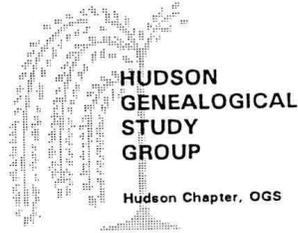


# THE HUDSON GREEN

News Letter of the

## Gone Away Into Happiness

By Gwen Mayer



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She came to me one day, this very private woman named Merritt, who was an acquaintance through library circles. Her query concerned a gravestone she had seen while walking with her father through a cemetery in Kent. The stone was for Arthur A. Nutting and read, "born in Hamilton, Mont. Dec 21, 1891 and died in Jalapa, Mexico June 4, 1898 - Gone Away Into Happiness." She was intrigued by the geography, since the grave located in Northeast Ohio was so far from the birth and death places; by the unusual inscription; and by the absence of any mention of parents. Nutting was a familiar name to me, as there had been a Rufus Nutting family in Hudson, but we eventually learned that they were unrelated. Merritt wanted to know more.

As we began our research, we thought of starting in the federal census, and then remembered that Arthur Nutting had lived and died between census years. To determine his parentage then, we had to look beyond censuses. We plugged his name into Ancestry.Com and came up with nothing. We then sought to discover anything from the surrounding graves in the cemetery with the same surname. The grave to the left of Arthur's contained his paternal aunt, Anna Nutting (1850-1944), and the graves to the right were Eli and Julia Nutting, according to a Kent, Ohio cemetery index. We examined a local history that identified Anna as a beloved school teacher who never married, and Eli (1811-1894) and Julia (1822-1916) were identified as Amherst, Mass natives who had moved to Kent in

1849 and parented two children, Anna (1850-1944) and Myron (1855-1948). Now the family was beginning to take shape; we had three generations and a westward migration.

Understanding the motivations, feelings and choices of someone can be a challenge, but I recognized that my friend really wanted to understand who this buried child was. She wanted more than just a name, she wanted his *story*. We went back to the computer and searched for Eli Nutting. We discovered he was a builder, lived his life in Kent and raised a family. We came to understand he left Amherst, MA to forge a new life in the Western Reserve. We then searched for Myron Nutting, and that's when it all got confusing. There were multiple Myron Nuttings in several locations, and several women attached to the name Myron. Undaunted, my friend Merritt returned weeks later with a five generation chart filled out. She had sorted through all the citations and the portrait of a family began to emerge. Her excitement level had risen a great deal; she was bursting with enthusiasm for all she had to tell me.

Merritt had deduced that Myron Eli Nutting (1855-1948) was the son of Eli, while Myron Chester (1890-1972) was the son of Myron Eli. We sought outside sources to confirm her detective work, but birth records were elusive. We ultimately found confirmation in Anna's obituary, yet we still didn't know how Arthur fit into this, nor what Montana and Mexico had to

do with this family. We used emigration records, passport applications, and employment records, but it was not until we tripped over a transcribed oral history online that we began to get a clear picture of these departed individuals. This amazing document answered so many questions.

We learned that Eli had been born in 1811 and was a descendant of the Rev. John Nutting, who had arrived in the New World in the 1640s and died in King Philip's War. Merritt became excited to learn that this family had forebears here in America. Eli had traveled by rail to Buffalo, NY, by boat to Cleveland, and then by stage to Kent.

Myron Eli Nutting was born in 1855. He was educated at Ohio State University, saw military service with a unit at President Garfield's funeral, and developed a keen scientific interest in many things. Myron Eli's first employment was for the Union Pacific Railroad in Denver, CO as an engineer during the late 1880s. It was in Denver that he met and married a Virginia native and orphan, Ida Carpenter. Shortly thereafter, the young couple moved to Butte, Montana for Myron to earn a living. He went to work for Marcus Daley at the Anaconda Copper Mine (at that time the world's largest producing copper mine). Pregnant Ida traveled with Myron Eli by horseback to the copper mine camps and, with the aid of a Native American midwife, delivered a son, Myron Chester, in 1890 and subsequently Arthur in 1891 in the wilds of Montana and Nevada.

The oral history provided such a rich portrait of this strong-willed and vibrant woman, Ida C. Nutting, that I was fascinated by her story alone. Yet my friend Merritt continued reading and learned how

this small family moved over and over around the western United States for Myron's employment, though always returning from time to time to the family homestead in Kent. Ida told the children stories of her history and emphasized the importance of passing these same stories down to future generations. We also learned much of Arthur, also called Arlie. It was during the late 1890s when the family moved to the Tampico and Jalapa regions of Mexico so Myron Eli could help build a railroad owned by Marcus Daly. Myron Chester recalls that his serious, artistic, blond and blue-eyed brother, who resembled the fictional character Little Lord Fauntleroy, loved to explore a nearby Mexican cemetery. According to his brother, Arlie would stand and ponder on the graves of the departed. When asked why he did this, he would speak of them as "gone away into happiness." Soon Arlie, a victim of Scarlet Fever, would himself go there. His sorrowful family returned to Kent, Ohio to bury little Arlie at Standing Rock Cemetery. Ida also died—of malaria—while the Mexican Revolution was raging, so the family was unable to bring her body home from Mexico.

