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Guitner, John-Lydia-Alma – The Guitner Family

Emma Guitner Worman

Dr. Eugene Clark Worman

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The Gutzner Family

by

Emma Gutzner Worman
and
Dr. Eugene Clark Worman

THE SPIRIT OF OTTERBURN

THE GUITNER FAMILY

It was a tired but eager family that arrived in Westerville on November 24th, 1857. They had traveled four days from Greencastle, Pennsylvania to Columbus, Ohio. After an extended visit with relatives at Pleasant Valley near Columbus they took the coach to Westerville and jostled over the corduroy road to the village which none of them had seen, but which was to become the family home.

The father, Daniel Guitner, the mother, Urilla Guitner and six children clambered out of the coach and looked around. Those early impressions are not recorded. They had come from a comfortable home in Greencastle, and the environment of a lively town as well as the social and academic interests of the Greencastle Academy. The muddy streets and frame houses of Westerville were not inspiring in those days, while the college to which the children had come for their education must have seemed a small institution with its two story administration and class room building and a brick dormitory for students.

But this was the new college of the United Brethren church, only ten years old, which was then attracting the youth of the church because of its religious atmosphere and co-educational policy. This was to be the college of the six children; John, aged sixteen; Eugenia, fifteen; William, thirteen; Emma, ten; Cordelia, six and Adelaide, five. All but the youngest graduated from the college in due time and John became a member of the college faculty. They were of pioneer stock, and despite any unhappy earlier impressions, they, as loyal churchmen, took their place in

the community where they served college and church for many years.

A brief background of family history will be of interest and reveal some of the sources from which family and personal traits had come.

John Samuel G^üdtner,* who founded the family in this country was born in Lubec, Germany in 1745. His father, Samuel Frederick G^üdtner, was a man of great wealth who had been educated for the ministry, but who gave up the profession to enter commercial life.

John Samuel was one of seven children - four girls and three boys. He, like other German boys, was placed in a rigid school where he became a finished scholar in Latin and Greek, becoming especially proficient in the latter.

At the age of twenty he set out with a friend to see the world, and for two years they traveled continuously, visiting every city of importance on the continent of Europe and of the eastern world. Upon his return he found that his father had died and that a stepmother was in the home. This made him very unhappy, so he soon left home, taking with him only the small amount of money he had with him that day, to make his start in the new world across the seas. (He regretted to the end of his life that he had left home so abruptly, thus cutting himself and his children off from a rightful share in the family estate.) He arrived

*The name was changed from G^üdtner to Guitner about 1857 to conform to the spelling of the name on the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity of John Guitner, 10th May 1778.

in the United States on October 26th, 1768 and made his first home in Baltimore, Maryland, where he engaged in business for several years. From there he moved to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where he married Catherine Treher of Switzerland.

In 1778 he enlisted in the Cumberland County State Militia and gave loyal service to the country of his adoption.

After his discharge from the service, he spent the remainder of his life near Greencastle, Pennsylvania where he reared his seven children.

Being a man of broad learning and scholarship, John Samuel Gütner was interested in the educational interests of the community. He gave the land and built a school house which for several generations was the "seat of learning" to which his and other children owed their early education. Even up until 1930 there was a school house on the site, with a sign board which read: "This way to the Guitner school house". John Samuel Gütner died on April 6, 1857. It was this ancestor who seems to have passed on traits of character and range of interests which marked the next two generations.

Daniel Guitner, was the son of this venerable gentlemen. It was he who brought his six children from Greencastle to Westerville for their education. He was a physician, but disliking the night practice with its long drives, he gave it up and went into the drug business. When he came to Westerville he set up the first drug store in the town on the southwest corner of Main and State streets. The family home adjoined the store, facing State Street.

Daniel Guitner was a modest, quiet man, whose major interest was the education of his children. He contented

himself with the small store and the "farm" east of town to which he and the children gave of their time during the summer. As a citizen he was active, and was at one time Treasurer of the town, and Treasurer of the college. As a churchman he was a staunch member of, and a licensed exhorter in, the United Brethren church.

Our story now turns to his eldest son, John Emanuel, who at sixteen years of age entered Otterbein University as a freshman in 1857, thus beginning a connection with the college which continued throughout his life.

JOHN EMANUEL GUITNER

The Student

John Emanuel Guitner as a child showed signs of having an exceptional mind. With a family background of scholarly interests he turned naturally to the classics, with a special liking for Greek. The family tradition says he read the New Testament in Greek through when he was only nine years of age.

The records give us little concerning the school days in Greencastle Academy where he prepared for college. He left a good record at that institution, for he showed signs of excellent training at the time he entered Otterbein. Henry Garst, his college classmate, said of him:

"My recollection of John Guitner as a student is that he was diligent and capable, not content simply to satisfy his teachers but eager to know all that could be learned of a subject, and that he never halted until he had gained the completest mastery possible. The painstaking and thorough-going student, foreshadowed the accurate, capable and efficient professor --- He was naturally timid and reserved -- The relation between us was never that of chums, but always that of friends. Indeed, I am not sure that with his dignity and reserve and want of abandon in his nature, he could in the ordinary sense, be a chum of anyone."

In spite of the natural reserve of which Dr. Garst spoke, John Guitner was very active in college affairs. He was fond of long walks, fishing, hunting, shooting and an

occasional swim. His father bought a farm east of town to which John loved to go for work or pleasure.

Music was a natural and ever present pastime. He attended singing school regularly and was among those who first sang the songs of Ben Hanby. He was a member of the Philophronean Literary Society and played in their orchestra until he graduated. Afternoons in his father's store were relieved by practicing on the flute, the piccolo, a whistle, and an accordeon and the bass viol - Music really had its charms.

An inquisitive mind led him into all sorts of extra-curricular activities. Visiting classes where there were experiments in chemistry, electricity etc., was a common practice. But on occasion when a trip to Columbus was possible, he reports visits -- always to the state library, to bookstores and news depots. He loved to watch machinery at work, as when he went with an uncle to see the grist mill in action.

While not a church member when in college, he went regularly to church, noted in his diary for some years the text and usually commented on the Sermon. His comments, in senior year on some of the sermons delivered by visiting preachers, church officers and bishops were anything but complimentary. Local faculty sermons sometimes were characterized by "same old stuff" - dull and uninteresting." He was also a regular attendant at Sunday School and later became an active worker and officer in the School.

The training in Public Speaking and Debate which he received in the Literary Society left its mark, which later

rated him a brilliant conversationalist on any subject and a lover of debate or argument. He would defend either side of a question for the mere sake of argument. He also held the usual offices in the Literary Society and bore his share of financial responsibility.

Writing for public presentation seemed to come hard. Frequently the diary records his frustration in trying to get a paper ready for delivery. This struggle is shown in his papers in his senior year. One draft after another was prepared and discarded. While he wracked his brain for words, his pen filled the corners of the page with "doodles" and graceful spencerian rendering of his name. He wrote a fine and beautiful hand.

