

PIONEER RECORD

MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume VII, No. 1

October 1986

*DO YOU KNOW THIS COUPLE?

Some time ago, our Society received a box of photos from Karl Williams of Plymouth. Mr. Williams wrote that his late uncle's hobby was purchasing odds and ends from estate auctions. Because these photos (which were found among the uncle's effects) had no apparent connection with their family, Mr. Williams assumed they were from an auction. He sent them here, hoping we could find relatives for them. The only photo which was specifically identified is that of Miss Alice LeMere; that photo was apparently done in Indianapolis. Other photos were made in Detroit, Flint and Saginaw. A snapshot album is also enclosed, and a "funeral book," which included an obituary clipping for Sadie Mae Seaman. She was the wife of William A. Seaman, born 20 July, 1881 in Caro, MI. She was the daughter of William B. Theobald and Sarah Covey. Sadie died 23 Jan. 1946 and is buried in the Oak Ridge Cemetery in Bay City, MI. She had a sister, Mrs. Flora Trombley, a brother, John Theobald and nieces, Mrs. Doris E. Semester of Dearborn, MI. and Mrs. Alice Alexander of Nye.

Also in the box was an ID card belonging to Will A. Seaman with a Detroit address. This card showed Rev. S. M. Seaman as the person to be notified in case of accident. We have attempted to locate Seaman or LeMere families locally, with no success. The photos are very nice, and we would like to give them to a family member. Please contact Wilma Diesen, 5802 Flaxmoor, Midland, 48640 (Phone 832-8485) if these photos might be your relatives.

The photo, copy on the next page, was taken at the Patton Studio, Midland, MI., and is undated.

*see next page



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER: Welcome Back! I hope all of you have had a productive summer with the opportunity to visit courthouses, cemeteries, family reunions and all the other fascinating places that genealogists frequent. After ten years of this, my family is finally convinced it's a permanent lifestyle for me -- some of them have even started to participate in the fun. I'm sure our members are all ready for some new programs and activities locally now, though. If this is your first year with the Midland Genealogical Society, welcome -- we're glad you're here. We meet regularly from September through May on the third Wednesday evening of each month, except December. Please plan to be with us all year.

/s/ Wilma Diesen

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COMING EVENTS

- September 17 - MGS Meeting, 7:15 pm, Library Lounge, "Sharing Experiences" by members.
- October 15 - MGS Meeting, 7:15 pm, Library Lounge
- October 16-18 - Michigan Genealogical Council's Sesquicentennial Seminar, "From Canoes to Computers," Clarion Convention Center, Lansing, MI.
- October 19-23 - Trips to Washington, DC from Monroe, MI. or Grand Rapids, MI. (See bulletin board in genealogy room).

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MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS FOR THE COMING YEAR, 1986-1987

Wilma Diesen.....President
 Ralph Hillman.....Vice President (Programs)
 Esme Gehoski.....Vice President (Membership)
 Evelyn Fagley.....Recording Secretary
 Pat Worden.....Corresponding Secretary
 Jo Brines.....Treasurer
 Lucille King.....Historian
 Nancy Lackie.....Delegate, Michigan Genealogical Council
 Carolyn Bacon.....Delegate, Michigan Genealogical Council

STAFF SUPPORTERS

Jack Dickert.....Program Assistant
 Pat Worden.....Editor, "Pioneer Record"
 Andy Gibson.....Publisher, "Pioneer Record"
 Ruth Ann Casadonte.....Form Supplier

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NEWSPAPER EXTRACTATIONS

Midland Republican

March 07, 1912

"BIRTHDAY PARTY EXTRAORDINARY - Mrs. O. L. Mosier, formerly of Coleman, was 60 yrs. old Tuesday, O. A. Williams 84 yrs. Sunday, Russell Tripp 14 yrs. on Tuesday, and the neighbors, 24 in number, assembled Tuesday at Mrs. Carrie Tripp's and had a splendid dinner in honor of the occasion.

"Four generations were represented by Mrs. Mosier, her daughter Mrs. Wyman Kelsner, granddaughter Mrs. Lewis Green and gr-granddaughter Miss Edna Green."

