

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *e-News* December 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.

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WCGS RESOURCE LIBRARY HOURS

The Resource Library will be **closed Monday, December 23, through Wednesday, December 25, 2024, for the holidays**. We wish you and yours all the best!

The Resource Library will be **closed Wednesday, January 1, 2025, for New Year's Day**. Happy 2025!

2024 / 2025 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

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

December Holiday Open House at the WCGS Resource Library

Wednesday, December 11, 2024, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM EST

Stop by and visit with us in the WCGS Resource Library for a day of fun and festivities, including library tours, snacks and cookies, and fellowship with our volunteers and visitors!

March Virtual Program “**Ohio Catholic Records Research**” presented by **Dana Palmer**

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM EDT – Zoom Program

October 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

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>

2025 WCGS MEMBERSHIP

Membership for calendar year 2024 will expire December 31, 2024. Membership fees for 2025 are \$25 for a regular membership (either single or family) and Life memberships are \$250. You can join WCGS or renew your membership online at <https://www.wcgsohio.org/join-or-renew> or by returning your dues and a copy of the Membership Application included with this *e-News*. Including an optional donation with your renewal helps us to keep these rates as affordable as possible and is greatly appreciated.

It's a great time to join or renew your membership!

NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR DEBBIE SCHNEIDER!

Many of you know Debbie Schneider, one of our amazing Volunteers. We are pleased to announce she has assumed the role of Membership Chair! Debbie can best be reached by email at membership.wcgs@gmail.com and can help you with any questions you may have about your membership. She also takes care of our postal mailing lists, our Volunteer Contact lists, and our Mailchimp Contacts lists, keeping them updated with current information.

2025 / 2026 WCGS OFFICERS

Submitted by Laura Ingling, Nominations Committee Chair

The results of the recently concluded election have been tallied and finalized. Forty-four votes were received, with 43 respondents voting in favor of the proposed slate and 1 respondent voting to abstain. Thank you to those who voted, and congratulations to Jim, Diana, Laura, and Deborah.



President	Jim Brokaw
Vice President	Diana Linkous
Treasurer	(open)
Recording Secretary	Laura Ingling
Corresponding Secretary	Deborah Osburn

The position of Treasurer is still open. If interested, please contact Jim Brokaw at president.wcgs@gmail.com.

GOOD-BYE TO OUR FACEBOOK GROUP

During the November Board Meeting, WCGS voted to eliminate our Facebook Group. It has become increasingly challenging to manage social media and ensure you get the information we are trying to share. Rather than continuing to expend our time and effort where we cannot guarantee you get our messages and information, our volunteers will focus their efforts on the areas that best support our members, such as the Resource Library and Research Services, our website, and monthly newsletters. Thank you to all who were members of our group and shared things over the past six years.

AI AND THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSION FILES

From the National Archives:

“We are excited to announce that through a partnership with FamilySearch, **AI extracted text for all 2,322,137 pages** of the [Case Files of Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Applications Based on Revolutionary War Service, ca. 1800 - ca. 1912](#) is **now available** in the National Archives Catalog.”

Read the original article here:

<https://archives-20973928.hs-sites.com/ai-and-the-revolutionary-war-pension-files>

Start your search here:

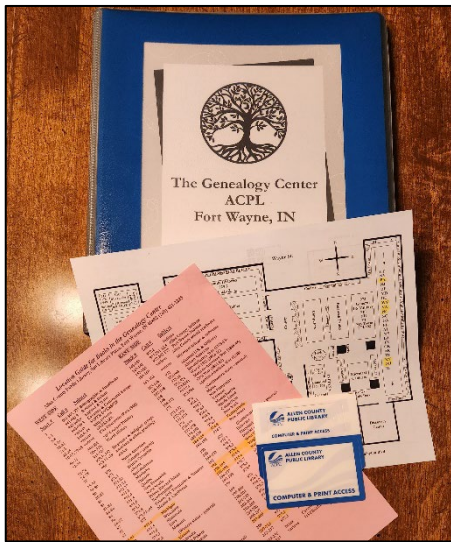
<https://catalog.archives.gov/search-within/300022>

MY VISIT TO THE GENEALOGY CENTER AT ACPL

Submitted by Jo Roth, WCGS Treasurer and Webmaster

Inspired by the programs we had by Curt Witcher in May and Sunny Morton in July, I took a trip to the Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library in November. Armed with the information and handouts they had shared and advice from Jim Brokaw and Candy Hartman who had both made trips there recently, I made it my goal to make the best use of my time during my visit.

I stayed at the Hampton Inn & Suites, one of three hotels in that same area of downtown Fort Wayne. This hotel was just a short walk from the library (about 5 minutes). One advantage was that I could take breaks and go back to the hotel for lunch or to regroup and give my eyes and mind a break. No traffic to deal with and no commuting time was also a benefit, but the daily parking fee added up. Another option would be to stay a bit further away, make the drive in, and park in the library lot or garage.

