

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *e-News* July 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.

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WCGS RESOURCE LIBRARY HOURS

The WCGS Resource Library will be closed Friday, July 4, 2025, for Independence Day.

2025 / 2026 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

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

July 2025 Virtual Program **“FamilySearch Labs: Full-Text Search”** presented by **Kelli Bergheimer**

Wednesday, July 9, 2025, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM EDT – Zoom Program

August 2025 Virtual Program **“The PADGETT Methodology for Effective Cemetery Research in Genealogy”**
presented by **Christopher Padgett**

Wednesday, August 13, 2025, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM EDT – Zoom Program

September 2025 Virtual Program **“Genealogical Research in Clermont County, Ohio”** presented by **Paige Craig**

Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM EST – Zoom Program

October 2025 Virtual Program **“Hoosier Family: Getting Started with Indiana Research”** presented by **Dana Palmer**

Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM EDT – Zoom Program

November 2025 Virtual Program “**Revolutionary War Research**” presented by **Jean Halls Muetzel**

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

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>

Submitted by Jim Brokaw, WCGS President and Research Chair

Over the last month or so, our volunteers have been working hard to sort, catalog, clean, and make available several extensive genealogy collections donated to WCGS. If you have been in our library in the past month or so, you have seen these collections in stacks on our tables. This project has required a lot of effort, but we are now able to see the light at the end of the tunnel. My appreciation goes to each of our volunteers who has had a hand in this massive effort!

Have a wonderful and safe holiday weekend and enjoy your local parade and fireworks display. Come visit us soon and support your local genealogical societies!

Submitted by Jim Brokaw, WCGS President and Research Chair

An illustration featuring a stylized figure in a pink shirt and dark pants holding a large magnifying glass over a document. The document has a small portrait of a woman in the top left corner and several lines of text, some highlighted in yellow. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds, a pink bird flying in the upper right, and stylized pink plants in the foreground. The overall theme is search and discovery.

50% OFF ALL USED BOOKS

Take advantage of our Summer Reading Sale through August 31, 2025, and take 50% off ALL Used Books for sale on our website. That's right, **ALL USED BOOKS ARE 50% OFF!** This is your chance to pick up an item or two for yourself or start on some early holiday shopping for your favorite Genie. You can find the Used Books by visiting their very own page on our website:

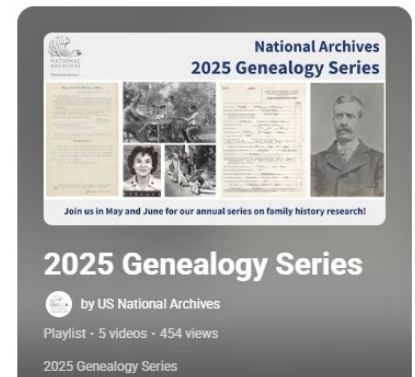
<https://www.wcgsohio.org/shop-used-books>

Add the items you would like to purchase to your cart, and then when you View Cart, click the words "Enter a promo code" and enter SAVE50. It will apply the discount to all Used Books you are purchasing. Have fun shopping!

NATIONAL ARCHIVES GENEALOGY FAIRS & SERIES

The depth and breadth of records held at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is incredible, but there can be challenges and expenses associated with accessing those records. Since 2013 the National Archives has provided an annual series of unique and interesting presentations, with handouts, that can be viewed on YouTube free of charge. I watched their presentation "Revealing Ties to Espionage in the Office of Strategic Services Records" during which they presented a history of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and discussed the types of records available (and not available) to researchers. By searching their indexes, you may discover someone in your tree with a secret history as a World War II American spy! More information can be found here:

<https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series>



The 2025 Genealogy Series YouTube videos can be found online:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLugwVCjzrJsUWXku7Y7S5a7LlaHXu2GDT>

NEW BOOKS FROM HCGS

The Hamilton County Genealogical Society (HCGS) has finished indexing Roman Catholic baptism, marriage, and burial records prior to 1870 from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati parishes. These are records from churches **outside** of Hamilton County, Ohio, which were previously completed in a separate set of indexes. They are available as softbound copies and electronically as downloadable PDF files. The titles are:

