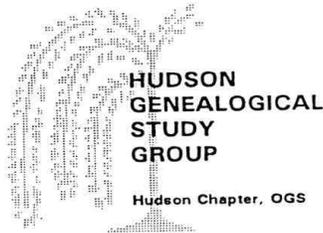


THE HUDSON GREEN

Quarterly Newsletter of the

Way To Go . . .

by Lorel Rubins



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Did you ever feel like something was missing in your life? Well, my missing piece was not knowing about my family history.

I started my family history search like most people do: I jumped onto the Ancestry.com and then FamilySearch sites eagerly, entering every relative's name I could think of. I thought for sure that all kinds of records would pop up telling me everything I wanted to know about my distant relatives. However, it didn't quite work that way. There were no little green leaves showing up on my family tree. I learned very early on that it was going to take work, patience, and a big commitment on my part if I were going to make any discoveries about any of my ancestors. After three years of researching, reading all the articles I could get my hands on about "how to do genealogy research", attending as many free genealogy lectures as I could, and asking seasoned researchers for help, I was still stuck in a "genealogy rut."

I'm convinced that I have had to tackle every brick wall that is known to mankind. I've chased ancestors for months on end, convinced that they were "my relatives," only to later discover that the only thing we shared was a common last name. I've spent countless hours tracking down records only to find out that the years I needed were either destroyed by fire or disposed of by the holding agency. And the most disappointing of all has been to finally get the right document in my hands, then find that the place of birth, date of birth, and parents' names are filled in as "UNKNOWN."

I can't tell you how many times I've wanted to throw in the towel, admit defeat, and move on to a new and easier hobby! But in the midst of all my frustration, I started looking at my research from an entirely different angle. This not only lowered my frustration level, it helped me locate records and resources I hadn't found before. I've made family connections with distant relatives that added generations to my family tree and gave me the opportunity to build relationships with other researchers around the country. It's amazing how much I've learned and the people I've met. The Internet offers a gold mine of resources and information that can save time and money for anyone doing genealogy research. I use it almost exclusively now because so much is available online. Listed below are some of the ways it has benefited my research and is biased towards the researcher who is not getting results through traditional research:

1. My favorite search engine to use is Google. I've found living relatives, new databases, related family trees, obituaries, back doors, specialized genealogy groups, alumni associations, and so much more, all by doing a Google search.

2. I frequently visit Ancestry and FamilySearch to take one of their free tutorials, especially when I'm feeling frustrated. It's a nice break from focusing on specific records. You may think you've heard it all, but I guarantee that you will walk away with at least one

new resource each time you watch one of the tutorials. Ancestry also puts on live programs. And don't forget that both of these sites are adding new records online all the time, so revisit them often.

3. You Tube is another great resource for free tutorials and shorts.

4. Rootsweb is another source not to be missed. I've gone there so many times and found nothing, but on my last visit I connected with two trees researching my relatives.

5. Ancestry's Member Connect program is invaluable if you want to connect with individuals searching your family tree. It's because of this program that I will be meeting with about 10 relatives in Chicago to share stories, documents, and family photos. You must be a member to use this program, but I have found it to be worth every penny.

6. Ancestry's Forums is another great resource if you're looking for help in searching for records. Members post who and what records they are looking for, and other Ancestry members offer their assistance in tracking down the information.

7. I have contacted genealogy groups in other states for help in locating records and have responded in kind when others contact me.

8. Get on every free genealogy e-mail newsletter list that you think might benefit you. You will receive automatic updates and changes to databases, receive free articles, and you'll be made aware of online genealogy programs and much more.

The resources on the Internet are endless. Knowing where to go and how to ask the right questions are all you need to know to be successful in your research.

[Lorel Rubins is scheduled to speak to our group in April of 2012, at which time she can give more graphically detailed information.]



Brick Wall

I started out calmly, tracing my tree
To see if I could find the making of me,
And all that I had was Great-Grandfather's name
Not knowing his wife or from whence he came.

I chased him across a long line of states,
And came up with pages and pages of dates.
When all put together, it makes me forlorn,
Poor old Great-Grandpa had never been born.

One day I was sure the truth I had found,
Determined to turn this whole thing upside down.
I looked up the record of one Uncle John,
But then found the old man to be younger than his son.

Then when my hopes were fast growing dim,
I came across records that must have been him.
The facts I collected made me quite sad,
Dear old Great-Grandfather was never a dad.

