

# PIONEER RECORD

MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume IX, No. 1

September 1988

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### WELCOME TO THE 1988/89 MIDLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The "Summer Drought of 1988" has finally broken. I hope your genealogy searches have "rained" fruitful finds for each and everyone. I am sure that you have found some of the more comfortable places to eat the heat have been libraries and the air-conditioned car to get here.

We have had a change over the summer on the Board. Marilyn McGinnis found she wasn't going to be able to edit the newsletter. Harold and Virginia Chase have agreed to edit the "Pioneer Record" for September and November before leaving for southern climates. This means we'll need another volunteer to edit the last two issues. Please see me if you can help in this endeavor.

Wilma Diesen is going to be our liaison with the Library.

Is a trip just what you've been yearning for? Well... How about Salt Lake City in the spring? If you don't wish to go so far away, is Ft. Wayne or Lansing a suggestion that would fit your needs? We would like to serve your interests so please pass along your ideas.

## 1988/89 OFFICERS

President.....	Beverly Keicher
Vice President, Program.....	Mary Card and Norma Schneider
Vice President, Membership.....	Maxine McCullen
Secretary .....	Esme Gehoski
Treasurer.....	Jo Brines
Historian.....	Nancy Humphrey
Michigan Gen. Council Delegates.....	Nancy Lackie and Carolyn Bacon

## 1988 FALL PROGRAMS

The Midland Genealogical Society meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through May (except December) at 7:30 p.m. in the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library Lounge.

- Sept. 21 Show and Tell - Members will share their summer experiences.
- Oct. 19 "Salt of the Earth" - Dorothy Yates, Author
- Nov. 16 New Genealogical Books, Library Building Update, and Computer Systems in the Library - Joan Somerville

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

- Sept 17 Chicago Public Library in cooperation with the Chicago Genealogical Society  
 "Researching German Language Records Without Knowledge of the German Language" - Ursula Huelsbergen  
 "Researching Your Immigrant Ancestors" - Arlene Eakle

No Charge for this event.

- Oct. 6,7,8 Michigan Genealogical Council Seminar  
 Theme: "Ancestors: Where in the West Did They Go?"  
 Location: Harbor Hilton Hotel, Muskegon, MI  
 For Registration Brochures, write to:  
 M.G.C. Seminar  
 4502 S Oriole  
 Muskegon, MI 49444  
 (Seminar program brochures posted in the G.A. Dow Library Genealogy Section)

- Oct. 22 Presentations: Starting Genealogy - Coordinated by Ruth Ann Casadonte  
 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.  
 G.A. Dow Memorial Library Lounge

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## FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT

Salt Lake City 1989 - Ten persons have indicated an interest in a second trip to Salt Lake City to take place sometime during the first half of 1989. If you are interested in joining this group and have not signed up for the trip, please call Pat Worden after September 30. Phone: 631-7801

SIG - A SIG (Special Interest Group for those interested in genealogical computing) will meet at Bill & Pat Worden's home, 1201 Glendale, Midland, on Thursday, October 13, at 7:15 p.m.. If you are interested or plan to attend, please call a day or two before hand.

## MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL NEWS

The 1989 Council Seminar sponsored by the Huron Valley and Lyon Township will feature Peter Bunce from the Chicago Branch of the National Archives

The Council will be sending a letter to each society member asking for a donation of one dollar. They would like to raise \$6000 to donate to the new Library and Archives. More on this at the September meeting.

The State Library should be moving to the new building in September. It should be closed for a week. The State Archives should be moving in September or October and may be closed a month. Be sure to call before you go.

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Old genealogists never die - they just lose their census!

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## NOSING THRU THE NEWSLETTERS

Finding Property From a Deed Description - The rectangular survey system, adopted on May 7, 1786, by the Continental Congress, replaced the old system of metes and bounds. In this system, all distances and bearings are measured from two lines which are at right angles to each other. These lines are the Principal Meridians, which run north and south, and the Base Lines, which run east and west. The rectangular system is used in all states except New York, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, and Eastern Seaboard states.

