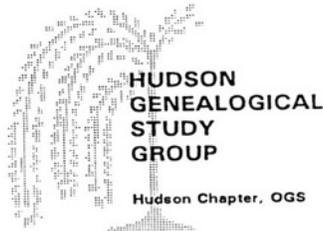


# THE HUDSON GREEN

Quarterly Newsletter of the



Member of the  
Ohio Genealogical Society

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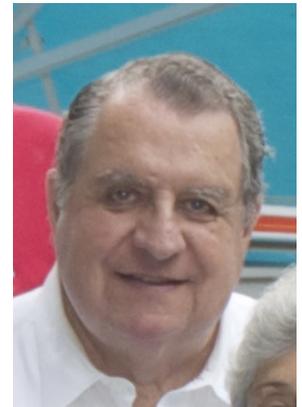
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## Remembering Will Else

by Gwendolyn Mayer  
Edited by Elsie M. Thomas

Willis I. Else, who served as President of the Hudson Genealogical Study Group from 1992 to 1994, died on 23 September 2013 after a short illness. Will, as he was known to us, was born in Nebraska on Christmas Eve in 1931. Will graduated from Northwestern University with a B.S. in Physics, from the University of Illinois with an M.S. in Economics, and attended the graduate School of Business at the University of Chicago. Like many Americans, Will had English and German ancestry. Many of them settled in the midwest



Will began searching for his ancestors in 1970, beginning with Else lines in the U.S. He developed a love for this research that never diminished. In time, as he gained more knowledge, he began to lecture and serve in leadership roles in several genealogical organizations, among them the Hudson and Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, OH, and as time went by, at national genealogy conferences. He also generously gave funds to organizations that captured his interest.

In preparation for writing this, I reviewed the newsletters and correspondence of HGSG during the term of Will's presidency and it became obvious how much he paid attention to detail. It was this trait of his that immediately impressed me. He would go to great lengths to nail down the exact citation and proper style for his footnotes. I recall his writing a series of articles comparing population sizes at various times of Hudson and Cleveland. He was fastidious in his quest for detail. It was this quality, I think, that led him to become interested in Soundex when, at a national genealogical conference, a friend mentioned noticing differing rules for this complex system. Will at once began a quest for these rules.

On 14 August 1935 the U.S. Congress approved, and the President signed, the Social Security Act. By this time a number of states had established old-age pension plans, but applicants had to furnish proof of their date of birth. This was difficult to impossible because birth certificates had not been issued in earlier times, so applicants began a mass appeal to the federal Census Bureau to try to find their actual or approximate date of birth. The Bureau, swamped

with these requests, realized it had to do something in a hurry, so it enlisted the help of the WPA (Works Progress Administration), an agency newly created to deal with unemployment during the Great Depression, to compile a phonetic list of names of individuals by state of residence, grouping names that sounded much the same but were spelled differently. They began with the 1900 Census on 15 September 1935 at the Bureau's St. Louis office. Several such index methods already existed. The one selected by the government had been devised and patented by a man named Robert Russell, born in Danville, PA but then living in Pittsburgh. The Russell Soundex encoding and filing system conveniently grouped together surnames of the same and similar sounds by assigning the same Soundex code to the sound-alike surnames and then filing the cards or printing the entries alphabetically by given names within each Soundex code. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) also arranged for the WPA to assist in creating Soundex indexes for some custom lines, passenger lists and naturalization records. Other censuses were eventually indexed, which enabled people to learn their date of birth or approximation. But many genealogists later found that they often could not find their ancestors in these lists.

Soundex is much too complicated for a detailed discussion here, but suffice it to say that it fell to Will Else to discover errors in the Russell system. With the help of Marian L. Smith, INS Historian, and several government officials, Will was able to take his proven case to Washington in October 1999 and convince officials in NARA (National Archives and Records Administration), which promptly changed its system after more than 70 years of use. How proud I was that one of our members had accomplished such a feat!

Will's survivors include his wife Marion, three adult children and four grandchildren. We join with them in mourning his loss. His memorial service at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Akron was attended by several members of the Hudson Genealogical Study Group. Will is buried in Markillie Cemetery in Hudson.

