

WARREN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY *e-News* February 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 Resource Library will be **closed Monday, February 17, 2025, for President's Day.**

2025 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

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

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>

URGENT CALL TO ACTION!

The genealogical world needs your help, and we are sharing a **Call to Action Regarding Access to New York State Vital Records BEFORE February 11, 2025, at 5 p.m. EST.** New York is proposing a horrible records access rule that is hidden in its annual budget proposal that would sharply restrict access to vital records and increase fees. This proposal would increase the waiting period for releasing birth records from 75 years to 125 years, marriage records from 50 years to 100 years, and death records from 50 years to 75 years, in addition to increasing fees for accessing those records, and eliminating the requirement to maintain indexes for those records. You can learn more about this and how YOU can help (even if you are not a New York resident!) by visiting the New York State Vital Records Info website at: <https://www.nysvitalrecords.org/home>

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society has put together an online petition addressing this. Signatures must be submitted **BEFORE February 10, 2025**, so please visit and consider signing now:
<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/form/community-signatures>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Submitted by Jim Brokaw, WCGS President and Research Chair

While we spent much of January trying to survive an unusually long stretch of very cold weather with more snow and ice than we have seen in this area in a long time, the WCGS Volunteers have persevered and continued their work on a variety of projects including:

- collecting and indexing obituaries,
- updating name indexes for cemetery records,
- creating and updating name indexes for tax records,
- creating name indexes for Chancery Court records,
- printing and shipping several book orders,
- processing an exceptionally large donation (four filing cabinets and 12 boxes) of genealogical materials,
- preparing new books and materials for placement on our Resource Library shelves,
- processing all the membership renewals and new memberships.

Thank you to all those who support WCGS by being a volunteer and / or a member!

Looking forward, we are researching options for leveraging new technologies to improve the speed and quality of digitizing documents, books, and records to make them more accessible to our researchers. Last year, we embarked on a long-term project to consolidate our records in a one-stop, searchable digital repository available to our researchers. We are continuing this effort and as the project progresses, we should be able to provide faster and more complete responses to research requests with fewer volunteer hours required.

WCGS is still actively searching for archived and microfilmed copies of *The Western Star* to help fill our current gaps, and we have had some success in finding issues in places where we would not have expected them. We have also been in discussion with the Ohio History Connection to find ways to improve your *Western Star* search experience and to plan for accessing and processing additional issues as we find them.

All these efforts are for the benefit of our WCGS members, Resource Library patrons, and family history researchers, but nothing is possible without our volunteers. If you can visit our Resource Library, I invite and encourage you to come in and see what we have and meet our volunteers. If you are interested in helping us, please let us know. We have several key positions we would like to fill, and need volunteers to do this and to help us keep our library open during our scheduled hours, Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM.

In more exciting news, the Library of Congress considers your ability to read and transcribe cursive to be a superpower! They are looking for volunteers to “create and review transcriptions to improve search, access, and discovery” of historical records, and you can help them from the comfort of your home. If you possess this superpower, please visit their website to see if you can help make these records readily available to current and future genealogists: <https://crowd.loc.gov/>

You can always reach me at president.wcgsoh@gmail.com. I welcome your comments and recommendations! As always, comments, suggestions, and submissions for our *e-News* are also greatly appreciated.

WARREN COUNTY COMMUNITY SHRED & ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DAY

Saturday, May 10, 2025

10 AM – 1 PM

Warren County Administration Building Parking Lot, 406 Justice Drive, Lebanon, OH 45036

When getting rid of any old family group sheets, pedigree charts, or other documents you have amassed during your genealogical research, it is ALWAYS a good idea to shred anything that might have information about living or recently deceased individuals. The Warren County Records Center & Archives hosts a Shred Event twice a year, making it easy to shred your documents without the expense or mess of doing it at home.

If you are not local to Warren County, contact your local County offices or Archives and see if there is something similar available in your area. Happy Spring Cleaning!

For more information, please visit: <https://www.co.warren.oh.us/recordscenter/GenInfo/ShredDay.aspx>

LEBANON AND THE WESTERN STAR IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

Submitted by Jo Roth, Multi-Tasking Volunteer

Many thanks go to Congressman Greg Landsman for honoring the 215th anniversary of our county seat and for highlighting *The Western Star*, Ohio's oldest weekly newspaper! His address to Congress is printed on page 25 of the Congressional Record of the Proceedings and Debates of the 119th Congress, First Session, January 15, 2025.

