

LAWCO LORE

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

Message From The Presidents Desk



The birds are chirping and spring is on the way. We have some really great things going on with The Lawrence County Genealogical Society. Come to meetings. Many people have already started on their lineage applications. We can help answer any questions.

Start sending us Bicentennial names and pictures for the Memorial Day float. Any of your relatives who lived in Lawrence County during 1816.

Don't forget to check the Briggs Library website for new papers being added to the courthouse archives. Divorces, consents and more.

Work on the Wakefield Cemetery will continue. A fence will be added this year.

See you at the next meeting. Meetings are at 1pm at the Briggs Library on the first Saturday of January, March, May, July, September and November.

Becky Wilson Thissen

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Where	Speaker
5-7-2016	1:00 pm	Meeting	Briggs Library, Ironton	
5-30-2016	10:00am	Memorial Day Parade	Ironton, OH	Theme: Bicentennial

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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 



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PHYLLIS HAMNER ROOM

For Local History and Genealogy

Briggs Lawrence County Public Library

321 South 4th Street

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Email: genealogy@briggslibrary.org

Library website: www.briggslibrary.org

Wednesday & Thursday 10 AM — 8PM

Friday & Saturday 10 AM — 5PM



Lawrence County Celebrates 200 Years!

Lawrence County, Ohio was founded December 20, 1816 from parts of Gallia and Scioto Counties. It was named for James Lawrence, the naval officer in the War of 1812, famous for the line, "Don't give up the ship!" In 1851 the county seat was moved from Burlington to Ironton.

The Lawrence County Bicentennial Committee was formed to coordinate events to celebrate our community's 200th birthday. Last month the Chamber of Commerce took over. All year long events will take place to honor our rich history, and it's the theme for this year's Memorial Day parade.

If you subscribe to the Ironton Tribune, be on the look out for articles published about various aspects of our history.

If you're on Facebook, keep up with posts and events by going to: www.Facebook.com/LawCo2016

A couple of projects in the works include building a replica of the original court house in Burlington (artistic rendering shown on the right), and a historical marker placed at Olive Furnace.

Several area organizations are participating in Bicentennial events. The Society has pledged their support so we will keep you updated!



Logo designed by Robin Kimball



Kid's Korner

Genealogy Word Search

C E M E T E R Y U H N U F N V
 I M F V F I L C C S E X N N Y
 H M Q M Z S I R P N N R X R A
 B E Y E B I A L D Z O E E G C
 U P K R Y E E I B J T F B L S
 D V T Z S G V L A H S U C V F
 Y Y L E M Z O C U N D X G I L
 F A R Q O N M L K Y A F N A G
 H K H T O C N G A M E D H F O
 X I T F U J B K Z E H O N A E
 S R S K B M L H B P N U F M S
 V R C T P V D T Y D N E T I Q
 I H Q N O I R O Q D U B G L F
 Q X X H W R E N E E K L V Y E
 A E L J M Y Y Q J Y I L J Y N

CEMETERY
 FAMILY
 FIND
 FUN
 GENEALOGY
 HEADSTONE
 HISTORY
 RESEARCH

Become a Family Detective by asking your relatives these questions about when they were kids:

1. What was school like?
2. What did you do for fun?
3. What was your favorite game?
4. Where did you grow up?
5. Do you have any old pictures I may see?

Are you surprised by any of their answers?

Consider writing down or recording their stories so you can remember them later.

Family Activities

Tour a Cemetery—

Graveyards might make you think of Halloween, but to Family Detectives, graveyards aren't spooky—they're a great place to find family history clues. Perhaps your ancestors created their own family cemetery. Or, to find cemeteries in your area, visit www.FindAGrave.com.

Create a Time Capsule—

If your ancestors had left a time capsule, what would be in it? What would you like to leave to show children decades down the road? A few suggestions are: today's newspaper, grocery receipt, photos, small toys or other items.

Start a Family Scrapbook—

Stores like Walmart and Hobby Lobby sell scrapbooks, binders and notebooks. You can make a scrapbook as simple or creative as you like! Consider adding family stories, family trees, copies of photographs and documents, newspaper clippings and school papers. Add to it occasionally and make time each year to review it together.