## Advice on How to Research Family History

By Elizabeth Shown Mills

Hudson Genealogical Study Group member, Pam Turner, would like to direct members to insightful New York Times articles on the online version of the paper, *Advice on How to Research Family History* by Elizabeth Shown Mills, columnist for The New York Times. She was former president of the American Society of Genealogists and past editor of *The National Genealogical Society Quarterly* magazine. This is a four part series published between November 6 and 26, 2013

The links for this series and some of the questions asked.

<http://query.nytimes.com/search/sitesearch/#/Advice+on+How+to+Research+Family+Histor>

Part 1 Questions answered in the column dealt with newbies to DNA results.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/06/booming/advice-on-how-to-research-family-history-part-1.html?ref=booming&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/06/booming/advice-on-how-to-research-family-history-part-1.html?ref=booming&_r=0)

Part 2 This is a question about Geographic 'Memory Holes' created by the Holocaust.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/13/booming/advice-on-how-to-research-family-history-part-2.html?ref=booming>

Part 3 Questions regarding an enslaved man, Reconstruction-era Ex-Slave research, name changes at Ellis Island, and New York City naturalization records.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/20/booming/advice-on-how-to-research-family-history-part-3.html?ref=booming&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/20/booming/advice-on-how-to-research-family-history-part-3.html?ref=booming&_r=0)

Part 4 a research impasse on the American Frontier researcher where the frontier region created no record that identified a man's wife, parentage or origin?

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/27/booming/advice-on-how-to-research-family-history-part-4.html>

If clicking the above links does not take you to the correct screen, please copy and paste the entire link into your web browser.



The Finnish Heritage Museum of Fairport Harbor, Oh

## Finnish Heritage Museum

(Adapted from Articles by Jill Nick  
in LakeLines, Oct. 2013)

Ohio has a Finnish Heritage Museum! Located at 301 High Street in Fairport Harbor, the museum began as a depository for Finnish items and opened in 2007.

This museum is dedicated to “the preservation and promotion of Finnish and Finnish/North American culture, both past and present.” As a result, the museum houses historical acquisitions relating to life in Lake County and Finland, as well as, exhibits dedicated to current Finnish contributions to everyday life.

In the late 1800’s, Fairport Harbor was home to many of the Finnish immigrants who arrived from the Vaasa region of Finland. They settled in an area known as “Finn Hollow”, now marked by a sign on High Street, not far from the museum.

For genealogists, the stop is worth a visit. A group known as the “Genies” is dedicated to the genealogy of the Finnish/American population. The museum is open Wednesdays and Fridays (summertime) from 12-4 pm. and Saturdays (all year) from, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, visit their website at <http://www.finnishheritagemuseum.org> or call (440) 352-8301.

## President’s Message

2014 will soon be upon us. Have you thought about your own genealogical goals for the New Year? I had never thought of particular goals before. I was just happy to find what I could, when I could. The Clement Genealogical Society is actually having a round table discussion on “How to Set Attainable Genealogical Goals for 2014” with a follow-up program, “Developing a Plan to Conduct Effective Research”. Wouldn’t it be nice to have a check off list? Personally, that would help me. My problem would be in the definition of “attainable” goals, perhaps this is where others can help you be realistic.

Regardless if you are cognizant of your goals, HGSG is offering several presentations that may help get results or just get started. On Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>, Greg O’Day will speak on “Finding Your Jamestowne Descendants.” Joe Monsman’s class on Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> is “More in Depth Search of Genealogical Records.” This class is more hands-on and is in the computer room upstairs in the Hudson Library and Historical Society. Bob Mantell explains the value of looking at your “Collateral Lines” on Feb. 1. You can gain a lot of information by looking at collateral lines and even break through some brick walls. On Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> Polly Reynolds discusses “Preserving Family Photos.” Gwen Mayer reviews “Forms Used in Genealogy” on March 1<sup>st</sup>. These programs and our winter lock-in on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> may help you get started and even reach your goals for 2014. Happy New Year!

*Mary Hughes*

## The Hudson Green Editorial Board

Editor.....Stefanie Hughes  
& Elsie Thomas  
Layout.....John Franklin  
Mailing.....Cole Waite  
Publicity.....Gwen Mayer

## Area Genealogical Activities (From Cleveland District Round Table )

**Saturday, 4 January 2014, 12-3 p.m.** "Create an Online Family Tree in Family Search," Presenter - Wally Huskonen. See <http://www.wrhs.org> for registration information and cost.

**Monday, 6 January 2014, 7:00 p.m.** Cynthia Turk will present "Forensic Genealogy and 21st Century Research." East Cuyahoga County Genealogical Society, Ross C. DeJohn Community Center, 6396 Marsol Road, Mayfield Hts., OH.

**Monday, 6 January 2014, 7:30 p.m.** Cuyahoga Valley Chapter, OGS "Using Deeds for Genealogical Research," by Chris Staats, Independence Civic Center, William Room, Selig Dr., Independence, OH

**Saturday, 11 January 2014, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** Greater Cleveland Genealogical Society "Clandiggers" help session for genealogists at the Fairview Park Branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library, 2nd floor, 21255 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, OH

**Wednesday, 15 January 2014, 6:30-8:45 p.m.** Cuyahoga West Chapter, OGS - Installation of Officers and Genealogical Roundtable Sharing, "Progress Report: What I Learned in 2013," in the Porter Room, Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake, OH

**Saturday, 18 January 2014, 9 a.m.** CAGG General Meeting – "Your Favorite Family History Photo", CAGG members should bring a photo and tell a story; breakout sessions for the major genealogy software programs start at 11 a.m.; brown bag lunch; 1:00 pm, Photo Editing Programs, especially the free ones, Jean Hoffman, Fairview Park Library, 21255 Lorain Road

**Monday, 20 January 2014, 6:30 p.m.** Greater Cleveland Genealogical Society program "Map Your Ancestors" - Meetings are held at the Fairview Park branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library, 21255 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, OH

**Thursday, 30 January 2014, 11:30 a.m.** Lake County Genealogical Society will have its annual meeting and potluck at Morley Library, 184 Phelps St., Painesville. We will have a distinguished panel fielding questions pertaining to general genealogical research and problem solving.

**Saturday, 1 February 2014, 12-3:00 p.m.** "Opening the Door to Family History" beginning genealogy basics with presenter Joellen O'Neill, 1-4 p.m. See <http://www.wrhs.org> for registration information and cost.

**Monday, 3 February 2014, 7:30 p.m.** Cuyahoga Valley Chapter OGS "My Most Interesting, Dangerous, Funny, Scandalous, or ??? Ancestor," Independence Civic Center, William Room, 6363 Selig Drive, Independence, OH

**Wednesday, 5 February 2014, 1:00-2:30 p.m.** Cuyahoga West Chapter, OGS offers free Family History Research Help Session, Computer Lab, Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake

**Wednesday, 5 February 2014, 7 p.m.** "A Visit with George Washington," a first person living portrayal of the personality and life of Washington, will be at Eastlake Public Library, 36706 Lake Shore Blvd., Eastlake, OH. Register Online at <http://www.welibrary.info>

**Saturday, 8 February 2014, 9:30 a.m.** NEOCAG, Alan Rabe will present an update of the new *FamilySearch* Family Tree updates and features, 500 SOM Center Road, Mayfield Village

**Saturday, 15 February 2014, 9:00 a.m.** CAGG General Meeting, doors open at 9 a.m. with general program/speaker. Breakout sessions for the major genealogy software programs start at 11 a.m., brown bag lunch, computer fundamentals from 1-2 p.m., Fairview Park Library, 21255 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, OH

**Wednesday, 19 February 2014, 6:30-8:45 p.m.** Cuyahoga West Chapter, OGS - "Instructional Video: Finding Females in Your Family Tree," in the Porter Room, Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake

**Saturday, 1 March 2014, 12:00-3:00 p.m.** "By The Numbers: An In-depth Study of Federal and State Censuses, and other Census Substitutes," presenter Linda Freeman. See <http://www.wrhs.org> for registration information.

**Wednesday, 5 Mar 2014, 1:00-2:30 p.m.** Cuyahoga West Chapter, OGS offers free Family History Research Help Session, Computer Lab, Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake, OH

**Saturday, 9 March 2014, 9:30 a.m.** Julie Wilson, board member of Summit Co. Chapter, OGS, will be our guest speaker. She will talk about Bounty Land Warrants at the meeting of NEOCAG at 500 SOM Center Road, Mayfield Village, Ohio.