The subjects chosen for Society papers are interesting, eg; "The Student", in which he glorified the Greek and Roman classics as opportunities for student learning and pleasure; "The Useful" - a dissertation on utilitarian values; "De Illiades Medicis" - the professors of the healing art in the Illiad; "Utility" - akin the "The Useful" above; "Surface Geology" - an essay on same. The best of them all, "The Classics" was delivered as his graduating address. The struggle for perfection is seen in the various drafts of the paper. "Antiquity is not forgotten." was the opening sentence. His three daughters used, each in turn, those same words in beginning her graduating address. "Antiquity is not forgotten." "The Classics" was evidently his masterpiece. One can imagine his face aglow as he reads:-

"Here our imagination wanders through Elysian Fields and Arcadian bowers; through the city of the forum and

Coliseum; through the accustomed resorts of those who once had a local habitation and a name.

"The student delights to turn from an intricate problem or a wily syllogism to the sweet influence of Homeric song or Horatian measure.

"The student of ontology and Cosmogony and psychology becomes weary of such speculations; and when he becomes possessor of a classic he exclaims with Herndon 'Throw (meta)physics to the dogs, I'll none of it! It is a joy untold to turn from the study of Lias and Trias and Fossil remains to the history of that delectable old fossil Jupiter. Who would prefer extracting cube roots to extracting Greek ones?"

He extols the noble muse of Homer, the eloquence of Demosthenes; the philosophy of Socrates, the History of Herodotus, and the noble Romans, Cicero, Virgil and Horace. Obviously, when delving in the glories of Greece and Rome, he was at his happiest and best.

In an essay entitled "A Sketch", given in his senior year, he refers to the fact that at one stage he turned to poetry - and in fact he tried his hand at it. In this, his delightful sense of humor which was always just beneath the surface, came rushing forth in cadence, presumably with apologies to Longfellow. It seems that some college wags, captured a donkey and putting a rope around its neck, led it up to Saum Hall and tied it back of the building. The braying of the donkey all night long, the assumption by the ladies that they were being serenaded etc, etc, - all comes from the student poet, in part:-

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^{nox}
"Erat nox. The hour is midnight
Midnight calm serence and solemn;
Starlight on the landscape beaming,
Light of constellations shining,
Lumining with heavenly radiance,
The abode and haunts of mortals."

- - - - -
and so on for four full pages, telling the tale outlined above.

John Guitner, the student, was an voracious reader. How his friends would wish he had written more. When the nation was rocking with the issues of slavery and war, and when the United Brethren Church was torn with dissension over Secret Societies and the doctrines of Swedenborg not one word can be found to interpret his convictions. He was constantly in the midst of such discussions, however, in the college and in the store, but not a word in the diaries which were kept for 40 years.

There were many diversions in student life as noted for March 1859 when he was a junior in college.

"Went fishing at 4 A.M. with other boys and returned at 7:45. Attended prayers, after which Professor Walker presented the decision of the faculty concerning the case of I.C. Est and A. W. Allen, who were convicted of playing cards in Saum Hall -- This took up most of the hour."

One day in early summer there was great excitement at the drug store. A large crowd was gathered in front of the store, for it had been rumored that they were selling ale by the glass. "Of course it was untrue." The accuser was one George Meeker, a "rampant scoundrel and deceiver." He was trying to justify himself for selling ale and whiskey over his grocery store.

On June 25th, 1859, his father gave him a book on Phonography, and two months later the son was writing all entries in his diary in shorthand! This practice was continued during 1860, so that the record of that year is a sealed book to those who would follow his career as a senior in Otterbein University. It is known that it was a year filled with activity and scholastic achievement, supplemented by work in the drugstore in spare time. Commencement exercises were held on June 27th 1860 with the following Order of Exercises:-

Prayer
Music

Scientific Department

Self-Culture, J. H. Close, Flat Rock
The Great Unwashed, M. E. Somer, Dayton

Music

Yesterday, Miss M. E. Haynie, Westerville
The True Woman, Miss Hively, Etna

Ladies Department

Study One Another, Miss M.L. Miller, Ottokee
Tomorrow, Miss A. C. Staub, Dayton

Music

College Department

The Victor and the Victor's Crown, Miss S. J. Miller
Pataskala

Music

The Classics, J. E. Guitner, Westerville
An Agricultural Literature, J. W. Haynie, Westerville

Music

The Fate of Genius, W. Laugham, Westerville
Christian Heroism, D. A. Tawney, Gettysburg, Pa.

Music

Benediction

J. E. Guitner graduated at nineteen years of age.

The year 1861 finds the young graduate still a clerk in his father's drug store. From the very first he resented the monotony of it, even more than he did during student days. But he read medicine with his father and compounded drugs - an experience which proved valuable during his whole life.

Every opportunity was taken to break the routine of store duties. "I chop a little wood occasionally, merely for the invigorating of my corporal establishment." "I went to the woodpile to perform manual labor, of which there are so many justifiers." A trip to Columbus was a rare treat and as usual he visited the bookstores and news depots along with his buying supplies for the store. These trips were often made by borrowing a wagon and hitching up the family horse, Dick. The trip over the plank road was an ordeal, sometimes resulting in the wagon miring in the mud and the remainder of the trip being made on foot. The nearest railroad station was Flint.

A great day came when on February 13, 1861, President-elect Lincoln stopped in Columbus and delivered an address, while on his way to his inaugural in Washington. The young drug clerk mingled with the excited crowd, followed the long line of eager spectators and finally shook the hand of the President of the United States. From that experience he went back, as he said, "to make Dover's Powders and horse powders."

One great source of comfort and release during those days was music. "When not selling I can practice on flute and accordion" he said, "I sell drugs when necessary but don't like to be interrupted in the midst of a transporting strain of music." He kept up his connection with the Singing class and the Orchestra, which gave concerts together on special occasions.

Reading was always a favorite pastime and served as well to while away the hours. "I am a great reader" he said "and devour every paper within reach" "I hardly ever read a book, wanting as I do the necessary patience." Later he added: "There is so much more interest in papers that I do not take time to read more solid matter." The spectator, Harpers, Home Journal and other magazines were bought in Columbus. He didn't think much of the Ohio State Journal but the Cincinnati Commercial Gazette was his favorite newspaper.

A revealing note occurs in the course of these daily entries in his diary. Out of a clear sky he penned: "The Professors are the principal loafers in the store."

June 20th, 1861 was a day of importance. "My birthday - the 20th. Glad to be out of the teens. Thank fortune I am not of the sex that is antiquated at 20. Getting old did you say? No, just getting young."

Some months later a new diversion was found, in the collection of material for a scrap book - "fragments of the philosophical, the beautiful, the humorous and the rhetorical in literature." This as an evidence of a maturing mind was kept up for several years.

The ominous news of war came to Westerville following the fall of Fort Sumpter. Ohio called for 50,000 volunteers. Demonstrations of patriotism were held. The citizens raised a Union pole at State Street and College Avenue. While speeches were made and the band played martial music, students paraded with fife and drum and were armed with sticks. The Home Guard was drilled by Uncle Peter Guitner, some members having guns and some only sticks. Thus the summer wore on, with "money tight", "times hard", "business dull." Naturally, a young man of 20 years was caught up in the excitement and patriotic expressions of the time. He visited Camp Jackson "where there were lots of soldiers" and later notes that he made himself a military cap. In September recruiting officers were in Westerville and the town band was sworn into service in the 46th Ohio Regiment. This ~~was~~ excitement, ^{and} the news from the front were preliminary to his action a year later when he wrote on November 21, 1863 "I mustered today, but not having a gun could not see it this afternoon."

