

= David Hudson (pioneer) =

David Hudson (February 17 , 1761 ? March 17 , 1836) was an American businessman noted for founding Hudson Township , the present @-@ day Hudson , Ohio . Hudson was born in Branford , Connecticut and lived there until age four , when his family moved to Goshen , Connecticut . He lived in Goshen for many years , owning a farm , marrying Anna Norton in 1783 and raising the oldest seven of their nine children there . In 1789 , Hudson joined a group to purchase a parcel of land in the Connecticut Western Reserve . The following year , he left Goshen to survey the parcel and settle it as Hudson Township . Hudson traveled through the state of New York , west along Lake Erie and south along the Cuyahoga River to reach his land .

At the settlement , Hudson and his men built a home and the township 's population increased steadily over the next few decades . Hudson 's wife and children eventually moved to the township , where they had two more children . Hudson cited religion as a major influence on his life . He died on March 17 , 1836 at age 75 .

= = Early life = =

Hudson was born in Branford , Connecticut on February 17 , 1761 , the youngest child of David Hudson and Rebecca Fowler . Four years after his birth , his family moved to Goshen , Connecticut .

According to a family legend , Hudson served as a drummer boy during the American Revolutionary War (which began in 1775 , when he was 14) . His service is unconfirmed , however , and his name does not appear in the Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army . There is also doubt about Hudson 's claim that his property was " spent " at the hands of the British . Had his land been raided ? which was unlikely ? he should have received a share of the Firelands , a tract of land given residents of Connecticut in compensation for war damages , and Hudson would probably not have later invested in and settled land in the Connecticut Western Reserve .

On December 22 , 1783 , Hudson married Anna Norton , daughter of David Norton and Anna Brownson , and they raised their first seven children in Goshen until 1799 . Hudson owned a probably @-@ substantial farm there . On October 10 , 1795 , Hudson bought \$ 1 @, @ 200 worth of stock of the Connecticut Land Company , owner of the Connecticut Western Reserve (a tract of land which was to be subdivided and sold) .

= = = Religion = = =

According to Hudson , his early religious experiences shaped his later life . His father , a Presbyterian , became a Baptist when Hudson was nine . Six years later , his father became a Quaker . The elder Hudson 's frequent changes of religion made his son a skeptic ; Hudson claimed disgust with the " failings and immoralities " of " many professing Christians . " Later , however , he cited the French Revolution as his religious " awakening " . Hudson was repelled by the uprising 's violence and disregard for life ; in 1798 he proclaimed himself a " political Christian " , and later a " speculative Christian " . From then on , Hudson felt it his duty to lead a religious life . He was quiet about his beliefs , however : " My pride would not permit me to unburthen my soul to any living person . I hated company " . In his writings Hudson cited the principles of " morality , religion , law observance and education " which may have influenced his later actions , including the settlement of land in the west .

= = Establishment of Hudson = =

= = = Travel = = =

In 1795 , the Connecticut Land Company bought land in Northeast Ohio , then known as the

Connecticut Western Reserve . The parcel was divided into 129 townships , each measuring 25 square miles (65 km²) . Hudson bought a plot of land in the Reserve (township 4 , range 10) in 1798 in partnership with a group including Birdsey and Nathaniel Norton , who provided three @-@ fourths of the money for the purchase . Of the group , only Hudson left for the land with a small group of settlers (including his son Ira and employees Jesse Linsley and William McKinley) , on April 22 , 1799 .

The group reached Albany , New York two days later , where Joseph Darrow was hired . Hudson also bought \$ 46 @.@ 50 worth of goods in Albany and nearby Schenectady . A few members of the group , including Ira Hudson , left to drive cattle to the settlement . The others then traveled across New York along the Mohawk River valley , passing through Fort Schuyler in Utica (where Jonah Meechum was hired on April 29) . The group then arrived at Onondaga (near present @-@ day Syracuse) on May 2 , where Richard Blin was hired . They reached East Bloomfield , where Birdsey Norton lived , on May 5 . The party replenished its supplies and Hudson met with Benjamin Tappan , who was on his way to a settlement near Hudson 's . They agreed to travel together by boat , while another small group herded livestock overland , to their respective settlements . On May 16 , 1799 , the group , consisting of Hudson , Darrow , Blin , McKinley and Tappan , traveled north to Lake Ontario . Departing in several boats from Oswego , they traveled west towards Lake Erie .

