

## Rev. Wilson Hollyday

Margaret Dieringer was an active, hardworking member of the historical society for many years. Several years ago she was named to the Greenfield Historical Society Roll of Honor. Margaret was a avid historian and genealogist par excellence. When Margaret's family held a sale of her belongings they gave the society many library materials including history books, genealogy books as well as research work she did in the history and genealogy areas

As well as library materials, the donation also included items such as clothing, hats, letters, etc. One fascinating group of materials revolves around the Hollyday family who lived in Buckskin Township and Greenfield. Included are obituaries of Rev. Wilson Hollyday and his wife Nancy, a letter from Wilson to his father, John, a diploma from Miami University for Rev. Hollyday and a top hat belonging to him.

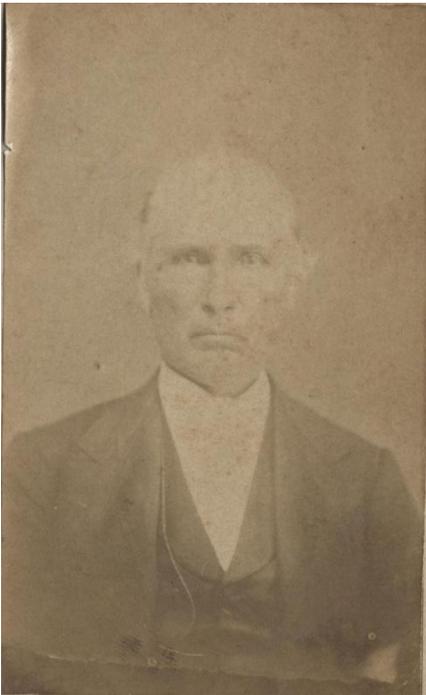


Figure 1 - Wilson Hollyday

Wilson C. Hollyday was born in Buckskin township in 1810 to John and Eleanor Hollyday. His mother was a member of the Wilson family who owned the Conestoga wagon in the Society's collection. Wilson attended local schools and, with his brother, Robert, enrolled in Miami University in 1833, graduating in 1839. He studied for the ministry under Rev. H. S. Fullerton of South Salem and Dr. Samuel Crothers of Greenfield, both vigorous Presbyterians and abolitionists.

In 1841 he became a pastor of congregations in the Miami and Clark county area. He married Nancy Ann Moody of Piqua, Ohio in 1840. Five children were born to them but only one, Joseph Howard Moody Hollyday, survived childhood. After serving as head of the high school in Saint Marys, Ohio for one year, he moved his family to Iowa in 1855 where he taught for three years. He spent from 1855 till 1881 preaching in the southeast area of Iowa, helping to establish at least nine churches during this time.

In 1870 he lost the use of his left eye to a cataract, his right eye later became affected. In 1886 his right eye was successfully operated on in Cincinnati. In 1880 he fell on ice and injured one of his legs. Later falls aggravated this injury until he was quite lame.

In 1881 he brought his wife back to Greenfield where they settled on a farm they purchased. He died in 1889 at this home. All through his life he wrote religious tracts and communicated by mail on religious matters with those he could not reach from the pulpit.

The following letter is one of the articles in the Dieringer donation. It was written from Wilson Hollyday in Miami county to his father John in Buckskin Township, Ross County. It shows how difficult life could be with the lack of medical knowledge to cure illnesses one might encounter. It also shows how having enough money to pay the bills was a problem, no matter what time period you lived in.

One note about the letter. It is written as Rev. Wilson wrote it. Care was taken to use the same spelling and grammar as in the original letter. It also talks about a medical condition that may bother some people. If you are offended by this, we apologize but felt that it shows what life was really like in 1844.

