

LAWCO LORE

**THE LAWRENCE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
CHAPTER 74 OF THE OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Message From The Presidents Desk



The Society has been very busy the last few months. We have been cleaning the Wakefield Cemetery and planning the float for the Ironton Memorial Day float. Most important, we have been welcoming new members to the Society. My cousin, Fran Wheeler, our new vice president, and I placed an American flag on the grave of Peter Wakefield to honor his service in the Revolutionary War. Some upcoming events are Nicole Cox presenting a program about the Iron Furnaces of Lawrence County at our July 5th meeting. We will be having a lock-in at the Briggs Library in Ironton Friday, August 1st after the library closes.. We will stay as long as people want to research. Come and join us. We welcome stories for the newsletter. If you want to check with us about pictures or stories you have, contact myself or any officer. Enjoy a wonderful summer.

President

Becky Wilson Thissen

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Where	Speaker
July 5, 2014	1:00 p.m.	Meeting	Briggs Library, Ironton	Nicole Cox
August 1, 2014	6:00 p.m.	Picnic & Lock-In	Briggs Library, Ironton	

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LAWRENCE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
PO BOX 1035
PROCTORVILLE, OH 45669-1035

We're on the Web
www.lawrencegenealogy.org

Find us on Facebook!



Lawrence County Genealogical Society, OGS Chapter 🔍



Officers - 2012-2013

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PHYLLIS HAMNER ROOM

For Local History and Genealogy

Briggs Lawrence County Public Library
321 South 4th Street
Ironton, Ohio 45638
Ph. 740-532-1124
FAX: 740-532-4948

Email: genealogy@briggslibrary.org
Library website: www.briggslibrary.org

Tuesday — Thursday 10 AM — 8PM

Friday — Saturday 10 AM — 5PM

NOW CLOSED ON MONDAYS

2014-15 Officers



From left: Betty Knipp-Trustee, Nicole Cox-Recording Secretary/Newsletter Editor, Carl Murdock-Treasurer, Becky Thissen- President & Don Clark- Corresponding Secretary. Not present : Trustees Harold Lunsford and Anne Shuff
Photo by Lori Shaffer



Society Honors Civil War Veterans in Memorial Day Parade

The Ironton-Lawrence County Memorial Day Parade is a long-standing tradition in Ironton and the oldest continuously running Memorial Day parade in the United States.

This year the Society honored Civil War veterans with a float displaying photos and names of some of those who served.



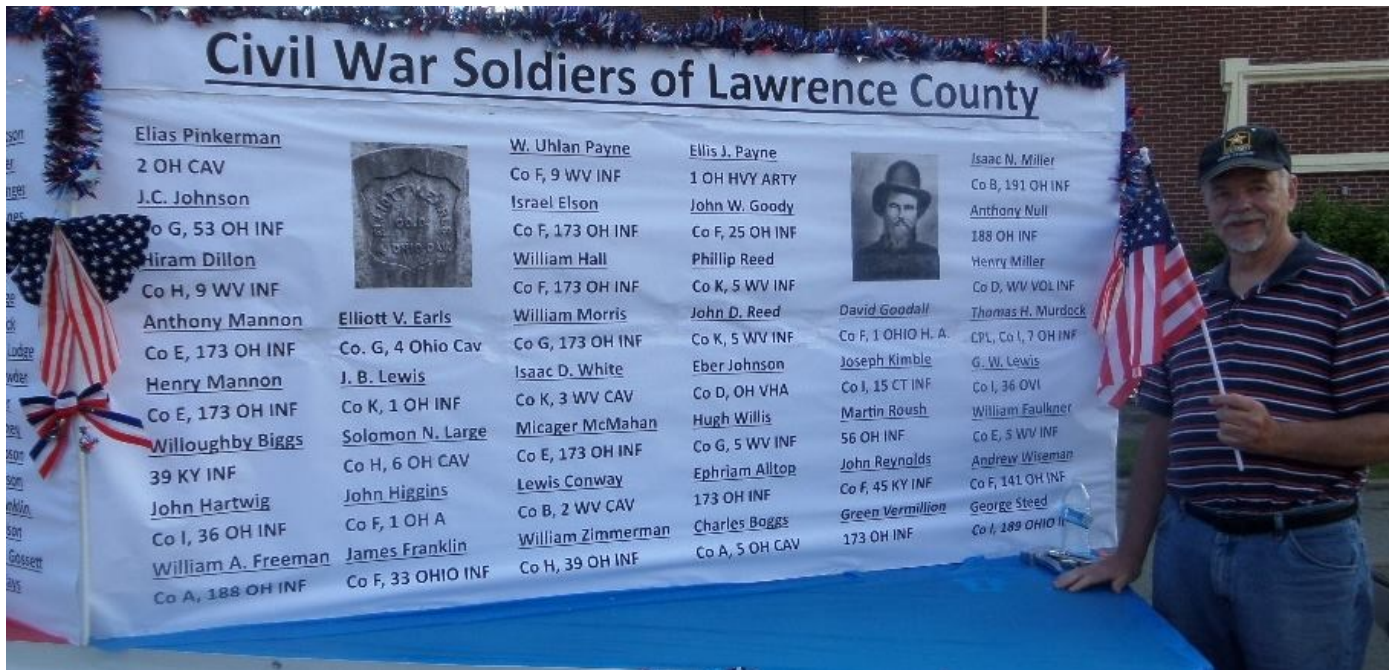
Don Clark is ready for the parade!

