

# PIONEER RECORD

MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VII, No. 3

January 1987

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"JONATHAN PIERCE, 'mine host' of the Exchange Hotel in Coleman, was born Feb. 19, 1821, in Oswego Co., N.Y. He was a son of Benjamin B. and Polly (French) Pierce. His father was born in August, 1785, and died Jan. 10, 1875. Jonathan's grandfather was one of the early settlers in the Wyoming Valley, Luzerne Co., Pa., and his wife and three children were among the 300 who in July, 1778, were massacred by the Tories and Indians. The family of Jonathan's father embraced five children, of whom our subject was the third child from the eldest. He lived at home and assisted on the farm during the summer months, and occupied his time winters in lumbering and teaching school, until he was 27 years old. He was also engaged in the lumbering and wood business in Oswego County until 1869. The following year, 1870, Jonathan came to Midland City, this county. He engaged in partnership with a gentleman in the milling business at that place, but in the fall of the same year he went to Coleman and erected a steam saw-mill, which was destroyed by fire in 1874. It was supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. His family did not arrive until the fall of 1871. While the station house was being built at Coleman he boarded the railroad men, his wife doing the cooking and sending the meals to the hands.

"Mr. Pierce was united in marriage April 13, 1848, in Cortland Co., N.Y., to Miss Celista, daughter of James and Lois (Johnson) Burnham. Her parents died in Cortland County. She was born Dec. 9, 1824, in Cortland Co., N.Y.

"Mr. and Mrs. Pierce are the parents of four children living, and one deceased. The living are Lois A., born Oct. 13, 1849; Priscilla A., Feb. 13, 1854; Clifton J., Dec. 25, 1858; Effie C., March 2, 1861; Leila B., Jan. 20, 1870, died Feb. 5, 1881."

(From the Portrait and Biographical Album of Midland County, Mich." Chapman Brothers, Chicago, 1884, pg. 252).

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It looks to me as if one of the "... Family Album" dealers has developed a new finesse. My husband just received an invitation to buy the "Diesen Family Album." The postcard looks and reads like every other one of these come-ons except that it is signed Elizabeth Diesen Ross and the mailing address for checks (which are payable to Elizabeth Ross) is Genealogy Room, P. O. Box 5300, Scranton, PA. It would be interesting to hear from any of the rest of you who have recently received mailings from Elizabeth Ross and to learn how many middle names she has!

Genealogical research can be immensely challenging as well as rewarding, as you all know. I find it sad that many people who are just beginning are lured into spending money for useless publications. The mailing which my husband received indicated that the Diesen name is rare and less than 25 books will be published! It doesn't sound as if they fared as well as I have in locating the Diesen surname.

At any rate, it's interesting how many variations there are on the family research theme and how many opportunities we have to buy these special limited edition family albums. There must be a considerable amount of money to be made in the market.

s/Wilma

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## COMING EVENTS

Feb. 04, 1987 - MGS Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, Wilma Diesen, 5802 Flaxmoor, Midland, MI.  
Feb. 18, 1987 - MGS Meeting, 7:15 pm Library Lounge, Panel, "How to do it."  
Mar. 18, 1987 - MGS Meeting, 7:15 pm Library Lounge, "Migration Trails"  
Apr. 15, 1987 - MGS Meeting, 7:15 pm Library Lounge, "Materials in State Archives." David Johnson, State Archivist  
May 20, 1987 - MGS Meeting, 7:15 pm Library Lounge, "Conservation & Preservation of Materials." Mary Jane Trout

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## OBITUARY

## PIONEER RESIDENT DEAD AT 92 YEARS

"Stephen Dolan had lived in St. Louis (MI) and community for 73 years.

"Funeral services were held in St. Joseph's Catholic Church at 10 o'clock Monday a.m. for Stephen Dolan 92. Rev. Fr. O. T. McGinn read the mass and burial was in Oak Grove Cemetery beside his wife and daughter. Stephen Dolan was born July 2, 1846 in Kingston, Ontario (Can), was the son of Stephen and Bridget Burns who came from Ireland on the ship "Pandora" in 1845. Stephen Dolan Jr. came to the U.S. when 19 years of age and became a citizen and resident of Gratiot Co. and St. Louis for the past 73 years. He was married to Margaret Murry of Midland May 8, 1878, she died May 5, 1937. With the exception of 10 years when they lived in St. Louis, they occupied a farm in Jasper township. Surviving are one son, William, at home; two daughters, Mrs. Kathern Martin of Lansing and Mrs. Theresa Cornelius of Detroit; one grandson Westley Martin of Lansing and one great grandson. Stephen Dolan served the community in which he lived as Justice of the Peace 4 terms, was also a member of the Board of Health and a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

"Mr. Dolan died suddenly Thursday evening while at the table following the evening meal. During his active years he was known as a well informed man and an interesting story teller. Sunday afternoon, neighbors and members of his faith assembled with his family at his country residence northeast of St. Louis and held Rosary service for him.

"From the Gratiot Co. Herald Oct. 13, 1938."