**CELEBRATING LEBANON, OHIO'S
215TH ANNIVERSARY**

(Mr. LANDSMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

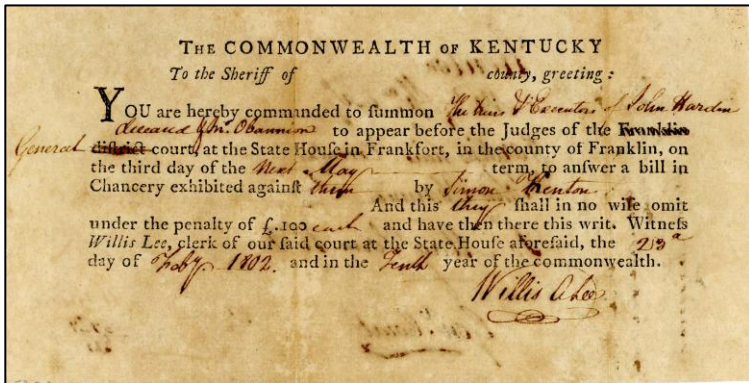
Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 215th anniversary of Lebanon, Ohio. Lebanon is the birthplace of *The Western Star*, Ohio's oldest weekly newspaper, the home of the historic Golden Lamb Inn, Ohio's oldest hotel, which has hosted 12 United States Presidents and literary giants like Mark Twain, Charles Dickens, and Harriet Beecher Stowe.

After walking on the Moon and seeing the Earth from space, Neil Armstrong could go anywhere, and he chose Lebanon as his home for 23 years. It is that special.

Today, Lebanon continues to bring people together, including one of my favorite events, the Warren County Fair. It is a place where neighbors gather to celebrate community and tradition. We have an office there, and it is one of my favorite places. It is still remarkable 215 years later.

Congratulations to all my friends in Lebanon.

KENTUCKY CHANCERY CASE FILES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE



From the Kentucky State Archives: Chancery Case files for the Kentucky General Court (1799-1850) are available on the Kentucky State Digital Archives. This early court heard many land disputes, several of which involved notable early Kentuckians, and which helped establish the earliest property lines. The images have been indexed to include names of the individuals, places, and subjects involved to allow for accurate searching.

Visit <https://kdla.access.preservica.com/>. From the Home page, select Court Records, then General Court, the Chancery Case Files. You can search from this page.

Direct link: <https://kdla.access.preservica.com/portal/en-US/collection/sdb%3ASO%7C269bfdfd-f4ce-48b0-ae0f-03d1bf565a76>

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!

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!

Brenda D. Arnett
 Jim and Charlene Brokaw
 Beverly A. Kirby

Linda L. Roaks
 Dwight Rowe

TIPS FOR SEARCHING *THE WESTERN STAR*

Submitted by Jim Brokaw, WCGS President and Research Chair

I mentioned last month that *The Western Star* is the single best resource for genealogical and historical research in Warren County, and it has since been pointed out to me that the true value of this collection extends well beyond our county. Search for any historical name or topic in the *Star* and you are likely to find articles to help you with your research. And thanks to our extremely generous donors and years of efforts by our Warren County Genealogical Society Volunteers and the Ohio History Connection, *The Western Star* is available online free to everyone!

However, it is important to know that while the Ohio History Connection's website is good at optical character recognition, it is not optimized for searching newspapers. The Ohio History Connection is aware of the search limitations that I am about to describe, but until the fixes are in place, it is important to understand what will and will not work for a successful search.

To access *The Western Star*, go to the WCGS website at <https://www.wcgsohio.org/> and click on the **Western Star Online!** button at the top of any page, or go directly to <https://ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p16007coll84>. In the center of the page, you will see a photo of the remarkable Aileen Stephenson and a brief history of our project (this page will be updated soon).

Let's use my family for a single word search. Begin the search by clicking on <Advanced Search> at the upper right corner of the Lebanon Western Star Collection Landing Page and a search entry form will pop up. When using Advanced Search, always ensure that "Lebanon Western Star" is highlighted in light blue to the upper left of the dark blue Submit button. Type "Bercaw" in the top line, leave the date fields empty and click on the blue Submit button. In the upper left of the search results, you will see Records 1-50 of 2,887, which is a lot of results! The first result is 1938-04-28. Click on that result and you will see the front page of the April 28, 1938, edition.

At this point, you must conduct a second search within that issue. Enter Bercaw in the <Search this record> box and the program will return 25 results in Pages 1, 7, 12 and 14. Each of the pages that contain results is highlighted with a vertical red bar to the left of a thumbnail photo of the page. This is where searching within an issue gets tricky!

With Page 1 selected, look at the full page on the left and you will see numerous red highlights in a single article in the second column from the right. Hover your cursor over the full page and zoom in on that article (this can be done easily by using the scroll wheel on your mouse). Within the article, you will see six highlighted instances of Bercaw, but your sharp eyes will also detect other instances of Bercaw that are not highlighted. What gives?

