

PETER BLACK, HIS LARGE FAMILY & BUSINESSES in ZANESVILLE

This is long...ok, very long...but this traces the lives of a prominent, pioneer family who came from Ireland & began changing early Zanesville around 1837, according to some writings & as late as 1843-44 in others.

PETER BLACK, born in 1819, son of JOSEPH & MARY JANE (Spencer) BLACK (1798-1880) & Peter's son & name sake, PETER GRAHAM BLACK born in Zanesville in 1871, were both referred to as "PETER BLACK" in local histories. Distinguishing the two in old stories becomes confusing unless you knew their birth & death dates. They accomplished much in the local business world, & both called a large Market Street address (where the old downtown Kroger building is) their homestead.

While "Senior" & "Junior" were never words used to refer to these two gentlemen in history...I will do it here to help keep their identity separate. Senior PETER BLACK was one of 12 children. There were TEN boys (pictured, I apologize for its being a copy of an already poor copy). The brothers were: JOHN, PETER, ROBERT, JOSEPH, ALEXANDER, ANDREW, WILLIAM, SAMUEL, MOSES, & THOMAS BLACK. The two sisters were not pictured with them, but were: ANNE JUNE BLACK who married ALEXANDER GRANT (separate history to come) & ISABELLA BLACK who never married. The children & their Mother came to America at different times, between 1837 & 1851.

The father, JOSEPH M. BLACK, born in 1791 in Ireland, never made it to America. He died in 1850 & was buried over there. His wife, Mary Jane came to America & Zanesville after his death. One of their sons, ALEXANDER BLACK, was tragically lost at sea in 1852, off the coast of California, where he was headed to find work in the gold mines. Another son, ANDREW BLACK, here in Zanesville for a while, settled in Springfield, OH, opening a dry goods store. Another son, THOMAS went to Springfield for five years working with Andrew, before coming to Zanesville & joined ALEXANDER GRANT's DRY GOOD STORE, before & after the Civil War. Both PETER Sr. & THOMAS BLACK spent their lives in Zanesville. Two other sons, WILLIAM & SAMUEL, also spent time in both Springfield & Zanesville.

PETER BLACK Sr. & his oldest brother, JOHN BLACK, arrived between 1837 & 1840. (Dates vary somewhat from one history article to another). But, they first opened & managed a very successful dry goods store for 4 years in Pittsburgh before selling out & moving to ZANESVILLE via the stage coach about 1844 to start their own business here. JOHN & PETER BLACK soon opened up BLACK'S RETAIL DRY GOODS STORE on the north side of dusty Main Street between 6th & Sewer Alley, with the profits from their first store in PA. Two years later, their Dry Goods Store business needed larger quarters & they moved to one of the Taylor Buildings at 5th & Main in the late 1840's (which later also housed Leffler's & one of the city's first newspapers called "The Daily Experiment" & later the "City Times". An article said this building was well over a century old when it was finally demolished in 1965. (Three newspapers gave different addresses for the business, which is not unusual as addresses changed in the 1800's to 1900's along with typo errors! 😊)

In 1849...we find PETER BLACK (Sr) is dating Miss DOROTHEA (DORA) VAN HAMM, daughter of DR. JOHN (VAN) HAMM, & Peter bought lots on Market St. to build a home.

1852...PETER & DORA BLACK married November 12, 1852, rented quarters at the EAGLE HOTEL. (Later site of the CLARENDON HOTEL). Their first child, CLARA BLACK, was born at the Hotel on February 28, 1853. Six weeks later, they moved into their new home on Market Street, finished a year after the building began in 1853. CLARA BLACK grew up to marry WILLIAM E. GUTHRIE in 1878. He started out managing his father's planing & lumber business near the foot of Jefferson St. in Putnam around 1860. But, after seeing a need, he became very successful in the fire insurance agency business & sat on the Board of Directors at three different banks. (ZS 12/22/1940).