Dissatisfaction with the store experience reached its height early in 1862 when John Guitner wrote "Dull, dry and desperate today." "Like an eagle caged I stay in store." "I am beginning to wish to be employed in some business which will pay better." "Prospects for improvement in this town are not flattering by any means, but patience is a virtue, and let us wait."

Patience was duly rewarded when on July 26th, 1862 he received the following letter from Otterbein's President.

Mr. J. E. Guitner

Dear Sir:-

It is my duty and pleasure to make known to you the fact that the Prudential committee elected you to the position of Tutor in Otterbein University in place of Mr. E.C. Ebersole resigned. I am also requested to solicit your acceptance. If you should accept this position, so unanimously and cordially tendered, you will be expected to render assistance, mainly to the Professor of the Greek and Latin languages. Salary \$350 per annum.

Please respond by letter at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully,

L. Davis

In response to this proposal, these cryptic words are recorded:

"It is a pretty responsible position but, since I am tired of drug selling I think that I will accept."

Thus the door was opened into a new world of opportunity and service. The dreary months in the store were past but that experience was not lost by any means. The long hours of practice on favorite musical instruments resulted in increased joy in later years - The wide reading of current interest, commentary, and Materia Medica fitted the mind with facts never to be forgotten.

Romance and Family Life

As a young tutor, the name "Lydia" appears on papers and in his diary. How long Lydian was in his mind we do not know, but when Mr. Guitner was in Dayton in July 1866 he wrote to Lydia and received this chaste reply.

My dearest friend,

Need I tell you your precious letter of Friday morning was received yesterday morning with glad

welcome? Certainly not, since you know what a great large place in my heart you fill. I had the pleasure of carrying my own letter treasure from the Post Office. To observers the gathering storm, was occasion enough for my hurried homeward steps, but what cared I for the dark cloud and coming wind, when mine was a new deep joy in the thought of your first letter - our first correspondence -- I cannot help having away down at the bottom of my heart a strong desire to have you here. That I guess is the worst symptom and it surely arises from purest affection. Really I could not help writing you this evening, although it is Sabbath and you will not object I hope! You see I was thinking of you all day, and it could not be wrong to write - but remember I don't think either wrong! Never fear, you could not tire me with a long letter - one could not be too long. You are kindly remembered by all. Accept the kindest wishes of my heart, and believe me.

Yours lovingly,

Lydia M. Winter

In quick response came a reply full of romantic endearments and assurances that it was not wrong to write of purest love on Sunday.

My Love:-

How often do you suppose I have read your sweet letter of Sunday last, handed me yesterday evening? Well, I dare not tell now; suffice it to say that no lover, in the days of chivalry, surrounded by all the splendor and pomp of knight errantry ever more joyously read the billet-doux of his lady love - To be sure I had seen the fair chirography before, and the hand that executed it I had often held in mine, the superior intelligence of the writer I had recognized in her spoken language; but here are written words breathing "purest affection" and a peculiar charm invests the whole. The reason is not obscure and no one can know it better than yourself --- You did a good - a sacred work on last Sabbath in writing me, and surely no day of all the week could be more appropriate to such a work. Wrong? Never. You could not do wrong; so good are you, so pure, so perfect, (if your permit the word).

Remember me affectionately to your family, as before, and for yourself, accept the purest love of

Your devoted

J. E. Guitner

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A week later the diary bore this record:-

"An epoch in my life! The important evening. Important on account of what was said as well as what was done."

Thus began the romance that ended in the founding of the J. E. Guitner family in Westerville. John Emanuel Guitner and Lydia M. Winter were married on November 22nd, five months after their first correspondence. After marriage their correspondence was not so restrained. Little notes passed from classroom and back, filled with fun, loving expressions and current affairs. This from him to her:

This is to certify that you, Mrs. Lydia W. Guitner are very dear, love, sweet, dearest, sweetest, best, peerless, charming, unsurpassed, dutiful, kind, beloved wife, and I beg to be your own, obedient devoted "Hubbie".

J. E. Guitner

The diary for October 13th records these darksome lines:

"My heart is sad and lone today. I feel no interest in my rhetorical exercises, none in the choral meeting. My treasure has gone from me, and though it be only for a day, it is as a year of darkness, like the arctic winter's sunless realm. Why do I feel thus? Let love answer and no philosopher can say him nay."

Doctor Henry Garst in later years said "I think I speak that whereof I know when I say, that Professor Guitner was most fortunate in his choice of a life companion. Naturally timid and reserved himself, his companion, by her more pronounced and aggressive nature, especially in religious and spiritual matters, proved to be just the helpmeet he needed."

Three daughters were born to the happy young people, Lela on September 1, 1869, Alma, December 12, 1874 and Emma, March 24, 1880. As the children grew up, there developed a home life that was beautiful in the mutual affection among its members. No quarrel between husband and wife was ever

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heard in the house. There were discussions a plenty, for both Professor Guitner and his wife had strong opinions, especially in matters of religion. These were the days when the so called "higher criticism" was stirring the church. Professor Guitner, with his critical mind and knowledge of Greek, naturally was inclined to be more liberal than his wife. On the questions of faith healing they differed profoundly. The Professor, son of a doctor, thought that God should not be called upon to heal when He had given medical aid for that purpose. The mother held that bodily healing was scriptural and was available to those of deep faith. But, these discussions were only a part of the forum-like debates that went on in the home. The children later referred to the happy chatter and banter that went on, and especially of the whole range of discussion that always marked the dinner table conversations. The meal hour was literally a round table experience. Fortunately, a cousin, Willis Tobey, a student of brilliant mind, lived in the home for six years and added much to the zest of these debates.

The relation of the father to the children was one of constant joy and wonder. He was full of fun and always interesting. Evening in the library would usually find one of the girls curled up with him in the big easy chair with the dog-faced arms, getting help on the lessons of tomorrow. One or more girls went with him on trips to Columbus and to Dayton, and one of the highlights was a trip when they were taken to Columbus to see Tom Thumb. The climax of their travels together came in 1893 when the whole family were taken to the Chicago World's Fair and spent two weeks in

seeing that, and the sights of Chicago. Emma's most vivid memory of that trip was that she was deperately homesick and cried for a drink of water from the home well. Money was scarce and travel was hard, but whenever there was an opportunity to give the children a wider experience or to acquire unusual knowledge, there always seemed to be some money for that purpose.

The fact that there were no movies, no radio, no telephone, doubtless made it easier for such home life to develop. But the father was the center of interest in the home, and the affection of the children for their parents and each other was a beautiful thing which was never lost in later years. Furthermore the art of converssation, which was such a vital part of home life and spirit, remained an asset to the children as long as they lived.

Professor Guitner as Citizen

Having joined the Faculty of Otterbein at the age or 21, Professor Guitner quickly round himself called upon to do many things in the college outside his regular duties as tutor. But he quickly round his place as an active citizen in the community. He was a Republican in Politics and in 1866 joined the republican Club and in later years was sent to the Republican Convention in Columbus as a representative of Blendon Township. He attended the Congressional Conventions in other counties and was active in republican rallies from time to time.

The Choral Society was a community affair. His interest in the Singing Class during college days, and in the years immediately following led to his election as conductor of the Chroal Society in 1867.

