# THE NEELY TAPESTRY:

Family Lore Involving Four Young Women from Neelysville, Ohio

By Jean Tirohn Heinz

"The mail is here!" Doesn't that quicken your step in anticipation? "It's a box of stuff from Mom." I ripped open the box and found two old napkin rings, a bunch of lace hankies, some tintypes, and a piece of weaving. There was the following note from Mom.
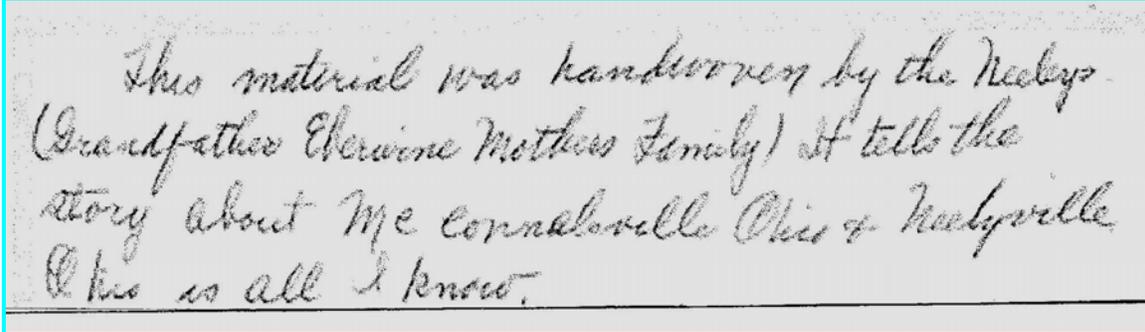
This material was handwoven by the Neelys (Grandfather Eberwine Mothers Family) It tells the story about Me Connelsville Ohio & Neelyville Ohio is all I know.

Note written by Ruth Eberwine Tirohn, Lissie Neely's Grandaughter and Jean Heinz's Mother [1]

I remember Mom telling about this material before the box arrived. She said that it was a tapestry that had been cut into four parts to be given to the four Neely girls so that each would have a memory of the family tapestry.[2] So, in the box, I found one of the tintypes was signed "The Neely girls" and of course there were four of them! The other tintype was inscribed with "Lissie Neely, Raymond Eberwine's mother". Sure enough, Lissie was one of the four Neely girls and the mother of my Grandfather. So, the story seemed to be that my great grandmother was one of the four Neely Girls who received 1/4th of the tapestry and that I now had this piece in my hand.


The Neely girls[3]

Lissie Neely, Mother of Raymond Eberwine, Grandmother of Ruth Eberwine Tirohn, Great grandmother of Jean Tirohn Heinz[4]

Since this was many years ago, I put the box in the linen closet and frequently pulled it out and looked at the pictures, napkin rings, tintypes and weaving. I showed the items to some of my relatives, and my sister-in-law said, "Maybe you could make a pillow out of the tapestry!" But of course, I never did!

As the New Year started in 2000, I started working on genealogy. By the year 2001, I was becoming computer savvy and had learned how to find correspondents who were doing research on some of my family surnames. One person, Glenn M., had done a lot of research on my Neely family and on his direct line from my third-great grandparents. He even assigned tasks to me such as finding census records for the Neely family. He went to Neelysville (where the Neelys had lived) and took pictures of the cemetery and gravestones of my ancestors and sent the pictures to me. It was all pretty exciting to a budding genealogist!

Then, I remembered the tapestry and mentioned to Glenn that I had a tapestry that showed Neelysville. I wrote Glenn: "Let me know if you get the picture of the tapestry with this e-mail. Note that the tapestry of the town is a separate weaving and was attached to the main body of the tapestry. Obviously it was photographed on beige carpeting with the sun on it."

