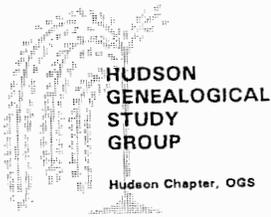


THE HUDSON GREEN

Volume 15, Issue 3

SEPTEMBER 2004

NEWSLETTER OF



Hudson Chapter, The Ohio Genealogical Society

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Genealogy Researching in Hessen-Darmstadt

By Marjorie Solan

For the benefit of those who might be contemplating a trip to Germany to do genealogical research, I offer my experience researching there. My research was primarily in the state of Hessen-Darmstadt and some of its repositories, mostly those in the city of Darmstadt itself. Hessian main public records are in Weisbaden. I have always wanted to visit there, and maybe I'll get there yet.

In 1987 a cousin of mine made a trip to Giessen, where our Great-grandfather had graduated from University, and she also went to Darmstadt. She shared with me the few records she found, which simply whetted my appetite for more. So in 1993 I traveled to Germany to visit the Hessen Genealogical Society, knowing nothing of the German language. The Society was located in an old castle in Darmstadt where the former head of state had lived. The Society's office was open two days a week for just a couple of hours. The day I visited, I soon discovered that the only individual who spoke English was not there. I made an appointment with him for the next open day. He asked if any of my family had actually lived in Darmstadt. At that time, I didn't know. (I later found out that they did indeed, and were active in society there.) Consequently he spent most of our allotted time talking with my husband, who knew little of my family history. But this man did give us a marvelous lecture on German history.

He had someone bring a folder out, however, bearing the Sonnemann name. There was some incomplete German correspondence (Page 2 was missing) which we attempted to photograph because there was no photocopy machine in the office. A second folder was brought out. In it was a very large family tree rolled up into a scroll. My family name was all through it, going back to the 1700s and connecting with another family that went back to the 1500s. I did not recognize those names, as my research hadn't taken me that far back, therefore I wasn't

sure if it was my family. Again we attempted to photograph it, but our results were poor.

Other archives in Hessen are in Marburg and Hessen Kassel beside Darmstadt. Sorry to say, I had no luck in Marburg. I met with one of their aides who told me they do not have names indexed, and that very little material is organized. When I suggested it was a good project for students, he laughed. They either do not wish to help, or they are incapable of helping; you are on your own. I believe German natives can better succeed in finding what they need. Perhaps their local genealogical society could help. I knew that some of my family records had been found there, but all this aide did was shrug his shoulders.

There are archives in Hessen-Kassel, but I am not sure what area this encompasses. Even though one generation of my family lived in upper Waldeck, which is as far north as Kassel, but not as far east, state records were and are kept in the city of Darmstadt. I would say there are about five main resources one can use for research: the state archives (Staats Archiv), the city archives (Stadt Archiv), local libraries (Bibliotek), local genealogical societies (Genealogie Vereinigung or Familien Geshichte Vereinigung), and churches for baptisms, marriages, and deaths.

There is one archive in Leipzig--but no library for public use--which has collected records from all over Germany since before WWI. Even though their main focus is Saxony, they had material on my family from Hessen, but *not* on those who lived in Saxony! Unless you are a German native, you must rely on what the clerks themselves find and bring to you [closed stacks]. In Darmstadt you have more freedom to browse.

Fortunately, family lore told me the city and state

where my great-grandfather came from. His name was Georg Friederich Ludwig Ottmar Sonnemann, but he used the name Ottmar. It was verified by every entry in U.S. public records, such as censuses, wills, etc. Great-grandfather was thorough in making statements to clerks and record keepers. I can imagine his leaning over the records to make sure the information he gave was properly written down.

My other piece of luck was in having an uncommon German name, as well as the fact that my male antecedents were architectural engineers. This meant they were civil servants in the service of heads of state, and there were records on all the generations dating back to 1610 in Riga, Latvia and Copenhagen, Denmark, and then into Frankfurt, Germany. (All the Latvian and Danish information I found in Leipzig. German Hansa traders established a German colony in Latvia around the time of the Crusades, and have been there ever since.)