David Bradley points out his Civil War ancestor



Becky Thissen as Our Lady America!

Photos courtesy Fran Wheeler



For a complete list of the Civil War Soldiers listed on the float, please go to the society web site: www.lawrencegenealogy.org



Wakefield Cemetery Restoration

The Lawrence County Genealogical Society decided to undertake the clean-up of Wakefield Cemetery, located on the Love Farm in Proctorville, Ohio. On the first Saturday in April, a group of us met to work on what seemed at first like an impossible task. However, each one of us seemed to take on a particular job. Oh, those briars! Carl Murdock took on that job, and what a job he did even though he pulled so hard he ended up on his back! (Of course, we laughed!) David Bradley was a real Paul Bunyan with his axe, our two Dons (Delawder and Clark) dragged branches and whatever else needed done, Fran Wheeler raked and picked up sticks and twigs, and our president Becky Thissen clipped and, of course, made sure no one bothered a stone. The excitement of the day was finding a buried stone. When Becky heard a “ping” from David’s axe, she yelled for him to stop. Then she and David began to dig like gold diggers, and the rest of us watched in awe. Sure enough, there was a stone, and the name and dates could be easily read. Oh, yes, we genealogy “nuts” found gold!

What a brush pile we had made after just three hours, and what a difference in the appearance of the cemetery! We decided on another date to do more work, this time on a Wednesday morning. This time the Dons had their saws and put them to good use. Still more of the same kind of work and yes, improvement! Another buried stone was uncovered with not as much excitement this time, but with a feeling of pride for those of us who want to preserve the resting places of our ancestors. Stones are now visible, but many need to be repaired. Approximately 25 graves are in the cemetery, including Peter Wakefield and many members of his family. Oh, no, we were not finished! We youngsters can only work a few hours at a time.

Another work day, April 23! It had rained during the night, but it was clear by the time we arrived at Wakefield. Don Clark brought his chipper, but he and Carl soon tired of the slow process. We continued to clip briars, rake leaves, and, of course, look for buried stones. The next night Carl, Don Clark, David, and Roger Dillon burned the huge brush pile. Carl uncovered what seems to be a foot stone with the word Mother inscribed on it. He commented, “Becky is not the only one who can find a buried stone.” On Monday night, May 12, Carl and David met to do some weed eating. I know Becky held her breath, hoping they would not damage any stones. Don took care of pulling out the old iron fence. (We intend to keep the old gate to commemorate the past look).