- *Archdiocese of Cincinnati Roman Catholic Records Excluding Hamilton County, Ohio, Baptisms 1860-1869*
(For more information or to purchase, please visit: <https://www.hcgsohio.org/store.php?sid=1&cid=9>)
- *Archdiocese of Cincinnati Roman Catholic Records Excluding Hamilton County, Ohio, Marriages & Burials Early-1869*
(For more information or to purchase, please visit: <https://www.hcgsohio.org/store.php?sid=1&cid=10>)

There is also an earlier companion index published several years ago entitled:

- *Archdiocese of Cincinnati Roman Catholic Records Excluding Hamilton County, Ohio, Baptisms Early-1859*

For more information or to purchase, please use the links above or visit the HCGS website at:

<https://www.hcgsohio.org/index.php>

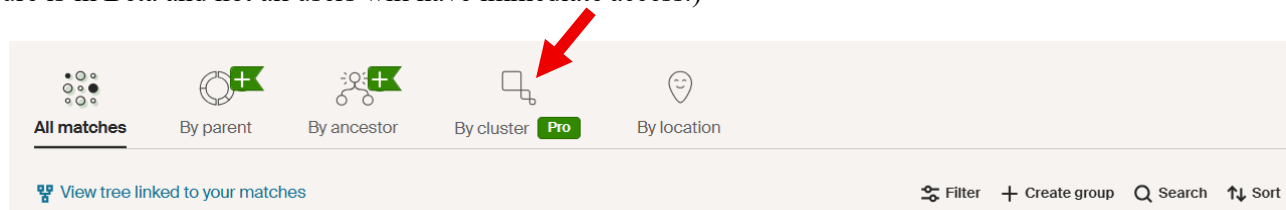
Select Shop & Support from the left menu bar, and then Filter by Category for either Baptism Records or Marriage Records. The new publications appear at the top of the lists.

HCGS offers a discount for members and membership is only \$20 at the most basic level. Gets you a great discount AND you can support a local Genealogical Society!

THE NEWEST DNA TOOL FOR ANCESTRY PRO TOOLS USERS

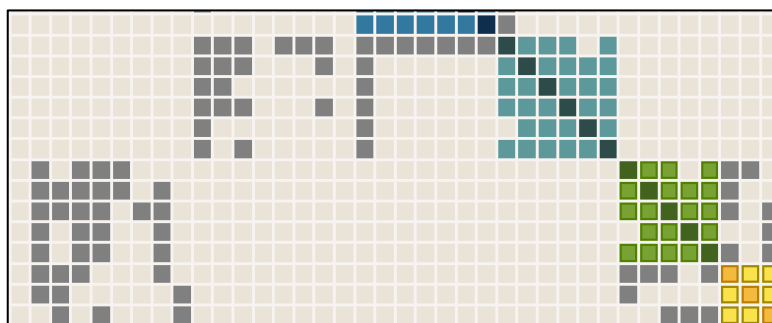
Submitted by Jo Roth

If you subscribe to Ancestry Pro Tools, look for this ***NEW*** feature the next time you view your DNA matches. (This feature is in Beta and not all users will have immediate access.)



While using the Pro Tools Shared Matches feature has been a game changer, Auto Cluster is another useful tool available on other sites, but previously lacking on Ancestry. For now, it will only work on matches who share 65cM to 1300cM with you, but is anticipated to work with lower amounts by the end of the year.

The tool groups matches that share at least 20cM with each other. These are likely to share a common ancestor. When I used it on my matches, I was immediately able to see five obvious groups: Henderson, Sundin, Duncan, Pruitt, Bowman / Fitzwater. There were also a multitude of the “grey” blocks, indicating the people who could not be placed into just one group since they matched people in different groups. There is a good amount of pedigree collapse in my tree, and I have used other clustering tools, so this was not a surprise to me.



Below the grid, it gives you drop-down menus for the different clusters. When you click on one of the drop-down menus, the display only shows the selected cluster, helping to reduce the visual clutter. You also have the option to only display Maternal or Paternal (which may show Parent 1 and Parent 2 if you have not designated which is which yet). All in all, I will be spending more time with this tool to see if it can help with some of the many DNA mysteries I am currently tackling. Let me know if you try it and what you think!