Peter Sr. & his brother, Joseph, would form a huge retail emporium in what was called "the old Star Block" ACROSS from where the Music Hall would be. BLACK & COMPANY enjoyed much success, & the Brothers soon dissolved their partnerships & opened their own separate stores by the early 1850's. Peter Sr.'s store was called the PETER BLACK & CO. When his brother, JOSEPH BLACK, first came to the U.S., Peter associated with Joseph & renamed the business, PETER & JOSEPH BLACK CO., sometimes abbreviated to P. & J. BLACK & Co. The dry goods business became both, retail & wholesale with various names, depending on which brother ran which business, including, BLACK & CO. & later, the BLACK & GRANT WHOLESALE COMPANY. All businesses prospered.

HISTORY VIA A TIMELINE...

1852...PETER BLACK advertised foreign & domestic dry goods, carpets, hearth rugs, brass stair rods, etc. at the PETER BLACK DRY GOODS STORE at 155 Main Street.

1852...JOHN BLACK, located his dry goods business at 135, 136, & 159 Main St in 1852. (See Ad). Oldest of Black Brothers. He would later move to PA. (This address would be up around 6th St.)

1852...JOSEPH BLACK, also had a dry goods business, & was listed at 179 Main st. (See Ads dated 1860, 1861). He was Peter's brother & partnered at times with Peter in the dry goods business.

1852...ALEXANDER BLACK died at sea allegedly going to explore the California Gold mines. (Peter's bro).

1856...June 24...Miss LIDA BLACK was born to PETER & DOROTHEA (DORA) BLACK.

1859...FLORENCE BLACK, born to Peter Black & Dorothea Hamm Black

1859...PETER BLACK'S MUSIC HALL Bldg. with the help of Contractor & neighbor, WILLIAM HALL, was built at Main & 3rd St. The PETER BLACK & CO. DRY GOODS STORE was put in the corner store room, with a name change to follow...the ALEXANDER GRANT & CO., & his brother-in-law became the manager.

The MUSIC HALL (90 1/2 Main), was on the large 2nd floor & the upper floors were finished over time after the war. Some of the building's businesses included the dry goods store, ECKERD'S DRUG STORE, the DENNIS TAILORING COMPANY. The MUSIC HALL quickly became a highly popular theater, recreation & meeting room in the city.

1860...JOSEPH BLACK had sold his share of interests in the PETER BLACK & CO., to another brother, SAMUEL BLACK & ALEXANDER GRANT. He solely owned his own retail business changing the name to THE JOSEPH BLACK & CO. at 179 Main Street & also BLACK'S SHOE ROOM, at 177 Main Street. (See Ads)

1861....Peter Sr.'s brother, WILLIAM M. BLACK, after leaving partnership with Bro. Joseph, had taken over the CITY HALL DRY GOODS STORE, from Samuel W. Spencer, in what would be the A.E. STARR building at the corner of Main & 4th St. (See Ad). An upper floor was used as the CITY HALL where some of the city's business was done. (4/30/1944 TS). See Ad for 5/3/1862 & 9/27/1865.

1861....JOSEPH & WILLIAM BLACK had previously taken over their older brother JOHN's business at 159 Main Street, opening a larger dry goods store, but were now dissolving their partnership and going into separate businesses. Joseph would stay at the current address. (See Ad)

1863....PETER BLACK (Sr) helped organize & was the first President & on the Board of Directors of the FIRST NATIONAL BANK. (See Ad dated 1/12/1865). Peter's brother, JOSEPH BLACK was also one of the Directors.

1865...Peter, Sr.'s brother, referred to as "CAPT." THOMAS BLACK & ALEXANDER GRANT (brother in law) formed a partnership after the Civil War with their business at the SE corner of 3rd & Main & he purchased Peter's interest & the store became the GRANT & BLACK CO at 86 Main. Eventually, Thomas became sole owner of that wholesale business. He & brother WILLIAM (W. M.) BLACK became managing officers.(see ad 9/27/1865).

1865...PETER BLACK & JOSEPH BLACK (BROTHERS) WENT INTO PARTNERSHIP AGAIN, in the DRY GOODS BUSINESS.

1865...PETER BLACK, ALEXANDER GRANT & THOMAS BLACK became partners, again, in the GRANT & BLACK DRY GOODS Business, now at 86 Main Street. (Ad 2/13/1865).

