

PIONEER RECORD

MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VII, No. 4

April 1987

MUD, BEARS, WOODS APLENTY IN 1856

Mrs. Emma Gerard of Smith's Crossing
Still Lives On Original Homestead

The Midland Republican

October 22, 1925

*Mrs. Emma Gerard, 82 years old, who lives near Smith's Crossing came to Midland County in 1856 with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Amos Braley and settled on a homestead and still lives in the same place. This downes all previous records for living in one location continuously over such a long period. Mrs. Gerard has called the present farm her 'home' for nearly 69 years.

*A very interesting letter was written by Mrs. Gerard, telling of the many happenings of years ago. Mrs. Gerard says there are only a few of the 'old timers' left in her community. Her daughter, Mrs. Charles Martemis and husband live with her and work the farm. Her husband, Leonard Gerard died thirteen years ago. Mrs. Gerard has a brother, Oliver Braley living in New York state.

*Here is the letter: 'I was born in Thomas town, Saginaw county in 1844, the 29th day of January and came with my parents, Amos and Marilda Braley to Midland County in 1856, the ninth day of December. The roads were very muddy. We got to Freeland's about noon and stopped to my aunt Louisa King's for dinner. We started about 3 o'clock and went about three miles this side of Freeland's. Mother and I started to walk when a man named Steve Stillwell put me on the wagon, seating me on a table with the legs sticking up which he said would keep me from falling. My mother went on afoot. When we came to what they called the long woods the roads were not what they are now being partly corduroy. Not a wagon track even and big rows of pine and hemlock trees.

*'When we came to the woods the owls kept asking who I was. Never a word did I peep but my hair was one inch shorter when we got out of the woods. We stopped at Bill Davis place where Frank Whitman now lives. Father had him take his oxen and fetch him over to our little home. Father had cleared a place in the wilderness along the river for a log

(continued page 29)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Recently, my daughter, Debbie, was visiting a friend downstate. She's well trained, after living with a genealogy nut for the last ten years; therefore, one of the things Deb did while she was there was check the phone book. Surprisingly, there was a Diesen listed. She brought me his name and address and in due time, I wrote to him. A few days later, my phone rang and on the other end was Rick Diesen. It would be nice to tell you that he was the kind of perfectly informed contact we're all looking for and knew the Diesen family history back to 1200 or so; unfortunately, he knew even less of their ancestry than I do!

Rick did turn out to be my husband's second cousin. Although they don't know each other, they grew up in the same town. Neither knew the other was in Michigan. At any rate, I sent off group sheets and ancestor charts to him and he promised to bring me up to date on his line. Rick said that his wife's family has been interested in genealogy. Who knows...maybe Rick will get interested now and we'll have a new genealogy bug in the family. I've been getting all the strange looks for long enough.

s/Wilma

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COMING EVENTS

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.

June 4-6, 1987 - Conference, Northwest Ordinance, The Indiana Historical Society (315 West Ohio St., Indianapolis, IN, 46202), with co-operation of Illinois State Genealogical Society, Michigan Genealogical Council, The Ohio Genealogical Society, Wisconsin State Genealogical Society & Minnesota Genealogical Society, at the Century Center, South Bend, IN.

Sep. 16, 1987 - MGS Meeting, 7:15 pm, Library Lounge.

Sep. 25-26, 1987 - 13th Annual Michigan Genealogical Council Seminar, hosted by Oakland County Genealogical Society, "Heritage Challenge," solving family mysteries, Northfield Hilton Hotel, Troy, MI.

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house. It had one room with fireplace, two bedrooms and a little loft overhead. Wilderness, I should say, we couldn't see our neighbors. No one lived between the river road and Bay City road. But there were some lumber camps along the way. There was Bill Aranee, Charles Blodgett

across the river. George Davis lived where Roy Walker has his hen house on the hill. Grandma and Grandpa Arman lived with Lee Davis this side of Mr. Walker's barn.