Townships run north and south from the Base Line and ranges go east and west. In Michigan, the Base Line is Eight Mile Road (boundary of the city of Detroit) and crossing it is the Principal Meridian. A township is made up of 36 sections, each one mile square, and the sections are numbered, beginning in the north-east corner. In abstracting land descriptions, the genealogist needs only to copy the township, section number and acreage from the deed and compare it to a plat map of the same locality, either an early map or a current one. (Washtenaw Co. Gen. Soc. Vol 6, No. 4)

New Method for Reading Old Tombstones - Spray the stone with lots of Shaving cream and then squeegee off the excess. Do not let the cream dry. The Jacksonville Area Illinois Journal says this is a tried and true method. (Jackson Co. Gen. Soc., May 1988)

German Ancestors - There has been a reprint of a German/English primer that was given to emigrants when they came to this country. This could be very helpful for genealogists with German ancestors. Write to: NCSA Literature, R.R. 5, Box 175, Nashville, IN 47448. The cost is \$4.69 including postage. (Jackson Co. Gen. Soc., May 1988)

United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada -

Missing: 2,500,000 Canadian descendants of the Refugees from the American Revolution of 1776-1783. The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, (membership 3,000) invites inquiries.

Free information and research assistance from any of the following:

Chris Graham, U.E., (Kingston & District Branch Genealogist)  
 1 Fairfield Blvd., Amherstview, Ontario K7N 1L1  
 Major H.W. Smith, U.E., P.O. Box 402, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4W2  
 Russ Waller, U.E., 4220 Victoria Street, Kingston, Ont. K7L 3Z5  
 (Elgin Co. Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society. June '88 Vol 7 No. 2)

Double Postcards - Did you know that you can purchase double postcards from the Post Office for \$.30 a set? Try using these instead of an SASE for requests requiring a short answer. Self-address the second card and maybe devise a checklist type of form on the reverse side. Fasten the cards together and mail them. (Grand Traverse Area Gen. Soc., May 1988)

Book Refresher - Place musty-smelling books - those great old ones that you have found in the attic or bought at a garage sale, in a paper bag filled with cat-box litter. Close the bag and leave it for about a week. When you take the books out, no odor will remain. (Kinship Tales, Vol. 5, No. 3, March 1987)

The Library of Congress - has several thousand fine genealogies which are no longer under copyright and can be photocopied or microfilmed. Write Photoduplication Service, Library of Congress, 10 First St., SE, Washington, D.C. 20540 for a free pamphlet. (Footsteps to the Past, Feb. '88, Brecksville-Cuyahoga Chapter, OGS, Brecksville, OH)

Erie Canal - There are records available on those who worked on the Erie Canal. Send a SASE with your question to the Canal Museum, Weighlock Bldg., Erie Blvd., East Syracuse, NY 13202 or to the New York Plaze, Albany, NY 12230. (The Tree Climber, Feb. '88, Stark County Chapter OGS)

No County Map? - Many county maps for the period 1850-1900 showed landowner's names. If you cannot locate a county map where your ancestor may have lived, the Library of Congress, Madison Building, has "A Checklist of 19th Century U.S. County Maps." (Copper State Arizona Bulletin, Vol. 22, 1987)

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DO SOMETHING NICE FOR YOUR SOCIETY

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

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Iowa Research - In 1986, the State of Iowa passed a law that the county courthouses are to charge \$6.00 for a search of any individual. Not all courthouses are doing it, but if you write for a search, you should include the fee. (Gems of Genealogy Vol. XIV, No. 2, May-June 1988)

To learn why your ancestor was awarded the Medal of Honor, write: Dr. Howard Wehman, Old Army & Navy Branch, Room 8W, National Archives Records Service, Washington, DC 20408. Give name of War, military unit, and date of award. (Clermont Co. OH Gen. Soc., Jan 1988)

Syracuse Area Queries - The Syracuse Herald American, P.O. Box 4915, Syracuse, NY 13221 will print genealogical queries of 30 words if they are typed and include names, dates, and a central or upstate New York connection. (G.A.S. Kites Vol. II, No. 1)

Postal Up-date - International postage rates, for countries other than Canada and Mexico, are \$.45 per half ounce up to and including 2 ounces; \$.42 each additional half ounce up to and including 32 ounces. REMINDER: HAVE YOUR LETTERS weighed if in doubt; save the recipient from having to pay postage due! (Gems of Genealogy Vol. XIV, No. 2 May-June 1988)

