

**OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2007**

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – E. PAUL MOREHOUSE

The year started off awful for me with the theft of two show dogs from the Rubber City Kennel Club show on the first weekend of January and their ultimate death when the van they were in was set on fire. Among my other duties, I am President of this kennel club. A terrible intestinal virus was going around at the dog show and, of course, I caught it.

On January 26, Ted Minier, Tom Neel and I met with Pam Seigenthaler and Rebecca Smith of the Richland County Foundation to request their assistance in our building fund drive effort. Their response was encouraging but we were informed that it would be up to their board and they would not meet for several weeks.

On the 16th of February, Tom Neel and I met with Mansfield's State Representative Jay Goyal to discuss possible State of Ohio funding for our Library. Representative Goyal was very positive. On Friday, March 9th, Ted, Tom and I were invited back to meet with Pam Seigenthaler and Rebecca Smith at the Richland County Foundation for further clarification on our request for assistance. At the end of the month, we were informed that the Richland County Foundation had agreed to a matching grant of \$50,000 if we could raise \$200,000 over the next year and one-half. This grant was announced for the first time at the OGS Annual Conference in Columbus less than two weeks later. At the conference, I was happy to honor Margaret Mains Buic and Paul Immel with the first two OGS President's Awards for a lifetime of outstanding genealogical achievements in Ohio. Retiring OGS Board Member Ruth Emmons was praised for her stewardship and creation of the OGS Endowment Fund.

In May, I attended the annual banquet for Cuyahoga County Pioneers induction. This is always a very impressive affair and fun to attend and see many old friends again.

In June, Tom Neel and I drove over to Carol Bell's home to begin the process of bringing her genealogical book and microfilm collection to the OGS Library. This ultimately took two trips during 2007. Later that same month, I presented the Cuyahoga West Chapter with their 30th anniversary certificate and I participated in the Summer Workshop.

July was a bit slower, but Tom Neel, Roger Marble and I visited Saw Mill Creek Resort to study whether it would be big enough to handle our 2009 Annual Conference.

August saw the annual Chapter Management Seminar in Defiance, Ohio. We had a good turn out for a meeting in an area that far away from the center of the State. The following week, Tom and I drove back to Carol Bell's for two more vehicles full of genealogical goodies.

September started out with two non-OGS events on my agenda – my SAR Chapter threw a 250th birthday bash for the Marquis de Lafayette and about 80 people attended. The very next day, I was off to Philadelphia for the Fall meeting of the Officers of the General Society of the War of 1812. The month concluded with a flurry of meetings related to the new building.

October is Family History Month and it was hectic as usual. We hosted George Schweitzer at the Shelby Seminar on Saturday, October 6th and held our annual Librarians Seminar on Friday, October 12th. Ted Minier, Gwen Mayer, Roger Marble and I spent several afternoons exploring northeast Ohio hotels to consider for our 2009 conference. On the 21st, I came to Mansfield for the OGS Volunteers Dinner. Joanie Wyatt always does a super job with this event, it is a shame that more members of the OGS Board do not make an appearance to let the volunteers know that we appreciate their contributions. Ted Minier and I had the unhappy duty of representing OGS at the calling hours for former OGS President and Chairman of the Board Harold Scatterday on the 28th of October in Belmont County.

Both November and December were devoted to routine OGS business and attempting to increase membership and to interest former members in rejoining. We entered into an agreement with World Vital Records to offer OGS members significant discounts on a number of exciting products offered by WVR including reduced subscription fees on Everton's Genealogical Helper. This information was to have appeared on the OGS web site in early 2008.

A good deal of the entire year was spent in developing fund raising brochures and meeting with people who could help that happen.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT – KENNY BURCK

Served as Co-Chair for the 2008 OGS Conference to be held in Sharonville OH with Co-Chairs Miriam Fetters and Karen Bennett; served as Chair for the 2007 Chapter Management Seminar in Defiance OH; attended 2007 Annual Conference in Columbus OH; attended OGS Board meetings in February, April, September and November; coordinated ongoing changes of the OGS Conference Manual; planning 2008 Chapter Management Seminar in Lorain Co OH. Volunteer hours were 176; out-of-pocket expenses \$535.00; with 735 miles donated.

TREASURER – TED MINIER

Budget Performance

The OGS budget included Operating Revenue in amount of \$331,588 for 2007. Actual Revenue totaled \$339,207 (102% of budget). Non-Operating Revenue was \$198,888.

Expenses were budgeted at \$336,863. Actual Expenses were \$351,040 (104% of budget).

Operating Expenses exceeded Operating Revenue by \$11,833 (3.34%). The shortfall was more than made up by dividends and gain on sales of investments.

Assets

Total Assets increased from year end 2006 to year end 2007 from \$1,888,508 to \$2,083,573 (\$195,065 or 10.33%). This was mostly due to \$194,965 in Building Fund Donations received during the year.

Audit

An audit of the OGS financial statements for 2006 was undertaken in 2007. The audit was completed on September 28, 2007. The auditors found that the 2006 financial statements fairly represented the financial position of the society as of December 31, 2006.

2008 Budget

A balanced budget was prepared, presented to the board and committee chairs. It was adopted at the November 2007 OGS Board Meeting.

Fund Development

In April 2007, the Richland Foundation approved a challenge grant on behalf of the OGS new building project. The grant would pay OGS \$1 for every \$4 raised by OGS up to a total of \$50,000 maximum to be paid by Richland Foundation to OGS. The grant period is 04/09/2007 – 02/01/2009.