It seems that someone is pulling my leg,
I'm not at all sure I wasn't hatched from an egg.
After hundreds of dollars I've spent on my tree
I can't help but wonder if I'm really me!

Submitted by Lorel Rubins from www.ancestryprinting.com

Making Friends Through Genealogy

By Mae Peck and Sylvia Vassileff

When I, Sylvia, learned that I had ancestors from Hudson—the Bishops, Hollenbecks and Gaylords, I consulted Jim Caccamo in the old Hudson Library and got some information at that time. After the new library was built, I attended a meeting of the Hudson Genealogy Study Group. I live in Mantua, so didn't know anyone there, but went up to the Archives and picked up a membership booklet, which I took home to look at. This was about three years ago. As I read through it to see the names that others were researching, to my surprise I saw the name Mae Peck, who listed "Smyton" and "Britton" as ancestors she was attempting to find in Ireland. I knew that a Sam Britton had married Anna Jane, my great-grandmother's sister. I began to feel sure I had struck "genealogical gold." I could hardly wait to call Mae. We met at her home to compare notes. She had pictures of Rachel Smyton Lewis and her husband, Sanford John Lewis, plus their children, and I had pictures and written information to share with Mae.

Here is a brief description of what we learned from one another: we share the same great-great-grandparents. Our gr-gr-grandmother, Margaret Johnson, married John Smyton and lived with him on a farm in Cloughfin, County Tyrone in Ireland. John died in 1859 when the eldest of their three children was only ten, leaving Margaret to cope with their upbringing. She sold the farm and moved with her children to Six Mile Cross, not far from Belfast, where they all lived in a tiny house. As time went by, Margaret was having difficulty trying to provide for all her children. Her two girls, Anna Jane,



SISTERS L. to R.: Rachel (Smyton) Lewis and Anna Jane (Smyton) Britton (c.A. 1910-1920)

born 1849, and Rachel, born 1851, began to want to go to their mother's sister, Rachel Johnson Britton, who had been born in Ireland but was now living in the United States. Rachel was married to William Britton and they had a family of their own, but they agreed to take the two girls. (Teenage help is always welcome on a farm.) Margaret kept her young son Alex with her in Six Mile Cross, where they lived out their lives. It appears that the Smyton and Britton families were acquainted with one another in Ireland.

Anna Jane was 15 and her sister Rachel 13 when, unattended, they boarded the ship *Harvest Queen* to make the voyage to America. The trip would have taken from four to six weeks. They arrived in New York harbor on 15 April 1865. Anna Jane's daughter May told of her mother having "16 cents in her pocket" when she arrived, and that she remembered the Shipmaster coming back on the ship in the harbor to tell the passengers the news that "Lincoln was shot yesterday."

The girls boarded a train to Solon, Ohio. When they arrived, no one was there to meet them at the train. Someone in authority ordered a workman to take the girls and their

luggage on a handcart along the tracks to the Britton farm. When they reached the farm, they had to carry their luggage through the fields to the farmhouse, where they joined the family of their Uncle William, Aunt Rachel, and their four cousins. They probably never saw their mother and brother again. We learned that their brother Alex lived to age 51 back in Ireland.

We also learned that Anna Jane later married Samuel Britton, the younger brother of William Britton. Mae realized that aunt and niece married brothers, a fairly remarkable event.

In 2009, Sylvia and her husband Bill took a 10-day trip to Ireland. They stood on the ground where the Smyton farm had once been located. The original house had been torn down, replaced by another. They also visited the tiny town of Six Mile Cross.

In addition to learning that we are third cousins, we, Mae and Sylvia, are now also very good friends.



Sylvia Vassileff and Mae Peck at Jan. 8, 2011 HGSG Meeting

President's Message



I want to thank all those who volunteer in any capacity for the Hudson Genealogy Study Group. We would not be able to operate without those who give willingly of their time to help our organization. As every volunteer learns, you gain more from the experience than you give.

With passage of the Library levy by citizens of Hudson, we will now be able to continue our work of helping those who need an assist in getting started on ancestor researching. Along the way we make new friends and add to our own experience. Call Hudson Library Archives to make arrangements for this help.

Please take advantage of the warmer weather to do as much researching as your time permits. It's the ideal time to visit cemeteries, courthouses, and archive facilities in the area where your ancestors lived. Remember to prepare well before you go.

I wish the best of seasons for the newly-elected officers of this group in the coming year—all gracious volunteers. We will start our sessions again in September.

Happy researching!

