

# *Dreisbach Family Association*

*December 2010 Newsletter*



**June 18, 19 and 20, 2010**

**On the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Dreisbach Reunion**

**Dreisbach Family Association Reunion at St Peter's Tohickon Church, Perkasie, PA.**

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For those of us who live where winter is both dark and cold, it is good to reflect upon the sunny warm days of June and our recent family reunion. Rev. Steven Hamilton was kind enough to give me a copy of the photo somebody (who?) took last June. The bright sunshine and green leaves are almost enough to make us forget the snow and dark outside our windows! Unfortunately not everyone was there for the photo – but a good many of us managed to find a spot on the front steps of St Peter's Tohickon Church.

## A Plaque for St Peter's Tohickon

The organizers of the 2010 DFA Reunion were so impressed by the incredible reception that the pastor and people of St Peter's Tohickon Church gave to us that we thought it would be a good idea to present them with a small token to show our thanks. We designed, printed, framed and mailed a plaque for the people who had been so helpful and kind. Rev. Hamilton sent a reply thanking us and saying that the plaque is displayed with pleasure in the Fellowship Hall where we had our reunion meeting.



*This certificate is presented by  
The Dreisbach Family Association to*

*Pastor Steven Hamilton  
And The People of  
St Peter's Tohickon U.C.C. Church*

*In sincere appreciation of the Warm Welcome,  
Open Hearts and Many Hours of Work  
that you gave to us and to the  
Dreisbach Reunion, June 18-20, 2010.  
Together we experienced a wonderful weekend  
And a true feeling of family!  
Thank You!*

The plaque reads: *This certificate is presented by the Dreisbach Family Association to Pastor Steven Hamilton and the People of St Peter's Tohickon U.C.C. Church in sincere appreciation of the Warm Welcome, Open Hearts and Many Hours of Work that you gave to us and to the Dreisbach Reunion June 18-20, 2010. Together we experienced a wonderful weekend and a true feeling of family! Thank You!*

## A 20<sup>th</sup> Century New York Dreisbach

By Jeanne Finley

Dr. Lyman Driesbach (1880–1946) (note the spelling) was the son of Mahlon Driesbach (who was a son of Charles F. Dreisbach\* and Sally Kunckle). In 1870 Mahlon (b. 1840) was an engineer for the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad; he lived in Scranton, PA with his brother Henry, who was a fireman. We can assume Mahlon married between 1871 and 1880, since the 1880 census shows him and his wife Clarissa Couse living in Fairview Wright Township, Luzerne Co., PA. Clarissa was from Davenport, Delaware Co., NY (the south-central part of the state), a daughter of Jared and Sarah Couse.

Lyman was born October 1, 1880 at Mountain Top (Nanticoke), Luzerne Co., PA missing the census by almost four months, which was enumerated on June 16. Mahlon and Clarissa evidently divorced between 1880 and 1883 and Mahlon married his second wife, Jane Ellsworth, in 1884. The 1900 census shows Clarissa had married John Turner, an Englishman and a railroad fireman, around 1892, and that Clarissa, John and Lyman lived in Oneonta, Otsego Co., NY.

In 1909, Lyman married Veda Viola Clark, ten years his junior, in Oneonta, and they moved to the village of Middleburgh, Schoharie Co. He was a general practice physician and probably Middleburgh's primary (and only) health care throughout those years. According to the 1920 and 1930 censuses, Veda's mother Margaret lived with the couple. Lyman and Veda had no children. A friend of mine who grew up in Middleburgh says "Doctor Driesbach's house" is still known as such, and is "one of the nicest houses on upper Main Street."

Lyman is unrelated to the four "lines" of Dreisbachs who came to New York from Pennsylvania (see the previous issue of this newsletter). But he's the most recent Dreisbach immigrant to the state, and he clearly he became an enthusiastic New Yorker. I found this charming tribute about him, written by Arthur U. Stevenson, Schoharie County historian, in the *Schoharie County Historical Review*, Vol. XI, No. 1, July 1948:

*The Schoharie County Historical Society cannot let the opportunity pass to publish a short memorial of appreciation of the life of one of our trustees recently taken from us by death.*

*...He was graduated from the Homeopathic College of New York City, and served his internship at Memorial Hospital, Albany, before coming to Middleburgh in 1909. He was always interested in public affairs and prominent in the civic affairs of Middleburgh. He served as mayor of the village of Middleburgh on three different occasions, 1921–22, 1924–27, and 1939–43. He was a very active member of the Schoharie County Historical Society, being a trustee from the time of its reorganization to his death. His ideas and plans were generally adopted as the policy of the society and had much to do with the interest shown for some years in local history.*

*He was an enthusiastic member of the Mohawk Valley Historic Association and a friend of the late Mayor Harry Bush of Canajoharie. Together with Chauncey Rickard, Roland Bouck, and Arthur Stevenson, he visited many historical places in the Mohawk Valley and learned the story connected with that particular site or building. They were never refused a warm welcome to every home visited. The experience was thrilling.*

*On these occasions the doctor was at his best, his real self unfolded itself and his remarkable personality dominated the situation. It was a joy to behold his beaming countenance when he could partake of dinner at Hotel Wagner, Canajoharie, and a favorite eating place on these trips. He had vision and could look into the future with the gift of prophecy. He was a student of personalities, he studied people. He had great faith in most persons, always emphasizing their good traits.*

