

Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board
Final Grant Report
August 31, 2014

Organization: Hardin County Genealogy Society
Institution: Robert G. Reed Center
Location: Kenton, Ohio
Project: Digitation & Storage of the Anna Lee Mayhorn Collection
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Background and Report of Grant Activities from June through August 2014:

The Hardin County Genealogy Society was founded in 1983 in Kenton, Ohio. Over the ensuing years, the organization was housed in several buildings in downtown Kenton. In 2003, following a bequest from his estate, the Robert G. Reed Center opened at 211 West Franklin Street. Originally consisting of two three-story storefronts in downtown Kenton, a third storefront was purchased in 2013 and restored into a conference/meeting room primarily with funds from the estate of Bruce Eddy.

As the Center has expanded its footprint over the last few years, the Society has been extremely active in acquiring, inventorying, copying, storing, and publishing numerous collections of archival materials, both public and private. These collections include diverse items such as original Hardin County Probate Court Marriage Record Books, microfilm copies of Ada, Ohio's newspapers from the Ada Public Library following their digitation, various records from the now defunct Fort McArthur Chapter D.A.R., county funeral home records, Civil War pension examination records from a local doctor, and yearbooks from the local high schools. The purpose is to preserve these unique documents and make them accessible to the public for research or educational purposes.

One of the more unique collections is that of Anna Lee Mayhorn, which was donated to the Society by her family in 2011. She was a life-long resident of Dunkirk, Ohio, who worked for many years as a newspaper reporter for the *Dunkirk Standard* and as a regional correspondent for the *Kenton Times*. As very few copies of the *Standard* are known to exist, and the newspaper was never microfilmed, this material represents one of the best assemblages of Dunkirk history. The collection consists of a variety of original research notebooks and journals; unpublished photographs; local postcards; scrapbooks; regional newspaper clippings and handwritten articles; advertising ephemera; plus genealogical information.

Following the arrival of the collection, not much had been done with the materials. In 2012, the Society decided to make use of the vast array of information and produce a scrapbook-style publication based on the historic information. The result was *Dunkirk Revisited: Treasures from the Collection of Anna Lee Mayhorn*. While scanning documents and looking at the amount of local historic material, original photographs and journals, it was decided that this collection needed to be archivally preserved for the future. One big drawback was that the Society had little money set aside for purchasing archival supplies and what funds were available were being used to preserve and make Hardin County Probate Records accessible to the public.

The Executive Board decided to try to write a grant to secure funds for this collection. A successful grant request was submitted to the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board which would

ensure that the items were properly preserved and available for future researchers. The Society was very appreciative to be the recipient of this grant.

Prior to the arrival of the archival supplies, the volunteers began the process of accessing exactly what was included in the collection. Due to the sheer number of documents, newspaper clippings, and images contained in the tote, it was decided to sort the materials according to a variety of subjects (churches, schools, railroads) rather than by type of object (photographs, newspaper clippings, postcards). A brief sort was conducted to separate the newspaper clippings of Findlay and Hancock County from those of Hardin County. A few one-off or odd items from other surrounding counties, such as Allen or Logan County, were placed within the main categories rather than making a separate category for them. The Hancock County clippings were large enough to warrant its own category.

Nearly 5,000 individual documents and images were discovered during the sort. Many of these were multiple pages of a single document or hand-written notes and drafts of articles that we would later find newspaper clippings of. It took three volunteers one entire afternoon to take all of the documents out of the tote, examine them, and place the document into its corresponding file. As the piles grew larger, it was decided to sort the subject piles into smaller subsets including separating the photographs and additional images from the written documents. It was also noted that there were numerous photocopies of some articles included in the assemblage.

Once the subject was broken down into smaller groups, a volunteer then scanned each item into one of the Society's computer creating a large digital file of all of the images making sure that they were still separated into small folders by subject. Following scanning, the items were placed into individual acid-free folders to await accession numbers. These folders were then placed into acid-free document boxes which would later be placed on a storage shelf in the Robert G. Reed Center.

While one person was scanning, a second volunteer was creating a finding aid for each document box. This included the box number, main subject, and a list of images or documents contained in each individual file folder. This aid, when completed, will be kept at the President's desk and made available to surrounding genealogy and historic societies.

Once the volunteers began to work on the collection, it was soon discovered that there were many more items than previously thought and it will take a little more processing time to complete the project. It is believed that about twenty percent of the documents have been completely processed to date with about the same amount sorted and scanned waiting final processing. One of the best parts about the project is how well the volunteers are getting to know the history of Dunkirk, Ohio by reading and examining the documents in the Anna Lee Mayhorn Collection.



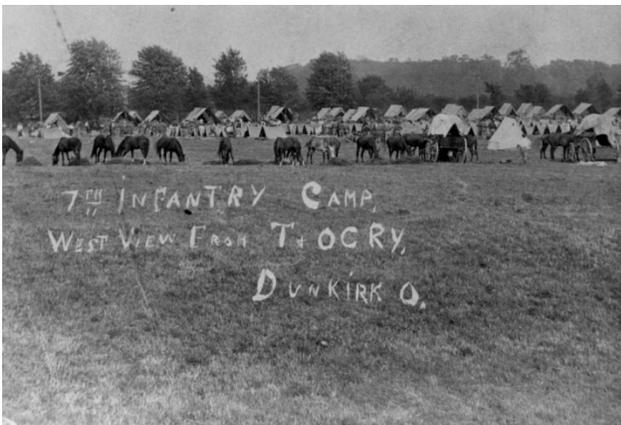
Photographs showing the blue plastic tote containing the Anna Lee Mayhorn Collection as it looked when originally donated to the Hardin County Genealogy Society by her family and part of the archival materials purchased with the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board grant funds.



Photographs showing the collection sorted into categories such as churches, schools, businesses, railroading, and genealogy for further processing and photographs being placed into individual acid-free archival folders following scanning.



Photographs showing the documents in acid-free file folders placed into acid-free document boxes waiting for their accession number following scanning and the final processed boxes ready to be placed on a storage shelf in the Robert G. Reed Center, home of the Hardin County Genealogy Society.



Livery stable
 This photo shows the J.W. Long & Son Livery and Feed Stable from the alley going south from E. Wayne Street in Dunkirk. The photo was found in C. Lydick's home in the attic off the northwest corner of E. Wayne and Walnut streets.

The history of Lydick's barn
 By ANNA LEE MAYHORN
 Times correspondent

DUNKIRK — Immediately east of the Mahon room on Wayne and Main street in Dunkirk, Lydick's barn was built by Levi and Jesse Pore in 1875.

It was occupied by Adam Bame, Nick Bame, J.C. Swanger, John Long, E.W. Keefer, Keefer and Lydick, J.D. Lydick and Lydick Brothers, up to the time of the big fire of 1903, when it was destroyed.

The building east of this was built by J. D. Lydick and was operated by Lydick Brothers as a livery and repository. It was later occupied by The Lydick Brothers, Ford Garage, Brumbaugh Motor Sales, Dale Miller, Miller and Wykes and Gramm Trailer Corp., which built busses for the Navy during World War II.

Representative images of scanned documents from the Anna Lee Mayhorn Collection. Many of the photographs described in the newspaper clippings are included in the collection along with hand-written notes and drafts of her published articles.