"BROUGHT HIM A LARGE BEAUTIFUL PIPE FROM GERMANY - Henry Kruse of Larkin Twp., one of Midland's prosperous farmers, returned last Friday from a visit with his old parents and relatives at his old home in Germany.

"While he was in the far away land, he did not forget his friends here, for when he returned, he brought with him a genuine 'Made in Germany' pipe which he presented to Hon. Wm. D. Gordon. The pipe is a beautiful piece of work and measures 3 ft., 4 inches in length. Mr. Gordon is highly pleased with the present."

December 12, 1912

"LARKIN NEWS - Mr. & Mrs. James Howe passed their 65th. wedding anniversary November 29, 1912."

July 10, 1913

"50 YEARS OF MARRIED LIFE - Charles Hubbell and Angeline Yerton were edded at Holly 50 years ago July 2nd. At their home on Ashman Street, 38 were present, including sons Fay Hubbell of Albion with his family, daughter Lena (Mrs. Adam) Winkler, daughter Nora (Mrs. James) LaMay and their families. They have 13 grandchildren of whom 10 were present and one great grandson, son of Harry Teal, who was there. A daughter Anna (Mrs. Fred) Morden of St. Louis could not come. A son Myron Hubbell died nine years ago."

November 06, 1913

"SOUTH GREENDALE NEWS - Another family party was held at the home of Mrs. T. C. Gibbs Sunday when intimate friends and relatives to the number of 51 gathered to eat the splendid dinner provided by all, after the manner of a surprise party and to say goodbye to Mrs. Gibbs' sisters, Mrs. Conrad and Mrs. McDougal, who start for Nebraska and Oregon this week. Four sisters, all widows and all well past their 60th. year, namely: Mrs. H. L. Voorhees, Mrs. T. C. Gibbs, Mrs. Conrad and Mrs. McDougal, have spent the greatest part of a very happy month together, and it seems too bad that they must be so widely separated again."

February 19, 1914

"93 YEARS IN LEE - DAVID KLEINHANS CELEBRATED COMPLETION OF 93 YEARS WITH HIS GRANDSON OF 3 YEARS - Mr. David Kleinhans celebrated his 93rd. birthday and his grandson his 3rd. birthday Monday at the home of his son Eugene Kleinhans of Lee Twp. Those present were - Mr. & Mrs. Evert Kleinhans & family of Lee Twp., Mr. & Mrs. Riley Aldrich of Gratiot County, Mrs. H. Herringshaw of Homer, and Helen Crandell of St. Louis. Grandpa Kleinhans was born in Erie, PA., and at the age of 12, moved to Ottawa County, Ohio; in 1883, he moved to Michigan, and the last 22 years, he has been a resident of Lee Twp."

March 25, 1915

"GOLDEN WEDDING - It was 50 years ago March 23rd. that Mr. Leonard S. Reed and Caroline Patterson were married in Midland. They now reside in Jerome Twp. They had 6 children; 4 sons, Ben, Alex, Eddie and Leonard Reed. Two daughters passed away many years previously."

April 15, 1915

"GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY - Dr. and Mrs. Matthew Gardiner were the recipients of several kind remembrances on Tuesday, April 13, 1915 at their home on the corner of Buttles and Rodd Sts. Several friends called, others sent floral gifts etc. and that quiet tho' eventful day will be happily remembered. It was their golden wedding anniversary - 50 years of married life. The 50 yr. married bride and groom are aged 76 and 78 respectively, and tho' Mr. Gardiner is now very poorly, Mrs. Gardiner enjoys the best of health.

"May 06, 1915 tells us that Mr. Gardiner died on 02 May, 1915."

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The following article is copied from Jackson County Genealogical Society's LEXICON (Volume 8, No. 3).

"STOLEN TOMBSTONES

"The July 6, 1985 issue of the Hartford, CT. COURANT gave the following story of a new and illegal phenomenon...tombstone thievery.

"Alfred Fredette has been photographing and cataloguing cemeteries for some time and is very much interested in tracking down these stolen stones. With others, Fredette has formed the Association for Gravestone Studies, a group of nearly 500 members. These people are working at reporting the whereabouts of these stolen stones.

