

# THE HUDSON GREEN

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MARCH 2007

NEWSLETTER OF



## Hudson Chapter, The Ohio Genealogical Society

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\*deceased



## Searching for Gretna Greens

By Gwendolyn Mayer

In March of 2006, a question was asked about marriages on the Genealogy Librarians' Listserve, and quite a discussion resulted. Informally, "Gretna Green" marriages are those marriages that take place without parental consent, often as elopements. An actual village called Gretna Green exists in Scotland on the border between England and Scotland. In Scotland, a couple over the age of sixteen could escape the English requirement of posting marriage banns for three weeks before the ceremony and simply declare themselves married in front of witnesses without parental consent. The British parliament could not affect Scottish law regarding marriages for many years, therefore many couples traveled to this village to marry, so the village became a synonym for runaway weddings.

Here's where the librarians come in. One librarian wondered if there was a collection of all the Gretna Green locations in North America on the Internet so that genealogists might have a place to search for marriage records not found in the local courthouse. Thus far, none have been discovered. However, here are suggestions and comments:

"One should look at train routes that lead across state lines. I just ran across a newspaper marriage announcement that reported the bride, groom, family and friends all hopped on a train in a northeastern town in West Virginia and celebrated the marriage in Maryland, where the license could be obtained and the marriage performed on the same day."

"I believe it is not so much about having Gretna Green wedding cities, but rather states without waiting periods."

In Alabama, Phoenix City had such a reputation with Georgia folks.

In California, Northern California couples often elope to Reno, NV. Southern Californians go to Las Vegas. Still others may go to Mexico.

A Colorado favorite is Denver. First cousin marriage is legal in Colorado. If you cannot find a Colorado marriage, remember to follow the train routes of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Many Colorado couples went off to Cheyenne and Laramie, Wyoming.

Georgia couples traditionally hopped the Savannah River to Aiken, South Carolina.

Idaho has Coeur d'Alene, where one could get a blood test in the morning and locate the chapel for an afternoon ceremony. This was a very active wedding town during the 1950s.

In Illinois, handy by railroad from Chicago, is Crown Point, Lake County, Indiana, a big wedding town from 1915 to the 1940s. Also, Racine, Wisconsin seems to have been a favorite destination.

Indiana is home to Dearborn County, right against the Ohio line near Cincinnati. This county attracted hundreds of couples around the turn of the century because the laws were lenient.

Iowa couples during pre-Interstate times would drive to Bethany, Missouri to get married because no waiting periods or blood tests were required.

Kansas had no waiting period in Neosho County until the 1950s.

Kentucky had a popular location in Greenup County.

Maryland had both Elkton and Ellicott City as Gretna Greens. Howard County Historical Society has a HUGE marriage license index online as a result at [www.hchsm.org](http://www.hchsm.org). Cecil County has an Elkton as well, and many from Pennsylvania came because of no waiting period or blood tests.

Michigan couples often fled south to Indiana locations, while Detroit couples went just across the river to Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Minnesota has Winona, where during the 1920s many couples came to say their vows. There is also a Gretna Green, Minnesota in the corner where Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota come together. Many couples went there, too.

Missouri residents often went across the state line to Arkansas to marry, usually to Clay County.

Nevada invites all to the Lake Tahoe area, where what happens there happens quickly.

New Jersey couples go to Elkton, Maryland. Fort Dix weddings were often performed on post, but many were also performed in Wrightstown, New Jersey as well.

Ohioans head to Marysville, Kentucky, Greenup, Kentucky, or Richmond, Indiana.

Oklahoma residents often would enter lower southeast Kansas for quick marriages. Miami, Ottawa County is the Las Vegas of "Arklahoma" as well as southern Missouri and Kansas.

Oregon couples usually cross the Columbia River and go to Vancouver, Washington. Skamania County is also a popular destination for quick marriages.

Pennsylvanians of the northwest would go to Youngstown, Ohio; others would go to Parisburg, Virginia in Giles County.

Tennessee couples went south to Corinth, Mississippi.

Texas had Fort Bend County, where quickie weddings were famous and not published in the newspapers. Liberty County was also a frequent

destination. From East Texas, most go to Texarkana, Arkansas. Dallas couples would flee to Durant, Oklahoma, while Vidor, Texas was also popular.

Virginia couples went to Maryland: Rockville, Hagerstown and Washington D.C.

West Virginia couples in the early 1800s went to Jefferson County, Ohio. Greenup, Kentucky and Giles County, Virginia were also popular.