If You Are Traveling in Canada - The October, 1987 issue of "Michigan Living", Page 34, states that travelers planning to visit Canada from the States are now required to have proof of U.S. citizenship. Canadian Customs Officials will accept a voter registration card, birth certificate, baptismal certificate, passport, or valid Visa/green card. A driver's license will NOT be accepted. (Saginaw Genealogical Society, Inc. Vol. 10, No. 8 May 1988)

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#### OFFERS OF RESEARCH GIVEN BY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Two of our non-resident Society members have offered to do research for others, and we thank them for this. We all know how important on-site research is at times and how gratifying it is for all parties concerned when results are achieved. Please contact these two people directly if you wish their services.

Sherry Huntington  
1529 Austin  
Lincoln Park, MI 48146

(also member of Downriver Genealogical Society in Lincoln Park)

Bernice Kindel  
Rt. 2 Box 228-C  
Forest Grove, Oregon  
97116

(lives in Washington County, which is adjacent county to Portland; could especially help with northwest Oregon research, primarily at Hillsboro and Portland libraries)

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"How the past perishes is how the future becomes." Alfred North Whitehead

TYPES OF MARRIAGE RECORDS  
Submitted by Jan Kohlbrand

CONSENT AFFIDAVITS: The minimum legal age for marriage varied from place to place, and state to state. While some jurisdictions required consent regardless of age, most demanded consent affidavits from a parent or legal guardian only for those under the minimum age, usually 21 for males, 18 for females. Sometimes a parent or guardian appeared with the underaged persons and gave a verbal permission. The record will show that the parent was present and was known to the clerk, but may not record the name. A very detailed, printed consent form was part of the marriage license in a few localities. The father of the underaged persons usually gave consent, especially in the South. When a mother gave consent, the father is likely deceased. When both parents are deceased, the legal guardian will grant permission to marry. If the guardian is related to the person getting married, their relationships will be stated. Consent documents are found in town and county jurisdictions throughout the nation but are more numerous in regions like the South or the frontier which encouraged early marriage.

DECLARATIONS: Declarations of intent to marry have been required in one form or another in all colonies and states during colonial and modern day times. Practice may have been abandoned in a few places for a period of time, only to be reinstated later. There are many types of declarations of intent, both written and oral. There are BANNS, publishing of which was a church custom during the colonial period. Banns were usually read in church on three consecutive Sundays, during public meetings, and sometimes were posted in public places as well. The purpose was to give local residents the opportunity to state why the marriage should not take place. There were also INTENTIONS. These records were similar to Banns but were filed with the town or county clerk. They were not generally read aloud, but were posted in public places for a prescribed period of time to give others the opportunity to voice objection to the union. Many intentions filed in New England have been published.

BONDS: Marriage bonds were not required by all colonies or states, but are found in the South and New England. Bonds were posted prior to the issuing of the required marriage license in some states and were the sole document required in others. Bonds were posted by the groom alone or with a second person, usually the father or the brother of the bride, to defray the cost of litigation in the event the marriage was nullified. Bonds were posted in the jurisdiction where the marriage was to take place, often in the bride's home county. These bonds, the only marriage records maintained in some jurisdictions, were usually annotated with the marriage date after the ceremony. It was rare for a marriage not to take place within a few days of the posting of the bond, even though many bonds do not bear the annotation. Although the missing information could mean that the marriage did not take place, more often it reflects poor record keeping or failure on the part of the justice or minister to report the marriage to the local officials. CONTRACTS: Marriage contracts are relatively uncommon. They were usually drawn up when one or more

of the parties was wealthy or an heir to wealth and wished to protect the inheritance rights of heirs. Marriage contracts are also found in second marriages. Property left to the widow by her first husband could be protected by a marriage contract. Such documents guarantee the distribution of property to children of the first husband. Without this type of contract, the property inherited at the death of the first husband became the property of the second husband at the time of the marriage. If there was no contract, he could dispose of that property as he desired, without provision for his stepchildren. Marriage contracts are recorded among marriage records, filed in the court records or with the deeds. For example, Louisiana is one state in which marriage contracts were widely used during the colonial period. Under civil law, the French and Spanish used formal marriage contracts to protect their property, regardless of their social position or wealth. The documents are of value in genealogical research, since they list extended family relationships and often the place of origin of the French immigrant ancestor.