Then and Now

Memorial Hall

401 Railroad Street
Ironton, Ohio



The Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall, built in 1892, is an historic building located at 401 Railroad Street in Ironton, Ohio. Designed by noted Ohio architect, Joseph W. Yost in the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture, it was built to serve as a Grand Army of the Republic memorial and the meeting hall of Dick Lambert Post No. 165 of the GAR. It later served as the meeting hall of the now long-defunct American Legion Post No. 59 as well as the Ironton city hall. On September 19, 2012, the building was added to the National Register of Historic Places. *(Wikipedia)*

The area behind Memorial Hall is becoming a Veteran's park and an integral part of the Senior Walkway - a one mile flat walkway beginning at the Farmer's Market area. Benches made from stone from the Memorial Hall and the trellises made from the jail cells will be incorporated into the park. A doggy station and trash cans will be added. This walkway will be incorporated into the larger riverfront walkway - another city project in the works. There will be running water and electricity available to the public. The walls of the building have been capped so that they will be preserved. Another goal is for the floor of the Hall to be cleared and movies might be shown during the summer. This is a joint effort between the city of Ironton, the CAO and Ironton in Bloom. Of course plans may fluctuate along the way but things have been progressing nicely so far. Input from the community is always welcomed!

Editor's Note: Send your comments/suggestions/questions to Nicole Cox nsratliff@gmail.com, or (740) 643-2120, and I'll pass them along to the other organizations.



Bill Seshier, Bill Vermillion, Carol Leffingwell, Robert O. Wiseman, Robert N. Wiseman and Bart Leffingwell at Arabia, Ohio, Lawrence County, Ohio in 1938

ARABIA, LAWRENCE COUNTY, OHIO ON A WARM SUNDAY AFTERNOON IN THE FALL OF 1938." BILL SESHER, A NEIGHBOR; BILL VERMILLION, A COUSIN & NEIGHBOR; MY AUNT CAROL LEFFINGWELL; ROBERT O. WISEMAN, MY DAD; ROBERT N. WISEMAN (ME); MY GRANDFATHER BART LEFFINGWELL.

Shared with permission from Robert N. Wiseman

**Do you have old photos or family stories you'd like to share?
Send them in and look forward to seeing them in future newsletters!**

Member Submissions

The Thomas Family

Paul F. Thomas came to Lawrence County from Augusta, KY in 1913. He was a young man who grew up in the ferry business on the Ohio River. Paul was the standard for what a Riverman should look and sound like. He was also a good friend of my Grandfather's and married my Grandmother's sister, Virgie Lee Smith.

When Sarah (Bay) Smith died in 1901, her sons (experienced Rivermen) inherited the Proctorville and Guyandotte Ferry Company and operated it for several years. In 1913, Captain Thomas purchased a 1/3 interest in the business from my great uncles, Captains Ed and George Smith. He purchased an additional 1/3 and by 1916 he owned the total business. He closed out the Guyandotte and Proctorville Ferry Company and established the 26th Street Ferry Company which operated between Guyandotte, WV and Bradrick, OH.



Photo is of "Will" Kitts and "P.F." Thomas having a good time

"P.F." was the first to take the ferry to a 24-hour schedule. Doing so greatly increased business and made it much easier for Ohio farmers who had to get to market in WV in the early AM. It was no longer necessary to start queuing up on the Ferry grade in the early AM to assure a place on one of the first trips across the river.

He operated several boats. I recall being on the *Paul F. Thomas* and the *Rosemary*. He also operated the original *Arion* which was renamed the *David F. Thomas*. This boat burned in 1923 and was replaced by the *Oweva* which was itself replaced by the *Paul F. Thomas* in 1935.

Captain Thomas retired from the business after the *Paul F. Thomas* was caught in ice and had her hull broken. With the bridge going toll free and the amount of money needed to repair the boat, he decided times were changing and it was time to retire. It was 1947.

Paul and my Grandfather were friends from their very early years. Together, they served on the Board of Education and were both active in Proctorville's civic affairs.

Paul's son, David Thomas and my father grew up together and were also life long friends. David Thomas was probably the most original person I ever knew. Very intelligent, inquisitive and blessed with high levels of energy, he was fun to be around. David did a lot of things. David married three times. His first wife, Margery (Childers) Thomas, was mother of his children and is who we knew the best. I remember Margery looked very much like her daughter, Estella Lee.

Continued on next page

The Thomas Family

His passion was ham radio operation. He periodically operated an "outlaw" radio station under call sign WUMS. The Feds were after him for twenty years but were never able to impose their will on him. David was one of the first to hear the signal being transmitted by the Soviet's SPUTNIK.

David also wrote a limited edition book, MYTHEOLOGY. David only provided family and close friends with copies of his book. My Dad said he didn't really understand the book but he valued the fact that David gave him a copy.



In his later years, David lived in Tampa, FL, and led guided tours around the world to see eclipses.