1865...October 16, ELIZABETH B. BLACK born to Peter (Sr) & Dorothea Black.

1867...The ZANESVILLE BUILDING ASSOCIATION was organized. PETER BLACK was one of the Directors.

1868....THOMAS BLACK bought out & operated his brother William's retail business at the NORTHWEST corner of Main & 4th St.

1870...PETER BLACK & COMPANY, still a very prominent jobbing firm business, operated by Peter Black (Sr.) & Alexander Grant. (Offices in Shultz Opera Block).

1870....PETER (Sr) & DORA BLACK'S Children listed: Clara, Lydia, Flora (Florence), Dora (Dorothea), & Elizabeth. Also on the 1870 CENSUS were Jane Lynch, a servant; Mary Moran, a cook; & a Wyatt Stone, a servant. An article said they'd added dogs named Jack, Brownie, & Dash, a mocking bird & a parrot to their family.

1871...November 4, PETER GRAHAM BLACK WAS BORN to PETER Sr. & DORA BLACK. (Birth record).

1872...the MUSKINGUM BUILDING ASSOCIATION was organized with PETER BLACK (SR.) on the Board directors.

1872...CITY DIRECTORY (SEE PIC).

WHOLESALE....

PETER BLACK & CO., 90 & 92 MAIN ST.

JOSEPH BLACK & CO., 179 MAIN ST.

RETAIL...

THOMAS S. BLACK, 115 MAIN ST.

ALEXANDER GRANT, 86 MAIN ST. (Bro. In law)

1873...PETER BLACK Sr. was elected as the FIRST President, & Board member for the BROWN MANUFACTURING COMPANY when it was incorporated.

1875...The PETER BLACK & CO. with PETER (Sr.) & SAMUEL BLACK, (his brother has joined him) at 90, 92 & 94 Main Street. Wholesale Dry Goods.

1875...PETER BLACK & his brother in law, WILLIAM A. GRAHAM (1821-1916), (married to SARAH VAN HAMM in 1847, a sister to Peter Black's wife), built the CLARENDON HOTEL on Main, per Historian Norris Schneider in a May 1970 TR article.

1875...WILLIAM A GRAHAM (Peter's Brother in Law) had the GRAHAM WHOLESAL & RETAIL DRUG COMPANY at 144 & 146 Main St. WILLIAM would later become PRESIDENT OF 1ST NATIONAL BANK & OAKLAND PRESS BRICK COMPANY).

1876...PETER BLACK partnered with HENRY ELLIOT (ELLIOT PAPER COMPANY) & built the BLACK & ELLIOTT BLOCK BUILDING. Both men opened stores in the building, which later housed the S.S. KRESGE Company & their sister business, JUPITER, from 1916-1977, then an antique busines until the Spring of 2021 and now The Downtown Exchange, food hall and coworking/meeting space. . The building was placed on the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES in 1979 because of its 19th century Italianate architecture.

1877...JOHN S. BLACK DIED 7/10/1877 in Philadelphia. Sr.'s brother.

1878...PETER BLACK (SR.) DIED at the age of only 59 of heart disease. His youngest son & namesake, little PETER GRAHAM BLACK was only six years old.

1878...when HENRY H. STURTEVANT came to Zanesville, he bought THOMAS BLACK'S DRY GOODS STORE located in the 40x60 foot room at the Northwest Corner of Main St. & 4th St. STURTEVANT with partner, John Martin, then opened their store on April 12, 1879, & later moved to the 50x100ft corner room at the NE corner of Main & 3rd in 1884, & expanded up & eastward into the old Kresge room & opened a side door into Gorsuch Pharmacy. (Per TR 8/20/1930).

1879...THOMAS BLACK organized BLACK & COMPANY WHOLESAL DRY GOODS & NOTION Business, opening on North side of Main between 5th & 6th Streets.

1880...June 27, MARY JANE SPENCER BLACK DIED age 82. The Black Bros.' Mother. She was born in 1798 in Ireland.

1880...the MUSKINGUM COUNTY BUILDING ASSOCIATION was formed & elected THOMAS S. BLACK its the Board of Directors.