"Smith's Crossing is named after Alanson Smith who lived there. Aldman lived about one mile below the crossing. Just above us lived Uncle Jim Hubbard. We couldn't see their shanty. It is called the Currie farm now. James Major was above them on the bank of the river and next was Hatlen Ellsworth. Across the river where the county farm is now located Steve Benson owned a place. On the bluffs lived Uncle Ely Hubbard. Across the river from there lived Mr. Rice and Mr. Banks.

"One time when Aunt Lucinda Hubbard was coming home from the Bluffs about dusk (it was all woods between the road and the river and there was lots of acorns on the ground) she heard something rustling. Looking she saw an old bear and cub. She stood there and hollered until Mr. Ellsworth came and killed the cub. The bear got away.

"Where Jim Hubbard lives the road ran down the hill and struck the river then went straight into Midland. Jack Crane farm and Neil Kent place lay on the river bank near Midland where the Dow plant is located. Across the river was an Indian reservation. They held many camp meetings there. Among the ministers, who were traveling missionaries and used to nearly always stop at our house, were: Mr. Cross, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Tuthill and Mr. Griffin.

"My cousin and her husband Dan and Mary Wyman, had a tent. My parents stayed with them one day. Two babies were born at the reservation one night. My cousin and my mother went to see them. The mother had one of them dressed and strapped on a board and this one she carried on her back. She took the other in her arms and went to the meeting (church camp meeting).

"I have seen a family sit down before a bowl of soup with wooden spoons. One dip and then the other until it was all gone.

"When my father came here there were about 25 or 30 houses in Midland. John Larkin kept the hotel and ran a sawmill and Eastman brothers kept a store just off Main street where

the Benson street bridge crosses the river. He poled his goods from Saginaw in a scow. The mail was brought to Midland by horseback. Later they had a stage to carry passengers and the mail. Dave Crane drove the stage a while then they built a boat named the Midland City. They sold it and built the Belle Seymore. In her last trip she went aground a mile this side of Freeland's. Then in '68 the railroad men bought the right of way from the farms and put the railroad through. In '68 and '69 the cars began to run passengers and freight.

"It is now nothing to see cars, busses and trucks. I have seen airplanes fly over my home. I haven't heard a radio yet ~~but expect to hear one soon~~. Now they have a coal mine and a big chemical plant. I have been in Midland county for 69 years and am still on the old homestead."

NEW BOOKS IN OUR GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

"Amnesty Papers," (Files of applications from Confederates for Presidential pardons.)

Census Books: Malne, 1830 & 1850
 Vermont, 1850
 Illinois, 1830
 Indiana 1820 & 1830
 Virginia 1850
 Maryland, 1800 & 1810

"Clues," from American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, (several small pamphlets in "How To" folder).

"Compendium of American Genealogy," Volume III & IV, Frederick Virkus, recently reprinted. (To complement the rest of the set on the shelf.)

"Early Ohio Tax Records," E. W. Powell (from tax list in Archives of Ohio State Historical Society Library).

Family Histories.

"First Landowners of Livingston Co., MI (from U. S. Tract Records)," Milton Charboneau, Livingston County Genealogical Society, 1986.

"Genealogical History of August Pommerening," Audrey Pomranky, 1984.

"Index to U.S.Census of Kalamazoo County, Mich." for 1860, 1870, 1880, Veteran Roll 1890 Census, Compiled by

Genealogical Society, 1986 (one all-inclusive, every name index).

Kentucky Tax List.

Mississippi Index to Marriages.

"Naturalization Records of Shiawassee County 1854-1906."

Ohio County Records.

"Passenger & Immigration List Index," Supplementary Volumes & 1986 Volume, Edited by P. William Filby & Mary K. Meyer.

"People of Ontario 1600-1900," Noel M. Elliot, Ed., 1984, 3 Volumes (alphabetized directory of the people, places and vital dates).

"Prisoners Who Died At Andersonville Prison," Atwater Report (List of prisoners who died in 1864-65 at Andersonville Prison, compiled by Private Dorance Atwater, Second N.Y. Cavalry, who was an Andersonville prisoner, first published in 1865.)

"Records of The First Five Michigan Infantry Units, Civil War," (Volumes 1-5), recently reprinted. RM973.7474.

