



2011 Annual Report – Ohio Genealogical Society

OGS MISSION

To meet the educational needs of its members and the general public through the acquisition, preservation, and dissemination of genealogical and historical information.

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERS have free access to the new, state-of-the-art Samuel D. Isaly Library of the Ohio Genealogical Society, an indispensable resource for Ohio researchers. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 AM to 5 PM, the library offers a vast collection of county histories and records, family Bible records and ancestor cards, a yearbook and city directory collection, and maps. Members can also research at home through the OGS Lending Library program.

MEMBERS also receive reduced rates on OGS educational programs; the Annual Conference, featuring a variety of topics presented by nationally recognized experts; in-depth instruction and hands-on learning activities through the week-long Summer Workshop; the one-day Fall Seminar centered on a specific theme; and the OGS Chapter Management Seminar where affiliates can network and learn strategies to better operate their local OGS chapters.

MEMBERS receive two publications, *Ohio Genealogy News*, featuring articles on genealogical collections, research techniques, and statewide news; and the *OGS Quarterly*, a treasure trove of records and resources, including family histories, newspaper abstracts, Bible records, and book notices.



MEMBERS also receive a discount on the OGS subscription publications, *Ohio Records and Pioneer Families*, containing unpublished records and accounts of pre-1850 Ohio pioneer families, and the *Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal*, a quarterly devoted to Ohioans in the Civil War, including letters, pension records, unit histories, as well as techniques for solving Civil War-research problems. The OGS website offers a members-only section filled with numerous statewide and county databases, genealogical research guides, and links to Ohio resources.

MEMBERS are invited to join any one of the four OGS lineage societies; *First Families of Ohio*, open to those who are direct descendants of an individual who settled in Ohio by 31 December 1820; *Settlers and Builders of Ohio*, open to those who are direct descendants of an individual who settled in Ohio between 1 January 1821 and 31 December 1860; the *Society of Civil War Families of Ohio*, open to those who are direct descendants or collateral relatives of any person who served in the Civil War (Union or Confederate) that lived, served, or died in Ohio; and *Century Families of Ohio*, open to those who are direct descendants of an individual who settled in Ohio from 1 January 1861 to one hundred years prior to the current year or year of application. New members of each lineage society are inducted at a banquet or luncheon during the OGS Annual Conference and receive certificates and medals honoring their achievements. FFO inductees who prove an ancestor residing in Ohio by 1803 receive the First Families of Ohio 1803 Bicentennial pin. Rules and application forms for each lineage society can be found at the OGS website or library.

OGS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Executive Committee (2010-2012):

President – Sunda Anderson Peters, Mansfield, Ohio
Vice President of Administration – Susan Zacharias, Swanton, Ohio
Vice President of Member Services – Eric Johnson, Avon Lake, Ohio
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Ex-Officio Trustees:

E. Paul Morehouse, Akron, Ohio
Robert A. Cunning, Mansfield, Ohio

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT SUNDA ANDERSON PETERS

OGS Library Director, Thomas Stephen Neel, has put together a thorough and interesting annual report for 2011. Included is a comprehensive summary of member benefits, a list of OGS Board members (note the assortment of hometowns listed), reviews of the exceedingly busy preceding two years, educational opportunities, advocacy for genealogists and historians, as well as projects and fundraising.



As you will note in the Review of 2011 section, the past year has been a very busy and challenging one. We lost several charter members, people who had the vision to create OGS and who remained involved and dedicated for over fifty years. We remember Dr. Houston, Dr. Betty Reed, Ernest Urban and Louise Krause for their foresight and love of Ohio and genealogy. We honor charter member Donna Urban of Mansfield for her continued support and for her volunteer spirit.

A long list of donors completes the report. The OGS Board is very appreciative of financial and moral support and encouragement that has come from all over the country and from members residing outside the United States. Members have generously supported our building fund as we worked to raise the money for a new library and continue to do so as we now work toward paying off the U.S. Rural Development Fund loan for our Samuel D. Isaly Library of The Ohio Genealogical Society. We also appreciate the continued support for our endowment fund, which focuses on our long-range needs.