MARRIAGE LICENSES: Marriage licenses are the most common marriage records in the U.S.. They were issued by the appropriate authority prior to the marriage ceremony and eventually replaced the posting of banns and intentions. Marriage licenses which granted permission for a marriage to be performed were returned to civil authorities after the ceremony. Applications for marriage licenses were required in some jurisdictions in addition to or in place of bonds. These documents were often filled out by both the bride and groom and contain a large amount of genealogical information. They may list the full name of the bride and groom, their residences, race, age, birthdate, birthplace, previous marriage, occupation, and the parents names, birthplaces, state or country, and parents occupation. Recent laws require health certificates which attest to the absence of disease that could be passed on to the children. Marriage applications began in most locations after the Civil War. Wisconsin, Indiana, and Utah counties maintained them earlier. The application form does not include the marriage date. Certified copies of marriage records are certified to be correct, but there is a possibility of error in any transcript. It is best to request photocopies when you write the county clerk.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES: Marriage certificates are given to the couple after the ceremony is completed and are thus usually found in family records. There are some exceptions to the rule.

MARRIAGE REGISTERS AND RETURNS: Colonial and state governments required that marriages performed within their jurisdiction be reported to civil authorities. The town or county clerk then compiled marriage registers, though these registers were rarely complete. Those officiating marriages in the rural areas of the county were often reluctant to travel the distance required to comply with the law. Sometimes the ministers records were lost or destroyed before the marriage was properly reported, and preachers who crossed jurisdictional boundaries rarely registered their marriages at all. A couple sometimes obtained a license, filed a bond, or made application in one jurisdiction and then married in another, but ministers filed

returns only in their own counties. Still, marriage returns are the only documents that provide evidence that the marriage actually took place. Marriage registers differ from place to place. Some required only the names of the couple and the date of the marriage. Registers are normally in chronological order by year, though there can be overlap in registers which were infrequently updated. Some registers exist in the absence of licenses. This is true in Virginia and West Virginia after 1853, which provide the marriage date, minister, names of the parties, their ages, place of birth, residence, parents, and occupation. Many of these registers have been transcribed. Most marriage registers are compiled from written returns submitted by ministers and justices. The lists are copied into the register by a clerk and are thus subject to transcription error. Not all marriage returns were entered into a register. Some were simply noted on the license or bond and others were written on scraps of paper filed loosely in the clerk's office, either in alphabetical order or by the first letter of the groom's surname. Most loose returns have been microfilmed for easier use.

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From the Midland Republican, April 25, 1889

"Here's a copy of the Midland Sentinel, more than thirty years old - dated September 21, 1858. It says that "Wm. Cross & Son have established a match factory in the township of Ingersoll, in this county." Where is that match factory now? A list of county officers shows that D.G.W. Whiting was sheriff; D.M.R. Wilson, clerk; Solon Rumrill, register; John Larkin, Treasurer; G.F. Hemingway, prosecuting attorney; J.G. Sutherland, Circuit court commissioner; S.D. Gaskill, judge of probate; and George Turner, surveyor. Ther sem to have been but five supervisors and they were as follows: Midland, C.D. Searrin; Ingersoll, C.S. Blodgett; Isabella, Gorgee (probably George) Bradley; Jerome, Charles Perkins; Coe, P.H. Estee. The paper announces that the Citizen's Association will on the following Saturday evening discuss the proposition, "That the works of Nature are more admirable than the works of art."

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#### RECENT QUERIES

Would like to correspond with anyone researching STARKS Or BARTON lines in Midland County. Lorelei Maijon Rockwell, 1199 S. Van Ness, San Francisco, CA 94110

Seeking any information regarding the PETTIT (Petet, Petite, etc.) family for possible use in the periodical The Pettit Correspondent. Michael Cooley, 263 Water St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060



## "SHELFIDE"

Recent additions to the Genealogy Collection at the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library.