Next we traveled to Giessen, from where I knew Great-grandfather had come. At the City of Giessen Archives, I was told their records had been decimated in WWII bombings. I found one item on my great-grandfather's brother. We visited the Lutheran Church office and found relatives listed in their records. (Be prepared to write down what you find; not all offices can, or will, photocopy.)

We also stopped in a local library, where I found a reference to the family name in the index of a book. I had it translated by the only person who spoke English there. The translation led me to visit other towns where the family had lived and my great-grandfather had designed churches and other buildings. We had a wonderful time with the townspeople and have many fond memories of our adventures.

When I returned home, I decided that I had better learn some German. Taking two years off from genealogical research, I studied the language at Kent State University. (They have an excellent program, but it's a lot of work.) Armed with some knowledge of German, I next visited the Church of Latter Day Saints' Library in Salt Lake City. There I discovered some microfilm that had the missing Page 2 of the correspondence in Darmstadt. I also found parts of the family tree that chronicled those who had lived in Darmstadt, but this contained more detailed information on the names. This find was purely accidental, brought about only because I was now able to read some German.

I have always felt that there is a mysterious, unidentifiable hand that guides family history researchers

at times. I am sure most of you have felt it. As you can imagine, another trip to Germany was a foregone conclusion. My quest was to retrieve all of the family tree that was in Darmstadt, as I now had only pieces and parts, and could not put them together properly.

On my next trip in 1996, I took a short course on German pronunciation in Türingen before going on to Hessen Darmstadt. Circumstances had changed considerably since my last visit. (For each visit, I sent for tourist information, on Darmstadt in particular, which provides good maps and tips on staying there.) I called the archives and spoke to someone in English. I was told that the archives, plus the Hessen Genealogical Society, had moved their offices into the refurbished former Opera House (gelbes, or yellow, Oper Haus). I was also told that the new president (the old one was deceased) spoke excellent English. I was given his name, the Society's phone number, address and hours. (Hooray, their hours were now more frequent!)

Next I wrote a letter to the president, giving him information on my research and stating my quest. I also gave him the name of my hotel and its phone number, what days I would be staying there, and asked for an appointment. When we checked into the hotel, there was a message waiting for me giving me a choice of two days. I phoned and confirmed the day I wanted.

When I arrived, the president had already pulled lots of new information for me. But alas, the family tree scroll could not be found. All the volunteers were frantic. (So was I, but I tried to hide it.) They thought it might have been lost in the move. Suddenly it was in someone's hand, being spread out on the table. Someone had remembered it was filed under another family name also on the scroll. My family name was promptly added. All the information I needed was photocopied. I supplied them with parts of my family history they did not have. At the conclusion of our visit, my husband gave the

**The Hudson Green
Editorial Board**

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

president a generous donation in gratitude for their help.

After that I went next door to the archives and renewed acquaintance with a librarian who was still employed there, a very sober, serious fellow. On my first visit, he spoke no English and I spoke no German. This time I could get out some halting German, and he was pleased. I pulled some more material completely on my own while he was looking in a card catalog, which amazed him. He rapidly copied it all for me, inviting me into his glass-walled office to chat (after closing hours!) and leaving my husband George to cool his heels outside because he knew no German.

Fortified with a wealth of new material, we drove all over Hessen, visiting towns where different generations of my family had lived. I cannot say enough about the hospitality and graciousness of the people of Hessen—indeed, most of Germany. We felt at ease traveling around the countryside. My last trip was in 1999, mostly to visit friends, but I added a bit to the material I had already found.

Genealogy.net provides a free web site that will get you just about any address you will need, including city archives addresses: <http://www.genealogienetz.de/genealogy.html>

If you write for information, be sure to enclose two International Reply Coupons (75 cents each), as postage there is quite costly.

Another Sad Loss

HGSG sustained another loss, keenly felt by all members, when Constance Siverly Ferguson died on June 13th following heart surgery in an Akron hospital. It is only a year and a half since we lost our mentor, Archivist Jim Caccamo.

Connie was among those who showed up when a genealogical study group was first proposed in the fall of 1986 at the Hudson Library. Then working to become a certified genealogist, she soon became a Certified Genealogy Records Specialist who did professional research for others. Along with Jim, she was one of our two first instructors. Jim asked her to serve as president of the early group before we became a branch of the Ohio Genealogical Society.

