday evenings 6:30 - 9:30 pm; Thursdays 10-4 pm & 6:30 - 9:30 pm; Saturdays 10-1 pm. Some of the librarians are more knowledgeable than others, so if you don't feel satisfied with the help given, ask when Ann Bowman, the head, will be working and make another visit when she is there.

...Marion Berry

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VERIFYING RECORDS - Recently I needed a statement and library stamp from THE LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN, verifying that my Boston Directory abstracts were accurate for a D.A.R. supplemental.

I phoned the library and asked the genealogy librarian if I needed to visit the library or if she could verify this at her own convenience. At her suggestion, I mailed my abstracts to her. After one month's time, I wrote again. One week later, I received the needed verification from a researcher who was asked to provide the service for me. The cover letter which was enclosed, included the following: Mrs. Glen W. Lewis (Ruth Z.), 3800 Glasgow Dr., Lansing, MI, 48910. She is a member of Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society.

The members provide this service to people requesting information from the Library of Michigan. The charge is: \$5.00 for two (2) hours to reimburse volunteers for out-of-pocket expenses such as travel to the library, supplies, copy expense, postage, etc. If there is a balance, it goes to the Society to be used to add resource materials to the library. I was charged \$2.50 to verify about eight different abstracts from the Boston Directory. It was more than a reasonable fee and saved me the long drive to the library. If only a few things are needed, I suggest using this service, especially since the extra balance is used for such a worth-while purpose.

...Diana Butcher

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TRIPS! TRIPS! TRIPS!

The National Genealogical Society Annual Conference will be hosted by The Ohio Genealogical Society May 28-31, 1986 in Columbus, Ohio. There are a wide variety of topics being offered, including workshops for beginners. The cost is \$75 (postmarked by May 1, 1986). IF there are some willing drivers, I will be glad to organize the trip for those interested. Please let me know if you can drive (you get your gas and parking paid)...give me a call at 631-3057. Also, is there anyone who can drive down to the Ft. Wayne library in April???? You give us the time you are available and we'll get passengers interested in going. (P.S., the \$75 fee for the Columbus conference does not include housing.)

...Marion Berry

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The AGLL (American Genealogical Lending Library) Catalog - Institutional Edition & Supplement to First Edition contains a complete listing of all material in the AGLL collection excluding Federal Census records. All items in the catalog are available for both loan and purchase. Film can be ordered at the Library Reference Desk at \$2.75 per roll (check or money order in advance). Stop by the Reference Desk and take a look at the catalog. You will find Ship Passenger Lists (1820-1906), Early Military Records, plus special AGLL films and a collection of books and rare manuscripts. Waiting time is about three weeks.

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HELP WANTED COLUMN!

Newspaper Obituary Project - Several members of our society have been working for the past four years on a listing of the deaths appearing in the pages of our local Midland newspapers. We search the microfilm copies and list the facts on the forms provided. These are then entered in the library's computer. Periodically a list is run off with the surnames listed alphabetically, giving the name of the newspaper, date and page number where the obituary appeared.

We now have information from the following papers and periods of time listed:

Bertram's Cheek	1872
Midland Times	1872-1875
Midland Sun	1881-1884
Midland Republican	1884-1909
Midland Daily News	1983 & 1984 (researched by library staff)

In addition, Audrey Pomranky and Harriette Miller have been pasting and/or indexing vital statistics from the Midland Daily News for the years 1976-1984.

These computerized lists are found in a red folder in the file marked "Vital Records - Midland County" in the Genealogy Department of our library. Also, copies are stored behind the reference desk.

We are currently researching in December 1912. We need HELP! This project moves slowly, but if you only have a couple of hours a month to help, we would appreciate it! Help is also needed to enter the information into the computer, as well as the newspaper researching.

Please contact Evelyn Fagley at 839-9658 if you can help her out.

& & & & & &

Other ways you can help:

"Pioneer Record" needs indexing - great job for the computer!  
Cutting & pasting (Hartford Times) - no experience needed.  
Genealogical Researching - for a fee!  
Be a "reporter" - for "Pioneer Record"

Let Willie Diesen know if you can help on any of the above (832-8485).

