

Our Family Newsletter

March 2004

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Cy and Me by Bob Hursey

ON September 1, 1950, I sat in the Ohio State University Stadium in a blinding rainstorm while Branch Rickey addressed our graduating class. He talked about his career in baseball management and about the character of the ball players, and what it takes to succeed.

When he told us about Denton "Cy" Young, I became very interested because he was my Dad's (Carlton Hursey) favorite hero as well as Granddad's (Isaac McGee Hursey) close friend and neighbor.

It reminded me of the afternoon that "Gee," as Granddad's friends called him, and Cy sat on the front porch and chatted all afternoon. I was sixteen at the time and didn't know who Cy Young was, except that Dad had told me he was the greatest baseball player that ever lived.

"Mr. Young," I asked, "what team did you play for?"

"Sonny, I played for all of 'em!" he replied. "I pitched 906 games in the majors, and won 511 of 'em! That's more wins than any man in history!" Pointing to a fence a good hundred feet away, he said, "See that fence over there — I still could throw a baseball through any hole in it I wanted!"

Later, I wished I had run in and got my baseball and asked him to prove it. That was 1944 and he was 78 years old!

One day, I was talking to cousin George Ray Huston about Cy, and I asked him if my Dad would have known him. I had found Dad's old baseball uniform in a trunk in the homestead, but never heard much about him playing baseball.

George Ray said Dad surely would have known Cy because he lived right above our homestead up on the ridge, within shouting distance.



Denton "Cyclone" Young

Cy had played on various teams around Tuscarawas County before he hit the majors, reaching his peak around 1910 when Dad would have been 13 years old.

"Your Dad played a lot of ball also," George Ray told me. "In fact, he was one of the better pitchers around when he was in high school."

George Ray knew a lot about baseball and about Cy Young. During World War II he spent all his time playing exhibition baseball while on overseas duty in the U. S. Navy.

When Cy Young tried out for the Tri State League in 1890, he pitched so hard that the catcher was afraid to catch for him, so they had him pitch at a wooden fence which he totally

destroyed with his fast balls.

They said it looked like a cyclone had hit it, and from then on, Denton Young was known as Cyclone, and later shortened to Cy. One year he pitched 44 consecutive scoreless innings. He struck out 2819 major league batters!

No wonder this country boy neighbor from "up on the ridge" became Newcomerstown's greatest hero!

A monument to Cy Young can be found next to the athletic field, off Route 36, 1 mile west of I-77, Newcomerstown. There is also a Cy Young display in the Newcomerstown Historical Society Temperance Tavern Museum.

Bob

More Cy Young facts on page 4

Bob's Letter

Searching for George

The Murphy side of our ancestry has been well documented by genealogists, apparently much more skilled than I. From Peter Murphy's emigration from Ireland in 1728 to the founding of the homesteads in Washington Township in 1839, and finally chronicled in John Allen Murphy's personally designed chart and published in his Hartwood Foundation Book. His description of the three John Wesley Murphy's homesteads (see *OFN*, Jan, 2001) was a nice piece of work.

But the Hursey side is harder to nail down. Butch Hursey inherited our Hursey homestead from his Uncle George who bought it when Isaac died, who inherited it from Robert who inherited from George Hussey* whose father was also a George Hussey.

The first George Hussey lived in Baltimore, Maryland, at the turn of the nineteenth century, but that's about all we know about him. The Baltimore City directory of that year shows a family of tradesmen that seems to be our Husseys. They had five sons, all of whom may have served in the War of 1812. But hard evidence is very elusive. In order to confirm all of this, I need to visit local archives in Baltimore. At least two families of our Hussey's moved to Washington D.C. before moving on to Jefferson County, Ohio. In 1825, George Hussey bought 160 acres of Congress Land and founded our homestead. The



The old homestead

Tuscarawas County History tells of a young Hursey sitting on the front porch in Washington D.C. while his dad and George Washington told boring tales about the War of 1812.

George Hussey's homestead was located near the present one along Dunlop Creek in the valley just west of Peoli. It was a solidly built two-story log home built by the third George Hussey when he was 33 year old. He later doubled its size while he and Mary were raising their 9 children. His son, Robert built the present homestead in 1877 and raised five children.

We used to play in the old log house when we were kids. It was being used as a sheep barn at the time, but was still fascinating to us. We would play "house" and pretended to cook in the big hearth. The floor beside the hearth had been worn down from the women walking to and fro as they "took up" the wool from the spinning wheel. The upstairs had two big rooms.

One winter I covered the floor of one room with nuts I had gathered to dry during the winter. In the spring I discovered that every last one of them had been stolen! When I asked Granddad about it, he just laughed and said he reckoned the squirrels appreciated my supplying their food for the winter!

Someday, I hope one of the offspring will help me fill in the missing pieces of the of the Hussey family tree by following the paper trail from the old country to Washington Township.