"One member spotted a photograph of a tombstone in a brochure advertising an art auction in Cooperstown, New York. With the aid of others, they created sufficient public outrage to convince the auctioneer to cancel the sale. Fredette was able to determine the stone came from Trumbull Cemetery in Lebanon, CT. A police report was filed, but in the meantime, the stone was sold to a Massachusetts antique dealer who in turn sold it to a Manhattan gallery. A little more than a year later, the stone was again located and recovered.

"Another network member was informed of a stone in another New York gallery. She wrote the gallery stating an interest in buying the stone. The owner replied that she could have it for \$1,950 and sent her a photograph of it. Fredette and Jonathan Twiss documented the stone and turned over to the State Police their information, and again the stone was recovered.

"They even found that Sotheby, Parke and Bernet, a prestigious auction house, was going to offer two carved cherub faces. They did withdraw the items after hearing the outraged complaints of the curator of the Wadsworth Atheneum.

"Among the art and antique dealers, the feeling runs strong that if a place like Sotheby will sell the stones, they are encouraging people to go out and steal more.

"But not all stones have been traced and recovered. Fredette is credited with almost single-handedly persuading the Connecticut General Assembly to enact a law (1984) making gravestone thefts a felony. He presented the legislators with a January, 1984 inventory he made of graveyards in East Haddam, Scotland, and Franklin. It showed at least 111 stones have vanished in recent years.

"The stones that are missing are the large, decorative headstones. They make up the only artistic legacy of New England's Puritan settlers. The Puritans, who followed a literal and simplistic interpretation of the Bible, believed the Scriptures prohibited graven images, except on gravestones.

"The earliest stones often bore grim-looking skulls or death's heads. But, as the Puritan views mellowed, and they came to think that an after-life might not be all eternal fire and brimstone, the death's heads gave way to cherub faces.

"Sometimes, the cherubs wear crowns - crowns of righteousness and are flanked by wings symbolizing a heavenly ascent. Some stones are decorated with the tree of life and others have the depleted hour glass, an implicit message that time ran out.

"Every carver had a distinctive style and medium. Connecticut River Valley stones are predominately red sandstone, eastern Connecticut stones are granite or schist, those in Newport are slate. There were no stone carvers on Long Island and the cemeteries there are

marked with imported New England stones. Experts on tombstones can identify the carvers by the style of work on the stone and the type of stone.

"Fredette goes on to explain why the tombstones are so important for historians. From the gravestones, historic homes and church and town records, historians can recreate life in colonial New England. And he states, 'Anyone doing genealogical research would absolutely have to locate family gravestones.' Essentially, a cemetery is an open air Museum.

"At this time, the director of the American Museum of Folk Art in Manhattan thinks he knows the whereabouts of a valuable and exquisitely carved stone. When informed that it was stolen from a Lebanon cemetery, he would not say where it is being kept. He respects the right of a collector to collect.

"Marguerite Riordan, an antique dealer in Stonington, said, 'They have no right to sell gravestones. It's dreadful. It's terrible.'

"But it is happening in Connecticut. (Report by Helen Read, Northwestern Ohio Genealogy Society.)"

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COLONIAL OCCUPATIONS

Colporteur.....	Peddler of books
Stuffgownsmen.....	Junior Barrister
Docker.....	Stevadore
Pettifogger.....	Shyster Lawyer
Almner.....	Giver of charity to the needy
Boniface.....	Keeper of an inn
Hostler.....	Groom who cared for horses
Wharfinger.....	Owner of a wharf
Manciple.....	Steward
Shrieve.....	Sheriff
Plumbum worker.....	Plumber
Tipstaff.....	Policeman
Whitewing.....	Street Sweeper
Peregrinator.....	Intinerant Wanderer
Duffer.....	Peddlar
Peruker.....	Wigmaker
Chiffonier.....	Rag Picker
Bluestocking.....	Female Writer
Rattlewatch.....	Town Watchman
Crowner.....	Coroner
Fuller.....	Cleaned and finished cloth
Gaoler.....	Jailer

(The above also taken from the LEXICON, Volume 8, No. 3)