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#### QUERIES

HOLMES I am interested in corresponding with any one researching the Holmes family. Jeremiah Holmes operated a "sort of" hotel for the lumbermen of the area in the late 1800's in Midland. He had many children among whom was William W. who lived in N.W. Midland Co. Would like the maiden name of Rebecca who married Ethland Holmes, parents of Jeremiah.  
(Esme Gehoski, 4964 S. Carter, Auburn, MI. 48611)

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Allen County Public Library (Fort Wayne, IN) winter hours: Monday - Thursday, 9am-9pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am-6pm; Sunday, 1pm-6pm.

FOR SALE

MIDLAND COUNTY MICHIGAN CEMETERY RECORDS, Published 1981, including Sexton records:

Soft           \$20.00  
                   + .80 (Michigan residents only, sales tax)  
                   +1.50 (Postage)

Hard           \$25.00  
                   +1.00 (Michigan sales tax)  
                   +1.50 (Postage)

MIDLAND COUNTY MICHIGAN CENSUS RECORDS, 1850 - 1894, Published 1983  
 (Same as above)

NATURALIZATION RECORDS, 1855 - 1907, Published 1983:

\$ 6.00  
 + .24 (Michigan sales tax)  
 +1.00 (Postage)

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BREngle BRANCHES, quarterly newsletter, \$12.00/year, Charles Brengle, Editor. Covers all branches of the Brengle/Brengel/Bringle/Pringle surname and its many allied lineages. The newsletter includes an unlimited free query column, open to all as long as the newsletter query relates to Brengle. Many of the Brengle ancestors made their homes in Michigan.

(Charles Brengle, 6619 Pheasant Rd., #16, Baltimore, MD, 21220)

WORDENS PAST, quarterly newsletter, \$6.00/year, Pat Worden, Editor. Covers all spellings of the surname Worden (Warden/Werden, Wordon), queries free to subscribers. A family gathering is being planned for June 21-22, 1986 in Stonington, CT. For details of the newsletter or the "2nd. Worden Pilgrimage," write to:  
 (Mrs. Pat Worden, 1201 Glendale, Midland, MI. 48640)

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#### DID YOU KNOW THAT??

In 1984, researchers used 329,897 books and other items in the Genealogy Dept. at Fort Wayne. (From the Allen County Public Library Annual Report issued May 1985.)

All 50 states of the U.S.A. and all Canadian Provinces except the Yukon and Northwest Territory have at least one genealogical society. During 1982-84, there were some 150 new societies formed. The total number of societies now number near 1500. The National Genealogical Society is the largest ahead of the New England Historical & Genealogical Society with 6900 members. There are 23 societies having

1000 or more members. Independent periodicals published now, number 200. (From "Genealogy Digest," Summer 1985).

### HELPFUL HINTS!!

#### Visiting Friends - Guest Exchange Network

This is a way to travel inexpensively to other areas for genealogical research. Members in all parts of the country share their homes with other members. Most of the members are genealogists and all knowledgeable about what to see and where to go in their areas. Membership fees are very reasonable. If interested in more information, write Laura LaGess, Visiting Friends, Inc., P.O.Box 231, Lake Jackson, TX 77566. (From "Genealogy Digest," Summer 1985).

#### Research Tip

Here is an idea used by a member of the Minnesota Genealogical Society: When writing to people listed in telephone books that have the same name you are researching and you want to know if they have any information, send them a letter outlining the information you need and include a POST CARD with this "form:"

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I am related to the (name) family but I cannot provide you with any genealogical information. I suggest you contact:

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\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I am related to the (name) family and can give you genealogical data. Please write again with the data you need.

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I am not related.

This will not only save you postage because you won't have to send an envelope and a 22¢ stamp, and hopefully, you will have a better chance of receiving an answer if the addressee doesn't have to actually write a letter.

