

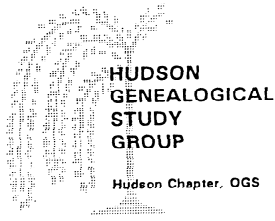
THE HUDSON GREEN

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SEPTEMBER 2008

NEWSLETTER OF



Hudson Chapter, The Ohio Genealogical Society

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Abraham Lincoln's Disputed Genealogy

Elsie M. Thomas

The Dick Eastman Genealogy Newsletter of 15 July 2008 carried a Web link to an article which had appeared in *Genealogy Today*, a publication based in Providence, NJ, about the "real forbears" of the 16th U. S. President, Abraham Lincoln. The article was written by R. Vincent Enlow, copyright 2001. It contradicts what most of us have learned as schoolchildren, that Abe Lincoln was born 12 February 1809 in a log cabin in Kentucky, that his mother was Nancy Hanks, his father Thomas Lincoln. We were told that very little was known about earlier generations.

It appeared from their comments that many readers of the Eastman Newsletters had heard of this rumor many times and some chided Eastman for running it because it was old material, but to me it was new. I had recently read two books on the life of Mary Todd Lincoln, one historical fiction, the second factual, which clarified fanciful, and hard to accept, items included in the fiction work. Neither shed any light on the issue of her husband's ancestry.

Enlow based his case on books by James H. Cathey, *The Genesis of Lincoln*, written in 1899; *Abraham Lincoln: A North Carolinian With Proof*, Second Edition, 1927 by J. C. Coggins; and one other, *Life of Lincoln* by Ward Lamon, to whom Lincoln's law partner, William H. Herndon, supplied information. The latter, however, was alleged to have been rigorously censored before publication by Lincoln's son Robert, Secretary of War, who had presidential ambitions and wanted his father's humble beginnings screened from the public. These books are among over 2,500 books (according to Enlow) written about Lincoln after his assassination.

Briefly, Lincoln's grandmother, Lucy Hanks, is said

by Enlow to have been promiscuous and had two daughters out of wedlock, Manda and Nancy. Desperately poor, Lucy could not care for them, so they were taken in by other families--Manda by a family named Pratt, Nancy bound out to the family of Abraham Enlow, a successful businessman living in Rutherford County, North Carolina. Nancy was raised like an Enlow daughter, but at 18 became pregnant with Abraham Enlow's child. Mrs. Enlow furiously demanded that her husband get rid of the girl.

Having moved his family to a more westerly N.C. location just south of present-day Asheville, now Swain County, Enlow sent Nancy back to his former home on Puzzle Creek in Rutherford County. There his tenants cared for Nancy until her baby was born, about 1806. Later, Enlow arranged for Nancy and baby Abraham to be transported to Kentucky by his son-in-law, who was living there.

Enlow, the story continues, kept in touch and sent money to support mother and child. On one of his business trips to Kentucky, he met Thomas Lincoln, and for a consideration of money and several other items, he persuaded Thomas to marry Nancy. It was later said by people living in the area that Thomas Lincoln beat the boy, and when the mother intervened, he beat her too. So this is the tale that R. Vincent Enlow has presented to a skeptical public.

It has been written that Lincoln and his law partner, William Herndon, were not on the best of terms, and it is documented that Herndon was never invited to the White House after Lincoln became president. Herndon disliked Mrs. Lincoln, and may have been jealous of Abraham. He resented it when Lincoln let his little sons have the run of the office they shared, and thought the Lincolns poor dis-

ciplinarrians, which makes some of his comments suspect.

R. Vincent Enlow goes to great lengths to lend his story credence by citing Cathey's testimonials of former neighbors of the Enlows in both areas of North Carolina, but since no one can verify that these conversations actually took place, they cannot be counted as factual.

I have in my hands a library copy of LINCOLN, An Illustrated Biography, assembled by Philip B.Kunhardt, Jr. and his two sons Philip III and Peter, based on the collection of Civil War photographs and memorabilia collected by their grandfather, Frederick Hill Meserve. Many are pictures of daguerreotypes as well as reproduced photographs by Matthew B. Brady and others. It also contains a facsimile of Abraham Lincoln's own handwriting in which he says the following: "My paternal grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, emigrated from Rockingham County, Virginia, to Kentucky, about 1781 or 2, when, a year or two later, he was killed by indians, not in battle, but by stealth, when he was laboring to open a farm in the forest -- His ancestors, who were quakers, went to Virginia." In another facsimile of his handwriting, he states, "I was born Feb. 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky". Abe was seven years old when his restless father pulled up stakes and went to Indiana with his wife, their first child, Sarah, and young Abe. Another son, Thomas, was born on a farm there but lived only a few days. Nancy died in 1816, and after a decent interval, Thomas Lincoln returned to Kentucky and approached widow Sarah Bush Johnston, a friend of Nancy's, whom he too had known as a young girl, with an offer of marriage. She accepted and with her three young children returned with Lincoln to Indiana, where she became the kind and loving step-mother the young Abe needed, especially after his sister Sarah died a decade after his mother.

