

# Our Family Newsletter

December 2003

Number 111

Published by and for the Murphy/Hursey Families of Washington Township, Tuscarawas County, Ohio

The entire staff of Our Family Newsletter wishes all Murphys, Hurseys and whoever else may read this, wherever you may be around the globe, the merriest of Christmases and the happiest of New Years!

... and greetings to our ancestors

*[Bob writes to Great Great Grandparents: John Wesley and Sydney Murphy, and George and Mary Hussey who founded the Murphy and Hursey homesteads in Tuscarawas County when Ohio was a brand new state. John Murphy was born in 1793 and died in 1867; George Hussey lived 1794-1864.]*

Dear Folks,  
Greetings from the future.

I don't know if you are aware of this or not, folks, you being dead and all, but I wanted to tell you what it's like here in Ohio as we approach the Christmas season and the end of

year 2003.

There have been unbelievable changes since you lived on your pioneer homesteads in the forests of Washington Township, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, a mere hundred and fifty or so years ago.

Would you believe we now have eleven million people living in Ohio, doing all kinds of things that would amaze you? We can now fly across the country or drive across the state in only five hours, and everyone can communicate instantly with people anywhere on Earth!

We also have many new things that make life easier, and free us from



George Hursey (sometimes Hussey) and his original log cabin homestead.

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working every day from dawn to dark like you did. Of course there are still farmers, but of those eleven million less than a hundred thousand are farmers. Using farm machinery that would amaze you, these few are able to produce enough food for everybody.

But progress is not without its price. We do miss the simplicity of your lifestyle, your cozy cabins and the natural beauty of your homestead farms. You will be glad to hear that your farms are still loved and cared for by some of your descendants. The rest of the family is scattered all over our fifty states and beyond, but Ohio has always been a special place to the more than 850 family members descended from your grandparents since they came to Ohio.

This year is Ohio's 200th birthday and we've been celebrating ever since our big Statehood day last March. We looked back at your time by riding in covered wagons across the state, on steamboats down the Ohio River and on tall ships across Lake Erie. Each of the 88 counties was decked out in Ohio's red, white and blue, and joined in the giant celebration. We painted big birthday greetings on a barn in each county, and also cast a big "Statehood Bell" in each one. We had great shows of quilts and paintings by Ohio's artists. (Speaking of which, we wish you could see the quilt our family made that proudly hangs in John and Mary Murphy's homestead!)

We partied in each of the homesteads of the eight U.S. Presidents who called Ohio their home, and even restored Thomas Worthington's home and garden in Chillicothe to its original splendor.

When we cut the giant birthday cake, we were thinking of you good people, who passed down to us your strong moral fiber and your love for God, country, state and family.

Wish you could have been with us to enjoy a wonderful year!

Bob

*Our Family Newsletter* is available on the family website in PDF format. Go to: <http://family.thetickingrose.com> then click on Our Family Newsletter in the navigation panel on the left, then click on the desired issue. You must have a PDF reader.

## Old *OFN's* bring back memories

In doing some "redding up" the other day, we came across a couple of files of back copies of *OFN* that we had stashed for safe keeping. The earliest number dated only to May 31, 1995. Hopefully, if our current fit of house cleaning reaches the lower strata of the basement, we'll unearth a Mayflower packing box containing numbers going back to Bob's *FN#1* way back in 1985.

What a treasure of family lore this great little publication will be for our kids and especially, our grandkids and their progeny. You did a mighty fine thing, Bob, when you started this up! We especially look forward to the photos and tidbits of family news and to Bob's always interesting and heartwarming letters as well as the "headline" pieces and other reports on the achievements of the many wonderful kids in our family. Even the articles chronicling the passing of our loved ones are good to have, though saddening to read.

No need to talk about how the newsletter has changed since its "founding." The 100th edition (December 2000) included a fine retrospective. But it's fun to skim through and see how you kept pace with technological changes in that short period. We start with Bob's original typewritten, photocopied numbers and arrive at Jim's high-tech, full-color, web-accessible version.

