



A Visit to the Loyd Family Cemetery in Cross Creek Township, Jefferson County, Ohio

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In Eastern Ohio at the beginning of the 19th century, four families contributed to my Priest ancestry. They lived on rugged terrain in the highlands West of where Mingo Junction stands today. Their farms were part of Cross Creek Township.

Their names were Valintine **Priest**, John **Loyd**, Sr. (Lloyd), William **Gracey** (Gracy), and Jonathan **Hook** Sr. Their wives' names were Elizabeth Loyd, Mary Miller, Elizabeth Loyd, and Mary Gould, respectively. John Loyd's sister, Elizabeth, married William Gracey and his daughter Elizabeth Loyd married Valintine Priest.

The graveyards that hold their physical remains are The Loyd Family Cemetery, the New Alexandria Cemetery and the Hook Family Cemetery.

My wife, Joan and I live in New Concord, Ohio. The last time I was in Cross Creek Township was when I was 8 or so years old. Having no idea where to go, I called the resident expert, Flora VerStraten. Yes, she had been up to the Loyd Family Cemetery. She had gone up there with my cousins, Alan Black Gould and his brother David. Flora suggested getting in touch with the Goulds and I did. Alan and David had done an extensive amount of mapping and analysis of the Loyd Family Cemetery. They published "The History of the Loyd Family Cemetery."

Alan sent the GPS coordinates for the graveyard and I went to Google Earth and looked at the satellite images. That was easy enough, however the images and the real site have very different perspectives. Vagueness is an issue, particularly when you do not have GPS to take into the field.

We found the Cool Spring road and arrived at some distance from the cemetery and were disoriented. We drove to the end of Cool Spring road where the road ended, dead ended. The road may have ended but the person at the end of the road just happened to live in the "Old Loyd house." It was not the cemetery but quite interesting.





This is the Loyd house built from lumber from New Orleans in 1863 according to the current owner. During the Civil War, the Vicksburg, Mississippi battle lasted from November 1862 until July 4, 1863. Grant secured the water route from the sea inland to the Ohio River. It is only a few miles from the Ohio River to Cross Creek Township.

Mrs. Wszeborowski, owner of the Old Loyd House said she arrived there after rescuing her husband from terrible injuries during the Second World War. She was about 19 when she married and soon after her husband had to go to World War II. He was in the D-Day invasion as commander of one of the landing crafts and his boat took a direct hit killing all on the boat except him. He was blown up in the air and was seriously wounded when he arrived at a hospital in California unable to see, walk or talk. The Navy called her to come out to California and be with him. At 19 she rode the trains from Ohio to California and arrived at the hospital. Her husband had a miraculous recovery and later they bought the Loyd Farm and raised three children.

We spent a lot of time with Anna, who graciously gave us an informative guided tour of the farm house which the Wszeborowskis have made pleasant and comfortable. The front of the house seen in the above photo was not the original front. That lay to the left on that photo. The original road continued eastward at this point to connect to other roads which were later eliminated. The road is now a dead end.



Photo taken by Mrs. Anna Wszeborowski showing the front side of the house. Cool Spring Road came to the top of the hill and turned right to pass directly in front of the house and continue on into the countryside. Now the road stops at the top of the hill.



Barn built by the Wszeborowskis when they started farming.



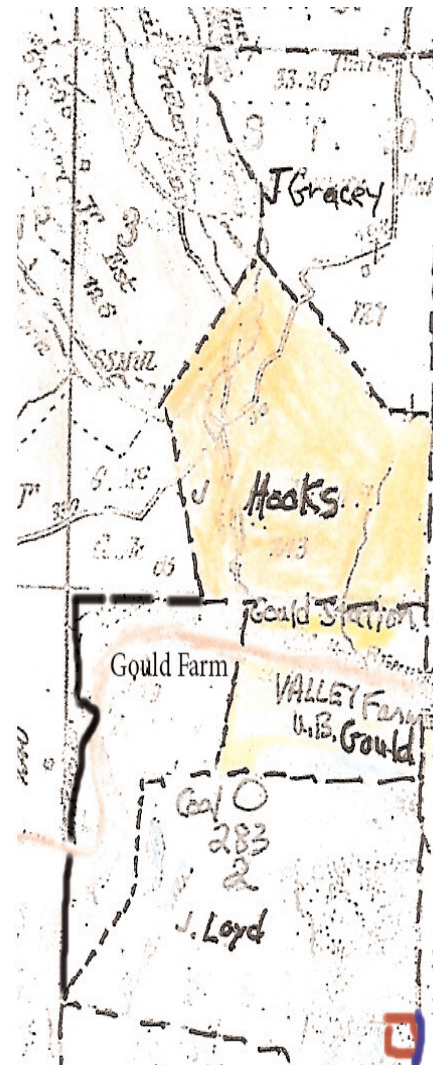
We asked if Mrs. Anna Wszeborowski had been up to the Loyd Family Cemetery and she said she had not for some time . But she knew where it was and gave us directions. The road up to the cemetery is a little difficult to find and has very deep ruts in it. Great for 4-wheelers and for walking. Once we got up to the top of the hill we were to bear right and walk along a ridge until we found the turnoff into the grave sites. We went up the hill in a dry season and turned on the ridge and there were two points on the road where water was coming across the road. We made it through and approached the cemetery which is hidden back in the trees.