*Dear Father & Mother*

*We received your letter some time since, & were pleased to hear that you were all getting along as well as you were. We however have not got along very well for some time past. Nancy was quite smart for 3 or 4 weeks, but her left breast became hard and puckered & continued so, in opposition to all the means we could use, & finally gathered. It was lanced this day week, & run I think a pint at one time of matter, since that it has run out small quantities several times, - the*

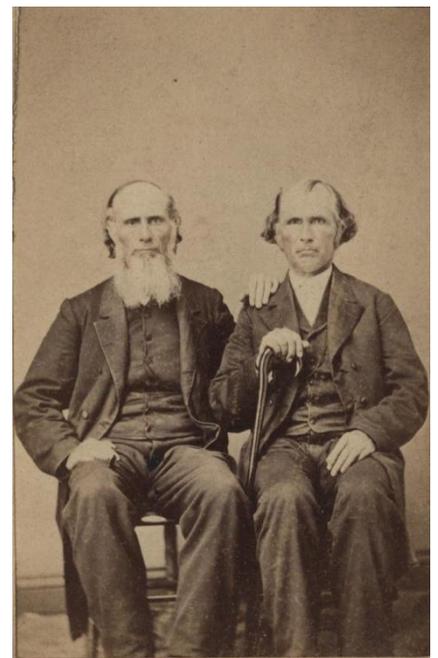


Figure 2 - Wilson Hollyday and his brother Robert

swelling has gone down very much, & she appears much better, her appetite is very poor, she can scarcely get any thing she can eat, she has kept her bed about 2 weeks, I hope by care she will get along we have a close room, but it takes a great deal of wood to keep it well warmed day & night Our little son grows very fast & is quite well except that he has the cholick almost every day as we have had to feed him some the last week he has not growed quite so fast. I suppose that we shall call him Joseph, Howard, Moody, the Howard is part of Elizabeth's name, & the rest for Father in law he looks very much like our little Jm Campbell We were pleased to hear that you are talking still of coming to see us. I see no way of getting to see you soon. I lately received a draft from the missionary society but as one of our store keepers here was hard pressed, I had to let him have part of it he is to let me have 10 dollars after a few weeks, if I need it. if you could lift that note & wait a while for the money, I should be glad I wish to get clear of the store keepers here & It will take every thing I can \_\_\_\_\_ to do it. I have paid in different ways 162 dollars the last year & I owe 100, or 110 dollars yet toward my house beside that note which Smart has got. if I could get all that is due me I could soon pay all but I have to wait patiently, Write to me soon and let me know what you can do without embarssin yourself & if it is necessary I will send you some money in a letter.

Your son  
W. C. Hollyday

feb. 8

I was too late for the mail the last time. Nancy has been able to sit up for a week past but she has not been quite so well for 2 or 3 days past as she was. The Dr. thinks it will probably gather again, before it gets well. I think perhaps the worst is past. The rest of us are all well. Joseph Howard Moody is quite hearty & grows very fast. we got a letter from Robert Patterson which said mother got a fall from her horse & C. - write soon & let us know how you are getting along. W. C. H.

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Also included in the items are two receipts and a work order. One receipt is from Wilson's brother stating that he received money from his father's estate. The second receipt is from the Ross county Treasurer's office for taxes paid. The work order is from a Ross County clerk telling John Hollyday, Wilson's father, what roads he was to supervise.

Received of W. C. Hollyday, Executor of the estate of John Hollyday Deceased, - the sum of three hundred & fifty dollars, being a part of the amount of said estate du me.

August 29th 1854

R. H. Hollyday

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Treasurer's Office, Ross County, November 27th, 1831

Received of John Hollyday three dollars Eighty four cents and 2 mills, being the amount of Taxes due on the following described tract of land an personal property for the year 1831, to wit:

163 1/2 Acres No. 650 Buckskin Township	\$2.80.2
3 horses and 5 cattle	<u>1.04.0</u>
_____ S. Lewis	\$3.84.2
Treasurer R. C.	

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No. 3. John Holladay supervisor of the \_\_\_\_\_ district of B. T. You are to work & superintend the Washing road from Paint town. line to the Buckskin road also the road from Robert C. Wilson's to Jac. Davis's Also the Rapid forge road you are to work the \_\_\_\_\_ in the following boundaries beginning at David Matthews thence to Hugh Milligan thence to John \_\_\_\_\_ thence to Jacob Davis thence down the Westfall road to the town. line thence to R. Wilsons thence to the beginning including all \_\_\_\_\_

William T. \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk