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My PA Research Trip

By Helen Soblosky

This summer I decided not to attend our Metzger family reunion in Nashville and went to Pennsylvania to research family instead. While there, my visits included travel to the Mt. Lebanon Cemetery in Tarrs, PA, where most of the family is buried, visiting a cousin I had never met on my maternal side, going to the Greensburg, PA Courthouse, to the Westmoreland Historical Society, and to the Greensburg Library.

While at the courthouse, I found deeds to both of my grandparents' homes and to the home of my paternal great-grandparents. They all lived in the Ruffsdale, PA area on the same street. I was still unsuccessful in finding any more information on my great-grandfather, John Bowman, however, which was a primary reason for the trip. When I found the deed to my Bowman grandparent's home, it said they had purchased the home in the 1920s, which contradicts the 1930 census that states that my grandfather's sister-in-law was the owner of the home.

At the historical society, I found information different than I expected to find. While looking through a book that described all the cemeteries in the Westmoreland area, I came across one by a man who had gone into the Mt. Lebanon Cemetery in Tarrs and copied information from all the headstones there, much like our genealogy group has done with local area cemeteries. Since much of my family is in the Mt. Lebanon Cemetery, I immediately went back to my cousin's house and called a man whose name was in the book to see if I could get a copy of it. After I came home,

he called to say he could make copies and what the cost would be.

My trip to the Greensburg Library was the last stop I made, unfortunately. It was the day I came home, just before leaving Pennsylvania. While there, I located the obituaries of my paternal great-grandparents, and guess what? They are buried in that same cemetery in Tarrs, like so much of the rest of the family. But to my dismay, my time was up and I could not go back to the cemetery to try to find their headstones. Next trip!



While the cemetery visit was my greatest find, I went there before going to the library. I have walked through that cemetery numerous times looking for where different members of the family are buried and wondering if any of the other names that I recognized are family members. All this time my great-great paternal grandparents have been buried there, directly behind the church and smack dab in the middle of the cemetery. There is a huge headstone advertising the name Rager, and around the large headstone are multiple small headstones for members of the family, particularly two of the sons and their children. The one son, Hiram, is shown in the 1880 Census living with my great-grandfather, John Bowman. My great-grandmother was his sister. The two families, Bowmans and Ragers, both moved to the area around the same time. Later in the 1900 Census, Hiram's mother is listed as living with him shortly before she died. So now I know where a family member who posted his family tree on "One World Tree" got the information about my great

grandparents' death date.

I mentioned that I got to meet a cousin I didn't know. Her name is Dorothy Smith. She is the daughter of my maternal grandfather's brother, Lyman Soles, who lives in Smithton, PA, close to Ruffsdale where my family lived. She has been there all this time and we never knew it. She also had three sisters that we never knew who lived right here in the Akron & Cleveland areas. How sad for me never to have had the opportunity to meet them. I also got to meet her daughter while I was there. I have copied some pictures my mother had to send to them. We had a great, though short, visit and she shed some light on how her father died and where he is buried. I have since located his obituary in Ancestry.com's historical newspapers. The Connellsville newspaper contained some interesting news about Lyman's family. I guess the moral to my story is to never stop looking for your family history. It could be right under your nose, as mine was, and you may not know it. You just need the right information to direct you to it, and sometimes finding that information takes time.

IGI

For those of you unfamiliar with it, the International Genealogical Index (IGI) is a worldwide index of about 187 million names of deceased persons. It lists birth, christening, marriage, and Latter-day Saint temple ordinance information. It does not contain records of living persons. Most of the names in the index come from vital records from the early 1500s to 1875. Other names were submitted by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for temple ordinance. It is available online at <http://www.familysearch.org>

. If you are searching for ancestors that far back, this would be well worth your while to check.

The Hudson Green Editorial Board

Editor.....Elsie Thomas
 Layout.....John Franklin
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Most Recent Field Trip Report

By Nancy Brock

On our September 19th trip to Western Reserve Historical Society, nine of us car-pooled and were given a "royal" tour by Ann Sindelar, Reference Supervisor for some 20 years there. We were shown an original 1807 poll book of Hudson residents who voted, tax records for Ohio 1801-1805, and 1820 maps of the Western Reserve. They also have the finest Shaker manuscript collection in the country, as well as over 1800 family histories from all over the U.S.



