

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 nearly 50,000

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 44813-8813

Phone: 419-886-1903
Fax: 419-886-0092
Web: www.ogs.org
Email: ogs@ogs.org

Open Tues thru Sat 9 to 5
Free to members; \$5.00 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:

50,000 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 1790-1940 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 (infirmity, 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, 83rd 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 \$5.00 fee, users may choose two titles from a list of over 4,500 and may keep the books for three weeks. Shipping/handling is \$6.00 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.

Scanning/Photocopy Services – In an effort to acquire unique local history manuscripts, we can scan 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, Heritage Pursuit, Genealogy Bank – News Bank, Newspaper Archive.com, New England Historic Genealogical Society Databases, Everton Online Databases, Fold3, 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 1940 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 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

- 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)

- Notes many of our OGS manuscript holdings

Family History Library Catalog (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

This outline may be reproduced in your local newsletter or as a handout for promotional purposes.