One might think my friend's curiosity would be sated and her quest would end once she had discovered the circumstance of little Arlie's death, yet it did not. Merritt was determined to figure out if another Myron was related to the ones we had researched thus far. Our Myron Chester returned to New York with his father and began to frequent the New York Metropolitan Art Museum. He began to study art as a way to honor his brother. After art school, he decided to kick about Europe for a time, according to his oral history. When in Rome, he witnessed the early days of World War I, and fell in love with another American, a woman significantly older than himself—Helen Hayes (1876-1947.) After marriage, this

young couple was forced to seek refuge from the war with the Red Cross. They barely escaped from Italy in time to avoid being involved in battle. Later in 1919, the couple returned to Paris and witnessed the Paris Peace Conference. They also became close friends and confidants of other artists, such as authors James Joyce and Sylvia Beach.

War loomed on the horizon again during the 1930s and '40s, and the Nuttings barely escaped those troubles. This time a promised job teaching in an art school in Wisconsin beckoned. Teaching did not suit Myron Chester, but he found employment as an artist for the WPA just at the time Helen's health began to decline. Nutting produced a few paintings for the WPA, but then satisfied the ailing Helen's wish to return to her native California. In California, Myron Chester found a job in an aircraft plant producing planes for the war effort while caring for a dying Helen. After her death, he did find solace in teaching and later in a second marriage. His father and aunt also ultimately died in California and their bodies were returned to Ohio for burial. Myron Chester never fathered a child, so this branch of the Nutting family died with him in 1972.

With this knowledge, Merritt now had her answers. We talked for awhile about this remarkable family and how they traveled and witnessed so many amazing events in history. We joked about how it would be great material for a book, and how she should write it. She demurred...but I knew later, when I drove through Standing Rock Cemetery and found the flowers recently planted on Arlie's grave, that that had been

her way to honor his life. Just a few months later, I read of my friend Merritt's own death. She also had no children. All these people now gone with no one left to tell their stories. For a while, I pondered again and again, what is it I am to learn from this? Finally, I found my answer.

Merritt was a librarian—the same kind of librarian as I—an archivist. She produced what we call finding aids. These are documents that aid the average person in understanding another's papers. She organized the papers and created a record for all to see. As Ida told her history to her living son, Myron Chester in turn captured his life in an extensive oral history. My lesson, the one I share with all of you, is to capture stories of people we know. Merritt did so by creating tools for others to access history. Ida did it her way, and Myron's achievements in life caused others to seek out his history and write it down. Every life has value, and from them we can learn something, but first they must be chronicled. Please, record yours and others' stories for history.

## Ancestors in Battles of Saratoga

Descendants of Revolutionary War soldiers who fought in the Battles of Saratoga can now find their ancestors in a computer database. History buffs have spent twelve years gathering information from 200-year-old military documents. The resulting database contains the names of 15,000 of the more than 17,000 soldiers of the Continental Army and various state militias who participated in those battles. Saratoga was where the Patriots defeated the British in 1777.

The database is available at Saratoga National Historical Park in New York State. Tourists can search it using a touch-screen computer at the Park's Visitor Center.

By knowing a soldier's regiment, park rangers can help visitors find the general area on the 3,400-acre battlefield where each unit is known to have fought or been encamped.

The database is being added to and eventually will include the names of British soldiers, German

mercenaries, Canadians and Loyalists, as well as the names of some Native Americans who fought here—Oneidas for the Americans, Mohawks for the British.

Members of a group called Heritage Hunters decided in 1998 to compile the lists from detailed records kept by many American regiments. Americans defeated British forces on 7 October 1777 nearly three weeks after the Brits won the first battle, but couldn't advance south before becoming surrounded. British General John Burgoyne surrendered 17 Oct 1777 in what is now a village park along the Hudson River.

Online, go to: Saratoga National Historical Park at: <http://www.nps.gov/sara/> or

to Heritage Hunters: <http://saratoga.nygenweb.com> .

Volunteers pored over 233-year-old muster rolls, pay lists and other lists in the National Archives and elsewhere to obtain this information. Pennsylvania's Valley Forge "muster roll," which started on paper in the 1940s, now contains names of more than 33,000 American soldiers camped there in the winter of 1777-78, but Saratoga is considered unique for compiling what is someday expected to be a nearly complete list of battle participants.

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This is taken from an article that appeared online, the URL of which was forwarded to me by Gwen Mayer.—[Hudson Green Editor.]



*Surrender of General Burgoyne* by John Trumbull, 1822;  
This painting hangs in the United States Capitol Rotunda.

## President's Message



It always comes as a surprise to me the number of people in our community who don't know that we offer, free of charge, the use of Ancestry.com and several other programs through which people can search for ancestors. In addition, we have volunteers who stand ready to help the beginner get started. These programs are bought by our library, which is planning a levy this year for operating costs. I know this is much needed, so I am definitely FOR the levy. A look through the local paper shows how much our library offers for people of all ages. It is a real community center.

I also recommend that researchers interview any family members available for what they might know about anything pertaining to their families. Jennifer Worick has a book titled *Beyond the Family Tree* in which she gives one thousand sample questions. This might help people get started who don't know what to ask. It is available at our library.

I will be in sunny (I hope) Florida for the next few months, but will be in close touch. HAPPY HUNTING!

**Nancy Brock**

## New Ohio Resources on Family Search Labs

Family Search Labs at <https://www.familysearch.org/s/collection/list>, home of the free digital images of Ohio Death Certificates from December 20, 1908-1953, has recently added the following Ohio databases to their Record Search:

Ohio Births and Christenings, 1821-1962

Ohio Marriages, 1800-1958

Ohio Deaths and Burials, 1854-1997

Ohio Tax Records, 1800-1850

The databases include information that volunteer indexers have extracted from microfilm copies of the original records over the past 30 years. While coverage of the databases is incomplete and original images are only included for the tax records, they are still worth a look. [A coverage table on the Family Search Labs Research Wiki shows the number of records available for each county if you want to check it for a certain county before you begin a search. The quickest way to access it is to click on the "About this collection" link from either the main search screen for one of the databases or from within an individual database record.] Using the source Film Number supplied at the bottom of each entry, researchers can locate the microfilm of the records in the LDS library catalog and can inter-library loan it through Special Collections for a cost of \$5.50/reel.

...as viewed in *Marshland to Heartland*, Ottawa Co. OGS, Jul, Aug, Sep 2010.

## Labeling Cemetery Photographs

Venturing out in the nice weather to do a little cemetery sleuthing? Bring a small white board and dry erase markers and write the name of the cemetery and grave location on it. Put it in front of the headstone and photograph it with the stone. Voila! All your pictures will be labeled with the location. No muss, no fuss!

[Ancestor Trails, Trumbull County, OGS- 11 Feb 2011]



Woodland Cemetery,  
Cleveland, Ohio

## New Cemetery Index

The East Cuyahoga County Genealogy Society has created a burial index of all Cleveland-owned cemeteries.

Approximately 70 volunteers from all over the country worked on this project. About 40% represents Highland Park Cemetery.

The database is available at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohcdrt/clecems/index.html>

## Recent Acquisitions to the Archives

By Gwen Mayer

- From Small Town to Downtown: A History of the Jewett Car Company, 1893-1919 by Lawrence A. Brough and James H. Graebner.
- Practical Dreamer: Gerrit Smith and the Crusade for Social Reform by Norman K. Dann.
- Abstracts for The Connecticut Gazette: Covering Southeastern Connecticut 1774-1776 by Richard Marrin.
- Abstracts from The New London Gazette, 1763-1769 by Richard B. Marrin.
- Fires in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania (1875-1907), by Joel Fishman, Ph.D. and Lisa Ann Senkow.
- Marriage Returns City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA. Volumes 1-3, by Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society.
- Deaths in the Pennsylvania Bituminous Coal Districts, 1888-1897. Vol. 1, by Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society.
- Marriages in Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, 1877-1882, by Suzanne M. Johnston.
- Index to the Registration of Deaths- Allegheny County Pennsylvania, 1893-1905. Compiled and published by the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society.
- Railroad Tow: Kent and the Erie Railroad, by Bruce Dzeda.
- Emigration From the United Kingdom to America, Lists of Passenger Arriving at U.S. Ports, Vol. 7: January 1873-June 1873. by Ira A. Glazer 0001516217377.
- The History of North Royalton 1811-1911, by North Royalton Historical Society.
- Genealogies of the Descendants of the First Settlers of Schenectady 1662-1800, by Jonathan Pearson.
- "Drinks hard, and swears much"- White Maryland Runaways, 1770-1774, by Joseph Lee Doyle.
- A History of Louisa County, Virginia, by Malcom H. Harris.
- The People of the Scottish Burghs- A Genealogical Source Book. The People of Kirkcaldy 1600-1799, by David Dobson.
- The People of the Scottish Burghs- A Genealogical Source Book. The People of Greenock, 1600-1799, by David Dobson.
- The Colonial Clergy of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina, by The Reverend Frederick Lewis Weis.