1880...BLACK & CO. WHOLESAL DRY GOODS moved to 23-25 South 6th St. between Main & South.

1889...the BLACK & CO. business was incorporated as the BLACK & GRANT COMPANY & Capt. THOMAS BLACK was President.

1890...BLACK & CO., the Wholesale dry goods & notions store on 6th, operated by THOMAS S. BLACK & EDWIN GRANT changed its name to the BLACK & GRANT CO. EDWIN being Alexander Grant's Son.

1890....DOROTHEA (DORA) HAMM BLACK, Peter's Mother, DIED on April 30th, when Peter (Jr.) was 18 yrs. old.

1891...JOSEPH BLACK DIED on 7/26/1891 in Detroit. Sr.'s Brother.

1891...BLACK & GRANT CO. located in new 4 story bldg. at 21 S. 5th St., with Capt. Thomas Black, President until his death in 1900. Mutual Federal/Century National/Park National Bank is at that location today.

1892...WALTER VAN HORNE BLACK, Thomas's Son, working at BLACK & GRANT CO.

**** BLACK'S WHO MOVED TO SPRINGFIELD....

1892...CITY DIRECTORY (IN SPRINGFIELD)

W.M. BLACK & CO. DRY GOODS STORE, with WILLIAM, SAMUEL S., & JOSEPH K. BLACK, Limestone St in Springfield.

ANDREW C. BLACK, DEALER CARPETS, CURTAINS, & UPHOLSTERY..Located at 6 BLACK'S OPERA BLOCK IN SPRINGFIELD.

1892...ANDREW BLACK DIED 7/20/1892 in Springfield. Sr.'s Brother.

1895...WILLIAM M. BLACK DIED 11/1/1895 in Springfield. Sr.'s Brother.

1896...SAMUEL S. BLACK, born 1831, DIED 2/6/1896 in Springfield. Sr.'s Brother. Buried in Zanesville, Woodlawn. Wife, Mary E. Mattox 1836-1881. M. 1857 Clark, OH

1895...OCTOBER 22, PETER G. BLACK MARRIES LEOTA M. ENSMINGER in Musk.Co. (marriage Record).

1896...GRANT DRY GOODS COMPANY, Zanes., was Incorporated. (11/8/1970 TR)

1900...Feb. 22, THOMAS BLACK DIED. Sr.'s Brother.

1900...May 25, ROBERT THOMPSON BLACK, Sr., DIED 5/25/1900 in Scranton PA. Age 78. Sr.'s brother. Buried there.

1900...PETER G. BLACK (Jr.) opened a new commercial insurance firm first called, GUTHERIE & BLACK, with Offices in the Schultz Opera Block on N. 5th St. Later called BLACK & CO., (restoring a name that his Father had used. Peter remained the head of the insurance agencies & would become a bank capitalist, politician, & manage real estate holdings & business affairs from that office, thru out his career.

1900...Peter (Jr.) & Leota Black had moved to 218 Maple, in 1903, the address was later changed to 1252 Maple Avenue.

1901...PETER G. BLACK (Jr) & GEORGE & MARTIN YOUNG founded & incorporated the YOUNG HARDWARE COMPANY, a Wholesale Hardware Business in the Cosgrave building on North 3rd Street. (Source...Jan 25, 1902 Review of the America Hardware Market, NY).

1901...MOSES BLACK DIED 7/22/1901 in Mansfield. Sr.'s brother.

1904...August, ANNE JUNE BLACK GRANT, born 1834, wife of ALEXANDER GRANT, DIED. PETER Sr.'s sister.

1904...WALTER VANHORNE BLACK married MISS JEAN STEWART. She died in 1907.

1909...Peter (Jr) nominated & selected to represent Zanesville for the upcoming INAUGURAL PARADE in WASHINGTON, D.C., on March 4, 1909.

1910...Peter (Jr.)organized the political faction called the "BLACK'S ORGANIZATION FOR BETTER GOVERNMENT" to help "suitable" candidates win their elections.

1911...WALTER VANHORNE BLACK married 2nd wife, LOUISE QUIMBY STURGES.