(Thanks to Jo Brines for the above articles).

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#### ENGLISH/WELSH NAMING PATTERNS

1st. son after paternal grandfather  
 2nd. son after maternal grandfather  
 3rd. son after father  
 4th. son after father's oldest brother

1st. dau. after maternal grandmother  
 2nd. dau. after paternal grandmother  
 3rd. dau. after mother  
 4th. dau. after mother's oldest sister

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Please add the following names to your membership list:

69. BREault, GWEN, 578 Peterson Dr., Sanford, 48657, 687-2587
70. CHASE, HAROLD & VIRGINIA, Box 156, Lake, MI, 48632
71. HUND, SHARON, 398 Wisteria Rd., LaFayette, GA, 30728
72. LAUR, ROSE MARY, 2589 Lakeview, Sanford, 48657, 687-5197
73. NORDBECK, LEONARD & DIXIE, 1440 Patterson Rd., 835-7201
74. SCHWEITZER, KEN & SHIRLEY, 516 Crescent Dr., 631-1219
75. SEWELL, FRED, 2508 Abbott, Apt.Q8, 832-7824
76. TOMLINSON, DONALD, 26 Doncaster Dr., Bramalea, Ont. Can, L6T 1S7
77. VOELKER, CLARENCE & ELAINE, 300 Sinclair, 835-5718

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BEWARE

From the Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society Newsletter from Normal, IL., the following warnings were noted: "The International Genealogy Consumer Organization does not recommend the following:

Alabama Genealogical Quarterly and Bruce Howard of Mobile, AL  
Journal of Genealogy and Robert D. Anderson of Omaha, NE  
 Brian DeBreffny of London and Ireland  
 Donald A. Dougherty of Exeter, NH  
Genealogical Reference Builders Newsletter of Post Falls, ID  
 Diana Hanson of Oahu, Hawaii  
 Eric L. Jonasson and Wheatfield Press of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada  
 Susan Pelton of Oakley, ID  
 Richard E. Redding, Jr. and Tree Searchers Genealogical Service of  
 Englewood, FL  
 Barbara Van Hart, formerly of Ft. Wayne, IN  
 Roy D. J. Droddy, recently of Salt Lake City, UT  
 Merlyn Starke of Eagle Grove, IA  
 Beatrice Bayley, Inc.  
 Sharon L. Taylor, or Numa Co., Ltd., of Copley, OH  
 Spectator Books, Inc. and James P. Warnick of Moweaqua, IL  
 Jack Evans, New Castle, Delaware"

"Moultrie County Historical and Genealogical Society also warns of:

Walter Manning, Eugene, OR, who doesn't fill orders  
 Halberts, who offer 'rare' coats of arms."

"The Fresno Genealogical Society Newsletter adds the following:

Histree of Lawton, Oklahoma and Larry Watson of same  
 Karta of Europe and Conley Smith, Mt. Vernon, Washington"

(Copied from Flint Genealogical Quarterly, 1984, Vol. 26, No. 4, Flint, MI., pg.115).

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"LIVING IS WHAT HAPPENS TO US AFTER WE HAVE MADE OTHER PLANS." (?)

Planning a family reunion? Maybe the following will give you some good ideas!



Staff photo by Pete Byron

*Virginia Kappeler is the only Brinkerhoff descendent still residing in Ridgefield Park.*

## *Reunion under a family tree*

**By Sheila Smith**

Correspondent

There were Brinkerhoffs, Brinckerhoffs, and a Brinkerhof. It was a reunion for descendents of Ridgefield Park's first settler, and they were all part of the family — no matter how they spelled their surname.

The 280 celebrants were all distant kin of Hendrick Joris Brinkerhoff, a Dutch settler who landed in 1685 in what is now Ridgefield Park. Some of the relatives knew each other well; others, not at all. It didn't matter. New acquaintances shared a venerable ancestry.

"It makes me happy to see our family get together," said Virginia Kappeler, president of the reunion committee and the only Brinkerhoff descendent still residing in the village. "I'm on Cloud 9."