So if you are unable to find the marriage date of one of your ancestors by the usual method—that is, the local courthouse or church records—try looking through the likely Gretna Green near to where they lived. You just might have success there.



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Hudson Genealogical Study Group,  
Hudson Chapter, O.G.S.

The following persons were nominated to hold office in HGSG for the 2007-08 season:

Gwen Mayer, current President, second term  
John Franklin, Vice-president, also second term  
Elsie Thomas and Betty Franklin, Co-secretaries  
Dick Satava, Treasurer, third term  
Nancy Brock, Assistant Treasurer

Grace Lewis and Trudy Painting, Board Trustees  
for a two year term

The general membership will vote on them at the June 9th Annual Meeting. The nominating committee was composed of Jack Bowers, Betty Franklin, and Trudy Painting.

## Invitation to Attend the 2007 OGS Annual Conference

The following invitation has been issued by *E. Paul Morehouse, Jr.*, President of the Ohio Genealogical Society, to genealogists throughout Ohio and beyond:

“On behalf of the Officers and the Board of Trustees of The Ohio Genealogical Society, I invite you to attend the 2007 Annual Conference, "Along the National Road: Your Avenue to the Past" in Columbus on April 12-14, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus.”

“The 2007 program includes a broad range of presentations for all skill levels. We have scheduled over 50 programs with many nationally known speakers. In addition, the program committee has attempted to include some new faces to the OGS Conference, and we hope you will check them out. Workshops are also offered on Thursday evening for the early birds.”

“The 2007 OGS Conference will offer you the opportunity to network with hundreds of other genealogists and historians. In addition, we will also have many genealogical exhibitors, OGS and Chapter displays offering the latest genealogical merchandise and publications.”

“I hope you have considered applying for membership in one of our three lineage societies: First Families of Ohio, Civil War Families, and Settlers and Builders of Ohio. All three societies will conduct induction ceremonies at the Conference. If you are interested in doing so, contact OGS for application forms.”

“The Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Columbus is a great facility for our conference. It is not too far from the Ohio Historical Society.”

“We expect this to be another great OGS Conference. We hope you will join us in a wonderful learning experience and have an opportunity to celebrate your ancestors' contribution to Ohio and American History. Come check out German Village and some of the other historic and cultural delights of Ohio's capital city!”

“See you in Columbus!”

Complete program and registration details are available on the OGS website at  
[www.ogs.org/2007conf.php](http://www.ogs.org/2007conf.php)



## Thumbnail Sketch HGSG Membership Director, Pamela Turner

Pam, a 4th generation resident of Cuyahoga County, began her own Jewish family history pursuits in the late 1990s, when few archives had been found and digitized. Taking an early hiatus from that pursuit, she joined the Hudson OGS chapter and found assistance and success in researching one rich paternal line of her son and daughter.

They had no familiarity with their paternal grandfather, Evarts Bugh Taylor, Jr. who died in the 1950s, but he left a family Bible and tips about his curiosity in his ancestral ties. Serving as an Air Force officer in post-WWII Kassel, Germany, he wasn't aware that he was residing in the ancestral home of the Bugh family, a haven for Huguenot refugees in the 17th century. His ancestral surnames are prominently included in many online histories and message boards. Pam began researching his OH ties and found them to be among early 19<sup>th</sup> century settlers of Fairfield, Knox and Richland Counties.

Pam regularly visits the New England, Mid-Atlantic and Midwest ancestral small towns associated with the family lines to imagine the way people lived in a simpler time. Although she has returned to explore her own Jewish ancestors, she has gained much knowledge about the different Protestant sects represented in other family groups.

### Hudson Genealogical and Study Group's Web Site:

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

### The Hudson Green Editorial Board

Editor.....	Elsie Thomas
Layout.....	John Franklin
Mailing.....	Cole Waite
Publicity.....	Jack Bowers