Betty, Estella Lee "Puddin," Pat and Rosemary, my sister Carolyn and I, are the third and last generation to maintain the close Kitts-Smith-Thomas family relationships. Like Carolyn, Rosemary passed away in Florida not long ago. The current generation does not really know each other which is unfortunate.

Maybe three generations is about all you can reasonably expect in the mobile society in which we now live.



Rosemary operated out of South Point, OH, and the *Paul F. Thomas* out of Bradrick, OH. There were others. Engines from the *Oweva* were donated in Captain Thomas' memory, to the River Museum in Marietta and are on prominent display for public view.

Submitted by Susanne Sweeney, who's late husband Martin Kitts, is credited for this fantastic research.

Carroll Hamilton and Clarice (Martin) Kitts

My father was born on Bastille Day, July 14, 1906 in Proctorville. Teddy Roosevelt was still our President. Like his mother before him, he was born in the Smith House overlooking the Ohio River. I always liked his name but I do not think he did. It reflected his Irish-Welsh ancestry and had some character to it. He was an only child as was my mother, Clarice Martin. 1906 was the year of the earthquake that destroyed most of San Francisco.

Surprisingly, to me anyway, he never showed any interest in working on the River. Several close family members were River Pilots: Captains Edward Smith, George Smith, Paul Thomas in addition to his grandparents, Captains William G. Smith and Sarah Bay Smith and his Great Uncles, Captains George and William Bay. The River culture surrounded him. No one on the Kitts side had any interest in a River based occupation.

He grew up pretty much like any boy in Proctorville. It was a good time for him. Dad's nick name was "Boo." Everyone had a nick name and still do. David Thomas was "Skipper." Others were "Bone" Wilgus, "Shot" Pinkerman, "Duck" Ellis, "Red" Brammer and so forth. In his early teens he had a dog, a collie type named Jack, who was with him constantly.

Growing up he delivered newspapers, worked on his Grandfather's farm, in the store and on the Ferryboat when needed. He spent one summer carrying water to laborer's during construction of a Roller Dam just up river from Proctorville. Generally speaking, his jobs tended to be in family enterprises.



First from left: "Red" Brammer; second from left: Carroll Kitts

He was a good athlete and his sport was basketball, although he also played high school football. His high school basketball team went deep into the Ohio State Tournament in 1925. As a freshman he lettered at Marshall College in Huntington.

He was burning out on basketball. It was a distraction which was reflected in his grades. He was going to Marshall and living at home. His parents pushed for a change and he was ready for one. His transfer to Ohio University in Athens, OH, took him in a totally different direction and he thrived there. Ohio University was an important, pleasant part of his life.

Continued on next page....

Carroll Hamilton and Clarice (Martin) Kitts

At Ohio U., a high school teammate, soon to be fraternity brother and good friend, "Red" Brammer, was on the freshman basketball team and became one of the Bobcat's star players. I do not doubt "Red" had some influence on Dad's decision to go to OU. CHK did not go out for basketball; he didn't even play it in the intramural league. I do not think anyone, other than "Red," knew he played at Marshall.

What he did do was pledge Theta Chi fraternity, played on their volleyball team with "Red" (won an intramural tournament) and immersed himself in college life and journalism. He met my mother at OU. Previously, she had attended Ohio State, Northwestern and Marshall.

When my grandmother Martin died during an appendectomy (anesthetic overdose), my mother transferred to Marshall for a short time. Then she, her father - Dr. Hiram B. Martin - went to Europe for three months. When they returned, Clarice Martin transferred to Ohio University.

She needed a ride home one weekend and was told of this fellow at the Theta Chi house who had a Stutz Bearcat and lived in Proctorville. She called him to ask for a ride home. This is how they met.



At left: the third generation.
Betty Burcham, William Martin Kitts, Pat Thomas and Estella Lee "Pudd" Lynch

Submitted by Susanne Sweeney

Thomas Gilruth

Thomas Gilruth was born on July of 1745 in Perthshire (Blairgourie) Scotland. He married Marion Ingles in 1792 at Marietta, Ohio. Marion was born in February of 1776 in Edinburgh, Scotland. They came to America after the Revolutionary War and settled in the Northwest Territory (French Grant) in 1797. They were the original pioneers in what was then Adams and Scioto counties. They migrated from Scotland to Bellville, Virginia to the French Grant in the Northwest Territory.