Nancy Brock
Outgoing President

Build Yourself a Cemetery Kit

Use a small tackle box and fill it with the following:

- 1-A soft brush (paintbrush works) to brush away grass and small amounts of dirt
- 2-A trowel for removing sod from overgrown flat stones
- 3-Gardening gloves for pulling weeds
- 4-Grass clipper
- 5-A long, thin screwdriver (you can use it as a sounding implement to locate covered stones because it's strong, although it won't go very deep
- 6-A mirror to reflect light on unreadable stones at a different angle
(Items obtainable in hardware or chain stores.)

Taken from the Genealogy Class Newsletter of January 2008

by Lisa A. Alzo, MFA

Submitted by Mary Hughes, who took this class.

Nominating Committee Report Hudson Genealogical Study Group Hudson Chapter O.G.S.

The Nominating Committee headed by Elsie Thomas and including Gwen Mayer and Helen Soblosky presents the following slate of proposed officers for 2011-12 to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on June 4:

President-Mary Hughes

Vice-President-Helen Soblosky

Secretary-Betty Franklin

Assistant Secretary-Carleen Welch

Treasurer-Jack Bowers

Assistant Treasurer-Dick Satava

Trustee-Linda Brodine

The consent of all these candidates was obtained beforehand.

Recent Acquisitions to the Archives

By Gwen Mayer

- Liar Society, Roecker, Lisa.
- John Brown, Sterngass, Jon.
- Index of Warren County, Ohio, by Warren Co. Genealogical Society.
- African-American World War II Casualties and Decorations in the Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine: a comprehensive record Beyond the Family Tree
- Lorain County Ohio, volume II, Probate Court Deaths, 1879-1889
- Naturalizations, Warren County, Ohio, Probate Court & Common Pleas Court, 1821-1925
- Warren County, Ohio, Marriage Records 1902-1907
- Warren County, Ohio, Guardianships, 1803-1916, Probate Ct
- Warren County, Ohio, Divorces, 1803-1900
- Warren County, Ohio, Adoptions, 1856-1917
- Warren County, Ohio, Obituary Index
- Genealogical Resources of the Civil War era: online & published military and civilian name lists, 1861-1869, and post-war veteran lists
- Clermont County, Ohio Guardianships, 1809-1897
- Memorandum of Marriage Licenses issued in Clermont Co., Ohio from September 23, 1839 to August 29, 1846
- Some Early Scots in Maritime Canada, volume 1
- The German Element in the Ohio Valley: Ohio, Kentucky & Indiana
- Chickasaw by Blood Enrollment Cards, 1898-1914, vol.3, vol.4, vol.5
- Bursts of Fresh-Squeezed Ideas: a program to ignite your creative-thinking skills
- Ships from Scotland to America, 1628-1828
- The British Invasion of Maryland, 1812-1815
- The German Element in the Northeast: Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey & New England
- First Explorations of the Trans-Allegheny Region by the Virginians
- Savage is My Name, part II: a study of the relationship of Thomas Savage, the Carpenter & Ensign Thomas Savage of Virginia's Eastern Shore, 1607-1655
- Index to Virginia Estates, 1800-1865, vol.8, vol.9, vol.10
- The Family of John Bennett of Stonington, Connecticut: the first seven generations
- Index to Marriages of Seneca County, Ohio: January 1899-April 1992
- Marriages of Seneca County, Ohio 1841-1899
- Seneca County, Ohio, Birth Records, volume 4-5, April 1888 – Dec. 1908
- Seneca County, Ohio, Birth Records volume 1-3, 1867-1888
- A Handbook of Scandinavian Names
- Places of the Underground Railroad: a geographical guide
- Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution, with an appendix containing a collection of miscellaneous records
- The Lincoln Funeral Train: the final journey and national funeral for Abraham Lincoln
- New Brunswick: A History, 1784-1857

Cuyahoga County Probate Files Now Available on FamilySearch

Researchers now have access on FamilySearch to a great many of the digital images of the Cuyahoga County Probate Files, beginning in 1827-1918. The records are mostly probate case files, with some delayed birth registrations, corrections, and affidavits. Arranged by year, docket number, and case number, the 927,835 images are not yet indexed on FamilySearch, but an index prepared by the Cleveland District Round Table can be used to search them at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohcdrt. It has Sarah McGuire's index of Cuyahoga Wills & Estates Dockets Pre-A-70 (1826-1904), including guardianships, subpoenas, trusteeships, committals, court cases, land issues, road issues, consents to marry, minister licenses, and much more. The index contains the docket and case numbers, company/individuals, type, year, and ID numbers. Some entries have the folder label, other names, and notes.

