



**OHIO GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY**

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## OGS FINDING AIDS

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Item name or title. Collection title, MSS number, box number, file number, item number (if available). Lyle H. West Archives, Ohio Genealogical Society, Bellville, Ohio.

### MSS 345

**Title:** Harry D. C. Liggett Collection

**Location:** Ohio Genealogical Society, Lyle H. West Archives, 611 SR 97 W, Bellville, Ohio, 44813

**Preferred Citation:** Harry D. C. Liggett Collection, MSS 345, box number, file number. Lyle H. West Archives, Ohio Genealogical Society, Bellville, Ohio.

**Dates:** 1590-2008

**Creator(s):** Harry D. C. Liggett (1930-2014), Akron, OH

**Donor(s):** Maggie Walker, Akron, OH

### Biography of creator:

*From obituary in Akron Beacon Journal, Sunday, January 26, 2014—*

“Harry Liggett, 83, passed away peacefully on January 24, at the Hospice Care Center in Copley. Harry was born in Dennison, Ohio on March 3, 1930, to the late Harry and Lillian Liggett, he had been an Akron area resident since 1965. He was a longtime and active parishioner at St. Paul Catholic Church in Akron, where he had previously served as president of the Parish Council and was the creator and editor of the Parish Blog. He retired in 1995 after 30 years as the assistant news editor at the Akron Beacon Journal. He served in the US Army during the Korean Conflict. Harry enjoyed Genealogy and was an active member of the Ohio Genealogical Society. Dad was a proud Eagle Scout and a faithful and devoted husband to his late wife Helen. He and Helen loved and adored their granddaughters, who became the center of their lives. In addition to his parents, Harry was preceded in death by his wife, Helen in 2010; brother, Bill and sisters, Mazy and Betty. He is survived by his sons, Tom (Susan) Liggett of Akron and Bob Liggett of Copley; grandchildren, Erin and Anna Liggett... Internment will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery in Akron.”

Full birth name: Harry Doyle Curtiss Liggett (shortened to Harry D. Liggett later in life)

Also, an active member and newsletter editor for the Summit County Chapter of the OGS.

**Scope and Content:** Genealogy research files from Harry Doyle Curtiss Liggett (1930-2014) of Akron, Summit County, Ohio. Collection contains ancestor charts, family group sheets with extensive family history notes and citations, and letters from family members regarding genealogy. Collection also includes two family scrapbooks with family photos from both the Liggett and Smolak families, 1920s-2000s.

**System of Arrangement:** Alphabetical order by surname, with photos and personal papers at end

**Extent:** 1.26 linear feet

**Access:** No access restrictions.

**Language:** English

**Provenance:** Donated to the OGS by Maggie Walker, auctioneer for Harry Liggett's estate, Akron, OH, with permission from Harry's sons. Picked up from Liggett's home by E. Paul Morehouse, OGS Trustee, May 21, 2014. Estate held two auctions.

**Processing Information:** Collection re-processed (weeded) by Jay Mickam, OGS Volunteer, October 2025-February 2026.

**Additional notes:** Harry Liggett published the following articles in the *Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal* and *Ohio Records and Pioneer Families* (articles available digitally for OGS Members online):

"Liggetts, Dennings, and Penns who served in the Civil War," *OCWJ 2001, Vol. 5, no. 4, pages 180-185*

"Revolutionary Ware Soldiers Buried in Harrison County, Ohio," *ORPF 2000, Vol. 41, no. 4, pages 166-174*

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## Box 1

**File 0:** Finding aid, context, provenance, information about creator; including Harry D. C. Liggett's membership cards to various genealogical societies and Sigma Delta Chi.

**File 1:** Liggett's ancestry charts. Shows relationships between the various ancestral families, Liggett's direct family lines. Dates in file 1802-1986.

**File 2:** Baker family. Two different Baker lines: William Baker (1819-1895) and Mary Garrison (1828-1893), from Ontario, Canada; and Josiah Elijah Baker (1852-1928) and Laura A.A. Gibbens (1863-1944) from Webster County MO. Dates in file 1819-2006.

**File 3:** Beasley family. Descendants of William Beasley II (1683-?) and Mary (no dates). Family spread to KY, TN, IN, KS, SC, and OH. Dates in file 1683-1985.

**File 4:** Bilderback family. Descendants of Joseph Bilderback (1640-?) And Katherine (no dates). First Bilderback in the US is Ephraim, in Maryland. Ephraim's will is dated 1794, though that is not his death date. Dates in file 1639-1975.