Vincent Enlow makes a plausible presentation on behalf of his own ancestor, Abraham Enlow, yet it flies in the face of Lincoln's own words. Is there any possible

truth to it? Might his true origin have been kept from the boy?

It seems to me that here is a unique opportunity for a professional genealogist (or even a clever amateur genealogist) to undertake serious research in an effort to establish once and for all the actual family line, although paper records are understandably scarce in that place and time. Perhaps it could be done through DNA taken from extant Lincoln artifacts if anything exists that would lend itself to this process.



DUES !

We are now accepting dues for 2008—2009 membership year. HGSG dues are \$15.00 per year for individuals, and couples. When you pay your dues, please use the Membership Information form on page 7 so that all your personal information will be up to date.

We urge early payment so you will be listed in the Membership Book since the book will go to the printer on October 15 and be available for the November meeting. Make your check payable to the Hudson Genealogical Study Group.

Members can pay at our September meetings or mail a check to:

Hudson Genealogical Study Group
 96 Library Street
 Hudson, Ohio 44236-5122

The Hudson Green Editorial Board	
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President's Message



Greetings!

It is a great honor to be elected president of the Hudson Genealogical Study Group. I have been a member since the early 90's, having been a board member, treasurer, and layout person for *The Hudson Green* newsletter. With the knowledge from what I learned from being a member of HGSG, I was better

able to research my family roots, but also to become a member of several hereditary organizations: The Sons of the American Revolution of which I'm very active as Ohio 2nd Vice President and Color Guard Commander, First Families of Hudson, First Families of Ohio, First Families of Portage, and The Mayflower Society. I hope to continue my research and join some of the other lineage groups.

In this issue of the Hudson Green, we have listed our programs through December. The HGSC Program Committee has scheduled many interesting programs for the year, from ways to help you with your research, to understanding how life was for our ancestors in the wilderness and their interaction with the native Americans Indians. We start out the year with an introductory class given by Ted Minier, "Introduction to Genealogy." Ted asks that you bring your Five-Generation Chart to the class if you have one, so that our members can try to help other members and guests. Nancy Brock has planned a research field trip to the National Archives and the DAR Library and Museum in Washington, D.C. in September. These exceptional programs would not be possible if not for the work of the program committee. If you have any suggestions for future programs or speakers, please contact me at JHFBMWM5@AOL.COM or 330-656-9066 and I will pass them along to the Program Committee.

I want to thank all HGSG Committee Chairmen and members for their hard work! Our participating members are what makes this an outstanding organization, but also a great group I can call my friends!

In closing I would like to say **HUZZAH!** **HUZZAH!** (This is the colonial way to cheer for one's friends.)

John H. Franklin, Jr.

Browsing through History

(from the Cleveland Plain Dealer, July 25, 2007)

How to get copies of death certificates from the Cleveland Public Library:

Do it yourself: Visit the Microform Center on the first floor of the Cleveland Public Library's Main Branch. Bring a death certificate number. Some numbers are indexed on microfilm. Others are on the Ohio Historical Society Web site:

<http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/death/>

Copies cost 10 cents each at the library.

E-mail a request: If you want three or fewer certificates, e-mail: Microform.center@cpl.org

Provide names of the deceased, dates of death and last place of residence (if known). The library will send to any Ohioan three free certificates during a four-month period. Additional documents in that period cost \$7 each.

Snail mail: You can request free certificate copies by writing to the Microform Center, Cleveland Public Library, 325 Superior Ave., NE, Cleveland, Ohio 44114. Out-of-state residents will be charged \$7 per document.

More information: E-mail the library at PhotoDup@cpl.org or call 216-623-2901.

Copies of Death Certificates are also available from The Akron—Summit County Library :

Akron—Summit County Library Special Collection Divisions / Genealogy Collections also has the Ohio Death Certificate Index on microfilm from 1908-1932 and 1938-1954, and the information is available on microfiche from 1933-1937 (ask at reference desk). The Ohio Death Certificates are on microfilm, 1908-1953.

