

# Fort Steilacoom

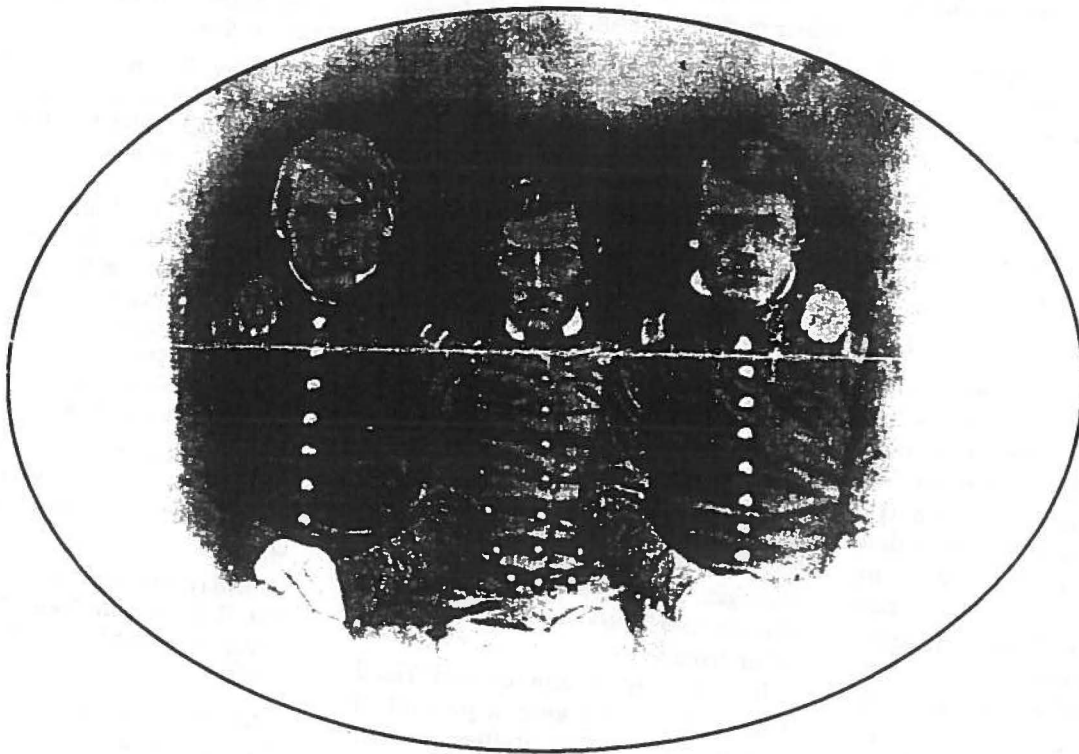
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Fort Steilacoom, Washington

Spring, 2006

## Lt. John Nugen 1830-1857

by Anne Timmons Marshall



*Lt. G. W. Crook, Cadet P. H. Sheridan, Lt. John Nugen*

*The author, Anne Timmons Marshall of La Jolla, California, is the great-great granddaughter of Robert Hunter Nugen (1809-1872), the uncle of John Nugen, Superintendent of the Ohio Canal at Newcomerstown and U.S. Representative in the 37<sup>th</sup> Congress (March 4, 1861 to March 3, 1863.)*

**H**e was twenty-seven years old when he died of consumption and among his belongings was a proposal of marriage to Mary Wells Slaughter, widow of the fallen commander of Fort Steila-

coom, Washington Territory, Captain William Alloway Slaughter.

John Nugen was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, on February 2, 1830. When quite young he moved with his parents, James and Sarah Nugen, to Newcomerstown, Tuscarawas County, Ohio. He was the oldest of eight children by the time he was nominated for an appointment to West Point in May 1847 by Congressman John D. Cummins, Democrat, of Ohio 16<sup>th</sup> District (1845-49).

Newcomerstown was a frontier town with about 300 residents. His application to the Academy stated that he was eighteen years old, five feet eight inches high and "in all respects well formed and proportional and is physically and mentally perfectly sound and healthy and vigorous." The application also stated that he was "a good English school lad, in reading, writing grammar and arithmetic" and this was signed by twenty-one of the townspeople, including his uncle, Robert Hunter Nugen.

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Lt. John Nugen** (from page 1)

He signed his acceptance on March 31, 1848, and began at West Point that July. Among his classmates were other Ohio boys, including George Crook and August V. Kautz, whose journals give us much of what is known about the daily routine of life at Fort Steilacoom. Another Ohio lad, Philip Sheridan, started in the same class but was suspended for a year because of a fistfight and graduated later. The four appear together (Crook, Kautz, Nugen, Sheridan) in the 1850 U.S. census in the town of Cornwall, Orange County, New York.

John Nugen became a Brevet Second Lieutenant in the Second Infantry on July 1, 1852, graduating twenty-eighth in a class of forty-three. Fourteen months later he became a Second Lieutenant in the Fourth Infantry. He was first assigned to Ft. Columbus on Governor Island in New York Harbor.

Before he headed for duty in the West, Lt. Nugen visited Newcomerstown at least once. On July 28, 1853, he attended a wedding there with his friend Philip Sheridan. It was held at a stone house on the edge of town and exists to this day. After the ceremony all the wedding guests, as was the custom, rode behind the newlyweds to their home in nearby Port Washington, six and a half miles further up the Tuscarawas River. According to reports of the family, the two West Point graduates were waving their swords in the air all of the way.

Nugen and Kautz were sent to California, which had been admitted to the United States as a free state September 9, 1850. Nugen was assigned to Benicia, in California's Central Valley east of the Bay Area where the U.S. Army had established an arsenal two years before. He served there with his West Point friend and classmate George Crook. His last assignment before Ft. Steilacoom was at Fort Miller, near present day Fresno. On New Year's Eve 1853 Lieutenant Nugen, who was serving as commander of a

detachment of soldiers sent to observe and control the Yokut Indians, ominously reported that many members of the tribe were ill with malaria and fever. Perhaps this was where he became infected with consumption.

In the autumn of 1852, Captain William Alloway Slaughter, also a West Point graduate, arrived in the Washington Territory to take command of Fort Steilacoom. He and his wife, Mary, sailed from New York, traveling overland through Panama to the Pacific Ocean and to the new assignment on the West Coast with other members of the Fourth Infantry. Lieutenant U. S. Grant wrote letters during the trip to his wife, Julia, that included several references to Captain Slaughter and Mary. He called her "a very nice lady." Upon arrival Captain Slaughter was almost immediately engaged in local problems while Mary Slaughter helped with domestic duties at the fort.

Lieutenant Nugen arrived at Fort Steilacoom in 1854, only a year before Captain Slaughter was killed in action against the Indians at White River on December 4, 1855. He was 28. Mary stayed at the fort until late March when she began the sad journey back to her family in Michigan. From Port Huron, Michigan, she corresponded with Nugen and other friends.

John Nugen's classmate and friend August V. Kautz kept a journal of everyday life at Fort Steilacoom that recorded the activities of the soldiers. There were trips for criminal trials, contacts with friendly Indians and French Missionaries, hunting and fishing, according to Gary Fuller Reese, who edited the journals in the 1970s. Kautz also documented Nugen's last days.

Sunday, August 2, 1857 - Nugen went down the Sound after deserters yesterday.

Tuesday, September 8 - the day was spent in the garrison. Scott and Nugen rode to Olympia and back today.

Tuesday, September 15 - Nugen continues quite sick. He is disposed

to consumption and requires to take great care of himself.

Wednesday, September 16 - Nugen continues sick.

Saturday, September 19 - I was much shocked at the change in Nugen, he is very sick, I thought him a doomed man and I have not been so moved in a long time, as I was to see him today.

Monday, September 28 - Nugen is progressing very slowly.

Thursday, October 1 - We had some more rain today. There is much reason to fear for Nugen, he has relapsed at present and if it continues two or three days he cannot live.

Thursday, October 22 - I took a nap in the afternoon and was awakened up by the intelligence that Nugen was dead. He has been insensible for three days and sinking very rapidly. He died about half past four o'clock. He has sank [sic] so gradually that his death though it falls heavily upon us, it does not shock us. We are all saddened by his death and this is a great gloom upon us. Nugen will be buried tomorrow at 4 o'clock.

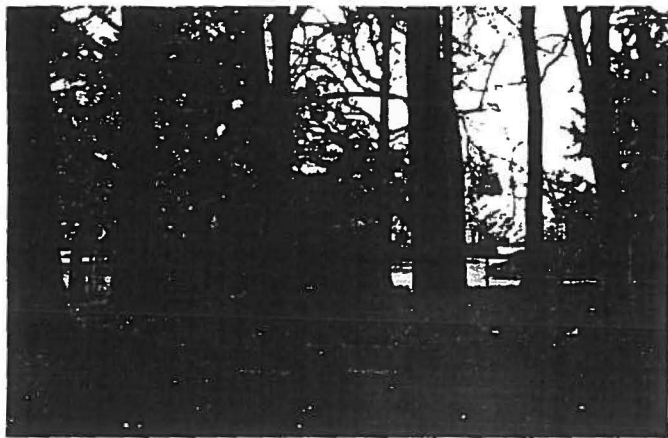
Friday, October 23 - The funeral passed off well. Many people attended and some came down from Olympia.

Saturday, October 31 - I wrote to Col. R. H. Nugen, Newcomerstown, Ohio, informing him of his nephew's death.

The next days are peppered with references to John Nugen's belongings and estate. Kautz notes that John Nugen's estate included several hundred dollars and several month's of pay for his heirs.

Monday, December 4 - I arranged Nugen's papers. I found unexpectedly a letter to Mrs. Slaughter dated July 30 which he probably intended to send but did not, perhaps on account of his expected leave of absence and subsequently on account of his sickness. I shall send it to her as it may be valuable to her. He proposes matrimony to her as far as I read the letter.

(Continued on page 4)



Old Fort Steilacoom cemetery where John Nugen and William Slaughter were originally buried.

**Lt. John Nugen** (from page 3)

We do not know if ever Mary received the letter forwarded to her by Kautz from John Nugen. In his book about the life of Lieutenant Slaughter by Joseph Koch he states that Mary died "of a broken heart" at the age of 30 on January 3, 1862, and is buried in a family plot at Woodlawn Cemetery in Port Huron.

And what of the other Ohio classmates who moved up rapidly in the Civil War that closed down Fort Steilacoom only four years after Nugen's death? Philip Sheridan died on August 5, 1888, with the rank of General, only one of four in U.S. history at that time (Washington, Grant, Sherman and Sheridan). He was fifty-seven. George Crook died

March 21, 1890, with the rank of Major General, a hero of the Civil War and famous for his successes against the Sioux, Cheyenne, Crow, Shoshone and Apache Indians. He was sixty. August V. Kautz died September 4, 1895, a Brigadier General. He had been a hero in the Civil War and a member of

the military commission who judged those accused in the assassination plot of President Lincoln and was the journal keeper who recorded the everyday life at Fort Steilacoom, including the last sad days of his friend John Nugen. He was sixty-five.

Lieutenant John Nugen was buried at Fort Steilacoom, but his body, along with others, including that of Captain William Alloway Slaughter, was moved to the Presidio in San Francisco and re-interred on February 1, 1896, a day before what would have been his sixty-sixth birthday (Section Os Row 60 Site 7). Captain Slaughter is two spaces away (Section Os Row 60 Site 5).

**References and comments:**

Joseph Koch, *William Alloway Slaughter, Lt., US Army 1827-1855, Frontier Soldier*, Privately printed, White River Valley Historical Society, 1991.

Gary Fuller Reese, Editor, *The Northwest Journals of August V. Kautz*, Unpublished, Tacoma Public Library, August 1978.

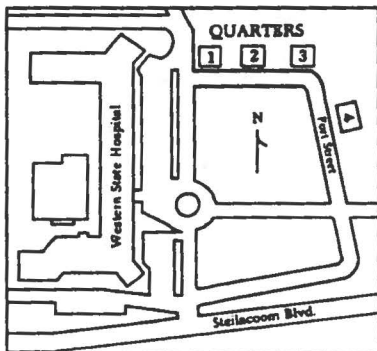
Brevet: A commission giving a military officer higher nominal rank than that for which he receives pay. *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*.

**"Liberty on the Border"**

Visitors can see "Liberty at the Border" at the Washington State Historical Museum in Tacoma from now until September 10, 2006. This exhibit offers a fresh approach to Civil War history by exploring the concepts of liberty, race, and borders—geographical, cultural, and ideological. Visitors will see the coming of war, its battlefields, its home fronts, and its legacy through the era of Martin Luther King, Jr., and beyond. Featuring artifacts, archival documents, broadsides, ephemera, lithographs, videos, and photographs, the exhibit invites viewers to connect history with their own lives. A special section shows how the issues of liberty, race and borders played out in the formative years of our own state of Washington.

**Historic Fort Steilacoom**

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Steilacoom, WA 98388



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Charles St Davis & wife

Know all men that we Charles St Davis and Hannah Davis  
his wife of the County of Lincoln and State of Ohio,

Robert M. Hager

in consideration of certain hundred and fifty dollars.

Deed.

to us paid by Robert M. Hager of the same County and

State, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby

begin and convey to the said Robert M. Hager his heirs and assigns forever the following  
certain Tract of land situate in the State of Ohio in the County of Hamilton and being more

than half of a tract of land devised by Samuel Stobbs to James Stobbs and Thomas  
Stobbs and being a part of the Hedges tract containing a more or less in the South West

Corner and the line of James Stobbs, and by the said Robert M. Hager, thence running South

to the southeast of the intersection of the line of James Stobbs with the line of the

of the said Hedges thence West to the place of beginning containing twenty seven acres  
more or less and the above described lot of land except as much as will be used by the

Heirs of the said Charles St Davis and Hannah St Davis as they may hereafter establish

to hold the same to the said Robert M. Hager his heirs and assigns forever and the

said Robert M. Hager do hereby and he do hereby covenant with the said Robert M.  
Hager that he and his heirs and assigns that he is lawfully seized of the premises before

that the said premises are free and clear from all claims and demands whatsoever and that

the said Robert M. Hager has hereof and of his own accord the lawful claim of all persons whomsoever  
claim in the premises interest thereof Charles St Davis and Hannah St Davis his

and assigns do hereby and he do hereby covenant with the said Robert M. Hager

1853

ought been presumed and fully those  
I speak of called on the depositions in presence of  
Wm. C. Carpenter, John Sanghead

Chas. J. Shaw  
Tennock Davis

State of Ohio  
Lecounts County

Know all men that on this 27th day of June  
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred  
and fifty three before me the undersigned Justice of the  
Peace in and for said County personally came Charles J. Shaw and Tennock Davis who

the grantor in the above certificate and depositions the signing and attesting the same take  
this day at and read for the uses and purposes therein mentioned, that the said Tennock  
and wife of the said Charles J. Shaw being at the same time examined by me in private  
and apart from her said husband and the credit of said deed being by me ~~known~~ known  
and appeared to her the then oldest that she said voluntarily and knowingly and without  
the said and that she is well satisfied therewith as her act and deed for the uses and purposes  
in the premises, the testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed  
my seal on the day and year last aforesaid.

John Sanghead  
Justice of the Peace

Witness my hand and seal  
this 19th day of July 1853.  
Recorded July 20. 1853.

Simon S. Archer, Recorder

# Family Group Sheet

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**Husband: Rev. James Nugen**

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Born: 1797 in: Pennsylvania  
Died: 01 Mar 1859 in: Newcomerstownm Oxford Twp. Tuscarawas Co. Ohio  
Father: James  
Mother: Elizabeth Hubter

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**Wife: Sarah Snyder**

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Born: 1808 in: Pennsylvania  
Died: 10 Jan 1881 in: Newcomerstownm Oxford Twp. Tuscarawas Co. Ohio

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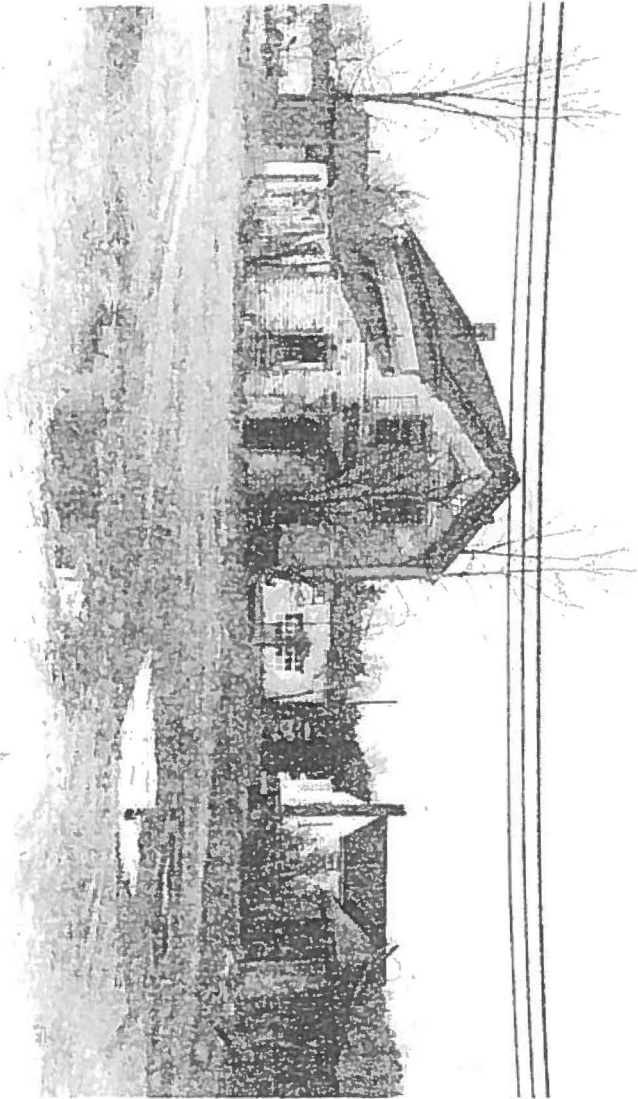
**CHILDREN**

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1 F	Name: Elizabeth Nugen Born: 03 Mar 1831 Died: 24 Oct 1920 Married: 1857 Spouse: Samuel Miller	in: New Lisbon, Columbiana Co. Ohio in: Lone Elm, Anderson Co. Kansas in: Newcomerstown, Oxford Twp, Tuscarawas Co. OH
2 M	Name: James Nugen Born: 1834 Married: Spouse: Elizabeth (ubknown)	
3 F	Name: Sarah Jane Nugen Born: 1836 Died: 1924	in: Salem Twp, Tuscarawas Co. Ohio in: Newcomerstownm Oxford Twp. Tuscarawas Co. Ohio
4 F	Name: Margaret Nugen Born: 1838	in: Salem Twp, Tuscarawas Co. Ohio
5 F	Name: Almira Nugen Born: 1843	in: Salem Twp, Tuscarawas Co. Ohio
6 M	Name: George W Nugen Born: 13 Sep 1845 Died: 20 Jan 1891 Married: 02 Sep 1869 Spouse: Catherine Hill	in: Salem Twp, Tuscarawas Co. Ohio in: Ohio in: Tuscarawas Co. Ohio
7 M	Name: Henry Nugen Born: 1851	in: Port Washington, Salem Twp. Tuscarawas Co. OH
8 M	Name: John Nugen Born: 02 Feb 1830 Died: 22 Oct 1857	in: Columbiana County, Ohio in: Fort Steilacoom, Washington Territory

from:  
Harley

for  
Elaine  
:)



The old Nagers Home

Present site of  
David Barber Civic Center  
East State Street  
Net., Ohio

166



The Nugen residence as it appeared prior to the 1913 flood.