Beginning with this issue, we will be printing an Obituary Index (1872-1887) abstracted from Midland newspapers. This data has been placed in the computer and sorted by date. These obituaries are available on microfilm at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library in the genealogical department.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	BIRTH YR	MON/DAY	DEATH YR	MON/DAY	PAPER	YEAR	MO/DAY/P6	COMMENTS
MERRILL	MRS. THOMAS	0000	00/00	1872	01/05	TIMES	1872	01/13-01	
FISK	JAMES JR.	0000	00/00	1872	01/07	TIMES	1872	01/13-01	
HALLECK	MAJ. GEN.	0000	00/00	1872	01/13	TIMES	1872	01/13-01	
FISK	JAMES	0000	00/00	1872	01/07	TIMES	1872	01/13-03	
TAYLOR	CHRISTIE	0000	00/00	1872	01/10	TIMES	1872	01/13-08	
ROBERS	GREEN C.	0000	00/00	1872	01/22	TIMES	1872	01/27-01	
FENTON	WILLIAM	0000	00/00	1872	03/19	TIMES	1872	03/23-01	
HOUGHTON	MRS. L. L.	0000	00/00	1872	03/31	TIMES	1872	04/08-01
KEATING	UNKNOWN	0000	00/00	1872	04/00	TIMES	1872	04/18-01	
GEORGE	MRS. W. S.	0000	00/00	1874	10/03	TIMES	1874	01/07-01	
WILSON	WM. D.	0000	00/00	1874	03/00	TIMES	1874	03/25-01	
BRISWOLD	GEORGE	0000	00/00	1874	03/18	TIMES	1874	03/25-74	
JESSUP	INFANT	0000	00/00	1874	03/00	TIMES	1874	04/01-01	
GREYSON	FRANK	0000	00/00	1874	04/08	TIMES	1874	04/01-01	
BURCH	ALDA E.	0000	00/00	1874	03/26	TIMES	1874	04/01-04	
BATES	EX. LT. GOV.	0000	00/00	1874	00/00	TIMES	1874	04/01-05	
BURCH	ALDA	0000	00/00	1874	03/26	TIMES	1874	04/01-08	
RAYMOND	PAT	0000	00/00	1874	04/04	TIMES	1874	04/08-01	
RANMER	ADOLPH	0000	00/00	1874	00/00	TIMES	1874	04/08-07	
BOLIN	HENRY	0000	00/00	1874	04/15	TIMES	1874	04/15-02	
HINDS	SARAH	1796	00/00	1874	04/14	TIMES	1874	04/15-08	
GORDON	UNKNOWN	1819	00/00	1874	04/14	TIMES	1874	04/22-01	
CARLTON	REV. THOMAS	1808	00/00	1874	04/16	TIMES	1874	04/22-01	
GORDON	UNKNOWN	1819	00/00	1874	04/22	TIMES	1874	04/22-01	
FLETCHER	MRS. JOHN. L.	0000	00/00	1874	04/00	TIMES	1874	04/22-08	
NEIL	UNKNOWN	1869	0/00	1874	04/28	TIMES	1874	04/29-01	
REIDER	CHRISTIE	1874	02/00		05/05	TIMES	1874	05/13-08	
ST. DENNIS	JOSEPH	0000	00/00	1874	05/27	TIMES	1874	05/27-01	
WELLS	UNKNOWN	0000	00/00	1874	05/27	TIMES	1874	05/27-01	
SALISBURY	GERTRUDE	1846	00/00	1874	05/28	TIMES	1874	06/03-01	
SALISBURY	GERTRUDE	1846	00/00	1874	05/28	TIMES	1874	06/03-06	
SLAWSON	JOHN L.	0000	00/00	1874	06/00	TIMES	1874	06/10-01	
WAIT	MRS.	1871	08/25	1874	05/18	TIMES	1874	06/10-08	
ANDERSON	REV. J.	0000	00/00	1874	05/25	TIMES	1874	06/10-08	
DEITS	LUCY	1898	0/00	1874	05/27	TIMES	1874	06/10-08	
SANFORD	MRS. D. B.	0000	00/00	1874	06/00	TIMES	1874	06/10-09	
CAMPBELL	EDWARD	0000	00/00	1874	06/00	TIMES	1874	06/24-02	
KOEMAN	JACOB	0000	00/00	1874	06/18	TIMES	1874	06/24-08	
WILLIAMS	INFANT	1873	03/00	1874	07/14	TIMES	1874	07/22-01	
WILDT	PETER	0000	00/00	1874	07/19	TIMES	1874	07/22-01	
KLIPHER	JOHN	0000	00/00	1874	07/20	TIMES	1874	07/22-01	
JAGGER	ELIZA	1858	00/00	1874	08/00	TIMES	1874	08/12-01	
CUNNINGHAM	WILLIE	1857	00/00	1874	08/11	TIMES	1874	08/12-01	
HIGGINS	MRS. LAURA	1808	00/00	1874	08/13	TIMES	1874	08/19-01	
HEALY	WM. J.	1873	06/00	1874	08/19	TIMES	1874	08/19-01	