TRUSTEES

ATHENS DISTRICT TRUSTEE – DONALD R. CLARK

In 2007, I attended and participated in 47 meetings and events, which involved a total of 6,463 miles traveled and approximately 306 hours. I spent approximately \$700 for gasoline [Trustee expenses are not reimbursed]. I attended all 5 regular OGS Board meetings, the annual conference, and the special meeting at the conference. I attended all regular meetings of the Lawrence Co Chapter and participated in several extra events. I attended two meetings of the Athens Co Chapter. I attended three regular meetings, the First Families Banquet, and the dedication of the new chapter offices in Gallia Co. I attended three regular meeting and had an extended discussion with the president of the Jackson Co Chapter. I attended one regular meeting and had an extended discussion with the president of the Meigs Co Chapter. I attended four meetings of the Pike Co Chapter. I attended three meetings of the Ross Co Chapter. At the December meeting, I introduced Cinda Justice as their new OGS Trustee. I attended two meetings of the Scioto Co Chapter. I attended one regular meeting and had an extended discussion with the president of the Vinton Co Chapter. I also attended one meeting of the KYOWVA Genealogical Society, in Huntington WV, where I introduced myself as an OGS Trustee. I will be the program presenter at their Feb. 8th meeting. My

available time was limited in February, March, early April, and from mid-June through August due to family issues. The mid-June through August time will be restricted in 2008 also.

CHILLICOTHE DISTRICT – CINDA JUSTICE

I was appointed Trustee in June, 2007. I attended the Ross County Genealogical Society meeting in December with Don Clark. I will be helping him by being their OGS representative. I will be willing to fill that position for Pickaway County also. So far, I have attended the OGS Fall Conference with Dr. Schweitzer and the November OGS Board of Trustees meeting.

The Pickaway County Historical Society and Genealogy Library, a member of OGS, completed their building fund drive for a new facility to house their collection of Genealogical material. An 8 year process of fund raisers and donations from patrons culminated in the purchase of a down town building in the county seat of Circleville, that was completely remodeled from the ground up. This facility was moved into the middle of June and has enjoyed a dramatic increase in visitors both in and out of state. An index of over 80,000 entries is available to find genealogy information on residents of the area since 1810.

The Ross County Genealogy Society was the guest of the Pickaway County Genealogy Library in July when members traveled to their neighboring county to tour the facility in a special evening open house just for them. The guests also enjoyed using the research room gaining information on their neighboring county ancestors. Ross County being the parent county of Pickaway, the two Genealogy chapters have long been supporters of one another. The Ross County Chapter has also been involved in adding new material, new shelving and updating their collection besides holding monthly programs.

In November 2007 the PCHS assisted in sponsoring a history fair in conjunction with the Westfall Elementary School near Williamsport, OH. The Society furnished ribbons and certificates to presenters.

The town on Williamsport in Pickaway County received recognition for the volunteer effort of Mr. Harvey Looney and many other assistants in completely restored the Christian Cemetery that is the resting place of the pioneer families in Deer Creek Township which is located west of Circleville on US Rt 22.

Along with these projects I have attended OGS board meetings, OGS Conference in Cincinnati, the fall program with Dr. Schweitzer and will present a class at the OGS Chapter Management Seminar in August, 2008.

Total volunteer hours were 292 and miles traveled were 1105.

CLEVELAND DISTRICT – JEAN BARNES

Jean Barnes, Trustees, volunteer 246.5 hours in officer duties, attended 56 meetings totaling 247.5 hours, attended 5 OGS Board meetings totaling 31.5 hours, gave 1456.25 hours of time with the Ohio Obituary project, and donated 7783 miles in travel. [This equates to 5.3 hours per day in a 365-day period]. Duties include conference, chapter management seminar, the family history workshops in Shelby and Mansfield, chapter meetings in the Cleveland District, installing officers in district chapters, office work, nominations and elections committee chair, and indexing death notices and obituaries at home.

COSHOCTON DISTRICT & MANSFIELD DISTRICT TRUSTEE – BVENITTA J. WILLIAMS

In 2007, I served as a desk volunteer at the OGS Library once per month, 4 hours each time; as Trustee for the Coshocton District; and was recently appointed Trustee for the Mansfield District, taking over from Ruth Emmons, who had volunteered in that capacity for many years. My projects in progress include planning for the 2008 OGS Fall Seminar with John Humphrey and the 2008 OGS Genealogy Librarians' Seminar, both held in October during Family History Month. I have provided an estimated 120 hours of my time for OGS, with un-reimbursed expenses of \$10 postage and 150 miles driven.

DAYTON DISTRICT – MIRIAM FETTERS

I attended all meetings of the OGS Board in 2007 except for the February meeting which I missed due to bad weather.

I was trustee for the Dayton District until September 2007 when Patrick Crippen was assigned to the district. I attended the Greene County meeting in January. I went to the meetings of the Miami County

Board in January and March. In May I attended the Darke County Workshop at Arcanum featuring John Humphrey. I “manned” the OGS publication table.

I maintained communication with all six chapters via E-mail.

I attended the OGS Conference in Columbus April 12, 13, and 14. While there, I helped at the Registration table, introduced four speakers, co-ordinated the banquets, and assisted at the FFO banquet.

On 27 June I attended the OGS Summer workshop at the OGS library.

On 4 August, I attended the Chapter Management Seminar at Defiance. Ted Minier and I made a presentation on “Duties of Chapter Officers.”

In December I volunteered to maintain the “Events” section of the OGS webpage.

I delivered brochures for the 2007 OGS Conference to the Allen County Library at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Total volunteer hours as Trustee – 219; of this, hours at OGS Library – 25; total miles 1186.