Genealogists share a puzzle passion. Once you find a missing piece of the puzzle, you must find the next and the next..... Thank you for joining us in our exciting quest to fill in the blanks in our family puzzles.

THE OGS YEAR IN REVIEW – 2009/2010

OGS did not issue an Annual Report in 2009/2010 due to time commitments with the construction of our new library building. This is an account provided for the 2010 OGS Annual meeting in April.

Thomas Stephen Neel, Library Director

The Ohio Genealogical Society has now completed its 50th year. Charter members from 1959 are still with us, including Dr. William R. M. Houston, Dr. Elizabeth Reed, Miss Louise Krause, and Donna and Ernest Urban. With these five charters in 2010 are 5363 members, a modest increase of 10 people over last year. *Ohio Records & Pioneer Families* subscriptions increased by 19 to 839 subscribers, and the *Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal* totals also increased by 28 to 609 subscribers. We are not declining! That is good news in this economic climate with worthy competitors such as Ancestry.com taking away disposable income.

OGS Library holdings have ballooned in the last few years. We now have over 47,000 books with over 4,000 duplicates in our lending library. We did get many books from the Columbus Metropolitan Library – items from the State Library of Ohio collection and from the Palatines to America collection that they already owned – almost 1600 new books with another 1000 donated by others. We need to go over 50,000 in 2010. OGS has now become an affiliate FamilySearch Center whereby OGS library patrons may borrow any microfilm or fiche from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City for a small fee. We also started an Adopt-a-county program for those who wish to direct our library book and film purchases through our gifting plan.



New online resources offered to OGS members have been wonderful. We have added WorldVitalRecords to join our NewspaperArchive database. We have added our own birth, marriage, and divorce databases from Ohio Dept of Health indexes. A new Civil War Center has been added to the OGS web site with images of back issues of the *Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal*. Our manuscript holdings catalog and microfilm holdings list have been added to our library special collections section. The ORPF Contents list, Ohio obituary index, family group record index, and a partially completed Ohio 1812 tax list are also now on the web site. The *Ohio*

Cemeteries book is even online, available to our members. A new blog was a fun project to show off construction pictures as our library was being built, and OGS now has a presence on Facebook and Flickr.

OGS received a \$2500 grant from the Richland County Foundation and held an organizational retreat at the Mohican Resort and Conference Center to discuss and plan many of these new services we see in our future. OGS has had two archives interns from Ohio State University most of this year, a grant worth over \$4000 to us in labor costs. Unpaid interns from LDS also assisted us for much of 2009. We even had an employee from the Richland County Jobs & Family Services ARRA Summer Stimulus Youth Program who repainted the lines on our parking lot. Major donations in our capital campaign this year were received from John and Betty Franklin, Brad and Pat Vinson, and from our Crawford County Chapter. They are the first chapter giving over \$10,000 and are to be commended. In all, we had over \$135,000 in donations this year.

Maintenance has been a problem in our current library. If only that new building could have been finished one year earlier! In January 2009, our water pipes broke somewhere beneath our concrete floor in the stone and earth fill underneath the library. The cheaper solution was to re-pipe the two bathrooms, kitchen, and HVAC equipment – around \$3500. In mid-February this year, ice damming and a record two feet of snow on the roof initiated about 25 leaks along the front and rear edges of the building. Although we lost no books or manuscripts through close monitoring and quick action, many ceiling and wall areas had to be pulled down, dried out, drywall replaced, painted and cleaned – price tag around \$50,000. Luckily our insurance deductible was \$250. The next owner will certainly have a building left in better shape than when we got it.

In the OGS office, we have gone to online banking. We now scan checks for deposit instead of running to the bank just like a supermarket. And our web-based library catalog, OASIS, continues to be wonderful in its second year. We are getting so much more catalogued as additions may be made via any computer that gets the Internet. We even completed a new book. The *2010 OGS Chapter Directory and Publications List* is now available. Did we mention that we built a new library!

Join us in the coming months for our Grand Opening celebration July 22-24, our Summer Workshop July 25-30, our Chapter Management Seminar Aug. 28 in Bellefontaine, our OGS Fall Seminar Oct. 2 featuring Curt Witcher, and our Genealogy Librarians' Seminar on Oct. 8. We just don't stop, do we?

THE OGS YEAR IN REVIEW - 2011

2011 was the first full year in the new Samuel D. Isaly Library of the Ohio Genealogical Society at 611 State Route 97 West at the Bellville exit on I-71. We observed our building from its creation to the fulfillment of our dreams and plans. Now we move in, make adjustments, and expand. Our members, our programs, our achievements, our future is what will complete our building phase. A book's cover is important, but it is what is on the inside that truly counts.

The statistics were fantastic for our first year. Our highest month for membership was August with 5703 genealogists across the nation interested in the great State of Ohio. We also had 949 subscribers to *Ohio Records and Pioneer Families* at the end of the year plus 728 getting the *Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal*. The library saw 5680 patrons during 2011 or 23 research customers each day. That is a 12% increase over last year (which included the grand opening events) and a 67% increase over the last full year in our former facility. We added 2385 titles to our book collection, even though we had no massive book donations as in some years past, and we catalogued 3418 more titles for our online catalog users. We now have over 40,000 titles in our accession lists.

The first year is always a test for a new building. A fan motor on heat pump #7 failed but was covered under the warranty. Water from our geothermal heating and air conditioning system wasn't draining back into the underground water reserve properly so we had to put in an overflow drain. We also got some advertising in the form of an LED entrance sign along SR 97. We are now able to market our educational classes and events through a computer in the library. We purchased three View Sonic DLP projectors for our meeting area and breakaway classrooms. The main one is wireless. There were some design afterthoughts as well – heat in our publication storage room, a light on our flagpole, a door bell, and a speaker system for library announcements. The facility was fantastic from the beginning and now it is really getting into shape!

We were able to sell our old building on South Main Street in Mansfield for \$125,000 in an economic situation where property is undervalued and rarely moving. The thieves had grabbed copper pipe and downspouts in the short time since our departure and we were able to secure a \$3775 insurance settlement on a stolen industrial air conditioning unit. This empty building was a liability that is thankfully no longer our concern.

Moving back to the new library, we were able to make large expansions in our African American holdings (listed on our web site) and in our military book collection. Heritage Pursuit (digital text of Ohio's county histories) was added as a database for remote use by our members via the OGS web site. The Ohio Supreme Court annual case volumes were donated by the Warren-Trumbull County Public Library and we secured 127 bound Cuyahoga County plat books from eDataTrace.com in Cleveland. Twenty cartons of Bushong family research papers were delivered, the last of the material from the estate of Carol Willsey Bell, former editor of *The OGS Report*. Bushong was Carol's main research surname. We have received many local items as we have physically moved into the Bellville area including 51 ledgers from area Knights of Pythias lodges and a nearly complete collection of Clearfork High School yearbooks. Bob Cunning also delivered over 20 cartons of his book collection, similar to a

collection he dropped off last year. Many of our members have impressive personal libraries.



To support the library and our new building, we have received a wide range of larger donations during 2011 that are indicative of the various ways that we can receive support as a non-profit. Mr. Cunning used a professional appraiser when donating books and would be entitled to a tax benefit. It's surprising how high a book title is valued compared to what we might spot on eBay or another auction source. Mary V. Reed, of Delaware, left OGS a bequest of 5% of her estate, one of her many favorite charities. We

were also informed that we would receive 3% of the estate of Kay Barnhouse Stout, a member from Caldwell. A final distribution was received from the Arthur R. & Betty Haire Trust, of Powell. We received a sizable check from Guaranty Income Life Insurance Company as former volunteer Frances Baker had named us beneficiary on a life insurance annuity during his lifetime. Most of these gifts were part of estate planning, but we have also received funds from living members who are moving into the retirement stage and can take advantage of the tax benefits of donating to a non-profit. Betty Wilkins split a memorial to her husband between the Building and Endowment funds through the F. Stuart & B. J. Wilkins Family Philanthropic Foundation Fund of the Stark Community Foundation. Check the rules of your portfolio manager to see about out-of-state gifting. Member Lyle West recently contributed funds to OGS through the Nancy and Hal West Charitable Fund of the Manatee Community Foundation. That's in Florida for those of us who have to put up with Ohio's cold weather each winter. Mrs. Wilkins and Mr. West will have name rooming rights in the OGS library due to the size of their gifts.