**File 5:** Bilderback family additional research (family group sheets with family history notes, ascent charts), dates 1800-1850

**File 6:** Bilderback family additional research, dates 1851-2002.

**File 7:** Bilderback family charts. Multi-page descent charts of this family. Dates in file 1614-1995.

**File 8:** Bruce families. This file contains five different Bruce lines (Pennsylvania and Maryland): Andrew Bruce (1765-1835) and Agnes Reney (1779-1849); William Bruce (1762-1832) and Frances Lewis (1771-?); William Bruce (1776-?) and Sally Polke (1788-1818); James Bruce (1762-1826) and Anna Bond Job (1780-1862); and James Bruce (1769-1835) and Mary (1761-1846). Dates in file 1765-2002.

**File 9:** Burgett family. Descendants of Sebastian Burgett (1739-1789) and Roxannah Markle (no dates). Dates in file 1732-1971.

**File 10:** Cahill family. Descendants of John Cahill (1773-1837) and Jane Lister (no dates). Dates in file 1773-1874.

**File 11:** Campbell family. Descendants of James Campbell (1719-1804) and Patience (d. 1809). Dates in file 1719-1997.

**File 12:** Caniff family. Descendants of Patrick Caniff (1821-1906) and Bridget (1833-1918). Dates in file 1821-1948.

**File 13:** Cotter family. Descendants of William Cotter (1829-1887) and Eliza Brown (1827-1916). Dates in file 1826-1989.

**File 14:** Couch family. Descendants of Nathaniel Couch (1723-1802) and Abigail (no dates) of Virginia; some descendants in Harrison County, Ohio. Dates in file 1698-1982.

**File 15:** Crawford family. Descendants of William Crawford (1764-1846) and Rachel D. (1770-1843). Dates in file 1709-1960.

## **Box 2:**

**File 16:** Croxton family. Descendants of Randel Croxton (1665-?) and Sarah Garratt (1676-?). Dates in file 1643-1975.

**File 17:** Denning family. Descendants of William Denning (1775-1830) and Elizabeth Irwin (1777-1856) of Virginia; some descendants in Harrison County, Ohio. Dates in file 1775-1989.

**File 18:** Fenton family. Descendants of Michael Fenton (1759-1820) and Catherine Dicks (1766-1854). Dates in file 1759-1974.

**File 19:** Ferguson family. Charts showing descendants of William Ferguson (1746-1833) and Sarah Liggett (1756-1841). Dates in file 1735-1994.

**File 20:** Filson family. Descendants of John Filson (?-1751) and Jane (no dates). Dates in file 1735-1926.

**File 21:** Friel family. Descendants of Josiah Friel and Mary Sharp, no dates for either but married 1834. Dates in file 1834-1993.

**File 22:** Friend family. Descendants of Johannes Friend (1665-1738) and Anna Coleman (?-1737) of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. File contains several potentially unrelated lines with the Friend surname. Dates in file 1638-1989.

**File 23:** Gourley families. Descendants of John Gourley (1755-1831) and Hannah McDonald (1749-1842) (Irish); descendants of John Gourlay (1681-?) and Elizabeth Shaw (1685-?) (Scots). Dates in file 1681-1986.

**File 24:** Hamilton families. Descendants of Francis Hamilton (1766-1844) and Ruth Williams (1788-1842); descendants of Hugh Hamilton (1590-1624) and unknown wife. Dates in file 1590-1991.

**File 25:** Haymaker (Hammacher) family. Descendants of Johannes Peter Hamacher (1680-1730) and Anna Elisabetha Dunschmann (no dates). Dates in file 1680-1996.

**File 26:** Hoover family. Descendants of John Hoover (1769-1847) and Nancy (1782-1857). Dates in file 1757-1984.

**File 27:** Jackson family. Descendants of Isaac Jackson (1665-1750) and Anne Evans (no dates). Dates in file 1665-1995.

**File 28a:** Liggett/Leggett family, 1710-1799. Descendants of Robert Liggett (1743-1806) and Isabella Darragh (1759-1845); some descendants in Harrison County, Ohio. Dates in file 1743-1991.

**File 28b:** Liggett/Leggett family group sheets, 1800-present.

**File 28c:** Liggett/Leggett family charts.

**File 29:** Lister/Lester families. Descendants of Cornelius Lister (1745-1805) and Sarah (1742-1832); descendants of Daniel Lester and Elizabeth Darrow, married in 1739. Mr. Liggett believed these two families were related. Dates in file 1739-1984.

**File 30:** McDonald family. Descendants of John McDonald (1737-1792) and Johanna (1741-?). Dates in file 1737-1991.

**File 30a:** Morlan family. Descendants of William Morlan (1720-1790) and Sarah French (1715-1798). Dates in file 1715-1994. *Note: See also MSS 274 Albert Morlan LaRue Collection, box 2, file 15 for additional Morlan family research.*

**File 31:** Moss family. Descendants of Sylvester Moss and Elizabeth Reid, no dates for either, married in 1735. Dates in file 1729-1950.