MANSFIELD DISTRICT (see Coshocton)

WAPAKONETA DISTRICT – KAREN MILLER BENNETT

Attended OGS Board meetings in March and July. Submitted a log of volunteer hours to the OGS Library regularly. Submitted a Wapakoneta District report for each OGS Board meeting. Visited each chapter in the Wapakoneta District at least once during 2007, 18 meetings total. Attended each of the Wapakoneta District’s county First Families induction programs. Compiled and sent quarterly OGS newsletters to the all Wapakoneta chapters. Served as FFO Chair (see FFO report). Attended the 2007 OGS Conference in Columbus and assisted with the following: introduced several speakers, banquet and luncheon coordinator, and assisted at registration. Attended the Chapter Management Seminar in Defiance in August and gave a presentation on Lineage Society Applications. Gave the following presentations to OGS Chapters and other groups during 2007: “Rocks of Ages – Cemetery Research & Tombstone Art,” “Deeds – More Than Just Land Descriptions,” and “Beginning German Research.” Gave “Beginning German Research” presentation at the OGS Summer Workshop. Helped design and ordered the 2008 Conference pins. Attended the grand reopening of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in January. Represented OGS at a cemetery restoration workshop in Auglaize County in May. Attended the FGS Conference in Fort Wayne in August. Currently acting as 2008 OGS Conference Co-Chair and 2010 OGS Conference Co-Chair and am currently assigning committees and making arrangements for the Toledo conference. Estimated hours volunteered included 923 total hours for OGS activities with 9 of those hours at OGS headquarters. Donated \$434 out-of-pocket expenses for OGS activities and 1789 miles attending activities.

YOUNGSTOWN DISTRICT – WALLY HUSKONEN

During 2007, I visited four of the seven chapters in the district: Ashtabula, Hudson, Portage, and Summit. Worked closely with the Ashtabula County Genealogical Society in organizing and operating an ancestor lookup service at the national FinnFest 2007 over three days in July. Used signup/lookup forms that were developed in my home chapter, Cuyahoga Valley Genealogical Society. Two volunteers were kept busy at computer work stations throughout the event and some lookups were left over to be handled by society volunteers afterwards. Total volunteers hours: 35; Total miles driven: 445.

PATRICK CRIPPEN, CENTERVILLE, OHIO

I did not officially take over the Dayton District or Lucas and Ottawa Counties until 2008, so I don’t have anything to report for last year. Miriam Fetters will be doing the Montgomery Co Chapter. Lucas and Ottawa counties did not have a representative last year. My only “semi-official” task was buying you [OGS Library] the two Mayflower books, which I hope have made it out to the shelves.

STAFF

LIBRARY DIRECTOR – TOM NEEL

Address given at Conference:

OGS ended 2007 with 5447 members, 949 ORPF, and 551 OCWGJ subscribers. We had 3378 researchers visit the library. OGS acquired 2426 new books in 2007, nearly twice that of last year, boosting our holdings to over 33,000 titles. The largest book donation ever received, 1680 of them, came to us from Carol Willsey Bell of North Jackson OH. Total assets went over 2 million for the first time with our fund balances at 1.9 million with most of it designated to the Building Fund. Non-operating income, mostly donations, totaled \$198,888 – not as much as last year but still healthy. In addition, our volunteers reported 10,721 hours of time working for OGS. We had 108 active volunteers and began working closely with RSVP, the Retired & Seniors Volunteer Program locally. We got nice gifts from the Athens District Conference, the Tri-C-Go Seminar in Cleveland, and many other individuals, groups, and corporations mentioned in each Ohio Genealogy News issue. The \$50,000 matching gift offer from the Richland Foundation, still in progress, was fantastic news. With a nice gift from the Ohio Society Colonial Dames, 17th Century, we were able to get an office scanner, a modest book scanner, and hope to pick up a digital camera that mounts on a stand. More and more members expect services online and we have added Genealogy Bank, NewspaperArchive, and Footnote to our library database list. Volunteers have been transferring our archives from bankers boxes to 10,500 acid free files and 525 document cases, obtained through a \$4000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Our usual activities – the OGS Conference, the Librarians' Seminar, the Fall OGS Lecture, the Chapter Management Seminar, and the Summer Workshop were all successful. These are just a few of the statistics and highlights of 2007 but this isn't really what I wanted to talk about.

I was surprised to read in the Columbus Dispatch and in press releases that our sister organization, the Ohio Historical Society, is in the process of cutting 47 full and part-time positions in Columbus and at its 59 historic sites and museums statewide. Their 400 FTE back in 2001 will fall to 270 FTE by 2009. Funding continues to be a problem as the state's resources dry up. The archives and research room has been open just 24 hours each week since 2003. They are suspending in-house paper conservation and in-house microfilming operations. The one bright spot is that they are hiring an electronic records archivist.

The Ohio Genealogical Society is a volunteer-based organization and does not generally receive state or federal funds for operational purposes. Yet we too are seeing less support and membership with digital corporate competition and a user base that now does their family history sometimes solely from their computer screen at home. The visual world is here now. I get so mad at my brother's kids. "Why don't you just leave," I tell them. "Get in your car and go hang out with friends or just drive around town for endless hours like we used to do." My niece Torin is proud that she has over 1500 friends in MySpace and she is online at least 2-3 hours each evening. She set up a page for me but I only have 3 friends and 2 are immediate family members.

All this material on the Internet is wonderful and libraries and genealogical and historical societies are all moving in this direction, providing more and more research sources online. But this is the key. Societies create the material. OGS's history of 2000 printed publications currently in print has drifted nicely into online resources on our 94 chapter web sites. One must have that strong base first. The Ohio death certificates are now online because the Ohio Historical Society put years of work into the project and LDS contributed the financial, technical, and hosting expertise. One individual just can't do it. Organizations like OHS and OGS need qualified IT staff to get material on the web, but more importantly, qualified archival staff to prepare and select items most useful to researchers, and even more importantly, librarians to catalog the material and provide means of access, and most importantly, the necessary equipment and the facility to house the archival material. OGS is taking this step in building our first new home, a library designed with an archive, a conservation room, a digitization lab, and a classroom of computers.