By Lois Zimmer Craig

Last spring's Sunday afternoon fire-fighting drill when the remains of the old Col. Robert H. Nugen house on E. State St. <sup>Newcomerstown</sup> were burned brought a sad but welcome end to a once lovely dwelling.

Now except for a cemetery monument, the last local trace of that popular and highly respected family is gone. Col. Nugen's only son, Robert, eventually lived in California and so far as is known left no family, and none of his daughters' descendants now live in this area.

There is no record of when the Nugen residence was built, though this probably took place not long after Col. Nugen came to Newcomerstown, in connection with building and operating the Ohio Canal. His wife was Sarah Hogland <sup>born in New Jersey</sup> and the fact that their eldest daughter, Elmira, was born in 1833 might indicate their marriage took place elsewhere.

His name first appears in county records in connection with land purchases in Oxford Twp, the first being from Philip W. Neighbor in 1836. Additional deeds were recorded from John W. Cooley in 1840; William Gardner in 1841; Levi Sargent, 1842; Harlow Chapen, 1842, John V. Cowell, 1845 and George Harris, 1848. Four years after his death in 1872, land-owners listed in Michener's "Annals of the Muskingum & Tuscarawas Valley" show Col. Nugen's estate included 783 acres at a total valuation of \$60,000. The major part of this was the broad, rich bottom land south and east of the bend in the river presently owned by Mrs. Robert Brode and Carl Portz.

Apparently that same year the estate was divided among his children, for the 1876 County Atlas shows <sup>two</sup> broad strips running between the river and the hills to the south belonging to Phedora (incorrectly spelled Theodora) Timmons; Elizabeth Vogenitz, R. H. Nugen Jr., Camilla S. Nugen and Lillis Shields. The homestead and other land north of the river, carries the name of Elmira, the eldest daughter whose husband was Garrett

B. Smith. All of the daughters, along with their parents, are buried on a lot next to the railroad in the E. State St. Cemetery.

Col. Nugen, A Democrat, served one term in Congress from 1861 to 1863, and at the time of his death was superintendent for the lessees of the Ohio Canal. From 1861 to 1879 it was leased to a group of private individuals in the hope that such an operation would be more efficient and profitable.

The Nugen house, surrounded by lawn with trees at intervals along its outer edge, faced the lane which eventually became Pilling St. A smooth flagstone walk extended from the front porch to the road and grape hyacinths blossomed each spring in the grass. I have been told that a decorative iron fence once enclosed the yard and there were numerous farm buildings. But by the early 1900's most of these had disappeared and the ones left were becoming overgrown with trumpet vines. By that time, too, all that remained of the orchard in the field to the north were a few broken trees, among them duchess, rambo and queen apples; the last-named so juicy and sweet that anyone attempting to gather the fallen fruit had to battle the honey bees.

As a child I thought I loved the old Nugen home more than my own, for I spent countless happy hours there in appointments more luxurious, by comparison, than our own more austere and utilitarian surroundings. Especially memorable are the hall with its white stairway and gracefully curving mahogany rail; the cold front parlor with its scratchy horsehair furniture; the upstairs guest room where there was a beautiful four-poster bed; and the cozy sitting room, above which was the "long room." Actually this was an attic where fascinating things always could be found to entertain children.

Fortunately ours was a generation in which children were permitted to adopt their neighbors as relatives, so to me the occupants of the house were Grandpa and Grandma Smith, their daughter, Aunt Jessie who

later became Mrs. Jerry Starker, and their son-in-law and daughter, Uncle Alvin and Aunt Sadie Sperling whose son was Walter.

But things never were the same after the 1913 flood, when water covered the first floor of the house. The chimney in the dining room which formed an ell at the west side facing the river, collapsed, filling the room with rubble and ruining the kitchen which lay beyond. The house was reduced in size, remodeled and the family continued there for the next few years. Then about 1917 the Sperlings moved to California and Grandma Smith who had been a widow since 1911, went downtown to live with her daughter Mrs. Starke, where she died in 1923.

Finally the property was sold and later the house was moved from its original location. For a number of years it was occupied by renters, but finally it became a make-shift filling station.

So far, efforts to establish the origin of the "colonel" always associated with Robert H. Nugen's name have been fruitless, and the idea that he was a West Point graduate has proved to be erroneous. The error undoubtedly arises through confusion between his name and that of his nephew, John Nugan.

Recent correspondence with the archives department of the Academy established this identity and serves to verify an anecdote handed down in the Pilling family, the Nugens' closest neighbors and my ancestors.

On July 28, 1853, James Pilling's eldest daughter Anne was married to Conrad Stocker. Among the wedding guests were a nephew of Col. Nugen and his West Point classmate, Phil Sheridan, both of whom were visiting at Col. Nugen's home. Following the ceremony, as was the custom at that time, all the young people including Nugen and Sheridan rode horseback to accompany the newlyweds to their home at Port Washington. Later Mr. and Mrs. Stocker built and occupied until their deaths the large brick house about a half-mile west of the village, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dichler.

Today Col. Nugen's great-great-grandchildren are scattered throughout the U.S. but many, if not all, of the preceding generation already are gone. Two among these who attained prominence were Judge Robert Nugen Wilkin of the U.S. Federal Court in Cleveland, and photographic artist Dever Timmons of Coshocton.

Atty. Post whose grandmother Virginia Wilkin was the Smiths' eldest daughter, perhaps represents the largest group of descendants since she and her husband, Atty. Foster Wilkin, had eight children-- Wilbur, Garrett, Marcia Post, Maxine Blake, Dave, Reid, Jim and Robert. The family lived in New Philadelphia, as did another <sup>Smith</sup> daughter, Christina Sargent, whose sons, Fred and Garrett, now live in the West. Walter Sperling, who graduated from Newcomerstown High School in 1913, lives in Los Angeles. The Smiths also had two sons, Robert who operated a grocery here on River St., and died childless, and Howard who lived in Mansfield and had one son, Garrett. Another Smith daughter, Marcia Raif, left a daughter Clara. ~~and~~ Their youngest child, Ellie, died of diptheria when she was eight.

The Smith <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ Timmons <sup>and Raif</sup> families produced all of the Nugen descendants, for three other daughters -- Elizabeth Vogenitz, Camilla Sharp and ~~###~~ Lillis Shields--left no children.

Nugen- cont.

1910  
Elmira Nugen Smith who had been widowed in 1911, remained there until about 1917 with her son-in-law and daughter, Sarah (Mr and Mrs. Alvin Sperling) who then moved with their son, Walter, to California.

Therefore Mrs. Smith made her home in Newcomerstown with another son-in-law and daughter, Jessie (Mr and Mrs. J.C. Starker) where she died in 1923.

The old house never was the same, however, after the 1913 flood when water covered the first floor. The chimney in the dining room, which formed an ell at the west side facing the river, collapsed, filling the room with rubble and ruining the kitchen which lay beyond. During the resultant remodeling the house was reduced in size. After being vacated by the family the property was sold and eventually the house was moved from its original location. After having been occupied by renters, it eventually was converted into a filling station and neighbors sighed with relief when finally in the spring of 1975, its demolition provided a fire-fighting exercise for the local fire department.

(How sad! What a lowly comedown!) D.O.L.

Contributed by Lois Zimmer Craig

A contribution from the TCGS

Caroline McCollam, wife of William McCollam and Mary C. Neighbor, wife of Y.H. Neighbor (the men being Civil War Veterans) started the first Decoration day parade in Uhrichsville, O. They took their children to the cemetery and decorated the soldiers' graves with flowers. Larger parades followed in the years to come.

Note; This must be Mary Exline Neighbor, wife of Harrison Neighbor. He did not die until 23, Mar. 1896



## Several identify portrait subjects at courthouse

A 50-year and more mystery has been solved, according to **Earl Olmstead**, president of the Tuscarawas County Historical Society.

Thanks to correspondence from friends and former residents, some as far away as La Jolla, Calif., identifications of the four pictures atop the interior dome of the county courthouse, have been verified.

The identity of Civil War Col. **Mathias Bartilson**, former county prosecuting attorney who died from wounds sustained at the battle of Iuka, has been known for many years. It occupies the upper south wall of the dome.

Olmstead said a records search by county officials and historical society members "for decades" failed to reveal identity of the other three portraits.

**Robert Hunter Nugen** (1809-1872) a former U.S. representative and delegate from this county to the Democratic National Convention in 1860, and former superintendent of the Ohio-Erie Canal is pictured. Verification came from **Anne Timmons Marshall** of La Jolla who has corresponded with Olmstead following a family genealogical research visit to New Philadelphia last October. Nugen is buried in the Newcomerstown cemetery.

The other two portraits are of **George W. McIlvaine**, former County Common Pleas judge and Ohio Supreme Court justice, and **James Patrick Jr.**, also a Common Pleas judge.

After further research, the local historical society is planning to publish a booklet telling "The Tale of the Mysterious Court House Pictures," Olmstead said.

State, and one of the pioneers of Stark County. He was a farmer, and passed his last years in Columbiana County, Ohio. He reared a family of twelve children, namely: John, Jacob, Solomon, George, Joseph, Mathias, Daniel, Catherine, Hannah, Margaret, Betsey and Mary. On the maternal side Mrs. Lechner's grandfather was John Worley, who came from the old Pennsylvania state. To himself and wife, whose maiden name was Mary Springer, were born twelve children, who grew to mature years, namely: Polly, Rebecca, Catherine, Nancy, Daniel, Michael, Thomas, Ake, Joseph, John, George and Jacob. With the exception of John and George, these children all married and had families. John died after enlisting in the War of 1812, but before reaching the field of battle.

The union of George and Matilda Lechner was blessed with the following children: Catherine E., who became the wife of Philip C. Furney, of this township; Charity, deceased, formerly the wife of Samuel Cunningham, by whom she had two daughters; Osce, the wife of Emanuel Sweaney; Joseph M.; Oliver P., whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume; and Matilda J.



**G**ARRETT B. SMITH, one of the popular business men and prominent citizens of New Comerstown, who is at present engaged in mercantile pursuits in that city, is a native of Columbus, Ohio, and was born January 31, 1828. He is a son of Anson and Triphena (Smith) Smith, also natives of Columbus. Anson Smith was a carpenter and contractor by occupation, and carried on his trade in his native city until his death, which occurred in 1840. To the union of this couple six children were born, as follows: Ann Eliza, Sarah, William, Frank, Annie and Garrett B.

The subject of this sketch received his education in the public schools of Columbus, where he spent his time much the same as other boys of his age. At the age of twelve years he was thrown on his

own resources. His father dying at that time left the family with limited means, and Garrett was compelled to start out to make a living for himself. He occupied his time in various ways until he was about sixteen years old, when he began his mercantile career. Going to Roscoe, he engaged as clerk in a dry-goods store, where he remained three years. During this time he conducted himself in an honest, straightforward manner, and by his industrious habits, and the interest he took in the firm, he soon won the respect and confidence of his employer. He became very popular in the community, his courteous manners and pleasant ways winning for him many warm and true friends. While engaged as clerk in Roscoe, Colonel Nugen, of New Comerstown, was so attracted to him by his cheerful manner, the interest he took and the skill he showed in the management of the business, that he induced him to come to New Comerstown and take charge of his store at that place. Here he was as successful as in the former place, and in a short time became a partner in the firm.

In 1854 Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Elmira, the eldest daughter of Col. R. H. Nugen, and to them have been born eight children, namely: Virginia, Marcia M., Robert H., Sarah H., Christina, Howard, Jessie K. and Elmira. Mr. Smith has given his children all good educations, fitting them to fill any position in life wherever their lot may be cast.

Mr. Smith was given the entire supervision of the construction of the Pan Handle Railroad in that section, which was built in 1863, 1864 and 1865, since which time he has given his attention strictly to his own business interests. In connection with his mercantile trade he owns and operates a large farm, to which he gives much of his personal time and attention. Mr. Smith is what may be termed a self-made business man. Having had to look out for himself since a mere lad, he has fought his own way onward and upward, and to-day stands numbered among the best business men and honored citizens of Tuscarawas County.

Socially our subject is identified with the Masonic order, being a member of Lone Star Lodge, Nugen Chapter, and Mt. Vernon Commandery at Columbus, Ohio. Politically he is a staunch



PORTRAIT AND

BIOGRAPHICAL



RECORD

OR

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Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens of the County,



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1895.



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of the  
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- ★ New Search
- ★ House History Page
- ★ Senate History Page

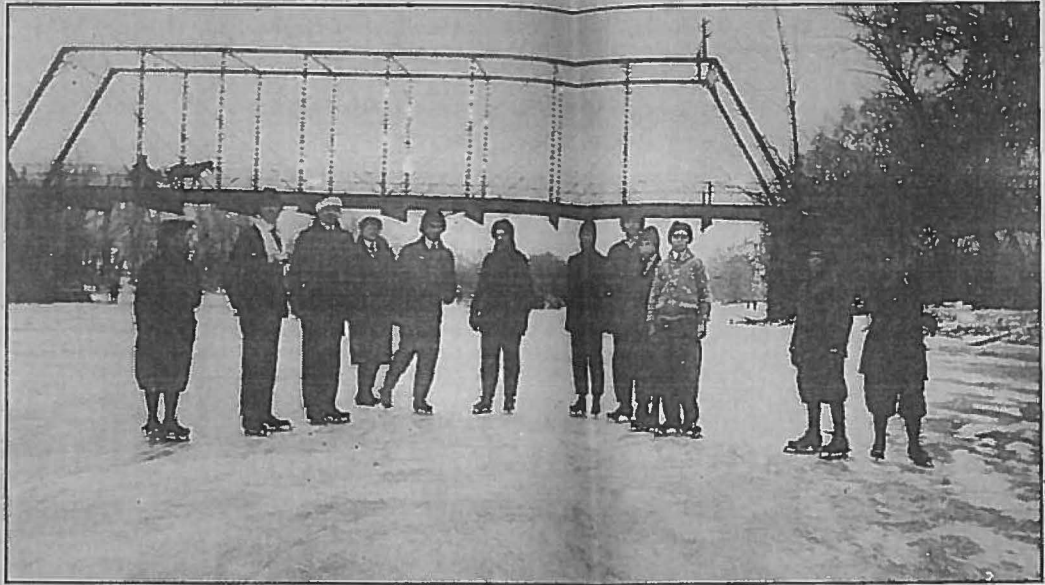
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## NUGEN, Robert Hunter, 1809-1872

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NUGEN, Robert Hunter. a Representative from Ohio; born near Hallidays Cove, Washington County, Pa., on July 16, 1809; moved to Ohio in 1811 with his parents, who settled in Columbiana County; received a limited education; moved to Tuscarawas County in 1828; engaged in agricultural pursuits; contractor; held several local offices; delegate to the Democratic National Convention at Charleston in 1860; elected as a Democrat to the Thirty-seventh Congress (March 4, 1861-March 3, 1863); superintendent of the Ohio Canal until his death in Newcomerstown, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, February 28, 1872; interment in Newcomerstown Cemetery.

## Memory Lane



A group of local youths (names unknown) skate on the frozen Tuscarawas River in this early 1900s photograph. In the background is the old Nugen Bridge, named for the Nugen family that once resided across from the bridge where the David Barber Civic Center now stands. The bridge was just west of the current Route 258 bridge. (Photo sent to William Casteel courtesy of Laurie Sullivan, Texas)

## Lost in time

When four portraits were painted in the dome of the Tuscarawas County Courthouse a century ago, they were not identified.

Perhaps it was just an oversight, or maybe officials of the time figured their subjects were so well-known names were unnecessary.