Unfortunately, the <Search this record> function will not return a word followed by a punctuation mark and it will not return a plural, i.e., a search for Bercaw will not return an instance of Bercaws. We can test this by adding a comma after Bercaw in the <Search this record> box and press <Enter>. Voila! Not only are there now seven more instances of Bercaw in that article, but there is another Bercaw highlighted in an article to the upper left of the original article! This was an easy example because there are so many Bercaws on the page that you cannot miss them.

For another example, go back to the <Search this record> box and enter Beckett. It should show 7 Results found in Pages 1, 3, and 6, with these pages demarcated by the red bar. However, take a quick look at Page 1 and you will see no highlighted words. Does this mean that you must scan every article on Page 1 to find your Beckett ancestor? Fortunately, no. Go back up to the <Search this record> box, add a comma to the end of Beckett and hit return. You will then find Harold Beckett highlighted in an article near the center of the page. By now, you should be starting to get the hang of some of the tricks that work when searching the *Western Star*.

A multi-word search has its own quirks and challenges. Go back to the starting page (the Lebanon Western Star Collection Landing Page) at <https://ohiomemory.org/digital/collection/p16007coll84> and click on <Advanced Search> in the upper right corner. Type John Glenn in the search box and this time, select <The exact phrase> in the dropdown box to the left of John Glenn and hit the blue Submit button. Success! You should see 708 results. Then select the first result 1980-09-17 and after entering John Glenn in the <Search this record> box and hitting <Enter>, you will see 31 results found on Pages 8, 35, 37, and 41. Each of those pages has both the word John and the word Glenn in them, but you will only find John Glenn on page 37. Unfortunately, searching for "John Glenn" (within quotation marks) does not help. That search will show 0 results; however, the words John and Glenn are still highlighted on the same pages as before.

TIPS FOR SEARCHING *THE WESTERN STAR* (CONT'D.)

Additional notes: For those of you with advanced searching experience, wild card searches do not work in the <Search this record> box. Trying Bercaw* will not return the plural Bercaws or Bercaw followed by a punctuation mark.

Unfortunately, the website is not optimized for tablets. I want to thank our member Lee Eltzroth for pointing out that to me, as I rarely use a phone or tablet for my research – most of my time is spent working on a desktop computer.

If you have developed your own search techniques or are a tablet power user (Apple or Android) and you've figured it out, please let me know at president.wcgs@ gmail.com. Thanks!

Next month, we will discuss how to clip, save and print your Western Star articles.

200 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH IN *THE WESTERN STAR*

Submitted by Jim Brokaw, WCGS President and Research Chair

Jabish Phillips (1768-1836), featured in the article shown at right from the February 26, 1825, issue of *The Western Star*, was a pioneer of Warren County and a veteran of the War of 1812. In 1802, he built one of the first mills in Warren County on the Little Miami River, between Morrow and Deerfield (now South Lebanon), afterwards long known as Zimri Stubb's Mill and memorialized by Stubb's Mill Road. Jabish served as a County Commissioner from 1819 to 1836, with one short break. He is also reported to have been an early owner of *The Western Star* for a brief period. So why did the Common Pleas Court order the Sheriff to sell Jabish's property in March of 1825? Your research challenge, should you choose to accept it, is to discover the answer to this mystery and let us know by sending a note to research.wcgs@ gmail.com. Our WCGS Volunteers will also try to solve this, and we will compare our answers. Happy hunting!

<p>SHERIFF'S SALE. BY VIRTUE of a writ of vend. Expo. from Warren Common pleas to me directed, will be exposed to sale at the residence of Jabish Philips, on the 2d day of March next, between the hours of 12 and 4 of said day, 8 head of cattle, a quantity of wheat, 12 head of hogs, 2 bu-reans, 2 tables, 1 clock, and case, 4 head of horse beasts, 1 four horse waggon & hind geers, 1 mans saddle, and 1 silver watch, the property of said Philips ads. Geo. Kesling. J. HOPKINS, Shff. Feb. 19, 1825.</p>

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.

ROOTSTECH 2025

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

Thursday, March 6 – Saturday, March 8, 2025 – In-Person (\$) and Virtual (FREE)

Registration and Class Schedule Now Open!

Speakers include **Kelli Bergheimer**, **Dana Palmer**, and more!

FAMILY HISTORY JAMBOREE 2025

<https://fhj1.org/general-info/>

Saturday, March 29, 2025, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM – In-Person

901 East Whipp Road, Centerville, Ohio

Instructors: Michael Garrambone, Dick Gault, **Karynne Moses**, **Dana Palmer**, Jim Phillabaum, Andy Rohrback, and Anne Wachs.

2025 Handouts are available for download: <https://fhj1.org/downloads/>

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

2025 KENTUCKY HISTORY AND GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

Call for Speakers and Vendors!

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

Friday, August 8, 2025 – Saturday, August 9, 1015

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.

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

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>

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.