OGS has had several large donors in our bricks and mortar project. Sam Isaly of New York City grabbed the library – the Samuel D. Isaly Library of the Ohio Genealogical Society; and our trustee Lolita Guthrie of Bowling Green has a fine group of children and husband who came together to name the Volunteer room after her. Another donor, gift already made, is eyeing the Reading Room. But despite all the talk in our feasibility study and interviews with perspective donors and foundations some five years ago, no one has come forth with the major funding needed for the digitization lab and the staff to provide digital content for our online users. There is still time remaining, but not much time. The architect is ready to begin the bidding process as soon as our loan agent gives the okay.

Our theme in this project has been to dream it, plan it, and build it. But in this theme, it is continued membership in the organization, physical support through monetary and in-kind contributions,

volunteerism bringing both creativity and a work force to complete projects, and input from the users on that computer screen. All aspects must work hand-in-hand. We are the die-hards here at this conference, but your project for this week is to get a friend to join an organization like OGS in whatever their area of interest, and get them to leave that computer for just one day and visit a library like OGS to see just what it is that an organization can offer.

Additional:

The end-of-year 2007 statement showed liabilities and assets of \$2,083,573. We had a decrease of \$70,438 this year due solely to an inventory adjustment. Our periodical back issues had been valued at a cost ranging from .98 to \$1.43 per issue (printing), and we are now selling them at .25 per issue. This decreases the asset value of our stock. Income for 2007 was \$538,095 or 78% of budget. Operating income was \$339,207 or 102% of budget. Non-operating income was \$198,888 or 56% of budget – a nice amount, but no major donors. Expenses for 2007 were \$351,040 or 104% of budget. Depreciation of \$11,702 was not budgeted. Expenses had been budgeted at \$5275 more than income since non-operating funds (Life, Endowment) are expected to generate some operating income and the operating fund itself generates revenue.

OGS was involved in several partnerships during 2007. We provided our Ohio Cemeteries 1803-2003 database to the Ohio Historical Preservation Office, ODOT, and the Online Mapping System, so that builders, architects, and government entities have access to cemetery locations in Ohio with GPS numbers, alternate names, real estate numbers, ownership information, etc. We assisted the Ohio Historical Society with Statehood Day and talked with Ohio's legislators to promote the projects of our sister organization and all its arms in Columbus, although inclement weather prevented us from attending the event. We provided our Trustee, Lolita Guthrie, of Bowling Green, to Ohio's Cemetery Dispute Resolution Committee in its organization, who pushed for the unique numbering of cemeteries through the Real Estate Division in Cleveland, and for the waiving of registration fees for townships for those rural cemeteries that had no income. Although OGS is no longer represented on the Dispute Committee, we are called on often by state agencies to document cemeteries in Ohio. We sponsor the prize for Family History at the Ohio State Fair each year for student 4-H entries. We bring tourist dollars into Ohio, to our research library in Mansfield, to our annual conferences around the state, and to local history research collections at the county level maintained by our chapters in public libraries, historical societies, etc. We offered assistance in preservation guidance to the Ohio Township Trustee Association with reference to historical local records, generally not filmed or digitized, in every township and village office in Ohio. We worked with the Ohio Department of Health in monitoring local adherence to Open Records laws and rules regarding copy requests through the mail in the Vital Records division. We were part of a panel monitoring the Supreme Courts work on guidelines for electronic records in Ohio's court system and emphasized that a record copy should be available even if a particular line (SS number) is redacted for privacy concerns and that the unchanged original should always be maintained as the historical record. We promoted our chapters in all but two of Ohio's 88 counties and their work with local courthouses, county officials, public libraries, and historical societies on all types of projects. OGS or staff maintained memberships in the Ohio Historical Society, Ohio Preservation Council, Society of Ohio Archivists, and several national organizations.

SECRETARY – LINDA REED

I was hired at the end of August, 2003. My duties are: Answer the phone, answer questions if possible, direct the calls or take a message; Process the mail, recording the postage to the different categories; Process publication/store orders for shipment, typing invoices as necessary for these orders; Accessioning books, typing into accession record, put accession label in book, donor label in book, and send acknowledgment letter to donor; Prepare monthly accessioning list to send to our OGN accessions editor; Put spine labels on books after they have been catalogued; Prepare letters for mailings, and do some of the smaller mailings; End of year inventory on all for-sale items; Special projects of the Library Director.

COMMITTEES

AUDIT – MIRIAM FETTERS

I arranged for an audit of the 2006 OGS records with John Slaybaugh, CPA. I did this from my home. Total hours – 6.

CEMETERY – LOLITA GUTHRIE

Meetings of the Cemetery Committee were called and held in January and September of 2007. Communication among Committee members was carried on via e-mail, phone calls, and direct contact with 2 or 3.

The Committee continues to work from an informal list of needs and jobs. Included, but not limited to, are the following: add documents to the Cemetery portion of the OGS Website, with more on Ohio cemetery laws; Inventory all cemetery holdings in the OGS Library with goal of adding to weakest geographic areas; update and add to list of current County Cemetery Contact Persons; encourage Chapter donations of cemetery books to OGS Library; encourage and give recognition to individuals and Chapters inventorying local cemetery records as well as restoration of cemetery projects.

As this Chair and others submit the information, Roger Troutman continues to maintain and update the Ohio Cemeteries Database, basis for OHIO CEMETERIES: 1803-2003. The geographic location portion has been shared with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office and, via that Office, has been digitized by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

A column on cemeteries was submitted and published in all four issues of OGN during 2007. Clippings, miscellaneous published tombstone readings from Chapter Newsletters, and miscellaneous informational documents are filed by county in the two four-drawer file cabinets in the OGS Library.