May 14: Becky, Carl, Don C., and I did some more weed eating, digging up small roots, and cleaning a few of the stones. What a difference distilled water and a soft brush made on the stone of Diana Wakefield Holroyd! We have made progress, but there is still much to be done. Plans include a new fence and restoration of the stones. Those of you who had never seen the condition of this cemetery can in no way appreciate its improvement. I saw it, and I have a vision of Wakefield Cemetery with a new fence and repaired stones in its own special corner of Lawrence County.

We still need local volunteers to help with this project. Call or email one of our officers listed in this newsletter for work dates.

Frances Ross-Wheeler

Photos of the Wakefield Cemetery Clean Up



David and Becky hard at work uncovering a previously buried stone



What's left of the old gate. The posts had all rusted off at the ground and the rails were buried in years of plant debris, briars and vines



Fran carefully cleaning headstones with a soft brush and distilled water.

Peter Wakefield

Peter Wakefield

Peter Wakefield, a Revolutionary War soldier and the first Justice of the Peace of Lawrence County, was born in Amherst, NH, on March 3, 1764. He came to Lawrence County in 1807 and settled in Windsor Township, where he built the first gristmill. The son of Thomas and Dorcas Pratt Wakefield, Peter married Keziah Burns. Peter and Keziah were the parents of Peter, Elhanen Winchester, Mary Ann Beard, Albert Galitan, Harriett Amanda, George Washington, and Benjamin Austin. Peter died Jan. 4, 1847, in Lawrence County. He is buried in the Wakefield Cemetery, a family cemetery located on the Love Farm north of Proctorville. (Joyce Hayes Wagar. History of Lawrence County, Ohio, Volume 2: Ohio Bicentennial Edition, 2003, p. 111).

Frances Ross- Wheeler



David Bradley, Carl Murdock, Don Clark and Becky Thissen with Peter Wakefield's tombstone

Dr. George Wesley King

Submitted by Carolyn J. King Higgins



George Wesley King was born on May 11, 1873,, per his Family Bible page, in Ashland, KY, a year before KY recorded births.

His parents, Joseph R. and Elizabeth Jones King, were married in Lawrence county, Ohio on July 7, 1870, a first marriage for both. His siblings were a sister Bertha and possibly a brother who died in either a train or mine accident.

Joseph's parents are thought to have been William and Susan Bruce King. Records reflect that he served in "Co A, 14th Regiment Kentucky Infantry" during the Civil War. When George was about 14, his father who was 42, died in Coal Grove in 1887 and is buried in Newton Cemetery with a Civil War tombstone marking his grave.



The uniform pictured bear the initials N.N.U., and is believed to be a team for the National Normal University. George is in the center row on the right.

(This picture was provided to N N U's website and permission was given to publish it.)

His son Charles fondly recalled the story being told about his dad, George, during a game, hit the winning a home run. He hit it so far out of the park that the baseball was never found. This was great except now the game had to be suspended because it was the team's only baseball. George was the pitcher.

George loved sports and would regularly attend the home games of the "Ironton Tanks" football team unless he was called out.