Glenn wrote back and asked if I could e-mail a picture of the tapestry. So, out came the new camera and the tapestry. I found the perfect place on the beige carpet with the afternoon sun shining on the carpet. The picture was taken, transferred to the computer, and sent off to Glenn that afternoon.
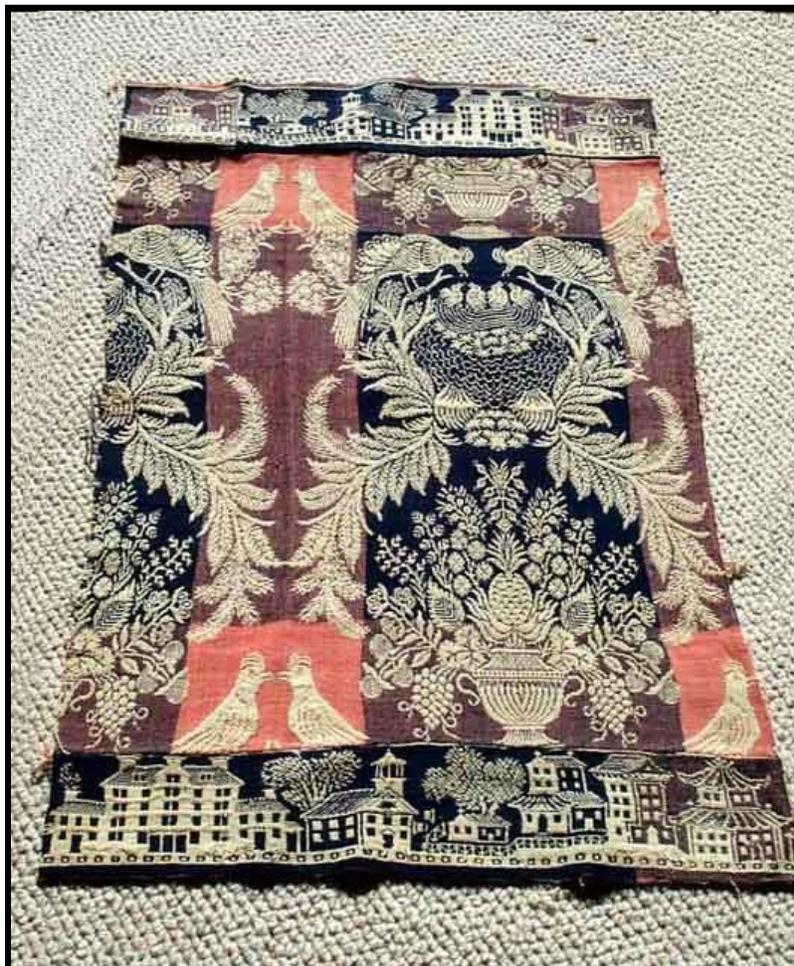
The Neely Tapestry[6]

A reply e-mail arrived from Glenn as follows: "I did get the scan of the tapestry. That is a wonderful story about it as well. Now, I have something to say about it that may not please you, but do forgive me for being honest. Alas, that is not Neelysville. There are no multistory buildings of that sort anywhere to be found in town. No buildings are anywhere that big. The town hall and village garage are the same one story building, and about half the space is for a two stall garage. Part of the give away in this tapestry is that many of the buildings have pagoda shaped roofs. My guess is that this is an oriental tapestry that someone purchased in Ohio, perhaps even in Neelysville."[7]