But as time passed, their contemporaries died and the portrait identities were lost — just like unmarked old photos in the family album. It took considerable detective work by Earl Olmstead, president of the Tuscarawas County Historical Society, and the cooperation of many others to re-establish the quartet: Col. Mathias Bartilson, a Civil War hero; ~~Robert~~ Hunter Nugen, U.S. representative, Democratic politician and superintendent of the Ohio-Erie Canal; George W. McIlvaine, an Ohio Supreme Court judge; and James Patrick Jr., a Common Pleas Court judge. *First Name Mistake*

We are grateful for the diligence spent in solving the mystery, but there is a lesson for current notables who may become imbued with their own self-importance: Names and faces can quickly fade. Immortality only comes from deeds which benefit future generations.

*Nugen's First Name - Robert Hunter Nugen*

## Senior Center Menu

is the Senior Center  
Hamburger, saurkraut, baked potato, watermelon pie  
4 - Closed  
- Fettuccini sauce (LS Alt = Low Sodium), asparagus, breadstick,  
baked chicken, California carrot and

celery sticks, whole wheat bread, pineapple tidbits  
Monday, July 9 - Roast pork, mashed potatoes, vegetables, seven layer salad, whole wheat bread, strawberries and whipped cream  
Tuesday, July 10 - Salmon patty, creamed peas and onions, beets with orange sauce, whole wheat roll, fresh cantaloupe  
(LS Alt = Low Sodium Alternate and LF Alt = Low Fat Alternate must be ordered ahead.)  
Menu subject to change.

## Citizens planning boat trip, July 22

Newcomerstown and All Ways 2 Travel are sponsoring a cruise trip aboard the "Gateway Clipper." The trip is scheduled for Monday, July 22 and the package includes the luxury motorcoach, two hour tour with live music, unlimited pop, ice tea or lemonade. The trip departs Newcomerstown at 2 p.m., board the ship at 3:30 p.m. and disembark at 8:30 p.m.

Contact Ginny Ruppensburg at (740) 498-3333.

## The Hood with Walt

### Is a hybrid car really better?

about gas prices but continue to pay the

prices are high and why oil company

ment decided we didn't need to be  
they forced the auto manufactures to

es, who actually know their business,  
effective Hybrid car. Our government  
too stupid to figure this out just make  
to gallon fuel efficiency.

they could do that if the government  
prices, other wise, no one would buy

done on the overall cost of owning a  
3.

maintain and sell a Toyota Prius  
was 3.24 per mile.

maintain and sell a Hummer H3 from  
mile.

## Regional Events

**JUNE 8-AUG. 25 -- TRUMPET IN THE LAND** Outdoor Drama, Schoenbrunn Amphitheater, Trumpet Dr. NE, New Philadelphia. Outdoor drama depicting Revolutionary War. Mon.-Sat. 8 p.m. (330-364-5111, [www.trumpetintheland.com](http://www.trumpetintheland.com))

**JUNE 8-SEPT. 1 -- TECUMSEH!** Outdoor Drama, Chillicothe. Story of legendary Shawnee leader's struggles to defend his sacred homelands during late 1700s. Mon.-Sat. 8 p.m. (866-775-0700, [www.tecumseh-drama.com](http://www.tecumseh-drama.com))

**JUNE 15-SEPT. 29 -- LIVING WORD** Outdoor Drama, 6010 College Hill Rd., Cambridge. Portrayal of life and ministry of Jesus Christ, spectacular 400-ft. panoramic set. Fri.-Sat. 8-10:30 p.m. (740-439-2761, [www.livingworddrama.org](http://www.livingworddrama.org))

**JUNE 22-AUG. 26 - BLUE JACKET** Outdoor Drama, Caesar's Ford Amphitheatre, 520 S. Stringtown Rd., Xenia. Frontier relived with Shawnee Indians, settlers, etc. (937-376-4358, [www.bluejacketdrama.com](http://www.bluejacketdrama.com))

NCF NEWS 4 JULY 2007

## 'Nugent' vs. 'Nugen'

### 'I'd like to know' spurs discussion

A recent "I'd like to know" question in the *Newcomerstown News* has spurred some discussion over whether the family in which a street is named after in Newcomerstown is spelled correctly.

Historian Elaine Mayenschein said there is proof that "Nugent" Street is spelled incorrectly and that it should be spelled "Nugen" to reflect the family that lived in the village.

According to a story published in the *Newcomerstown News*, the excerpt names Col. Robert Nugen from the historic family that once lived here. It reads:

"By 1849, the population of Newcomerstown had increased to five hundred, causing crowded conditions in the schools. Uniting the schools in the area into one school was suggested. Under the existing laws such a school could not be established without an approving vote of the freeholders of the territory to be affected. After a canvass of the township, it was found that the number of freeholders who opposed the change in schools exactly equaled the number that approved it. Then it was that Col. Robert Nugen, who was on the staff of Gov. Medill and later a member of Congress from this district, saw his opportunity to perform a great service for the children of this valley."

Another article reads that Nugen was a contractor congressman and superintendent of the Ohio and Erie Canal. He was born at Hallidays Cove in Washington County, Pa., in 1809. He came with his parents to Ohio in 1811, and moved to Tuscarawas County in 1828.

Mayenschein was asking if the street named "Nugent" could be changed to "Nugen" to reflect this historic family. In order to do so, a proposition must be brought before Newcomerstown Village Council, and they have the authority to change the name.

Kimbolton



# School Merger Meets Resistance In 1857

The decision to merge three sub-districts into the Newcomerstown Union School System on Feb. 2, 1857, resulted in a tight squeeze and an unusual legal maneuver.

According to a historical sketch by the late A. M. Beers in the annual catalogue published for the 1902-03 term, the issue to consolidate created about as much pro and con discussion as similar moves today.

Strong opposition to the plan developed and the law of the time required voters must own property in order to cast ballots. The number of voters were thus limited.

"In order to carry the measure through, Col. R. H. Nugen, then the leading spirit of Newcomerstown and vicinity, ably assisted by George H. Dent, one of the leading merchants, and George R. Little Esq., whose record was conspicuous as being friendly to public enterprises, and especially as to education, made a careful study of the vote and discovered that, there were not enough 'free holders' to carry the measure," Beers article explains.

Not to be denied, Col. Nugen had a deed executed for an island of about one acre in the Tuscarawas River near his home to a "community character" known as "Pewee" Brown. Brown became a voter and the

measure was carried by one vote.

"Thus was inaugurated the Newcomerstown Union School System," Beers wrote.

The first school under the union of the three sub-districts was opened in the new school building in the fall of 1855 with Prof. C. T. Emmerson as principal and a Mrs. Lamb, a Miss Freeman and a Mrs. Betts as teachers.

But the law which permitted sub-districts to operate schools could not be applied to mergers, however. The main difficulty arose in apportioning the proper number of directors and assessing the per

capita school tax.

The state legislature in 1847 passed what was known as the Akron School Law, providing for a board of six directors for six years giving them full control over all schools of the town. In 1848, this was extended to every incorporated town and city in the state where ever two-thirds of the qualified voters petitioned the town or city council in favor of such a move.

On March 18, 1856, 13 citizens signed such a petition and an election was held on March 29, 1856, at the home of D. R. Hammill.

Forty electors all voted for

adoption of the law. On April 12, they met again and elected Col. R. H. Nugen and George H. Dent for three-year terms, George R. Little and L. C. Davis for two-year terms and William H. Craig and Dr. Amasa Brown for one-year terms.

The board met that evening and named Davis president, Little secretary and Dent treasurer.

In later action, Treasurer Dent was authorized to obtain funds in the Oxford twp treasury from the township board of education and the amount drawn was \$816.37. Total operating money for the year of 1856 was \$856.



**MAPLEWOOD TEACHERS**—The staff of the old Maplewood School posed for this picture about 1913. Front (from left) are Martha Anderson, Marian Mullett, Edith Morris Rogers, Mary Leach, and Linna Rosenborough. Standing rear are Professor E. E. Smock, Xenia Hines, Miss Vogenitz, Etta Hines, Neva Tidrick and Alma Neighbor. (from left) are Martha Anderson,

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# Nc'town man's life tied to canal

In the rotunda of the Tuscarawas County Courthouse are portraits of four prominent men who lived in the county in the 19th century. One of those men is Robert Hunter Nugen of Newcomerstown, a contractor, congressman and superintendent of the Ohio and Erie Canal.

Nugen was born at Hallidays Cove, in Washington County, Pa., in 1809. He came with his parents to Ohio in 1811, and moved to Tuscarawas County in 1828.

Nugen's whole adult life was tied to the Ohio and Erie Canal. When he moved to this area, the canal was just being built. He started out working as a laborer with a pick and shovel, but he soon became a contractor.

He got the contract to build the state dam across the Tuscarawas River near Tuscarawas. But shortly before it was finished, the dam was washed away by a flood. Nugen hadn't been paid for his work, and he had no money to pay his employees. They threatened to imprison him for debt, which was the law in Ohio at that time. Fortunately, John Minnich, a prominent Tuscarawas businessman, advanced him the money to pay off his workers.

Nugen married Sarah Hoglan on Feb. 19, 1832. Sarah's family came from New Jersey, as did many of the early settlers of Newcomerstown. The Nugens became the parents of seven children, two sons and five

daughters.

His work as a contractor made Robert Nugen a rich man. He purchased 600 acres of fine bottomland along the Tuscarawas River just south of Newcomerstown and settled there with his family.

Nugen, a Democrat, soon gravitated toward politics. He ran unsuccessfully for state representative and state senator in the 1840s. In 1856, he was elected as one of the first five members of the Newcomerstown Board of Education.

In 1860, he was a delegate from Ohio to the Democratic National Convention at Charleston, S.C. He actively supported Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois for president.

That same year, Nugen was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. He served one term, from 1861 to 1863, during the early years of the Civil War.

Nugen made one speech of note during his two years in Congress. On May 26, 1862, he criticized a bill before the House to confiscate the property of rebels and free their slaves.

"Much as I admire the President (Abraham Lincoln) for the independence of thought and sound judgment which he has on many occasions exhibited, I fear he in this instance yielded

to the entreaties of politicians, instead of following the dictates of his own judgment, as well as the feelings and sentiments of the people of the country," the Congressional Globe quoted Nugen as saying. "For both he and gentlemen of the other side of the House will learn that most of these measures will not be sustained by the people, except in those radical sections of the country, where, on this subject, they are 'joined to their idols' and forget the interests



**Jon Baker**  
History

of the white man in prosecuting their projects of false philanthropy for the black race."

Nugen's speech drew criticism from the Tuscarawas Advocate, the Republican newspaper in the county.

The Advocate said Nugen's speech was almost exactly the same speech another Ohio congressman, William Allen, had delivered in April.

"It is a singular coincidence that our able Congressman should use Allen's language in giving vent to the pent up ideas of his mighty intellect!" the Advocate said.

The Advocate said that in the future it planned to publish extracts from both speeches, "in order to show, if possible, the difference between tweedle-dee and tweedle-dum(b)."

Nugen refused to run for reelection in 1863, and instead turned his full attention toward his first love, the Ohio and Erie Canal.

In 1861, the state leased the canal to six Ohio men. Nugen was the superintendent for the lessees.

He spent the last years of his life working tirelessly to keep the canal operating, in the face of stiff competition from the railroads.

In the winter of 1872, Nugen was busy collecting testimony from witnesses up and down the canal in advance of a hearing by a state legislative committee into the operation of the canal. Nugen overexerted himself, and died at his home at Newcomerstown on Feb. 28, 1872.

After his death, Nugen was eulogized by his friend Charles H. Mitchener, a prominent New Philadelphia politician and newspaperman. Mitchener wrote of Nugen that "although he often came in official contact with corrupt public men, he died with hands unstained by the venality of the times."

"As a friend he had few equals - as a father and husband no superior, and as a public man entrusted in all local improvements, we shall not soon again look upon his like," Mitchener wrote.

*Jon Baker writes this column monthly for The Times-Reporter. He can be reached at [jbake60@aol.com](mailto:jbake60@aol.com).*

19 NOV 2018

This is what I know about the street in Newcomerstown named Nugen St.:

This street from the time of its beginning was always called Nugen St. It was always Nugen St. until 1947. In 1947 when the town put up cement street markers somebody put "t" on the end of Nugen, thus changing it to Nugent.

It has remained that way ever since.

The reason this street was named Nugen street was because Robert Hunter Nugen owned the land where the street was laid out,

Also, Robert Hunter Nugen's daughter married a man named Smith.

That is how Smith St. got its name.

Robert Hunter Nugen owned land on both sides of the river, and when the state built the bridge on Old 21, Nugen gave the state the land to build the bridge on. That is why the bridge was always called the Nugen bridge.

He owned over 700 acres of land in Oxford Township, valued at that time, at ~~\$70,000.~~

66,000.

Nugen was a charter member of the Masonic lodge of Newcomerstown, and a chapter of the lodge is named the Nugen chapter.

Robert Hunter Nugen is buried in the W. State street Cemetery. His monument shows that his name was Robert Hunter Nugen. (No "t.")

His home was located where the David Barber Civic Ctr. is today.

My interest in this matter is because my Great Grandfather was a brother to Robert Hunter Nugen.

My Great Grandfather was Rev. James Nugen, who was a preacher in Newcomerstown. He is also buried in the W. State St. cemetery.

George Robert Nugen  
November 2018



(1)

## Biographical Sketch of Colonel Robert Hunter Nugen.

Col. Robert H. Nugen was born July 23, 1809. He died Thursday, Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1872 at the age of 62.

His grave and monument may be seen in the east end of the old section of the East State Street Cemetery in Newcomerstown, Ohio.

His occupation was that of Superintendent of the Ohio Canal from its inception (1833) to the time of his death in 1872. His territory extended from Newcomerstown, Ohio to Cleveland, Ohio.

He and his son-in-law, G. B. Smith, were partners in merchandising and in the construction of public works. In 1863-64-65 they built the greater part of the Pan Handle Division of Pennsylvania Railroad now the Penn Central Railroad.

Robert Hunter Nugen served ~~as~~ as a Democrat in Congress from 1861 to 1863.

Maury A. Bromsen associates Inc. of Boston, Mass. owns a brief autobiography written and signed by Robert H. Nugen in 1863. It is

(2)

addressed to the Librarian of the house of Representatives at that time, Mr. Charles Lanman. This form, part of the great Lanman Archive was acquired by Maury A. Bromsen Associates, Inc. at a public auction in Philadelphia.

Robert Hunter Nugen settled here in Newcomerstown in 1836.

He bought 800 acres of land at \$8.00 per acre.

The Centennial History of Events of a Century in the Muskingum and Tuscarawas Valleys, edited by C.H. Mitchner, Published in 1876, mentions the R.H. Nugen heirs.

They received 783 acres of land valued at that time at \$60,000.00.

Robert Hunter Nugen's home stood where the Baker's auto parts store is now in Newcomerstown, Ohio.

He donated the State some land for the purpose of constructing a bridge across the Tuscarawas River. The bridge was named the Nugen bridge. This bridge stood next to what is now John's restaurant formerly Stoffer's Restaurant.

This bridge is now torn down and another one built to take its place.

A street was run through the Nugen property and named after Robert Hunter Nugen.

Newcomerstown has the street marked Nugen Street. This is wrong because there was no T on R.H. Nugen's name.

(3)

Robert Hunter Nugen was a Charter member of Lone Star Lodge #175 F. & A. M. and the first Senior Warden.

Nugen Chapter #124 R. A. M.  
Origin and History Newcomerstown, Ohio

This Chapter was named after R. H. Nugen. The organizational meeting of Nugen Chapter was held June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1870.

R. H. Nugen was also a charter member of Tuscarawas Chapter, no. 38 Royal Arch Masons, organized in 1848. Nugen held the office of Scribe.

When R. H. Nugen died Lone Star Lodge honored him in the following way.

Invitations to his funeral were sent to Masonic Lodges in this area. The Pennsylvania Railroad was contacted to insure stopping trains as an accommodation to visiting Brethren. An Evergreen Car was procured. A Committee of three was appointed to draft resolutions on his death.

A Brass Band was invited to attend the services. A Committee of one was appointed to superintend the digging of the grave.

On the day of his funeral, March 1872 members were present from Newcomerstown, New Philadelphia, Wheelersville, Port Washington, Coshocton, Dover and Plainfield Lodges. These delegates met at Lone Star Lodge Hall and then marched

to the Nugen Home.

From here they conducted the friends to the Lutheran Church.

Brother Jessie Knisley delivered a eulogy about Nugen. His remains then were conducted to the Cemetery and his friends were escorted to his home.

R. H. Nugen had the title of Colonel. From all indications the title of Colonel was honorary. If this is correct, the title of Colonel was adopted to insure more or better cooperation from the people who were necessary in maintaining and operating the Canal.

As stated earlier he was Superintendent of the Ohio Canal. His territory was from Newcomerstown to Cleveland. He made inspection trips on the Canal by horseback.

Biographical Sketch of Colonel Robert H. Nugen

(Information supplied by a descendent, George Robert Nugen,  
R.R.#1 Port Washington, Ohio)  
"Col. Robert H. Nugen was born July 23, 1810 in the state of Ohio.

He died Thursday, Feb. 29, 1872 at the age of 62. His grave and monument may be seen in the east end of the old section of the East State Street Cemetery.

His occupation was that of Superintendent of the Ohio Canal from its inception(1833) to the time of his death in 1872. (This can be verified by referring to the 1875 Atlas of Tuscarawas County, Ohio) His territory extended from Newcomerstown, Ohio to Cleveland, Ohio. These inspection trips were made by horseback. How often these trips were made, and how long they took is now unknown. He and his son-in-law, G.B.Smith, were partners in merchandising and in the construction of public works, In 1863-64-65 they built the greater part of the Pan Handle Division of the Penn Central Railroad.