Bob

*"Hussey" or "Hursey?" One of the first things I discovered in my search for the genealogy of George Hursey was that he wasn't a "Hursey." Uncle George said the Hurseys came from Baltimore and Washington D.C., and that they lived in Jefferson County before coming to the Tuscarawas County. I found a John Hursey in the Washington D.C. federal census, the one that tells the story of a young lad bored by George Washington's war stories, and later became the first blacksmith in Washington Township and lived in Gilmore, Ohio. ¶ But I found none in Baltimore, Maryland. I did find a George Hussey family in the 1800 federal census living in Baltimore, Maryland. George Hussey wasn't listed there after that, but showed up on page 210A of the 1820 federal census living in Smithfield Township of Jefferson County, Ohio. Then, in 1930, he was listed on Page 16 of the federal census of Washington Township, Tuscarawas County. ¶ I looked up the deed for the purchase of section 18, Range 2, Township 5, which is the Hursey homestead and found it issued to George Hussey on January 28, 1825. Each census after that listed him as George Hussey until he died in 1867. But his son Robert, was always listed as "Hursey." Maybe Great Grandma Alvira Hursey didn't want to be called a "Hussey!" One book says "Hussey" is a branch of the Hursey family. Most of the Ohio clans call themselves "Hurseys".

Blinks

More Idle Reminiscences

Editor's note: Dick promised to contribute a semi-regular column of pot pourri to Our Family Newsletter, making his debut contribution in the November, 2003, issue. He has decided to call his column "Blinks." (Perhaps he will explain what this means sometime.)

IT'S early on a cold February morning. The only sounds are the computer fan whirring, the furnace humming as that faithful robot detects a slight deterioration in the ambient coziness, and an occasional clink of china as Minnie has a second cup of coffee while listening to a mystery on her portable CD drive.

My thoughts ramble more than a few decades back to vivid winter morning images etched into the ingenuous mind of a boy just old enough to take his first faltering steps out of the fog of infancy.

The house in Pleasant Valley is dark, save the dim, yellow light of a coal-oil lantern leaking from the kitchen. The boy is warm and drowsy under the down-filled quilt on his cot in the furthest corner of the dining room. Iron rattles against iron as Grandma stirs the coals in her stove; a boot thumps on the floor as Granddad forces his foot into it.

It's later. Maybe the same morning, maybe another. Granddad has returned from the barn. A load of kindling clunks into the box next to Grandma's stove. The window across the room, no longer a black, ominous rectangle, admits day's first frosty light.

Later still. Granddad has brought an orphan lamb in and put it on a bed of gunny sacks by the stove. Its fleece is snarled and filthy. It bleats and jerks away from the nipples bottle Grandma is trying to force into its mouth. The boy smells cold mud and feces.

Much, much later. Max sits next to my keyboard and reminds me with a polite, yet insistent frown that I have not filled his food dish, refreshed his water dish, or sifted the clumps from his litter box. He won't be bought off with sweet talk and a few strokes. Dick



Dick

Ohio history online

Have you ever wondered what your Ohio home town was like in the old days? One of Ohio Historical Society bicentennial projects was to compile a scrapbook of photos, artifacts and stories of the years gone by for each of Ohio's eighty-eight counties. Tuscarawas County and Coshocton Counties were very interesting to me. Some of my favorites are: Photos of Roscoe Village, then and now, from when the canal was in operation; White Woman's Rock, as it looked in the thirties and a recent painting of it; Cy Young's baseball card; James Hays' travel journal when he visited most of Ohio's towns in 1815; OSU's first football squad photo in 1890, and many more. You can even select your favorites from the thousands of graphics and make up your own scrapbook on our Ohio Historical Society website. You can also browse through Ohiohistory.org where new things are added each month. Happy browsing! Bob

Editor's P.S.: And while you are browsing, don't forget to check in on the family website from time to time. You will find stories, pictures, genealogies, puzzles and more on thetickingrose.com. Contributions for the site are of course always welcome.

The 2004 Hursey/Murphy family reunion will again be held in the Clyde, Ohio, city park activities building, with Marilyn Huston and her family acting as hosts. We will see you all there on Saturday, August 14, 2004.

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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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Also available on the Web in PDF format: <http://family.thetickingrose.com/>

Tidbits

We received good news about our cousin Shy Loader, who has been in the hospital and rest home for a crushed wrist and a punctured lung resulting from a fall on her front steps. She expects to come home from the rest home on March 19, but will have relatives and health care workers giving constant care. She hopes to gain full recovery from her injuries. Good luck, Shy -- we all look forward to seeing you this summer.

* * *

Our Family Newsletter received a nice e-mail from TJ Milligan, son of cousin Robert

Milligan, now living in Jacksonville, FL. TJ said he saw *OFN* at his father's and wrote us a note offering to fill in some of the blank spots on the Milligan side of the family genealogy chart.. TJ has been in the Air Force for 21 years and is now stationed in Korea, about 48 miles south of the DMZ.

* * *

Karl Hursey recently (February 14) accepted the position of Scoutmaster in Boy Scout Troop 1280, Waynesburg, PA. In addition, he continues in his role as Advisor to the council's Junior Leader Training Conference; a week-long leadership training program offered each June to 128 boys in the Pittsburgh area. Karl's boys, Jason and Joseph, are both staff members on this course.

The Cy Young record

Young made his major league debut August 6, 1890, with Cleveland in the National League. He played there from 1890 until 1898. He pitched in St. Louis for two seasons before transferring to the Boston Red Sox. On May 5, 1905, in a game against the Philadelphia Athletics, Young pitched the first perfect game in American League history. Young finished his career with 511 wins, including three no-hitters. He returned to Cleveland in 1909, but finished out his career in Boston in 1911. Young was voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1937.

Complete Cy Young statistics can be found at:

<http://www.baseball-almanac.com>

Click on "Player Stats" along the left side of the page.



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