1914...BLACK & GRANT CO. EDWIN S. GRANT, PRESIDENT, WALTER V.H. BLACK, V.P., & ROBERT S. BLACK, 20 S. 5th. (Thomas Black's sons)

1919...Sept. 13, FLORENCE BLACK DIED of complications of acute cardiac asthma, lung fibrosis & anemia. Peter Jr.'s sister.

1921...WALTER VANHORNE BLACK became PRESIDENT of BLACK & GRANT.

1925...Jan. 27, ISABELLA "BELLA" BLACK born 1841 DIED at 83. Peter Sr.'s sister. (Woodlawn)

1925-1926...PETER (Jr) was re-elected to Board of Directors of the ZANESVILLE CANAL & MANUFACTURING COMPANY, as was WALTER VH BLACK, his cousin. (Per 1/4/1926 ZS)

1926...ROBERT BLACK was Vice President of the BLACK & GRANT CO. Store.

1929...July 22, LYDIA (LIDA) V.H. BLACK, 73, DIED of cancer of face & neck. Sr.'s Daughter.

1929...December 5, ELIZABETH BLACK PHELPS, 65, DIED, of 312 Putnam Ave., daughter of Peter (Sr) & Dora Black, & wife of the late EDWIN PHELPS of Springfield died. Peter Black returned from his winter home in Florida for the funeral.

1933...(March 3rd) a FIRE at Peter G. Black's HOME on Maple, in the hearth area, extinguished by Zanesville Fire Dept. Smoke damage, minimal fire damage.

1934...Peter & his wife had moved back into the old family homestead on Market Street from Maple.

1930's-1948...PETER G. BLACK (Jr.) is with the FIRST NATIONAL BANK, as VP & on the B.O.D., founded & organized in 1863, by his father, PETER BLACK, & his partners.

1933-34...WALTER V.H. BLACK is still President of BLACK & GRANT CO., & VICE PRESIDENT OF STANDARD TILE COMPANY. ROBERT BLACK IS VP of B & G.

1937...May, LEOTA BLACK, wife of PETER, JR., DIED suddenly of an apparent heart attack, while visiting family in Springfield, after coming from a luncheon with a niece & friends. Death Certificate says she was born in 1881, was 56 yrs. old & married on 10/22/1895). (Noted Age discrepancies, census, articles, & certificate)

1938...May 20...WALTER VANHORNE BLACK, born 1875, DIED suddenly in Zanesville.

Associated for 45 yrs & Past President of BLACK & GRANT CO. A 1st Lieutenant in CO. L. 10TH OVI in SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR VETERAN, he was also a FIRST NATIONAL BANK DIRECTOR & past Board Member of the HELEN PURCELL HOME. During WWI, he was active with RED CROSS relief work & also headed the local branch of the CIVILIAN SECRET SERVICE. (Per obituary) He was the son of Thomas & Cornelia VH Black.

1939...ROBERT S. BLACK, PRESIDENT & TREASURER OF BLACK & GRANT WHOLESALE DRY GOODS CO.

1944...AUGUST 20...ROBERT S BLACK, 64, DIED suddenly. He was still actively the President of BLACK & GRANT.

1948...PETER G. BLACK DIED in 1948 from a bout of myocarditis & pneumonia. He willed his Market St. homestead to his NEPHEW, FLORIAN (DOROTHEA "Dora") FRAZIER, (CLARA BLACK GUTHRIE'S SON IN LAW), who would sell it 2 years later.

1950...(Catherine) LOUISE Quimby BLACK, widow of WALTER, is listed as VP of BLACK & GRANT CO. (Might be typo in City Directory)

1950...MARKET STREET PROPERTY SOLD. Some 97 years after the homestead was built, the BLACK family property, at the corner of Market & 7th Street & the HALL/BRUSH/BOHN property around the corner on 7th St. near Market, were BOTH sold to the representatives

of the KROGER GROCERY COMPANY & torn down to build the store which now is the home of the Muskingum County Board of Elections).

1960...CATHERINE LOUISE QUIMBY STURGES BLACK, widowed wife of Walter V.H. Black, passed away.