For more information, please see the Ancestry Blog post by Angie Bush:

<https://www.ancestry.com/c/ancestry-blog/dna/dna-matches-by-cluster>

HAPPY TRAILS

Our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Virginia “Ginny” Hizar Meyer (1945-2025). Daughter of Heber and Kathryn (Shields) Hizar; wife of William “Bill” Meyer; mother of John, Deborah, and Pamela. Ginny was a member of WCGS since 2019. Ginny’s full obituary can be found online:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/islandpacket/name/virginia-meyer-obituary?id=58581972>

We just learned of the passing of longtime WCGS member David Campbell (1939-2023). Son of Delbert Leon Sr. and Thelma May (Cox) Campbell, his first wife Ann (Harmon) Campbell also preceded him in death. Burial was in Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum in Dayton, Ohio. David’s full obituary can be found online:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/dayton-oh/david-campbell-11376791>

WESTERN STAR ANALYTICS AND SUPPORT THE STAR! UPDATE



Since the fall of 2018, our **Alleen Stephenson Digital Newspaper Project**, sponsored and maintained by the Warren County Genealogical Society, has provided free public access to digital images of *The Western Star* from 1807 through 2001 on the [Ohio Memory Project](#). With the addition of issues through 2001, there are now well over **160,000** pages online, with more in the digitization process. As of the end of June 2025, **52,972** users have viewed **926,753** page views in **76,662** sessions. It seems incredible we are nearing ONE MILLION page views!

In July 2024 we started our [Support the Star!](#) fundraising campaign with a goal of raising \$20,000 by July 4, 2025. Thank you to all who have donated, both money and past issues, to our campaign. We just received a significant grant from the [City of Lebanon's Civic Donation Program](#) through the [Warren County Foundation](#) and want to extend a special note of appreciation to them. Although we did not reach our goal of \$20,000, we did raise \$15,205.09! We will continue our fundraising efforts and continue to digitize and add even more pages and issues of this newspaper online, providing FREE access to all.

The [Warren County Records Center & Archives](#) located and posted the image of the front page (shown above) of the July 1, 1897, issue on social media. This issue has some interesting facts and history about Independence Day and *The Western Star*, which was celebrating its 91st Anniversary that year. Please click [HERE](#) to view this issue ONLINE!

OGS LINEAGE SOCIETIES ROSTERS ONLINE

The Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) has the rosters for their Lineage Societies posted on their website. If you are considering applying for a Lineage Society in Ohio, whether at the state or county level (such as Warren County), it is always a great idea to check first to see if your ancestor has already been proven.

You can find these OGS rosters by visiting the Lineage Societies pages of their website. The link to the PDF can be found under the "Search" heading on each of the Lineage Society pages. A great place to start is the First Families of Ohio roster: <https://www.ogs.org/about/lineage/ffo/>

WCGS also has their lineage societies ancestor and descendant rosters online for the First Families of Warren County, Ohio, the Early Settlers of Warren County, Ohio, and the Civil War Families of Warren County, Ohio.

<https://www.wcgsohio.org/lineage-societies>

NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC NEWSPAPERS

Submitted by Jim Brokaw, WCGS President and Research Chair

One of our outstanding volunteers directed me to the New York State Historic Newspapers website, a joint project of the Northern New York Library Network and the Empire State Library Network, which "contains 1,469,194 issues, comprising 14,905,954 pages." Although I do not know how much of their digitized content is unique to their collection, I have found their website to be easy to use, and it adds another free tool for your research! You can conduct your first search right on their home page, or you can look at the tabs above the map of New York to learn more about their collection and the dates available.

Their earliest issue is February 28, 1725! This is, of course, an excellent resource for searching your New York ancestors, but a search for Warren County, Ohio, returned over 90 results and a search for Lebanon, Ohio, returned more than 311 results. Their search function also allows the use of wildcards, which is very helpful. Be patient, I have found the search function can take up to about 20 seconds to produce the results. But once you've found your results, the site provides quick and easy options to clip and save the articles. You will find their website here:

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

Many thanks to volunteer Delores Bovee for sharing this website with us!

