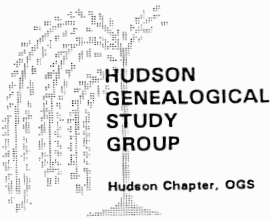


THE HUDSON GREEN

Volume 16, Issue 1

MARCH 2005

NEWSLETTER OF



Hudson Chapter, The Ohio Genealogical Society

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*deceased

An Enduring Friendship

From a draft by Frances Held

Frances Held, who was a longtime member of HGSG, wrote a first draft of this article not long before she died on January 10, 2004. I have revised and enlarged her original submission. “Fran”, as she was called, inherited a bundle of letters written by a woman named Nabby Hickox from Burton, Ohio to her great-grandmother Catherine Briggs Dayton in Bay City, Michigan. They were passed down to her grandmother, then her mother, then to Fran.

Written between 1854 and 1868, the letters are difficult to read because of odd spellings and complete lack of punctuation. Nabby constantly complains to Catherine about the poor quality of her pen (we are left to wonder what type of pen), and seems never to have written on more than one sheet of paper at a time. She would often sign off by saying, “I have come to the end of my paper”, then would write afterthoughts upside down and in the margins. Fran undertook the tedious task of deciphering these letters, which she put into typescript. She then donated copies to several archives, including the Hudson Library and Historical Society.

Nabby was born in 1827, the seventh and youngest child of Uri Hickox and Lydia Ford Hickox of Newbury, Ohio. In her introduction, Fran includes a genealogical listing of this family. Nabby and Catherine grew up together in the farming area of Newbury, and both of their families subsequently moved to Burton. They were close friends who visited one another often and chatted about the

affairs of all the people who lived in the area, whom they seemed to know intimately. Catherine married a man named Daniel Dayton, with whom she had two children named Mary and Charlie. Charlie was to become Fran’s grandfather. Nabby became very fond of these children.

Nabby was an unmarried woman who lived with her widowed mother. This woman was perpetually ailing, but we never learn her health problem. Catherine knew the mother well, so it was understood between them. Nabby made a living by sewing for others, both dressmaking and making quilts. She worked hard at her sewing, at housekeeping, and in caring for her mother and for neighbors who fell ill. She also took pleasure in gardening, growing both vegetables and flowers, and often went berry picking. Catherine had joined her in many of these activities.

When the Dayton family decided to “go west” to Michigan, Nabby was devastated. Catherine had been her lifeline, one of her few sources of joy. Thus began the correspondence between them that lasted fourteen years. The letters include many details, not only of Nabby’s own life, but those of others. She lists births, marriages and deaths by name, and in many instances, the causes of those deaths. Typhoid fever, diphtheria, something she called “unremitting fever” (Brucellosis), tuberculosis, which she always calls consumption, and sometimes accidents with horse-drawn wagons. She does not hesitate to criticize a local doctor who at times refused to attend

to ill patients because he was drunk. "Sept 2, 1856- O Catherine you can not think what a drunken hold [hole] Burton has got to be." Nabby did not enjoy living in Burton, much preferring Newbury. Burton, then as now, was a center for making and selling maple products. Nabby reported on sap gathering in good years and bad.

When a mother died in childbirth—a frequent occurrence—immediate efforts were made to take the surviving baby to a woman whose child had died at birth or shortly afterward. Sometimes a baby was passed around to several families before finding a temporary home. Blood-letting was still in vogue, as was "allopathic" medicine. Nabby makes detailed reports, naming all those involved.

In her letters, Nabby described to Catherine how the weather affected the crops—at times drought, at other times too much rain or unseasonable cold—and frequently sent seeds of some of her favorite flowers to her friend. She also included swatches of dresses she was making, naming the person for whom the dress was intended and the price per yard. Fran Held actually found some of these swatches still enclosed in the letters.

Fran quotes from Nabby's first letter, written Nov. 8, 1854: "I do not know how to commence telling you the news, but I believe I will go across the road first." Across the road lived a family whose one daughter neither Catherine nor Nabby approved of, so Nabby often gossiped about this woman. "C carried a dollars worth of dried apples up to Clarridon got her a velvet dress 10 yds at 5 shillings per yd after that she went up town got a delane (delaine - fine wool cloth) at 28 cents per yd the

velvet was dark marone ground work a sprig like the old fashion shawl sprig that is slight cochineal. She is a great lady." This last is sarcasm. Both women feel that "C" puts on airs.

Through all the letters, Nabby often laments to Catherine how lonesome it is without her. She yearns for her friend. She begs Catherine time and again to come pay her a visit, even while aware of the formidable distance between them and the difficulty of travel. "January 22, 1855- Your letter I received the 19 read it with a great deal of interest. . . I do think paradise is there [in Michigan] and wish I was with you." "February 25, 1855-I wish you would step into aunt Lydias room a few minutes if no longer. I could tell you more in 5 minutes than I could write in two hours the room is the same as it was when you left if we only had D. Dayton family for company time would pass away pleasanter and more agreeable. . ."

