

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *e-News* November 2025

This monthly newsletter is being distributed to Warren County Genealogical Society members and other interested parties. Feel free to share with others as you see fit. If you wish to be added or removed from our mailing list, contact us by phone 513-695-1144 or email at wcgsoh@gmail.com. – Jo Roth, Acting *e-News* Editor

CONTENTS:

- WCGS Resource Library Hours
- 2025 / 2026 Program Schedule
- President's Message
- Just in Time for the Holidays!
- Membership Renewal Time
- *Preparing for a Genealogical Trip Abroad* by James Tanner
- Website Update
- Thank You!
- Volunteer Appreciation Lunch and Quarterly Meeting
- New Book by Dana Palmer
- *The American Revolution* on PBS
- Happy Trails
- Conferences and Seminars
- Genealogy Webinars
- Kroger Community Rewards
- Warren County Genealogical Society

WCGS RESOURCE LIBRARY HOURS

The Resource Library will be **closed Tuesday, November 11, 2025, in observance of Veterans Day.**

The Resource Library will be **closed Wednesday through Friday, November 26-28, 2025, for Thanksgiving.**

The Resource Library will be closed Wednesday through Friday, December 24-26, 2025, for the holidays. We wish you and yours all the best!

The Resource Library will be **closed Wednesday, through Friday, December 31, 2025 - January 2, 2026, for New Year's.** Happy 2026!

2025 / 2026 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Our programs are FREE and open to the public. All are welcome!

*November 2025 Virtual Program **"Getting to Know Us: All you wanted to know about the Warren County Genealogical Society and Resource Library!"** presented by WCGS Volunteers

Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM EST – Zoom Program

*Jean Muetzel's program originally scheduled for this date will be rescheduled for Spring 2026.

December 2025 **Holiday Open House** at the **WCGS Resource Library**

Wednesday, December 10, 2025, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM – In-Person

January 2026 Virtual Program **"Here Comes the Bride, and There She Goes"** presented by **J. Mark Lowe**

TUESDAY, January 13, 2026, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM EDT – Zoom Program

If you are on our email list, you will automatically receive a Zoom invitation to join us for our Virtual Chapter Meeting and Program. You can sign up for our email list at the bottom of any website page. <https://www.wcgsohio.org>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Submitted by Jim Brokaw, WCGS President and Research Chair

Welcome to the November edition of the Warren County Genealogical Society *e-News*! Can you believe November is already here and we have already set out clocks back? I have spent the last few days winterizing our home and our yard, and there is much work left to do. It is also time to “winterize” my genealogy. During the winter, I will be traveling less and participating in fewer outdoor activities, so I intend to use that extra available time to clean up and organize the files and documents I have gathered this year and use them to write or update family stories for my children and grandchildren – the true fruit of all my research efforts.

Now for my pitch to you. We are a nonprofit organization and 100% of our positions are filled by volunteers. We depend upon these volunteers to keep both the Society operating and Resource Library staffed. WCGS is one of the very few Genealogical Societies fortunate enough to have a Resource Library and are committed to keeping it open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. We have a current need for volunteers who can help staff the Resource Library during those hours and are happy to train you on what to do. If you have some time available and are willing to help, please let me know.

Also, if you are already a member of WCGS, thank you! If your membership expires at the end of 2025, please remember to renew. For those who are reading this and are not a member, please consider joining us. Your support is always appreciated. You may join or renew on our website at <https://www.wcgsohio.org/join-or-renew>. If you join this month, your dues are paid through the end of 2026.

You may have noticed our unbridled excitement about Full-Text Search at FamilySearch, which is driven by Artificial Intelligence (AI). Two weeks ago, FamilySearch changed the Full-Text search interface, and we are still learning how to use it effectively, but it remains one of the best records search tools we are using. If you want to learn more about FamilySearch's AI, Thursday, November 20, starting at 1:00 p.m. (EST), Colette Hokanson will present a FamilySearch webinar titled, “AI-powered Family History Research.” You can watch the webinar at: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/session/ai-powered-family-history-research>

Finally, mark your calendar for Wednesday, November 12, starting at 7:00 p.m. for a Zoom presentation on the Warren County Genealogical Society, our Resource Library, our volunteers, services, and projects. I hope to see you online!

