

# LAWCO LORE

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

## Message from the President's Desk



Exciting news. Proving that members who live in other states can be active Society volunteers, Mary Wilson of Abo, NM has agreed to be the new newsletter editor of the LAWCO LORE. Thank you Nicole Cox for all your hard work as editor these last few years. And a special thank you, Nicole, for agreeing to continue writing the fun children's page. A message went to members about deadlines and such. Starting with this issue, the Lore will either be emailed as a pdf attachment or snail mailed to all paid up members. You won't have to have usernames and password to access the current newsletter!

Let us know what you think. And, please send us historical or genealogical articles and pictures you think might be of interest to all members.

**Would anyone be interested in helping us re-index the cemeteries in Lawrence County?** Fran Wheeler and I have already started this project and would love to share the fun. Our plan is to list them in a big book in the Hamner Room until we have over a 100 cemeteries indexed. Then we will sort them by Township.

Please try to attend one of our meetings at Briggs Library in Ironton on the first Saturday of every odd-numbered month. The next meeting is March 4th at 1 pm. We need some new ideas. Come share genealogy techniques and get started on lineage Society applications. Fran Wheeler and I sent our DNA in to Ancestry last year. Stay tuned for what happened.

Becky Wilson Thissen, President

## Calendar of Events

Inside this issue:

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March 4, 2017	1:00 pm	Bimonthly Meeting	Briggs Library	Research of interest discussion	July 2016 Fun	4
May 6, 2017	1:00 pm	Bimonthly Meeting	Briggs Library	TBA	Wakefield Cem	5
July 1, 2017	1:00 pm	Bimonthly Meeting	Briggs Library	TBA	What...DNA	6
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**LAWRENCE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
PO BOX 1035  
PROCTORVILLE, OH 45669-1035

**We're on the Web**  
[www.lawrencegenealogy.org](http://www.lawrencegenealogy.org)

**See us on Facebook**  
Lawrence County Genealogical Society, OGS Chapter



**Have a question or genealogy query? Email us at [contact@lawrencegenealogy.com](mailto:contact@lawrencegenealogy.com)**

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Cecilia Forbush  
David Bradley

## **PHYLLIS HAMNER ROOM**

**For Local History and Genealogy**

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

**Wednesday — Thursday 10 AM — 8PM**

**Friday — Saturday 10 AM — 5PM**

**NOW CLOSED MONDAY / TUESDAY**



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

**It is with great pleasure that we welcome the following new members to the LawCo Gen Society.**

### FRANK HARMON

Proctorville, OH  
franko4368@aol.com

FERRIS  
HARMON

### PAUL B STANLEY

LaGrange, GA  
raspbs@att.net

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CAULLEY  
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ARTHUR

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614-619-9596

HAYES BRICE WILLIAMS  
PAYNE BATTISE WORLEY

### PAM SHAFER

Proctorville, OH  
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HARMON FERRIS DAY DENNISON  
SHAFER HESSON

### CATHY MASSIE WHITE

Washington CH, OH  
reunionmassie@yahoo.com

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SHUMATE LIVELY SIMMONS CLAY

### MARILYN JEAN SCHRAFF

Marion, OH  
mschraff@roadrunner.com

RICHARDSON YATES DILLEY THORNTON PAYTON  
DELAWDER ROUSH NEAL COLLIER ROSEBERRY GARRET  
ALLEN LEWIS DEVOL DELONG HALDERMAN  
HOLMES BIRDWELL WALKER LAMBERT WILLIAMS BIGGS SAYERS BAKER  
WOOD DAVIS TURNER THOMPSON

One of the most important roles that Society members can play is to help each other in their genealogy research. If the names these new members are re-researching our also being re-searched by other members,

