

# WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *e-News* July 2024

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](mailto:wcgsoh@gmail.com).

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## WCGS RESOURCE LIBRARY HOURS

The WCGS Resource Library will be closed Wednesday, July 24, 2024, from 9 a.m. until noon for Volunteer Training. It will be open from noon until 4 p.m. that day.

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## 2024 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

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

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July 10, 2024 – WCGS Virtual Program “**PERSI 2.0: The New PERSI for Everyone**” presented by **Sunny Morton**  
**Wednesday, July 10, 2024, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM EST – Zoom Program**

Please register at <https://www.wcgsohio.org/events> to receive a Zoom invitation to this event.

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August 8, 2024 – This WCGS Virtual Program has been canceled. Our apologies for any inconvenience.

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## 2024 CEMETERY RESTORATION WORKSHOP

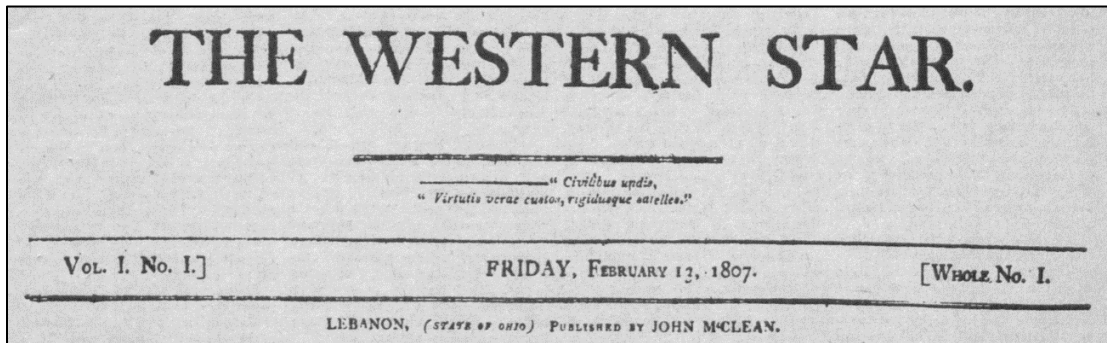
The **2024 Cemetery Restoration Workshop** will be held **Friday, September 13, 2024**, at **Crosson Cemetery in Harlan Township**. We are thrilled to welcome back [Ta Mara Conde](#), of Historic Gravestone Services of New Salem, Massachusetts, to lead the workshop. Crosson Cemetery has proven to be a wonderful training venue and we receive great support from the Harlan Township Trustees and Fire Department. An updated Cemetery Restoration Workbook and lunch will be provided to each attendee. For more information or to register for the workshop, please visit our Cemetery Restoration Workshops page. You can even pay for your registration right online!

<https://www.wcgsohio.org/cemetery-restoration-workshops>



## SUPPORT THE STAR!

Our fundraising campaign to [Support the Star!](#) was launched July 4, 2024, with a goal of raising **\$20,000** by July 4, 2025. If you enjoy having the *Western Star* newspaper online, will you consider helping us finish this monumental digitization project?



Since the fall of 2018, the [Alleen Stephenson Digital Newspaper Project](#) has provided **FREE** online public access to digital images of the Lebanon Western Star from 1807 through 1988 on the Ohio Memory Project. These digital images were created from original copies of the newspaper located at the Ohio History Center in Columbus and from microfilm provided by the Warren County Historical Society and Warren County Genealogical Society.

The [Alleen Stephenson Digital Newspaper Project](#) is sponsored and maintained by the Warren County Genealogical Society. Using digitization and OCR technology, it provides **FREE** public access to **over 136,000 pages** of this historical newspaper. There are some issues missing, but the entire collection on hand is browsable and searchable by titles, names, or dates.

This project is dedicated to the remarkable Alleen Stephenson and was made possible through the generosity of Alleen's son and daughter-in-law, J. Todd and Rebecca Stephenson. For more than 60 years, Alleen wrote a much-loved column about the Kings Mills community that celebrated and preserved many aspects of the County's history.

Published for 206 years from **1807 to 2013**, the *Western Star* is Ohio's oldest weekly newspaper. This newspaper reported the local news and activities of the citizens of Lebanon, Warren County, and nearby areas. The first publisher was John McLean (1785-1861), who was an American attorney, a political activist who served in the United States Congress, and a justice of the Ohio and the U.S. Supreme Courts. He started his legal career in Cincinnati and moved to Lebanon, Ohio, to open a law practice and dedicate his time to opening and running a weekly newspaper.