A year after his marriage he identified himself with the church of the United Brethren in Christ, of Westerville and kept that relation until the time of his death. For years he was a class leader in the church. He was active as a Sunday School teacher, in the teachers training class and was elected Superintendent of the Sunday School in 1868. His faculty colleague, Dr. Garst observed "a growing spirituality and increased activity in religious service on his part, especially in the prayer meeting."

Perhaps one of the most constructive services to the community, aside from the church, was his long connection with the Board of Education, first as Clerk of the Board (at a salary of \$20 a year) and later as President of the Board and judge of school elections. Over the years he made a vital contribution to the development of the school program in Westerville.

During the years when temperance was such a live issue in Westerville both Professor Guitner and his wife were active in the cause of temperance and later in the support of the Anti Saloon League in its wider national operations.

In 1880, the "Round Table" was formed as a community forum, with Professor Guitner as a prime mover in the project. The first meeting was held in President Thompson's home on May 4th with a paper on "Evolution" by Professor Guitner. On May 25th the meeting was held at Professor Garst's home with A. B. Kohr presenting a paper on "The Problem of Russia". Later meetings discussed a paper by A. A. Carson on "The Chinese Question"; "W. C. Bryant" by J. S. Mills; and one at the home of Professor Guitner,

with Mrs. Coggshell presiding and Professor Haywood reading a paper on "African Exploration". It has been stated that this Round table was the first of similar discussion groups to be formed in these and later years.

The Guitner family were deeply interested in the road between Westerville and Columbus, which as above noted was a "corduroy" covering of planks over what in wet weather was a base of slush and mud. On July 18, 1871 the following receipt was given to Daniel Guitner, father of J. E. Guitner,

"This is to certify that Daniel Guitner is entitled to two shares of twenty-five dollars each of Capitol Stock of the Westerville Turnpike Company, having paid to the Treasurer of said Company the sum of fifty dollars etc.,

H. A. Guitner, Secretary Signed, John Knox, President

In 1895, Professor Guitner was one of the Westerville subscribers who made possible the construction of the Electric Railway from Westerville to Columbus.

Business Ventures

In 1870 he concluded the purchase of what was called the "store-house" on State Street from his father. Here the family lived until 1874 when he purchased the house at 75 W. College Avenue which remained in the family until 1951.

On May 6, 1889 he bought the Public Opinion Office for \$1800.00 of Sprague and Robinson.

"I gave them 60 acres of land in Wisconsin at	\$500.00
"I pay note and interest	627.33
"I pay note and interest	537.50
"I pay cash	135.17
	<u>\$1800.00</u>
Paper & stock	41.83
Due S. & R. on ads.	9.00
	<u>\$1850.83</u>

In 1893, the Public Opinion was sold to three owners; C. A. Leech,

who did editorial work; William N. Keller, advertising;
W. Grant Scott
William Schott, mechanical work.

College Professor and Scholar

In 1862, John E. Guitner became a member of the Otterbein faculty at the age of twenty one years. Soon he was made Adjunct Professor of Ancient Languages, then in 1865, Professor of Latin. In 1867 he was again Professor of Ancient Languages and had that title until 1869 when the Greek Department was separated from the other departments and he became Professor the the Greek Language and Literature, a post which he held until his death thirty one years later.

The duties of the young tutor were not confined to instruction alone. He soon found himself busy with many other college responsibilities such as college librarian, monitor of Saum Hall with a room in the building, reading the term grades before the student body and as Secretary of the Faculty. He looked upon these as "labors of love" and wasn't too happy about the routine. The old sense of monotony came back and he longed for a chance to get out to see what was going on in the world. At the midyear vacation he wrote with spirit "Nothing to do! I leave tomorrow to seek some unseen land." He was off to Cincinnati! His expressions of wonder and interest at the buildings, the great business houses and especially the hotels are full of enthusiasm. So in the years that followed he made trips here and there in search of new knowledge, new experiences. One summer it was in Dayton, another to Richmond, Va., and then to Harrisburg, Greencastle, Mechanicsburg, and New York. In 1864 a trip to Baltimore,

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Philadelphia and New York was especially rewarding, and prepared the way for the later trips for study in the Universities of the East. This travel not only helped to satisfy his unquenchable thirst for knowledge, but greatly broadened the extent of his general knowledge, a fact which all through the years enriched his teaching experience and faculty relationships. He was interested in everything and never seemed to forget anything he learned whether from book or travel. After his marriage, the trips continued, sometimes with "Wifie" as she was always called, or with the whole family. The parents went alone to the great Philadelphia Centennial in 1876, then on to New York and New Haven and back to Philadelphia, Washington, Buffalo and Niagara. The memories of this trip were a long time source of interest in the home.

The advancement from Tutor to Professor of the Greek Language and Literature came as a recognition of superior qualities of character and scholarship. At the age of twenty eight years, Professor Guitner stood as a peer of his faculty colleagues. As a scholar he was always master of the situation. No student expected to trip him in the class room, but friendly banter in the class room endeared him to all of his students. One day a discussion arose over the correct translation of a Greek word. Frank Oldt read it as "made". The Professor corrected him by saying the rendering should be "finished". The student said "whats the difference? When a thing is made it is finished isn't it?" With a twinkle in his eye the Professor replied "No, Mr. Oldt, you are made but you are not finished". Dr. Oldt tells the story after many years with great delight. Dr. Sanders has

said that as a student in his Greek classes he looked upon Professor Guitner with admiration and wonder. The most common expression heard from former students is that he "knew everything".

The serious financial condition of the college from time to time bore heavily on the members of the faculty. The salary of \$350.00 a year for the Tutor was paid in small irregular amounts of \$10.00 to \$20.00. When his salary was raised in after years, but which never went above \$1200.00 a year. payments were behind sometimes as much as six years. "Settlement" was made with the college by the acceptance of notes, some bearing interest at 8 percent and others 10%. When money was available the high interest notes were paid first, even though those of lower rate were of earlier date. In 1876 faculty members were urged to buy bonds to keep the college afloat. At one time during that year Professor had promissory papers from the college including \$1000 bond amounting to more than two thousand dollars. Professor Alma Guitner tells the story that during the hard times she and her sister Lela went to the President to ask if they could not have \$5.00 so that they could have some Christmas at home. The loyalty and utter devotion of faculty members to the institution they served was beyond compare.

In 1886, came one of the great experiences of Professor Guitner's life. He took a leave of absence and spent six months visiting and sitting in the class rooms of the great Universities of the East. He formed personal friendships

and debated fine points in Greek with the Professors. Speakers from India, Turkey, and China; addresses by President Dwight of Yale; the class room experience in Greek, Latin, Political Economy, Hebrew Exegesis, German, Theology, Church History, Early English Dramatists, Law and Elocution, all claimed his attention. He gleaned the best of teaching method and content from Yale, Harvard, Columbia, Union Theological Seminary, Johns Hopkins and brought that wider, richer experience back to Otterbein.

Dr. Garst has said "some Professors, advanced in years became in the parlance of the times- backnumbers - This was never true of Professor Guitner - Nothing but the latest and best that was known in his field would ever satisfy him!