But modern and up-to-date as you are, we still linger most with the articles and photos about the old days, tiny sepia-lensed keyholes through which we can peek at our forbearers in the decades around the turn of the 20th century. And we imagine our great-great-etc. grandchildren in 2103, hungry for a peek at their own turn-of-the-21st-century ancestors, carefully turning yellowed and brittle pages of *OFN*.

(Or will they be mentally accessing picometer flecks of bio-integrated circuitry?)

Dick

## Bob's Letter

Dear Family,

As I study the group photographs that we took at the family reunion at Clyde, last August, I am greatly impressed in two ways.



**Bob**

First, that we had such a great turn-out! If only I had gotten the Hurseys there as Marilyn did, the Murphys – wouldn't that have been great! I was also impressed by our offspring – their happy, confident, intelligent faces in the group photo. We're sending each of you an 8"x10" high resolution copy of it that we

have made into a 2004 calendar that shows all the birthdays and ages.

I hope that we can get an even greater number to the 2004 reunion at Clyde on August 14. It has been our custom to have an entertaining program around a campfire on the evening of the reunion followed by a big breakfast together the following morning. How about a talent show this time? Each family would be invited to entertain for a few minutes, or if they prefer, just come and enjoy the other families hamming it up! We have so much latent talent in the family, that it would be a blast! The 2005 version of our family calendar could include photos of the entertainers in action, as well as a video CD of the program!

Now is the time to look ahead and plan your participation in

this fun event. If you need any props, equipment or anything printed such as song lyrics, just let us know. We could even print a program if you want.

I would also like to call your attention to our family web site that Jim has given so generously of his time. Note the wonderful family bulletin board that seems to have fallen into disuse. Why not turn it into a "Round Robin" of greetings from each family, in turn. Our Hursey family used to have one that circulated by "snail mail" that took months and months to make a circuit of my siblings. Think how much fun it would be if we did it on the bulletin board where it would travel at electronic speed! I know you all have news to share occasionally, even if only a greeting from your house to ours! Let us know what you think of all this, and give us your suggestions.

Bob

## From the family albums



1936 Hursey/Murphy reunion, held in the Locust Grove

It's Clyde again in '03. Don't forget to mark your calendars for August 14. We will see everybody there. See Bob's letter above for some suggestions regarding next year's reunion.

### OurFamilyNewsletter

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Bob, Publisher; Jim, Editor; Andrea, Business Manager; Contributors, All. Depending on the barometric pressure, the state of the Union, and the strange promptings of the spirit, but mainly on whether anyone sends us any material, *Our Family Newsletter* may be published monthly, bimonthly, annually or not at all. Send us your contributions. Please. Send address changes to Andrea.

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# Tidbits

## Katie dives into heavy competition

Family members will remember little Katie Bell doing her tumbling acrobatics at the Lake



Katie

Park reunion a few years ago. She has since given up gymnastics and is using this tumbling skill to become a serious competitive diver. Katie has participated in many junior meets but the first weekend of December saw her in Montreal at an International Invitational meet with world-class divers from all over the world.

We followed the event live online and Katie was in first place in platform diving after four dives. Unfortunately she then had a bad dive and ended up in fifth place. Still, not bad considering the world-class competition and Katie is only 15. She also placed among the top 12 in 1-meter and 3-meter events. Congratulations, Katie, and keep up the good work!

Carla reports:

I got new scan results today [ed.: mid November; see also July 2002 and Aug. 2003 issues] and there was more shrinkage and the disappearance of some of the lesions in my liver! Yea!! Now I'm good until after the first of the year. Whew!!

\* \* \*

John writes:

The quilt is hanging on the wall in what was Granddad Murphy's bedroom. We thought that would be a very fitting place for it. We took a couple of pictures, but due to the size of the quilt they don't show much except the quilt itself.

I think we should remind everyone that the picture of Granddad's mother, Eliza, was originally identified as a Phelps woman. That picture was on display at the reunion in Clyde this summer

\* \* \*

And, regarding John, those of you who do not get the Columbus newspaper may have missed it, but the *Dispatch* had a nice write-up about the many people who fly their personal airplanes into Don Scott Field to attend OSU football games. John, who has been flying in for games for many years, was featured prominently in the article. This gives new meaning to the word *tailgate*, John.

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