(Stephen Dolan lived in Midland County, Jasper Twp., not Gratiot Co. If you are searching in this area, be sure to check Gratiot Co. This is where their business was conducted and where their newspaper came from. The Gratiot County paper has the Northeast Porter news column.)

Midland Republican

Sept. 21, 1911

50 Years in Double Harness...and the harness & team in fine working order and condition.

"Mr. & Mrs. Henry H. Munsell were married 50 years yesterday; have lived in Midland for 43 years.

"Henry H. Munsell and Miss Mary E. Plemon of Wood County, Ohio were married at her home in Middleton Twp. 50 years ago. Mr. Munsell enlisted on Aug. 22, 1862 in Co. C. 21st. Ohio Infantry and was discharged at Nashville, Tennessee on January 30, 1865.

"They have three children: Alfred H., Leonard M. and \_\_\_\_ M. (Mrs. Hays of Mt. Pleasant). The second son died five years ago in Louisiana. Mr. and Mrs. Munsell are esteemed citizens; he was 75 years old last June 12th."

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### SOME RESEARCH FINDINGS IN ENGLAND

by Esme Gehoski

Having not read any books on genealogical records in Great Britain gave me a sense of great adventure. I had no pre-conceived notions on what I could expect to find. I was alternately amazed, delighted, perplexed and frustrated.

Visiting the church where Peter and I were married and the reception we experienced amazed me. The present priest, Fr. Scoles, showed us his collection of ledgers containing baptisms, marriages and funerals. He then showed us the book, page and entry number of our marriage. (In our amazement, we forgot to ask him to show us the baptismal record of our older son.) The Church of the Holy Rood was built in the middle 1800's and was designed by the same architect as West Minster Cathedral (not the abbey as is usually mentioned). The records have been well kept and are in excellent condition.

Our next visit took us to the local municipal cemetery. Here the sexton or his representative were only too eager to help us. They both knew which book to bring out and the pages, all

dated, were in very good condition. He found the entry of my grandparents' (father's parents) burial, one in 1953 and one in 1954. Knowing the plot number, he escorted us to the furthest area of the cemetery, approximately 1/4 of a mile away and showed us the plot. Here we were happy to see that a granite marker and plot surround in good shape and flowers had been planted. We learned that my father's only living brother was taking care of the gravesite. On the way out, we were delighted to find a large grave marker with the death and burial dates of a brother-in-law's grandparents and uncles etched in the marble. This impressive edifice of black marble sporting such information gave me the statistics I needed to fill several genealogical gaps, things my brother-in-law didn't know. The records at the cemetery are available all day. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Another day, we went to the town where my mother was born. I wanted to find where her mother and father were buried. The Anglican church minister was very nice but said he didn't have the funeral and burial records at his parsonage. The sexton had them at his home. It turned out, he lived a mile from the Church, so we decided to pass, being footsore and weary from all our wanderings. Good thing, too, as I found later we were at the wrong church. This experience was perplexing. Why does one church keep records right at the church and another's records are kept elsewhere?

It's been some years since my last visit to my sisters. I expected that there would be changes. It's frustrating to find old streets with new names and house numbers reassigned. The fronts of homes which I'd known for the first 20 odd years of my life are different. It's hard to find homes one knew looked one way and now are so different. I took pictures of the home of my paternal grandparents; my maternal grandparent's home was demolished years ago, but I have a book showing what they looked like. I said "they" because there were five homes all joined in the block. The homes in which I had lived were changed, too, but I have pictures of them. My children will be pleased with them. I do intend to write some kind of a family history for them --- someday --- when I'm not busy doing something else.

## QUERIES

Esme Gehoski, 4964 S. Carter, Auburn, MI 48611 wishes to correspond with someone in the Coleman, MI area who can tell her about the COON family reunion reputed to be held each year. Urgently in need of persons in Butler, IN who can tell her something of FUNK/MINIER families ca.1900; also. CODLING, ROLLIE FUNK, BEATRICE MINIER (MAINIER) marr. SEARS in Michigan Dec. 1922, families from S.E. Ohio 1860.

## LIBRARY NOTES

by Joan Somerville, Ref. Librarian

We deeply appreciate all the people who, when they travel, bring back bulletins, brochures, and even suggestions for books we ought to buy. This is a fine way to share with other genealogists and enrich our Library collection.

We do add new materials to our collection from time to time. so occasionally check to see what new material has been added to your area of interest. You may be surprised.

We also appreciate suggestions for materials of general usefulness. such as "how-to" or materials on Michigan.

The Genealogy program at the Library is as successful as it is only because of the volunteers and the generosity of the Society.

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BEWARE

It has been reported that the Beatrice Bayley operation is no longer operating, however, it is possible the same operation has reappeared under the name of Elizabeth Ross and more lately, Vicki Lee Karr. The information contained in these offers is of no use to genealogists. Also, Roots Research Ltd. in New York City and Yates Co. appears to be similar. Their materials also have no genealogical value. Please pass the word along to other societies and friends so these groups can be put out of business.