So, below is a picture that Glenn sent that he took of Neelysville with additional text below the picture[8,9].
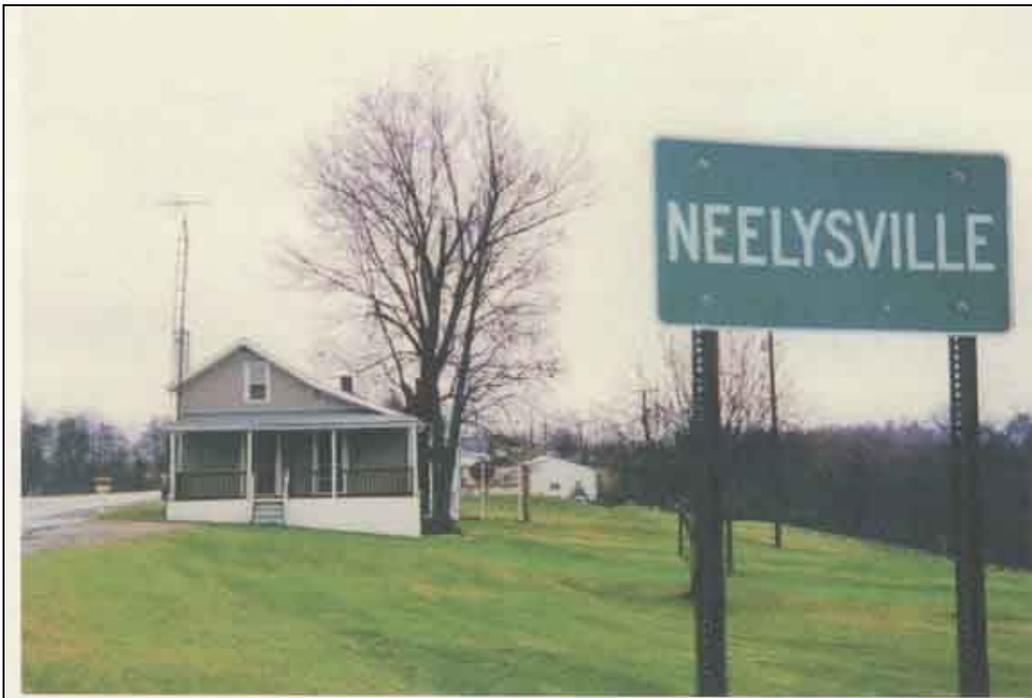
Neelysville, Ohio

"Neelyville (sic) was laid out by Robert Neely, one of the early settlers. It was originally known as Newcastle, but on the establishment of a postoffice, the name was changed to Neelysville, in honor of its founder. It has one store kept by Thomas J. Neely, a grandchild of the original proprietor of the village."

Source for quote: *History of Morgan County, Ohio*

Source for Photograph: Glenn Milligan, Columbus, OH

So, the lore of the family about the Neely tapestry is interesting. It did provide "the wonderful story' that Glenn talked about, but more importantly, it caused a budding genealogist to dig into the history of the family. I was able to find that the progenitor came from Ireland, went to Nova Scotia and then went back to Ireland to get his family. They went back to Nova Scotia, then entered the United States in 1820 and went to Ohio. The occupation of the family was farming and raising their 14 kids and on and on. What a fun trip for me, and all because someone cut a tapestry into four pieces, and my Mother passed on the family lore!

Sources

1. Handwritten Note	**Source Title:** Note about family mementos **Author:** Tirohn, Ruth **Publication Information:** Scanned copy of a portion of handwritten note. **Call Number:** **Repository Name:** Jean Heinz **Actual Text:** **Comments:** Part of the note is not used in this story because it does not relate directly to the story. The text used is quoted in the Citation Detail below.
	Citation Detail **Film/Vol./Page No.:** **Date of Entry:** **Actual Text:** **Comments:** "This material was handwoven by the Neeleys (Grandfather Eberwine Mothers Family) It tells the story about McConneleville Ohio & Neelyville Ohio is all I know."
2. Personal Knowledge	**Source Title:** Personal Knowledge **Author:** Tirohn, Ruth **Publication Information:** **Call Number:** **Repository Name: Jean Heinz** **Actual Text:** **Comments: Personal knowledge of undocumented information from my Mother. She is now deceased.**
	Citation Detail **Film/Vol./Page No.:** **Date of Entry:** **Actual Text:** **Comments:** Paraphrased information as follows: I remember Mom telling about this material before the box arrived. She said that it was a tapestry that had been cut into four parts to be given to the four Neely girls so that each could have a memory of the family tapestry.
3. Tintype	**Source Title:** Photograph of a tintype depicting "the Neely girls". **Author:** Unknown **Publication Information:** Scanned copy of tintype with slight alterations caused by using the program "Photoshop". **Call Number:** **Repository Name:** Jean Heinz **Actual Text:** **Comments:**
	Citation Detail **Film/Vol./Page No.:** **Date of Entry:** **Actual Text:** {Annotated on the front} "The Neely girls" **Comments:**