The Ohio Genealogical Society also receives donations of time from many volunteers and interns. Volunteers had reported 7469 hours given in 2011 by the time this report was prepared but many are slow to turn in their hours; it will probably surpass 10,000 hours. OGS continues to utilize workers in their senior citizen years through RSVP. For example, we had 14 seniors giving their time in December to complete our fundraising mailing. In 2011, we were fortunate to have two interns from Kent State University School of Library Science. Lee Ann McNabb of Cincinnati was a reference intern and Deb Phillips of Galion was a cataloger. As the end of the year approached, we received three work-study students from the Ohio State University – Mansfield Campus. Charles Bias and Mark Strojek are archives interns and Kathy Bias is doing database entry. These students often work ten or more hours per week at the library. KSU students are volunteers and perform hands-on service in a library as part of

their educational training. OSU students are paid employees since the local university branch does not have enough student jobs on campus to complete funding packages.

All our OGS officers, Board of Trustees, committee members, instructors, and editors are also volunteers. We unfortunately lost some of the best in 2011. Margaret Arnold had to withdraw as *OGS Quarterly* editor and OGS webmaster to battle some severe health issues. Her redesign of the OGS website and format of the *Quarterly* were recognized by our Board of Trustees by awarding her the honor of Fellow, the highest award category offered by OGS. She truly has brought our organization into the 21st century with her insight and ideas. Age and illness claimed three of our founding members this year, Ernest Urban, Dr. William R. M. Houston, and Dr. Elizabeth Reed, all charter members, left us. Dr. Houston in particular had been identified as the founder of the Ohio Genealogical Society in 1959 and had served as editor of *Ohio Records and Pioneer Families* for many years. It was a very difficult year for the Houston family as his wife LeBau had died just a few months before her husband. Dr. Betty, as she was called by generations of local patients, was still attending meetings at the library, and Ernie had been our surname file volunteer from the project's inception. We have only two charter members now living, Donna Urban, who still volunteers, and Louise Krause, our former statutory agent. We also lost two longtime desk volunteers as the Christmas season brought 2011 to a close – Doris Frye of Ontario, and Mary Murphy of Mansfield and lately of Johnsville. We also lost Robert Cuning of Mansfield during this time. Bob was a past President, past Chairman of the Board, past OGS book reviewer, a current member of the Board of Trustees, and was chair of the Building Committee that brought you our new library. As an engineer, Bob was the person who represented OGS at all the construction meetings. All these long-time volunteers will be greatly missed.



The Ohio Genealogical society continues to live up to its mission by bringing our members and friends a wide range of educational opportunities each year. The Fall Seminar with Dick Eastman brought in 88 students for the day. The program on Maine outhouses was great! We had 24 at the week-long Summer Workshop, 37 at the Genealogy Librarians' Seminar, and 35 for Genealogy Boot Camp. New this year was a Season of Learning program schedule with a speaker on some genealogical topic offered several times each month (and mostly free for attendees). The Cemetery Workshop was also a first for us with over 20 students

at nearby Salem Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery restoring old tombstones. Thanks go to Margaret Cheney, Bvenitta Williams, Sue Zacharias, Marlene Applegate, Vicky Vigil, and many others for providing leadership at these events. Special thanks go to our Board of Trustees veteran Bob McKown for getting our drill instructor Jean Barnes in the proper uniform. Marlene McDerment initiated a One on One program in the library whereby patrons can get help on general genealogical research issues by appointment. Another volunteer, Lee Martin, is assisting those who have Mayflower ancestors. Iona Shawver, another volunteer, continues to assist patrons who hope to join the DAR on their Revolutionary forebearers.

