

# Hidden Resources at the Ohio Genealogical Society Library

Thomas Stephen Neel, Library Director



With the advent of online genealogical resources, many of us have forgotten and newbies have never realized that family and local history collections in public and special libraries were once the starting point for any research venture, the source for documentation of facts concerning an ancestor's life, and a place for advice and guidance in learning the methodology of research. This hasn't changed! The Ohio Genealogical Society has over 40,000 books;

countless film and fiche titles; hundreds of thousands of cards, charts, and vertical files; three storage rooms of manuscripts; a large map collection; and many electronic resources. Less than one percent of the OGS collection is online and this is true of the unique items in all our genealogical research libraries.

## OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 611 STATE ROUTE 97 W BELVILLE OH 44813

Phone: 419-886-1903

Fax: 419-886-0092

Web: [www.ogs.org](http://www.ogs.org)

Email: [ogs@ogs.org](mailto:ogs@ogs.org)

Open Tues thru Sat 9 to 5

Free to members; \$4.00 non-members

Free parking

Photocopies 20 cents (books, computer, microfilm)

**Directions:** From north or south, take I-71 to SR-97 Lexington/Bellville exit, go east on SR-97 one-half mile to OGS library. If coming from Bellville, take SR-97 west from the town square three miles going toward the I-71 interchange.

### General Holdings:

40,000 volumes alphabetically arranged by state/county/subject  
Nearly all Ohio published local history and genealogical resources  
Ohio census 1800 to 1930 on film and US census digitally  
250,000 ancestor cards filed by surname  
4,000 Bible records, indexed  
City and county directories for Ohio  
Ohio yearbook collection for high schools and colleges  
Nearly 15,000 lineage society applications – FFO, SCWFO, SBO, CFO  
Environmentally controlled archives filled with manuscript materials  
Collection of original and reprint Ohio county cadastral atlases  
Online searchable library catalog  
Over 5,000 family histories  
Obituaries, Family Group Sheets, Ancestor Charts & More!

## Selected Treasures in the OGS Collection



1812 Ohio tax duplicate index  
 American State Papers – Public Lands  
 Amish & Mennonite Genealogies  
 Anne Budd newspaper abstracts for Ashland County  
 Applications for Civil War grave headstones  
 Barbour Collection of Connecticut  
 Beekman Patent records  
 Bible Records in WRHS series  
 Blacks in Ohio 1880  
 Bounty land warrant applications US Military District  
 Brethren Encyclopedia  
 Cadastral Maps for Ohio (land ownership)  
 Cemetery inscriptions from all Ohio counties  
 Chattel and real tax lists  
 Cherokee and Creek Indian rolls  
 Church Records Survey for Ohio  
 Civil War company histories  
 Colonial Records of North Carolina  
 County home records (infirmery, children)  
 Covered Wagon Women series  
 Cuyahoga County Probate Case file index  
 DAR Library Catalog  
 DAR Patriot Indexes and lineage books  
 Darke county cemetery photographs  
 Document Transcriptions of War of 1812  
 Dun & Bradstreet Ohio business directories  
 Egle's Notes and Queries  
 Encyclopedia of Am Quaker Genealogy (Hinshaw)  
 English family history society periodicals  
 Essex Institute Historical Collections  
 Family histories (5000) and vertical files  
 Famine Immigrants series  
 Florida obituaries for Ohioans  
 Gateway to the West publications  
 Genealogical Research Directories 1983-2006  
 Germans to America  
 Great Migration Series  
 Guide to Manuscripts of NEHGS  
 Immigration index series (Filby)  
 Index to Ohio marriages 1788 to 1830  
 Indiana Biographical Index on fiche  
 International Genealogical Index on fiche

IOOF yearbooks  
 Kentucky Court Series (Cook)  
 Land office entries for Ohio  
 Laws of Ohio series  
 LDS locality index/family registry on fiche  
 Map Guides to German Parish Registers  
 Margaret Main Bouic indexes  
 Massachusetts Soldiers & Sailors of Rev War  
 Massachusetts Vital Records books  
 Meyers Orts und Verkehrs Lexikon  
 Migration from the Russian Empire  
 Muster-in Rolls for Ohio Civil War soldiers  
 Nauvoo Baptisms for the Dead  
 New entries for taxation in Ohio  
 New Jersey Archives series  
 New York church records (Vosburgh)  
 Non-population census schedules Ohio  
 Northern Ohio District naturalizations 1855-1967  
 Northwest Territory Papers  
 Obituaries in Dziennik Chicagoski  
 OGS chapter newsletters  
 OGS lineage society papers (FFO, SCWFO, SBO)  
 Ohio birth and death indexes  
 Ohio family Bibles  
 Ohio Penitentiary and Mansfield Reformatory  
 Ohio Tax Records 1801 to 1814  
 Ohio's best local history collection  
 Original 1880 census for Ohio  
 Pennsylvania Archives series  
 Pennsylvania German Society publications  
 Pension rolls of 1820, 1835, 1883  
 Periodicals – major runs of over 200 titles  
 Personal data files (charts, cards, CDs)  
 Postmaster appointments  
 Quadrennial enumerations  
 Railroad Maps for Ohio  
 Rare Book room  
 Register of Blacks in Ohio  
 Register of Jewish Holocaust Survivors  
 Regular Army discharges from War of 1812  
 Roll of honor series  
 School land leases  
 Shane Manuscripts  
 South Carolina Death Index 1915-1944 on fiche  
 Spanish American Grave Registration Files  
 Surveys for Canton/Wooster/Steubenville lands  
 Tennessee Civil War Veterans Questionnaires  
 Virgil White's military indices  
 Virginia Historical Index (Swem)  
 War of Rebellion Official Records series  
 Western Reserve Land Drafts 1795-1809  
 Whissemore and Ohio photograph collections  
 Who's Who section  
 Wills, tax records, deed indexes, marriages on film  
 Wolf scalps  
 Women in the Western Reserve (1896)  
 Wuerttemberg Emigration Index  
 WWI AEF, 83<sup>rd</sup> Division, Ohio  
 Yearbook collection (unmatched)