**Invite your friends and neighbors to become members of the Society.**

## GREAT FUN IN JULY 2016

### Our monthly meeting in July featured local artist **Kay Rader as Nanny Kelly Wright.**

Nanny told us her story as the only woman ironmaster in American history. She was the daughter of the famous riverboat commodore Washington Hornshell. Nanny was said to be the second richest woman in the world in the early 1900s with the richest being Queen Victoria. Nanny told us of her first marriage to Lindsey Kelly, a state senator and pigiron master. He was the owner/manager of the Center Furnace in Lawrence County, OH. When he died, in 1902 Nanny became the sole proprietor of the Center Furnace. Rumor had it that she sometimes worked the furnaces in men's clothing, but she denied this. Nanny later married and divorced Daniel Gregory Wright. She made three world tours. On one trip she was presented before the court of King Edward VII. Nanny lost most of her money in the 1929 stock market crash. But, she lived 17 years after that in comfort by selling her large jewelry collection. Nanny Kelly Wright died December 12, 1946 at the Marting Hotel in Ironton. Kay was so realistic as Nanny that we all felt like we were sitting with Nanny.



Article and picture courtesy of Becky Thissen

Nanny (Kay Rader) and Becky

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### Also in July the Society held its annual “lock in.”

This year the lock in was held at the Morrow Genealogy Library at Marshall University in Huntington, WV. The day was very productive for the attendees. We learned about all of the valuable resources available at the library. We met the very helpful staff who were knowledgeable about the collection of materials. And we had a chance to help each other learn new research techniques such as how to use the familysearch.org website to get documents that are pertinent to our research and not easily accessible elsewhere. Every year the Lock-in event gives members a chance to find genealogy resources and make family connections with other members. We urge as many members as possible to take advantage of this annual July event. (Details about this year's Lock in will be in the June issue of the Lore.



Members learning new research sources at the July Lock in.



## WAKEFIELD CEMETERY PRESERVATION

Two years ago, the Lawrence County Genealogical Society decided to clean and preserve Wakefield Cemetery in Proctorville, Lawrence County, Ohio. Many of us worked hard cutting weeds, briars, small trees, and other vegetation. It was a thrill to find new stones underground. We later sprayed the cemetery, but not before we covered the stones to protect them from the chemicals. Carl Murdock and David Bradley stop by periodically to check the growth of the vegetation.

Last year David Bradley and his friend Billy Callicoat finally put a fence around the cemetery. Thanks so much, David. Hopefully this spring or early summer we can repair the stones. Our society president has spent time learning from those who know exactly how to do this restoration without any kind of damage. Also, we plan to get a historical marker for the grave of Peter Wakefield.

Wakefield Cemetery is the burial place of Peter Wakefield, a Revolutionary War soldier and the first Justice of the Peace of Windsor Township. Several of his family members are also interred there. Preserving this cemetery has been a very rewarding experience, and we thank everyone who helped in any way to make this possible.

Submitted by Fran Ross Wheeler



WAKEFIELD CEMETERY after the cleanup and fence—Picture by Carl Murdock



WAKEFIELD CEMETERY before the work was done—Picture by Carl Murdock

### TO LEARN EVEN MORE ABOUT GRAVESTONE PRESERVATION:

A terrific resource for furthering your education about cemetery and gravestone preservation and the study of the architectural design and symbolism on gravestones, visit the website of the Association for Gravestone Studies at [ags.org](http://ags.org). For example, did you know that a broken flower on a gravestone means that life has been cut short for the deceased?

## OUR MEMBERS ENTER THE NEW WORLD OF DNA TESTING FOR GENEALOGY.....

Because my cousin and my close friend/neighbor were excited about their DNA results. I decided to have mine tested. Once I sent it in, I could hardly wait to see my results. How excited I was when they finally came! The results break down the ethnicity, and for me, no big surprise at the largest percentage, but somewhat surprised with the smaller percentages. So, if you are planning to do the testing, don't be surprised to find you were wrong about where some of your ancestors originated.

Results also provide a list of possible connections rated from extremely high to goof confidences levels. I was not sure of my mother's father, but as I kept researching, I was pretty convinced about who he was. Now I know! My first two extremely high confidence connections are members of that family and my highest DNA circle. I have found cousins from my parents' families, but my mother's side is much stronger. It is so exciting to look every day at my family tree and see how many cousins I have out there (1,037 so far). I hope to have my little brother do his and see how we compare.

Several of my relatives do not have family trees on Ancestry, and that is somewhat disappointing. However, I can send messages. Receiving messages is enjoyable. One of my more recent messages begins with, "Howdy Cousin." That is a thrill for me. I have several members with whom I don't seem to share a common surname. That gives me more reason to keep digging for more connections.