Although Hudson anticipated that the trip would take less than a month , it took 56 days . Most of the journey was by water , and ice on the Niagara River , inclement weather and ice on Lake Erie , and unnavigable portions of the Cuyahoga River contributed to the travelers ' slow progress . Although ice on Lake Erie and the Buffalo River near Niagara Falls destroyed one boat , the group reached Cleaveland (present @-@ day Cleveland , Ohio) on June 9 , 1799 . After purchasing more supplies , they set off down the Cuyahoga River . Although Hudson believed that the river could carry their boats as far south as required , they only reached present @-@ day Northfield on June 20 . When the settlers arrived in the vicinity of their parcel they had difficulty locating its four boundary markers , finding the southwest marker in late June . Only one of the two groups herding cattle overland reached the settlement .

= = = Hudson Township = = =

After establishing the center point of their parcel , Hudson and his partners built a trail from that point to their boat on the Cuyahoga . It took more than a week for the group to build the trail and carry their goods from the boat . They then built a small shelter , and began to establish the township .

The group experienced hardship over the next few months , including wet weather and a shortage of food . Hudson traveled back up the Cuyahoga to Cleaveland in an attempt to buy food . " The weather was exceeding wet and very cold , and I experienced the most uncomfortable night I ever felt " , he wrote in his journal . When Hudson returned to Cleaveland , he found few settlers and no food to spare . He continued east on Lake Erie to the mouth of Cattaraugus Creek , a stream in Western New York . There , Hudson obtained food and brought it back to the settlement .

By autumn , its population had grown to thirteen ; the group built a 16 @-@ by @-@ 18 @-@ foot (4 @.@ 9 m × 5 @.@ 5 m) log house and planted a small turnip garden and a 9 @-@ acre (3 @.@ 6 ha) wheat field . By this time most of the plot had been surveyed , and surveying was completed on October 11 .

The following day Hudson , his son Ira and two other men returned to Goshen , Connecticut , to sell land on the Western Reserve . Hudson 's boat was leaky and the trip was difficult due to cold , inclement weather , but in Goshen he found his family in good health . Hudson sold land on his settlement to twenty @-@ eight people , offering 40 acres (16 ha) to the first purchaser (Miss Ruth Gaylord , who gave the land to her niece) .

On January 1 , 1800 Hudson and his family left Goshen for the township , their new permanent residence . The family stopped in Bloomfield , New York , where they met with the rest of the settlers . Hudson purchased livestock and a year 's worth of supplies for \$ 2 @,@ 000 , giving the livestock to four men to drive overland to the settlement . On April 30 , the remaining settlers embarked on

eight boats , arriving on May 20 . On October 28 , Anna Hudson gave birth to Anne Maria , the first person born in the settlement .

By the end of the year , Hudson 's colony was the first established settlement in present @-@ day Summit County . A few more settlers arrived in 1801 , and in 1802 the settlement became officially known as Hudson Township .

= = Post @-@ establishment = =

After establishing Hudson Township , Hudson played a significant part in the buying , selling and farming of land in his and neighboring towns . By 1808 , he owned a total of 2 @,@ 994 acres (12 @.@ 12 km²) of land in Hudson and Chester Townships . On this land Hudson grew hay , potatoes , corn and wheat , and managed hogs , oxen , cows , sheep and horses . He also provided accommodations for visitors to the town . Hudson was party to about 200 financial transactions , making him a prominent figure in the area . During this period , it was typical for employers to pay employees partially in whiskey . Hudson broke this tradition by declining to pay his workers with alcohol , to their disgruntlement .

Hudson 's home , built in 1805 ? 06 , was the first frame house in town . Two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stories tall , it measured 40 by 30 feet (12 @.@ 2 m × 9 @.@ 1 m) . In addition to housing Hudson 's family , it was the town 's first post office , tavern and courtroom . The courtroom was used for trials heard by justice of the peace Arthur St. Clair , whom Hudson appointed in 1800 in one of his first actions after founding the town . Hudson served as the township 's first postmaster , holding the office until 1829 (when he was removed from the position after opposing Andrew Jackson in the 1828 presidential election) . The house was also a frequent source of food and shelter for travelers due to the township 's central location in the Western Reserve . David Hudson Jr . , Hudson 's son , recorded the names of hundreds of people who passed through the house in his diaries . Hudson 's wife , Anna , gave birth to the last two of their nine children in the township . David Jr . , the youngest , was last in a line of six generations of youngest Hudson sons named David . Anna Hudson died in August 1816 . The following January , Hudson married Mari Robinson . Hudson died on March 17 , 1836 , at 75 years of age .