From all indications the title of Colonel was honorary. If this is correct, the title was adopted to insure more, or better, cooperation from the people who were necessary in maintaining and operating the canal. Or, Col. Nugen served in the military and hence the title of Colonel."

The 1875 Atlas of Tuscarawas County, Ohio makes the following reference to Col. Nugen. "Robert Nugen settling near by was recognized as a leading citizen. He bought 800 acres of land t \$8.00 per acre." It also said, "In 1836 Nugen was a merchant; his business was that of livery and sale stable, located on Bridge Street. He settled here in 1836.

The Centennial History of Events of a Century in the Muskingum and Tuscarawas Valleys, edited by C.H. Mitchner, published in 1876, mentions the R. H. Nugen heirs. "They received 783 acres of land valued at \$60,000.00.

Again quoting Mr. Nugen of Port Washington, Ohio who said, "Col. Nugen's home stood behind the now defunct Bliss Auto Parts located on East State Street of this city." ( He also said, "Col. Nugen donated some land to the State of Ohio. Later when the state constructed a bridge across the Tuscarawas River (next to Stoffer's Restaurant) the bridge was named in honor of Col. Nugen. This bridge is now torn down. A street was run through the Nugen property and named in honor of the Colonel. This land was loctaed in the east end of Newcomerstown."

When Col. Nugen died Lone Star Lodge honored him in the following way.

Invitations to his funeral were sent to Masonic Lodges in this area. The Pennsylvania Railroad was contacted to insure stopping trains as an accommodation to visiting brethren. An Evergreen Car was procured. A committee of three was appointed to draft resolutions on his death. A brass band was invited to attend the services. A committee of one was appointed to superintend the digging of the grave. A committee of three was appointed to notify the brethren of this lodge of his death.

On the day of his funeral, March 1, 1872, members were present from Newcomerstown, New Philadelphia, Uhrichsville, Port Washington, Coshocton, Dover and Plainfield Lodges. These delegates met at Lone Star Lodge Hall and then marched to Col. Nugen's residence. From here they conducted the friends of Col. Nugen to the Luthern Church. Bro. Jessie Knisley delivered a eulogy about Col. Nugen. His remains were then conducted to the cemetery, and his friends were escorted to the late Col.'s home. The members of the various Masonic Lodges then returned to the lodge rooms of Lone Star Lodge.

Thus, this sketch closes noting the fact that Col. Nugen was a revered Mason and a prominent citizen who through diligent work was a credit not only to Masonry but to the community as well.

Nugen Chapter #124 R.A.M. was chartered on the 14th day of September, 1870. The Chapter was undoubtedly named after Colonel Robert H. Nugen. He was an early prominent citizen of Newcomerstown, and in addition was a charter member of Lone Star Lodge #175F. & A.M. and the first Senior Warden. Col. Nugen was also a "charter member" of Tuscarawas Chapter, No.38, Royal Arch Masons, organized in 1848. Col. Nugen held the office of Scribe.(Tusc. Co History 1884)

6725 Muirlands Drive  
La Jolla, California  
May 22, 2007

Mr George Robert Nugen  
(Cousin Bob)  
17616 Johnson Hill Road  
Newcomerstown, Ohio  
43832

Dear Cousin Bob,

Enclosed are two copies of this letter and the article about Lt. John Nugen. Please make corrections and additions on one of the copies of the letter and send back to me. I have put my big questions in bold letters below. Please keep the article on John Nugen. I will be back in August so we can visit again.

I am back in La Jolla California and am so glad to have met you and Arlene ever so briefly on Saturday last. I hope that you can **send me the name of the woman from New York** who was looking into a Nugen family. Also, if you have **copies of information she had about the Nugen family** I would be eternally grateful if you would copy them and send them to me. As you will see, I really don't have much information before the brothers, James and Robert Hunter Nugen.

What I know is that James Nugen was born in Pennsylvania in 1797 so he was the older brother of Robert Hunter Nugen born 16 June 1809 probably in Washington County Pennsylvania or perhaps in Holiday Cove, Brook County, West Virginia which is now downtown Weirton. They came with their family shortly after Robert Hunter Nugen was born and spent time in Columbiana County. A James Nugen paid taxes in 1814 in Brooke County, West Virginia. In September 1819 he paid taxes in Columbiana County Ohio. Columbiana County in September 1810 which could mean that James and Robert Hunter Nugen's father was James.

James married Sarah Snyder on 11 March 1830 in Salem, Columbiana County. He would have been 35 years old and was probably already a minister. He and his brother Robert H. sold and bought property near Newcomerstown in the 1840's and 1850's. James died 11 March 1859. Sarah and James had children really close to the wedding date. **What was the denomination of the James' ministry?**

Their children:

**John Nugen** (1830-22 Oct 1857) I spoke with you about John Nugen and enclose the sad tale of his short life. His father died only two years later and must have had a broken heart.

**James** (19 Oct 1832-16 June 1892) James Nugen married a woman named Elizabeth and they ad seven children.

Phedora (1861-) who may have died young

Henrietta (1863- who may have died young

Robert Hunter (1865- ) in Belle Plaine Kansas where he had a large family

Anna (1867-) who may have died young.

George William (1869 ) who married Caroline Berry (1874-11 June 1958) and they had four children:

Mary Elizabeth 1897, James William 27 Jan 1900- ), Charles Robert (1903- ) and George F. (22 Nov 1906-6 Oct 1984)

Sarah 1871

Joseph F. Nugen 1874 Wheeling, Guernsey Co.-. He married Laura L. Curtis born 1876 in Ohio.

**Elizabeth** 1832: died young

**Sarah Jane** 13 Sept 1837 married William Hill born 1833

Son James H. Hill married Jannie Viola Adams born 1872 had children Clara V. 1893, Ervin R. 1895, Homer 1898 Ralph Chester 6 Sept 1900-24 Feb 1986 Canton Ohio, Charles H. Hill 1898 Canton Ohio – 4 July 1980 Newark Ohio, who married Doris and had Marilyn E. Hill.

**Margaret** 1838

**Elmira** 1843

**George William** (13 Sept 1845 Salem, Tuscarawas Ohio-20 Jan 1891 Newcomerstown Ohio) George married Catherine Hill 2 Sept 1869. Catherine was born (1850 Tuscarawas County-15 August 1930 Newcomerstown). They had two children:

1897  
1870  
27

Ada (24 Oct 1870-23 March 1897 Newcomerstown She married John Luther Wiandt (2 September 1865 Tuscarawas-26 May 1926, Newcomerstown)

George Clarence (22 June 1878 Newcomerstown-<sup>May</sup> ~~Oct~~ 1955 Newcomerstown).

Married first: Alice Frame (born 17 Jan 1879 Guernsey Ohio-14 March 1967 Coshocton) One daughter, Ada born 14 Oct 1899 and



died 12 Oct 1978 Coshocton) Her husbands were Russell Huff, Edward Suntheimer and a man named Parrish.

Married Second: Jennie <sup>Burrier</sup> ~~Burrier~~ born 1890, don't know when she died. In the 1930 she is living with George Clarence and her children Homer <sup>Burrier</sup> ~~Burrier~~, 13, Archie <sup>Burrier</sup> ~~Burrier~~ 12, Woodrow <sup>Burrier</sup> ~~Burrier~~ 6, and Harold <sup>Burrier</sup> ~~Burrier~~, 4. With Jennie he had you on 30 March <sup>1930</sup> ~~1930~~. What happened to the step-brothers <sup>Burrier</sup> ~~Burrier~~?  
1930 Burrier

**I would also love to know the name of your son, the birthplace of Arlene and information about your service in the Military. If you could correct things that I have collected that you know to be false, please do so.**

I am writing this family history and of course will share all of it with you when things are ready to be printed. My email address is [amarshall@aol.com](mailto:amarshall@aol.com) and my phone number here in La Jolla is 858-459-1762. Call any time.

Also, I would love to know the **name of the Methodist minister that retired to La Jolla's Methodist Clergy retirement home.** A son of Col. Robert Hunter Nugen, my great-grandmother's brother, retired to La Jolla after running the Livery Stable in Newcomerstown. His son, a veteran of the Spanish American War also ended his days in La Jolla as did his son. If you can give me this man's name I can figure out how he fits into the family.

Enjoy the article about John Nugen. He was quite a guy.

Yours cousin,

Anne  
(Mrs. Stuart C. Marshall)

740-622-3702



Timmons Phone Number  
Anne Marshall's Brother  
Who Lives in Coshocton, Ohio

tinued to edit the *News* alone. The circulation of the sheet is constantly increasing in numbers, and its popularity is much more marked than when he first took hold of it.



**W**ILLIAM HILL. Guernsey County abounds in a fine class of farmers, who have given to this part of the state an excellent reputation, and have been of help in building up its commercial and agricultural interests. The subject of this sketch, engaged extensively in general farming, is now residing in Wheeling Township. He is a native of this state, and was born in Tuscarawas County, March 8, 1833.

Herbert and Ellen (Booth) Hill were the parents of our subject. The former, a native of Virginia, whose birth occurred in the year 1805, was sixty-four at the time of his decease. He was the son of Jesse Hill and wife, also natives of the Old Dominion, whence they emigrated to this state in a very early day in its history, and passed the remaining years of their life in Tuscarawas County. Mrs. Ellen Hill, the daughter of Daniel and Ellen Booth, is still living, making her home in Salem Township, Tuscarawas County. Her parents were natives of London, England, and after taking up their residence in the United States lived in Coshocton County, this state, engaged in farming, and for a number of years also conducted a hotel.

The parents of our subject were married in Oxford Township, Tuscarawas County, and to them was born a family of nine children, of whom William, of this sketch, was the eldest. Sarah is the wife of Edward Hersey, a farmer of the above county; Eliza J. married Edward Kale, also an agriculturist of Tuscarawas County; Martha is the wife of J.W. McFadden, engaged in cultivating the soil of Douglas County, Ill.; George is living in Tuscarawas County, which place is also the home of James, and Nancy, the wife of Thomas McFadden; Catherine is the widow of George Nugen, of that district; and Charles J., the youngest of the family,

is also living in that portion of the state. The father of this family taught school for many years prior to following farming as a business, and when quite young worked for eight years on the Ohio Canal, receiving as wages fifty cents per day. He was self-made in the broadest sense of the term, being well and favorably known throughout the county, and was successful as an agriculturist, leaving his family a valuable property. He was a good man, one whose departure from his accustomed place in public and private life was sadly felt.

In 1860 the original of this sketch was married to Sarah Jane Nugen, who was born in Columbiana County, this state, September 13, 1837. She is the daughter of the Rev. James and Sarah (Snider) Nugen, the former of whom died in 1859, aged sixty-two years. He in turn was the son of James and Christine Nugen, natives, respectively, of France and Germany. On emigrating to the United States from the latter country, they at once made their way to this state, and passed the remaining years of their life in Columbiana County. The mother of Mrs. Hill was born in this state, and departed this life January 29, 1880, when in the seventy-fifth year of her age. She was the daughter of Jacob and Margaret Snider. The father was born in Germany, and the mother in Ireland. After crossing the Atlantic they made their home in this state until their decease, the father dying in Wellsville, and the mother passing away in Tuscarawas County.

The Rev. James and Sarah Nugen were married at New Lisbon, Columbiana County, Ohio, where the father was at that time engaged in a general merchandise business. To them were born ten children, as follows: Elizabeth, who is the wife of Samuel Miller, and is living in Kansas; James, deceased; Sarah, now Mrs. Hill; Margaret, who is the widow of Thomas Cordrey, and is living at Elizabethtown, Ky.; and Robert, Elmira, George, Amanda, Henry and Jacob, deceased. The father of this family was for many years a noted minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but during the latter years of his life followed the mercantile business, and to some extent was engaged in farming. He was one of the solid men in the vicinity of his

*My Great Granddad & Grandmother*  
*My Great Grandfather*  
*My Great Grandmother on my Great Grandmother's Side*

# Family Group Record for Honorable Robert Hunter Nugen

<b>Husband</b>		<b>Honorable Robert Hunter Nugen</b>	
Born	18 Jul 1809	Hollidays Cove, West Virginia	
Baptized			
Died	29 Feb 1872		
Buried	1 Mar 1872	East State Street Cemetery, Newcomerstown, Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
Father	James Nugen (1775-Abt 1830)	Mother	Elizabeth Hunter (Abt 1775- )
Marriage			
<b>Wife</b>		<b>Sarah Hoagland</b>	
Born	Abt 1813	New Jersey	
Baptized			
Died	Between May 1880 and Jun 1900		
Buried			
Father	William Hoagland ( - )	Mother	Elizabeth Wise ( - )
<b>Children</b>			
<b>1</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Elmira Nugen</b>	
Born	12 May 1833	Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
Baptized			
Died			
Buried			
Spouse	Garratt Bradford Smith (1826-1910)	1854 - (A) Newcomerstown, Oxford Twp., Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
<b>2</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Pedora Nugen</b>	
Born	18 Dec 1835	Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
Baptized			
Died	1877		
Buried			
Spouse	S F Timmons (1837-1922)	1862	
<b>3</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Sarah J. Nugen</b>	
Born	Abt 1836	Washington Twp., Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
Baptized			
Died	11 Jun 1927	Washington Twp., Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
Buried	15 Jun 1927	East State Street Cemetery, Newcomerstown, Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
Spouse	William Hill (1833-1922)	1 Jan 1860 - Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
<b>4</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Elizabeth Nugen</b>	
Born	13 Jul 1838	Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
Baptized			
Died	1883		
Buried			
Spouse	Israel Burnhard Vogenitz (1833-1911)	25 Aug 1859 - Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
<b>5</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Robert H. Nugen</b>	
Born	Oct 1844	Ohio	
Baptized			
Died			
Buried			
Spouse	Hortense (1854- )	Bef 1870	

# Family Group Record for Honorable Robert Hunter Nugen

Children (cont.)		
<b>6</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Lillis M. Nugen</b>
Born	Abt Jun 1850	(A) Newcomerstown, Oxford Twp., Tuscarawas Co., Ohio
Baptized		
Died	22 Feb 1930	(A) Newcomerstown, Oxford Twp., Tuscarawas Co., Ohio
Cause of Death	infirmities of age	
Buried	26 Feb 1930	East State Street Cemetery, Newcomerstown, Tuscarawas Co., Ohio
Spouse	William Shields ( -1929)	
<b>7</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Camilla Nugen</b>
Born	Abt 1854	Ohio
Baptized		
Died		
Buried		
Spouse		
<b>General Notes: Husband -</b>		
Coshocton Tribune, Coshocton, Ohio, page 2 dated December 2 1970:		
Lodge Will Observe 100th Anniversary (see paper for complete story)		
<p>Colonel Robert H. Nugen, for whom the chapter was named, was born July 23, 1810, and died Feb. 29, 1872. He was buried in East State St. Cemetery. Superintendent of the Ohio Canal from its inception in 1833 to the time of his death, his territory extended from Newcomerstown to Cleveland, and he made his inspection trips on horseback. In 1863-65 he and his son-in-law, G.B. Smith, built the greater part of the Pan Handle, Division of the Penn Central Railroad. He settled in Newcomerstown in 1836, his home now behind the now defunct Bliss Auto Parts on East State St. The old bridge which crossed the Tuscarawas River near there and a street in the same area were named for this, revered Mason and prominent citizen. Floyd A. Rogers, L.M. (Mac) Wiandt, William H. Neighbor, William I. Hootman of here, , and Gerald Adams of Coshocton are all 50-year members of Nugen Chapter.</p>		

Look for Names of other Children  
I am thanking 10 Children for Rev. James  
Nugen

## Family Group Record for Rev. James Nugen

Page 1

<b>Husband</b>		<b>Rev. James Nugen</b>	
Born	1797	Pennsylvania	
Baptized			
Died	1 Mar 1859	Newcomerstown, Oxford Twp., Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
Buried			
Father	James Nugen (1775-Abt 1830)		Mother Elizabeth Hunter (Abt 1775- )
Marriage			
<b>Wife</b>		<b>Sarah Snyder</b>	
Born	1808	Pennsylvania	
Baptized			
Died	10 Jan 1881	Newcomerstown, Oxford Twp., Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
Buried			
Father	Snyder ( - )		Mother
<b>Children</b>			
<b>1</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Elizabeth Nugen</b>	
Born	3 Mar 1831	New Lisbon, Columbiana Co., Ohio	
Baptized			
Died	24 Oct 1920	Lone Elm, Anderson Co., Kansas	
Buried			
Spouse	Samuel Miller ( - )		
Marr. Date	1857 - Newcomerstown, News, Newcomerstown, Oxford Twp., Tuscarawas Co., Ohio		
<b>2</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>James Nugen</b>	
Born	1834		
Baptized			
Died			
Buried			
Spouse	Elizabeth (Abt 1837- )		
<b>3</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Sarah Jane Nugen</b>	
Born	1836	Salem Twp., Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
Baptized			
Died	1924	Newcomerstown, Oxford Twp., Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
Buried			
Spouse			
<b>4</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Margaret Nugen</b>	
Born	1838	Salem Twp., Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
Baptized			
Died			
Buried			
Spouse			
<b>5</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Almira - Elmira Nugen</b>	
Born	1843	Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
Baptized			
Died			
Buried			
Spouse			

# Family Group Record for Rev. James Nugen

Children (cont.)		
<b>6</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>George W. Nugen</b>
Born	13 Sep 1845	Salem Twp., Guernsey Co., Ohio
Baptized		
Died	20 Jan 1891	Ohio
Buried		
Spouse	Catherine Hill (1850-1930) 2 Sep 1869 - Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
<b>7</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Henry Nugen</b>
Born	1851	Port Washington, Salem Twp., Tuscarawas Co., Ohio
Baptized		
Died		
Buried		
Spouse		
<i>John Nugen</i>		

# Family Group Record for James Nugen

<b>Husband</b>		<b>James Nugen</b>	
Born	1775	Somerset, Pennsylvania	
Baptized			
Died	Abt 1830	Columbiana, Columbiana Co., Ohio	
Buried			
Marriage			
<b>Wife</b>		<b>Elizabeth Hunter</b>	
Born	Abt 1775		
Baptized			
Died		Columbiana Co., Ohio	
Buried			
<b>Children</b>			
<b>1</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Rev. James Nugen</b>	
Born	1797	Pennsylvania	
Baptized			
Died	1 Mar 1859	Newcomerstown, Oxford Twp., Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
Buried	<i>Mar. 1859</i>	<i>East State Street Cemetery</i>	
Spouse	Sarah Snyder (1808-1881)		
<b>2</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Honorable Robert Hunter Nugen</b>	
Born	18 Jul 1809	Hollidays Cove, West Virginia	
Baptized			
Died	29 Feb 1872		
Buried	1 Mar 1872	East State Street Cemetery, Newcomerstown, Tuscarawas Co., Ohio	
Spouse	Sarah Hoagland (Abt 1813-Between 1880)		

# *Descendants of Nugen*

## *Generation No. 1*

1. NUGEN<sup>1</sup> He married SARAH.

Children of NUGEN and SARAH are:

- i. SARAH J.<sup>2</sup> NUGEN, b. Tuscarawas County, Ohio<sup>1</sup>; m. 01 Jan 1860, Tuscarawas County, Ohio.