Connie attended all our meetings unless ill or out of town, volunteered every Monday morning in our archives

room to assist anyone who came in for help, was active in OGS and currently a vice-president there. She also served on the Board for Certification of Genealogists, a national organization based in Washington, DC. She recently completed her family history, a copy of which she donated to Hudson Archives. It's hard to imagine our group meetings without Connie.

President's Message



Hello to all members of the Hudson Genealogical Study Group. I hope all of you have had a pleasant summer. I know I have. I did a lot of genealogical research on my wife's side of the family. My intention is to write a family history book for her family. I have already completed the family history book for my side. I also attended a family reunion in Pennsylvania in August. This is the third reunion we have held, and it has been great for me to meet so many new family members, both on the Bowers side and on the Kauffman (my mother's) side.

Anyway, I hope all of you are ready to begin a new season in furthering your genealogical education. We have a terrific program of classes lined up. The schedule will have sessions for the beginning researcher as well as for those more advanced. We will continue to make use of our own members as instructors since we have a great team of experienced researchers right here in our own group. We have also scheduled several well-known outside speakers, including Roger Marble, Tom Neel, and Amy Crow.

The schedule will include computer related subjects; the immigration fair for fifth graders (if you were unable to attend the first such session last year, I urge you to make an effort to attend this one); a presentation on the Revolutionary War Soldier; as well as another lock-in session on the use of digital cameras, scanners, the archives, etc. Of course there will be field trips. And don't forget the annual OGS conference in April. This time it is in Akron. If you are called upon to assist in some capacity, please volunteer.

Again, a great schedule. I am always amazed at the high quality of the programs this little chapter comes up with every year.

Jack Kauffman Bowers

Thumbnail Sketches of Early HGSG Members

Nancy Brock:



Nancy began her ancestor search in 1995 with stories her mother had told and which, with the encouragement of her niece, she decided to verify. Her Uncle Harry drove her to some early family homes in Cleveland, and to cemeteries there. She took pictures of these places. She also researched in the Hudson Archives, the LDS Branch

Library in Tallmadge, the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, and Western Reserve Historical Society, as well as in local courthouses and Kent State University's map library.

One highlight of her research was a trip she took in 2000 to the Czech Republic, where she found a cousin, Ludmila, and searched the Prague Archives. She wishes her now-deceased mother could have known she did this, and hopes to return. One of her best sources was the Baptist Historical Society in Richmond, VA, in addition to the Cuyahoga County Archives. A valuable lesson she learned was about documenting sources. She also learned to take many pictures.

Her next goal is to attempt documentation of American Indians on her husband's side. She thinks this will be an almost impossible challenge, but is willing to try. She enjoys meeting and helping other genealogists, whom she finds uniformly friendly. Nancy headed up our Fairview Cemetery Project, saw it to completion, and will be serving her second term as treasurer of HGSG. As time permits, she also searches our archives for interesting items to include in this newsletter.

Dorothy (Senglar) Schroedel-Wilson:



Dorothy has been a member of HGSG for over 10 years. During that time she completed her Senglar-Fedor family history. Her ancestors originated in the villages of Tuhrina and Bunetice, Slovakia. She has learned from relatives who visited there that the villages have changed little in the

last 150+ years. Remnants of her families still live there and in other nearby towns, but it is from relatives living in this country that she has gathered pictures and stories of their lives, and learned how the families became intertwined in the past. There are now six generations living in the U.S. Dorothy has duplicated many photos,

going back to the late 1800s, to accompany her narrative script. She has given copies of this script to relatives, but has not published it because of material it contains on persons still living.

Dorothy has nearly completed a history, with pictures, of her first husband's German ancestry, the Schroedels and the Lauths, as well as her second husband's maternal Emory/Brock line that goes back to pre-Revolutionary days. She has learned that his gr-gr-grandparents were married in southern Ohio in 1823. Her next goal is to document a Tallmadge, OH farmhouse that she lived in as a child. Since she has wintered in Florida the past four years, she feels she has lost some research time that she needs to make up.