## Selected New Acquisitions to the Library Archives

by Gwendolyn Mayer



The Once and Future Union-The Rise & Fall of the United Rubber Workers  
 Index to Marriages & Deaths in the New York Herald 1871-1876  
 The North Carolina Ancestor Exchange  
 Phantom Pain-North Carolina's Artificial Limb Program for Confederate Veterans  
 Descendants of Isaac Van Tuyl Sr.  
 Town of Bedford, Westchester Co, NY –Historical Records (4 vols.)  
 The Ancestry of Harriet A. Underwood Johnson Jayne History  
 History of the Jayne Family  
 Kane and the Upper Allegheny  
 Verses from a Grateful Heart  
 The Minutes of the Correspondent, May 1780 to February 1809 (being the Oldest Minutes of any Presbyterian Group West of the Allegheny Mountains)  
 Pigeon Creek Baptist Church: The History of a Congregation in Vanceville, PA  
 Marriages from Venango County (PA) Sources  
 Index- Beaver County, PA Tax Records - 1802-1840  
 Presbyterian Churches in Allegheny County, PA.  
 Atlas of Seneca County, OH. 1874  
 The 1787 Census of Virginia, Loudoun County  
 The Personal Property Tax Lists for the Year 1788 for Loudoun County, VA  
 The Personal Property Tax Lists for the Year 1789 for Loudoun County, VA  
 Index to Butler County, PA Wills 1796-1900  
 The Town of Bedford (New York): A Commemorative History  
 Retrospective View from a WWII Foxhole (local author)  
 Abstracts of the Wills & Estate Records of Granville County, NC 1833-1846  
 American Prisoners of War held at Halifax during the War of 1812 (2 vols.)  
 Swiss Russian Mennonite Families Before 1874  
 Unlocking Your Genetic History  
 Early Indiana Trails and Surveys

Proprietary Records of South Carolina (2 vols)  
 Ordinary Women in the Antislavery Movement-The Great Silent Army of Abolitionism  
 Bernese Anabaptists  
 1671 Census of the Delaware  
 Halifax County, Virginia Deed Books (6 vols.)  
 First Families of Anne Arundel County, Maryland 1649-1658  
 Regimental History of the 316th Infantry (vol.1)  
 New Englanders in the 1600s  
 The Settlement of Horsham Township  
 Runaways, Deserters, and Notorious Villains from Rhode Island Newspapers (2 vols.)  
 Bond's Genealogies and History of Watertown, Second Edition  
 Byberry Waltons  
 Genealogical and Personal History of the Upper Monongahela Valley, West Virginia (2 vols.)  
 Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence (7 vols.)  
 Early Landowners of Pennsylvania-Atlas of Twp Warrantee Maps of Washington County  
 Early Landowners of Pennsylvania-Atlas of Warrantee Maps of Greene County  
 Early Landowners of Pennsylvania-Atlas of Warrantee Maps of Berks County  
 Genealogical Guidebook & Atlas of Norway



## Did you hear about Family Roots Radio?

Hosted by well-known genealogical author, speaker and researcher, **Kory L. Meyerink**, the show will feature a wide range of "how-to" elements designed to assist all people interested in family history, from the novice to the professional.

In addition to answering general questions from listeners, spotlighting important family history news and providing research tips from professionals, the show will include guests from among the most prominent genealogists today. The show will also explore effective ways to use software and the Internet in the pursuit of family history, including spotlighting data-rich web sites. To listen live to the show, log on to the Voice of America Channel each week, Thursday at 4PM Eastern Standard Time, or go to [www.familyrootsradio.com](http://www.familyrootsradio.com) to download or listen live. (Internet talk radio)

## Grandmother's Birthplace

By Priscilla Graham

There have been two genealogists in my family, but I am not one of them. I am grateful to both a long-deceased distant cousin (whose name I don't even know) and to a niece who is a Certified Genealogist. She has done lots of research on birth, baptism, marriage, and death dates going back three hundred years in New England, and back even further to old England in the 1500s.

What a skeleton she has built on which to try to put flesh and blood!

Who were these people? What did they do for a living, and how did they fit into the context of their times? Many of these ancestors have left tantalizing clues. Since I love mysteries and puzzles, trying to put the pieces together is challenging as well as informative. And, of course, never-ending. I'll never really know all about the past, but to quote the writer Rory Stewart, paraphrasing Rousseau, "While I may not always have recorded what is true, I have tried not to record what I know to be false."

Here is an example of what I thought was an intriguing tidbit and how I followed up on it: my father was never able to tell his children much about his family, as his father died when he was nine, and his mother when he was twelve. He had a much older sister who died young. So all I knew about his family were a few photographs of a stern-looking and very proper couple, and the genealogical research of dates and places.

On my father's side, I come from a solidly Yankee background. No one ventured very far from home. All resided in Massachusetts and Rhode Island except for a few brave souls who moved as far away as Connecticut. This was consistent for at least ten or twelve generations. No one left his or her little patch of New England except for my father's mother, Elizabeth Brigham White, who died in Fall River, MA, but was born in Delaware, Ohio. *Delaware, Ohio!* What is that doing with all these deeply-entrenched New Englanders?

