The Hoover Family and "Blind Brothers" of Randolph Township

The Dayton Herald newspaper gives us an account of the Hoover family in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It is obvious that the Hoover family maintained its status and prominence in the community and were much loved and respected.



The Hoover brothers from left to right:
Eli, James, Charles and William

April 16, 1895
At the residence of the blind Hoover brothers, it was estimated that 150 to 200 people attended the marriage of Charles Hoover to Mary C. Curtis. They were married by Rev. Isaac Waymire on the porch of the home.

August 24, 1895
A dinner was held at the home of James Folker. In attendance were four Hoover brothers. After dinner, time was spent surrounding the brothers as they entertained the guests with vocal and instrumental music. Charles Hoover provided excellent violin music emitting sweet and charming strains as only Charley could deliver.

July 1, 1896
On June 27, 1896, Charley Hoover and his brothers were in a "close call accident" in Union. The boys were in a carriage driven by Albert Purcell on route to New Carlisle where they were to give a concert. A traction car engine scared the horse causing it to rear up and plunge forward. It fell and broke its neck as it hit the ground causing the carriage to turn over. Charley Hoover fell out and his leg became caught in the wheel while the others all escaped without serious injury.

November 2, 1898
Prof. Charles Hoover and his wife headed to Indiana to provide "musical entertainments." It was also reported that John Fry and his wife moved in with the "blind Hoover brothers."

July 14, 1899
The "blind Hoover brothers" provided good music for the crowds at a lawn party in Union.

November 22, 1900
A social party was held at the home of I. F. Eidemiller in the evening. Among the many guests were Eli, William and Charley Hoover. The "blind Hoover brothers" provided good musical entertainment while they and others in attendance sang songs of the day.

January 9, 1903
Prof. Charles Hoover and his wife travelled to Kentucky to give a concert while Prof. Moravey moved into the residence of the "blind Hoover brothers."

December 25, 1905
Two couples and Mr. Ira S. Owens were guests at the home of the “blind Hoover brothers” in the evening. Musical entertainment was served as well as taffy, cake and popcorn.

May 6, 1906
The “blind Hoover brothers” entertained friends in their home.

January 29, 1907
A party of seven members including family and friends visited with the “blind Hoover brothers” where they listened to music on the phonograph.

March 18, 1911
The Dayton Herald newspaper gives an extensive report on the death of two of the blind Hoover brothers. The headline reads ‘Death of blind brothers recalls history of remarkable family.’

There were eleven children in the Daniel and Susan Hoover family with five of them born blind from birth: James, Hannah, Charles, William and Eli. The other children were: Lavina, Andrew, Henry, Abraham, Sarah Ann, and Eliza. William and Eli were the oldest living of the blind siblings and died within three days of each other from what was commonly called the grip, also known as influenza. William died on a Tuesday and was buried on Thursday. On Friday, Eli died and was buried on Sunday.

The Hoover family was one of the most noted pioneer families in Montgomery County and especially in Randolph Township. Daniel Hoover was the first white child born in the township in 1803, the same year that Ohio attained its statehood. In 1822, he married Susan Byrkett. Their home was built on the ground where 800 Indians camped just before the battle of Tippecanoe. Their home was also the scene of many religious and social gatherings as well as the mecca of music lovers.

The children who were blind were sent to Columbus where they were educated at the Ohio Institution for the Blind. There they developed their remarkable aptitude for music, both vocal and instrumental, and much time was devoted to these studies. When all were graduated from school, the siblings began touring the country, giving concerts, and providing entertainment to thousands. They stopped touring when their brother James died in 1872. Charley died in 1905.

Eli learned the trades of broom making and carpet weaving and worked in these occupations for over 60 years. William continued his studies in music and for several years became a professor of music at the institution from which he graduated.



The Hoover family lost another family member later in 1911 when Andrew Hoover died on November 18, 1911 at the age of 83. He was born in Union on August 9, 1828 and married Charlotte Gable on July 21, 1850. She died in 1905.

Many of the children born to Daniel and Susan Hoover are resting peacefully at the Minnich Cemetery on Phillipsburg-Union Road in Union: Abraham, Andrew, Charles, Eli, Hannah, James and William. Eli and William, having died just days apart share a headstone which indicates them as “Blind Brothers.”