In the publications category, a revised edition of *Ohio Towns and Townships*, and a new study aid, the *Insider's Guide to Ohio Genealogy*, were released in 2011. Our periodical editors continue to fill our pages. Sunny Morton has replaced Deb Cyprych and Jen Hershberger as editor of *Ohio Genealogy News* (OGN). Sue Lee is filling in as editor of the *Ohio Civil War Genealogy Journal* (OCWGJ). Laurel Shepard is the new editor of *Ohio Records and Pioneer Families* (ORPF). Gaston "Gus" Gosselin is our new webmaster.

2012 is our future and we certainly will continue our activities from this year and create new educational programs, web databases, and add more content to the library to fill the contents of our book, because it is indeed, the activities that go on inside our brand new facility that make OGS tops in the genealogy world.

EDUCATION – *Reaching out to All Ages*

Margaret Cheney, Elyria, and the OGS Education Committee initiated “A Season of Learning” at the Ohio Genealogical Society offering programs and workshops from April through October for all ages of learners. The new series of free Kids Genealogy classes included such topics as organization, computers, and what to do with your research. Dr. Deborah Abbot spoke on Slave Research, Libraries and Archives, and Vital Records, while Derek Davey taught students the ins and outs of Researching Your Civil War Ancestors. These were just a few of the many fine programs for 2011. The year closed with Dick Eastman of Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter at the Fall Conference, a digital project themed Genealogy Librarians’ Seminar for Ohio’s public and special librarians, and a Genealogy Boot Camp complete with drill instructors and reveille.



FROM OUR CHAPTERS – *Helping Government with Records Projects*

In October, one of the Ohio Historic Records Advisory Board’s 2011 Achievement Awards was presented to the Licking County Records & Archives Department for rescuing and making available public county records not seen for more than a century and for effective management of contemporary records via its Records Keepers’ Roundtable. The Licking County Chapter OGS was a major participant in this initiative. This is a significant accomplishment in preserving and improving access to historic records.

In July 2011, Richland County Probate Court asked for the Richland County Chapter’s assistance in reorganizing their probate packets. The goal is to preserve the information in each packet by scanning the documents, preparing an index, and, eventually making it available in digital format, first in the court

itself and, at some future date, on the web. The original papers would then be filed by number and placed in secure storage.

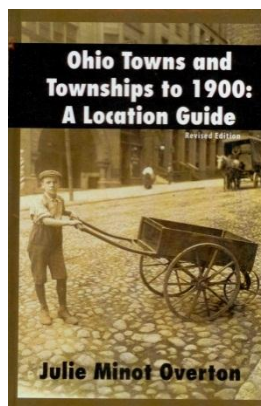
We applaud the efforts of these two chapters and the others who volunteer their time to preserve records and enhance genealogical research in Ohio.

CEMETERY WORKSHOP – *Education is Always First*

The Ohio Genealogical Society Cemetery Committee put on a cemetery workshop this year to educate in tombstone preservation and restoration. Twenty-five students enjoyed two days of classes and workshops at the OGS Library and Salem Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery near the library in Jefferson Township, Richland County. Stones were cleaned, reattached, straightened, and repaired. Tripods were constructed to aid in lifting heavy pieces back onto bases. The instructors reviewed chemicals, epoxies, and tricks of the trade that worked and those to avoid. As Ohio's cemeteries get older, they do not always age gracefully, and genealogists are often called upon for assistance and advice.



PUBLICATION EFFORTS – *Two New Books!*



Ohio Towns and Townships to 1900: A Location Guide (newly revised)

This is a comprehensive alphabetical guide to towns and townships in Ohio, both current and abandoned. The location is given along with a short description. The original edition was published by the Ohio Genealogical Society through Penobscot Press in 2000 after the death of the author, Julie Minot Overton. It was created from a card file that Julie kept for twenty-three years, adding each new town as she discovered them in the historical record. In the revised edition, editor Kay Ballantyne Hudson has added many new towns and corrections that have come in to OGS in the ten years since the original publication. 486 pages, hard bound. \$41.00 OGS Members; \$49.00 Non-Members. Please add 6.75% sales tax if an Ohio resident and \$3.00 shipping/handling.