Good luck with your research! You can reach me at president.wcgsoh@gmail.com. I welcome your comments and suggestions, and invite you to submit photos or articles for our monthly *e-News*.

JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

The folks at the Little Miami History Connection have once again knocked it out of the park with their beautiful ornament for 2025. This year's ornament features the first Little Miami High School and like the ornaments from previous years, is a small token of nostalgia for those who grew up in the area.

Please visit their website for more information or to order your very own ornament!

<https://www.littlemiamihistory.org/>



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

We are continuing our membership drive for 2026. Membership fees are \$25 for a regular membership (either single or family), and Life memberships are \$250. New for 2026, members will have online access to six of our WCGS publications in the Members Area! The books selected currently sell for a total of \$72.00, giving you added value to your membership as a show of appreciation for supporting WCGS. You can easily join WCGS or renew your membership online at <https://www.wcgsohio.org/join-or-renew>. Including an optional donation with your renewal helps us to keep these rates as affordable as possible and is greatly appreciated. Please contact us at 513-695-1144 if you would like a Membership Application sent by postal mail.

PREPARING FOR A GENEALOGICAL TRIP ABROAD BY JAMES TANNER

Check out this YouTube video about planning a research trip to another country. Chock full of good information and tips, it will help you make the most of your trip and trip budget. Many thanks to Kentucky Genealogical Society for sharing this on Facebook!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3-XHdP8jBU>

WEBSITE UPDATE

A Guide to Our Many Websites

As of August 2025, our **original website (wcgsoh.org)**, which launched Spring 2002 and was kindly hosted (at no cost to us) on the county servers, was finally taken down. With the recent revamp of the county email addresses and website URLs, our website was not carried over to the new format. Keep reading for some great news below!

Our **new website (wcgsohio.org)** was launched late June 2021, and has allowed us to share news with those interested, information about our Society, events, and programs, and begin building a research resource for those connected to Warren County. It has allowed our members to join or renew WCGS online using a credit card or PayPal account, supporters to donate quickly and easily, and customers to purchase our publications and used books for sale.

As of late 2021, Ancestry.com has restored the entire **Warren County GenWeb** project on RootsWeb.

<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~ohwarren/index.htm>

Our **Virtual Cemetery**, which was part of the Warren County GenWeb on RootsWeb was also restored in late 2021.

<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~ohwarren/Cemetery/burial.htm>

While it is great the archived sites can be accessed, they cannot be updated, and some information is completely outdated and incorrect.

Enter Dale Grimm, who was trying to copy our GenWeb sites onto new servers so we would have the ability to preserve the information and update the sites. Unfortunately, Dale passed away August 3, 2024, while the copies were still incomplete. Fast forward to August 2025 and the incredible **Randy Cummings!** Randy has kindly offered to take on the monumental task of not only getting complete copies of our Warren County GenWeb site and Virtual Cemetery online again, but also our old website! This is on top of the rest of the OHGenWeb sites (and a few others) he is also working on. We are very excited and grateful!

So, keep watching these sites, they will eventually be the most recent AND most complete versions, and responsive so you can view them easily on any of your devices. We will keep you updated as to his progress and when the old website is back to use for reference.

<https://wcgsoh.org> (Coming Soon!)

<https://warren.ohgenweb.org/>

<https://warren.ohgenweb.org/Cemetery/burial.html>

For more information about which websites Randy is helping, please visit <https://genwebs.org/>. If you are interested in helping Randy with a small donation toward covering the costs of hosting these sites (including ours!), you can do so at this page on his website: <https://genwebs.org/donate/>

THANK YOU!