The Cemetery Committee hosted a table exhibit at the 2007 Conference. Two tri-fold displays were prepared and taken to the Conference by two Wood County volunteers. Free handouts on “Ohio County Cemetery Websites” and “Jefferson County Restoration Project” were provided.

Inquiries regarding individual cemetery cases of neglect, preservation, restoration, etc. are responded to via snail and email, both from home and from OGS Office. Organizations with whom we continue to work include the Ohio Township Association; Cemetery Section of the Ohio Division of Real Estate & Professional Licensing; and the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

More attention is being given to online websites which promote photographing of tombstones.

CHAPTER MANAGEMENT SEMINAR – KENNY BURCK

The 22nd Annual Chapter Management Seminar was held in Defiance, Ohio on 4 August 2007 hosted by the Defiance County Chapter OGS. This event was free to OGS members and members of OGS chapters. All speakers served as volunteers. Costs associated with the seminar were well within budget. There were 45 attendees from 19 different counties.

CHURCH RECORDS – KAREN MILLER BENNETT & DWANE GRACE

We are making chapters aware of the importance of church records and identifying where county church records are located and encourage them to compile this information. Beginning in 2008, I will submit Mercer County church information for publication in *The Monitor*, Mercer County Chapter’s quarterly publication.

CONFERENCE 2008 – KENNY BURCK, MIRIAM FETTERS, KAREN BENNETT

Planning continues for the 2008 OGS Conference. The Sheraton Hotel in Sharonville was chosen as the site based on the facility and the price. The roster for chairs was completed. The Call for Papers went out in January and were in on June 30th. All deadlines were met as outlined in the OGS Conference Manual. Several committee meetings occurred at the conference hotel and many phone calls were made. The conference is scheduled for 17 to 19 April 2008. Many hours were spent modifying the OGS Conference Manual to assist all future conference chairs and committees of duties and timetables. Changes were made as necessary.

FIRST FAMILIES OF OHIO – KAREN MILLER BENNETT

Received and reviewed 88 First Families of Ohio applications for 2006. 72 new members were inducted and 12 supplemental applications were approved in April 2007. Four applications were not approved. Sent FFO acceptance and rejection letters, giving research advice to those not accepted. Compiled the 2006 FFO Roster and FFO Program for the 2007 FFO Banquet. Printed FFO certificates for inductees. Presided at the FFO Banquet at the 2007 OGS Conference. Mailed certificates and pins to those not at the FFO Banquet. Answered numerous FFO questions via e-mail. Files 3100-3266 were microfilmed by BGSU CAC Preservation Lab. Currently working on the 2007 FFO Roster and Program for the 2008 OGS Conference. Received 85 applications in 2007 and have several yet to review, as of 26 Jan 2008. Have contacted nearly every applicant. Compiled, printed, and delivered the 2001-2006 FFO Roster for use in the OGS Library. Will continue to have the FFO files microfilmed.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON – GWENDOLYN MAYER

2007 as a significant year for legislation in Ohio relative to public record access/preservation for genealogists. The Ohio Department of Health began the digitization of birth certificates in preparation for online access for Ohio citizens. A new public records law was passed and further codifies access for all Ohioans to public government documents. Finally, the finance committee of OGS seems to have made inroads with state legislators and anticipates some state dollars to come the way of OGS in the 2009 capital budget for the new library.

LIBRARY ADVISORY – GWENDOLYN MAYER

In 2007 this committee worked diligently through the design development state with the architectural firm to review and refine the plans for each room in the new library facility. Suggestions were then given to the architectural firm. Items to be moved into the new facility were identified and measured as well. Collection issues and recommendations were put on hold in order to move forward with the new facility plans. Collection relevant issues and statistical analysis will be addressed in the director's remarks. Standards for electronic submissions were formulated and addressed however. It is my hope that in the coming year, this committee will additionally: continue removal of extraneous materials in preparation for the move to a new facility, reexamine shelving needs and plans in the new facility, increase online accessibility, formulate or refine technology policies, and formulate technology specifications for computers and microfilm technology in the new building.

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS – Jean Barnes

The 2007 committee consisted of Jean Barnes, Chair; Dwane Grace; and Darlene Moore.

OHIO CIVIL WAR GENEALOGY JOURNAL – SUE LEE & DAN REIGLE

This year has proven to have been a busy year for *OCWGJ*. We have spent over 2000 hours.

- 1) Published four issues of *OCWGJ* (208 pages) along with 16 page index.
- 2) Answered 30 ATE questions and increasing our ATE panel - This year we have added Tom Boltz, Zack Fry, Brad Quinlin and Arne Trelvik to our ATE panel. OGS member and veteran Civil War researcher Tom Boltz is in the process of moving back to Ohio from Virginia, and we look forward to him taking an active part in *OCWGJ*. Kent State history student Zack Fry is from Mansfield and is very active at Gettysburg PA. Brad Quinlin is a re-enactor/historian from Suwansee GA by way of Massachusetts who specializes in the 21st Ohio Infantry. Arne Trelvik is an officer of the Warren County Chapter, and webmaster of the outstanding Warren County OHGenWeb site.
- 3) Expanding the Subject Index online and updating it as each issue is published - Dan has continued to input and expand the index after each issue and has sent it to the OGS Webmaster to be put online along with the Table of Contents of each issue. The index is proving to be very useful in making researchers aware of material published in previous *OCWGJ* issues on the units, people, or locations of their interest.
- 4) Locating people with Ohio information to share with *OCWGJ* and *OCWC* - Along these lines, Dan and Sue have restructured our volunteer staff to include two consultants to help us locate people and

material: Jack Simon and Harry Benedict. Both are long time *OCWGJ* volunteers who have been working behind the scenes to find articles while continuing to help with ATE questions and contributing articles.