## Midland Newspaper Abstracts - continued

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	BIRTH YR	MON/DAY	DEATH YR	MON/DAY	PAPER	YEAR	MO/DAY/Pg	COMMENTS
FARRELL	INFANT	0000	00/0	1881	06/00	SUN	1881	06/16-02	
SUMNER	SARAH	1842	00/00	1881	06/28	SUN	1881	06/30-05	
WOOD	JAMES	0000	00/00	1881	06/30	SUN	1881	07/07-01	
TRIPP	JOSEPH	1812	00/00	1881	06/27	SUN	1881	07/07-05	
TAYLOR	WALTER	0000	00/00	1881	07/13	SUN	1881	07/28-01	
EVANS	INFANT	1881	00/00	1881	07/26	SUN	1881	07/29-05	
SMITH	INFANT	1881	00/00	1881	07/25	SUN	1881	07/28-05	
BUNYEA	JOSEPH	1821	00/00	1881	08/25	SUN	1881	08/25-02	
YECK	MELISSA	1866	00/00	1881	08/25	SUN	1881	08/25-02	
YOUNG	MRS. WM.	0000	00/00	1881	08/08	SUN	1881	09	
MCOMBER	CHILD	0000	00/00	1881	09/05	SUN	1881	09	
HERRICK	EDWIN	0000	00/00	1881	09/15	SUN	1881	09/15-01	
HINDS	WM. C.	1830	00/00	1881	09/19	SUN	1881	09/22-01	
LAKIN	ANNA S.	1857	00/00	1881	10/01	SUN	1881	10/06-05	
TOWNSEND	POLLY	1789	00/00	1881	10/16	SUN	1881	10/20-01	
WALSKY	HYMAN	0000	00/00	1881	10/21	SUN	1881	10/27-01	
BARBER	MARY J.	1854	04/23	1881	10/23	SUN	1881	10/27-04	
JACKSON	CHARLES.	1844	00/00	1881	10/25	SUN	1881	10/27-04	
HECOX	BABY BOY	0000	00/00	1881	10/30	SUN	1881	11/03-01	
MARVIN	GEORGE	0000	00/00	1881	10/30	SUN	1881	11/03-05	
MCMULLEN	WILLIAM	0000	00/00	1881	11/03	SUN	1881	11/10-05	
HAY	JAMES	0000	00/00	1881	11/27	SUN	1881	12/01-01	
HAY	JAMES	0000	00/00	1881	11/25	SUN	1881	12/01-06	
BLACKMORE	JOSHUA	0000	00/00	1881	12/01	SUN	1881	12/08-01	
HEXTON	OSCAR	0000	00/00	1881	12/22	SUN	1881	12/22-01	
FULLMER	DAUGHTER	1872	00/00	1881	12/24	SUN	1881	12/29-01	
FARROW	WILLARD	1862	00/00	1881	02/00	SUN	1882	02/09-05	
MCINTOSH	MRS. CHRISTIAN	1794	00/00	1882	02/11	SUN	1882	02/16-05	FORBES MAIDEN NAME
PETTIS	EMMA E. (HOWE)	1859	00/00	1882	02/05	SUN	1882	03/09-01	
LOVELL	ASA	0000	00/00	1882	03/14	SUN	1882	03/16-01	
PANGBORNE	MRS. ANNIE	1860	00/00	1882	03/14	SUN	1882	03/16-01	
SHORT	WILLIAM	1808	00/00	1882	03/28	SUN	1882	03/30-05	
SECORD	WM.	0000	00/00	1882	10/00	SUN	1882	10/12/05	GLADWIN SHOOTING
GREEN	JESSE	1872	10/30	1882	10/30	SUN	1882	11/02-05	MILL ACCIDENT
WALDO	KATIE	1882	00/00	1882	11/1	SUN	1882	11/09-01	INFANT/D.P. WALDO
CALL	ELIZABETH A.	0000	00000	1882	11/06	SUN	1882	11/09-02	R.R. ACCIDENT
SUTOR	JOHN	0000	00/00	1882	11/00	SUN	1882	11/23-01	LUMBERING ACCIDENT
PORTER	JAMES	1881	01/01	1882	11/26	SUN	1882	11/30-04	SON/JAMES M PORTER
MILLER	JERRY	0000	00/00	1882	11/27	SUN	1882	11/30-05	MURDER AT SANFORD
BLANCHARD	MRS. DR. ASA	0000	00/00	1882	12/18	SUN	1882	12/02-01	SIS/MRS. JUDGE HART
BURCH	HENRY	0000	00/00	1882	11/30	SUN	1882	12/07-01	BROTHER/BYRON
MCKEEVER	PETER	1830	00/00	1883	12/26	SUN	1883	01/03-01	BROTHER/MILLIAM
SMITH	ELIAS	1828	00000	1882	12/28	SUN	1883	01/04-01	HEART DISEASE
PEARSON	MARY (MISS)	0000	00/00	1883	00/00	SUN	1883	01/04-05	SCHOOL TEACHER
HILLER (MRS.)	NEE/MISS BROOKS	0000	00/00	1883	00/00	SUN	1883	01/11-01	SEE MRS. SAM HILLER

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.

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 pm in the Library Lounge.

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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 August, October, January and March.

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MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
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