Notes for SARAH J. NUGEN:

Kerry &quot;Ginther&quot; Simi; editor@credible.com

More About SARAH J. NUGEN:

Baptism: 24 Dec 1842, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Newcomerstown, Ohio<sup>1</sup>

- ii. ELMIRA NUGEN, b. 12 May 1833, Tuscarawas County, Ohio<sup>1</sup>.

More About ELMIRA NUGEN:

Baptism: 24 Dec 1842, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Newcomerstown, Ohio

- iii. PREDORA NUGEN, b. 18 Dec 1835, Tuscarawas County, Ohio<sup>1</sup>.

More About PREDORA NUGEN:

Baptism: 24 Dec 1842, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Newcomerstown, Ohio<sup>1</sup>

- iv. ELIZABETH NUGEN, b. 13 Jul 1838, Tuscarawas County, Ohio<sup>1</sup>.

More About ELIZABETH NUGEN:

Baptism: 24 Dec 1842, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Newcomerstown, Ohio<sup>1</sup>

## *Endnotes*

1. Footprints--Tuscarawas County.



George Robert NUGEN

George W. NUGEN  
Sep 1845 in  
1 Twp.,  
Waynes Co., Ohio  
Sep 1869 in  
Tuscarawas Co., Ohio  
Jan 1891 in



**James NUGEN**

b: 1797 in  
Pennsylvania  
d: 1 Mar 1859 in  
Newcomerstown,  
Oxford Twp.,  
Tuscarawas Co., Ohio

**James NUGEN**

b: 1775 in Somerset, Pennsylvania  
d: Abt 1830 in Columbiana,  
Columbiana Co., Ohio

**Elizabeth HUNTER**

b: Abt 1775  
d: Columbiana Co., Ohio

**Sarah SNYDER**

b: 1808 in Pennsylvania  
d: 10 Jan 1881 in Newcomerstown,  
Oxford Twp., Tuscarawas Co., Ohio

**SNYDER**

**Hubbard Smallwood HILL**

b: 16 Mar 1806 in Culpepper Co.,  
Virginia  
m: 8 Oct 1832 in Oxford Twp.  
Tuscarawas Co., Ohio  
d: 27 Mar 1869 in Salem Twp.,  
Tuscarawas Co., Ohio

**Jesse HILL**

b: 1782 in Culpepper Co., Virginia  
m: 1800 in Virginia  
d: 28 Mar 1844 in Salem Twp.,  
Tuscarawas Co., Ohio

item Twp.,  
Ohio

**Mary Ann VAUGHAN**

b: 1779 in Virginia

**Eleanor BOOTH**

b: 5 Jun 1811 in England  
d: 14 May 1900 in Salem Twp.,  
Tuscarawas Co., Ohio

**Daniel BOOTH**

b: Abt 1790

**LE**

Oxford Twp.,  
Ohio  
Oxford Twp.,  
Ohio

**David OPPHILE**

b: Abt 1819 in Germany

**Elizabeth**

b: Abt 1824 in Pennsylvania

**ALOY**

Washington Co.,  
Oxford Twp.,  
Ohio

**William MALOY**

**Anges**



**George Clarence NUGEN**  
 b: 13 Apr 1878 in Salem, Ohio  
 m: 28 Jun 1900 in Tuscarawas Co., Ohio  
 d: 20 May 1956 in Ohio

**George Clarence NUGEN**  
 b: 22 Jun 1878 in (A) Newcomerstown, Oxford Twp., Tuscarawas Co., Ohio  
 m: Abt 1917 in Tuscarawas Co., Ohio  
 d: 29 May 1956 in Dennison, Mill Twp., Tuscarawas Co., Ohio

**Catherine HILL**  
 b: 13 Apr 1850 in Salem, Tuscarawas Co., Ohio  
 d: 15 Aug 1930

**George Robert NUGEN**  
 b: Abt Mar 1930 in Ohio

**Samuel OPPHILE**  
 b: Abt May 1862 in Newcomerstown, Tuscarawas Co., Ohio  
 d: 28 May 1929 in (A) Newcomerstown, Ohio  
 Tuscarawas Co., Ohio

**Mary Jean "Jennie" OPPHILE**  
 b: 1 Jul 1889 in Newcomerstown, Oxford Twp., Tuscarawas Co., Ohio  
 d: 26 Oct 1936 in (A) Newcomerstown, Oxford Twp., Tuscarawas Co., Ohio

**Mary Louise M. OPPHILE**  
 b: 10 Nov 1863 in Newcomerstown, Ohio  
 d: 27 Jun 1946 in (A) Newcomerstown, Ohio  
 Tuscarawas Co., Ohio

## OBITS FROM "THE OHIO DEMOCRAT" AT NEW PHILADELPHIA

Submitted by Vivian Eichel

whereupon he ran back and Benjamin lying on the ground; he gave two groans and expired.

"The whole country was astir next morning and everything done to get a clue to the villain who committed the terrible deed. Joseph Coxum is now under arrest; the facts point to his guilt. The preliminary trial will be held 10 a.m. tomorrow, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>."

**Oct. 9, 1874, Friday**

We regret to hear of the death of our young friend, Mr. **Christian Stambaugh**, at Abilene, Kansas. Mr. S. was a young man of much promise. He was the son of the Hon. **D. W. Stambaugh**, late of New Philadelphia, and was about 21 or 22 years of age.

**Oct. 16, 1874, Friday**

Little **Carrie Laughead**, aged about three years, youngest child of **John D. Laughead**, died very suddenly at the residence of John Smith, on Tuesday morning.

"Leaves have their time to fall,

And flowers to wither at the north wind's breath-

But all - thou hast all seasons for thine own,

Oh, Death."

**Feb. 5, 1880, Thursday**

Mr. **John Hilton**, who has been ill of consumption for some time, was found dead in his bed last Monday morning. He was buried Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, a large number of friends being present. Rev. J. McKallip officiated. Tusc. Chronicle, Jan. 29.

Mr. **Frederick Horn** lost a **little daughter**, aged two years, Tuesday last, after a short illness. And what a vacancy will there be in the household. Himself and wife have the sympathies of our citizens in their bereavement.

The youngest **daughter** of **Frank Rickert** and wife (nee **Josephine Newburg**) died, and was brought here (Dover) for burial on Wednesday. She was a sweet little girl of three years, and was the light of the household.

**Matthias Ginther** was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1809, died in Port Washington, O., Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1880, aged 70 years, 2 mos. and 10 days. He came to America in his early manhood, and in 1834, in Canada, married Miss **Agatha Haist**. Their married life continued for 27 years, the wife departing this life in 1861. From this union there were eight children, three of them, married daughters, survive their father.

Mr. Ginther was a highly esteemed citizen of Port Washington, where he resided for 41 years. In religion he was Lutheran, strongly adhering to the faith of his fathers and earnestly supporting the church. His remains were buried on Saturday, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>. Rev. Dr. Kinsely conducting the services.

**July 22, 1880, Thursday**

Died at her residence in New Philadelphia, on Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1880, Mrs. **Jane Knisely**, wife of **Joseph Knisely**, Esq, aged 61 years, 11 months and 13 days. Mrs. Knisely was born in Dover township, Tuscarawas county, O. Her maiden name was **Wallick**; was married February 28, 1841. Mrs. K. was an invalid for nearly six years past. Funeral sermon preached by Elder J.T.H. Stewart, of the Disciple Church.

**Royal**, infant son of **Joseph and Emma Reardon**, died in this city July 19<sup>th</sup>, '80, aged 4 months and 10 days. Royal has gone to rest forever.

Mrs. **Sarah Nugen**, widow of the late Col. **Robt. H. Nugen**, died at her residence in Newcomerstown this co., on Wednesday morning July 14<sup>th</sup>, inst.

**April 2, 1885, Thursday**

**Douglass Baker** was born in Somerset County, Penn., April 6, 1808, and moved to this county in 1835, and died at his home near Dundee, March 23d, 1885, at the ripe age of 76 years, 11 months and 17 days. In 1831 he was married to **Elizabeth Lint**, of Somerset County, Penn., by Rev. Michael Dilley. His wife died in 1835, leaving three children. He was married to **Elizabeth Deets** three years later, who still survives. Eight children were the result of the last union. Funeral services were held in the Dundee M. E. Church, March 25, by Rev. O.F. Harshman, Pastor of Shanesville Lutheran Church, in presence of a large congregation.

**April 23, 1885, Thursday**

Died at Wampum, Beaver County, Pa., on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April, inst., of lung fever, **Mr. Theodore Noble**, in the 77<sup>th</sup> year of his age. Mr. Noble lived in New Philadelphia some years ago, and has some relatives and many friends here who will be grieved to hear of his death. We understand that his family had but a week or so before his death gone west where they had arranged to reside in the future, and that he had remained a short time at Wampum to arrange some business matters when he took a severe cold,

## THE NUGEN FAMILY

One of the once-familiar names that has virtually disappeared from the Newcomerstown area is Nugen, for Col. Robert H. Nugen's only son eventually lived in California and so far as is known, left no family. Nor do any of his daughters' descendants now live there.

Col. Nugen's name first appears in county records with Oxford Township land purchases, the first from Philip W. Neighbor in 1836. Additional deeds were recorded from John W. Cooley in 1840; William Gardner, 1841; Levi Sargent, 1842; Harlow Chapen, 1842; John V. Cowell, 1845; and George Harris, 1848. Four years after his death in 1872, Michener's "Annals of the Muskingum and Tuscarawas Valley" shows Col. Nugen's estate included 783 acres at a total valuation of \$60,000.

Apparently that same year the estate was divided among his children, for the 1876 County Atlas shows broad strips running between the river and the hills to the south belonging to Phedora (there incorrectly spelled Thecdora) Timmons; Elizabeth Vogenitz; R.H. Nugen Jr.; Camilla S. Nugen and Lillis Shields. The homestead and other land north of the river carries the name of Elmira, the Nugen's eldest daughter whose husband was Garrett Bradford Smith. The residence was located in the tract of land at the east corporation of Newcomerstown, bounded by State St., Nugen St., Maple St. and Pilling St. All the daughters, along with their parents, are buried on a lot next to the railroad in the E. State St. Cemetery.

A Democrat, Col. Nugen served one term in Congress from 1861 to 1863 and, at the time of his death, was superintendent for the lessees of the Ohio Canal.

So far, efforts to establish the origin of the "colonel" always associated with Robert H. Nugen's name have been fruitless and the idea that he was a West Point graduate has proved to be erroneous. The error results from confusion between his name and that of his nephew, John Nugen.

Recent correspondence with the archives department of the Academy says: "The only Nugen to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy was a John Nugen from Newcomerstown, Ohio, who entered the Corps of Cadets on July 1, 1848 with two other Ohioans -- Philip Sheridan and George Crook. Nugen and Crook graduated on July 1, 1852 and together served in garrison at Ft. Columbus, New York immediately after graduation. Nugen's military career was indeed a brief one. He died on October 22, 1857 at Ft. Steilacoom, Washington at the age of 27.

"Incidentally," the letter continues, "Sheridan, while a First Classman, was suspended from October 18, 1851 to October 28, 1852 for insubordinate conduct and consequently did not graduate until July 1, 1853."

Possibly his and Nugen's careers paralleled until Nugen's death, for General Sheridan's memoirs indicate he was in the Columbia River area in the late 1850's.

Neither did inquiries to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. nor to Ohio's Adjutant General's office produce any record of Col. Nugen's military involvement. However, not knowing from what state he came to Ohio, one surmises he may have served in some other state's militia. The 1860 United States Census lists his birthplace as Virginia.

Today Col. Nugen's great, great grandchildren are scattered throughout the United States but many, if not all, of the preceding generation already are gone. Two among those who attained prominence were Judge Robert Nugen Wilkin of the U.S. Federal Court in Cleveland and photographic artist Dever Timmons of Coshocton.

The Smith and Timmons families produced all of the Nugen descendants, for three other daughters -- Elizabeth Vogenitz, Camilla Sharp, and Lillis Shields -- left no children.

The white frame Nugen house, surrounded by lawn with trees at intervals along its outer edge, faced the lane which eventually became Pilling St. A smooth flagstone walk extended from the front porch to the road and at one time a decorative iron fence enclosed the yard. By the early 1900's most of the numerous farm buildings had disappeared and the few remaining which once separated the house from the

*Handwritten: Paul Craig*

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August 13, 1976

Mr. J. K. Wolfrom  
Editor  
NEWCOMERSTOWN NEWS  
140 West Main Street  
Newcomerstown, OHIO 43832

Dear Mr. Wolfrom:

Would you be good enough to provide me with the address of Mrs. Lois Zimmer Craig? Mrs. A. L. Marshall, of the Historical Society, wrote me and sent a copy of her article of February 11th about the Nugen homestead.

We own a brief one-page autobiographical account entirely in "Colonel" Robert Hunter Nugen's handwriting, [1862], unpublished, though, alas, very laconic in style. It was addressed to Charles Lanman, Librarian of the House of Representatives, for his projected "Dictionary of the United States Congress," a work which appeared in six editions over the years 1859 to 1869. **Our piece is unpublished.**

This manuscript is for sale at \$75.00. We sold seventy-four other autobiographical manuscripts to a dozen Ohio archives, special collections departments, and public libraries across Ohio, and some 800 manuscripts of this nature throughout the nation, from Maine to California.

The Nugen item was the only one relating to Newcomerstown. Are there no descendants now in Ohio or elsewhere? It would make a splendid manuscript to come back to your city.

I addressed a letter to Mrs. Craig at East State Street, many months ago, but have never received a reply and fear that because the address was ambiguous, it never reached her hands. If you know her, as I suspect you do, kindly tell her that I am anxious to have a reply to my inquiry. Her article, incidentally, was truly superb!!

With every good wish, believe me to be,

Sincerely yours,  
*Maury A. Bromsen*  
President

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June 24, 1976

Mrs. Lois Zimmerman Craig  
E. State Street  
Newcomerstown  
Ohio 43832

Dear Mrs. Craig:

Mrs. A. L. Marshall, President of the Newcomerstown Historical Society, has just sent me your superb article on the old Nugen home, recently destroyed by fire. I wrote to her to inform her that our concern, which deals in historical manuscripts, has for sale a very brief autobiographical letter of Colonel Robert H. Nugen, in his own handwriting (with many misspellings!) and signed. It was addressed to Charles Lanman, Librarian of the House of Representatives, who wrote to all ex-congressmen over the years 1858 to 1868 for autobiographical information for his "Dictionary of the United States Congress", first published in 1859 and reissued, with supplementary data, over the years 1863 to 1869. In all six editions of this valuable work were published at his own expense. It is today published as the "Biographical Directory of the American Congress" (11th edition, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.), as you know. Nugen's letter is one page, 8vo. and in ideal state of preservation in every respect. It is priced at \$95.00 plus \$1.00 certified insured postage.

In your article you mention several descendants of Colonel Nugen, including Attorney Frederick W. Nugen, of Seattle. Can you provide me, please, with his exact address? He is, you write, a great-great grandson. But through which child of Nugen's? Among the living descendants, can you suggest the names of several others who might wish to acquire our manuscript? Perhaps they may wish to donate it to the Newcomerstown Historical Society? It would make a nice new subject for another article from your pen, without doubt. Is Walter Sperling a great-great grandson? What is his Los Angeles address? Where do the sons of Christina Sargent (Fred and Garrett) now live in the West? Did Judge Robert Nugen Wilin of Cleveland have any sons or daughters? Would they not have interest in such an important autobiographical letter?

Mrs. Lois Zimmerman Craig

June 24, 1976

Any suggestions for the ultimate deposit in family hands (or the Museum in your city) would be deeply appreciated. The letter is very brief but, of course, precious.

The Lanman archive contained 900 autobiographical letters of congressmen of the early and mid-19th century. Those by Ohio congressmen were sold to the Hayes Library (Fremont), Kent State University, Ohio University (Athens), Mahoning Valley Historical Society, Stark County Historical Society, Clark County Historical Society, Western Reserve Historical Society, and the University of Toledo.

There were but two items relating to Tuscarawas County, one by William Helmick (1817-1888) and the other by Robert H. Nugen (the "colonel").