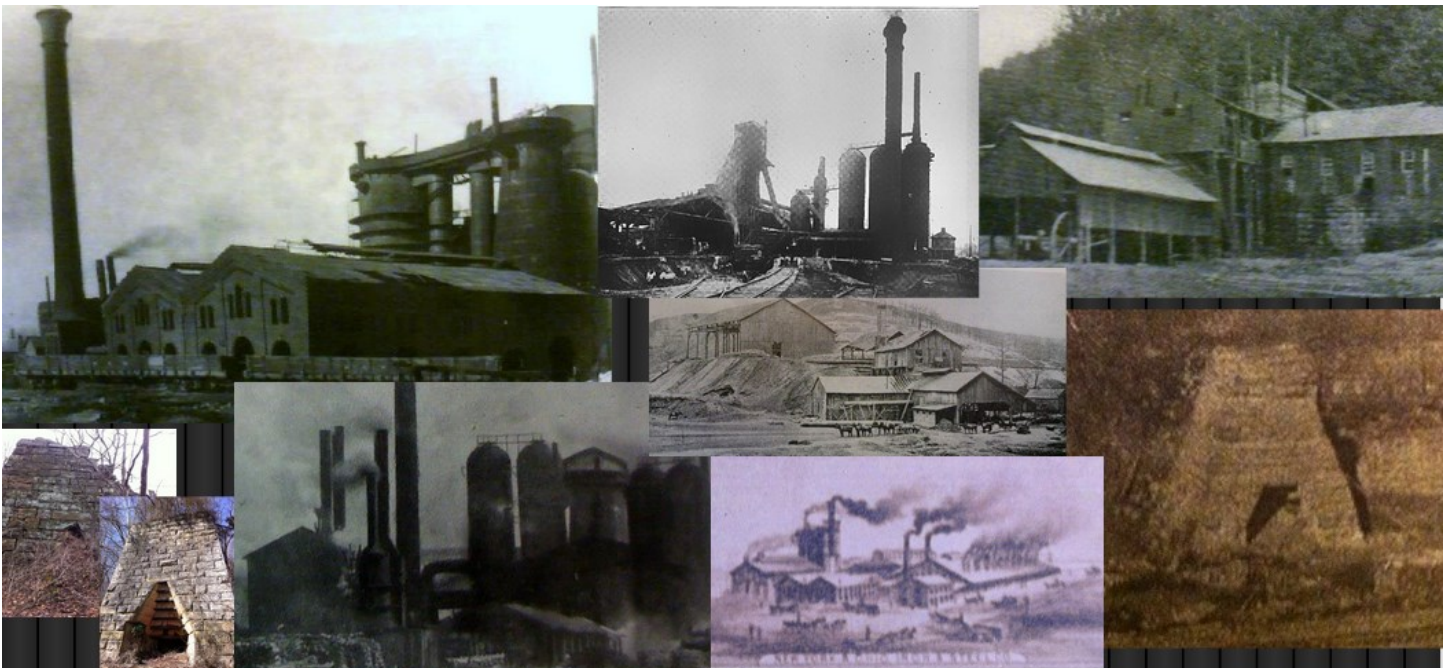
From the Ironton Register

Ironton Register, Feb. 16, 1860

It will be seen by referring to report of cases in the Probate Court, in another column, that John Tanner and Chas. Moore, alias Stewart Donahoe, were sentenced to pay a fine of \$100 each, and ten days in jail on bread and water, for obtaining goods under false pretenses. The case was that they went Vesuvius Furnace and took a job wood chopping, in order to obtain goods, and having obtained axes, blankets, &c., left without doing the job, as was their design in the start -a thing not uncommon among the Furnaces. It is, perhaps, the first conviction of the kind in the county, and will serve as a warning to others.

Want to learn more about the furnaces?

Nicole Cox will present "The Iron Furnaces of Lawrence County"
at the July 5th meeting.



Find out....How did they begin? What was daily life like in a furnace community? How many were there? Where were they located? What happened after the pig iron industry?

Jesse Alexander Ross

Submitted by Carolyn J. King Higgins

Jesse Alexander Ross was born 6/21/1845 in Swans Creek, Gallia County, Ohio a son of Stephen Decatur and Sarah Jane King Ross. His father had the occupation of cooper which he passed down to his sons and many other family members. Jesse served in the Civil War in Co F, 1st Regiment of Ohio Light Artillery. His unit was involved in the battle at Decatur, AL, where he was too close to a cannon report which damaged his ear. He drew a map of the area which is quite accurate. He also served as Postmaster of South Point from October 12, 1906 to August 23, 1913. His daughter-in-law, Leola Freeman Ross worked for him and shared that he had one of those "horns" that he would put up to his ear to aid him in his hearing. She also shared that they would take the mailbags and hang them on a hook then a passing train would come by and pick up. His reported earnings were as follows:

