

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

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?

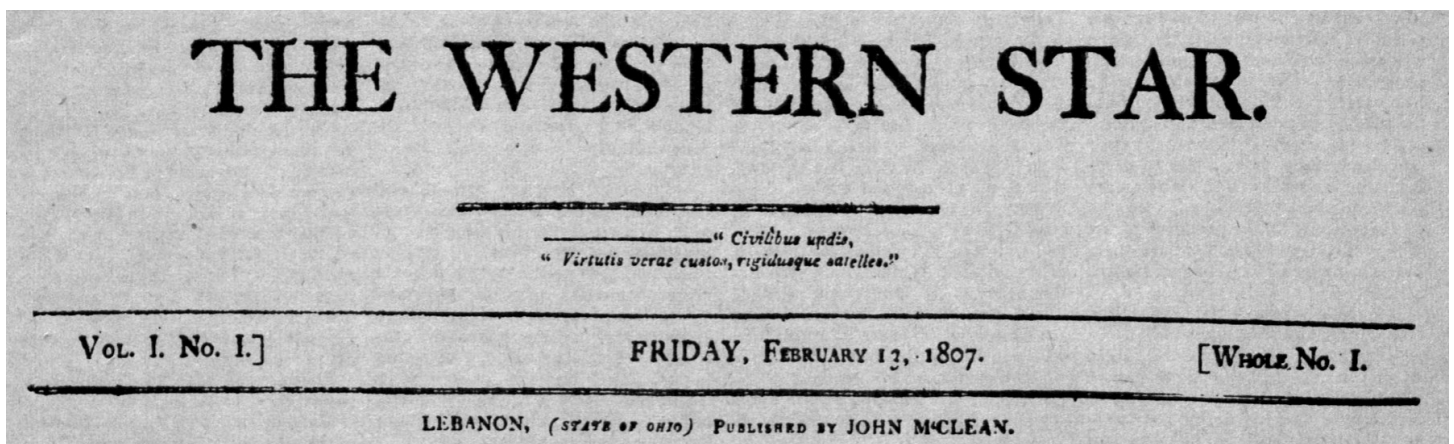
Since the fall of 2018, the [Alleen Stephenson Digital Newspaper Project](#) has provided **FREE** online public access to digital images of the Lebanon *Western Star* from 1807 through 1988 on the Ohio Memory Project. These digital images were created from original copies of the newspaper located at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