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

2025 MIDWEST AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY INSTITUTE (MAAGI)

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

Tuesday, July 8, 2025 – Thursday, July 10, 2025 – Virtual

GRIP 2025 GENEALOGY INSTITUTE – NEW LOCATION!

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

Sunday, July 13, 2025 – Friday, July 18, 2025 – 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, GA 30355-2747

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

IGHR 2025 Virtual Institute

Sunday, July 27 – Friday, August 1, 2025 – Virtual

IGHR 2026 Virtual Institute

Save the Dates! Sunday, July 26 – Friday, July 31, 2026 – Virtual

FOUNDATION FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN FAMILY HISTORY STUDIES (FEEFHS)

<https://feefhs.org/>

(This site has some interesting maps.)

Austro-Hungarian Research / Russian Research / German Research / Polish Research / Jewish Research / DNA / and More!

2025 FEEFHS Online Conference

Wednesday, August 6, 2025 – Friday, August 8, 2025 – Virtual

*Early Bird Registration Discount Through July 6.

<https://feefhs.org/conference-2025/announcement1>

2025 KENTUCKY HISTORY AND GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

<https://www.kentonlibrary.org/genealogy/historyconference/>

Friday, August 8, 2025 – Saturday, August 9, 2025

Registration begins June 1, 2025.

Kenton County Public Library – Erlanger Branch, 401 Kenton Lands Road, Erlanger, KY 41018-1861

45TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

<https://www.iajgs.org/conference/iajgs2025/>

Sunday, August 10, 2025 – Thursday, August 14, 2025

Grand Wayne Convention Center, 120 W Jefferson Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46802

The Grand Wayne Convention Center is connected to the Hilton Fort Wayne and located a block from the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center.

EAST COAST GENETIC GENEALOGY (ECGG) 2025 CONFERENCE

Fourth Annual Conference – In-Person and Virtual

Friday, September 12 – Sunday, September 14, 2025

*Early Bird Registration Discount Through July 20.

Maritime Conference Center, 692 Maritime Blvd., Linthicum Heights, MD 21090

<https://ecggc.org/>

OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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

2025 Fall Retreat “Rustic Pathways”

Friday, September 26 – Saturday, September 27, 2025 – In-Person

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

Speakers: **Kelli J. Berghheimer**, Christina Yetzer Drain, Eric E. Johnson, Peggy Clemens Lauritzen

2026 OGS Annual Conference: “Finding Genealogy Gems”

Save the Dates! Wednesday, April 29 – Saturday, May 2, 2026 – In-Person

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

2025 ANNUAL GENEALOGY SEMINAR IN DAYTON, OHIO

The Montgomery County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society is sponsoring the 2025 Annual Genealogy Seminar on Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., featuring classes by Amber Oldenburg, at the Christ United Methodist Church at 3440 Shroyer Road in Dayton, Ohio. Amber will present the following four classes:

- ❖ True Grit and Determination
- ❖ Woman’s Committee of the Council of National Defense Cards
- ❖ Land for the Landless
- ❖ Riding the Rails

For more information or to download a flyer, please visit:

<https://mcc-ogs.org/eventListings.php?nm=57>

ROOTSTECH 2026

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

Save the Dates! 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

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

Save the Dates! 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

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](#)

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!

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| ❖ Judy O. Ayers | ❖ Harold Hinds |
| ❖ Jim and Charlene Brokaw | ❖ Laura Ingling |
| ❖ City of Lebanon | ❖ Deb Kohler |
| ❖ Amanda Colley | ❖ Diana Linkous |
| ❖ Mary Cox | ❖ Gary Murray |
| ❖ Roger Davis | ❖ Karen Nicely |
| ❖ Harriet Foley | ❖ Warren County Foundation |

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 OLD Website (has broken links, but also GREAT databases): <http://www.wcgsoh.org>

*The email address on our old website is no longer valid. Please use wcgsoh@gmail.com instead.

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

Western Star Digitization Project: <https://www.ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/pl6007coll84>

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

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.