On December 1, 1856, Nabby had her fortune told by some gypsies who encamped near Newbury. She wrote about it to Catherine: "I suppose you would like to hear it but the old woman told me to keep it to myself...I had a friend off [far away] that wanted to see me I must not tell any more our folks say they would like to hear mine to know whether she told me I was agoing to get married. . ." For a long time it seemed as if Nabby never would marry, but eventually she did. She first married a man named David Smith, whose age she gave as 65, "retired from business no children nor never had. . . I have a better house & a pleasant home & you know a home cannot be pleasant unless the inmates are..." They set up housekeeping in Chagrin Falls, which community Nabby much preferred to Burton. Nabby's mother went with them. "June 20, 1868- Mother is with me she is quite well for her she appears to enjoy herself I am fixing her clothes..."

The letters dwindled after Nabby's marriage, probably because both women now had other concerns. Some time after Nabby's husband died in 1889, she married David Senter of Chagrin Falls. She died in that community in 1921 at the age of 94.

Adding to the value of these letters, Fran

**The Hudson Green
Editorial Board**

Editor.....Elsie Thomas
Layout.....John Franklin
Archives Acquisitions.....Gwen Mayer
Membership.....Donna Walling
Mailing.....Cole Waite

mentioned in them, making it easy for anyone tracing ancestors in that area to quickly learn whether their forebears are there, sometimes including dates when they were born, married or died. In addition to depicting a lovely friendship between two women who highly esteemed one another, a reader of the letters gets a sense of what it was like to live in an Ohio farming community at that period in the mid-1800s.

Fran's conclusion: "That Catherine replied by letter to Nabby is clear, but Nabby never saved them." As I read the letters, I became convinced that Nabby would have saved and cherished each letter, so much did she love her friend, but that after her death someone else discarded them.

Elsie Thomas, Editor

NEW ADDRESS!

The Hudson Library and Historical Society will at last be making its move to a newly constructed building this spring. Accordingly, staff has begun to change to the new address:

Hudson Library and Historical Society
96 Library Street
Hudson, OH 44236-5122

The Hudson Archives will be closed as of May 1st, a little ahead of the library closing. The next time we will be permitted to use the Archives will be after June 11th, the projected opening date of the new facility. Meantime, changes to our meeting locations will be announced at meetings, and will also be sent to members by e-mail.



President's Message

Hello again to all members of the Hudson Genealogical Study Group. I want to offer a great big THANK YOU to all the members who participated in the 5th Grade Immigration and Naturalization Fair at the East Woods School on January 8th. A lot of hard work went into preparing for this event by all those who were there, but especially by **Donna Walling**, who set up the whole event and made everything go like clockwork. Thank you so much, Donna.

The next bit of news that you should be aware of has to do with the progress of the new library building. The downstairs archives in the present building will be closed all of May, so if any of you have any research to do, you had better get to it quickly. This also means that our May meetings will be held elsewhere (to be determined). Fortunately, there is only one meeting in May that was scheduled to be held in the Library, the May 14th meeting: Introduction to Probate, Wills, etc. by Dick Satava and Sherry Beam. Our second meeting in May is a field trip to the Portage County Courthouse, which will be held on a weekday, yet to be determined. More details on the specific date, time, carpooling, etc. will be forthcoming.

Leslie Pollott, Library Director, will address us prior to the March 12th meeting to provide an update on the new library. She will briefly tell us about the new facility, especially the archives, where many of us spend a great deal of time. We may begin that meeting a little early, so be on the lookout for more information regarding the starting time.

One last thing: we want to again remind each of you of the upcoming **Ohio Genealogical Society Annual Conference to be held April 14 – 16, 2005**. This year the Conference is being held in **Akron, OH at the Crowne Plaza Hotel** (formerly Quaker Hilton). What a great opportunity to improve your genealogical research skills, and to meet and hear outstanding speakers. You may choose to attend all or only part of the Conference. Also, please consider volunteering to help in one of the many jobs at the Conference. Kindly contact John or Betty Franklin at (330) 656-9066.

Jack Bowers

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New Members

Please add these renewals to your
Membership Booklet:

William August Glass
5 Fairway Drive
White Plains, NY 10605

Winetta Kennedy
7840 Shady Lane
Northfield, OH 44067
Winbird@adelphia.net

Elizabeth Brennan
7690 Huntington Road
Hudson, OH 44236
330-656-4154
JBREN48327@aol.com

Radine B. Weedon (New address)
9801 W. Parmer Lane #2012
Austin, TX 78717-4620
512-218-7986
rbweedon@earthlink.net

Note that Dorothy Schroedel-Wilson has a new
e-mail: Dschroedelwilson@sbcglobal.net

Hudson



Tidbits

We had been including in this newsletter small items from very early Hudson newspapers. These are kept on microfilm in the Hudson Archives. Is there *nobody* in our group who can spare one hour a week to look at these films and extract interesting snippets? They are not only interesting, but often instructive, especially for out-of-town researchers. We would really appreciate help.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES



By Gwendolyn Mayer

A History of Nineteenth Century Ohio Obsolete
Bank Notes & Scrip
Special Report on Ireland 1659 Census
Names of Irish Passengers to America
Birth Index of Ireland
Pittsburgh (PA) Gazette Abstracts (3 vols)
Guide to Records of the Sale of Commonwealth
Property in the County of Philadelphia 1780-1798
Guide to the Mortgages of the General Loan Office
of the Province of PA 1724-1756
Pensioners in Western PA in 1883 (4 vols)
American Migration Routes 1735-1815
Freedom Seekers: Ohio and the Underground
Railroad
Grand Army of the Republic- Department of IL-
Transcription of the Death Rolls 1879-1947
Healing Body and Soul- The Life and Times of Dr.
W. O. Baker 1827-1916
United States Catholic Chaplains in the World War
Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors (4 vols)
Gallia County OH History vol 2
Records of Ethnic Fraternal Benefit Associations in
the U.S.
Index to McKelvey's Centennial History of Belmont
Co., OH
The Archaeology of Ohio
Tapestry of Faith-History of Methodism in the
Cleveland District
Italians to America- vols 17 & 18 – 1901-1902
Germans to America-Series II vol. 7 1848-1849
Cavaliers and Pioneers-Abstracts of VA Land
Patents & Grants-Northern Neck
Guide to State Records-VA State Library & Archives
A Guide to Episcopal Church Records in VA
The Glacial Kame Indians
Ohio Flint Types
Ohio Stone Tools
Ohio Slate Types



Church Records of Calvary Evangelical Church, Cleveland, OH

by Trudy Painting

For anyone interested, baptismal, marriage and death records from the former Calvary Church in Cleveland, which was located at Woodland and Shaker Boulevard are now housed at:

Church of the Savior
2537 Lee Rd.
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
(216) 321-8880

Also available are ministers' membership cards **A** through **L**. Those from **M** through **Z** cannot currently be found, but I've asked to be contacted if and when they are. These cards give a good deal of information.

The historian has also recently discovered a small box of individual snapshots of military personnel believed to be from World War II, which are identified. She will gladly relinquish them to relatives. Please call the historian, Ellie Richardson, at 216-662-7873 to set up an appointment.

**HUDSON GENEALOGICAL STUDY GROUP
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Membership Information for _____ (year)

(Please Print)

NAME: _____ Maiden Name: _____

ADDRESS: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

TELEPHONE: () - _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

GENEALOGY SOFTWARE YOU USE: _____

SURNAMES YOU ARE RESEARCHING: _____

GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF INTEREST: _____

New member _____ Renewing member _____ OGS member _____

HGSG dues are \$10 for individuals and \$12.50 for couples, per calendar year or any part of a year.
Dues are due by September 1.

Send this form with your check to Hudson Genealogical Study Group, Hudson Library & Historical Society,
Dept. G, 22 Aurora Street, Hudson, OH 44236-2947.

Veterans' Project

Gwen Mayer wrote in our last issue about the Veterans' History Project, asking all of us to contact and interview at least one veteran of any war. Tapes for recording these interviews are available in the Hudson Archives Room, as well as the necessary forms. Each person is supposed to make up his/her own questions, but I have formulated some I used in my interview that might be useful for others, so I offer them to anyone willing to help with this project:

Questions for Veterans

In which war did you participate?

Which branch of the service were you in?

Did you volunteer, or were you drafted?

Where did your basic training take place?

Where were you sent afterward?

Did your placement have anything to do with your occupation before the war?

Did you strongly believe in the necessity of fighting in that war?

Did you have great respect for your commander in chief?

Were you wounded in line of duty?

Did you witness much bloodshed in line of duty?

Can you recount some of your experiences while on duty?

What stays most vividly in your mind?

Did you keep in touch with people back home while in service? How?

Did you frequent USO rooms when they were available? If yes, what was your impression of them?

Did you have any direct experience with such organizations as Red Cross or Salvation Army? Did you find them helpful?

Were you aware of situations that could have been greatly improved, if anyone had asked your opinion?

Were you enthusiastic about being in the service, or did you spend most of your time yearning to be home again?

Hudson Genealogical Study Group
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Quarterly Meeting

Thomas S. Neel, Library Director of the Ohio Genealogical Society, is equipped to speak on a variety of topics. He will address us on the subject of PERSI, Periodical Source Index. We have enjoyed his presentations in the past and welcome him back.

Next Meetings

- March 12 9:30 HGSG Quarterly Meeting:
"PERSI (Periodical Source Index -
Tom Neel from OGS, Speaker
10:00 HGSG Board Meeting
- March 19 9:30 *Special Topics in Genealogy* –
Field trip to Western Reserve
Historical Society-Ann Sindelar,
WRHS
(Sign-up Sheet will be available)