The Cleveland District Round Table's website also has an index for birth affidavits (1860-1897) and corrections (1873-1908), including some death dates, twin designations and name changes. The index includes record title, name, parents' names, birth date, corrected birth date, notes, and ID numbers.

New Statewide Birth Record Database

In December 2010 the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) announced an improvement in customer service for individuals wishing to purchase a certified copy of an Ohio birth record.

Over the next few months, local registrar offices throughout the state will begin to have access to issue an Ohio birth record regardless of the county where the birth occurred. Prior to this improvement, a person would need to purchase a copy from the county where the birth occurred or from the state office of vital statistics.

The project began in 2006, with scanning and keying index information of over 20 million vital records into the state database. With this effort complete, all local health departments will now be able to access and issue a certified birth abstract for Ohio birth records dating back to 1908.

Participation by local departments is optional and not all offices may choose to participate. Individuals are encouraged to contact their local health department to see if they offer this service. It is also important to call ahead to determine the hours of operation and the fees associated with a request for a certified birth abstract.

To find information on a local health department visit www.odh.ohio.gov and click on "Local Health Departments."

Birth certificates are available on a statewide basis from 1908 to the present. Each health district in the state sets its own fee. Orders may be made from local offices by mail order, walk-in service, or online for some offices. VitalChek will not allow customers to purchase birth records from health districts other than the office of a person's birthplace. As of December 17, 2010, 43 of 123 registrars had access to the system, including those in Cincinnati, Toledo and Hamilton.

[Extracted from Ohio Genealogy News, Spring 2011.]

Summit County Vital Records Update

Recent changes in state law and mergers of Summit County's health departments have resulted in changes to which vital records are available and where you go to get them. The Summit County Health District, Vital Records Office at 368 South Main Street in Akron now provides death certificates for deaths that occurred anywhere in Summit County except Barberton from 20 Dec 1908 to the present. Current hours are Monday and Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. and Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 330.375.2976.

The Summit County Health District, Barberton Office at 571 West Tuscarawas Avenue in Barberton provides death certificates for deaths that occurred in Barberton from 20 Dec 1908 to the present. Current hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For more information, call 330.861.7157. Any local health department in Ohio can now issue birth certificates for anyone born in the state since 20 December 1908, so both of the above offices can provide those. The fee for all certified certificates is \$22.00 per copy. The Summit County Health District office on Graham Rd. in Stow no longer provides vital records.



HGSG members visit and tour Western Reserve Historical Society in April 2011 (l to r) Elsie Thomas, Betty Franklin, John Franklin, Nancy Brock, Shawn Marsh and Reed Stith. Shawn is Reed's son-in-law, and he is now hooked on genealogy.

Little-Known Government Genealogy Service

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services runs a little-known genealogy service for relatives wanting to learn more about their family history. The records include naturalization files, visa applications and citizenship tests, and may reveal family secrets and mysteries, says Marian Smith, the agency's historian.

In the past, genealogy researchers had to file document requests under the Freedom of Information Act and sometimes waited years for a response. Under the genealogy program, which started in 2008, requests are usually completed within 90 days. For \$20, the government will run a search of the name, as long as the person is deceased. If there are records available, the government charges additional fees for the files.

For more information about the program, check out www.uscis.gov/genealogy.

Extract from an article in the Los Angeles Times, Copyright 2010.



(l to r) Enjoy a day at the Summit County Courthouse Records Office, VP Helen Soblosky, Kim Guldeman (clerk in the Records Room), and President Nancy Brock.

HUDSON GENEALOGICAL STUDY GROUP

Membership Information for 2011 – 2012

(Please Print)

Name _____ Maiden Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip (+ 4 if known) _____ - _____

Current e-mail address _____

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 you check 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 to:
Hudson Genealogical Study Group
96 Library Street
Hudson, Ohio 44236-5122

You may include an optional contribution for the new OGS Library if desired _____.

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



ANNUAL MEETING

Our speaker for this year's Annual Meeting will be Elissa Scalise Powell. A certified genealogist, Ms. Powell was honored in May 2010 with the National Genealogical Society's President's Citation for her contributions in the field of genealogy. A Trustee on the Board of Certification of Genealogists, she has been an instructor at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy and is a regional and national speaker on a variety of topics. She has been a researcher for more than 20 years.

NEXT MEETINGS

June 4 -10 a.m.

"From the Grave"

Speaker: Elissa Scalise Powell