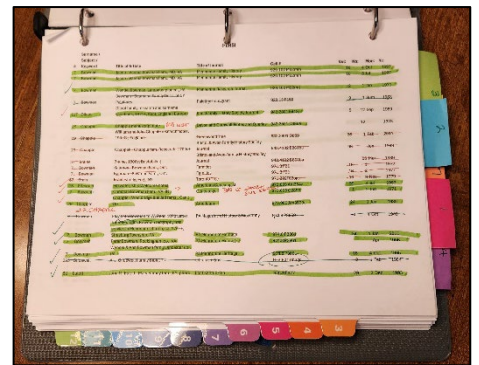


Before I went, I spent a good amount of time searching both PERSI and the library catalog and compiled a spreadsheet for each one that listed the materials I wanted to find. Having the lists sorted by call number and printed out on paper proved to work well. When I first arrived, I introduced myself to Logan, one of the staff members in the Genealogy Center and he was extremely helpful in explaining the layout, providing me with a map and other handouts, and also gave me a card allowing me Computer & Print Access. Even so, this place is BIG! It takes a bit of time to get oriented.

Grab a cart! They have black book carts available everywhere for patrons to use. I used it to pile my computer bag and jacket on with my binder laying on top opened up to my printed lists. Then I took my cart and went up and down the stacks pulling the books I needed, placing them on the lower shelves of my cart. As I located them, I used a highlighter to cross them off my list, making notes if the item could not be located. When I was back in the area with the rolling stacks (they went almost as far as the eye can see!), my cart had to wait at the end of each row, but being able to take my printed list into the rolling shelving was great.

Once I had a good number of items, I took my cart to one of the many worktables they have available. The side with family histories was much cooler than the main side, which tended to be rather warm, so dressing in layers was essential to keep comfortable. The family histories side also tended to be less busy.

If you can't find it, ask! The staff is very helpful and there were a few times I was stumped as to a location. Each time, they were able to locate the few things I could not.



Although there are a number of ways to make copies or get images of what you want, I simply took photos with my phone, which then saved them to the Gallery. I have my Gallery synced to my Google Photos account. When I opened the Google Photos app on my phone and let it sync all the images, it then gave me access to these same images on my laptop. I am not saying this is the best way to do it, just the one I used that day, and it worked well for me.

If you bring your own laptop, you can access ALL the databases (including the ones that say On-Site Database) they have available by using their Wi-Fi and going to their website to access the databases from there. These can be found under the "Our Resources" tab on the Genealogy Center page. This was especially nice as I could then just download the images and records to my computer directly.

<https://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/research-resources>

Since I chose specific lines to work on for my first trip there, I will definitely be going back to pursue other lines I am researching. I hope this helps you if you are interested in visiting the Genealogy Center at ACPL!

The handout from the program by Sunny Morton on PERSI is invaluable (link from our email of July 10, 2024): https://mcusercontent.com/b5aedeccc95637106198b6a43/files/62637532-24f0-e18f-99d7-fa968838dec8/2024_07_10_Handout_PERSI_2_New_Periodical_Source_Index_for_Everyone_.pdf

The handout from the program by Curt Witcher is another great resource (link from our email of May 8, 2024): https://mcusercontent.com/b5aedeccc95637106198b6a43/files/bfc5aa08-2c28-5ea8-28bb-fd66ee237232/2024_05_08_Curt_B_Witcher_Program_Handout.pdf

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INTERESTED IN ACPL, BUT MORE OF AN ARMCHAIR TRAVELER?

One of my favorite things about the Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library is that they allow you to use many of their services without ever leaving your home. You can order up to six articles you find in PERSI and for a very reasonable charge, they will search, find, image, and send you the articles! It only costs \$7.50 for each order form you submit of up to six articles. There is a \$0.20 per page cost that will be assessed after the order is complete and a bit of a wait if they are busy, but still, this reflects a considerable savings of time and money from traveling there and doing it yourself. Give it a try. Go to PERSI, search for a surname or location you are currently researching and see if something catches your eye. Their holdings are vast, so chances are you could strike gold!

The link to PERSI: <https://www.genealogycenter.info/persi/>

On a side note, for a fee, they also offer Research Services and “Quick-Search” Services. The links to these forms can be found on the same page as the link for the Article Order Form: <https://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/research-forms>

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CAN’T GET ENOUGH CURT WITCHER?

Submitted by Jo Roth, WCGS Treasurer and Webmaster

Call me a fan. Check out “The Secret Life of Librarians” on YouTube for more on the Genealogy Center and a very personal look into Mr. Witcher. I loved the glimpses of all the incredible things at the library! Only three minutes long, but I would have been happy to watch for much longer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5ZePBzOk9A>

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VIRTUAL SWEDISH GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Sponsored by ArkivDigital
Hosted by the Lindsborg Old Mill & Swedish Heritage Museum in Lindsborg, KS
Telephone: 785-227-3595 Email: oldmillmuseum@gmail.com

2025 Annual Workshop: “Digging Deeper in Your Swedish Research”
Saturday, February 15, 2025, 9 AM to 4 PM Central Time – Virtual Only
<https://www.oldmillmuseum.org/product/online-swedish-genealogy-workshop-registration-february-15-2025/>
Museum members get a discount!
Registration deadline is February 14, 2025. Limited to 100 attendees.