**Saturday, 15 March 2014, 9:00 a.m.** CAGG General Meeting with general program/speaker. Breakout sessions for the major genealogy software programs start at 11:00 a.m., brown bag lunch, computer fundamentals from 1:00-2:00 p.m., Fairview Park Library, 21255 Lorain Road

**Wednesday, 19 Mar 2014, 6:30-8:45 p.m.** Cuyahoga West Chapter, OGS - "Favorite Genealogical Websites Demo," with Jim Denham and John Noble in the Porter Room, Westlake Porter Public Library, 27333 Center Ridge Rd., Westlake, OH

**Thursday, 27 March 2014, 10:00 a.m.** John Daily will be the guest speaker at the meeting of Lake County Genealogical Society, Morley Library, 184 Phelps St., Painesville. His topic will be "Migration Routes."

## Recent Acquisitions to the Archives

By Gwen Mayer



Index to Probate Court Records-Portage Co Wills, Estates, Guardianships 1813-1942

The Last Muster Volume 2-Faces of the American Revolution, Maureen Taylor

Fractured Paths of Duty-Civil War Letters of Surgeon J. Dexter Colton & Adj. George B Taylor 92 OVI, Richard A. Baumgartner

Portage County Glass-the 19<sup>th</sup> century glass industry in MANTUA, Kent, New Portage & Ravenna, Ohio, Brian J. Gray

The Ties that Bound Us-The Women of John Brown's family & the Legacy of Radical Abolitionism, Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz, Cornell University Press

A Child of the Revolution-William Henry Harrison & His World 1773-1798, Hendrik Booraem V, The Kent State University Press

The Good Lord Bird, James McBride (John Brown novelization)

## PERSI Headed to Findmypast.com

(Reprinted from Ohio Genealogy News Fall 2013)

The Periodical Source Index (PERSI) is a leading resource for genealogists looking in magazines, journals and newsletters. Maintained by the Allen County Public Library (ACPL) Genealogy Center, PERSI indexes over 2.5 million records from more than 8,000 periodicals according to location, topic, surname, ethnicity and methodology. In the past PERSI has been searchable at Heritage Quest, available by subscription to libraries. Now PERSI will be migrating to Findmypast.com.

Findmypast.com has big plans for PERSI, including continuous updates and, eventually, links to digitized images of articles. These plans are described by Curt Witcher, ACPL Genealogy Center Manager, as "a real game-changer, not only for genealogists and local historians but also for the librarians and archivists who serve them." Watch for PERSI to show up on Findmypast in coming months.

## A Shortcut For Yankees Developing Their Family Genealogy

By Edward J. Hall

Are your ancestors originally from New England? Here are four references that may help to make your task easier. The first is the Dictionary of American Names, Ref. The second is the Encyclopedia of New England by Yale University Press, 2005. A third is The Yankee Exodus, by Stewart H. Holbrook, The MacMillan Company, 1950. And the fourth is The American Midwest: An Interpretive Encyclopedia, 2007, Indiana University Press.

If you have an ancestor who appears in the Dictionary under your name, chances are good that you may go on from there to the next step. In my case, John Hall and his wife-to-be came from England on the ship **Griffin** together with an antinomian minister, Thomas Hooker, and his followers to Boston. (Check the Griffen's Passenger List and there they are.) Hooker and his followers did not get along well with the people of Boston, so they all left Massachusetts to go west to a place later called "Connecticut." The Hookerites and John and Jeannie Hall sold their houses and land, moving on to found Hartford, Connecticut. (Check Land Sales and House Sales for John and Jeannie.) Hooker thus became the patron saint and founder of the "Nutmeg State".

Since my family comes from Wallingford, Connecticut, I fortunately remembered there might be a connection. (Check *The History of Wallingford* and there he is listed.) Sure enough following thru the Halls of Connecticut, it happened. John and Jeannie got married, left the Hookerites and moved on to New Haven and then Wallingford. (Check Connecticut Marriages – yes.) *The History of Wallingford* lists their son Thomas. John Hall served in the Pequot War, and his son Thomas is listed as receiving a land grant of fifty acres from the Connecticut General Court. (Check Military Records) John and Jeannie had seven children in New Haven before moving on to Wallingford. (Check Birth Records for New Haven.) (Check Church Records in Wallingford.) What about

Wallingford? In 1670 the town of Wallingford was set off from New Haven. John, John Jr., Samuel, and Thomas Hall received a land distribution from Wallingford. *The History of Wallingford* continues to be the best source until Elisa received land in the apportionment of Wallingford.