"Sourcebook of Michigan Census, County Histories," published by Michigan State Library.

South Carolina Will Transcripts.

"Summer Soldiers: A Survey & Index of Rev. War Courts-Martial," James C. Neagles, 1986.

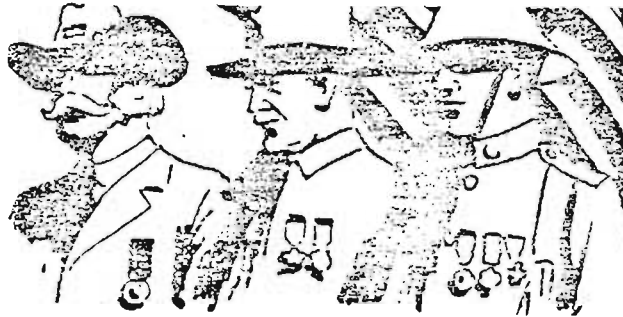
"Townsend Family History," Leo N. Townsend, 1984.

"Upper Canada, Ontario 1848-1850" Census Index.

"Wuerttemberg Emigration Index," Compiled by Schenk, Froelke & Bork; Volume 1, 1986.

"10,000 Vital Records of Western NY," Bowman (area west of Geneva from newspapers published between 1809-1850).

"10,000 Vital Records of Central NY," Bowman (area between Geneva & Utica, approximately same years).



Memorial Day

ARRANGEMENT FOR PARADE

Col. Orville R. Carey, chief of staff will lead off on horseback. Chief Marshal Thomas B. Main and staff and members of Dwight May Post of the Grand Army of the Republic and Civil War Veterans conveyed by automobiles. Color bearer and guard of honor from Berryhill Post will be led by the Chemical City Band, Robert Heisman, director. Immediately behind the colors will be members of Berryhill Post commanded by Dr. Frank L. Hardy and all members of the World War and Spanish American war; 107th Motorcycle Company in charge of Lt. Mearl Baringer; Hon John A. Whitman, mayor, city council, Dr. F. B. Lambie, orator of the day, clergy and city and county officers and members of the board of supervisors. Officers of the board of education. Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, National League of Veterans and Sons, Red Cross, Boy and Girl Scouts, School band, City schools, J. J. Schafer, Superintendent, St. Brigid's school, county schools

PARK PROGRAM

Invocation—Rev. J. B. Illig.

Band selection.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address—High School Student.

Band Concert.

Benediction—Rev. V. V. Nicholas.

AT THE CEMETERY

Band selection.