Dr. Sanders relates that he met Professor John Williams White, Professor of Greek in Harvard University and author of many Greek books. Upon learning that Dr. Sanders was from Otterbein he said "You have Professor Guitner there. I am much indebted to him for valuable help when in my younger days I got out my first Greek book." Dr. Sanders adds "I am constrained to believe he, Professor Guitner, knew Goodwin's grammar better than Goodwin himself."

There was no doubt as to his standing among Greek scholars of his day. Correspondence with the Greek Professors of Harvard, Yale, Trinity College, Marietta College and Chicago University - and there were doubtless others - show that his judgement was respected in technical matters. Professor Guitner read their publications and challenged them all on pronunciation, markings and meanings of Greek words.

As early as 1880 he was in correspondence with Professor Goodwin of Harvard, challenging him on certain pronunciations. Professor Goodwin replied that he had "thought more about what I really do say since receiving your last letter than I ever thought before." In reply to another correction of pronunciation after explaining his reasons for the pronunciation he used he said: "I think exactness of less importance here, as I have no idea that even if I devoted the rest of my life to the study, I should ever pronounce any of the above words so that a Greek would not laugh at me."

Professor I. R. Boise of the University of Chicago thanked Professor Guitner in 1877 "for the correction of errors in my exercises -- I hope to have them corrected soon." Professor J. Y. Beckwith of Trinity College, Hartford, explained his position on a mooted point by saying -- "My desire for brevity, has, I fear, sometimes led me to be too brief."

Thus it is clear that in mind, he moved with ablest scholars of the time and was fully aware of the high esteem in which he was held. At one time he was offered a place on the faculty of Yale University, but chose rather to remain with the small college to which he had dedicated his life. He was not tempted by the glitter of high position or fame, but chose the simpler role, which to him was of no less importance. "The Greek Department", said Dr. Sanders, "was his enduring monument - more lasting than granite or brass - and whatever it is, he has made it. In quality it is second to none, and relatively a larger number of students have been in this department, than in any other Ohio College, so far as I know."

25.

Professor Guitner was for a number of years, an esteemed member of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Medical College.

The hundreds of students who sat in his classes, knew him as never slovenly in manner, speech or dress. He was polite, refined, courteous, dignified, his language the purest and best. He was an example of high scholarship, through preparation, through work, and singleness of purpose. Above all he was a good man; pure in thought, pure in work, pure in act.

Professor John Emanuel Guitner died at the height of his powers on September 28th, 1900, at the age of fifty-nine years. Many of his old students in distant cities came to pay their last respects to him who had been their teacher, critic and friend.

Resolutions of respect were prepared by his colleagues and placed in the enduring records of the day.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT

to the Memory of Professor John E. Guitner

- -

The Faculty of Otterbein University are sorely grieved by the death of Professor John E. Guitner, which occurred on Friday, September 28, 1900. We wish to record the following expression:

Professor Guitner's work in the cause of higher education, and his devotion to the interests of this institution for a term of more than thirty eight years of active and unbroken service, have been to us a help and a blessing. In the many different relations in which we have been

brought together, most of us having first been under his instruction, and later his associates in the Faculty, we always found him a man deep in his convictions, keen and critical in his tastes and judgment, wise and considerate in his counsels, and true and tender in his friendships.

We have always recognized in Professor Guitner in his chosen department not only the student, but the finished scholar and careful investigator. In him the University has lost a beloved son and its oldest instructor in active service, the alumni and thousands of students a true, devoted and successful teacher.

We shall cherish the memory of his cheerful and amiable way, his knowledge of the world's progress in every department of labor and thought, and the interest and ability with which he could converse on topics requiring the widest and most thoughtful reading. First in our hearts as teacher and associate, we cherish his life as true to the highest and purest ideals, his Christian example as worthy of our imitation, and his career as citizen and American ever loyal to the best interests of the community and nation.

To the family of our deceased and lamented associate, we extend our sincere condolence, praying that the Divine Spirit who was his Comforter may comfort them also in this time of sore bereavement.

Signed in behalf of the entire Faculty.

W. J. Zuck)	
L. H. McFadden)	Committee
Henry Garst)	

6-28-51

LYDIA W. GUITNER

While Professor John E. Guitner came from a long line of scholars, his wife Lydia (Winter) Guitner descended from a family of great pioneer preachers who were among the founders of the United Brethren Church. Their forbearers in Switzerland were scholarly men who went to the new world to escape religious persecution. While the American stock lacked opportunity for education, they were well informed men, self educated, and like many other preachers of their day, were called from the farm and the workshop. These early preachers were said to be "good extemporaneous preachers, industrious and not unwilling to work with their hands, and successful evangelists."

Lydia's grandfather was Jacob Winter, one of the six ministers who organized the Muskingum Conference of the United Brethren Church. He was rated (in History of the United Brethren in Christ - John Lawrence) as "probably the most efficient pioneer evangelist employed by the Pennsylvania Conference in the western part of the State." Mr. John Fohl, the presiding elder of Chambersburg, spoke of him as a "man of warm heart, good talents, deep piety and ardent zeal." He spoke the German and English languages with almost equal fluency. Many souls were won to Christ as seals to his ministry. I shall never forget the tears and admonitions of that man of God."

The Winter family lived in Washington County, Pennsylvania, and it was there that Abraham Winter, son of Jacob Winter was born - and grew to young manhood. In 1837 he married

Leah Hewitt and in the spring of 1843 he and his wife moved to Ohio where his father, Jacob Winter, was preaching among the early settlers. Abraham became a minister of the United Brethren Church and like his father he preached in the scattered United Brethren churches or in the homes of settlers wherever congregations could be got together. Both men were powerful speakers and contributed much to the development of the early United Brethren Church in Ohio.

The first Abraham Winter home in Ohio was on a farm in Licking County between Etna and Kirkersville about twenty miles east of Columbus. Abraham Winter was not only a successful evangelist, but a practical farmer as well. In ~~he~~ he was awarded a silver medal at the Ohio State Fair for the best farm roller. He devoted his major interest to the farm which was the chief source of income for a rapidly growing family.

On September 24, 1843, Lydia Margaret Winter, the fourth of seven children, came into that farmer-preacher home. At the age of six weeks she was taken to services in the United Brethren Church at Etna, thus early establishing a life-time relationship to that denomination.

Lydia grew up for twelve years in the simple atmosphere of farm, small town and church life and the impressions of that environment were never lost. She was a favorite among the children of the community one of whom was a neighbor boy Morris Schaff who later distinguished himself in the Civil War and became a famous General. She rode horses, milked cows and could outrun all of the girls and most of the boys in the community. She went to spelling bees and to singing classes held in the little school houses on York Street. General Schaff wrote later (Etna and Kirkersville p.57) "The voice of one of the girls who sang there I heard at times mingling

with the bugles of the Army of the Potomac, and I still hear it." That sweet singer was Lydia Winter.

The little school was good, even though the teachers never got beyond arithmetic, reading, geography and elementary grammar. But they did teach children to tell the truth, to have patience, to have courage and to be respectful to their elders.

While school and home and community played their part in moulding the young lives of Etna and Kirkersville, the church left the deepest mark on the life of Lydia Winter. She, like her grandfather, was a person of "warm heart, good talents, deep piety and ardent zeal." She was a devout young christian and to the United Brethren Church at Etna she dedicated all these talents and gifts.