Do you, per chance, know of any descendants of Helmick, who lived in New Philadelphia? I have been in touch with the Librarian of the Public Library of New Philadelphia, but he does not know the descendants, though there are two Helmicks (J. H. and Ronald W., Jr.) living in New Philadelphia at present, and a Robert E. in Uhrichsville. I shall, of course, write to these three individuals, but am wondering if you know anything about the congressman's direct descendants. Helmick, no doubt, knew Nugen as they both went to congress from the same county and congressional electoral district.

May I take advantage of this letter to tell you what a splendid researcher you are and how very fortunate the "Newcomerstown News" is to have so learned a contributor, and, equally important, so enthusiastic a writer. I found your article a first-rate job in every respect and wish to extend my hearty congratulations to you and the editors.

Sincerely yours,



Maury A. Bromsen  
President

The West Point letter, dated last Sept. 22, sheds interesting light on both young men, and part of it follows: "The only Nugen to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy was a John Nugen from Newcomerstown, O., who entered the Corps of Cadets on July 1, 1848 with two other Ohioans -- Philip Sheridan and George Crook. Nugen and Crook graduated on July 1, 1852, and together served in garrison at Ft. Columbus, N. Y. immediately after graduation. Nugen's military career was indeed a brief one. He died on Oct. 22, 1857 at Ft. Steilacoom, Wash., at the age of 27.

"Incidentally, Sheridan, while a First Classman, was suspended from Oct. 18, 1851 to Oct. 28, 1852 for insubordinate conduct and consequently did not graduate until July 1, 1853."

Possibly Nogen's and Sheridan's careers paralleled until Nugen's death, for information recently provided by Col. Nugen's great-great-grandson, Atty. Frederick W. Post of Seattle and taken from Gen. Sheridan's memoirs, indicates he was in the Columbia River area in the late 1850's.

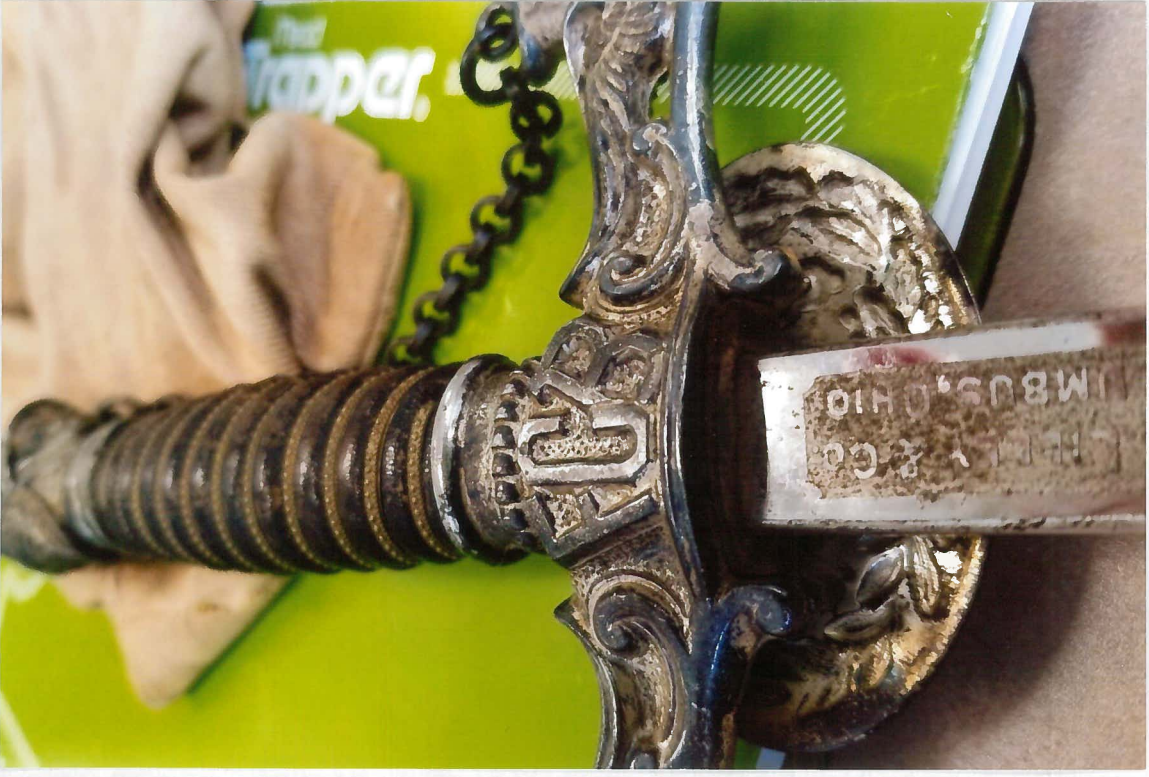
Neither did inquiries to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. nor to Ohio's adjutant general's office at Columbus produce any record of Col. Nugen's military involvement. However, not knowing from what state he came to Ohio, one surmises he may have served in some other state's militia. <sup>1860 Census lists his birthplace, the -</sup> Perhaps some one of his fourth-generation descendants, on reading this, will be able to provide the information.

The Nugen daughters received a more aristocratic up-bringing than did those of their neighbors, the Pillings'. A hired man driving the family carriage regularly conveyed them over the Guernsey County hills to Madison College at Antrim where they received instruction suitable to young ladies of that day. According to Wolfe's "Stories of Guernsey County" the college opened in 1839 and flourished until the Civil War. "Students could obtain board," Wolfe wrote, "for \$1.50 a week."





George Robert NUGEN  
(Bob)



George Robert Nugen

Biographical Sketch of Col. Robert Nugen of  
Newcomerstown, Ohio

*Met. Ch. Lutheran Church*

Parents

*First on list*  
Robert Nugen

Children, when born-baptized

Leander Ranson B. Feb. 22, 1840,  
Bap. Sept. 5, 1841

Sarah Nugen

Sarah Nugen, Bap. Dec. 24, 1842  
Elmira, b. May 12/1833 Bap. Dec.  
24, 1842

*Dec*  
Predora, b. Dec. 18/'35, Bap. 24/1842  
Elizabeth b. July 13/38, Bap. 24/42

*This name listed  
several names  
later*

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August 13, 1976

Mrs. Aileen Glazer  
Librarian  
Newcomerstown Public Library  
123 N. Bridge Street  
Newcomerstown, OHIO 43632

Dear Mrs. Glazer:

It has been suggested I communicate directly with you in order to obtain some information about "COLONEL" ROBERT HUNTER NUGEN (1809-1872) of your city, who was Superintendent in his last years of The Ohio Canal and who had served in Congress (as a Democrat) from 1861 to 1863. His homestead was the subject of an excellent article which appeared in your NEWS on February 11th, this year. This article by Lois Zimmer Craig was sent us by Mrs. A. L. Marshall, President of the Newcomerstown Historical Society.

Nugen died February 28, 1872; he is buried in your Newcomerstown Cemetery.

What I should love to obtain is a simple xerox from the local newspaper which carried his obituary, I assume a day or so following his death in the city. My assumption is that there existed at that time but a single newspaper, possibly a daily or weekly. I trust that your Library has a file (or microfilm) of this local newspaper.

We own a one-page brief autobiographical letter in his handwriting, 1862, addressed to Charles Lanman, Librarian of the House of Representatives, who requested information for his projected "Dictionary of the American Congress," a work which appeared in several editions from 1859 to 1869. We sold similar autobiographical letters to a dozen public and college libraries throughout Ohio, as well as to Kent State University, Stark County Historical Society, Mahoning Valley Historical Society, University of Toledo, Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library, Ohio University, Wright State University, and President Hayes Library (Fremont, Ohio), etc., etc.

Mrs. Aileen Glazer

August 13, 1976

There was but a single Newcomerstown piece in the large Lanman collectōon which we acquired at public auction in Philadelphia in 1973.

This is priced at \$85.00. It is handsomely preserved. Do you believe the Newcomerstown Historical Society or some local resident might wish to present it to your Public Library as a gift? What a splendid thing it would be to have this return to old Newcomerstown for posterity!! Even if the wonderful old homestead is no more, alas!!

If you could provide me with a copy of the obituary, I should be most grateful, of course.

With every good wish, believe me to be,

Sincerely yours,

*Maury A. Bromsen*

Maury A. Bromsen  
President

**Kent** State recently acquired the autobiographical manuscript of William Helmick, of New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas County, along with several other items pertinent to northeastern Ohio. It did not express interest in everything because of budgetary restrictions, and the Nugen remains here.

KENT STATE  
UNIVERSITY

KENT, OHIO 44242

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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July 9, 1976

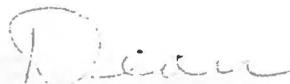
Mr. Maury A. Bromsen  
"The Gloucester" 20-F  
770 Boylston Street  
Boston, Mass. 02199

Dear Mr. Bromsen:

Even though our History Department cannot agree to spend part of their funds for the Helmick, Bliss, and Hutchins autobiographies, I have decided to acquire the material from funds available to me. Would you please send the pieces along to me? It would be a help if you could put the Bliss and Hutchins on one bill and the Helmick on another.

Thanks very much for your patience.

Sincerely,



Dean H. Keller  
Curator, Special Collections

DHK:aa

MAURY A. BROMSEN  
ASSOCIATES, INC.  
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June 7, 1976

Mrs. Aileen Glazer  
The Director  
Newcomerstown Public Library  
123 N. Bridge Street  
Newcomerstown, OHIO 43832

Dear Mrs. Glazer:

I am writing you upon the suggestion of Mr. Clark S. Lewis, Librarian at New Philadelphia's District Library. I am in quest of information about Colonel Robert H. Nugen of your city, who lived between the years 1809-1872. He died and is buried in Newcomerstown.

Nugen was Superintendent of the Ohio Canal in his last years and died while occupying that position. He had served in Congress as a Democrat, 1861 to 1863. He was engaged in agricultural and building construction in Newcomerstown; he moved to Tuscarawas County with his parents from Western Pennsylvania in 1828, according to the "Biographical Directory of the American Congress" (11th edition, 1971). He is also cited in the "History of Tuscarawas County," 1884, pp. 615, 616, 880, and 882. He was associated with a son-in-law in the construction of the Pan-Handle Railroad in 1863-65, according to this latter source.

I am wondering whether your Library has an obituary notice of him. He died on February 28, 1872. We have a brief autobiography of him sent to Charles Lanman, Librarian of the House of Representatives in 1863, but this tells nothing of his later Canal association. Perhaps you have a local newspaper for the period (1872). Perhaps there are histories of Newcomerstown? We do not have such material available here in Boston, alas.

Can you tell me the address and Director of the Newcomerstown Historical Society. Is Mrs. A. L. Marshall still its President (414 Cross Street)?

Your assistance would be deeply appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,  
*Maury A. Bromsen*  
President

STATE OF OHIO  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

DIVISION OF SOLDIERS' CLAIMS - VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
ROOM 11, STATE HOUSE ANNEX  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

December 4, 1975

RE: Nugen, Robert H.

Mrs. C. A. Craig  
East State Street  
Newcomerstown, Ohio 43832

Dear Mrs. Craig:

Replying to your letter to General Dana L. Stewart, received December 2, 1975. You requested the military service record of the above captioned person. I regret that I am unable to furnish this record. He is not listed in the Index to the Official Roster of the Mexican War, which would have been the only War he would have been the age to have served. The records in our office are for Federal, wartime service only. We do not have Regular Army, or peacetime service records. They are located at the General Services Administration, National Archives, Washington, D. C. You stated that you have already contacted them however.

Robert H. Nugen is not listed in our grave registration card file either.

Sometimes the county records will have data on veterans that our office doesn't have. You may wish to check the county history records there. Libraries are a great help in some cases.

Sincerely yours,

*Mary Ellen Woodard*

(Miss)

Mary Ellen Woodard  
Chief, Records Section

MEW



Parents

children, when born - baptized

*First*

Robert Nugen

~~Leader~~ Ranson, ~~born~~ Feb. 22, 1840 bap. Sept. 5, 1841

*Reander*

*Down  
Sarah  
Lines*  
Sarah Nugen

Sarah Nugen bap Dec. 24, 42

Elmira born May 12/33 bap. Dec. 24/42

Predora " Dec 18/35 " " " "

Elizabeth " July 13/38 " " " "

The News, Newcomerstown, Oh

## Donation made

*2 Oct 2019*



Photo courtesy of Elaine Mayenschein, Newcomerstown  
**Sue Scott, member of the Newcomerstown Historical Society is seen accepting the donation of an antique whetstone that had once belonged to baseball player, Cy Young's father, Mackenzie Young of Gilmore, Ohio. Newcomerstown resident, Bob Nugen's father had been given the whetstone many years ago. Nugen is now passing the whetstone on to the Historical Society to be preserved by the Society, and added to the Cy Young display at the museum.**

Wednesday, March 27, 2002

# Nc'town man's life tied to canal

In the rotunda of the Tuscarawas County Courthouse are portraits of four prominent men who lived in the county in the 19th century. One of those men is Robert Hunter Nugen of Newcomerstown, a contractor, congressman and superintendent of the Ohio and Erie Canal.

Nugen was born at Hallidays Cove, in Washington County, Pa., in 1809. He came with his parents to Ohio in 1811, and moved to Tuscarawas County in 1828.

Nugen's whole adult life was tied to the Ohio and Erie Canal. When he moved to this area, the canal was just being built. He started out working as a laborer with a pick and shovel, but he soon became a contractor.

He got the contract to build the state dam across the Tuscarawas River near Tuscarawas. But shortly before it was finished, the dam was washed away by a flood. Nugen hadn't been paid for his work, and he had no money to pay his employees. They threatened to imprison him for debt, which was the law in Ohio at that time. Fortunately, John Minnich, a prominent Tuscarawas businessman, advanced him the money to pay off his workers.

Nugen married Sarah Hoglan on Feb. 19, 1832. Sarah's family came from New Jersey, as did many of the early settlers of Newcomerstown. The Nugens became the parents of seven children, two sons and five

daughters.

His work as a contractor made Robert Nugen a rich man. He purchased 600 acres of fine bottom-land along the Tuscarawas River just south of Newcomerstown and settled there with his family.

Nugen, a Democrat, soon gravitated toward politics. He ran unsuccessfully for state representative and state senator in the 1840s. In 1856, he was elected as one of the first five members of the Newcomerstown Board of Education.

In 1860, he was a delegate from Ohio to the Democratic National Convention at Charleston, S.C. He actively supported Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois for president.

That same year, Nugen was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. He served one term, from 1861 to 1863, during the early years of the Civil War.

Nugen made one speech of note during his two years in Congress. On May 26, 1862, he criticized a bill before the House to confiscate the property of rebels and free their slaves.

"Much as I admire the President (Abraham Lincoln) for the independence of thought and sound judgment which he has on many occasions exhibited, I fear he in this instance yielded

to the entreaties of politicians, instead of following the dictates of his own judgment, as well as

the feelings and sentiments of the people of the country," the Congressional Globe quoted Nugen as saying. "For both he and gentlemen of the other side of the House will learn that most of these measures will not be sustained by the people, except in those radical sections of the country, where, on this subject, they are 'joined to their idols' and forget the interests

of the white man in prosecuting their projects of false philanthropy for the black race."

Nugen's speech drew criticism from the Tuscarawas Advocate, the Republican newspaper in the county.

The Advocate said Nugen's speech was almost exactly the same speech another Ohio congressman, William Allen, had delivered in April.

"It is a singular coincidence that our able Congressman should use Allen's language in giving vent to the pent up ideas of his mighty intellect!" the Advocate said.

The Advocate said that in the future it planned to publish extracts from both speeches, "in order to show, if possible, the difference between tweedle-dee and tweedle-dum(b)."



**Jon  
Baker**  
**History**

Nugen refused to run for reelection in 1863, and instead turned his full attention toward his first love, the Ohio and Erie Canal.

In 1861, the state leased the canal to six Ohio men. Nugen was the superintendent for the lessees.

He spent the last years of his life working tirelessly to keep the canal operating, in the face of stiff competition from the railroads.

In the winter of 1872, Nugen was busy collecting testimony from witnesses up and down the canal in advance of a hearing by a state legislative committee into the operation of the canal. Nugen overexerted himself, and died at his home at Newcomerstown on Feb. 28, 1872.

After his death, Nugen was eulogized by his friend Charles H. Mitchener, a prominent New Philadelphia politician and newspaperman. Mitchener wrote of Nugen that "although he often came in official contact with corrupt public men, he died with hands unstained by the venality of the times."

"As a friend he had few equals - as a father and husband no superior, and as a public man entrusted in all local improvements, we shall not soon again look upon his like," Mitchener wrote.

*Jon Baker writes this column monthly for The Times-Reporter. He can be reached at [jbake60@aol.com](mailto:jbake60@aol.com).*



YEARS GONE BY — This was a neighborly visit, possibly about 1912. From left to right are Mary E. (Mel) Dent who was a Nugen cousin; Elmira Nugen Smith; Maria Pilling Moore, author's grandmother; and Sarah Smith Sperling, "Aunt Sadie." The dog's name was Rex.

## ★ History of Nugen House Is Traced

(Continued From Page 1)

As a child I thought I loved the Nugen home more than my own, for I spent countless happy hours there in appointments more luxurious, by comparison, than our own more austere and utilitarian surroundings. Especially memorable are the hall with its white stairway and gracefully curving mahogany railing; the cold front parlor with its scratchy horsehair furniture; the upstairs guest room here there was a beautiful four-poster bed; and the cozy sitting room, above which was the "long room." Actually this was an attic where fascinating paintings always could be found to entertain children.

Fortunately ours was a generation in which children were permitted to adopt their neighbors as relatives, so to me the occupants of the house were Grandpa and Grandma Smith, their daughter, Aunt Jessie who later became Mrs. Jerry Starker, and their son-in-law and daughter, Uncle Alvin and Aunt Sadie Sperling whose son was Walter.