C. A. R. Ritual—To be read by Rev. I. O. L.

Midland Newspaper Abstracts - conclusion

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	BIRTH YR	MON/DAY	DEATH YR	MON/DAY	PAPER	YEAR	MO/DAY/PG	COMMENTS
HILLER (MRS.)	SAMUEL (ALLEN)	0000	00/00	1883	00/00	SUN	1883	01/18-01	SEE/MRS.B.HILLER,
PRIEM	WM.	1869	00/00	1883	01/14	SUN	1883	01/18-01	HUNTING ACCIDENT
WALTON	ROBERT	1843	00/00	1883	01/14	SUN	1883	01/18-01	
TREMPER	FATHER/PETER	0000	00/00	1883	00/00	SUN	1883	01/18-03	
VAN VLECK	HENRY	0000	00/00	1882	01/19	SUN	1883	02/01-01	
SKELTON	WILLIAM	1827	00/00	1883	01/27	SUN	1883	02/01/01	
PARSONS	THIMAS	1845	00/00	1883	02/17	SUN	1883	02/22-05	FELL IN BARN
TICE	INFANT	1883	00/00	1883	02/00	SUN	1883	03/01-01	DAUGHTER/W.H.TICE
WYMAN	MRS. JOHN	1805	02/05	1883	02/16	SUN	1883	03/01-01	1ST WHITE SETTLER
ROBINSON	INFANT BOY	1882	12/10	1883	02/24	SUN	1883	03/01-05	SON/JAMES M.
TREMPER HARRY	HARRY	1885	00/00	1883	03/07	SUN	1883	03/05-05	SON/PETER L.
WALDO	CATHERINE M(MRS)	1844	00/00	1883	03/27	SUN	1883	03/29-05	MRS. DAVID P.
MINER	AMOS	1811	01/16	1883	04/10	SUN	1883	04/12-05	ALSO 04/19-05
DEAN	MRS. JERUSHA	1817	00/00	1883	04/15	SUN	1883	04/19-05	MRS. BENJAMIN F.
ALLEN	MRS. A.M.	0000	00/00	1883	04/23	SUN	1883	04/26-05	MEASLES
TRUESDALE	HARRY	0000	00/00	1883	04/27	SUN	1883	05/03-01	DROWNED 22-23 YRS.
BEDEN	WILLIE	00/0	0000	1883	04/00	SUN	1883	05/03-04	BURIED 4/29
PERFECT	HENRY	1859	00/00	1883	04/25	SUN	1883	05/03-04	
ALLEN	MRS. SUSAN	0000	00/00	1883	05/05	SUN	1883	05/10-01	APPROX 50 YRS. OLD
CUNNINGHAM	JIMMY	0000	00/00	1883	05/12	SUN	1883	05/17-05	*OLD*RESIDENT
ROYAL	I.B.	1836	00/00	1883	05/13	SUN	1883	05/17-05	LATELY/ST. OF MAINE
SHORT	WILLIAM	1848	00/00	1883	05/19	SUN	1883	05/24-01	HEART DISEASE
SPENCER	NATHAN	0000	00/00	1883	05/19	SUN	1883	05/24-01	AT EDENVILLE
GERARD	MRS. ED.	00/0	0000	1883	05/21	SUN	1883	05/24-01	INGERSOLL
RUMRILL	HARVEY	1803	00/00	1883	05/21	SUN	1883	05/24-01	HEART DISEASE
LEWIS	JENNIE	1868	02/00	1883	06/10	SUN	1883	06/14-05	SPINAL FEVER
WOOD	SIMON	0000	00/00	1883	07/05	SUN	1883	07/05-01	
MCDERMOTT	KATIE (MISS)	1865	00/00	1883	06/29	SUN	1883	07/05-05	
BELLINGER	DAUGHTER	0000	00/00	1883	00/00	SUN	1883	08/02-01	OF JONER BELLINGER
HUGHES	THIMAS	1808	00/00	1883	00/00	SUN	1883	08/02-05	
PIERCE	PHINEAS F.	0000	00/00	1883	00/00	SUN	1883	08/02/01	FRAN PIERCE (ALIAS
JEROME	DR. J.H.	1813	00/00	1883	08/08	SUN	1883	08/16-01	
ADAMS	YOUNG MAN	0000	00/00	1883	09/00	SUN	1883	09/06-01	DROWNED
DEGRAFF	UNKNOWN	1883	00/00	1883	09/05	SUN	1883	09/20-05	SON/JOHN & MARY
MADILL	WM.	0000	09/27	1883	00/00	SUN	1883	10/04-01	
EMERY	ELMIRA	1813	00/00	1883	10/14	SUN	1883	10/18-05	SIS/GEO. HEMINGWAY
PATTERSON	JOHN PAUL	1815	00/00	1883	10/00	SUN	1883	10/25-01	OF HOPE
ERWAY	DANIEL	1808	10/00	1883	10/04	SUN	1883	10/25-01	DAD OF SYLVESTER
HEWITT	CHRISTIE	1856	00/00	1883	10/24	SUN	1883	10/25-05	WIFE/W.E. NEE/HOWE
O'CONNELL	UNKNOWN	1803	00/00	1883	10/00	SUN	1883	10/25/01	OF EDENVILLE
MCCORMICK	ALEX	0000	00/00	1883	11/03	SUN	1883	11/08-05	APPARENT SUICIDE
MCMANUS	EDGAR	0000	00/00	1883	11/07	SUN	1883	11/08-05	FALLING TREE
PHETTEPLACE	WM.	1817	00/00	1883	11/21	SUN	1883	12/06-05	INGERSOLL TWP
BRACE	MISS ANNIE	1863	00/00	1883	12/14	SUN	1883	12/20-05	DAU. THOMAS
BANCROFT	REV. J.D.	0000	00/00	1883	12/21	SUN	1883	12/27-01	DIED/VASSAR. MI.

