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 that 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 Open Tues thru Sat 9 to 5
Fax: 419-886-0092 Free to members; $5.00 non-members
Web: www.ogs.org Free parking
Email: ogs@ogs.org 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 (infirmary, 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/Steuenville 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)
Wiurtemberg 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.


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.