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ROOTSTECH 2025

<https://rootstech.org>
Thursday, March 6 – Saturday, March 8, 2025 – In-Person and Virtual
Registration Now Open!
Speakers include **Kelli Bergheimer**, **Dana Palmer**, and more!

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INDIANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10507, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46852-0507

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

2025 IGS Annual Conference

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

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”

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

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

Friday, May 23 – Monday, May 26, 2025 - In-Person at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, KY

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

INTERNATIONAL GERMAN GENEALOGY PARTNERSHIP

1385 Mendato Heights Rd., Suite 100, Mendato, Heights, MN 55120-1367

Email: info@iggp.org Website: <https://iggp.org/>

2025 IGGP Conference: “Celebrate Your German Speaking Ancestors”

in collaboration with the Palatines to America German Genealogy Society
Thursday, June 12 – Sunday, June 15, 2025 - In-Person in Columbus, OH
Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center, 100 Green Meadows Drive South, Lewis Center, OH 43035-9457
Early bird pricing through February 28, 2025!

<https://iggp.org/2025-iggp-conference/>

GRIP 2025 GENEALOGY INSTITUTE – NEW LOCATION!

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

Sunday, June 22, 2025 – Friday, June 27, 2025 – Virtual Courses
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, Georgia 30355-2747

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

IGHR 2025 Virtual Institute

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

IGHR 2026 Virtual Institute

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

About the *Western 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?

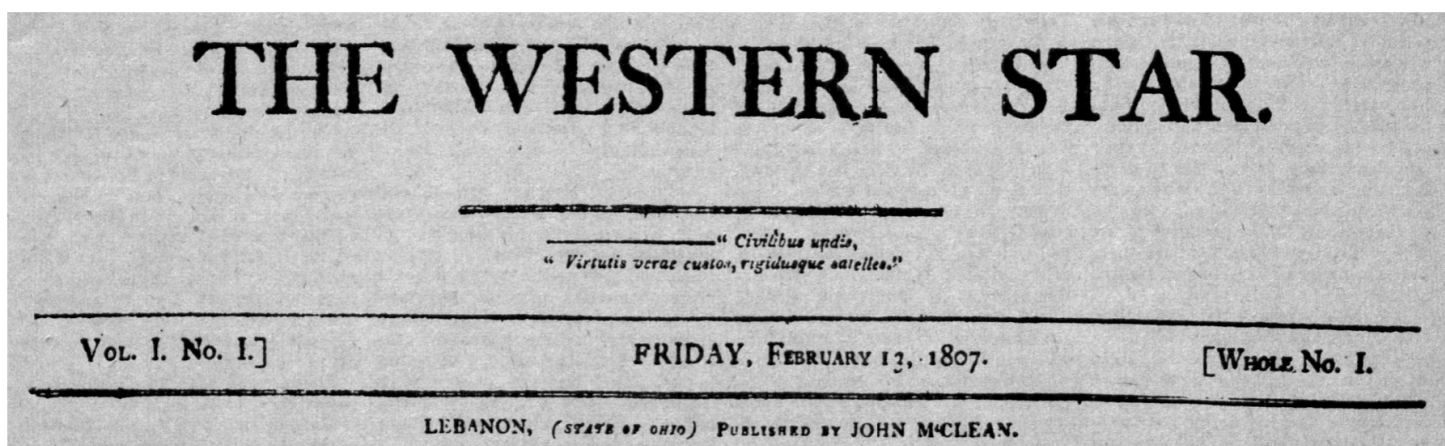
Since the fall of 2018, the [Alleen Stephenson Digital Newspaper Project](#) has provided **FREE** online public access to digital images of the Lebanon Western Star from 1807 through 1988 on the Ohio Memory Project. These digital images were created from original copies of the newspaper located at the 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/p16007coll184>



The Warren County Genealogical Society (WCGS) was established as a chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society in 1981 and has developed a nationwide membership. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to create and promote interest in collecting and preserving genealogical records, including those associated with Warren County since its formation in 1803. The public is invited to visit the Society's Resource Library at 406 Justice Drive in Lebanon, Ohio. For more information, call 513-695-1144 or visit <https://www.wcgsohio.org/>.

SUPPORT THE STAR!

All donations made by December 31 will be

MATCHED

Your donation will have DOUBLE the impact if made before
December 31, 2024.

A generous donor has offered to MATCH all donations made before the end of the year (including those already made) to our dedicated fundraising campaign to finish the *Western Star* Newspaper Digitization Project up to **\$10,000!**

PLEASE DONATE NOW

Visit <https://www.wcgsoh.org/support-the-star/> to donate online or you can mail a check to:

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

WE LOVE THE WESTERN STAR!

GOAL: Raise \$20,000 by July 4, 2025