But there was another side to Lydia's young life. She lived by the side of the great new National Pike where all summer long caravans of white top wagons of the pioneers rolled by. She with the other children, watched this endless procession, with its sturdy young men driving great four horse teams, other groups that moved on horseback and the great freight wagons with their precious loads -- all going West. There was adventure in the air. Lydia was really growing up with the West, for her own mother had come on horseback over the mountains of western Pennsylvania. Great camps of these people were set up at night by the side of the road or in the woods, but by early dawn they were off. Occasionally a circus went by headed for Kirkersville and points west. Then came a man and his violin wanting to set up a dancing school - but he passed Etna by. He stopped in Kirkersville where there was light and fun and

gaiety. Yes, there was always Kirkersville only a few miles away.

Kirkersville had a gaiety all its own and "an appreciation of the affectations and weaknesses of men" - while Etna pursued its humble way along the path of holiness.

Now Lydia Winter belonged to Etna and she knew it, but she loved Kirkersville, not its evils and weaknesses - which she abhorred, but she was attracted by its gaiety, its lightheartedness, its milder worldliness. She saw much of it as she and her companions grew up in its shadow, but her religious training always kept her from yielding to its siren influences. A few years after leaving Licking County her diary reveals the constant struggle she had against the powers of worldliness. Expressions such as these are typical; ~~after a pleasant evening with a friend or friends she wrote~~ "Can I not give up the worldly pleasures for the sake of the Gospel? I certainly trust I can."

"I want to press nearer the mark each day."

"I was at conference all day. Was angry with Dr. M--- but I pray God to turn my anger into mercy."

"Was angry with Professor W--- but am very sorry."

"Was invited to a party this evening, but went to prayer meeting."

Religious duty came above all else even during her early years but was a fixed principle all through her later life.

In April 1855, Abraham Winter, his wife Leah and their three daughters, Rachel, Lydia and Sarah moved from their farm in Licking County to Westerville. At this time the question of combining agriculture with college studies was a heated one in Otterbein, so Abraham Winter was appointed as Treasurer and

agent of the Manual Labor Department of Otterbein University. He bought the land bounded by Park and South Grove Streets, Alum creek and the south line, the Otterbein Cemetery, the original land of which he donated to the Otterbein Cemetery Association and received for his family two burial lots. The original house, a white frame house, stood almost opposite the present Association building. The Trustees of Otterbein had bought eighteen acres of land which was known as the College Garden, and which lay where the athletic field now is, with surrounding acres. Later fifty two acres were bought east of town. These lands were the foundation upon which the Manual Labor Department was built.

The work itself was hard for no one had any experience at running this kind of an enterprise, and the opposition of certain elements in the conferences made it a very trying experience. In 1857 Abraham came in from the farm one day, drank heavily of cold spring water, and died within a few days of congestion of the lungs. His untimely death took from the scene one of the most vigorous of the younger ministers of the growing denomination and a staunch supporter of the college. In his honor a street in the town - Winter Street - was named.

Mrs. Winter and her three daughters then opened the home to Otterbein student boarders and she mothered many of those who later became prominent in the work of the church. (Bishop Matthews, Dr. Garst, Dr. Funkhouser and others). At the time of their father's death the children were aged, Rachel 19, Lydia 14, and Sarah 12. In due time Rachel graduated and married the Rev. W. O. Tobey. Lydia entered college and was in her junior year when she was forced to give up her

college career because of the illness of her younger sister Sarah. Sarah graduated in 1872 but never married. Even as a girl of sixteen Lydia was bearing much of the burden of the house and its resident boarders. Her diary tells a story of hard work at home, but with increasing activities outside, in spite of that responsibility.

MUSIC

As a girl in Etna, Lydia had shown unusual interest in music, which later became her major interest. She received a thorough musical education as a boarding pupil in the school of Dr. Münster, the leading music teacher in Columbus. She studied piano, organ, voice and harmony. Her musical library was excellent for those times. Her piano was the first in Westerville, and since pianos were scarce, it was necessary to move her piano to Dr. Münster's school for practicing purposes.

Lydia selected and played the first organ in the college chapel at a time when the church conferences were opposed to such music in the house of God.

This organ was bought and paid for by the Sunday School because of a prejudice against a musical instrument in the church. The bringing of this organ to the college chapel was an event for the town. Many people including several of the business men of the town went to the chapel to see the new organ and hear it played. Lydia's pioneer spirit won the day in spite of opposition. The backwardness of the Church in these matters is shown in a report of the Superintendents to the General Conference in 1861. They reported that "The United

Brethren in Christ are still a humble and zealous people. Their houses of worship are plain and substantial. No minister in the church, as far as the author is informed, has fallen into the prevalent practice of reading his sermons and the practice would hardly be tolerated in any congregation. --Choirs have not been established in any congregation and the general Conference of 1861, without a dissenting vote, adopted a resolution prohibiting their introduction. Organs, or other instruments of music would not be tolerated in the public worship of God." Thus Lydia Winter was a true pioneer in helping to brush away prejudice and fear and by daring to oppose the conferences by introducing instrumental as well as vocal music into the church. In recognition of her splendid gifts and her ability as a teacher of music, Lydia Winter was appointed to the post of Teacher of Instrumental Music of Otterbein University in 1863 and she held that post for six years, continuing for three years after her marriage. Due to the fact that vocal teachers were not available, she also taught vocal music during most of that period. Her beautiful soprano voice was heard in solo, quartet and chorus. Her cousin, Kate Winter, later married Benjamin Hanby, whose songs Lydia had sung in manuscript form for many years. Many of them were tried out for harmony for the first time in the Winter parlor by a quartet of college students who enjoyed singing together.

In 1861 there were various musical organizations in Otterbein. There are programs of the Musical Union of Otterbein University, by the Beethoven and University Orchestras

and the Beethoven Choral Society. These programs are among her prized papers. She was not only deeply interested, but an active participant in these organizations.

SOCIAL LIFE

Lydia as a student, and in the Winter home, was bright, vivacious and very attractive. Her musical gifts added to her charms. There were parties and concerts and always the Singing Class which brought young people together. Small groups sang for hours just for the joy of it. When parties were coming up she received small formal notes in painfully correct script like the following:-

Miss Lydia M. Winter

I would be much pleased to accompany you
to a party this eve at Mr. McCunes!

G. A. Funkhouser

Among her papers, now yellow with age is a faded lacy valentine with an attractive young lady with this little poem below:

Be Mine

"I seek a mind from guilt refined
and know of none so pure as thine
A form and face of gentlest grace
and thine are such, oh! then be mine."

As the young men from Westerville and college went off to war, Lydia kept up a newsy, friendly correspondence with them and their replies were filed with her momentos. There were letters from boys who misspelled half their words; letters of appreciation for her cheery messages, letters from prison camps;

letters written in the midst of campaign marches. A packet of letters from George A. Funkhauser gives a remarkable picture of army and camp life over a period of several years.

It was only natural that out of a full and happy ^{social} life, youthful romance should have a place.

Marriage to Professor J. E. Guitner

On November 22, 1866, Lydia Winter was married to John E. Guitner. She was the teacher of music and her husband was ^{then} Professor of Latin in Otterbein University. President Davis performed the ceremony in the presence of relatives and members of the faculty and their wives at the home of the bride at seven o'clock in the morning. The early hour was necessary in order to permit the couple to make the journey to Columbus by cab and to take the train at noon for the wedding trip to Cleveland and Buffalo.