Wallace Murray:



Wallace says he got started in tracing family history because his mother, Thelma Menear Murray, received a call from an attorney who was settling the estate of Raymond Menear (1914-1983). The attorney wanted to know if Thelma would be interested in Raymond's collection of family history materials. She was not, but she just knew Wallace

would be. The materials arrived at Wallace's home in the back of a pickup truck, all 37 boxes! Walter Menear had begun gathering data on the Menear family in 1926, intending to write a family history, which he never got around to doing. He involved his son Raymond in this research. They made many visits to courthouses, libraries and sites connected with the Menear family to get various documents.

When Wallace joined HGSG in the early 1990s, he met up with Ted Minier and they realized they were related, even though the name is spelled differently. For many years, Wallace has been trying to find the date his gr-gr-grandparents, Jacob and Mary Apke (Opkey, Upkee, Upkie?) arrived in America in the mid-1800s. Oral tradition had it that Baltimore was their port of entry, but after years of frustrating research, he has at last concluded that perhaps that was *not* where they entered the U.S. He is about to begin checking other entry port records.

Wallace struck it lucky one day while researching at Western Reserve Historical Society. He was browsing in the stacks when a book bearing the name Bradley caught his eye. His wife Pat has one family branch that bears that name. In that book he found a well-

researched section on Pat's ancestors, but it was privately published in Indianapolis, IN. So, being resourceful, Wallace got the phone number of the author through directory information and was informed that sending \$38 would get him a copy. He obtained 516 pages of Bradley family history with very little effort. He acknowledges that doesn't happen often. Wallace has served as a former vice-president, then as acting president of HGSG after a president moved. He currently reserves much time for his elderly parents.

John Howard Franklin, Jr. and Elizabeth Way Franklin:



John joined HGSG in 1990 and became actively involved as Treasurer, Trustee and eventually, a class teacher. The classes he had attended helped him with his research, especially when he was asked to join SAR

(Sons of the American Revolution), where he eventually served as president, color guard, chairman and photographer. His patriot ancestor served under George Washington at Valley Forge. John was also received into membership in First Families of Hudson, Portage County, and Ohio. John continues his research to obtain membership in The Mayflower Society, Founders and Patriots and the War of 1812 Society.

Betty, who joined HGSG later and is our current secretary, asked John one night to look for one of her ancestors on the Roots Web site. He found ancestors and distant relatives documented back to the 1700s in Germany. Betty and John are caretakers of family notebooks written in old German, and a translated copy listing another line back to the 1400s, also in Germany. Another of their goals is to try to document their inherited furniture and other antique objects.

John and Betty have researched in Great Britain and Germany, as well as eastern U.S. Betty says she will never forget her surprise when she was asked to don gloves to look through a box of materials while researching in archives in NY. Their son, Bill, has their same interests and has joined the same organizations as his father. Bill will marry Deidre S. Sheehan this month, so there will be a new line to search. They hope one day to put their findings into book form.

Nominated Officers

The following persons were nominated to hold office in HGSG for the 2004-05 season:

Jack Bowers, current president, for another term
Donna Walling, vice-president, also second term
Frances Yahner, secretary
Nancy Brock, treasurer, second term

The general membership will vote on them at the December Annual Meeting. The nominating committee was composed of Connie Ferguson, Ted Minier and Gwen Mayer.

Gwen Mayer has volunteered to assume the historian's duties in place of Connie Ferguson.

Proposed Changes to HGSG Bylaws

Because of changing our fiscal year to coincide with the start of classes each September, certain changes must be made to our bylaws. [Italicized items reflect the new proposed wording.] To be voted upon by the general membership at the Annual Meeting in December 2004, they are as follows:

Article III: Membership, 2- Dues...are due during the month of *September*...but payment in *August or September* shall constitute payment in full...

3-The membership/fiscal year shall *run from September 1 through the following August 31*.

Article IV: Meetings, 2. The Annual Meetings *shall be held in June*...

Article V: Officers and Board of Trustees, 1. one-year term, effective *September 1*...*All Past Presidents shall be ex-officio voting members*

Article VI: Nominations- 1. report of the Nominating Committee shall be *communicated*...