Insider's Guide to Ohio Genealogy: A View of Essential Buckeye State Resources

This is a comprehensive alphabetical guide to towns and townships in Ohio, both current and abandoned. The location is given along with a short description. The original edition was published by the Ohio Genealogical Society through Penobscot Press in 2000 after the death of the author, Julie Minot Overton. It was created from a card file that Julie kept for twenty-three years, adding each new town as she discovered them in the historical record. In the revised edition, editor Kay Ballantyne Hudson has added many new towns and corrections that have come in to OGS in the ten years since the original publication. 486 pages, hard bound. \$41.00 OGS Members; \$49.00 Non-Members. Please add 6.75% sales tax if an Ohio resident and \$3.00 shipping/handling.

ADVOCACY – Working with Government

In order to work toward making systematic change necessary to achieving our mission, the Ohio Genealogical Society adopted an Advocacy Policy in 2011. This is when a non-profit engages occasionally in advocacy, or active support for a cause, idea, or policy. It has been the practice of OGS to advocate on public policy issues which support the mission of the organization, such as: Support for open records in Ohio; Encouraging preservation of Ohio's cemeteries; Supporting funding for historical and genealogical archives, museums, and societies in Ohio; and Promoting educational activities in genealogy and Ohio history. OGS staff and trustees continue to be active in such projects as Statehood Day, the Ohio Cemetery Task Force, the Ohio Records Advisory Board, Ohio History Tax Check-off Box Committee, and more.

GENEALOGY BOOT CAMP – OGS Provide Basic Training

The OGS Library became "Camp Isaly" in October complete with drill instructors who provided basic training in the Basics of Genealogy, Census researching, and Using the Internet for Genealogy. We had several soldiers who participated in the drills. Chow was included for the 35 draftees.



THE MORTGAGE – *Long Road Ahead or Short Haul?*

Beginning in 2011, the Ohio Genealogical Society incurred \$600,000 in debt to the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, in the form of a low interest 30-year note. This is what permitted us to complete our new building project. We are pleased to announce, that with the help of many donors, the quick sale of our old South Main Street building, and an offer of a matching grant from lead donor, Samuel D. Isaly, we have a balance outstanding of \$466,793.49 unpaid principal at years end. An example of our \$2916.00 monthly payment at the start of our loan = \$1948.60 goes to interest, and just \$967.40 to principal. It is imperative that we decrease a substantial portion of this debt quickly so that the ratio is the other way around. We have a long way to go, but hopefully, it is indeed a short haul.

KICKSTART CAMPAIGN – *Courtesy Samuel D. Isaly*

We received a challenge from Samuel D. Isaly, benefactor of the new Samuel D. Isaly Library of the Ohio Genealogical Society, expressing concerns that OGS was not raising money rapidly enough to pay off the building loan quickly. Sam has made a commitment to donate \$10,000 to kick start our 2011-2012 mortgage repayment campaign, no strings attached. Then, for each dollar you (our members and library/web site users) are willing to give, Samuel will add an additional 10% up to \$300,000 raised, or an additional \$30,000. Sam then has promised to cap it off with \$30,000 more if we are successful, for a total \$70,000 in contributions - \$370,000 overall. In this uncertain economic climate, where else would you be able to find a ten percent return on your charitable use/donation money? Remember that your gifts to OGS are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Honor your ancestors by making a contribution to the Ohio Genealogical Society today!

LOSS OF SEVERAL CHARTER MEMBERS

Since our last annual report, OGS has lost several of those who we regard as our founders. Ernest Urban, Dr. William Houston, Dr. Betty Reed, and Miss Louise Krause were all there in 1959 as the Ohio Genealogical Society was organized. Ernie's widow, Donna Urban, is the only remaining charter member. In addition, Bob Cuning, active in the Society from the mid-1960s to date, passed away as 2011 drew to a close. All these individuals cannot be replaced. Their contributions are greatly appreciated.