The online collection can be found by visiting: <https://ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p16007coll84>

We are in the final phase of digitizing the remaining copies of the *Western Star* that we have available. There are TWO ways you can help us finish this monumental project.

**(1) Locate Missing Issues!**

There are many issues we would like to locate and add to this collection. Please visit the [Support the Star!](#) website page for a list.

**(2) Please Donate!**

Our funding has reached its limit and we still have more to do! We have established a dedicated fundraising campaign and all donations will be used to help us complete this last phase of the project and add missing issues online as they are located. Donations can be made in person at the WCGS Resource Library (address below), online at [Support the Star!](#), or you can send a check by postal mail to:

Warren County Genealogical Society  
Attn: Support the Star!  
406 Justice Drive  
Lebanon, OH 45036

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# BREAKING DOWN A BRICK WALL USING A MULTIFACETED APPROACH

Submitted by Jo Roth, WCGS Treasurer and WCGS Webmaster

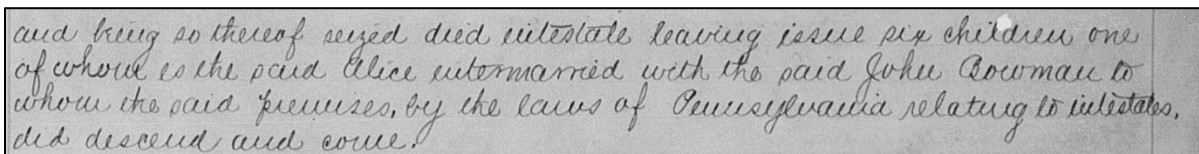
Finding the father of my 3rd Great Grandmother Alice Anna (Stokes) Bowman (1816-1906) has been a goal since I started doing genealogy over 40 years ago. She is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, and the Burial Card has her father's name as Alfred Stokes.

Every approach I used to find Alfred failed. With so many people with the Stokes surname in Warren County, I was hopeful to find some connections there. The Burial Card showed Alice Anna's place of birth as Norwood, Ohio, but every other record showed Pennsylvania. So, on a whim, I searched for her using the [Full-Text Search](#) feature on [FamilySearch.org](#), narrowing the search down by place to Pennsylvania. And guess what?

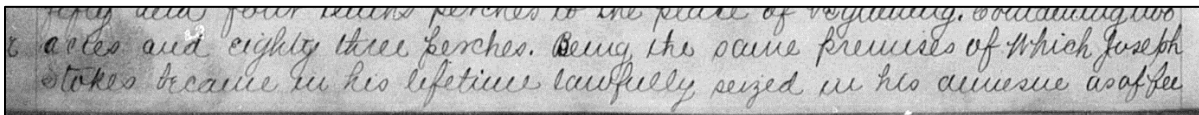
Burial Card for Alice A. Bowman, No. 73164. Place of Birth: Norwood, O. Late Residence: Do. Age - Birth Date: Dec. 11, 1816. Death: Feb. 4, 1906. Interment: Feb. 6, 1906. Public Vault: Senility. Disease: Senility. Parent's Names: Alfred Stokes. Lot Owner: Tompkins & Chapple. Sec. 101. Lot 99 1/2. Size and Kind of Grave: Box 6'7" x 26". Undertaker: Tredway Bros. Ordered by: W.S. Tredway. Place of Death: Morwood, O. Relation to Owner: mother. Charges: Grave \$6.00.

It directed me to this page, a Deed from Beaver County, Pennsylvania, written in 1879 and filed 9 Jul 1880, and the top of the page started with:

*...and being so thereof seized died intestate leaving issue six children one of whom is the said Alice intermarried with the said John Bowman to whom the said premises, by the laws of Pennsylvania relating to intestates, did descend and come.*