Ann took us to the second floor to show us the stored closed-stack material, and to the third floor, where hard copies of newspapers of most of northeast Ohio are kept, along with blueprints and drawings, and original manuscripts and documents. WRHS began in 1867 and is the oldest existing cultural institution in Cleveland.

We owe a vote of thanks to Ann, not only for the unusual tour, but for helping all of us with finding information we sought. Each of us came away with some new nugget we had been looking for. I urge our members who could not go that day to go when they can. Their hours are 10:00 to 5:00 on Thursday through Saturday. Their web site is <http://www.wrhs.org/>

Hudson Genealogical and Study Group's Web Site:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ohhudogs/hudson.htm>

President's Message



I was very encouraged by the turnout at our last meeting and glad that it was a good and informative session. We have lost quite a few members to death and moves out of town, so we should all try to be on the lookout for possible new members. Many people want to trace their family history, but are intimidated by the thought of getting started. We are here to offer help. All anyone has to do is consult one of our more experienced members to get the help they need. They can arrange a session at the library that is convenient to both.

A good genealogy software program for those who have computers makes the task of keeping track of information found is of great help. They offer many ways of printing out information to share with others, as well as giving the user the option of printing Family Group Sheets, Descendancy Charts, Pedigree Charts, etc. Some of these programs, such as Personal Ancestral File, are free for downloading. Others are available for a modest fee. It's up to each person to choose. Roger Marble recently presented a session to our members on the topic of what is available.

More and more information is being put online, especially through Ancestry.com. Keep plugging away on those hard-to-find ancestors. It's a rewarding experience.

I wish you a happy and healthy holiday and New Year. May you receive some new information about one of your ancestors as a surprise. Happy searching!

Nancy Brock

Google Your Family Tree

A book some of you might want to check out of the library is Dan Lynch's offering called *Google Your Family Tree*. I have read it in an effort to find my "brick wall" person, and unfortunately, though I followed instructions exactly, he remains thoroughly hidden. I have almost decided I will never find him! But for some of you, this could be a wonderful tool. I urge you to give it a try when you have time. (E.T.-editor)



Holiday Good Cheer!

On Saturday, December 5th, Betty and John Franklin will once again open their home at 338 Simon Drive to HGSG Members for the annual fun-filled Christmas brunch. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share and to make a reservation with Betty at (330) 656-9066, so she will know how many to expect. Or you may sign up on the sheet in the Archives Room if you happen to be in the library. Please indicate what you plan to bring.

This party is primarily for sociability, but we will have a short business meeting before the festivities begin. Everyone loves this Christmas party!

Hudson



Tidbits

From Hudson Herald Newspaper of March 9, 1922

We have found a list of people who lived in Hudson on the above date. For those researching in Hudson, it may be helpful simply to know they were here then. The list is long, so we will print only a few names at a time. After this, please look under HUDSON HERALD, 1922.

Coleman, F. A.	Capri, N. L.
Cameron, W.M.	Dittrick, A. H.
Corbus, F.?	Chro, Francis
Campbell, Mrs. E. F.	Dodds, J. F.
Corbusier, J. W.	Drosser, P. L.
Case, Nelson	Daugherty, Dr. C. Mason
Cooper, Harry	Doncaster, B.
Carson, R. G.	Drayer, O. F.
Campe, Wilbur	Dowds, Mac
Gray, H. H.	Denman, Mrs. G. P.
Cooper, A. J.	Darling, H. M.
Carruth, H. N.	Doubrava, Carl

Lasting Memorials

by Elsie M. Thomas

This past August, while visiting my hometown in eastern Pennsylvania, the big news was that teenaged vandals had damaged some grave markers in the city's largest cemetery where some of my ancestors are buried. I immediately wondered if the white stone angel perched over a four year old cousin's grave was still intact. I used to pass that memorial on my way to high school when I took a shortcut through the cemetery. I recall family stories of the parents' heartbreak over that untimely death from diphtheria.

This community shocker (yes, the boys were caught) set me to wondering which materials used in gravestones are sturdiest and most resistant to vandalism. Our genealogy group has "read" a number of area cemeteries, copying down everything we could make out on each stone to be transcribed and indexed, and I well remember the frustration of standing in front of an absolutely unreadable stone trying to make out even a few letters, then reluctantly writing "illegible." I also remember one field trip we took to observe the incredible vandal-caused damage at the local O'Brien Cemetery, just off Hudson Drive.