We parked at the bottom of the hill and hiked in. The ruts are a little deeper than they appear on the photo.

Four farms of my ancestors as seen on the 1871 map of Cross Creek Township. The Gracey farm is at the top which is the north direction and lies next to the section line to the right. Going south one finds the Hook farm, then Gould's Station, then Gould's farm and lastly the Loyd farm.

The red mark on the Loyd property shows the location of the Loyd Family Cemetery (LFC). The blue line indicates the access road which lies on the section line between Cross Creek Twp and Steubenville Twp.



John Loyd Jr. deeded this graveyard property and access road to all the Loyd heirs forever.

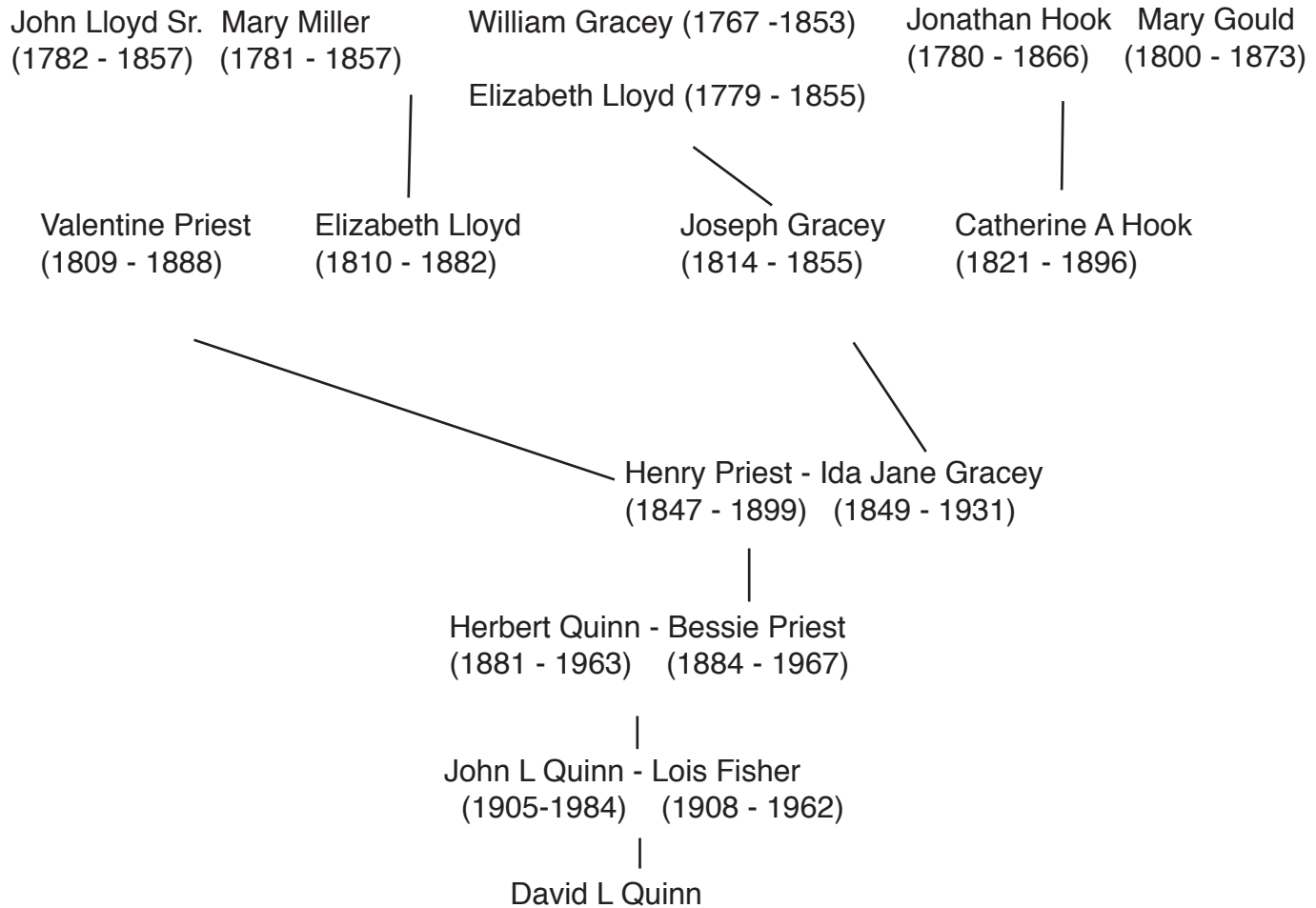
John Loyd to William C. Loyd et al.