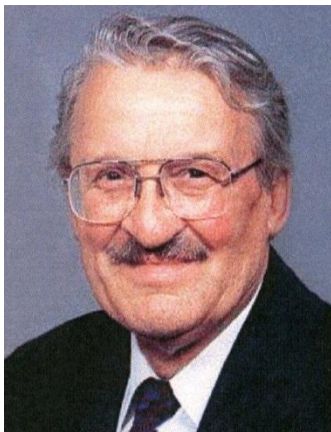
ERNEST GEORGE URBAN - age 89, of Mansfield, passed away July 7, 2010. Born in Buffalo NY to Hungarian immigrants, he had no Ohio ancestors, yet he was a volunteer for OGS from the inception of the library until health prevented his performance of an active role in the last couple years of his life. Ernie was in charge of the library surname files which grew to an entire wall of cabinets under his direction. Mr. Urban was a veteran having served in the U.S. Marine Corps. His

career was spent at Westinghouse in Mansfield. The Ontario Tribune-Courier for July 15th had the following story directly under Ernie's obituary: "OGS Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will Dedicate New Library". Ernie's wife Donna, also a charter member, continues as an OGS volunteer.



WILLIAM ROBERT MONTGOMERY HOUSTON, M.D., regarded as the founder of OGS, died August 24, 2011 in Tucson, Arizona, age 88. He served on the Board of Trustees as an ex-officio member until his death although he had not actively participated in several years. He was the first President of OGS and edited the Ohio Records and Pioneer Families journal for 23 years. He received an Award of Merit in 1986 from the National Genealogical Society. Dr. Houston was a Captain in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He had served on the Mansfield City school board and had been President of the Mansfield Symphony. He had been an ophthalmologist for over 40 years.

ELIZABETH "DR. BETTY" REED, M.D., a lifelong resident of Butler, died at Winchester Terrace Nursing Home in Mansfield on October 5, 2011, at the age 93. At the age of four, she knew she wanted to become a doctor like her father before her. The valedictorian for 1934 at Butler High School, she studied pre-med at Smith College. For her internship and residency, she delivered babies on Welfare Island in the East River (NYC), at the old Chicago Maternity Center, and at Florence Crittenden Hospital in Detroit. Returning to Butler, she was a general practitioner for 49 years. Besides her role in the formation of OGS and the Richland County Genealogical Society, she had been an avid supporter of the Mansfield Symphony and the Mansfield Playhouse.



ROBERT "BOB" CUNNING died on November 20, 2011 in Columbus, at age 80, following complications from a fall in his home. He helped organize the Richland County Genealogical Society in the mid-1960s which was chartered by OGS in 1970. He actively served on the OGS Board of Trustees for over thirty years. Bob was chair of the Building Committee at OGS and was actively involved at each construction meeting as the new Samuel D. Isaly Library of the Ohio Genealogical Society was erected. The Lending Library room was named in his honor. Bob was a civil engineer by trade, had served as Chairman of Richland Engineering, and was acting as interim County Engineer in Mansfield at the time of his death.

MISS LOUISE KRAUSE, as she preferred to be addressed, died January 24, 2012 in Mansfield at the age of 98. Louise was the first Secretary of OGS back in 1959 and the first minutes of the Society are in her handwriting. As OGS was incorporated by the State of Ohio, Miss Krause served as the OGS statutory agent until she was replaced as she entered her nineties. She was dedicated to volunteer work at the Richland County Museum in Lexington which OGS had organized in 1965. Louise Krause was a professional organist and served at a number of churches, the last being the Church of Christ Science as late as 2011.