Standing Rules

2. Committees, A. Standing committees of the Board of Trustees shall be:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Audit | Publicity |
| Newsletter | Web-site Master |
| Trustees | First Families of Hudson |
| Nominations and Election | Mailings |
| Finance and Budget | Membership |
| Publications | Historian |
| Sunshine | Bylaws |

3.Board Directives E. ...to the Board at the *conclusion of the audit*.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

By Gwendolyn Mayer



Annotated Lawrence Co. OH Children's Home Register-1824-1926

Passenger Arrivals at the Port of New York 1830-1832

Ancestors in German Archives

An Index to the Federal Census of 1900 for Summit Co., Ohio

Freedman's Bank Records (CD-ROM)

Grenham's Irish Surnames (CD-ROM)

British Chancery Records (CD-ROM)

Scandinavia Vital Records Index (CD-ROM)

The Book of Clevelanders

A Guide to Pre-Federal Records in the National Archives

Recollections of Living and Working in Stow, Ohio

Stories From a Stow Native

Our Family Roots

The Thomas Hawley Weston Chronicles

If You Heard This Before, Don't Stop Me...

American Naturalization Records 1790-1990: What They Are & How to Use Them

The Dutch in America 1609-1970

History of Lancaster Co., PA

History of Venango Co., PA (2 vol)

The Family Record of David Lehman Booher and his wife, Elizabeth Nutts

Welsh Family History

The Land Records of America and their Genealogical Value

The History & Generalogy of the Witherspoon Family

Muscatine Co., IA Death Records 1880-1910

1910 Federal Census of Muscatine Co., IA

The Iowa Genealogical Society Surname Index

Genealogical Evidence-A Guide to the Standard of Proof Relating to Pedigrees,

Ancestry, Heirship and Family History

Jesse & Frank James: The Family History

Pitfalls in Genealogical Research

Forest County, PA Cemetery Inscriptions

The Handwriting of American Records for a Period of 300 Years

Pure Nostalgia-Memories of Early Iowa

The Soundex Reference Guide

Tracing Your Ancestry

History of Louisa Co., IA

Cemeteries of Louisa Co., IA

Standard Atlas of Louisa Co., IA

Evidence-An Exemplary Study, A Craig Family Case History

Monessen, PA Industrial Boomtown & Steel Community

The Book of Names-Especially Relating to The Early Palatines

Confederate Cemeteries in Ohio-Camp Chase & Johnson Island

Going Global (local Author)

Plugging Into Your Past-How to find real family history records online

Lancaster Co., PA Orphans Court Records (3 vols.)

Historic Newfane Village

Lt. Herman Rowlee & His Descendants

Guide to Manuscripts at WRHS since 1970

Vanango Co., PA Cemetery Records

Lone Tree, IA and the Pioneers and their Descendants

Combined Atlases of Woodford Co., IL

Ft. McIntosh-The Story of its History & Restoration of the Site

Genealogy Help, Hints & Hope

Maps, Atlases & Gazetteers

Handy Guide to Research Organization

Genealogy as a Pastime & Profession

Timesaving Aid to Virginia & West Virginia

Beyond the Civil War-Everything you wanted to know about your veteran but were afraid to ask.

Colonial Soldiers of Virginia

Handbook for Genealogical Research in PA

If I Can, You Can-Decipher Germanic Records

Children of Orphan Trains from New York to IL and Beyond

Columbus Junction, IA-The First Hundred Years

Understanding Colonial Handwriting

Collecting Vermont Ancestors

The Cole Family of Jefferson Co., OH

New Harmony Story (IN)

Research in West Virginia

150th Keithburg Sesquicentennial (IA)