Still thinking about it, for it is a matter of real concern when choosing a memorial, I consulted encyclopedia articles and read long descriptions of various stones used for this purpose: slate, limestone, sandstone, marble, and granite, in addition to bronze. Then I went online to gain further information. It was intriguing to read about how various rocks are formed and their different properties, but space limits what I can describe here.

Slate was used extensively in early New England because it was readily available. A fine-grained metamorphic stone, usually dark gray to black, it could be carved, thus its popularity. The slabs of slate are usually thinner than other kinds of stone used.

Limestone, a sedimentary rock, followed slate in usage. Usually grayish, it is made up mostly of calcium carbonate and is useful where a high polish is not needed, but it sometimes splits. All rocks described occur in different colors, but often one color predominates.

Limestone often weathers poorly, so it was followed in popularity by sandstone.

Sandstone, or brownstone, is a sedimentary rock formed by the consolidation of ancient beds of sand welded together naturally over time and containing various minerals. The grains are primarily quartz and feldspar, but may also contain mica. Often light tan in color, it is as often dark, reddish-brown known as brownstone, and is much used in construction. The famous brownstone houses of our northeastern states are built of brownstone. Sandstone is more easily cut than some other stones, but can deteriorate quickly due to weathering, turning back into the sand from which it was formed. Sandstone holds up better in arid areas.

When limestone is subjected to prolonged heat and pressure over geological time, it changes from fine-grained to a coarser-grained rock called marble. Marble has varied patterns and takes a high polish, giving it a satin finish. It has many color variations, but pure white for headstones became highly desirable. Like limestone, however, it is composed chiefly of calcium carbonate and both stones are badly affected by acid rain. Sometimes the lettering becomes unreadable.

Granite is a hard, crystalline, igneous rock made up chiefly of mineral crystals such as quartz and limestone and a few dark-colored minerals which, because of its great strength, is also widely used in building bridges and buildings. It is capable of taking a high polish and is most commonly found in a gray color. Difficult to carve by hand, it can be carved by using computer-controlled rotary bits and sandblasting over a rubber stencil. It will accept virtually any kind of art work or epitaph.

There is also bronze, not a rock, but originally an alloy of copper and tin that can have many other substances added to serve particular purposes, one of which is headstones on graves. From earliest times, of course, wood slabs and fieldstones were also used to mark graves. The wood was not long-lasting, and field stones were difficult to inscribe, but both were often pressed into service to mark a burial site by pioneers moving westward.

I also consulted a study, now online, done by staff members of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History to determine which stones stand up to weathering in our northeast Ohio climate. They found that gravestones of whatever material, in city cemeteries that were exposed to extreme pollution when Cleveland was a booming steelmaking center, weathered more drastically than the same stones in rural areas. Akron's tire-making also produced pollution.

Finally, I sought the opinion of Geology Professor Donald Palmer at Kent State University about which stone he would recommend as the most lasting gravestone. Without hesitation, he replied, "A fine granite."

"What about bronze tablets?" I asked, since that is what my parents' names are inscribed on—a rule at that Pennsylvania cemetery and all lying flat on the ground.

"Oh, they're fine. They'll last a hundred to a hundred fifty years," he replied.

That's not as long as a fine granite, but I concluded that at least vandals couldn't topple them over and weather would not cause them to crack or erode, although I believe the chief value of bronze plaques is that they make grass-cutting easier.

The latest fashion is "green" cemeteries. They feature no upright headstones at all. The idea is to keep the place looking like open meadow or eventually woodland. In them, no embalming fluid may be used, protecting ground water from toxic contamination. All containers—caskets, urns, shrouds, etc.—must be biodegradable. No vaults or grave liners are permitted. Memorial tree planting is encouraged. There are many in California, and one that I read of near Wilmot, Ohio. They do permit small, unpolished, flat markers of a uniform design.

I hope vandalizing headstones is not something peculiar to American youth, but in any case, we should all participate in educating children about the special meaning any kind of grave marker has for those who have lost a loved one.

Bibliography:

Encyclopedia Americana 2005-Volumes 4, 13, 17, 24
World Book Encyclopedia and Encarta Encyclopedia 2005

Google: Ohio Journal of Science-Gravestones, OH, 1 Sept.2002-Bauer, Andrew, Hannibal, Joseph T., et al-Article: Distribution in time, provenance and weathering of gravestones in three Northeastern Ohio Counties.