5) Locating and verifying graves of Ohio soldiers - With help from people from all over the country, we are continuing our effort to locate Ohioans. Sue is working currently working with people from KY and OR to find and verify Ohio graves. Jocelyn Wilms has agreed to join the *OCWGJ* Staff as the person who will verify the graves using several resources available. Jocelyn and Sue are also working on verifying the Civil War Union Soldiers Roll of Honor for all known Ohioans with hopes of locating the unknowns along the way of cross-checking and comparing the ROH against the Ohio Rosters, etc. A further example is that we are currently working with the Veterans Services Officer of Yellow Medicine County MN who contacted us for research assistance on Ohio Civil War veterans buried in that county.

6) Improving the contents of *OCWGJ* - This is ongoing. We are trying to find pictures to go with each article. We have benefitted from superb material that has been offered to *OCWGJ* for publication, such as the Reisinger diary last year, Mike Elliott's superb work in transcribing the 1883 pensioner lists by county, the work of Tom Boltz and his committee at the St. Elizabeths Hospital Cemetery in Washington DC, the work of Paul LaRue's Washington CH High School students on Irish Civil War veterans buried at St. Colman's Cemetery, and a significant collection of GAR material from Van Wert, courtesy of Helen Prill and Rodger Norton.

7) Formulating and preparing *OCWC* to go online - We believe it is imperative that *OCWGJ* and OGS have a stronger presence on the internet. The concept for *The Ohio Civil War Center* was prepared, presented to OGS and approved. A sample issue of *OCWGJ* for online "marketing" use has been approved, but has not yet been added to the OGS website. The searchable SCWFO Roster is ready to go online, but has been delayed with the backlog of OGS website updates. Several databases including a comprehensive *OCWGJ* surname index, Ohio listings in the VA Headstone Record Cards, and the Ohio listings in the *Roll of Honor* are being built, with nine people actively engaged in these projects. In the absence of coordination on how *OCWGC* will be integrated with the OGS website, we are proceeding to develop the Center's visual webpage concepts and databases.

8) Promoting *OCWGJ* and increasing subscriptions - With the help of Tom Neel, *OCWGJ* ads were run in *Blue & Gray* and *Civil War Historian*. Dan and Tom manned a display table at the Civil War Show held in Mansfield, Ohio. Sue and Dan manned the display table at the OGS 2007 Conference. Jack Simon has promoted *OCWGJ* in several lectures that he has given on Civil War subjects in the Cincinnati area. While OGS membership was down in 2007, *OCWGJ* continued a steady increase in subscriptions.

PUBLICATIONS – KAY HUDSON

The Publications Committee welcomed four new editors in 2007. The newly re-named *Ohio Genealogy News* is edited by Deb Cyprych and Jennifer Hershberger. This dynamic duo also edits the two Hamilton County Chapter journals. *Ohio Records and Pioneer Families* has been edited by Rick Heflin and Gail Hite. Rick left at the end of the year to pursue his new teaching career and Gail is taking over, along with her daughter Caitlin Sirse, as editor. Jean Nathan and Sue Lee continue to do excellent jobs with the *Ohio Genealogical Society Quarterly* and the *Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal*. As a result of Tom Neel applying for a grant, the ORPF editors received InDesign software for use in publishing that journal. At the end of the year, Rick Heflin passed this program on to the newsletter editors for their use. OGS purchased the new WordPerfect Office X3 for Gail Hite, Jean Nathan, and Sue Lee. Through the efforts of the OGS office staff, we are contacting past authors of articles published in our journals and on our web site asking them to sign our revised contract that will allow OGS to use articles in future projects such as on CD ROM and the web site. OGS secretary Linda Reed is overseeing this task. We have asked for and been approved to extend our current printer contracts for 2008. The contracts are with Sun Graphics and Walter Graphics. In the future, Tom Neel and the publications chair will seek multi-year contracts. Hopefully this will save OGS money and certainly will save Tom time each fall in obtaining quotes. In the fall, OGS announced its first writing contest. Entries will be received into February of 2008. The following people comprise the judging panel: Amy Crow, Deb Deal, Don Clark, Diane Gagel, Dwane Grace, Paul Morehouse, Gail Hite, Jean Nathan, Gwen Mayer, Pat VanSkaik, Sue Zacharias and Wally Huskonen. Each entry will be judged by three different people and scores will be averaged. Sue Zacharias has helped with compiling a judging sheet. The OGS Web Site is an extremely important component of membership. The webmaster is the gatekeeper of this component much the same as are the six editors of the four paper publications. Each of our paper publication editors receives a stipend based on the number of pages in the finished product. The

webmaster has received nothing. I have requesting a stipend for the OGS webmaster position beginning in 2008. This stipend will be paid to the webmaster quarterly and will be based on work performed to keep the web site current. To this end, a job description and a set of policies and procedures for content submission is being developed.

PUBLICITY – WALLY HUSKONEN

Produced and distributed via email (E-News Service) to chapter newsletter editors four news releases during the year relative to the 2007 Annual Conference and the Building Fund. Prepared a feature article for *Everton's Genealogical Helper* about the Building Fund. The 4.25-page article with illustrations appeared in the November/December 2007 issue. Distributed several announcements to national publications about the 2008 Annual Conference. Presented talk at the 2007 Chapter Management Seminar on obtaining editorial material for chapter newsletters. Explained about the E-News Service and signed up several new recipients. Total volunteer hours: 31; Total mileage: 157.