1907= \$152

1909= \$207

1911= \$310

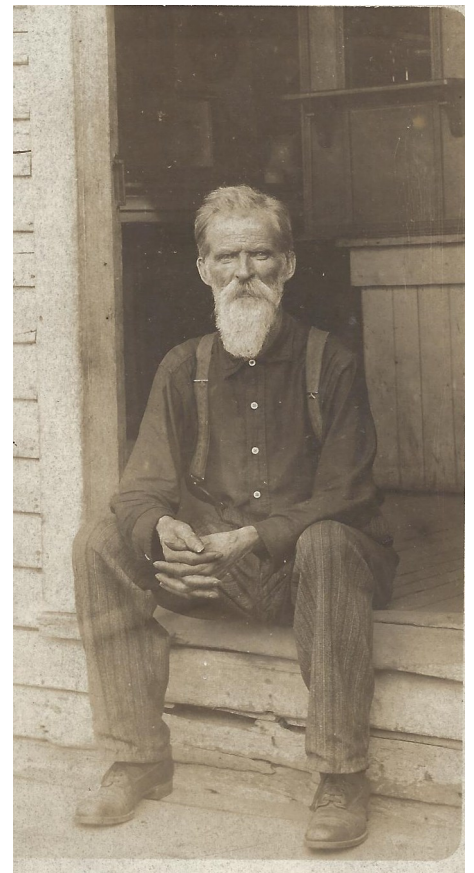
Jesse was married to Anna Laura Gribble of Dover, KY, on January 3, 1867 and they had four children: Luella Ross (Chatfield), Cora Lee who died in infancy, John William [Leola M. Freeman], Nathan Alexander Hamilton Ross [Estell McKinley]. Anna Laura's death has been documented in Pension Records as Feb. 3, 1885 in Portsmouth. (another source found states 1883).

Second marriage was to Florence Wright and they had three children: Stephen D., Fannie Mable, and Walter G.

Jesse, Louella Chatfield, John William, Nathan A. H., Walter are all buried in Woodland Cemetery.

Have yet to locate grave for Anna Laura in Portsmouth.

Due to the age of Walter, the National Archives had Jesse's documentation at a Veteran's Facility and they sent me 122 pages of his medical history. Some of the letters that were written requesting an increase were so sad when the family shared that his discharge papers were in the home when it burned to the ground. The hardships endured were difficult ones. Even though it was a Light artillery, those cannons were quite heavy and often men would have to move or position them. Jesse suffered hernias from this.



Speaker Carrie Eldridge presents "Husband I Need a New Dress"



Carrie gave an excellent presentation on what an incredible undertaking it was for a frontier woman to get a new dress. She covered everything from where the materials came from, how it was painstakingly constructed and how a woman in that era found the time to make a dress with all her other duties to attend to. Thank you, Carrie, for an insightful, interesting presentation!



In Remembrance

Homer Franklin Mays

Homer Franklin Mays, 86, formerly of Chesapeake, Ohio, passed away Saturday, March 1, 2014 at Azalea Health & Rehabilitation, Wilmington, NC. He was born on March 26, 1927 in Columbus, Ohio, son of Albert and Erma *Bibler* Mays, grandson of William F & Mary *Kirk* Mays and of David Earl & Sadie *Bright* Bibler, great grandson of Daniel & Lucy Ann *Forgey* Mays, Jeremiah & Ellen *Miller* Kirk, Sheppard & Caroline *Gulick* Bibler, and Warren & Erma *Holiday* Bright. He was brother to the late Mary Ann Violette and Barbara Allen (Sonny) DeFoe of Wheelersburg, Ohio.

Homer graduated from Galena High School in Galena, OH in 1945. In 1959 Homer met and married Christine Craycraft. They were the parents of: Laura Linda Mays of Huntington, W; Gregory Alan (Becky) Mays of Wilmington, NC; David Earl (Lori) Mays of Pawley's Island, SC; Kimberly Lynn (Tracy) Mays of Mechanicsville, VA; Christopher Homer (Dru) Mays of Carolina Beach, NC; and Melissa Dawn Mays (Jon) Bergquist of Huntington, WV. He was grandfather of eleven and step grandfather to five.