(Checked History – Elisha Edwards married Edward O. Hall, seven generations later. The family moves to Berlin, Connecticut. (Check Berlin Records) Edward O. Hall moves the family to Berlin, which becomes the Hall family Homestead and farm. Other Halls remain in Wallingford. (Check *The History of Wallingford*) At this point the genealogy thread might have become confused. Fortunately, the large Hall family kept good records.

There! You can trace the process to follow the Hall family development. In this case by using records recommended by genealogists, you are able to trace family movements. The key here was the listing of Thomas Hooker in *Yankee Exodus* by Stewart H. Holbrook. I picked it up and was able to follow the Connecticut family separation from the Hookerites.

The Hudson Green is glad to publish member's articles on their family research, travels, or tips that were helpful in investigating their genealogy. Send your article to:

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

or

E-mail Gwen Mayer at  
Gwen.mayer@hudson.lib.oh.us

# Hudson Genealogy Study Group Programs for 2014

JAN	Sat	4	Finding Your Jamestowne Descendants	Greg O'Day	10 a.m.	Flood Room
	Sat	18	More In Depth Search of Genealogy Records (Intermediate Level)	Joe Monsman	10 a.m.	Computer Lab
FEB	Sat	1	Collateral Lines: A Case Study	Bob Mantell	10 a.m.	Flood Room
	Fri	7	Lock-In Members Only	sign-up archives		
	Tue	18	How To Preserve Family Photos	Polly Reynolds	TBA	Flood Room
MAR	Sat	1	Forms Used in Genealogy	Gwen Mayer	10 a.m.	Flood Room
	Sat	1	Quarterly Board Meeting			
	Sat	15	Translation Websites	Mary Hughes	10 a.m.	Flood Room
APR	Sat	12	Fairview Park Library Field Trip	Sign-up Archives		
	Wed	30	OGS Conference - Sandusky OH	Individual Registration		
MAY	Wed	7	NGS Conference - Richmond Virginia			
	Sat	17	Intro to Genealogy for Laurel Lake	Lynda Brodine	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Laurel Lake
JUN	Sat	7	Annual Meeting: Russian Connection Who Do You Think You Are?	Chris Driver	10 a.m.	Flood Room

## HUDSON GENEALOGICAL STUDY GROUP

### Membership Information for 2013 – 2014

(Please Print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip (+ 4 if known) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Current e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Genealogy Software used \_\_\_\_\_

Surnames you are researching \_\_\_\_\_

Geographic area of interest \_\_\_\_\_

New member \_\_\_\_\_ Couple membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing member \_\_\_\_\_ OGS member \_\_\_\_\_

Programs you would like to hear in the future \_\_\_\_\_

The membership year runs from September 1 to August 31 the following year. Please complete and include this form with your check by September 30, to ensure accurate information for our membership booklet. HGSG dues are \$15 per year (or any portion of the year) for couples and individuals.

Send this form and your check made payable to **HGSG** to:

Hudson Library – Dept. G.

96 Library Street

Hudson, Ohio 44236-5122

Membership Fee \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00

You may include an optional contribution for HGSG if desired \_\_\_\_\_.

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



## **SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES**

Greg O'Day is with the First Ohio Company of Jamestowne Society and lives in Medina, Ohio.

The Jamestowne Society members are descendants of Jamestowne adventurers, founders and early settlers. Anyone with direct descent from an ancestor who lived or worked in the colonial town prior to 1700 is eligible for membership. First Ohio Company is one of 31 companies of The Jamestowne Society. It is composed of members of the Society who are interested in associating with other members in Ohio.

Joe Monsman has spoken to us before on basic genealogy research and the use of the Internet. Now, Joe will share more in depth research for finding Genealogy Records on the Internet.

## **NEXT MEETINGS**

Saturday, January 4, 10:00 a.m.

Greg O'Day  
"Finding Your Jamestowne  
Descendants"  
Flood Room

Saturday, January 18, 10:00 a.m.

Joe Monsman  
"More In Depth Search of  
Genealogy Records"  
(Intermediate Level)  
Computer Lab