*... [H]e was a great student of John Burroughs, and thoroughly believed in and followed the Burroughs philosophies. He loved flowers, birds and animals and was against killing them for sport. He recognized beauty wherever it existed and was an expert judge of art. He drank in the beauties of a landscape before him and appraised the skill of the struggling artist.*

*With his friends he contacted noted artisans and formed first hand judgment of their abilities. He being an M.D. added a certain amount of prestige to his group of associates. With people of like interests he was entirely happy. He needed encouragement rather than sympathy from those who understood him best.*

*As a physician he was most thorough. He studied each case and kept a record of the progress made by his treatments. He was wise and skilled in his profession. He was an enthusiastic amateur archeologist, and took pleasure in hunting Indian relics on local sites, and accumulated a considerable collection of arrows and artefacts which he desired the Historical Society to care for.*

*As a presiding officer he had the art of bringing even those who differed with him around to his way of thinking. He could transact business wisely and efficiently with dispatch.*

*In financial affairs he showed good judgment and his efforts were crowned with success.*

*He has left behind him memories of many kind acts and much wise counsel. His strong traits of character will last forever in the hearts of those who understood his struggles to attain an ideal. His frailties are soon forgotten.*

*He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and a past president of the Schoharie County Medical Society. In 1929 he had an urge to travel. He was issued a passport which he never made use of.*

*He passed away Sept. 3, 1946 and was buried in the cemetery at Oneonta, N.Y. ...*

*Veda Clark Driesbach died in April 1982 at the age of 92, still living in the Middleburgh house that she and Lyman had moved into in 1909.*

*\*Lineage: Lyman>Mahlon>Charles F.>Jost 1773> John> George William>Simon Sr*



**Dr. LYMAN DRIESBACH**

## Our Ancestors:

### *A Portrait Gallery*

Do you have pictures of your Dreisbach/Dresbach/Driesbach ancestors that were taken before 1910? We hope to start a portrait gallery of pictures that are 100 or more years old. Scan them and email them to [marcia.falconer@sympatico.ca](mailto:marcia.falconer@sympatico.ca)

If you don't have a scanner, and if you can't find somebody to scan the photo for you, make a good photo copy and send it by snail mail to:

Marcia Falconer  
33 Abingdon Drive  
Nepean, Ontario, Canada K2H 7M5

Please identify the person, give their birth and death dates, marriage date and any other information you care to include. In particular – tell us a story or two about the person. We will publish a collection of portraits and their stories.

### *Stories from the Portrait Gallery* *From Gary Dresbach Julian*

“Harriet Dresbach (1845 -1925) was my great grandmother. She was the great, great granddaughter of 1751 immigrant, Martin Dreisbach (1717-1799) and also the great, great granddaughter of Jacob Ehrenhardt (1716-1760). Jacob Ehrenhardt and Sebastian Knauss founded the Moravian Church in Emmaus, PA. They donated a large portion of their lands to form the nucleus of the new Moravian community that became Emmaus, PA. and built the first log church in 1743.

Harriet Dresbach married Elias Julian. In 1922 she started the Julian Reunions which continued until the death of most of her grandchildren in 1998. In 2010, the next generation revived the family reunion. Her father was William Dresbach (1817-1882).



*Harriet Dresbach Julian – photo about 1890*

William Dresbach and his father, George Dresbach (1784-1863) were farmers in Salt Creek Twp, Pickaway, Ohio from 1812 through 1882. George was the son of Jacob Dreisbach (1748-1804) and the grandson of 1751 immigrant, Martin Dreisbach (1717-1799).



*William Dresbach – picture from about 1870*

In 1882 William underwent the new operation to remove his gallbladder. In the 1880's, surgery was primitive, often occurring in the doctor's office. Sea sponges were stored in carbolic acid and scrubbing up meant washing hands, and occasionally arms, with green soap. Doctors did not cover their hair or beards nor did they wear surgical masks.

William died 5 days after his gallbladder was removed. A postcard from one of his son-in-laws, notifying relatives of his death, provided the information that the doctors had left a surgical instrument inside him after the operation, resulting in his death!

# 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm for Genealogists

**Genealogy is my Pastime,  
I shall not stray.  
It maketh me to lie down and examine half-buried Tombstones.  
It leadeth me into still Courthouses;  
It restoreth my Ancestral Knowledge.  
It leadeth me into the Paths of Census Records  
And Ships Passenger Lists for my Surnames' sake.  
Yea though I walk through the Shadows of Research Libraries  
and Microfilm Readers  
I shall fear no Discouragement  
For a Strong Urge is with me.  
Curiosity and motivation, they comfort me.  
It demandeth preparation of Storage Space for Countless  
Documents;  
It anointeth my Head with burning Midnight Oil.  
My Family Group Sheets runneth over,  
Surely Birth, Marriage, and Death Dates shall follow me all the  
Days of my Life  
And I shall dwell in the house of a Family History Seeker Forever.**

Author Unknown  
In: *Lothian Roots*, Edition 32, Spring 2010,  
The Newsletter of the Lothians Family History Society