Hudson Genealogical Study Group Publications

- #1. *The 1860 Mortality Schedule for Summit County, Ohio*. Complete listing of Summit County, Ohio residents listed in the Federal Mortality Schedule conducted in June, 1860. 4 pp. \$5.50.
- #2. *Doncaster Funeral Home, Hudson, Ohio: December 31, 1903-April 7, 1910*. Includes all information from Book 1 of the Doncaster Funeral Home Records. 23 pp. \$9.00.
- #3. *Hudson, Ohio Deaths: 1868-1908*. Alphabetical listing of deaths in Hudson, Summit County, Ohio from 1868 through 1908 extracted from the microfilm of the Index to Probate Records of Wills, Deaths, and Births on file at the Hudson Library and Historical Society. It includes those listed as having died in Hudson, been born in Hudson and died in Ohio, and those with no indication of place of death as well as deaths at the Summit County Infirmary. 25 pp. \$9.50.
- #4. *St. Mary's Cemetery, Hudson (Summit County) Ohio--1858 through 14 May 1988*. Information from Sexton's Records and a lot-by-lot survey, with surname index. 26 pp. \$9.50.
- #5. *Illustrated Summit County, Ohio Atlas, 1891*. Centennial anniversary reprint with an every name index of this classic illustrated atlas. Oversized, over 200 pp. \$90.00 plus \$4.50 postage and handling. Fewer than 80 copies remain of this limited edition. Copies of individual pages also available at \$5.00 per page. State page(s) desired.
- #6. *Index to Historical Reminiscences of Summit County* by Gen. Lucius V. Bierce, 1854. An every-name index to Summit County's first county history compiled by Connie S. Ferguson. 5 pp. \$5.50.
- #7. Reprint of William B. Doyle's *Centennial History of Summit County, Ohio and Representative Citizens*, 1908, with a complete, new index compiled by James and Briana Caccamo. 1,186 pp. \$68.50 plus \$5.00 postage and handling.
- #8. *Transcription and Index of 1920 Federal Population Census, Summit County, Ohio for Hudson Village and Hudson Township* compiled by members of HGSG. 88 pp. \$17.50.
- #9. *Inscriptions and Index to Markillie Cemetery, Hudson, Ohio (Summit County)* compiled by members of HGSG. 84 pp. plus maps. \$17.50.
- #10. *Inscriptions and Index to Locust Grove Cemetery, Twinsburg, Ohio* compiled by Jeffrey Alan Mills. 68 pp. \$17.50.
- #11. *Inscriptions and Index to Maplelawn Cemetery, Stow, Ohio (Summit County)* compiled by members of HGSG \$17.50
- #12. *Index to Illustrated Summit County, Ohio Atlas, 1891*. Compiled by Connie S. Ferguson, CGRS, 50 pp. \$10.50
- #13. *Index to "Doyle's" 1908 Centennial History of Summit County, Ohio and Representative Citizens*, compiled by James and Briana Caccamo. 71 pp. \$14.50.
- #14. *1870 Portage County, Ohio Federal Population Census; An Every Name Index*. Compiled by members of HGSG, 282 pp. \$39.50
- #15. *Index to Olin's Akron and Environs*. Edited and compiled by James F. Caccamo, 40 pp. \$15.00
- #16. *Inscriptions and Index to Stow Cemetery, Stow, Ohio (Summit County)* compiled by members of HGSG, \$32.00
- #17. *Doncaster Funeral Home, Hudson, Ohio: April 8, 1910 - March 22, 1922*. Includes all information from Book 2 of the Doncaster Funeral Home Records. Compiled by Gwendolyn E. Mayer. 47 pp. includes index. \$15.50
- NEW** #18. *Information About People Who Served in W.W. II from Hudson, Ohio (Summit County)*. Compiled by Jennifer Rummel. Extractions of military and genealogical information submitted to the Hudson Library & Historical Society. 155 pp. includes index. \$24.50
- NEW** #19. *Inscriptions and Index to Fairview Cemetery, Boston Heights, Ohio (Summit County)* compiled by members of HGSG, 64 pp includes index. \$15.50
- NEW** #20 *Index to the 1900 Federal Population Census of Summit County, Ohio; A Head of Household Index*. Compiled by members of HGSG, 209 pp. \$29.50

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A Challenge

By Gwendolyn Mayer

Before the end of the last school term, a Hudson High School teacher approached me to ask if the Hudson Library and Historical Society was a partner in the Veterans History Project, and if we could house the oral histories her students were collecting. I confess I didn't know what she was talking about, but I soon learned.

On October 27, 2000, Congress voted unanimously for legislation to create the Veterans History Project through Public Law 106-380. Congress had somewhat belatedly recognized the urgency of collecting wartime memories of such veterans from all our wars who are still living. There are 19 million living veterans in the U.S. whose number dwindles by 1,500 every day.