4. Tintype	**Source Title:** Photograph of Tintype depicting Lissie Neely, Raymond Eberwine's Mother. **Author:** Unknown **Publication Information:** Scanned copy of tintype with slight alterations caused by using the program "Photoshop". **Call Number:** **Repository Name:** Jean Heinz **Actual Text:** **Comments:**
	Citation Detail **Film/Vol./Page No.:** **Date of Entry:** **Actual Text:** {Annotated on the back} "Lissie Neely Mother of Raymond Eberwine" **Comments:** This note is in script.
5. E-mail	**Source Title:** Copy of e-mail message **Author:** Heinz, Jean **Publication Information:** Copy of e-mail message < information hidden> **Call Number:** **Repository Name:** Jean Heinz **Actual Text:** **Comments:**
	Citation Detail **Film/Vol./Page No.:** **Date of Entry:** 01 Apr 2001 **Actual Text:** "Glenn, let me know if you get the picture of the tapestry with this e-mail. Note that the tapestry of the town is a separate weaving and was attached to the main body of the tapestry. Obviously it was photographed on beige carpeting with the sun on it." **Comments:**
6. Photograph	**Source Title:** Photograph of The Tapestry **Author:** Jean Heinz **Publication Information:** Published with "The Tapestry" by Jean Tirohn Heinz **Call Number:** **Repository Name:** Jean Heinz **Actual Text:** **Comments:** This is a photograph taken at <hidden> andd sent by e-mail to <hidden>
	Citation Detail **Film/Vol./Page No.:** **Date of Entry:** **Actual Text:** **Comments:**

7. E-mail	**Source Title:** Copy of e-mail message **Author:** Glenn Milligan **Publication Information:** Copy of e-mail <information hidden> **Call Number:** **Repository Name:** Jean Heinz **Actual Text:** Copy of original e-mail. **Comments:**
	Citation Detail **Film/Vol./Page No.:** **Date of Entry:** 01 Apr 2001 **Actual Text:** **Comments:** "I did get the scan of the tapestry. That is a wonderful story about it as well. Now, I have something to say about it that may not please you, but do forgive me for being honest. Alas, that is not Neelysville. There are no multistory buildings of that sort anywhere to be found in town. No buildings are anywhere that big. The town hall and village garage are the same one story building, and about half the space is for a two stall garage. Part of the give away in this tapestry is that many of the buildings have pagoda shaped roofs. My guess is that this is an oriental tapestry that someone purchased in Ohio, perhaps even in Neelysville".
8. Book, Published	**Source Title:** *History of Morgan County, Ohio* **Author:** Charles Robertson, M. D. **Publication Information:** Published by L. H. Watkins & Co. Chicago 1886**Call Number:** **Repository Name:** Jean Heinz **Actual Text:** **Comments:**
	Citation Detail **Film/Vol./Page No.:** page 467 **Date of Entry:** **Actual Text:** "Neelyville (sic) was laid out by Robert Neely, one of the early settlers. It was originally knows as Newcastle, but on the establishment of a postoffice, the name was changed to Neelyville (sic), in honor of its founder. It has one store kept by Thomas J. Neely, a grandchild of the original proprietor of the village." **Comments:**
9. Copy of Photograph	**Source Title:** Photograph of Neelysville town sign. **Author:** Glenn M. **Publication Information:** **Repository Name:** Jean Heinz **Actual Text:** **Comments:**
	Citation Detail **Film/Vol./Page No.:** **Date of Entry:** **Actual Text:** "Neelyville [sic] was laid out by Robert Neely, one of the early settlers. It was originally knows as Newcastle, but on the establishment of a postoffice, the name was changed to Neelysville [sic], in honor of its founder. It has one store kept by Thomas J. Neely, a grandchild of the original proprieter of the village." **Comments:**