The Akron—Summit County Library Special Collection Divisions / Genealogy Collections Web site is:

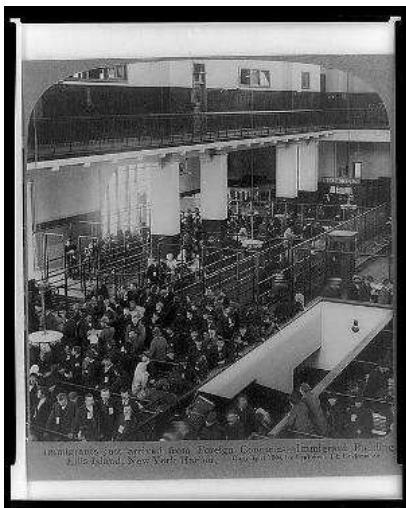
<http://www.akronlibrary.org/internetresources/sc/genealogy.html>

Selected New Acquisitions to the Library Archives

by Gwendolyn Mayer



- Erin's Sons: Irish Arrivals in Atlantic Canada
1761-1853
- Aurora, Ohio (Images of American series)
- Italians to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at
U.S. Ports, vol. 23, April 1903-June 1903
- Selected Pension Payment Vouchers, Pennsylvania
1818-1864 (2 vols.)
- Ohio Oil & Gas (Images of America)
- Ancestry of Harry E. Figgie, Jr.
- Medfield, MA Vital Records to 1850
- South Kingston, RI tax lists 1730-1799
- Published in the Flames—Victims of Deadly Fires in
New England Newspapers and Diaries
(1675-1830)Emigrants to America—Indentured Servants
Recruited in London 1718-1733
- Massachusetts Officers and Soldiers 1702-1722
- Queen Anne's War to Drummer's War



**Immigrants just arrived from Foreign Countries--
Immigrant Building, Ellis Island, New York**

Misnaming at Ellis Island

In Kimberley Powell's *About.com Guide to Genealogy* entry of 30 April 2008, she tells us that one of the most popular myths of genealogy which is still perpetuated by the media is the tale of names being changed as immigrants entered Ellis Island. Quite a few people claim this, but Powell says that, according to Marion Smith, Senior Historian for the Immigration Service, inspection agents at Ellis Island rarely changed any names. Of course, Ms. Smith acknowledges that mistakes were made, but adds that there is no documented case of a name change occurring at Ellis Island.

To be admitted to the United States, immigrants had to provide documentation from their country of origin. This information was used to compile passenger lists at the point abroad where the immigrant purchased his ticket. Once the immigrant arrived in the U.S., Ellis Island clerks were given these previously-compiled passenger manifests, and they checked off the names against the arriving immigrants. There was no need for them to write down the names based on what the immigrant told them.

Many Ellis Island immigration officials were themselves foreign-born, and were assigned to inspect immigrant groups based on the languages with which they were familiar. Ellis Island also employed dozens of full-time interpreters to help translate for immigrants speaking in more obscure tongues.

"That's not to say that your ancestors never changed their names; they just probably didn't do it at Ellis Island," Ms. Smith continues. "Many immigrants personally chose to change their names at some point—often to 'fit in'. But if your family name was changed at some point, it can probably be attributed to something other than a lazy or callous immigration official."

Well, that would seem to shatter some long-held beliefs held by many a descendant, wouldn't it? [Ed.]



Immigrant Landing Station, N.Y. Harbor

Hudson Genealogical Study Group

*All meetings at Hudson Library and Historical Society at 9:30 a.m.
in the Flood Meeting Room unless otherwise noted.

96 Library Street

Hudson, OH 44236

For more information call 330.653.6658 Ext. 1017

Date	Time	Event	Guest Speaker
3-6- Sept-2008		Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference Philadelphia, PA	
6-Sep-2008	9:30 a.m.	<p>Quarterly Meeting "Introduction to Genealogy" Bring Your Five Generation Chart Board Meeting</p>	Ted Minier
15-18 Sept-2008	TBA	Field Trip, Archives/DAR, Washington, DC Pre-registration required	Nancy Brock
4-Oct-2008	9:30 a.m.	"Searching for Your Immigrants' Passage: Ellis Island & Castle Garden"	Nancy Brock
18-Oct-2008	9:30 a.m.	"Comparative Genealogy Programs" Library Computer Lab	Roger Marble
1-Nov-2008	9:30 a.m.	<p>"If You Can't Get Rid of Your Family Skeleton, You May as Well Make Him Dance"</p> <p>Oct. 1, *Watch PBS Program "Secrets of the Dead" Board Meeting</p>	J. Patrick Crippen
15-Nov-2008	9:30 a.m.	"Creative Scapbooking Your Ancestors"	Helen Soblosky
22-Nov-2008		Mayflower Meeting Off site	
6-Dec-2008	TBA	<p>Quarterly Meeting Holiday Party Pre-registration required and off site</p>	

A Short History on the Right to Vote

M. R. French

The women were innocent and defenseless. And by the end of the night, they were barely alive. Forty prison guards wielding clubs and their warden's blessing went on a rampage against the 33 women wrongly convicted of "obstructing sidewalk traffic."

They beat Lucy Burn, chained her hands to the cell bars above her head and left her hanging for the night, bleeding and gasping for air. They hurled Dora Lewis into a dark cell, smashed her head against an iron bed and knocked her out cold. Her cellmate, Alice Cosu, thought Lewis was dead and suffered a heart attack. Additional affidavits describe the guards grabbing, dragging, beating, choking, slamming, pinching, twisting and kicking the women

Please pass this on to all the women you know. We need to get out and vote and use this right that was fought so hard for by these very courageous women.