Members of the Brinkerhoff family, dressed in Colonial costume, paraded through the Village of Ridgefield Park, which is celebrating its 300th anniversary this year. They carried banners identifying the states each families came from, but the sign that drew the most enthusiastic cheers simply proclaimed, "The Brinkerhoffs of America."

Village residents joined the Brinkerhoffs, Brinckerhoffs, and the Brinkerhof to watch a historic marker placed in front of the Paulison-Christie House by the Bergen County Historical Society. The 200-year-old Dutch farmhouse, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is the village's oldest house.

The house was built sometime after 1775 by John Paulison, who owned 150 acres in what was then known

(continued next page...)

# Brinkerhoff family reunion

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FROM PAGE B-1

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as Old Hackensack. It was purchased in 1844 by David Christie, who was married to Anna Brinkerhoff. The house remained in the hands of the Christie family for 140 years.

The Brinkerhoff clan, which embraces the Christie, Demarest, Roem, and Banta families, later met at the Ridgefield Park High School to pose for a family portrait.

As large a group as they were, they represent only a fraction of the whole Brinkerhoff family of families. A family member estimated that there about 800 Brinkerhoff families in the United States.

One hundred years ago, the family's bicentennial reunion was even more successful, drawing more than 500 family members to Ridgefield Park.

The buffet and family meeting that followed the parade were similar to the gathering in 1885, when, according to records of the reunion, the Brinkerhoffs listened to lectures on family history, sang, prayed, danced, and ate ice cream.

When the committee was planning the reunion, Mrs. Kappeler said all their considerable efforts would be worthwhile if even one relative from Holland attended the event. Frits

Brinkerhof, a 24-year-old college student from Roermond, Holland, obliged.

Brinkerhof had been spending the summer in Massachusetts. He and his family had not known of his ancestor's pioneer settlement in Ridgefield Park until they received an invitation to the reunion, he said.

"I'm really kind of surprised," he said. "But I'm enjoying it all."

The Dutch student said there are about 25 Brinkerhof families living in Holland.

The first Brinkerhoffs to cross the Atlantic were Joris Dircksen Brinkerhoff and his family. They sailed from home in 1638 and settled in New Amsterdam.

Joris and his two sons rowed up the Hackensack River and landed on the banks of what is now known as Ridgefield Park. According to legend, the father began to build a house there, but construction ceased after one son was fatally wounded by an Indian's arrow. Joris left and never returned to the area.

But the other son, Hendrick Joris Brinkerhoff, came back to the area two years later to establish his household. His family became the first settlers of Ridgefield Park.

Ridgefield Park's tercentennial is being celebrated this year although the village was not incorporated until 1892.

(Article from an unknown New Jersey newspaper, probably printed in 1985).

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Midland Republican - December 09, 1910, page 01

A fine photograph by Camp taken Sunday shows the family of Mr. & Mrs. Donald Brown, the four sons all being at home at once quite unexpectedly. The children (five) are Mrs. H. L. Fairchild of Midland, D.W. Brown of Rupert, Idaho, Joseph of Saginaw, David W. of Bay Port, John W. of Flint. The five children weighed 1000 lbs. The parents have been married a few days more than 49 years.

MEMBERSHIP & DUES

Annual dues shall be \$7 (seven dollars) for the initial member in a family (with only these members receiving the PIONEER RECORD) and \$3.50 (three dollars and fifty cents) for each additional membership in that family.

Annual dues become due for the ensuing year on July 1. Members who have not paid their dues by September 30 shall be dropped. After January 1, dues for new members shall be one-half the above amount. Those new members joining after April 1 shall pay full dues which shall also apply to the ensuing year.

PIONEER RECORD is published quarterly, September, November, February and April, by the Midland Genealogical Society.

MGS meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through May (except December) at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 West St. Andrews Drive, Midland, MI., 7:15 p.m., in the Library Lounge.

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Grace A. Dow Memorial Library  
1710 West St. Andrews Drive  
Midland, MI. 48640