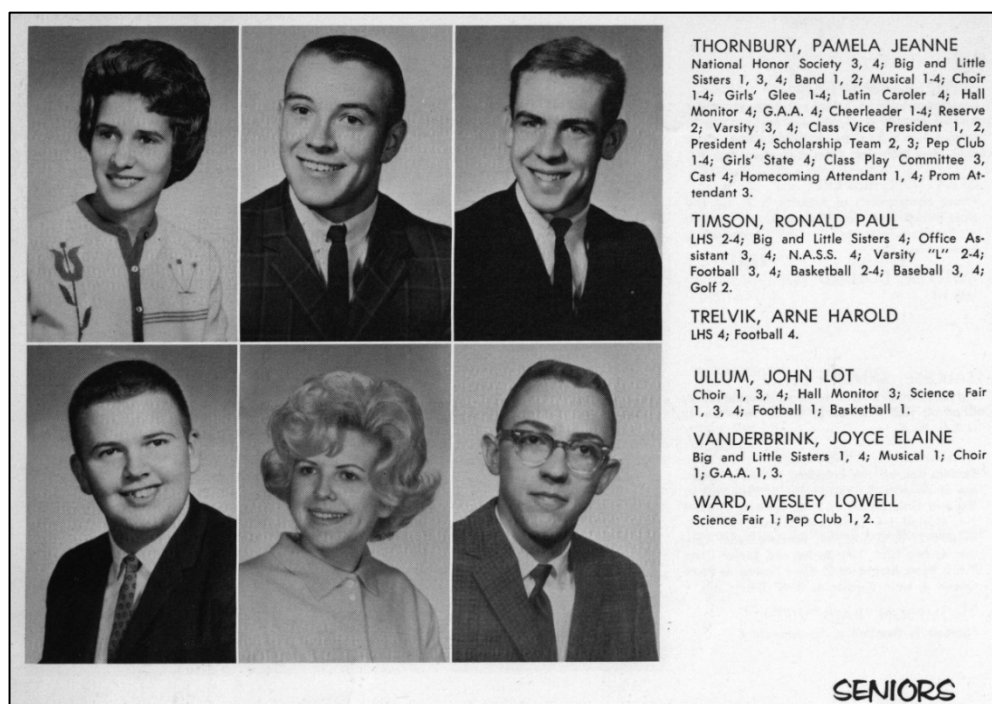
Thank you to the following people and organizations who have made a monetary or materials donation to WCGS recently. Our Society and Resource Library Catalog continues to expand because of your generosity!

- ❖ Gayle Scott
- ❖ Dick Muterspaw
- ❖ Dana Palmer

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCH AND QUARTERLY MEETING

Submitted by Jo Roth, WCGS Treasurer and Webmaster

Thank you to those who attended our first Volunteer Appreciation Lunch and Quarterly Meeting. It was wonderful to have the opportunity for our volunteers to get together and socialize. We have scheduled these quarterly, in January, April, July, and October, and each is scheduled on a different day of the week, so if schedule conflicts prevent attending one, hopefully there will be another that works. If you are a current or former Volunteer and would be interested in joining us for these occasions, please contact Jim Brokaw, WCGS President, at president.wcgsoh@gmail.com so he can add you to the contact list. Those who joined us in October were Karen Bentley, Delores Bovee, Jim Brokaw, Penny Brown, Winston Cochrane, Julie Cowger, Laura Ingling, Diana Linkous, Faith Peel, Jo Roth, Deborah Schneider, and we even had a visit from Arne and Marilyn Trelvik! We are looking forward to the next one in January.



Recognize anyone? Many thanks to Tori Otten, Archives Manager, Warren County Records Center & Archives, for sharing this page from the 1964 Trilobite yearbook for Lebanon High School with us. And thank you to Dwight Rowe for sharing it with them!

