

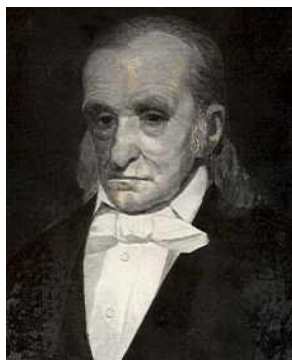
Unraveling the Hosbrooks by Carol (Klenk) Heck



John, Daniel, Mahlon, Homer, Charles, Cleo and Nelle, if only it was that easy to track the Madeira Hosbrooks. Let's start with John Hosbrook (#1, for the purposes of this story), who most likely was born in Ireland in 1760. Later in 1777, he served in the American Revolutionary War in New Jersey with the rank of sergeant. He and Lydia Kitchell married in New Jersey when John was about 20 years old. They brought their four children, two sons and two daughters, to Madeira in 1794 and acquired land on what is now Hosbrook Road. The picture on the left, is Hosbrook Road looking south from Montgomery Road. It was taken about 80 years after John's arrival.

John was a farmer and it was probable that he was a surveyor. His one son didn't stay in Madeira, but Daniel S. did. In 1798, John Hosbrook set out on foot one cold day to Columbia (township) for a peck of salt. On his way back through the heavy forest, a blinding snowstorm caused him to lose his way. He froze to death ¼ mile from his home. He was buried on the hillside by the road on his Madeira farmland. For a while there was a rail pen marking his gravesite, but there was no grave marker or headstone. Decades later, a walled rectangular structure was uncovered by a road-building crew which was surmised to be John's grave. He was 38 years old at the time of this death.

The second son of John #1 was Daniel S. Hosbrook, seen here. He was born in 1785 in New Jersey and died in 1868 in Madeira at the age of 83. In 1807, when he was 22, he bought 50 acres in Madeira from his future father-in-law, Daniel Bates. I believe this



house, to the extreme right, is where he lived. His land was located where the streets of North Mingo, South Mingo and Shewango now lie, and it adjoined the original Hosbrook farm. The next year he married Eunice Bates. They had ten children in all.

Daniel S. had enlisted into the War of 1812 and reached the status of captain. For identification purposes, I call him Captain Daniel S. Hosbrook. "In addition to being Madeira's first teacher, Captain Daniel S. Hosbrook had other occupations. He was a surveyor, like his dad, and he became the county surveyor for Hamilton County twice, in 1817 and in 1820. Captain Daniel S. Hosbrook also got into politics and was active in politics all his life. He served as sheriff of Hamilton County for one year. As the sheriff, he had to deliver prisoners to

Columbus by horseback. He also served three terms as a state representative in the Ohio legislature". *1

Five of Captain Daniel S. Hosbrook's children had moved to Marion County, Indiana. Two of his sons stayed in Madeira. They were John L. Hosbrook and Mahlon Hosbrook. Mahlon married Sarepta Malsbary and had their four children in Blue Ash, but later, gained ownership of his father's 50-acre Madeira Hosbrook farmland.



John L. Hosbrook, pictured here, was named after his grandfather, John Hosbrook #1. John L. was born in 1817 in Madeira on the Hosbrook farm and lived to be 78 years old. He married Deborah Ferris in 1841 when he was 24 years old. John L. was a farmer, a building contractor, and a County Engineer from 1841-1851. In 1848 he acquired 100 acres of land from Miami Avenue and Euclid up to Hosbrook Road. Pictured next is the gray 2-story house he had built on his own land on the northwest corner of Euclid and Miami. Later it had the garages added, and finally in 1962, it became the Madeira's fire department building. In 1871, John L. Hosbrook and John D.



Moore bought land and subdivided the first development plat in Madeira which makes up the downtown area of Madeira of more modern times.

From John L. and Deborah Ferris's marriage came two noteworthy sons. They were Daniel Solomon Hosbrook and John Asaph "Asa" Hosbrook (see bottom of story for John Asa's story).

Daniel Solomon Hosbrook was possibly named after Captain Daniel S. Hosbrook, his grandfather. Daniel Solomon Hosbrook married Viola McGill Karr in 1867 when he was 23 years old. See the couple on the bench and the photo below them. They had nine children, five of which died young. They lived in this bigger farm house on the Hosbrook farm. Daniel Solomon Hosbrook was a County Surveyor like his predecessors. Two of their sons were Homer H. Hosbrook and Charles J. Hosbrook.