Jefferson County, Ohio,

Deed Book 72 page 192

April 18, 1895. (research by Alan Gould)

Outline of some of my ancestors found in eastern Ohio including Steubenville, Ohio, the Steel mills of Mingo Junction, and the farms of Cross Creek Township in Jefferson County, Ohio.



Many of my relatives lie buried in the Pioneer cemetery called the Loyd Family Cemetery. John Loyd, Sr., Mary Miller, Valentine Priest, and Elizabeth Lloyd are there and on the nearby Hook Family Cemetery are the remains of Jonathan Hook and Mary Gould.

William Gracey, Elizabeth Loyd, Joseph Gracey and Catherine Anne Hook are buried in the New Alexandria Cemetery.

The rest of my ancestors seen above are buried in the Union Cemetery located in Steubenville, Ohio.



Mary Gould married Jonathan Hook on 15 Jul 1819. She was not yet 20 and he was 39 years old. Mary was born on 15 Jan 1800 and her parents were Alexander Gould and Esther Henderson of Pennsylvania, but the Hendersons and Goulds were believed to be from Maryland. Mary had a dowry of twenty-five dollars and a copper kettle.

Jonathan and Mary are both buried in the Hook Family Cemetery. This is located on the Hook Farm where they raised a family of 5 children, and one adopted daughter. The property was sold out of the family for the first time in 1948.

Mary (Gould) Hook died on the 21 Apr 1873 at 74 years, 6 months, and 16 days of palsy.

Jonathan Hook, the progenitor of the Hook family clan in Jefferson County, Cross Creek Township, Ohio, was born in Baltimore County, Maryland, on 8 May 1780. The Hook brothers hauled salt from Baltimore, Md. to Wheeling, Va. and became acquainted with the area.

Jonathan served in the Army in Maryland in the summer and fall of 1814, fighting in the Battle of Bladensburg, in the War of 1812.

The property Jonathan purchased in Ohio was a 405 acre parcel. His Deed is dated 13 Sep 1813. Price: \$2227.50 which is recorded in Jefferson County, Ohio.

Once he purchased the land and after the war he talked his friend, William Gould, into coming to Jefferson County and buying one-half of the farm he bought.

(Research by Beverly Quinn, Helen Hook Haglund, David Quinn and Alan Gould; Photos from Bessie Priest collection.)





Above photo shows Rows "C"--(middle of photo) and "D"--(left side of photo) (Alan Gould code) in the Loyd Family Cemetery. The stones to the left are leaning, some quite far. C row contains the remains of John Miller Loyd (grandson of John Loyd Sr.), His stone is the largest as he was buried in 1902 while the other stones that remain were set from 1850 to 1876 and are difficult to read. Also in C row one finds John Loyd Sr., and his wife Mary (Miller) Loyd.

According to family records, John Loyd was a charcoal burner in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, before coming to Cross Creek Township, Jefferson County, Ohio around 1805. I speculate on the basis of age and proximity that one Elizabeth Loyd was the sister to John Loyd Sr and married William Gracey (who was the father of Joseph Gracey) while the other Elizabeth Loyd was the daughter of John Loyd Sr. and Mary Miller and she married Valentine Priest.

John Miller and his wife Catherine sold seventy-one acres of land located in Section #2 of Township #6, in range number 2 to John Loyd. This land was conveyed to John Miller by Patent bearing the date 14 July 1806. The sale was on 15 Dec 1814. The land sold for three dollars an acre.

John Loyd Sr. and Mary Miller raised six children including Susannah(married John Wilson), Nancy (married Stephen Parrish), Elizabeth (married Valentine Priest), John Loyd, Jr.(married Myra Jane Gould). All of these husbands and wives are buried in the Loyd Family Cemetery. The two children named Catherine (Joky?) and Sarah Parrish are not in the Loyd Family Cemetery.

John Loyd Sr. and Mary Miller died within days of each other: John on 15 May 1857 and Mary on the 22 May 1857.



The above photo was taken from the first row (A coded by Alan Gould) and one can begin to see further deterioration of the Loyd Family Cemetery. The large stone in the foreground marks the burial site of Valentine Priest and his wife Elizabeth (Loyd) Priest. The stone lying on Valentine and Elizabeth's marker is that of John L Priest (1834-1862).