- RG 929.1 In Search of Your German Roots. by Angus Baxter
- RG 929.373 United States Census Key-1850-1860-1870. Compiled by Col. Leonard H. Smith, Jr.
- RG 929.373 A Key to the United States 1880 Federal Census. Identifying Enumeration District Numbers
- RG 929.2 Mayflower Families Through Five Generations.  
Vol. I Francis Eaton, Samuel Fuller, William White  
Vol. III George Soule  
With addendums - Vol. I and Vol. III

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Mayflower Families in Progress  
Part of a Series:

1. Peter Brown; 2. Francis Cooke; 3. Edward Fuller; 4. William Bradford; 5. Richard Warren; 6. Degary Priest; 7. Edward Winslow

Coon-Coan-Koan Family Genealogy

Miller Family History. donated by Irene Martin

MacArthur Stairs. donated by Robert Brandle

- RG 929.2 Spaulding Township History, 1832-1976.
- RG 929.3713 Court of Probate: Registers and Estate Files at the Archives of Ontario, 1793-1859.
- RG 907.2 Your Life and Times - How to Put a Life Story on Tape. An Oral History Handbook by Stephen and Julia Arthur
- RG 929.2 Ancestors and Descendants of Charles Tupe and Caroline Rademacher. by Eugene Ellis Kenaga
- Library of Michigan Genealogy Update.
- RG 911.73 Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Census 1790-1920.
- RG 912.73 Township Atlas of the United States.

- RG 289.3      The Library. A Guide to the L.D.S. Family History Library
- RG 929.1      The Sunny Side of Genealogy. compiled by Fonda D. Baselt
- RG 977.431    Aunt Kate's Scrapbook. Memories of Lenawee County, Michigan extracted from a scrapbook created by Catherine Hayward, 1879
- RG 929.2      Johann Genning and His Descendants. by W.B. Saxbe, Jr.
- RG 929.3415   A Census of Ireland - 1659. Edited by Seamus Pender M.A. donated by Michael R. Marshall
- Seward and Related Families. by George C. Seward
- Kentucky Records. - Miscellaneous Deaths, Wills, Bible records and Obituaries

On Microfiche

1860 Census Index for the following Counties of Michigan:  
Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Emmett, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Isabella, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Presque Isle

1890 Kentucky Veterans Census

" Maryland      "      "

" Mass.          "      "

" New York      "      "

Pennsylvania County Records Survey. - Collections of each Court House in Pennsylvania

Many periodicals have been donated - including "Tree Talks, Western New York Journal", "Branches and Twigs", "Second Boat", and others. Our thanks to everyone who shared their collection.

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"There is something about a closet that makes a skeleton terribly restless." Wilson Mizner

"We are the carriages in which our ancestors ride." Author unknown

MEMBERSHIP DUES

By the time you receive this newsletter, the month of September will be coming quickly or may have already arrived, and our September 21 meeting will be fast approaching. Our Society's year runs July 1 through June 30, and the by-laws state that all dues shall be collected by September 30. At present, about half of our past members have paid their membership dues for 1988-89.

We really do value your continued interest and support in the Society, and hope that's your feeling also. If you haven't already done so, please plan to renew your membership at the September meeting. If you are unable to attend that meeting, please send your check to Membership Chairman, Midland Genealogical Society, % Grace A. Dow Library, 1710 W. St. Andrewes, Midland, MI 48640. Single membership is \$7.00, couples \$10.50.

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: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ INDIVIDUAL \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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PERiodical Source Index (PERSI)

The Pioneer Record and over 1500 other publications are currently included in the PERiodical Source Index being compiled and published by the Allen County Public Library Foundation, Ft. Wayne, IN. PERSI is a comprehensive place, subject, and surname index to genealogical and local history periodicals.

Annual editions are planned. The Grace A. Dow Library has the 1986 edition and will be ordering other editions as they become available. The 1988 volume will be published in the spring of 1989.

The first four-volume installment of the retrospective index 1847-1985 will be published in late 1988. Other installments of the 16-volume retrospective set will follow as they are produced.

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



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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: PIONEER RECORD, Midland Genealogical Society, Grace A. Dow Memorial Library, 1710 W. St. Andrews Drive, Midland, MI 48640. We welcome all genealogical material which would be of interest to the general membership. Articles to be included in PR should be submitted by the 15th of August, October, January and March.