But things never were the same after the 1913 flood, when water covered the first floor of the house. The chimney in the living room which formed an ell at the west side facing the river, collapsed, filling the room with rubble and ruining the kitchen which lay beyond. The house was reduced in size, remodeled and the family continued there for the next few years. Then about 1917 the Sperlings moved to California and Grandma Smith who had been a widow since 1911, went downtown to live with her daughter Mrs. Starker, where she died in 1923.

Finally the property was sold and later the house was moved from its original location. For a number of years it was occupied by renters, but finally it became a make-shift filling station.

So far, efforts to establish the origin of the "colonel" always associated with Robert H. Nugen's name have been fruitless, and the idea that he was a West Point graduate has

will be able to provide the information.

The Nugen daughters received a more aristocratic upbringing than did those of their neighbors, the Pillings'. A hired man driving the family carriage regularly conveyed them over the Guernsey County hills to Madison College at Antrim where they received instruction suitable to young ladies of that day. According to Wolfe's "Stories of Guernsey County" the college opened in 1839 and flourished until the Civil War. "Students could obtain board," Wolfe wrote, "for \$1.50 a week."

Today Col. Nugen's great-great-grandchildren are scattered throughout the U.S. but many, if not all, of the preceding generation already are gone. Two among these who attained prominence were Judge Robert Nugen Wilkin of the U.S. Federal Court in Cleveland, and photographic artist Dever Timmons of Coshocton.

Atty. Post whose grandmother Virginia Wilkin was the Smiths' eldest daughter, perhaps represents the largest group of descendants since she and her husband, Atty. Foster Wilkin, had eight children — Wilbur, Garrett, Marcia Post, Maxine Blake, Dave, Reid, Jim and Robert. The family lived in New Philadelphia, as did another Smith daughter, Christina Sargent, whose sons, Fred and Garrett, now live in the West. Walter Sperling, who graduated from Newcomerstown High School in 1913, lives in Los Angeles. The Smiths also had two sons, Robert who operated a grocery here on River St., and died childless, and Howard who lived in Mansfield, and had one

recent correspondence with the archives department of the Academy established this identity and serves to verify an anecdote handed down in the Pilling family, the Nugens' closest neighbors and my ancestors.

On July 28, 1853, James Pilling's eldest daughter Anne was married to Conrad Stocker. Among the wedding guests were a nephew of Col. Nugen and his West Point classmate, Phil Sheridan, both of whom were visiting at Col. Nugen's home. Following the ceremony, as was the custom at that time, all the young people including Nugen and Sheridan rode horseback to accompany the newlyweds to their home at Port Washington. Later Mr. and Mrs. Stocker built and occupied until their deaths the large brick house about a half-mile west of the village, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dichler.

The West Point letter, dated last Sept. 22, sheds interesting light on both young men, and part of it follows: "The only Nugen to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy was a John Nugen from Newcomerstown, O., who entered the Corps of Cadets on July 1, 1848 with two other Ohioans — Philip Sheridan and George Crook. Nugen and Crook graduated on July 1, 1852, and together served in garrison at Ft. Columbus, N.Y. immediately after graduation. Nugen's military career was indeed a brief one. He died on Oct. 22, 1857, at Ft. Steilacoom, Wash., at the age of 27.

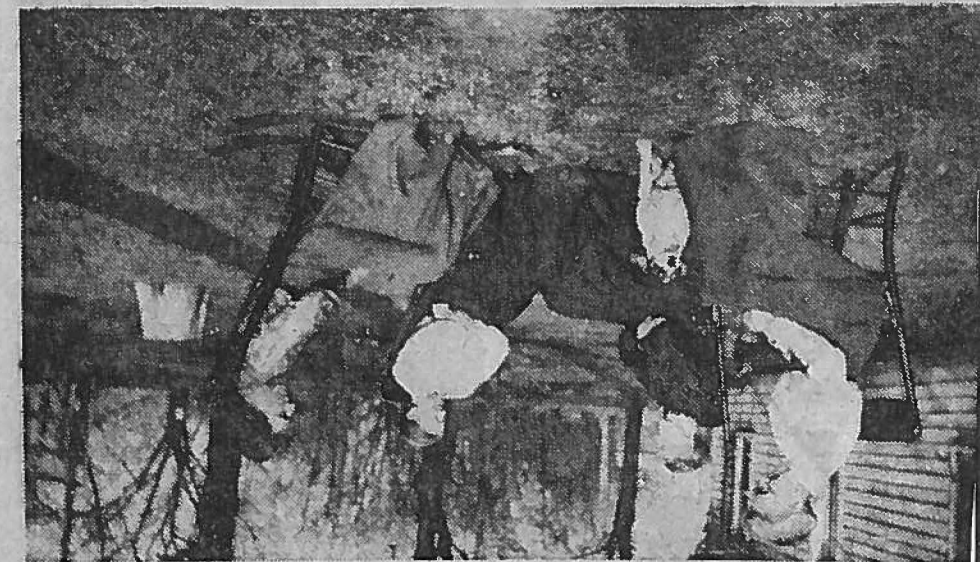
"Incidentally, Sheridan, while a First Classman, was suspended from Oct. 18, 1851 to Oct. 28, 1852 for insubordinate conduct and consequently did not graduate until July 1, 1853."

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son, Garrett. Another Smith daughter, Marcia Raif, left a daughter Clara. Their youngest child, Ellie, died of diphtheria when she was eight. The Smith and Timmons families produced all of the Nugen descendants, for three other daughters — Elizabeth Vogenitz, Camilla Sharp and Lillis Shields — left no children.

YEARS GONE BY — This was a neighborly visit, possibly about 1912. From left to right are Mrs. Mary E. (Mel) Dent who was a Nugen cousin; Elmira Nugen Smith; Maria Pilling Moore, the author's grandmother; and Sarah Smith Sperling, "Aunt Sadie." The dog's name was Rex.



Phedora  
died 1893 or 8

William S. Sharp  
died 1978  
wife of

~~new born  
feebly  
dying  
Sept 1890  
died Oct 10~~

July 1930  
1856

1855-1910  
1875-1923

July 1890  
1890-1892

Nickin Children

William  
David  
Marcia  
Garrett  
Maxine  
Robert

Dr. Beers married  
Marg. J. Foglau

Mel (Mary) Dent (Mrs. Frost)  
was dau. of Chesley Nugen

F. A. Nugen's wife  
Sarah Foglau -  
their daughter, Ch. -  
first wife of Israel Arguutz

next lot  
K. L. & M. M.  
acid

Mar 14, 1859

aged 62 yrs  
2 years

Phedora  
died 1894  
aged 52 -

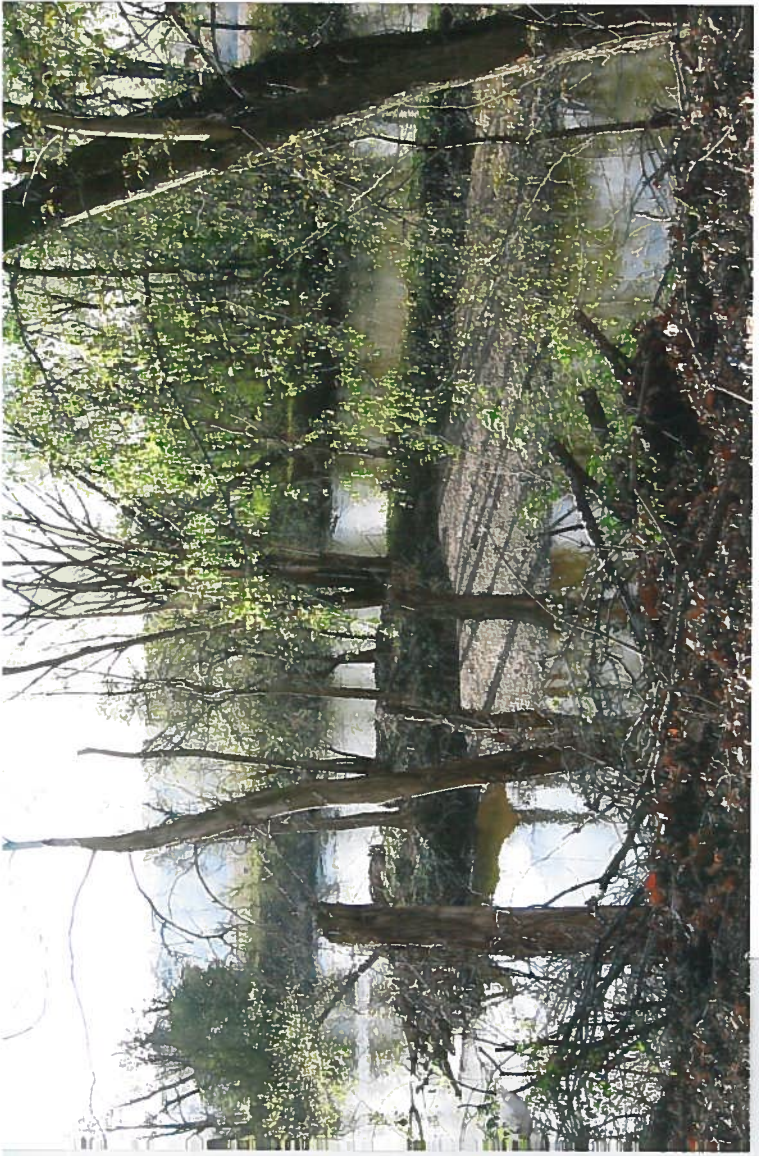
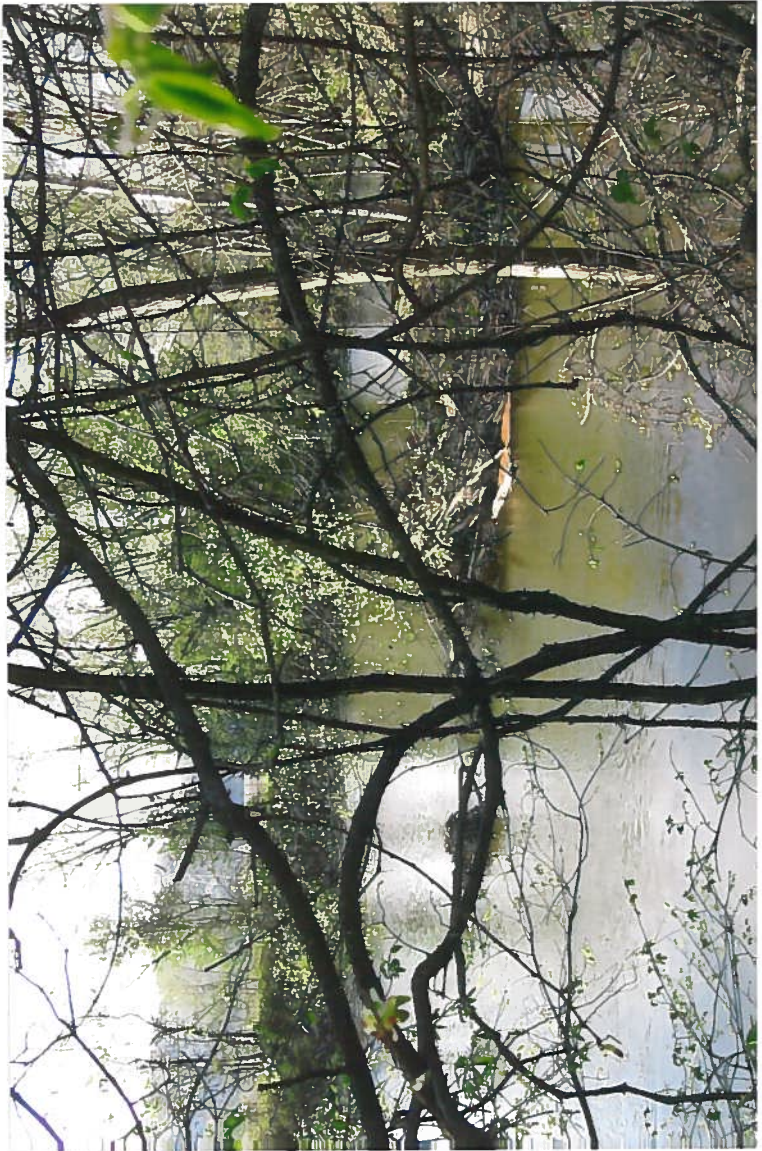
1847 - Garrett 15, Smith  
came to Kascae  
I, I clerk -  
attract  
Col. R. H. Nugen -  
persuaded Nugen to  
come to Kascae &  
man. his slave  
Smith & Amira  
Nugen, mar. 1847 -  
Virginia - children  
Marcia Raif (Dave)  
Robt. D.  
Sarah, Spurling  
Christina Sargent  
Harvard  
Levise  
Clara (head of  
Sawed in Ohio leg.  
1869-71.



### **FIREMEN BURN HOME**

What was left of the old Nugen home was burned by members of the Newcomerstown Volunteer Fire Dept. Sunday afternoon. The building, located near the intersection of E. State and Piling, was one of two which has been purchased by Forest, Glenn

and Earl Baker of Baker Auto Parts here. The Baker Brothers expect to construct a building on the site. The Nugen home was at one time a village landmark.



NUGEN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

## MRS. ELMIRA SMITH DIES AT AGE OF 91

Mrs. Elmira Smith, aged 91 years, widow of the late Hon. G. B. Smith, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. C. Starker, West State st. this city, at 2 a. m. Thursday, Dec. 6, following a year's illness. Her death was probably the result of injuries received in a fall about a year ago which left her partially paralyzed.

Mrs. Smith was born and reared in Newcomerstown where she spent her entire life. She was the oldest daughter of Col. Robert Nugen, who was a member of Congress during the Civil War, and had charge of the building of the Ohio Canal. Col. Nugen's portrait is among the five pictures of famous Tuscarawas-co. men which adorn the walls of the common pleas court corridor at New Philadelphia.

Her husband, Hon. G. B. Smith, was prominent in Democratic state political circles, having served as representative from Tuscarawas county. His death occurred 13 years ago.

Mrs. Smith's brother, Robert Nugen, jr., was a former superintendent of the Tuscarawas county children's home. Her daughter, Mrs. J. F. Wilkin, was the wife of Judge Wilkin of the Ohio Supreme Court.

She was a member of the Lutheran church, and was honored and respected by a large circle of friends throughout this section of the state.

Five children survive: Robert Smith, Mrs. Christine Sargent and Mrs. Jesse Starker, all of Newcomerstown, Howard Smith of Los Angeles, Calif., and Mrs. Alvin Sperling of La Jolla, Calif. Thirteen grandchildren also survive, and one brother, Robert Nugen of La Jolla, Calif.

Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at the Starker home, conducted by Rev. W. L. Heuser, and burial was made in the local cemetery.



George William Nugen

circa 1882





George clarence Nugen  
(Father of Bob Nugen)  
First rural mail carrier  
Photo taken 1900's  
Started in 1896.

George clarence Nugen  
Photo early 1900's



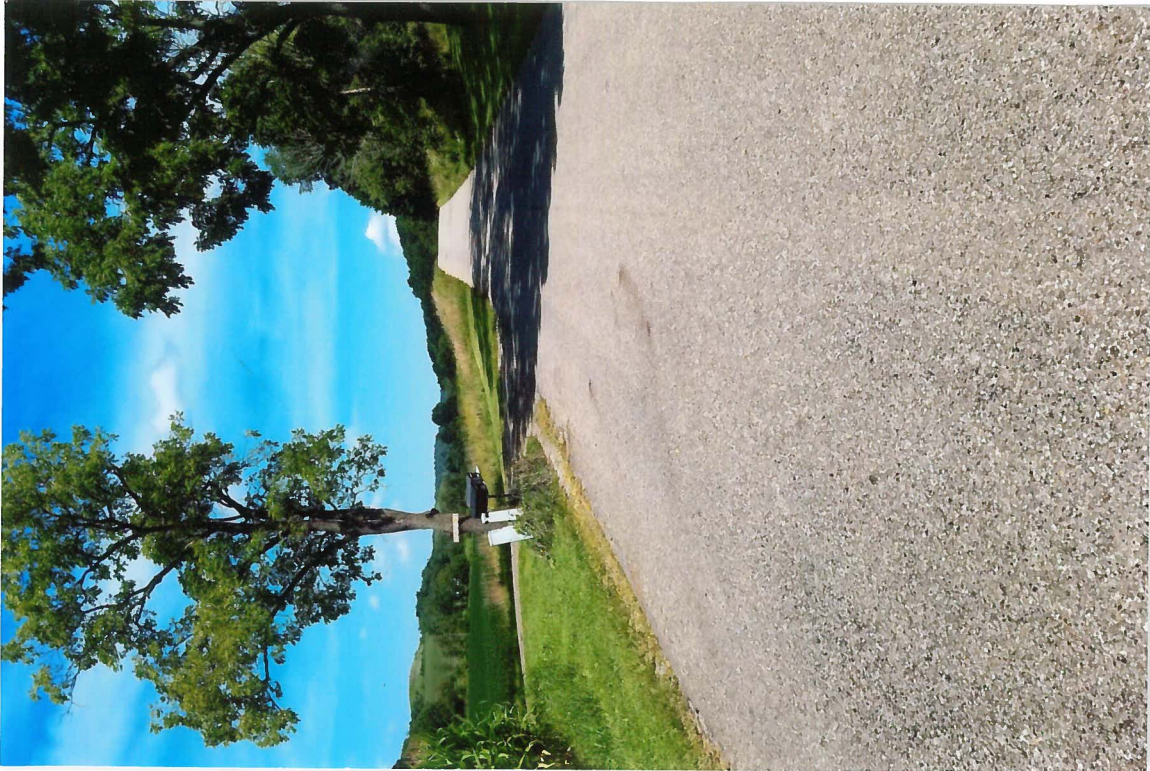


55



BELOW





11 Feb 1976 NEWS

# Old Nugen House Was Once a Lovely Dwelling

Col. Craig Spring's Sunday afternoon fighting drill when the old Col. Nugen house on E. State St. was burned brought a welcome end to a once beautiful dwelling.