## Library Programs


Lending Library – Duplicate materials, including Ohio’s county histories, are available to members through a loan library. For a \$3.00 fee, users may choose two titles from a list of over 4,000 and may keep the books for three weeks. Shipping/handling is \$5.00 additional if the books are mailed.

Tours – The OGS library staff host tour groups during business hours. Visitors on any pre-arranged tour may gain free admittance for the day. We do promote our membership services, give a tour of the library, and can offer a class if requested. Meeting rooms are also available.

Speakers Bureau – Ohio has a wide array of genealogical speakers who will come to your area for a modest fee. Each speaker has been recommended by one or more of our 94 OGS chapters.

Microfilming/Photocopy Services – In an effort to acquire unique local history manuscripts, we can film or photocopy old journals, township records, store accounts, family Bibles, research aids, and out-of-print books not already in our collection. These materials are then returned to the patron. We do not duplicate family histories.

Copy Services – Our library volunteers will do limited searching in our collection in response to prepaid inquiries submitted on a particular Ohio ancestor or research problem. The fee is \$5.00 per request for OGS members and \$20.00 for non-members. The first ten photocopies and return postage are included in the fee.

 Online resources – The Ohio Genealogical Society subscribes to several online databanks, including Ancestry.com (U.S. & International), WorldVitalRecords.com, Genealogy Bank – News Bank, Newspaper Archive.com, New England Historic Genealogical Society Databases, Everton Online Databases, Footnote, Heritage Quest Online (through public library) and Ohio Genealogical Society and Chapter Databases.

### These databases contain:

**30,000 full text books searchable**  
**78.7 million death records**  
**Ohio’s Sanborn fire insurance maps**  
**Revolutionary War pension applications**  
**1790 through 1830 US census images**  
**1.9 million periodical entries in PERSI**  
**Freedman’s Bank records 1865-1874**  
**One World Tree**  
**US Immigration Collection – passenger lists**  
**22.7 million post-1977 obituaries**  
**2,200 historical newspapers with 50 million pages**  
**102,000 historical documents**

**Wow!**

## Collection Access Points

Online Library Catalog – available at [www.ogs.org](http://www.ogs.org) in the library section. Our collection is searchable by author, title, subject or by any word in the bibliographic record.

- Subject search “cemeteries Darke Ohio” will yield all tombstones books.
- Subject search “registers Richland Ohio” will yield all church and vital records.
- Subject search “Smith family” will yield family histories, not all Smiths.
- Subject search “handbooks” will yield all how-to material.

Ohio Genealogical Society Web Site – [www.ogs.org](http://www.ogs.org)

- Every-name index to Ohio Bible records collection
- List of all family vertical files in library
- Catalog of high school and college yearbooks arranged by city
- Roster of First Families of Ohio applications (settlement before Dec. 31, 1820)
- Periodical Contents List – guide to articles in our 50 years of publishing

Periodical Source Index (PERSI) – available through Heritage Quest Online

- The Fort Wayne staff index all our OGS and chapter periodicals

National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC – [www.loc.gov/coll/NUCMC](http://www.loc.gov/coll/NUCMC))

- Notes many of our OGS manuscript holdings

Family History Library Catalog ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org))

- Often overlooked, a great guide to what is available for Ohio

Personal Visit to the Ohio Genealogical Society Library!

- Volunteers on duty to assist you (books geographically arranged with subject codes)

## Our Library Needs

1. More Ohio school and college yearbooks
2. Your family history or CD (acts as a good backup)
3. Photocopies of one-of-a-kind manuscripts
4. Family Bible and family record images
5. Eventual archival placement of your family history collection
6. Non-Ohio books (especially east of the Mississippi River)



## And Coming in the New Library

- High speed scanning services
- IT staff for additional web site resources
- Pro-active archives program
- Online instruction for your Ohio research

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