Homer was a very active person and was a member of many organizations, including locally: The C.P. Huntington Railroad Historical Society of Huntington, WV; KYOWVA Genealogical Society of Huntington, WV; The Lawrence County Genealogical Society & The Lawrence County Historical Society. Homer served as one of the trustees for the genealogical society for many years. Often when the Railroad Historical Society leased one of their restored passenger cars, Homer would accompany it to its destination and stay with it until it was back in Huntington. Homer loved to travel and shared many photos of his travels with the Lawrence County Genealogical Society. He especially enjoyed a four month around the world trip visiting all seven continents and Easter Island. Homer was an avid collector of antique John Deere tractors, and used one to pull the genealogy society float in the Ironton Memorial Day Parade for ten years. The funeral service was held at 11 am on Saturday March 8, 2014 at the Hall Funeral Home, Proctorville, OH, with burial in Rome Cemetery. The family received visitors immediately after the internment at the Proctorville Women's Club.



Homer on his antique John Deere, staged for the 2009 Ironton Memorial Day Parade

Obit and photo courtesy Don Clark

In Remembrance

In Memoriam Sheri K. Pettit *By James K. Jeffrey*

Sheri K. Pettit, formerly of Huntington, WV, passed away in Florida in April 2012. James Jeffrey, formerly of Barboursville, W. Va., now Collection Specialist in Genealogy for the Denver Public Library, offered the following tribute:

West Virginia and the Tri-State Area have lost a lovely researcher and genealogist. Sheri K. Pettit was a member of the KYOWVA Genealogical Society where she served in many offices including president. She was one of the energies behind the Mining Your History Foundation, a friends and advocacy group for the West Virginia State Archives. She was author of over eight titles and worked for many years at the Boyd County Public Library Genealogy Collection in Ashland, Kentucky. Sheri enjoyed digging into difficult genealogy problems and assisting researchers in southwestern West Virginia. An avid Civil War re-enactor, her hoops never got in the way. She was one of the supporters of the Barboursville and Guyandotte Civil War Days. Sheri K. Pettit died in Florida after an extended illness. She is survived by her husband Rick.

This article appeared in the West Virginia Archives and History News, Volume XIII, No. 4 June 2012

In addition to the offices Sheri held in WV, she was a long time member of the Lawrence County Genealogical Society. She held the office of President for several years and was the first Chair of the Civil War Families of Lawrence County, OH. She was a frequent speaker at our meetings and could be depended on to inform and entertain. Several times she was a presenter at the Ohio Genealogical Society annual conference. She was a good friend, both to the society and personally, and she is missed.



Rick and Sheri Pettit, Don Clark and Homer Mays with the 2004 Lawrence County Genealogical Society float in the Ironton Memorial Day Parade

In Remembrance

Luanne S Blagg

Luanne S. Blagg, 75, of Ironton, passed away Thursday, May 14, 2009, at Our Lady of Bellefonte Hospital in Russell, Ky. The Ironton native was born Dec. 22, 1933, the daughter of the late John W. and Daisy Crowe Blagg.

Ms. Blagg was a 1951 graduate of Ironton High School and a 1954 graduate of St. Mary's School of Nursing in Huntington, W.Va. She was a registered nurse at the Lawrence County General Hospital for many years and was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Ironton. Ms. Blagg was also member of the Lawrence County Historical Society, the Lawrence County Genealogical Society and numerous other civic organizations in the Lawrence County area.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by three brothers, John Anthony Blagg, Richard Lee Blagg, and Dr. Vallee W. Blagg.

She is survived by a sister, Gloria Hogsten of Ironton; a sister-in-law, Mrs. Jane Blagg of Ironton; two nieces, Debra Kitchen of Ironton and Brenda Pyles of Portsmouth; and four nephews, James "Andy" Hogsten of Coal Grove, Richard L. Blagg of Columbus, Fred Blagg and John Blagg both of Anchorage, Alaska.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Phillips Funeral Home with Minister Jimmy Williams officiating. Burial followed in Woodland Cemetery.



November 2005 photo with Sheri Pettit in the center presenting Civil War Families of Lawrence County certificates to Luanne Blagg and Homer Mays.

Publications for Sale by the Society:

Ohio residents must add sales tax, at their home county rate, on the order total, including any shipping charges. Please show county and rate on your order.