CHAPTERS

HARRISON

The Harrison Co Chapter, formed in October 1982 and incorporated 6 Apr 1984, maintains a web site – www.rootsweb.com/~ohharris – with Allen V. Sparrow, coordinator and list manager. The chapter contact person is Sarah “Becky” Sall – harrisonheritage@yahoo.com Officers are: Susan Adams, President; Kelley Snodgrass-Michelli, Vice President; Charles B. Wallace, Recording Secretary; Sarah “Becky” Sall, Corresponding Secretary; Eleanor Birney, Treasurer; Jacqueline Wallace, Trustee; Allen V. Sparrow, Trustee; John Hawthorne, Trustee; and Allen V. Sparrow, “Our Harrison Heritage” editor. The Society had 141 members in 2007 and 26 of those were known to be members of the state OGS. The Chapter began 2007 with a checking account balance of \$1316.12, had receipts of \$5761.11, expenses of \$5408.81, and ended with a balance of \$1668.42. With additional savings and CD accounts, the chapter reported \$10,940.86 in financial resources at the close of 2007.

HURON

The Huron County Chapter OGS ended 2007 with 140 members plus 25 life members. Only 30 have not yet renewed for 2008 as of Feb. 11th. Receipts for the year totaled \$4,740.18, expenses \$4,068.97, with an ending checking account balance of \$6,108.98. With the savings account, publishing and life member CDs added, the Chapter had \$19,673.01 in cash assets. Officers for 2007 were: Shirley Hazelwood, President; Tom Neel, Vice President; Mary Carabin, Corresponding Secretary; Mary Harmon, Recording Secretary; and Jan Jeavons, Treasurer. Judy Kelble served as Corresponding Secretary during the first part of the year. Newsletter editor is Rebecca Williams. Bonnie Walsh continues to do our web site. Trustees are Ruth Reed, Ann Atherton, and Rebecca Williams. The Chapter held many fine programs in 2007 including speaker Marge Waterfield on WWI and WWII, Jan Pflieger on non-population census schedules, and Lisa Yako on Searching for your House History. We also had an Ohio Humanities Council speaker for our annual dinner, Sylvia Miller, who told us about the National Road. Field trips were taken to the Plymouth Museum and the OGS Library in Mansfield. The Chapter completed several service projects. Microfilm of the Huron County Infirmary records were purchased for \$128.40 and given to the Norwalk Public Library. We worked with several 4-H students and gave awards, had a booth at the Huron County Fair, and a table at the OGS Conference. We also gave \$100 to the Senior Enrichment Services group, in whose room we hold our meetings. Research fees of \$114.30 copies were collected from 56 letters this year and \$484.89 in donations were added to that. We continue to work on a book, Women of the Firelands. Our Civil War Families of Huron County had 5 new applicants this year, and the First Families of Huron County had 7 applications. The Chapter initiated a new division, Settlers and Builders of Huron County, covering settlement in the 1850 to 1870 time period.

PAULDING

The Paulding Co Chapter officers are: Terri Gorney, President; Diana Coy, Vice President; Sue LaFountain, Treasurer; Kay Stoller, Recording Secretary; Marilyn Smith, Corresponding Secretary; Ray Keck, First Families of Paulding Co Chair; and Rae Ann Keck Pieper, Book Chair. The Paulding Co Chapter OGS is the second smallest county in the state with a population of just over 20,000. "We are like a small family." We are located in northwestern Ohio. Paulding Co was one of two counties completely surrounded by the Great Black Swamp. Our greatest sadness this year was losing one of our family members. Harriet Straley, longtime member and recording secretary died suddenly in November. Kay Stoller, sister of Sue LaFountain is our newest officer. Kay accepted the position of recording secretary in January. Our genealogy collection is housed at the Paulding Co Carnegie Library in the village of Paulding – see pauldingcountylibrary.org Our Society and the Library continue to work together to make our collection better each year. In 2007, we gave a \$200 donation to the library as a "thank you" for allowing us to use the library for our meetings. We paid for half the purchase price of a new digital printer for the microfilm reader at the library in late 2007. It was installed in January 2008. There will be a plaque put on the reader in memory of Harriet Straley and Margaret Klender, our two longtime officers who died in office. We publish a quarterly newsletter called *Paulding Pathways*. We accept queries from members and non-members at no charge. We mail just over 200 of our quarterly newsletters to members and other Ohio county libraries as well as OGS and our district trustee Dwane Grace. Dwane came to two of our meetings this year and spoke to our group on church records. Our Society has ten regular meetings a year featuring a speaker and a business meeting. Vice President Diana Coy is responsible for obtaining speakers. A meeting highlight was Sheriff Dave Harrow and a tour of both the old and the new jails. Our annual First Families banquet in October and Christmas party in December were a big hit at the John Paulding Historical Society -- wonderful food, company and games at the annual Christmas party. We all exchanged Christmas ornaments, and this has become a fun event. We answer all letters of a genealogical nature that come to the chapter, library, and probate court. We do this free of charge. We also answer the library's genealogy e-mail. Kelly Taylor handles correspondence from the courthouse; Diana Coy answers obituary queries from the Hayes Obituary Project – see rbhayes.com. We average six queries a week. Ray Keck, Dorothy Hasselschwert, Glenna Doster, and Harriet Straley have volunteered one day a week to help with the Paulding Co obituary file which had a number of obituaries taken and misplaced this year. Several of our members attended the OGS Conference in April. Paulding Co Chapter OGS is part of the Hayes Obituary Index. It is an online genealogical resource created by the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center with a grant from the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. It provides access to an index of obituary notices published from 1830 through the present in northwest Ohio newspapers. Paulding Co has placed more obituaries online than any other county. Volunteers continue to donate their time for this project. They are: Ray Keck, Harriet Straley, Kelly Taylor, Diana Coy, Glenna Doster, Dorothy Hasselschwert, Sue LaFountain and Jerry Flaugh. As of April 2004, the unofficial count of the number of Paulding Co obituaries entered is about 76,000. Diana who is the assistant library director, said that she gets at least six obituary requests a day from people that have used this helpful tool. Book sales continue to be good throughout the year, but especially at Christmas time. Our latest book is *Paulding Births 1931-1975*. It was completed in November and will be ready for sale in the spring of 2008. Pete Vitello indexes our newsletters which are given to each member. He is our hardest working non-member. His wife is a member. He lives a distance away in eastern Ohio in the summer and Florida in the winter. In July, we donated the trophy for the genealogy 4-H winner at the Paulding Co Fair. Hayley Feichter, 13, was our October speaker – very good genealogist and speaker. She placed honorable mention in her division at the state fair. This is her second win at the county level. Sue LaFountain was awarded the Volunteer of the Year certificate at the annual FFPC banquet in October. Her name was added to our plaque at the library. It is a nice way to single out an individual each year that has donated their time and talent to our organization and to make the county a better place to research in.