Wikipedia-Headstone-last modified 11 October 2009, Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.

Cleveland Memorial Society newsletter-October 2009



General Society of the War of 1812 Membership Requirements

from Ted M. Minier

The General Society of the War of 1812 and its State Societies (there are no local ones) accept men only for membership. Those men who live in a state that does not have a State Society are eligible to be considered for membership-at-large. Twenty-seven states, including Ohio, have a State Society.

Any male above the age of 21 years who participated, or is a lineal descendant of one who served during the war of 1812, in the United States Army, Navy, Revenue-Marine, or Privateer service offering satisfactory proof to the state society to which he applies for membership, and who is of good moral character and reputation, may become a member of this society when approved by a state society, under such regulations as it may make for passing upon applications.

The following service and no other shall be regarded as satisfying the requirements: (1) service as an officer or enlisted man in the U. S. Army, Navy or Marine Corps, or Volunteers at any time between 19 June 1812 and 18 February 1815; (2) Service at any time between 19 June 1812 and 18 February 1815 as a member of the ship's company on any public armed vessel of the U.S. or any vessel sailing under letters of Marque and Reprisal issued by the United States; (3) service in the militia of any state or territory or the District of Columbia duly called out for service against an armed enemy or for coast or border defense between 19 June 1812 and 18 February 1815; (4) service in the forces of the U.S. at the Battle of Tippecanoe.

No service, however, shall be regarded as qualifying if the person who rendered such service voluntarily bore arms against the United States at any time between the dates named, or if such person's latest service between those dates was terminated by a separation from the service under conditions other than honorable.

In case the person who rendered actual service in the War had no direct descendants, one collateral descendant (son of a brother or sister) who meets the criteria of the Society may make application for membership.



Hudson Genealogical Study Group Publications

- #1. *The 1860 Mortality Schedule for Summit County, Ohio*. Complete listing of Summit County, Ohio residents listed in the Federal Mortality Schedule conducted in June, 1860. 4 pp. \$5.50.
- #2. *Doncaster Funeral Home, Hudson, Ohio: December 31, 1903-April 7, 1910*. Includes all information from Book 1 of the Doncaster Funeral Home Records. 23 pp. \$9.00.
- #3. *Hudson, Ohio Deaths: 1868-1908*. Alphabetical listing of deaths in Hudson, Summit County, Ohio from 1868 through 1908 extracted from the microfilm of the Index to Probate Records of Wills, Deaths, and Births on file at the Hudson Library and Historical Society. It includes those listed as having died in Hudson, been born in Hudson and died in Ohio, and those with no indication of place of death as well as deaths at the Summit County Infirmary. 25 pp. \$9.50.
- #4. *St. Mary's Cemetery, Hudson (Summit County) Ohio--1858 through 14 May 1988*. Information from Sexton's Records and a lot-by-lot survey, with surname index. 26 pp. \$9.50.
- #5. *Illustrated Summit County, Ohio Atlas, 1891*. Centennial anniversary reprint with an every name index of this classic illustrated atlas. Oversized, over 200 pp. Only 12 copies remain of this limited edition. They are now being offered on E-bay. Bidding starts at \$29.99 plus \$5.50 s. & h. Copies of individual pages also available at \$5.00 per page. State page(s) desired.
- #6. *Index to Historical Reminiscences of Summit County* by Gen. Lucius V. Bierce, 1854. An every-name index to Summit County's first county history compiled by Connie S. Ferguson. 5 pp. \$5.50.
- #7. Reprint of William B. Doyle's *Centennial History of Summit County, Ohio and Representative Citizens*, 1908, with a complete, new index compiled by James and Briana Caccamo. 1,186 pp. \$68.50 plus \$5.00 postage and handling.
- #8. *Transcription and Index of 1920 Federal Population Census, Summit County, Ohio for Hudson Village and Hudson Township* compiled by members of HGSG. 88 pp. \$17.50.
- #9. *Inscriptions and Index to Markillie Cemetery, Hudson, Ohio (Summit County)* compiled by members of HGSG. 84 pp. plus maps. \$17.50.
- #10. *Inscriptions and Index to Locust Grove Cemetery, Twinsburg, Ohio* compiled by Jeffrey Alan Mills. 68 pp. \$17.50.
- #11. *Inscriptions and Index to Maplelawn Cemetery, Stow, Ohio (Summit County)* compiled by members of HGSG \$17.50
- #12. *Index to Illustrated Summit County, Ohio Atlas, 1891*. Compiled by Connie S. Ferguson, CGRS, 50 pp. \$10.50
- #13. *Index to "Doyle's" 1908 Centennial History of Summit County, Ohio and Representative Citizens*, compiled by James and Briana Caccamo. 71 pp. \$14.50.
- #14. *1870 Portage County, Ohio Federal Population Census; An Every Name Index*. Compiled by members of HGSG, 282 pp. \$39.50
- #15. *Index to Olin's Akron and Environs*. Edited and compiled by James F. Caccamo, 40 pp. \$15.00
- #16. *Inscriptions and Index to Stow Cemetery, Stow, Ohio (Summit County)* compiled by members of HGSG, \$32.00
- #17. *Doncaster Funeral Home, Hudson, Ohio: April 8, 1910 - March 22, 1922*. Includes all information from Book 2 of the Doncaster Funeral Home Records. Compiled by Gwendolyn E. Mayer. 47 pp. includes index. \$15.50
- #18. *Information About People Who Served in W.W. II from Hudson, Ohio (Summit County)*. Compiled by Jennifer Rummel. Extractions of military and genealogical information submitted to the Hudson Library & Historical Society. 155 pp. includes index. \$24.50
- #19. *Inscriptions and Index to Fairview Cemetery, Boston Heights, Ohio (Summit County)* compiled by members of HGSG, 64 pp includes index. \$15.50
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- #21 *Index to Portrait and Biographical Record of Portage and Summit Counties*, Compiled by members of HGSG, 69 pp \$17.50
- #22 *Mayors' Court Records of Hudson, Summit County Ohio*, Compiled by members of HGSG, 18pp \$9.50
- #23 *Index to Summit County, Ohio Grantee./Grantor Land Records 1795-1850* Compiled by members of HGSG, 368 pp \$32.00