**File 32:** Newman family. Descendants of William Newman (1792-1865) and Elizabeth Ellington (1796-1869). Dates in file 1792-1980.

**File 33:** Stephenson family. Descendants of John S. Stephenson (1746-1821) and Margaret Huston (?-1839), Harrison County, Ohio. Dates in file 1746-1891. *Note: See also file 44.*

### **Box 3:**

**File 34:** Penn families. Descendants of William Penn (1749-?) and Elizabeth Rawlins (1756-?) but there are several apparently unrelated Penns in this file also. Dates in file 1749-1992.

**File 35:** Penn family charts. Dates in file 1591-1997.

**File 36:** Preston family. Descendants of Daniel Preston (1748-1804) and Ann Lacey Rigdon (1748-1825). Other unrelated Preston families mixed in. Dates in file 1748-1997.

**File 37:** Ridgely family. Descendants of Robert Ridgely (d. 1681) and Martha (no dates). Dates in file 1681-1990.

**File 38:** Piles/Pyles family. Descendants of Joshua Piles (1790-1873) and Mary Ann Houston (1792-1875). Dates in file 1769-1990.

**File 39:** Robertson family. Descendants of William David Robertson (1820-1901) and Louisiana Murphy (?-1905). Dates in file 1659-1989.

**File 40:** Shiner family. Descendants of George Shiner (1770-1800) and Rachel Lister (1777-1800). Dates in file 1770-1972.

**File 41:** Shipley family. Descendants of Daniel Shipley (1768-1850) and Eleanor (no dates). Dates in file 1768-1991.

**File 42:** Smolak family. Descendants of John Steve Smolak (1882-1942) and Rose Mary Gedeon (1903-1969). Dates in file 1882-1969.

**File 43:** Stackhouse family. Descendants of James Stackhouse (1530-1592) and Agnes (1534-1564) of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Dates in file 1530-1998.

**File 44:** Stephenson family. Descendants of John S. Stephenson (1746-1821) and Margaret Huston (1759-1839) of Harrison County, Ohio. Dates in file 1749-1995. *Note: See also file 33.*

**File 45:** Tilghman family. Ancestors and descendants of Christopher Tilghman (first individual in U.S.) (1600-?) and Ruth Devonshire (no dates). Dates in file 1225-1946.

**File 46:** Woods family. Ancestors and descendants of Archibold Woods (1706-1768) and Isabella Goss (1716-1766). Dates in file 1654-1930.

**File 47:** Yost family. Descendants of Jacob Yost (1744-1815) and Martha (d. 1814). Dates in file 1740-1989.

**File 48:** Harry D. C. Liggett (1930-2014) high school papers and aptitude tests, Dennison High School, Tuscarawas County, and Ohio State University, Sigma Delta Chi alumni lists.

**File 49:** Liggett family letters, clippings, and cards; letters from Helen Shonk, Dover, OH, regarding their shared Liggett ancestors. *Note: see File 28b for Shonk's history of the Liggett family.*

**File 50:** Harry D. C. Liggett (1930-2014) essays and creative writing.

**File 51:** Smolak-Gedeon family scrapbook, Byesville, Guernsey County, Ohio, 1920s-1990s. Includes photos of Helen Smolak Liggett (1930-2010) and her childhood friends, cousins, siblings, and parents, John S. Smolak (1886-1942) and Rose Mary Gedeon (1903-1969) (his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife). Other surnames include: Chini; Kowal; Gedeon; Corej; Repicky.

**File 52:** Liggett-Smolak family scrapbook, Dennison, Tuscarawas County, and Akron, Summit County, Ohio, 1930-2007. Includes photos of Harry and Helen's sons and granddaughters, as well as photos from Harry's retirement party at the *Akron Beacon Journal*, Harry's high school graduation photos, and Helen's high school graduation photos. *Note: Group class photos from Dennison High School and Class of 1948 reunions and Immaculate Conception High School, Class of 1948, moved to Ohio Photograph Collection: Cities and Places; reunion books and copies of photos moved to library shelf, in county section [call number TUSCARAWAS SR].*

**Key Words:** Carroll County; Guernsey County; Harrison County; Jefferson County; Summit County; Tuscarawas County; Baker; Beasley; Bilderback; Bruce; Burgett; Cahill; Campbell; Caniff; Cotter; Couch; Crawford; Croxton; Denning; Fenton; Ferguson; Filson; Friel; Friend; Gourley; Hamilton; Haymaker; Jackson; Liggett; Lister/Lester; McDonald; Morlan; Moss; Newman; Penn; Preston; Ridgely; Robertson; Shiner; Shipley; Smolak; Stackhouse; Stephenson; Tilghman; Woods; Yost.

**Processed by:** Original processor unknown; re-processed by Jay Mickam, OGS Volunteer, October 2025-February 2026.

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