- The Moravians in North Carolina, An Authentic History, by Rev. Levin T. Reichel.
- Destination Canada, A Genealogical Guide to Immigration Records, by Dave Obee.
- Wapham Family History, prepared by Robert Wapham.
- The History the Ravenna Arsenal by Ralph A. Pfingsten.
- Portage County, Ohio - The 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Edited by Christina McVay.
- Celebrating 150 Years, St. Mary Church, Hudson, OH.

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## Last Resort

When you come to the end of your patience trying to find an ancestor, there is always the option of hiring a professional researcher from the area in which your ancestor(s) lived. Just be sure you first settle between you the price per hour, and how many hours you want to pay for. You can start modestly at two or three, unless the researcher has a minimum established.

Our late friend and mentor, Connie Ferguson, always counseled us to make sure the researcher was a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (available online), but you may locate someone who is not a member, yet does a good job. I found one in Salt Lake City who did excellent work, but I never asked if she was on the approved list. She was the sister of one of my instructors there when I went on an Elderhostel (now called Road Scholars.)

The Editor.



## INDEX TO THE HUDSON GREEN VOLUME 21: 2010

By Ted M. Minier

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**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**Hudson Genealogical Study Group**  
**Hudson Chapter O.G.S.**

The nominating committee headed by Elsie Thomas, including Gwen Mayer and Helen Soblosky presents the following slate of proposed officers for 2011 to be voted upon at the June 4 Annual Meeting:

President - Mary Hughes  
Vice-President- Helen Soblosky  
Secretary - Betty Franklin  
Assistant Secretary -Carleen Welch  
Treasurer- Jack Bowers  
Assistant Treasurer - Dick Satava  
Trustee – Awaiting confirmation

## Old School Record Book in Hudson Archives 1847-8

Nancy Brock has been diligently copying the contents of a fragile school attendance record book for District #5 Twinsburg Township and #9 Northfield Township kept for the above dates. The family names of many students she recorded would be familiar to older Hudson residents, and indeed, some pupils may have been Hudson residents. Hine, Humiston, Post, Curtis, Harris, Maxum, Chamberlin, Oviatt, Phipps... all are represented, plus many other surnames not so well known.

What is noteworthy, and to be expected given those times, is the small proportion of girls to boys who attended school. For example, for the quarter commencing 1 May 1848 to its ending on 26 July 1848, the total number of scholars enrolled was 23 males and two females. Presumably the girls were home spinning, weaving, baking bread, etc.

Subjects taught were Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, and Orthography. The last-named subject embraced correct writing and spelling,

although an accepted standard for correct spelling was still in its infancy.

You may wonder what teachers were paid. H. A. Chamberlin writes he commenced teaching in the above districts Nov. 29, 1847 and continued through the month at the rate of \$16 per month and board for himself. He writes: "The whole sum of schollars [sic] and me in attendance was fifty-one, daily average attendance was forty-two. School closed February 17, 1848.

Another teacher, M. D. Everest, writes that he commenced school Nov. 20, 1848 and continued three months at the rate of \$15 per month and board and washing [laundry] furnished, amounting to forty-five dollars. Amount of public money received for teaching: 44 dollars and 56 cents.

If anyone would like to consult these transcriptions, they are available in the Hudson Library Archives. Nancy intends to work on a second book when time permits, which we will report on at a later date.

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### HUDSON GENEALOGICAL STUDY GROUP

#### Membership Information for 2010 – 2011

(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



## OUR MARCH SPEAKERS

The Hudson Genealogy Study Group will meet at 10 a.m. in the Hudson Library on March 5 to hear Richard Fetzer speak on Mayflower Descendants. Dick, a longtime genealogist, was a founding member of the Western Reserve Historical Society's Genealogical Committee. He is also past president of the Ohio Sons of the American Revolution and has held many important offices in numerous genealogical societies. He is currently Archivist and Honorary Life Board Member of the Aurora Historical Society.

On March 19, Sunda Anderson Peters, currently a Mansfield resident and newly elected President of the Ohio Genealogical Society, will address the group at 10 a.m. in the Hudson Library on OGS Holdings. Through the years, she has served as OGS newsletter editor, trustee, and held a number of other offices before becoming President. Prior to her involvement in OGS, she taught elementary school and learning disabled students for over 30 years.

## NEXT MEETINGS

March 5 Mayflower & Descendants  
Speaker – Richard L. Fetzer

19 Ohio Genealogical Society Holdings  
Speaker - Sunda Anderson Peters

Also, nominations for 2011-12 officers of Hudson Genealogy Study Group will be announced.

Both meetings are free and open to the public.