Except for a cemetery plot, the last local trace of a popular and highly respected family is gone. Col. Nugen's only son, Robert, who lived in California and as is known left no descendants live in

no record of when the residence was built, but it probably took place after Col. Nugen came to Homestead in connection with building and the Ohio Canal. His daughter Sarah Hogland and the

Elmira, was born in 1833 might indicate their marriage took place elsewhere.

His name first appears in county records in connection with land purchases in Oxford Twp., the first being from Philip W. Neighbor in 1836. Additional deeds were recorded from John W. Cooley in 1840; William Gardner in 1841; Levi Sargent, 1842; Harlow Chapen, 1842; John V. Cowell, 1845 and George Harris, 1848. Four years after his death in 1872, landowners listed in Michener's "Annals of the Muskingum & Tuscarawas Valley" shows Col. Nugen's estate included 783 acres at a total valuation of \$60,000. The major part of this was the broad, rich bottom land south and east of the bend in the river presently owned by Mrs. Robert Brode and Carl Portz.

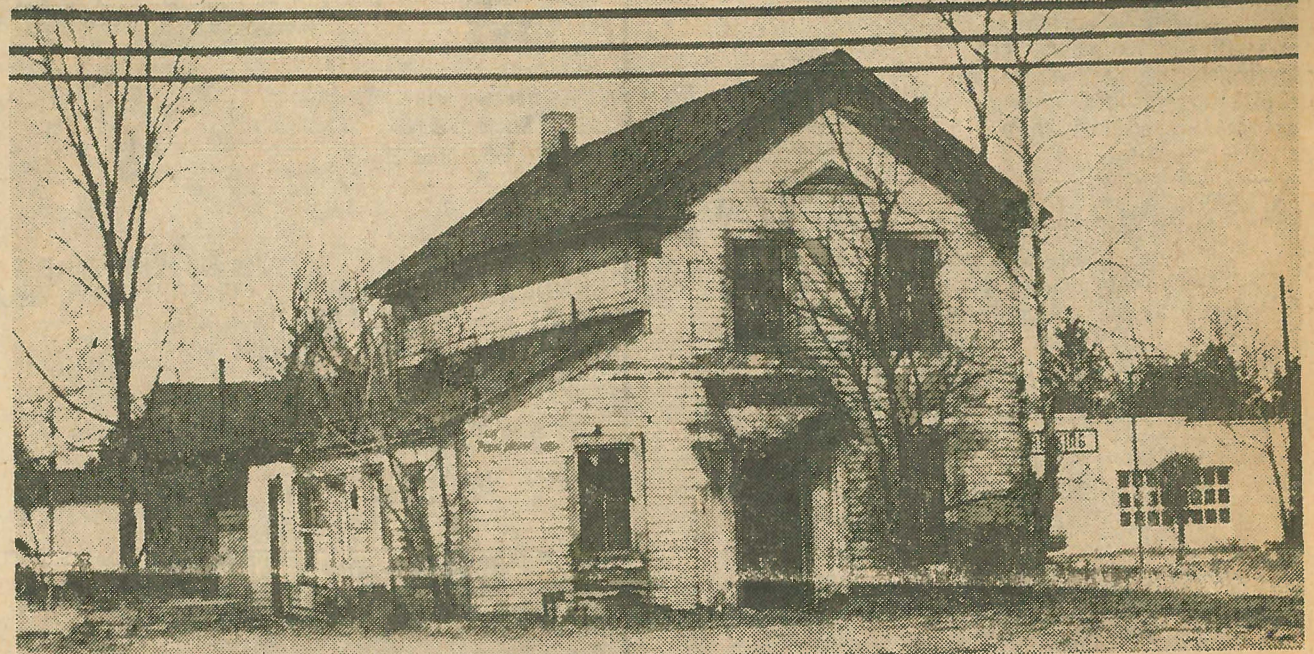
Apparently that same year the estate was divided among

his children, for the 1876 County Atlas shows broad strips running between the river and the hills to the south belonging to Phedora (incorrectly spelled Theodora) Timmons; Elizabeth Vogenitz, R.H. Nugen Jr., Camilla S. Nugen and Lillis Shields. The homestead and other land north of the river, carries the name of Elmira, the eldest daughter whose husband was Garrett B. Smith. All of the daughters, along with their parents, are buried on a lot next to the railroad in the E. State St. Cemetery.

Col. Nugen, Democrat, served one term in Congress from 1861 to 1863, and at the time of his death was superintendent for the lessees of the Ohio Canal. From 1861 to 1879 it was leased to a group of private individuals in the hope that such an operation would be more efficient and profitable.

The Nugen house, surrounded by lawn with trees at intervals along its outer edge, faced the lane which eventually became Pilling St. A smooth flagstone walk extended from the front porch to the road and grape hyacinths blossomed each spring in the grass. I have been told that a decorative iron fence once enclosed the yard and there were numerous farm buildings. But by the early 1900's most of these had disappeared and the ones left were becoming overgrown with trumpet vines. By that time, too, all that remained of the orchard in the field to the north were a few broken trees, among them duchess, rambo and queen apples; the last-named so juicy and sweet that anyone attempting to gather the fallen fruit had to battle the honey

(Continued on Page 6)



LANDMARK GONE — This is the old Nugen house near the intersection of E. State St. and Pilling St. which was destroyed

last spring to make way for the new Baker Auto Parts building.

11 Feb 1976 NEWS

# Old Nugen House Was Once a Lovely Dwelling

... Craig  
Last spring's Sunday afternoon fire-fighting drill when the remains of the old Col. Robert H. Nugen house on E. State St. were burned brought a sad but welcome end to a once lovely dwelling.

Now, except for a cemetery monument, the last local trace of that popular and highly respected family is gone. Col. Nugen's only son, Robert, eventually lived in California and so far as is known left no family, and none of his daughters' descendants live in this area.

There is no record of when the Nugen residence was built, though this probably took place not long after Col. Nugen came to Newcomerstown in connection with building and operating the Ohio Canal. His wife was Sarah Hogland and the fact that their eldest daughter,

Elmira, was born in 1833 might indicate their marriage took place elsewhere.

His name first appears in county records in connection with land purchases in Oxford Twp., the first being from Philip W. Neighbor in 1836. Additional deeds were recorded from John W. Cooley in 1840; William Gardner in 1841; Levi Sargent, 1842; Harlow Chapen, 1842; John V. Cowell, 1845 and George Harris, 1848. Four years after his death in 1872, landowners listed in Michener's "Annals of the Muskingum & Tuscarawas Valley" shows Col. Nugen's estate included 783 acres at a total valuation of \$60,000. The major part of this was the broad, rich bottom land south and east of the bend in the river presently owned by Mrs. Robert Brode and Carl Portz.

Apparently that same year the estate was divided among

his children, for the 1876 County Atlas shows broad strips running between the river and the hills to the south belonging to Phedora (incorrectly spelled Theodora) Timmons; Elizabeth Vogenitz, R.H. Nugen Jr., Camilla S. Nugen and Lillis Shields. The homestead and other land north of the river, carries the name of Elmira, the eldest daughter whose husband was Garrett B. Smith. All of the daughters, along with their parents, are buried on a lot next to the railroad in the E. State St. Cemetery.

Col. Nugen, Democrat, served one term in Congress from 1861 to 1863, and at the time of his death was superintendent for the lessees of the Ohio Canal. From 1861 to 1879 it was leased to a group of private individuals in the hope that such an operation would be more efficient and profitable.

The Nugen house, surrounded by lawn with trees at intervals along its outer edge, faced the lane which eventually became Pilling St. A smooth flagstone walk extended from the front porch to the road and grape hyacinths blossomed each spring in the grass. I have been told that a decorative iron fence once enclosed the yard and there were numerous farm buildings. But by the early 1900's most of these had disappeared and the ones left were becoming overgrown with trumpet vines. By that time, too, all that remained of the orchard in the field to the north were a few broken trees, among them duchess, rambo and queen apples; the last-named so juicy and sweet that anyone attempting to gather the fallen fruit had to battle the honey

(Continued on Page 6)



LANDMARK GONE — This is the old Nugen house near the intersection of E. State St. and Pilling St. which was destroyed

last spring to make way for the new Baker Auto Parts building.

100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY



1870-1970

Nugen Chapter

#124

*Royal Arch Masons*

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Comp. Samuel L. Billings

Welcome . . . . . Comp. Alan Hart

Invocation . . . . . Comp. Phillip VanSickle

Dinner . . . . . Served by  
Oriental Chapter O. E. S.

Address . . . . . Most Ex. Comp.  
Charles E. Canfield  
Grand High Priest of  
Royal Arch Masons of Ohio

Royal Arch Widows Degree . . . . .Nugen Chapter #124 R.A.M

Benediction . . . . . Comp. Phillip VanSickle

History of Nugen Chapter compiled  
by Comp. Aaron Swank



PRESENT OFFICERS OF NUGEN CHAPTER #124

High Priest	Alan Hart
King	Samuel L. Billings
Scribe	Phillip VanSickle
Secretary	W. R. (Bob) Parks
Treasurer	Carl Lyons
Captain of the Host	Frank M. Oldt
Principal Sojourner	Earl Carruthers
Royal Arch Captain	Robert Kinsey
Master of 3rd Veil	Charles Knight
Master of 2nd Veil	Carl T. Smith
Master of 1st Veil	Francis VanVoorhis
Guard	Leslie Besst

NUGEN CHAPTER #124 R. A. M.  
ORIGIN AND HISTORY 1870 - 1970

Everything, no matter how large or small has an origin somewhere, sometime. We need only look, in order that we may discover that origin. With this thought in mind, let us turn to the records of Nugen Chapter and examine its origin and some of its history.

Nugen Chapter #124 R. A. M. was chartered on the 14th day of September, 1870. The Chapter was undoubtedly named after Colonel Robert H. Nugen. He was an early prominent citizen of Newcomerstown, and in addition was a charter member of Lone Star Lodge #175 F. & A. M. and the first Senior Warden.

The organizational meeting of Nugen Chapter was held June 30, 1870, in the Masonic Lodge Hall. The members present were: Jessie Knisley, S. A. Cornett, G. B. Smith, Adam Timmerman, C. F. Hicks, John B. White, Jacob Hess, Jr., Col. Robert H. Nugen, and John Seittle.

"The meeting was called to order by Comp. Jessie Knisley who produced and read a letter of dispensation dated at Dayton, Ohio June 13, 1870 and signed Charles C. Kiefer Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the State of Ohio. Setting forth that the companions named therein were thereby empowered to meet and organize themselves in a body to be known as Nugen Chapter Royal Arch Masons No. Newcomerstown, Ohio and naming the following as appointed to the three principal offices:

Companion Jessie Knisley	High Priest
Companion S. A. Cornett	King
Companion G. B. Smith	Scribe

These officers repairing to the stations the High Priest they named and called to their respective places the following officers:

Companion Adam Timmerman	Capt. of the Host
Companion C. F. Hicks	Principal Sojourner
Companion John B. White	Royal Arch Capt.
Companion Jacob Hess, Jr.	Master of the 3rd Veil
Companion John Little	Master of the 2nd Veil
Companion Col. R.H. Nugen	Master of the 1st Veil

The Chapter was then opened in due form . . . On motion the Chapter then proceeded to hold its regular meetings as follows: the first Thursday evening after each full moon and in two weeks thereafter (Copied from the original minutes)."

Nugen Chapter continued to meet approximately every two weeks following the June 30, 1870 meeting. The first members of Lone Star Lodge to petition for membership were: Charles Willgers (For some reason he never received the Chapter degrees although he was declared eligible.), Thomas J. Patterson, Joseph S. Lyons and Wm. S. Dent. Their petitions were accompanied by the fee of \$10.00 per applicant for the degree of Mark Master. On the evening of Thursday, July 14, 1870, Brothers T. J. Patterson, J. S. Lyons and Wm. S. Dent (in that order) received the degree on Mark Master and became the first men to receive a degree in York Rite Masonry in Nugen Chapter. Thus, this was the first degree ever conferred in this Chapter.

The Chapter's Penny states that Nugen Chapter was chartered September 14, 1870. This took place at Cincinnati, Ohio on September 12, 1870, and the charter issued.

However, "owing to sickness and other causes an entire Grand Chapter could not be formed. Whereupon the Grand High Priest set the evening of Wednesday, October 18, 1870 for that purpose (Constituting Nugen Chapter, see page 7 of the original minutes)." This implies that Nugen Chapter was really chartered in October rather than September.

Nugen Chapter met in the following locations since its inception in 1870. From 1870 to 1903 Chapter met in the second story of the Luthern Church which is on the site of the present day Luthern Church. The Masonic Lodge had a 99 year lease on the second story of this church. From 1903 to 1913 Chapter met in the Patterson Building (owned by the Masonic Lodge). This building was located on the corners of Canal and River Streets. From 1913 to 1914 Chapter met in the Emmerson Building (The second story of this building was rented by the Masonic Lodge.). This building is located on Main Street and presently houses Treadwell's Store. From 1915 to 1953 Chapter met in the second and third stories of the Ortt Building located at 117-1/2 Main Street (Again the Masonic Lodge rented these rooms for lodge purposes.). From 1953 to the present Nugen Chapter conducts its meetings in the Masonic Temple located on North Bridge Street which was built for Lone Star Lodge.

It is interesting to note that "Frank Mulvane a mason and Past High Priest of Nugen Chapter left sufficient impressions of the institution (Masonry) that when his widow died some years later she left two lots (The present Temple stands on these lots.) and sufficient funds from which the present Temple was built (Taken from an eulogy delivered by Bro. Clarence Ashelman for Frank Mulvane)."

Over the years this Chapter enjoyed good times as well as bad. It grew from a mere handful of dedicated members to a present membership of 104. It is to these men that we owe an inestimable debt of gratitude for these are the ones that are responsible for this, the Centennial year of Nugen Chapter.

#### 50 Year Members of Nugen Chapter (Living)

Floyd A. Rogers  
L. M. (Mac) Wiandt  
Wm. H. Neighbor  
Wm. I. Hootman  
Gerald Adams

#### Biographical Sketch of Colonel Robert H. Nugen

The information about Col. Nugen was very kindly supplied by one of his descendents, Mr. George Robert Nugen, R. R. #1, Port Washington, Ohio.

"Col. Robert H. Nugen was born July 23, 1810 in the state of Ohio. He died Thursday, Feb. 29, 1872 at the age of 62. His grave and monument may be seen in the east end of the old section of the East State Street Cemetery.

His occupation was that of Superintendent of the Ohio Canal from its inception (1833) to the time of his death in 1872. (This can be verified by referring to the 1875 Atlas of Tuscarawas County, Ohio.) His territory extended from Newcomerstown, Ohio to Cleveland, Ohio. These inspection trips were made by horseback. How often these trips were made, and how long they took is now unknown. He and his son-in-law, G. B. Smith, were partners in merchandising and in the construction of public works. In 1863-64-65 they built the greater part of the Pan Handle Division of the Penn Central Railroad.

From all indications the title of Colonel was honorary. If this is correct, the title was adopted to insure more, or better, cooperation from the people who were necessary in maintaining and operating the canal. Or, Col. Nugen served in the military and hence the title of Colonel. "

The 1875 Atlas of Tuscarawas County, Ohio makes the following reference to Col. Nugen. "Robert Nugen settling near by was recognized as a leading citizen. He bought 800 acres of land at \$8.00 per acre. "

It also said, "In 1836 Nugen was a merchant; his business was that of livery and sale stable, located on Bridge Street. He settled here in 1836.

The Centennial History of Events of a Century in the Muskingum and Tuscarawas Valleys, edited by C. H. Mitchner, published in 1876, mentions the R. H. Nugen heirs. "They received 783 acres of land valued at \$60,000.00.

Again quoting Mr. Nugen of Port Washington, Ohio who said, "Col. Nugen's home stood behind the now defunct Bliss Auto Parts located on East State Street of this city." He also said, "Col. Nugen donated some land to the State of Ohio. Later when the state constructed a bridge across the Tuscarawas River (next to Stoffer's Restaurant) the bridge was named in honor of Col. Nugen. This bridge is now torn down. A street was run through the Nugen property and named in honor of the Colonel. This land was located in the east end of Newcomerstown."

When Col. Nugen died Lone Star Lodge honored him in the following way. Invitations to his funeral were sent to Masonic Lodges in this area. The Pennsylvania Railroad was contacted to insure stopping trains as an accommodation to visiting brethren. An Evergreen Car was procured. A committee of three was appointed to draft resolutions on his death. A brass band was invited to attend the services. A committee of one was appointed to superintend the digging of the grave. A committee of three was appointed to notify the brethren of this lodge of his death.

On the day of his funeral, March 1, 1872, members were present from Newcomerstown, New Philadelphia, Uhrichsville, Port Washington, Coshocton, Dover and Plainfield Lodges. These delegates met at Lone Star Lodge Hall and then marched to Col. Nugen's residence. From here they conducted the friends of Col. Nugen to the Luthern Church. Bro. Jessie Knisley delivered a eulogy about Col. Nugen. His remains were then conducted to the cemetery, and his friends were escorted to the late Col.'s home. The members of the various Masonic Lodges then returned to the lodge rooms of Lone Star Lodge.

Thus, this sketch closes noting the fact that Col. Nugen was a revered Mason and a prominent citizen who through diligent work was a credit not only to Masonry but to the community as well.