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PALATINES TO AMERICA

Their library holdings are now available at the Columbus Metropolitan Library, 95 S. Grant Ave., Columbus, OH 43215. Their current mailing address: Palatines to America, PO Box 141260, Columbus, OH 43214.

(From Ohio Genealogical Society Quarterly
Vol. 49, No. 3- Fall 2009)

Kith and Kin

From Dick Eastman's newsletter of 26 July 2009:

KITH are friends and acquaintances

KIN are blood relatives, or someone treated as such (in-laws).

This often used to be heard in expressions such as, "I never knew that to exist among any of my kith and kin," or "I must make up my mind what I want to leave to my kith and kin."

Ohio Vital Records Cost Increases

(Taken from Ohio Genealogy News, Fall 2009)

Effective October 16, 2009, the cost of a certified copy of a birth or death record from the Ohio Division of Vital Statistics will increase, from \$16.50 to \$21.50. Since currently some counties and municipalities already charge more than \$21.50, their prices may increase as well. Uncertified records are not available. The website is:

www.odh.ohio.gov/vitalstatistics/vitalstats.aspx.

HUDSON GENEALOGICAL STUDY GROUP

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The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31 the following year. Renewing members please complete and include this form yearly with your check to insure accurate information for our membership booklet. HGSG dues are \$15 per year (or any portion of the year) for both couples and individuals.

Send this form and your check for payment to:

Hudson Genealogical Study Group

96 Library Street

Hudson, Ohio 44236-5122

Hudson Genealogical Study Group
Hudson Library & Historical Society
Dept. G
96 Library Street
Hudson, OH 44236-5122



Our January Speaker

Our speaker on January 16, 2010 needs no introduction to most of us. Our own Archivist, Gwendolyn Mayer, will speak on the program "Footnote."

Gwen is a past president of our group and is now much in demand as a speaker. She is thoroughly familiar with the computer programs our library has for us to use, so this session should be of great interest to all who use the library programs.

Next Meetings

December 5 at 10:30 a.m.

Quarterly Meeting

Holiday Party – Franklins' Home
Sign-up sheet in Archives

January 16 at 10:00 a.m.

"Footnote"

Speaker: Hudson Library Archivist,
Gwendolyn Mayer

February 13 at 10:00 a.m.

Board Meeting

"The Passengers on the Mayflower"
Speaker: Richard L. Fetzer