MY FAVORITE ANCESTOR

By Pat Worden

Actually, my favorite ancestor is my husband's ancestor, Edmund Worden. Edmund was born 1779 in Westchester Co., NY, and we believe, had five wives. His parents have remained unidentified for as long as I've been researching...19 years.

Edmund is my favorite ancestor because of what he has done for me. Without him, I would never have become involved with two men whose utmost desire was to publish a book about the Wordens. Due to their failing health and ultimate death, the book never got off the ground. However, because of these two persons, and the many others who became "crew members" of the project, I accumulated "tons" of Worden material.

Of course, as genealogists, you know how difficult it is to throw anything away...even the smallest scrap of paper. After keeping this "ton" of material for a period of 10 years and pondering how I could use it effectively, I hit upon the idea of a family newsletter. I had just completed editing/publishing the first issue of PIONEER RECORD so I really had a lot of experience!

WORDENS PAST is now in its seventh year of publication. Bill and I have had the pleasure of planning and hosting a "Worden Pilgrimage" to Cape Cod, MA., meeting many subscribers and their families. We recently attended a "2nd. Worden Pilgrimage" in Stonington, CT., planned and hosted by others. I have corresponded with a host of people, sharing data with them as it pertains to their families. Without Edmund, we would never have met all the "cousins" we have become acquainted with in the past seven years.

Tell us about your favorite ancestor. I know you have one. Send to me, Pat Worden, Editor, 1201 Glendale, Midland, MI. 48640, and I'll be happy to print it in PIONEER RECORD.

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The new telephone number for

MICHIGAN STATE ARCHIVES

is (517)-335-9165

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PIONEER RECORD is published quarterly (Sept., Nov., Feb. and April), by the Midland Genealogical Society. Queries are free to members and should be sent to Mrs. Pat Worden, 1201 Glendale, Midland, MI. 48640. We welcome all genealogical material which would be of interest to the general membership. Items to be included in PR should be to me by the 15th of Aug., Oct., Jan. and March.

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ALL MGS MEMBERS. PLEASE NOTE:

by Jo Brines

By the time you receive this newsletter, the month of September will be coming quickly or may have already arrived, and our September 17 meeting will be fast approaching. Our Society's year runs July 1 thru June 30, and the by-laws state that all dues shall be collected by September 30 or the member is dropped from the current list. At present, only one-third of our past members have paid their membership dues for 1986-87. Why not make it easy on yourself, the membership chairman, and the treasurer by bringing your checkbook or cash to the September 17 meeting? We value your continued interest and support in the Society and in helping to make the collection of dues as easy as possible for the treasurer.

Single membership is \$7.00 and couples, \$10.50. If you cannot attend the September meeting, please send your check to MGS, c/o Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Drive, Midland, MI. 48640.

All the officers of the Society would like you to fill in the form below as to type of activity in which you would like to participate. To be healthy, every organization must have the involvement and cooperation of its members. Let's keep our group healthy and stimulating to all!

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

NEW _____	RENEWAL _____
Individual.....	\$ 7.00
Family.....	\$10.50

MEMBERSHIP MAILING ADDRESS:

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: _____

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BY:

Telephoning _____ Education _____ Typing _____ Library _____

Reporting _____ Other _____ (If other, please specify).

I AM INTERESTED IN:

Genealogical computing _____ Library trips _____

Researching for others _____ Other _____