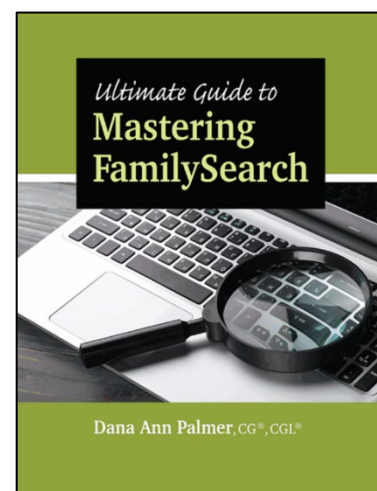
NEW BOOK BY DANA PALMER

Submitted by Jo Roth, WCGS Treasurer and Webmaster

I just received word that Dana's new book, *Ultimate Guide to Mastering FamilySearch*, is now available as an eBook, with the print version coming in mid-November. And even better, there is a pre-release discount being offered! Dana is a wealth of knowledge and those who have attended her programs, presentations, and classes know how much information she shares and the great attention to detail she provides. This is a perfect gift for holiday giving to ALL your genie friends and will definitely be on my wish list.

For more information, please visit Dana's website:

<https://genealogical.com/mastering-familysearch-by-dana-ann-palmer/>



THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ON PBS

Submitted by Jo Roth, WCGS Treasurer and Webmaster

Who else is excited to watch *The American Revolution: A Film by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt* starting November 16?

“Thirteen American colonies unite in rebellion, win an eight-year war to secure their independence, and establish a new form of government that would inspire democratic movements at home and around the globe. What begins as a political clash between colonists and the British government grows into a bloody struggle that will engage more than two dozen nations and forever change the world.”

<https://www.pbs.org/kenburns/the-american-revolution/>

From Ken Burns on Facebook:

“The American Revolution is one of the most important events in human history. We went from being subjects to citizens, and set in motion democratic revolutions around the globe. It’s a great story – and hugely relevant to today. I hope you can watch. On PBS starting Nov. 16.”

Episodes:

1	“In Order to Be Free”	November 16, 2025
2	“An Asylum for Mankind”	November 17, 2025
3	“The Times That Try Men’s Souls”	November 18, 2025
4	“Conquer by a Drawn Game”	November 19, 2025
5	“The Soul of All America”	November 20, 2025
6	“The Most Sacred Thing”	November 21, 2025

HAPPY TRAILS

Our deepest condolences to the family and friends of those who have passed. Our Society is fortunate to have had so many people who have become members and made contributions. We recognize and honor those who are no longer with us in body, but will be ever-present in spirit. As the song goes, “Until we meet again...”

Please visit our Virtual Cemetery on Find a Grave: [Remembering our WCGS Members](#). If you have information about a current or former WCGS member who has passed or a memorial we should add to our Virtual Cemetery, please contact Debbie Schneider, WCGS Membership Chair, at membership.wcgsoh@gmail.com.

Robert Milton “Bob” Hack (September 12, 1940 – October 4, 2025)

WCGS Member

Robert Milton “Bob” Hack, 85, of West Bloomfield, Michigan, died Oct. 4, 2025.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Dorothy Hack; brother and sister-in-law, Larry and Suzy Kirschner; sister-in-law, Ellen Robinson; nephews and nieces, Jerry and Debbie Hack, Jeffrey and Amanda Hack, Joel Robinson and his fiancée, Janelle Roffe; his son, Anthony Randall Hack, Anthony’s children; and a world of friends.

Mr. Hack was the dear son of the late Dorothy and the late Leonard Hack. He was predeceased by his daughter, Beverly Hack, and his sister-in-law, Linda Hack.

Interment was at Adat Shalom Memorial Park. Contributions may be made to Temple Israel or a charity of one’s choice. Arrangements by Ira Kaufman Chapel.