QUERIES

Trying to prove how WILLIAM LAMBIE is related specifically to JOHN & DOUGALD CURRIE, all early Midland County residents. William born c1830, probably Scotland. His obit says he was uncle of the two Currie men; was also living with Dougald when he died in 1897. The 1870 census shows William living with John Currie Sr. and Mary. He is not found in 1880, but probably missed in Midland County. Census of 1894 shows William living with Dougald and called "uncle" and "widower."
(Jo Brines, 4300 Castle Dr., Midland, MI. 48640)

My ancestor, JAMES HESTER, b. c1775, probably in Granville Co. NC, was the son/HENRY HESTER who d. 1806. I believe James's mother was MARY GRAVES, dau/WILLIAM GRAVES and his wife, MARY _____, but have been unable to prove this. William Graves was a son/RALPH GRAVES, descendant of Capt. THOMAS GRAVES who came from England to Virginia c1608. Does anyone have information on the Graves family which might help prove or disprove my Hester connection?
(Wilma Diesen, 5802 Flaxmoor, Midland, MI. 48640)

Need info on JAMES HOWARD MONTGOMERY & MILDRED NUZUM who came to Gladwin Co. oilfields in early 1930's from PA. Had children: BILLIE RUDOLPH, & ERIS JEAN. Need PA connections for Mildred Nuzum, parents, etc.
(Esme Gehoski, 4964 S. Carter, Auburn, MI. 48611)

THIS 'n THAT...

One emphasis by the State Sesquicentennial Committee during 1987 is on Michigan family reunions. If you know of a Midland family group having such a celebration and wishing to purchase a Midland County Census book (1850 - 1894) and/or a Midland County Cemetery Book (both published by our society), please call Jo Brines, 832-8312.

A newsletter titled "Ely Heritage," covering all branches of the ELY surname and its allied lineages, is being published. A free query column is published in the quarterly newsletter and costs \$12.00 yearly. You may contact: Theresa Ryan, 501 N. Paradise Rd., Aberdeen, MD, 21001.

FOR SALE: Family Roots, genealogy program by Quinsept, Version 3.0 for APPLE II/IIe/IIc. List price \$185. I will sell at cost, including postage, of \$145.
(Lee Walkowski, Phone 631-3244)

Our Census Book was recently purchased by the New England Historical & Genealogical Register for their library and appears in the "Recent Books Section" of their quarterly!!

Did someone want to borrow the HURST family history by John Simeon Hurst, 1909-1981 from the Allen County Library? The Allen County Library does not loan.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

- Nancy Hurley, 118 Varner, Midland, MI. 48640, 631-0928
- Richard Griebes, 5455 Pacifica Dr., LaJolla, CA 92037
(Griebes in Larkin Twp. 1890's to c1940)
- Joan Maul, 3301 Garland, Midland, MI. 48640, 835-6145
- Judy Rose, 216 E. St. Andrews, Midland, 48640, 631-2237

Membership dues for 1987-88 will again be collected at the May meeting. Our year runs July 1 - June 30. It really helps the membership chairman and treasurer to get a good start on the new year by collecting as many dues as possible in the spring. Otherwise, mail to Membership Chairman, Midland Genealogical Society, Grace A. Dow Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland, 48640. The following form is for your convenience.

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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 THE MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BY:

Telephoning _____ Education _____ Typing _____
 Library _____ Abstracting _____ Other _____

I AM INTERESTED IN:

Genealogical computing _____ Library trips _____
 Researching for others _____ Other _____

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 W. St. Andrews Dr., 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 the Editor, c/o MGS, 1710 W. St. Andrews Dr., Midland 48640. We welcome all genealogical material which would be of interest to the general membership. Items to be included in PR are due by the 15th of August, October, January and March.

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MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Grace A. Dow Memorial Library
1710 W. St. Andrews Drive
Midland, Michigan 48640