Feeling that today's and future generations of Americans have much to learn from those who served, the Library of Congress through its American Folklife Center sent out an invitation for all Americans to participate. A national collection of personal histories on audio and videotape, as well as letters, diaries, maps, photographs and home movies is being created. This will be of immeasurable value to historians, educators, students, authors, filmmakers and family members.

I approached Hudson Library and Historical Society Director Leslie Polott with this project, and after consideration, she agreed that we should become a partner institution. I then began the process of putting it into effect. This means we will house in our archives all the results collected locally. In June we received 30 of the interviews collected by students of the history teacher who brought the program to my attention.

While processing these interviews for the archives, I glanced at the photos and read snippets from the interviews. What treasures they are! One interview chronicled an American soldier's experience in the Bataan Death March of World War II. Think of how few of the 70,000 American and Filipino marchers are alive today. Several of the interviews mention seeing Bob Hope. We all know how Bob gave so much of himself to the USO. What is surprising is that three of these veterans who spoke of Hope had been in *three different conflicts*.

While working in the archives, one gets an interesting view. I see how many of our students come looking for "first-hand accounts", and how vital such resources can be in learning history. Our genealogical study group

recently published some materials about individuals who served during World War II—listed in items available for purchase elsewhere in this issue. Genealogists recognize all too well the importance of such material to their research.

On a personal level, I instantly regretted that I had missed the opportunity to interview my father-in-law, who is now deceased. Why do we procrastinate about documenting history? But my grandfather is still living, and I vowed to make time to interview him. I also want to capture my mother-in-law's experience as a young "Rosie the Riveter" in a local rubber factory. The people who stayed at home and worked for the war effort are just as important. I want to document my uncle's contribution in Vietnam so that their great-grandchildren will know that our family fought for our country. Yes, maybe I'll get around to writing about it in our family history. If I don't, however, it will be recorded at the Library of Congress. It doesn't matter that they don't reside in Hudson or even Summit County. Partner institutions accept any and all contributions which, in addition to being documented at the Library of Congress, will be made available on the National Registry of Service on the following Web site: <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets>.

I now challenge my friends and HGSG members: if each of us took the time to do one interview, we could add at least 30 more documents to the national collection. Ready for you in the archives are brochures, forms and simple directions. *We can do this*. The Hudson High history teacher assures me that she plans to continue to have her history students involved in this project. It seems to me that we can do no less.



A Genealogical Codicil to My Last Will and Testament

[Sherry Beam submitted this sample codicil form. We urge all our members to consider typing out this or a similar form so their collected material will not be discarded if they should die or become nonfunctional. In the interest of saving newsletter space, we have reduced the spacing. Ed.]

To my Spouse, Children, or Guardian:

Upon my demise, it is requested that you DO NOT dispose of any or all of my genealogical records, books, files, notebooks or computer programs for a period of two years. During this time period, please attempt to identify one or more persons who would be willing to take custody of the said materials and the responsibility of maintaining and continuing the family histories.

In the event that you do not find anyone to accept these materials, please contact the various genealogical organizations that I have been a member of and determine if they will accept some parts, or all, of my genealogical materials. Kindly remember that my genealogy endeavors consumed a great deal of time, travel and money. Therefore, please do not ignore this request.

Signature and Date

Witness:

Witness:

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.

Hudson Genealogical Study Group
Hudson Library & Historical Society
Dept. G
22 Aurora Street
Hudson, OH 44236-2947

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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HUDSON, OH 44236

Quarterly Meeting

Our Quarterly Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, September 18 in the Simon Room of the Library. We welcome back speaker Roger Marble, OGS Chairman of the Technology Information Committee. Roger has also served as past-president of the Summit County and Ashtabula Chapters of OGS. He will speak on "Introduction to Basics of Computers."

Guests are most welcome.

Next Meetings

HGSG Meetings are currently held in the Simon Reading Room of Hudson Library:

- September 11 9:30 *Foundations in Genealogy:*
Ted Minier "Introduction to
Beginning Genealogy."
10:30 HGSG Board Meeting
- 18 9:30 *HGSG Quarterly Meeting:*
Roger Marble from OGS
"Basics of Computer Genealogy"
- 25 9:30 *Special Topics in*
Genealogy Jack Bowers
"Deciphering Old Handwriting"