The Archives at the Hudson Library and Historical Society came to my rescue. It was so easy. There on the shelves was an 1866 Atlas for Delaware County, OH and an entry on Page 855: "The flax mill, as it was popularly called, is another enterprise that may be said to be due to the old oil mill. In 1855, Mssrs. James M. Hawes and D .S. Brigham, from the East, became interested in turning to account the large quantity of flax straw that failed

to find a ready market here and, interesting Judge T. W. Powell in the project, they built a factory 40x50 feet, two stories high, and filled it with machinery for preparing the straw for market. . . Judge Powell had withdrawn at the end of the first year, and at this time Mr. Hawes bought out the remaining partner . . ."

It all fits. My grandmother, Elizabeth, was born in 1856 in Delaware when her mother and father had moved to Ohio, obviously to make their fortunes. And it is also clear that my great-grandfather, David Sewall Brigham (the D. S. Brigham mentioned in the Atlas) was unsuccessful, or homesick, or perhaps his wife Mary wanted to move with her baby back east to be closer to family. The reason for their return to MA will probably never be known unless some letters or correspondence turn up unexpectedly. But now the "born Delaware, Ohio" part is understandable.

So it's off to the next mystery. This one concerns two sisters who leave Bermuda for Boston in the late 1600s, and will not be so easy to solve.



## Member Death

We regret the passing of Alice Maynard Van Vlack, a former member. Those of us who knew Alice will certainly miss her presence, as she was a regular in the archives.

## INDEX TO THE HUDSON GREEN VOLUME 17: 2006

By Ted M. Minier

<u>Name</u>	<u>Issue No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Issue No.</u>
Allread, Jean D.	1, 2, 3, 4	Henderson, J. Neil	1, 2, 3, 4
Atwater, Gotham	1	Hudson, David	1, 3
Averill, Seward	1, 2, 3, 4	Huff, Paul	2
Barton, Clara	3	Huskonen, Wallace	2
Beam, Sherry	1, 2, 3, 4	Jefferson, Thomas	1
Bissonette, Dr. Anne	4	Kelley, Rev. Henry T.	1
Black Hawk, Chief	3	Kennedy, Winnetta	4
Bowers, Jack K.	1, 2	Kilbourne, Charles	3
Brady, Matthew	3	Kilpatrick, Patricia Baldwin	1
Brock, Nancy	3, 4	Kilpatrik, Rufus Hall	1
Brown, James	3	Kopp, Hans	3
Bugh, Catherine Haverstick	3	Krum, Kristina	2
Bugh, Estelle	3	Lash, Amanda	1
Bugh, Jacob	3	Leach, Mary	1
Bugh, John W.	3	Lockhard, A.W.	3
Bugh, Peter	3	London, Jack	4
Bugh, Samuel	3	Mayer, Gwen	1, 2, 3, 4
Bugh, William Augustus	3	McJann, Loren	4
Burbank, Rev. Caleb	1	McLenon, Bertha	4
Caccamo, James F.	1, 2, 3, 4	McLenon, Bula	4
Cetina, Judith	4	McLenon, Dora	4
Cheesman, Evans	1	McLenon, Iren	4
Cheesman, Janet	1	McLenon, John	4
Cobb, Rev. Nathaniel	1	McLenon, Latha D.	4
Coolman, H.C.	4	McLenon, Thomas	4
Darrow, Charlotte	1	McNulty, Mary	3
Darrow, George	1	McNeece, Jesse P.	4
Dean, James "Jimmy"	3	McQueen, Effie P.	4
Dobos, Gene	2	McQueen, J.P.	4
Dvorak, Paul	2	McQueen, Mary L.	4
Eastman, Dick	3	McQueen, Wilbur D.	4
Else, Willis I.	1, 2, 3, 4	McQueen, Jesse	4
Ferguson, Connie S.	1, 2, 3, 4	McQueen, Jesse T.	4
Fourier, Charles	3	Middleton, W.G.	3
Franklin, John H.	1, 2, 3, 4	Minier, Ted M.	3, 4
Freimark, Dan	3	Morgan, Brent	3
Funderburk, Ray	2	Morrison, Georgia	3
Gannon, George	4	Murray, Pat	2
Garland, Clarissa	1	Murray, Wallace	2
Gaylord, Joel	1	Norton, Aaron	1
Gaylord, Olive	1	Norton, Charity	1
Gillette, E.	1	Oviatt, Charity	1
Golby, Carol K.	3, 4	Oviatt, Heman	1
Grant, Ulysses	3	Oviatt, Homer	1