Bob’s Find a Grave Memorial can be found here:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/287689273/robert-milton-hack>



Ellen Faye (Grapevine) Van Houten (September 15, 1928 – October 11, 2025)
WCGS Member

Ellen was half of the duo known as Cardinal Research, along with her sidekick Florence (Bruener) Cole. They authored many books on Warren County Genealogy and Records, and helped champion the need for an Archives to preserve those records. I remember her as the School Secretary for Maineville Elementary and will always be grateful to the statuesque redhead in the office during the 1970s who started my love of all office things: the organization, the supplies, the equipment, everything! I had the opportunity to speak with Ellen on the phone a few years ago and she was still as sharp as ever. Ellen will be remembered fondly and missed greatly. – *Jo Roth*

Ellen Faye Van Houten (nee Grapevine) of Loveland. Beloved wife of 45 years to the late Theodore W. Van Houten. Loving mother of Lee (Brenda) Van Houten and the late Peggy Van Houten. Cherished “Grammie” of Andrea Van Houten, Kathryn (Logan) Godbey, Matthew (Cara) Van Houten, and Nicole Van Houten. Proud “GG” of Madeline “Maddie” Godbey, Zachary Van Houten, Natalie “Tallie” Godbey, and Serenity Van Houten. Dear sister of the late Bruce (Dorothy) Grapevine. Ellen enjoyed traveling and doing genealogy for her family, as well as for others. Passed away October 11, 2025, at the age of 97.

Interment was in Union Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of your choice. Tufts Schildmeyer served the family:

<https://www.tuftsschildmeyer.com/obituaries/Ellen-F-Van-Houten?obId=45887442>

Ellen’s Find a Grave Memorial can be found here:

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/287976805/ellen-faye-van_houten

December 19, 1984—The Western Star—Page 5-B

**Genealogy Society
Honors Its Member
First Families**

Nine members of the Warren County Genealogical Society have become the initial entrants in the “First Families of Warren County” listing the Genealogical Society maintains.

Included in this listing are: Ralph C. Reed of Dayton, Doris Sullivan Bache of Avondale Estates, Ga., Betty Louise Girton Greer of South Lebanon, Ellen Faye Grapevine Van Houten of Loveland, Wilma Mae Grisett Harper of Hollywood, Calif., Zelma Oleta Ashton Anderson of Los Angeles, Calif., Chester Lee Dunn of Lebanon, Thomas Carmichael Haydock of Glendale, Ohio, and John Alden Snell of Berryville, Ariz.

Three of the initial members — Zelma Anderson, Chester Dunn and Wilma Harper — have a common ancestor, Thomas Dunn who settled in Washington

Presented their Warren County Genealogical Society certificates for being one of the First Families of Warren County were (from left to right): Ellen Faye Grapevine Van Houten of Loveland, Betty Louise Girton Greer of South Lebanon, Ralph C. Reed of Dayton, and Chester L. Dunn of Lebanon.

Township in 1812.

To become eligible for First Families of Warren County, one must become a member of the Warren County Genealogical Society, and prove their ancestry back to a Warren County resident who settled here prior to Jan. 1,

1821.

The First Families of Warren County certificates were presented to the initial entrants during the Genealogical Society's monthly meeting held on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at Otterbein Home.

Ellen is shown above on the left receiving her First Families of Warren County certificate, along with Betty Louise (Girton) Greer (1933-2016), Ralph C. Reed (1930-2020), and Chester L. Dunn (1922-2014). Clipped from *The Western Star* (Lebanon, Ohio), Wednesday, December 19, 1984, Page 5-B, Columns 4-6. Apologies for the dark photo.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

WHITTIER AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 4367, Whittier, CA 90607-4367

<https://wagswhittier.org/>

43rd Annual Seminar: Artificial Intelligence for Genealogy

Saturday, January 31, 2026 – Virtual (\$)

<https://wagswhittier.org/wags-seminar>

Speakers: Peggy Jude, John Beaumont, and Kate Penney Howard

ROOTSTECH 2026

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/>

Thursday, March 5 – Saturday, March 7, 2026 – In-Person (\$) and Virtual (FREE)

Salt Palace Convention Center, 100 S W Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84101-1408

Registration Now Open!

Speakers include Melissa Barker, Kelli Bergheimer, Shannon Combs-Bennett, Sunny Jane Morton, Dana Palmer, and more!

OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Samuel D. Isaly Library, 611 State Route 97 West, Bellville, OH 44813-8813

Telephone 419-886-1903 <https://www.ogs.org>

2026 OGS Annual Conference: “Finding Genealogy Gems”

Wednesday, April 29 – Saturday, May 2, 2026 – In-Person

Sharonville Convention Center, 11355 Chester Road, Sharonville, OH 45246-4002

Speakers include: Kelli Bergheimer, Sunny Jane Morton, Karynne Moses, and Dana Palmer!

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 128, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-0128

Telephone 703-525-0050 or 800-473-0060 <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>

2026 Family History Conference: “America at 250”

Wednesday, May 27 – Saturday, May 30, 2026 - Fort Wayne, IN

<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

2027 Family History Conference

Save the Dates! Thursday, May 20 – Saturday, May 22, 2027 - Madison, WI

GRIP GENEALOGY INSTITUTE

<https://grip.ngsgenealogy.org/>

Sunday, June 22, 2026 – Friday, June 26, 2026 – Virtual Courses

Sunday, July 12, 2026 – Friday, July 17, 2026 – In-Person Courses

University of Pittsburgh, 4200 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260-0001

Save the **2027** Dates!

Sunday, June 21, 2027 – Friday, June 25, 2027 – Virtual Courses

Sunday, July 11, 2027 – Friday, July 16, 2027 – In-Person Courses

University of Pittsburgh, 4200 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260-0001

INSTITUTE OF GENEALOGY AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH (IGHR)

c/o Georgia Genealogical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 551247, Atlanta, Georgia 30355-2747

Telephone 678-439-7503 <https://ighr.gagensociety.org/>

IGHR 2026 Virtual Institute

Sunday, July 26 – Friday, July 31, 2026 – Virtual

GENEALOGY WEBINARS

Please visit the following sites for complete lists of webinars being presented.

[Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center](#)

[American Ancestors by New England Historic Genealogical Society](#)

[ConferenceKeeper](#)

[Florida State Genealogical Society](#)

[International Society for British Genealogy and Family History](#)

[Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Support WCGS each time you check out by participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program.

- Visit <https://www.kroger.com> and sign into your Kroger account.
- Click the icon above your name to access “My Account” and look for Community Rewards on that page.
- Select Community Rewards and search by Organization Name or Number and enroll in the program:
 - Organization Name – Warren Co Chpr of the Ohio Genealogical Soc
 - Organization Number – SU662

Then, every time you shop and use your Kroger Plus card, Kroger will make a small donation to WCGS!

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

WCGS has more than 160 Warren County Genealogical publications available for purchase. These can be purchased from the [Shop and Support](#) page of our website or you can download an order form:

<https://www.wcgsohio.org/downloadable-forms>.

Membership is \$25 for membership (single or family) or \$250 for a Life Membership. Please visit the [Join or Renew](#) page on our website or you can download a Membership Application:

<https://www.wcgsohio.org/downloadable-forms>.

Phone: 513-695-1144

Email: wcgsoh@gmail.com

WCGS NEW Website: <https://www.wcgsohio.org>

WCGS Virtual Cemetery: <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~ohwarren/Cemetery/burial.htm>

Warren County OHGenWeb Site: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ohwarren/>

Western Star Digitization Project: <https://www.ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p16007coll84>

RESOURCE LIBRARY HOURS: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The WCGS Resource Library is open to the public. We are a FamilySearch Affiliate Library.



Warren County Genealogical Society

406 Justice Drive, Lebanon, Ohio 45036

513-695-1144

wcgsoh@gmail.com



WHEN: Wednesday, November 12, 2025

WHERE: Virtual Meeting and Program via Zoom

PROGRAM: Starting at 7:00 p.m.

Getting to Know Us

All you wanted to know about the Warren County Genealogical Society and Resource Library!

Join us for an evening learning about our Society, the WCGS Volunteers, our amazing Resource Library, current projects, and upcoming events. Presenters will include (but are not limited to) WCGS President Jim Brokaw, WCGS Treasurer and Webmaster Jo Roth, and WCGS Lineage Societies Chair Paul George. We hope to see you online!