Mr. Gilruth emigrated to America in 1783. His family was one of the original settlers of Bellville, Virginia in 1775, two years before a white man settled in the state of Ohio. He was a linen weaver by trade. He erected the first loom on either side of the Ohio River. They were the parents of five children. Thomas Gilruth became the first pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Haverhill, Ohio, in 1815. James, the oldest child of Thomas and Marion Gilruth, became an ordained minister of the Methodist faith in 1818 and served in that capacity for 53 years. James was also a circuit rider of the Methodist church in the early days in Ohio.

Archibald Gilruth, the grandson of Thomas and Marion, became an ordained minister and was a missionary in India for 14 years.

Some items of interest on the Gilruths: Our mill for grinding was the hominy block; the forest furnished us with our meat and the river with our fish. Our music was the barking of the wolf, the hooting of the owl and the gobbling of wild turkey in the morning. Our festivals were held on Christmas, when the neighbors assembled, parents and children and the hours were enlivened by stories of fishing and hunting. We had no schools or no preaching for many years.

Submitted by Ann Wise

Earles Cemetery

Cemetery notes and/or description (from Find a Grave):

From Chesapeake, follow Rt. 7 to Braderick, turn left at the Signal Light. From Bradrick, follow Rt 243 several miles to Getaway, at Stop sign at Collins Technical Center continue straight (Rt 243 turns left) on Rt 378 several miles until you see Symmes Creek Baptist Church on the right, set back about 1/4 mile from the highway. Turn right on road toward the Church. Go past the church and up the hill behind the church. 1/2 to 3/4 way up the hill on the right is the cemetery. It is unmarked and in poor condition. No maintenance has been done in quite a long time. It is hard to see but has one or two tall headstones that you should be able to see.

Booth, Adah b. Apr. 7, 1797 d. Jul. 8, 1828	Earles, Richard R. b. 1832 d. Nov. 24, 1862
Booth, Daniel b. Apr. 5, 1785 d. Dec. 11, 1853	Fudge, Eva Mae Powell b. Sep. 21, 1882 d. Sep. 21, 1919
Booth, Daniel b. Oct. 14, 1822 d. Sep. 30, 1825	Fudge, James b. Oct., 1835 d. Jan. 23, 1922
Booth, Mary b. Dec. 6, 1814 d. May 6, 1831	Hatfield, Andrew b. 1815 d. Feb. 17, 1821
Boothe, Mary McAlexander b. May 8, 1785 d. Dec. 3, 1852	Morrison, Rachel Earles b. Feb. 10, 1829 d. Mar. 14, 1849
Earles, Bennett b. Nov. 5, 1804 d. Mar. 30, 1895	Russell, Jeremiah b. 1803 d. Dec. 22, 1835
Earles, Charles b. Jun. 5, 1808 d. Jun. 15, 1848	Unknown, Unknown 1 b. unknown d. unknown
Earles, Charles b. Dec., 1773 d. Mar. 28, 1848	Unknown, Unknown 2 b. unknown d. unknown
Earles, Loucretia E.A. b. Jun. 27, 1843 d. Nov. 6, 1843	Unknown, Unknown 3 b. unknown d. unknown
Earles, Louisa J. b. Jul. 30, 1827 d. May 11, 1849	Unknown, Unknown 4 b. unknown d. unknown
Earles, Lucretia Rebecca b. Jan. 23, 1835 d. Apr. 6, 1893	Veal, Jane "Polly" Skinner b. unknown d. Apr. 10, 1850
Earles, Mary b. 1775 d. Aug. 18, 1842	Veal, William b. unknown d. Sep. 15, 1856
Earles, Nancy b. Nov. 21, 1808 d. May 10, 1888	W., N. b. 1824 d. unknown
Earles, Perry N. b. 1862 d. Mar. 28, 1882	

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

Index to Volumes I and II: Military Discharges"

recorded between Sept 30, 1864 & Aug. 21, 1919

by Donald R. Clark—\$9.00 + S&H

"Lawrence County Declaration of Intent and Naturalization Records"

by Donna Murdock - \$11.00 + S&H

"Catholic Cemeteries of Lawrence County, Ohio"

compiled by Lowell Slimp - \$18.50 + \$3.50 S&H

"History of Lawrence County, Ohio 1990"

3rd printing - 398 pages, every name index

\$55.00 + \$6.50 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 _____

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**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.**



Remember dues expired December 31st unless paid ahead!

Need help tracking down an ancestor? We can help! Send us your inquiries and let's work together to break down that "brick wall."

Editor's Note:

It is with a heavy heart I announce that Mr. Harold Lunsford passed away on February 4, 2016. Please check the next newsletter for a complete memorial. On behalf of the other officers and Society members, our deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences go out to his family and friends.