

The Cincinnati Hooker–Thompson–Groesbeck Connections

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When MG Joseph **Hooker** arrived in Cincinnati in October 1864 to assume command of the Northern Department of the US Army, he joined his former brother-in-law, Reverend Matthew LaRue Perrine **Thompson**, pastor of Cincinnati's Second Presbyterian Church. Rev. **Thompson** had married **Hooker**'s sister, Sarah **Hooker**, of Watertown NY in 1832. Miss **Hooker** had served as principal of the Female Academy in Watertown from 1823 until 1832, and was described in the town's history as "a young woman of unusual intellectual force, a capable teacher, of strong personality, and upbuilding influence in her association with the pupils." The same history stated that Rev. **Thompson** was a teacher in the village before becoming a minister. Rev. **Thompson** served churches in Clifton Springs NY, Philadelphia PA, and Buffalo NY, where Sarah **Hooker Thompson** died prior to his move to Cincinnati in June 1861. In addition to his pastoral duties in Cincinnati, Rev. **Thompson** served as Trustee of Marietta College in Marietta OH, and in November 1861 was a member of the founding committee of the United States Christian Commission, a major Civil War relief organization.

During MG **Hooker**'s tenure in Cincinnati, he married Olivia **Groesbeck**, a member of a prominent Cincinnati family. Her father, John H. Groesbeck, was one of the leading early bankers in Cincinnati as president of the Franklin Bank for many years, and as president of his own Groesbeck & Company, Bankers & Exchange Dealers, during the Civil War years. In 1860, his property was valued at nearly \$450,000, and Olivia's personal property was listed at \$20,000. Her brother William **Groesbeck**, a graduate of Miami University, had been an attorney in Cincinnati for thirty years. He was a member of the Ohio constitutional convention in 1851, and was elected as a Democrat to the US House of Representatives, serving Cincinnati's 2nd Congressional District from 1857 to 1859. He was defeated by Republican John A. **Gurley** in the 1858 election for the 1859-1860 Congress. **Groesbeck** then served in the Ohio State Senate from 1862 to 1864.

The **Hookers**' marriage was brief, as Olivia died in 1868. She is buried in Cincinnati's Spring Grove Cemetery alongside MG **Hooker**, who died in 1879. William **Groesbeck** died in 1897 and is also buried at Spring Grove.

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