After her marriage Mrs. Guitner continued to teach music for three years and then resigned to devote herself to her home. She was the mother of three daughters, Lela, Alma, and Emma, all of whom graduated from the University and spent more or less time on its teaching staff.

The Guitner home, as later established at 75 West College Avenue, was always a center of college interest and activity. Mrs. Guitner was a brilliant conversationalist and one of the features of many a "homecoming" student was a call at the Guitner home. No caller was ever neglected and members of the family were always "at home" to visitors. As a charming hostess Mrs. Guitner could hardly be excelled. The whole atmosphere of the home was one of intelligence and refinement, cordiality and friendly interest in all who came.

CHURCH AND COLLEGE

The Church and College were so closely related that they seemed almost as one to Mrs. Guitner. Aside from her family, they were the consuming interest of her life. At the age of twelve years, in 1855, she with other members of her family, joined the United Brethren Sunday School on the first Sunday after their arrival in Westerville. At sixteen she was teaching a class of girls. From 1883 to 1898 she taught the primary department, which at that time consisted of but one class. In 1895 she started a Home Department in the local church, the first one in Westerville, and continued at the head of that work for twenty five years, visiting sick members and shutins, always with a word of cheer and a religious message. For thirty five years, Mrs. Guitner was the teacher of the Women's Class.

When The Women's Missionary Association of the United Brethren Church was organized, Mrs. Guitner was one of the ^wWomen who issued the call to the women of the Westerville church to establish a local society and she became one of the first officers. She served also for many years as a branch officer and attended a number of meetings of the Board of Managers as a delegate from the branch in which Westerville is located. Her interest in missions never waned even after she had practically lost her sight and her hearing had been dulled. She had the unique distinction of being a Life Member, Life Director, Life Patron, Jubilee Member, and Perpetual Member of the Association. Naturally her keenest missionary interest was in the work of her two missionary daughters; Lela, General Secretary in the Y.W.C.A. in Colombo Ceylon and Madras India, and Emma, who married E. Clark Worman in 1910 and soon thereafter left with him for India where they spent seventeen years as representatives of the International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association.

COMMUNITY INTERESTS

Professor and Mrs. Guitner were both much interested in everything that looked toward the betterment of the community in which they lived, and gave of their time and thought, as well as their money to many good causes. They were both members of the "Round Table" organized in the late 70's or early 80's, one of the first literary clubs, if not the first one organized in Westerville. Some years later Mrs. Guitner was a leading spirit in the Faculty Club which had a short but worthy existence. She was a charter member of the Jacobus Westervelt Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and chaplain for many years. She was a strong supporter of the Anti Saloon League and was a friend of Dr. & Mrs. Howard H. Russell until the time of her death.

While Mrs. Guitner made such significant contributions to the church and college as a person and in her own right, she indirectly added strength and spirit to the service of her husband, Professor J. E. Guitner, during his thirty one years as head of the Greek Department. She shared his interests in all aspects of his work; she labored sacrificially in bringing up the family and caring for her invalid sister, Sarah. She supplemented him temperamentally and in the deepest things of the spiritual life was a constant source of inspiration and strength.

As she failed in strength during her later years, she had the will to go on with the interests which had engaged her powers throughout her life. Her mind turned constantly to the causes to which she had given unstintedly of her strength and money. The church and its welfare were in her thoughts during

her very last hours of consciousness. "Without a break she passed through the veil which separates earth from heaven and quietly took her place in the company of "the saints who from their labors rest" on August 30, 1932 at the age of 88 years.

In his closing tribute at the funeral of Mrs. Guitner, The Rev. Stuart Innerst, pastor of the college church, paid this lovely tribute, as he recalled a last visit with her when he administered the Holy Communion.

"Her conversation turned as it had on previous occasions to the wonders of the Gospel in Jesus Christ. And I was inspired by the thought that she herself embodied the wonders of the Gospel she extolled. There she sat, a little frail body, that could be swept away by the gigantic forces of the universe, like dust before the wind. But withal a spirit which under inspiration of God had willed to set influences in motion as unending as eternity. The Gospel which enraptured her soul led her with her family to make a very distinguished contribution to the cause of Christian Education through Otterbein College. It led herto build into the local church, elements of enduring value. It led her to share her life with the non-Christian peoples of the earth, through two daughters and through the constant flow of her money into missionary channels. Such is the grandeur of Christian personality, the fruit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

12.

ALMA GUITNER

Alma was the second daughter of Professor and Mrs. J. E. Guitner, born in Westerville on December 12th 1874. Her early education was received in the Westerville public schools, and at the end of the eighth grade she entered the preparatory school of Otterbein University, graduating from the University in 1897. The following year, 1898, she attended the Frau Doktor Hemple School in Berlin, to further prepare herself as a teacher of German, and graduated in 1899.

Upon her return from Europe, Miss Guitner was engaged as teacher of German at the Indiana Central University in Muncie, Indiana.

In 1900 she was called to Otterbein as instructor in German and continued in that post until 1904 when she was elected as Hively Professor of German Language and Literature. She held that position until the time of her death in 1933. Having succeeded her father on the faculty at the time of his death, she continued a direct line of service which had begun in 1862 - a total of seventy one years.

Alma Guitner had many of the scholarly traits of her father - the desire for complete mastery of her subject and to improve every opportunity to gain wider knowledge and professional skills: a passion for accuracy in all that she did, whether in scholarly matters or in minor details.

In order to improve her general knowledge, perfect her mastery of the German language and to keep abreast with the

best methods of teaching German, she went to Europe in 1904. Again in 1912 she was in Germany and went down from the Baltic to meet her sister Emma in Marseilles who was returning from India because of illness. Two years later, 1914, her mother and sister Lela joined her in a tour of Europe and all were caught up in the traffic confusion that followed the declaration of World War I. Again in 1930 her final trip to Europe was made in order to see the effect of war on the educational and cultural life in Germany.

During the 1900's Otterbein was placing a new emphasis on academic degrees, so Miss Guitner spent four summers in Columbia University, receiving her M. A. degree in 1910.

The long-continued relation of the Guitner family with Otterbein - 1860 - 1933 naturally made the home a deposit of valuable historical records, many of which could be found in no other place. Alma had the unique position in the faculty of knowing where to locate important data, of compiling correct lists of graduates etc. Her personal memory of college events and personalities helped on many occasions to keep the college records accurate. She was often called upon by individuals and groups to help with locating desired historical material.

As a teacher Alma Guitner was meticulous in her preparation for every class recitation. She was thorough in research and always lightened her work with a fine sense of humor which frequently expressed itself in class room work. She never lacked for a story or anecdote. During one year she was asked to teach a course in mythology. The text book she used was an interesting study aside from its printed text. Practically all of the marginal

space was filled with finely written notes gathered from wide reading and her knowledge of European cultural studies. There were clippings from papers, and cartoons with lively humor depicting the mythical characters were scattered through the book to be used as illustrations in class.

while her relations with students in class and out was always friendly and usually jovial out of class, yet she was firm where firmness was necessary and never lacked dignity at any time. She did not hesitate to discipline a student for neglect of his work.