For weeks, the women's only water came from an open pail. Their food--all of it colorless slop--was infested with worms. When one of the leaders, Alice Paul, embarked on a hunger strike, they tied her to a chair, forced a tube down her throat and poured liquid into her until she vomited. She was tortured like this for weeks until word was smuggled out to the press.

So, refresh my memory. Some women won't vote this year because--why, exactly? We have carpool duties? We have to get to work? Our vote doesn't matter? It's raining?

Last week, I went to a sparsely attended screening of HBO's new movie "Iron Jawed Angels." It is a graphic depiction of the battle these women waged so that I could pull the curtain at the polling booth and have my say. I am ashamed to say I needed the reminder. All these years later, voter registration is still my passion. But the actual act of voting had become less personal for me, more rote. Frankly, voting often felt more like an obligation than a privilege. Sometimes it was inconvenient. My friend Wendy, who is my age and studied women's history, saw the HBO movie, too. When she stopped by my desk to talk about it, she looked angry. She was--with herself. "One thought kept coming back to me as I watched that movie," she said. "What would those women think of the way I use--or don't use--my right to vote? All of us take it for granted now, not just younger women, but those of us who did seek to learn." The right to vote," she said, had

become valuable to her "all over again." HBO will run the movie periodically before releasing it on video and DVD. I wish all history, social studies and government teachers would include the movie in their curriculum. I want it shown on Bunko night, too, and anywhere else women gather. I realize this isn't our usual idea of socializing, but we are not voting in the numbers that we should be, and I think a little shock therapy is in order.

It is jarring to watch Woodrow Wilson and his cronies try to persuade a psychiatrist to declare Alice Paul insane so that she could be permanently institutionalized. And it is inspiring to watch the doctor refuse. Alice Paul was strong, he said, and brave. That didn't make her crazy. The doctor admonished the men: "Courage in women is often mistaken for insanity."

Thus unfolded the "Night of Terror" on Nov. 15, 1917, when the warden at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia ordered his guards to teach a lesson to the suffragists imprisoned there because they dared to picket Woodrow Wilson's White House for the right to vote.



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

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

HUDSON GENEALOGICAL STUDY GROUP

Membership Information for 2008-2009

(Please Print)

Name: _____ Maiden Name: _____

Address: _____

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

Current Email address: _____ Telephone: (____) _____ - _____

Genealogy Software utilized: _____

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. Renewing members please complete and include this form yearly with your check to insure accurate information for our membership booklet. HGSG dues are \$15 per year (or any portion of the year) for both couples and individuals.

Send this form and your check for payment to:

Hudson Genealogical Study Group

96 Library Street

Hudson, Ohio 44236-5122

Florida Winter Residents Can Still Research

It is possible for Ohioans who go to Florida for the winter months to continue their genealogical contacts if they so desire. The Twenty-Fifth Annual Conference of the Florida Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society will be held at the Indian River County Main Library in Vero Beach, Florida, 20-21 February 2009.

The conference will begin Friday evening with a *Night Owl Lock-in* at the library. It is suggested that you may want to check the library's catalog and make a list of the resources you would like to review. Computers and microfilm/microfiche readers will be available for use.

You may also checkout Elmer's Genealogy Library in the panhandle and the small Charlotte County genealogy section in the CCPL.

The speaker on Saturday will be Tom Neel, Library Director of OGS. Lecture topics will be: *A Local Treasure Untouched: Surprises in the Township Records for the Genealogist.*

Ohio Land Records: The Great Experiment
Genealogists Stop for Cemeteries

Conference registration information will be available in August.

Florida Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 466

Melrose, FL 32666-0466

ogsfl@ogsfl.org

<http://ogsfl.org/>

Go to Elmer's web site for his information;

<http://www.elmerslibrary.com/>

Readers may also want to check Cyndi's List on Florida at: <http://www.cyndislist.com/fl.htm>

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



Quarterly Meeting

Our first gathering on September 6th will be brought by Past President Ted Minier, who will present an introduction to genealogy for those new to family research. He requests that those who have them bring their Five-Generation charts.

Next Meetings

- Sept. 6 at 9:30 a.m. Quarterly Meeting
Introduction to Genealogy
Speaker - Ted Minier
- Sept. 25-18 Field Trip, Archives/DAR
Washington, DC
Pre-registration required
- Oct. 4 at 9:30 a.m. Searching for your Immigrants'
Passage: Ellis Island and
Castle Garden
Speaker - Nancy Brock
- Oct. 18 at 9:30 a.m. Comparative Computer
Genealogy Programs
Speaker - Roger Marble