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.

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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.

2024 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

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

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.

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

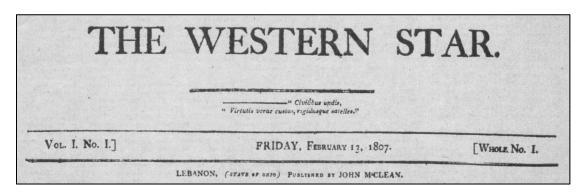
2024 CEMETERY RESTORATION WORKSHOP

The **2024** Cemetery Restoration Workshop will be held Friday, September 13, 2024, at Crosson Cemetery in Harlan Township. We are thrilled to welcome back <u>Ta Mara Conde</u>, 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 <u>Support the Star!</u> 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 <u>Alleen Stephenson Digital Newspaper Project</u> 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 <u>Alleen Stephenson Digital Newspaper Project</u> is sponsored and maintained by the Warren County Genealogical Society. Using digitization and OCR technology, it provides <u>FREE</u> public access to <u>over 136,000 pages</u> 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 <u>Support the Star!</u> 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 <u>Support the Star!</u>, or you can send a check by postal mail to:

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

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?

Bowman,	Alice A. Norwood, O.		No. 73	164
Place of Birth	Norwood, O.			
Late Residence	100.			
Age -Birth Date	Dec.11, 1816	Decease	Feb.4, 1906	
Public Vault		Interment	řeb.6.	1906
Disease	Senility		. 3P.M.	
Parent's Names				
ot Owner_		apple Sec.	101 Lot	99 1/2
	rave Box6	7" x 26"		-, -
	Tredway_Brow			
	W.S. Tredway			
Place of Death	Norwood, O.	,		
MONEY XXXXXX	Widowed—Relation to Ownerr	nother		
	Grave \$6.00	01101		

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.

and being so thereof served died witestate leaving issue six children one of whom es the said the said to a coman 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...

tokes because in his lifetime lawfully seized in his annessee as of See

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, JosephStokes, Rebecca – Widow9 Sep 1835J. Townsend appointedStokes, JosephStokes, Clarinda – Minor10 Sep 1835J. Townsend appointedStokes, JosephStokes, Rachel – Minor11 Sep 1835J. Townsend

Stokes Joseph Stokes Rebecca Pethon for appointment of Sun 9 Sept. 1835 J. Journs and Atokes Joseph Stokes Clarinda Pethon for appointment of Sun. 10 Sept. 1835 J. Journs appointment of Sun. 10 Sept. 1835 J. Journs appointment of Sun. 11 Sept. 1835 J. Journs appointment of Sun. 11 Sept. 1835 J. Journs and Minor

There were other Stokes families in that area, so I researched and built trees for them, suspecting they might be connected. From the other records I could find online for Joseph and his wife Rebecca, I discovered some of the potential identities of their other children. But the only way to get the proof needed to make many of these connections was by contacting the Beaver County History & Genealogy Center. I joined their society and submitted my Research Request, and they came through with all sorts of lovely records, including the original Orphans' Court Record that had much more information than what was in the Index.

"September Term, 1835.

Sept. 8. Came into Court Rebecca Stokes, widow and relict of Joseph Stokes, late of Beaver County, dec'd. and presented her petition setting forth that her said husband died intestate leaving five minor children, to wit, Alisanna [Alice Anna], Rachel, Clarinda, Alfred, Elizabeth, and Mary Anne [Mary Jane]; three of whom, to wit, Alfred, Elizabeth, and Mary Ann [Mary Jane] are under the age of fourteen years,..."

Clarinda and Rachel petitioned the court separately, in addition to the above petition, and that is why they were listed in the Index. The Index did not list the names of the children from the first petition. It is ALWAYS good practice to obtain the original record, or as close to it as you can get. From this, I had the names of all six children of Joseph and Rebecca (Starr) Stokes!

- Alice Anna (Stokes) Bowman, born 11 Dec 1816 and died 4 Feb 1906 (at age 89), my 3rd Great Grandmother.
- Rachel S. (Stokes) Cunningham, born 24 Apr 1818 and died 5 Jun 1846 (at age 28), was buried in Greenwood Cemetery in New Castle, Lawrence County, Pennsylvania. Her Find a Grave memorial states, "Daughter of Joseph and Rebecca Stokes." She left a husband and five children.
- Clarinda "Clara" (Stokes) Saunders, born abt. 1821 and died 1 Sep 1878 (at age 57) in the Yellow Fever Epidemic, was buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee. Her husband and stepdaughter had died from the same thing the week before.
- Alfred J. Stokes, born abt. 1823 and died 31 Dec 1855 (at age 32), was killed in a collision between an Ohio and Pennsylvania Freight Train and the Express Train near the Darlington Station in Beaver County, Pennsylvania. Alfred left a wife and two children.
- Elizabeth W. (Stokes) Hamilton, born 14 Apr 1825 and died 3 Aug 1910 (at age 85), was buried in the Old Beaver Cemetery, now known as Clark Park Cemetery, in Beaver, Beaver County, Pennsylvania. Her Death Certificate names her parents as Joseph Stokes and Rebecca Starr, both born in Philadelphia. Finding her Death Certificate was a challenge, as the last name "Hamilton" apparently could not be deciphered and it was indexed under her maiden name, but that was mistakenly transcribed as "Stoker."
- Mary Jane (Stokes) Jackson, born 26 Oct 1828 and died 18 Feb 1906 (at age 77), was buried in West Lawn Cemetery in Canton, Stark County, Ohio. Her Find a Grave memorial stated, "Daughter of Joseph and Rebecca Starr Stokes." Her husband had died just 10 days prior. He and Mary Jane had four children, with one predeceasing them in 1895.

Through the use of AI and the Full-Text Search on FamilySearch.org, I found records in places I would not have even thought to look. Through traditional online searches, I found records and references to records that pointed me in new directions and prompted me to locate the original records. Through contacting the local genealogical society and enlisting their help, I now have a good deal of original records and resources from that area, without costing me days of travel time and a lot more money had I attempted to locate them myself.

Whenever someone says they have exhausted all the online resources, it makes me question whether they really have. I would never have thought to search for Alice in the Memphis newspapers but having found that her sister lived and died there, I located a lawsuit filed against the lawyer handling Clara's estate accusing him of stealing \$5,000 from a life insurance policy that should have gone to Alice. When we limit our online searches to make the number of results more manageable, we may be eliminating valuable information. But not everything is online, and I cannot say enough about the value of local resources. Look into the genealogical societies, historical societies, and records archives in the areas that are currently challenging you and see if they offer research services. Their rates, or even the rates of a professional, will probably cost you much less than the travel and time it would take you to locate the same records.

Do you need help with your Warren County brick walls? Check out our <u>Research Services</u> and see if we can knock one down for you!

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/

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

36TH 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 1st 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 <u>Join or Renew</u> 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 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:
 - o Organization Name Warren Co Chpr of the Ohio Genealogical Soc
 - o 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 <u>Alleen Stephenson Digital Newspaper Project</u>, 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.