When the Talisman Club was organized at Commencement time by a group of alumni who had disbanded their organized group at the request of the college some years before, Miss Guitner was chosen as sponsor, and retained that relationship until the time of her death, beloved by the original members and each succeeding group. She met with the group regularly and often entertained them in her home. Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Howe, a graduate member of the group writes: "Miss Guitner brought out the best in all of us. She was a lady and her life, and manners challenged us to be ladies too. She was lots of fun, loving a good joke or a trick on a club member."

On the 25th anniversary of the Talisman, the alumnae presented a beautiful Kensington tea service to the active chapter in memory of Miss Guitner. On that occasion the following tribute was read by Pauline Knepp Keck:-

"Madam Toastmaster and Talisman Friends: --- I wish I could bring you today more than a memory of that gracious lady who was our friend and instructor, Miss Guitner. Her charming manner

and kindly spirit permeated the group when she was with us, and greatly influenced our personal conduct -- this being all unaffected on her part. We just couldn't help showing the best that was in us in her presence.

We were always so welcome in her home -- she always had time to sit and chat with us when we dropped in to plan some activity, or to get help in some knotty problem.

She always knew the right thing to do and the exact thing to say. I still remember the year I had charge of the Philaethean banquet at Commencement time, that it was Miss Guitner who told me that "Toastmistress" was now an obsolete term, that "Toastmaster" was now the proper term to apply to the one who presided at a banquet, be it a man or a woman. Many times in the years that have followed have I been grateful for an accurate source of such knowledge!

She also was an authority on pronunciations, and she settled many such questions in our minds. There was the year when Dr. Sharrick's Contemporary Poetry class began the study of a brand new book in which appeared a sample of the poetry of Hermann Hagedorn. His star may have risen and fallen since then, but the incident sticks in my mind because none of us knew how to pronounce his name. Miss Guitner came to our rescue by telling us Hagedorn was pronounced with three syllables and a hard "g".

When we were building the tradition of our newly re-organized Club and had our first Tea, it was a great ease to our minds and manners to have Miss Guitner to tell us the proper procedure in every detail:

You who are familiar with these lines of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's may feel with me that they apply expressly to her!

" She never found fault with you, never implied
Your wrong by her right; and yet men at her side
Grew nobler, girls purer, as through the whole town
The children were gladder that pulled at her gown ---

None knelt at her feet confessed lovers in thrall;
They knelt more to God than they used - that was all:
If you praised her as charming, some asked what you meant,
But the charm of her presence was felt when she went."

"And so to you girls who never had the privilege of knowing
Miss Guitner we wish to give a gift, along with our memory of her,
hoping for you that you too may become ladies of grace and charm."

Miss Alma was also a very active member of the Philalethean
Literary Society while in college and retained a keen interest
in its affairs until all literary societies were disbanded.

As a citizen, Miss Guitner was interested in all phases
of community life. She was a staunch republican and a close
student of political platforms. She was at ease in discussing
politics with her friends and a champion of the candidate of
her choice. She was active in the work of the Daughters of the
American Revolution and was organizing regent of the Jacobus
Westervelt Chapter in Westerville. The flag to her, was a
symbol of the best in American life and she was an authority
on its history and the proper methods of display on varied
occasions.

Alma belonged to the United Brethren Church from her
early childhood. She was always active in Sunday School
and in later life was a member of the Church Board and on
the finance committee.

After the death of her father, she carried the responsi-
bility of keeping up the home. Her maiden Aunt, Sara Winter,
was an invalid in the home for many years, requiring daily care.
In her declining years, her mother lost her hearing and for

several years before her death was practically blind. Alma's devotion to her mother was beautiful. Her care of Miss Winter was continuous. The burdens of these years doubtless had much to do with her being susceptible to the disease that quickly snuffed out her life.

She was a member of the Women's Missionary Society and a generous giver to Mission and Church activities. As a loyal supporter of the College she followed in the way of her father and mother, giving generously of her means and time, beyond all that was expected of her.

At the time of her death, press notices spoke of her as "a woman of high character and culture, representing the finest family traditions in this community." She was "Otterbein's last Guitner" and her death on February 26th 1933 ended a term of seventy one years continuous family teaching in the college.

On June 10, 1933 President Clippenger reported to the Board of Trustees on the "Death of Professor Alma Guitner."

On February 26th, 1933, death came and suddenly stole away one of the most faithful and useful members of our faculty. Her passing creates a great loss in the teaching staff of Otterbein College. As a teacher, as a loyal member of our staff, and as a devout and useful member of the local church she made a unique contribution to the educational, the social and the religious life of this community. A unique feature of her service is illustrated in the following:

"The Guitner family has given more years of service to the college than any other family. Two years after graduation from college in 1860, Professor John E. Guitner, Alma's father, began to teach as instructor in languages.

He continued to teach here until his death on September 28th, 1900, having completed 38 successive years of teaching. The same September Miss Guitner began her work in the College, so that she and her father had an unbroken line of teaching at Otterbein University, since the year 1862 - 71 years this year."

The Board of Trustees spread the following resolutions on their records:

"It is with bowed heads and hearts that we recognize our good Father's dispensation in calling from our Faculty one of its most esteemed and best loved members, Professor Alma Guitner. She was the last resident member of the distinguished Otterbein family - the John E. Guitner family. This family was distinguished not only for the long period of service it rendered to the college, but chiefly because of the quality of that service. Alma Guitner, like all other members of that closely knit family fellowship represented the ripest and finest fruitage in the field of liberal arts education and religion. She was a scholar and teacher of high rank. Her interests were world-wide and her sympathies as widespread as the human family itself. She was loved equally well by her fellow teachers and the students she taught. Without her influence it would be difficult to measure how much would have been lost to the college to which she gave her life.

The going of Professor Guitner, therefore, marks the immediate termination in point of years of service of a family epoch in the history of Otterbein College, Be it resolved:

"That with great gratitude for the treasures gained through such rare service thus rendered, We humbly bow in submission to the kind Providence who called to her reward this deserving servant - our friend."

Signed: Mrs. F. L. Thomas
E. M. Hursh

The Faculty placed the following resolution on the records of the College:

"In Appreciation of Professor Alma Guitner:

"The messenger of death has again visited the College Faculty and taken away one of our numbers. Alma Guitner is dead; and although we repeat the words, her passing was so sudden and unexpected that as yet we cannot fully understand their meaning.

Otterbein College has lost an excellent teacher, well prepared by study and travel to win honor for the department over which she presided and by graces of mind and heart to influence her students toward the higher things of life.

As a Faculty we have lost a faithful and intelligent helper in all the routine work of the Administration, one whose sense of duty never allowed her to refuse a task assigned to her; we have lost a valued counsellor, whose thorough knowledge of the history and policy of the college have been a great service with settlement of debatable questions - one whose judgment was trained in the school of experience.

"We have lost a personal friend, whose cheeful spirit and humorous view of life's complexities were a helpful tonic to us as our paths met from day to day, whose friendship was sincere and reliable, and whose understanding sympathy was actively extended to both teachers and students.

"While we cannot understand this dispensation which has

brought so deep a sense of loss, we wish to accept it from
an all-wise and merciful Father who knows where we can only
trust, and we pray that we may use for our betterment the
influence of this brave and earnest life.

Signed:

Gilbert E. Mills
Triza L. Barnes
Lulu M. Baker