WOOD

The officers and committee chairs of Wood County Chapter offer an overview of 2007 accomplishments:

Newsletters: Over 500 bi-monthly *Newsletters* were collated and mailed on scheduled dates. The Nov-Dec issue included a 3,000+ every-name index. A Chapter-business-meeting with lunch followed each of the six sessions, with fifteen or more officers and members participating.

Program. Six planned monthly programs were held; with 40 to 50 in attendance. Pre-meeting e-mail joggers were sent to over 100 who reside within driving distance. Program topics included: Family Heirlooms & My Research & What Happens to Them When I'm Gone; Online at WCDPL; Accessing CAC; Black Swamp Digital Memories Project; What's In Your Township Attic; and Who's Who in Your Old Photographs.

Chapter website. Visit: <<http://rootsweb.com/~ohwccogs>>. Databases online and under construction include: FFWC, Townships, and Civil War. Forms: membership; publications. Links: WCDPL; CAC.

Education/Outreach. The Chapter continued partnership with the Historical [Society] Museum for the 2007 Wood County Fair exhibit - "History of the Wood County Fair." Extensive research by Millie Broka, Dick Martin, and Nancy Buchanan was in evidence with mounted pictures of scenes of earlier Fairs, along with a TV interview. The Chapter supported the 3rd "Living History Day", held in Oak Grove Cemetery, with an ad hoc community committee under the sponsorship of the W. C. Historical Society.

Library. With monies from Chapter's budget and the Library Trust Fund, The Library Committee purchased research books covering deaths, births, marriages, and cemetery inscriptions from 12 Ohio counties and Monroe Co, Michigan. The Trust Fund grew to \$13,288 during 2007. Exchange Newsletters from over 30 County Chapters were filed. WCDPL databases - "Ancestors-on-parade"* and "Obituaries Index" have become vital outreach opportunities. *(Chapter members are invited to submit their "Ancestor Charts" from which entries are extracted and entered). We take pride in maintaining a good working relationship with the Library Staff. The Library's "Black Swamp Digital Memories Project" (\$3,000 Chapter donation) was publicly accessible from July 2007 through the end of the year. 1,420 records are now in the database, many with more than one picture.

First Families of Wood County. Three members were inducted into First Families of Wood County in 2007, having documented the residence of one or more ancestors in Wood County by the end of 1855. Names (only) of proven ancestors were added to the Chapter website. A FFWC Database has now been created and a printout is on the "Family Histories" shelf in the Gen. Room. Indexes exist for "Members" and "Ancestors Proven".

Correspondence research. Replies in writing were made to over 221 requests seeking information and/or obituaries. An additional 100 e-mail queries and requests received responses, often requiring in-house, time-consuming research.

Publications & Projects: Published reprint of Marriages, Vol 5-8, 1867-1888. New publications in 2007 were: *Source Book Three* [Newsletters 1996-2000]; *Probate Court Births, Vol 3*, 1888-1895; *Probate Court Births, Vol 4*, 1896-1907; CD-Boyd's Inventory of Early Perrysburg Newspapers; and *Human Interest History of Wood County*, by Paul W. Jones.

Treasury/donations: A total of \$1,123 was received from members and added to the Library Trust Fund. In addition to the \$591 for Library book purchases, donations included: \$2,000 to WC Historical Society to move the Buck log cabin to Bowling Green; \$200 to "Living History Day"; \$50 to W C Township Directory; and \$500 to Center for Archival Collections. Annual dues were paid to the Maumee Valley Heritage and Ohio Assoc of Historical Societies & Museums. Additional gifts were approved at the Jan 08 Board meeting.

Membership: Our 2007 membership totaled 415, (344 paid and 71 life members). We welcomed 32 first-timers, with 9 of these having joined us via our website. There were 39 members in 2006 who did not renew in 2007. In addition to paid and life members, Newsletters are sent to 53 exchanges and 36 complimentary. All new members receive a "New Member Kit". First-time meeting attendees receive a "Courtesy Packet" containing a cover-letter, Program Schedule, and membership-application information.

Volunteers: Thirty-nine volunteers returned worksheets in 2007, for a total of 4,064 hours. 2034 hours were recorded for the workroom/office and 2,030 hours spent at home or elsewhere on research, extracting records, correspondence, and other related jobs. [To the grand total can be added some of the Volunteers who staffed the 42 two-hour shifts at the Wood County Fair.] Not included for the year would be many more hours donated but not reported.

Local and Family History Room. All Chapter members, near and far, are most grateful to the Wood County Commissioners for the existence of our special room located on the first floor and accessible from the Atrium of Courthouse Square. Volunteers appreciate the pleasant atmosphere in which to continue projects of extracting and compiling county records. Visitors are encouraged to sign in.

Increased security measures went into effect in November '05. All visitors to any office within the Courthouse Complex must enter via the N. Summit Street entrance and pass through a scanner.

Officers worked well together, along with other members of the Chapter to make 2007 an outstanding year and we look forward to next year. Alyce Walden, Chapter President.