**INDEX TO THE HUDSON GREEN  
VOLUME 17: 2006**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Issue No.</u>
Oviatt, John	1
Oviatt, Lida	1
Oviatt, Miles	1
Oviatt, William	1
Painting, Trudy	1, 2, 3, 4
Peck, Mae	2
Porter, Cole	3
Powell, Elissa Scalise	1
Powell, Kimberly	1, 2, 4
Robinson, Betty	1
St. Clair, Arthur	1
Satava, Richard D.	1, 2, 3, 4
Scott, Ann Miller	1
Scott, Ben Noon	1
Scott, Frances	1
Scott, Jacob	1
Sherman, Hanna	1
Smith, Frank Norman "Pete"	2
Smith, Jackie	2
Smith, Jonna	2
Smith, Karen	2
Soblosky, Helen	1
Solon, Marge	2
Stark, G.P.	3
Stock, Fran	2
Sullivan, H.A.	4
Taylor, Maureen A.	1
Thomas, Elsie	1, 2, 3, 4
Tully, Jim	4
Turner-Taylor, Pam	1, 2, 3, 4
VerStratten, Flora	3
Waite, Cole	1, 2, 3, 4
Wagner, Marv Jr.	3
Wahlers, Jack	3
Walker, Elizabeth "Libby"	1
Walker, Vernon	1
Walker, William	1
Weese, Charles R.	1, 2, 3, 4
Wright, Polly	1

**Hudson****Tidbits**

**Members of the Medical Profession  
who practiced in Hudson,  
Ohio from 1800-1933 as compiled by  
George Andrew Miller M.D.**

Transcribed & edited by Gwendolyn Mayer  
(This series will continue in future issues.)

*DR. JOHN EDWARD ALLPORT* was born in Ohio on April 12, 1862. Graduating from Baltimore Medical College in 1897, he came to Hudson in 1902 from Streetsboro, where he had been located for several years. No one now knows where he came from before arriving in Streetsboro. Dr. Allport was in Hudson two years, leaving for Cleveland in 1904. He returned to Hudson again in 1918, remaining until 1920. He promoted Glenville Hospital in Cleveland, also Peoples Hospital in Akron, Ohio, The Portage Drug Company, and others. He died in Los Angeles, CA. Sept 21, 1923.

*DR. MARY EVANS ANDERSON* was born in Franklin Co. PA June 25, 1854. She attended a secondary school at Fairfield, Iowa, and two years at Toledo University. She graduated from Michigan College of Medicine and Surgery in 1896. She married and practiced medicine with her husband, D. William Vincent Anderson, for several years. She did university extension work on health for several years and at the same time worked for Ohio State University for eighteen years. She worked for the United States government in 1918 on food conservation for the State of Michigan. She was a member of the Summit County Board of Education for twelve years. She moved to Hudson from Peninsula Ohio in 1925.

*DR. GEORGE PARRISH ASHMUN* was born in St. Lawrence County, New York in 1822. In 1834 he came to Tallmadge, Ohio. He began the study of medicine with Dr. Amos Wright of that place, and graduated from the Cleveland Medical College in 1839. He practiced one year in Uniontown, Stark County; five years in Boston, Summit County; and nine years in Hudson, from 1845 to 1854. In 1862 he entered the Army and served two years as surgeon of the Ninety-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry. In 1864 he resigned and returned home, after which he practiced in Akron, Ohio until his death. He was elected state senator from Summit-Portage District in October 1850, for two years. He died in 1873.

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




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## Next Meetings

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March 10    9:30    Quarterly Meeting -  
“Displaying Family Photographs”.  
Lorel Rubins

March 17    9:30    Irish and Scotch Irish Workshop  
Carolyn Pace - Scotch Irish  
Diane Gagel - Irish  
**Pre-Registration Required**

April 12-14    OGS Annual Conference, "Along  
the National Road: Your Avenue  
to the Past", at the Hyatt Regency  
Hotel, Columbus, Ohio.

May 5-6    Field Trip to Allen County  
Library,  
Fort Wayne, IN

May 9    7 pm    “And Ours to Hold -Virginia:  
Jamestown and the Beginning of  
the Colonial Experience in  
America”  
Ambassador John Ong  
**Note change of day and time**

May 16-19    National Genealogical Society  
Conference, Richmond, VA

June 2    9:30    Youth and Genealogy

June 9    9:30    Annual Meeting -  
“Finding Your Native American  
Connection”.  
Robert Roche