"1820 Federal Census of Lawrence County, OH"
by John Jones - \$6.00 + **S&H**

"1830 Federal Census of Lawrence County, OH"
By Donald R Clark - \$9.00 + **S&H**

"Lawrence County Tax Lists 1818 & 1821"
by John Jones - \$10.00 + **S&H**

"Lawrence Township Cemetery Inscriptions"
by John Jones - \$10.00 + **S&H**

"Windsor Township Cemetery Inscriptions"
by John Jones - \$12.50 + **S&H**

"Rome Cemetery Inscriptions, with Rome Township to 1850" by John Jones - \$12.50 + **S&H**

"Earliest Marriage Records of Lawrence County, Ohio, Vols. I, II, & III combined (1818-1843)"
by Vera Murnahan - \$10.50 + **S&H**

"Lawrence County Declaration of Intent and Naturalization Records"
by Donna Murdock - \$11.00 + **S&H**

"Index to Volumes I and II: Military Discharges"
recorded between Sept 30, 1864 & Aug. 21, 1919
by Donald R. Clark—\$9.00 + **S&H**

Lawco Lore back issues: 1st issue ordered- \$2.00
additional issues in same order- \$1.50 **includes S&H**

"Catholic Cemeteries of Lawrence County, Ohio"
compiled by Lowell Slimp - \$18.50 + **\$3.50 S&H**

Lawco Lore---The First Decade---1984-1993
Reprint -not indexed-523 pgs. \$49.00 + **\$5.00 S&H**

"History of Lawrence County, Ohio 1990"
3rd printing - 398 pages, every name index
\$55.00 + \$6.50 S&H

"Hardesty Lake Historical Atlas of Lawrence County"
In 1985 the county Historical Soc. combined the local and family history sections of the 1882 Hardesty History with the plat maps of the 1887 Lake Atlas of Lawrence County.
Indexed. **\$45.00 + \$5.00 S&H**

**"History of Lawrence County, Ohio Vol. 2
"Ohio Bicentennial Edition — 2003"**
500 family stories, 150 churches, township maps with cemeteries spotted and listed, historical update
293 pages, fully indexed
Price cut-now \$55.00 + \$5.50 S&H

Shipping and handling: Where not listed with price: \$4.00
for the first item and \$1.50 for each additional item.
Under Ohio law, shipping charges are taxable.

Members now get a 10% discount on regular priced publications. Discount should be applied before adding shipping charges. Sales tax will apply to total including shipping.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: NEW or RENEWAL

Annual dues: \$10 per household Mail to: Lawrence County Genealogical Society, PO Box 1035, Proctorville, OH 45669-1035

New___ Renewal___ Year/s_____ Total Encl.\$_____

Name/s_____ Member No._____

Mailing Address_____

City_____ State_____ Nine Digit ZIP_____

Phone _____ E-Mail_____

Are you currently a member of the Ohio Genealogical Society? Yes _____ no _____

Lawrence County Families being researched: _____

May we share your address, email address, or phone number with other researchers?

Yes _____ No _____ Draw a line through any section you don't want shared.

May we deliver your newsletters by email as a pdf file? Yes _____ Prefer hard copy _____

THE LAWRENCE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
CHAPTER 74 OF THE OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 1035
Proctorville, OH 45669-1035

**PLEASE SEND NEW ADDRESSES PROMPTLY
TO HELP KEEP MAILING COST DOWN.**

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR EMAIL LIST UPDATED.
If you get a new email address, please send a message
from that new address to: Lawcoloreman@aol.com
Please be sure to include your name in the email.

Membership renewals were due by Jan. 31



**We welcome new members for 2014: Lori Shafer, Marti J Pack,
Dustin L Couey, Roma Irene Warner, Jack E Hamlin, Sue Blagg,
Pat & Paul Holsinger, Dan Rooney, John Zimmerman, and
David Bradley. We also welcome Cecelia Forbush, who rejoined
after several years away.**

The Lawrence County Genealogical Society, Inc
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