Inscription at bottom of first born child John L Priest's headstone (as copied by Alan Gould):

Oh mother do not fret for me
I feel happy Bro.
Campbell you won't forget me,
Will you
When we asunder part
It gives us inward pain
But we shall still be joined in heart
And hope to meet again

Note: Alexander Campbell Priest was the last child born to Valentine and Elizabeth. Alexander was buried with his three sisters (Caroline, Eliza, and Susannah) in Locust Hill Cemetery outside of Chester, West Virginia. Their stones were gone so I had one new one made to recognize my ancestors.





Two headstones leaning on each other. First, Mary Priest :
b. 7 Mar 1835
d. 7 Sep 1835

Mary was born and died in Cross Creek Township

This stone belongs to Stephen Alfred Priest and is the one leaning against Mary's stone.

b. 7 Aug 1836
d. 1 Sep 1836

Stephen was born in Wintersville and died in Wintersville, Ohio.





This is John Miller's headstone lying flat on the ground having fallen over. This was the son of the pioneer John Miller Sr. The son was born in 1820 and died 14 Mar 1895. According to Alan Gould's analysis there are three veterans lying in this cemetery. John Miller Jr served in the Civil War from 4 Jul 1863 to 6 Jul 1864 and he was in the Navy. John Loyd Jr served in the Army from 4 Sep 1862 to 4 Oct 1862. Lastly, John Wilson served in the Army in the War of 1812 from 8 May 1812 to 26 Aug 1813.

Below is a remanent, and the only one, of any markers for the veterans in the Loyd Family Cemetery. And it is just sitting on top of a tombstone in a broken stance.





Valentine Priest

b. 27 Dec 1809
 Wellsburg, Virginia
 m. 19 Dec 1833
 Jefferson County, Ohio
 d. 18 Apr 1888
 Pneumonia at 79 years of age
 At home in Wintersville, Ohio
 Buried in Loyd Family Cemetery

Falling Leaves Steubenville Daily Herald Wed
 April 18, 1888 Vol 42 No. 18
 Valentine Priest, the aged postmaster at Wintersville, died this morning at 1 o'clock after an illness of five weeks, in the 79th year of his age. The deceased was one of the first residents of Wintersville, settling there back in the thirties and has since made it his home. He was made a postmaster during the administration of President Pierce (1853-1857), and served until removed during the early days of Lincoln's administration. Upon the election of Cleveland (1885-1889) he again resumed the office after an interval of 21 (or 24) years. He was one of the staunchest Democrats in the county and

gained considerable prominence owing to his stand upon political matters. His store at Wintersville was for nearly a half century headquarters for old line Democrats. He married a sister of John Loyd, (Jr.) and leaves five children to mourn his loss: Henry M., President of the Junction Iron Co., at Mingo; William and Campbell of this city; and two unmarried daughters at home.

Elizabeth (Loyd) Priest

b. 30 Nov 1810
 Cross Creek Township, Ohio
 d. 24 Mar 1882
 Wintersville, Ohio

Two years after their marriage, the Priests moved to Gould's place in Cross Creek Township, Jefferson County, Ohio. That was in 1835 and they lived there for nine years as Valentine earned money as a blacksmith. In 1844 they moved to Wintersville, Ohio.



It was a bittersweet trip to the Loyd Family Cemetery. On the one hand it was exciting to see the burial site of so many of the Quinn ancestors and yet sad to see the state of the cemetery. So many people can trace their ancestors to the Loyd Family Cemetery that it is a shame that it has been allowed to deteriorate to its present state. The cemetery headstones need to be rescued before they disappear into the ground. The cemetery is located in a remote area within Cross Creek Township and this has surely led to its present state of decay. The three veterans buried in the cemetery demand better care and recognition for their service to the USA.



References:

Priests: 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880 United States Federal Census
 History of the Loyd Family Cemetery -- Alan Gould
 Descendants of John Loyd Sr. -- Alan Gould
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 Photo Collection of Bessie Priest
 Tombstone Photos of Loyd Family Cemetery November 2009 --David and Joan Quinn
 Quinn Ancestors -- Beverly Quinn
 Notes from Helen Hook Haglund -- 1981
 Notes from Alan Gould -- 2009
 Falling Leaves - Valentine Priest: Steubenville Daily Herald, Wednesday April 18, 1888 Vol 42 No.18
 Will of John Loyd Sr. -- 18 Oct 1849
 John Loyd Sr. and Mary Miller: 1850 United States Federal Census
 Jonathan Hook and Mary Gould: 1850, 1860, 1870 United States Federal Census
 Deed-- John Loyd to William C. Loyd et al. -- Jefferson County, Ohio Deed Book 72 Page 192 April 18, 1895 (research by Alan Gould)