Shown here, and on page 3 are pictures of Homer H. Hosbrook. Homer was born in 1870 and grew up and lived on the Hosbrook farm. He became an attorney. It looks like the address which was on Hosbrook Road is 430, (see rural mailbox). I don't think Homer H. ever married. Homer lost his left arm while setting

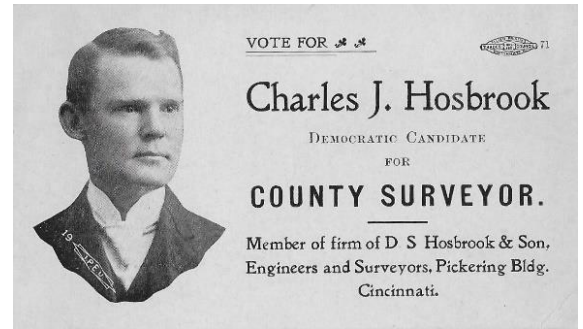




Homer Hosbrook

down a rifle or shotgun causing it to fall and discharge accidentally. He died in 1954 and lived to be 84 years old.

Charles J. Hosbrook, see business card on the right, was born in 1872 and was a surveyor with his dad at first. Charles J. Hosbrook married Maude Muchmore when he



was 29 years old. They lived in this house that was at one time painted green (when it was rented by La Grassa's Gelato). The house still exists in the historic district of Madeira at 7014 Miami Avenue, today. Charles died in 1943 at the age of 71. Their only daughter, Cleo Jeanette Hosbrook, (1902-1995) lived in this house most of her life.



Cleo, seen next, became a teacher for orthopedically handicapped and otherwise handicapped children at Condon School in Avondale. Cleo gave this house to the city of Madeira around 1989, which the city of Madeira has agreed to preserve and protect forever. You can go visit and read the plaque by this house which was placed there in conjunction with the Madeira Historical Society and the City of Madeira.



There is one more branch of Hosbrook's that I want to tell you about. That would be Cleo's great uncle, and Daniel Solomon's brother, John Asa Hosbrook. He was named after John L., his father, and his great grandfather. The middle name is becoming very important because now we have three Madeira Hosbrook's with the name John.

John Asa Hosbrook was born in 1850. He married Annie Alice Fowler when he was 21. He worked as a civil engineer/surveyor, and he was the mayor of Madeira from 1920-1923. He and Annie had four daughters. The last two were twins. One twin didn't survive. Nelle was the twin that did. Nellie Viola Hosbrook is the official name on her birth certificate, but most people called her Nelle.



There is a beautiful Victorian house at 7211 Miami Avenue which John Asa and Annie had built in 1878 (or 1888). That house, privately owned, is still there today. Nelle lived there most of her life and one sister lived with her for a while. In 1944, Nelle acquired the home when her father died, at the age of 93.

Nelle was Madeira's first branch librarian from 1930-1949. She was educated in music and taught piano in her home. I was told that before she died, Nelle gifted the house to the city of Madeira. The city ended up selling the property. Also at some time, she gave the parcel of land next to hers to the city of Madeira with the condition that it should be maintained as a bird sanctuary. It is called "*The Nelle V. Hosbrook Bird Sanctuary*". Nelle lived to be 96 years old.

Many facts about the Hosbrook's have been reported and written incorrectly. Mostly, names have been confused. Or fathers and sons got mixed up. That's not hard to do with the number of generations involved and repeated name assignments. I have given you what I have thought to be the best reiteration. There might have been another Hosbrook family that lived on the farm. If I need to be corrected on anything, please call the Madeira Historical Society at 513-561-9069. We are open for tours at the Miller House Museum on the first Saturday and the third Sunday from 1-4 pm, April through December.

1. Regina Villiers, published in *The Suburban Life*, July 19, 1995.

Photos courtesy of Madeira Historical Society and Ancestry.com.

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Also see, "*Where There's Smoke, There's Fire*" under Madeira & Indian Hill Joint Fire Department, and "*Once Upon a Time*" under Library.