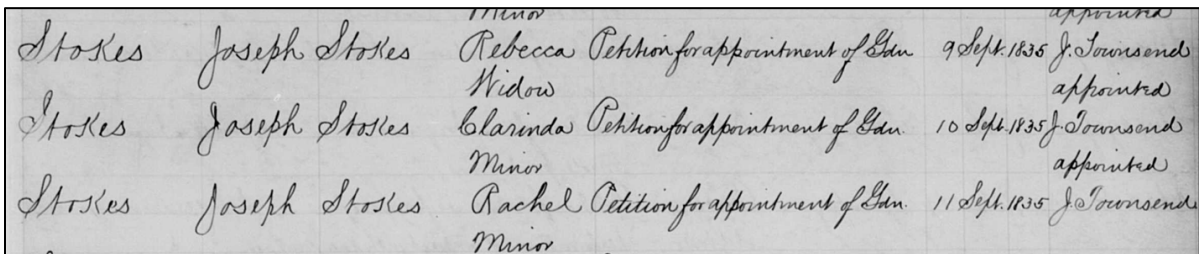


Wait, back up a page, who died intestate and left her as one of six children? The bottom of the previous page showed: *...acres and eighty three perches. Being the same premises of which Joseph Stokes became in his lifetime lawfully seized in his demesne as of fee...*



Other information in the deed, such as John and Alice A. Bowman being of Hamilton County, Ohio, confirmed this was the right person. Further searches for Joseph using traditional search methods showed a few sparse records, but I was beginning to suspect he had died early, leading me to search for Guardianship records. Sure enough, image 901 of 1054 in FHL Film #008248655, the Orphans' Court Index for Beaver County, Pennsylvania, showed the following petitions for appointments of a Guardian:

Stokes, Joseph	Stokes, Rebecca – Widow	9 Sep 1835	J. Townsend appointed
Stokes, Joseph	Stokes, Clarinda – Minor	10 Sep 1835	J. Townsend appointed
Stokes, Joseph	Stokes, Rachel – Minor	11 Sep 1835	J. Townsend





**OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Samuel D. Isaly Library, 611 State Route 97 West, Bellville, Ohio 44813-8813  
Telephone 419-886-1903 <https://www.ogs.org>

**2025 OGS Annual Conference: “Light Up Your Genealogy”**

Save the Dates – April 30-May 3, 2025 – In-Person  
Kalahari Hotel and Resorts, 7000 Kalahari Drive, Sandusky, OH 44870-8628

**INDIANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 10507, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46852-0507  
<https://www.indgensoc.org/>

**2025 IGS Annual Conference**

Save the Dates – April 11-April 12, 2025 – In-Person AND Virtual  
Allen County Public Library, 900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN 46802-3600

**NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

6400 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 810, Falls Church, VA 22042-2318  
Telephone 703-525-0050 or 800-473-0060 <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>

**2025 Family History Conference**

May 23-26, 2025 - In-Person in Louisville, KY  
<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

**GRIP GENEALOGY INSTITUTE**

<https://grip.ngsgenealogy.org/>  
Sunday, July 14, 2024 – Friday, July 19, 2024 – In-Person Courses  
LaRoche University, 9000 Babcock Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5808

**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 2024 Virtual Institute**

Sunday, July 21 – Friday, July 26, 2024 – Virtual

**IGHR 2025 Virtual Institute**

Save the Dates – Sunday, July 27 – Friday, August 1, 2025 – Virtual

**36<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF GENEALOGICAL AND HERALDIC SCIENCES**

**2024 Congress: “Origins, Journeys, Destinations”**

September 24-28, 2024 – In-Person  
*Being held in the United States for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in its 93-year history!*  
Hosted by American Ancestors and FamilySearch: <https://www.americanancestors.org/>  
The American Ancestors Research Center, 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116-3007  
<https://www.americanancestors.org/icghs-2024>

**ROOTSTECH 2025**

<https://rootstech.org>  
Save the Dates! Thursday, March 6, 2025 – Saturday, March 8, 2025 – In-Person and 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](#)

## 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 a regular 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](mailto:wcgsoh@gmail.com)

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

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

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

WCGS Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/262311627671559/>

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

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.**

## 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!

## WESTERN STAR ANALYTICS

Since the fall of 2018, the [Alleen Stephenson Digital Newspaper Project](#), sponsored and maintained by the Warren County Genealogical Society, has provided free online public access to digital images of the *Western Star* from 1807 through 1988. Since the site went online, **30,197** users have viewed **651,363** pages in **46,567** sessions.

The landing page for the project is <https://www.ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p16007coll84>