A YEAR OF GIVING – *Honoring our Donors*

Fund Report Totals

Building Fund - \$107,218.13
Endowment Fund - \$18,281.00
Sustaining Life Members - \$1,500.00
Life Members - \$3,750.00
Sustaining Members - \$1,944.00
Operating Fund – \$13,437.40

Total Donations - \$146,130.53 [Does not include interest or building sale]

Building Fund Donors

Abbott, Deborah	Barry, Mary Lou
Agan, Donna D.	Barth, David
Allen, Laura K.	Bay, Marian J.
Anderson, Melinda L.	Beal, Judy A.
Andrews, Maggi	Beck, Tom & Jan
Appel, Janice M.	Bell Equipment Company
Armstrong, Donald G.	Bemiller, Loyal & Judy
Arnold, Daniel G. & Margie	Bick, David G. & Jacquelyn L.
Arnot, Ruth M.	Bickford, Edward A. & Nancy E.
Ashland Co Chapter OGS	Biller, Mary C.
Aufuldish, Bob & Dolores M.	Bishara, Judy
Bailey, Ruth	Black, J. Douglas & Martha Jane
Baker, Alice H.	Blakley, Charles J.
Baldwin, Karen Lynn	Blantz, William A.
Ballman, Kathleen Ray	Bletner, H. G. & Nancy
Bandy, Jerry & Cory	Blevins, Diane
Barnes, Jean	Bodkin, William C.

Boltz, Tom
Bombaci, Linda M.
Bougher, Donald
Bouic, Walter F. & Marie E.
Brabson, Shirley S.
Bredbeck, Lee & Natalie
Breedlove, Dorothy
Breinich, Venus
Brickner, Ann
Brodbeck, Robert
Broglin, Jana Sloan
Brown, Anna C.
Brown, Robert & Ruth
Brown, Theresa A.
Burck, Kenneth
Burger, Charles J.
Burger, Myra Miller
Burke, Barbara
Burkhart, Ann H.
Burley, Regina M. O.
Burton, Conrad L. & A. Ann
Caldwell, Kenneth L.
Campbell, Laurene
Campbell, Steven
Canfield, Donald R.
Canning, Elizabeth
Carey, Mark
Carlyle, Lisa
Carr, Barbara L.
Carvalho, Cecelia Anderson
Cassady, Virginia
Chatfield, Gene H. & Nancy G.
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1918 Diary of Robert I. Heighton of Pippin Lake, Franklin Township, Portage County, Ohio

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Outstanding OGS Chapter – Warren County

The Warren County Chapter offers weekly daytime genealogy workshop classes during the summer months. They have nearly completed a virtual cemetery project with only 3 cemeteries in the county remaining to complete the project; which now contains over 73,000 entries online. They also sponsored a second Cemetery Restoration Clinic in April of 2010; which had 55 attendees. Judges awarded highest marks for the preservation of original records.

Outstanding OGS Chapter Newsletter-Frances Dana Gage Award – *The Tracer*, Hamilton County

The Tracer is full of good genealogical information for the Hamilton County researcher. It provides members high quality research based articles, new original indexes, a list of recent acquisitions of the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County in addition to what has become available online. It also provides members with an outlet to post genealogical queries. One judge said "Very seldom do I find a chapter with information so current. Very nicely done!"

Outstanding OGS Chapter Officer – Larry Ratcliffe – Delaware County

Larry Ratcliffe, president of the Delaware County Genealogical Society served the chapter during a year of upheaval with determined leadership and drive. He established several committees to locate a new home for the chapter, to evaluate the collection and move their holdings to a new home at the Delaware County District Library. The Delaware County Genealogical Society would have been in jeopardy if it had not been for Larry's experience and expertise in negotiations.

Outstanding OGS Chapter Volunteer-Terry Easton-Warren County

Mr. Easton has performed yeoman work in restoring and preserving Warren County cemeteries for researchers and future generations. He found specialists in this field and promoted attendance of their preservation clinics. Due to his efforts a cross section of our community is now invested in the maintenance and repair of some of our most important sources of genealogical information.

Best OGS Chapter Web Site – Thomas Alva Edison Award

The Warren County (Ohio) Genealogical Society website seems to have it all. The out of state researcher can learn the available publications complete with order forms. All of the appropriate officials and web sites are there, including the popular Warren County Auditor's site for property searches. There is a list of available atlases as well as on line plat maps of the county from the 1930s. Cemetery locations are posted along including longitude and latitude for GPS use. The local beginner is informed of past and upcoming classes including what to bring to get started. This is a well thought out site that is user friendly.

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