I would recommend having the DNA testing to everyone interested in learning about their heritage and meeting new cousins.

By Frances Ross Wheeler

[Editor's Note: Fran did her DNA testing through Ancestry.com and has her family tree on that website. The connections she has made with her DNA testing are with other Ancestry.com members]

### The rest of the story...

My niece started us on this adventure with our birthday/Christmas combo gift—the DNA test kit. She did hers first, and the results confirmed the research done by her parents' families with 52% Western Europe and 11% Irish heritage.

My turn next! I got the surprise. Years of research revealed most of my ancestors were from the British Isles. We have documents lines going back to their arrival in America in the 1600s. My people showed 48% Scandinavian. I'm a Viking! With 22% Irish.

Curiosity took over. I'm fortunate that the one line I thought would be difficult turned out to be the easiest and most documented—my paternal grandmother. I knew less about her family as she died when my father was a small child, and the family contact was limited. This line went back to established families in England, who had ancestors in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.

When I shared this information with my friend, she did the DNA test. We were both excited when she got her results. When looking at her connections, we found one in common. One man provided a family tree that included one of my friend's ancestors on his father's side and one on mine on his mother's side. My reaction: "Hi Cuz!"

We are working together and encouraging other family members to do the DNA test. Siblings can have different combinations of ethnicity, and we want the whole story of who we are and where we came from.

By Ruth Inghram, South Point, OH



## Dedication of the new Oakley C. Collins Memorial Bridge

Old Ironton-Russell Bridge:

(Pictures courtesy of Carl Murdock)



New Oakley C. Collins Memorial Bridge:



On November 23, 2016, a new bridge was dedicated to replace the Ironton-Russell Bridge which was built in 1922. It was an exciting day for everyone, but genealogy buffs like my sister and I found it especially interesting because our grandfather, George Willis Riggle, had traveled across the old (then new) bridge in April 1923 to move his family by wagon to Lawrence County, Ohio from Russell, KY.

The occasion became even more interesting to us when a picture appeared in the local newspaper showing two ladies over 100 years of age who were at the dedication of the new bridge and who had been living at the time the old bridge was built.

Knowing that we seem to be related to half the people in Lawrence County, OH and

Greenup County, KY and that we have some longevity in the family, when I sent the picture to my sister in New Mexico she immediately asked, "Are we related to either of those two?" When I searched, I found that we were related to one of them, 101-year old Verna Mae Turner Sloan, who is our 2nd cousin 1x removed. We have never met Verna Mae, but we knew her mother, Mary Carr Turner, who lived in LawCo most of her adult life and was a favorite cousin of our Grandpa Riggle. She lived to be 101. We are sure they crossed the old bridge many times because most of the Carr family lived in Greenup County. .... By Becky Wilson Thissen

## QUERIES FROM OUR MEMBERS.....

We always welcome queries from our members who are searching for information to help them with their genealogical research. This month we have the following three queries. Anyone who has useful information to help these researchers are encouraged to contact the researchers at the emails or phone numbers provided in the query. Send your queries to the Lawco Lore Editor T3Wilson@aol.com. They will appear in the next issue.

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Submitted by Cindy Christian Rogers on behalf of her father: Richard Christian, 85, of Dayton, Ohio, is seeking information on members of the David Christian lineage. David was born in Lawrence County on April 25, 1817, and died September 22, 1889. He married Abigail White and had numerous children. In particular, I am looking for information on David's sister Nancy (1825 to 1905+) and whether she ever married and/or had a child. I also am interested in finding more information about the son of David's son Matthew named George Washington Christian (1867-1953) and whether he might have adopted (legally or not) a sister's child. Lastly, I would appreciate any information about George's sister Mahalia or Mahala (born in Ohio but birth and death dates unknown). My email is majordik@juno.com and phone number is 937-436-7845.

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Submitted Vic Vermillion: Are you a CORN or VERMILLION Descendant? I would like to make contact with a direct female descendant of the Nancy Corn and Uriah Vermillion marriage in order to have a simple DNA (cheek swab) test performed. Nancy and Uriah were married in Arabia, Ohio in 1837 and had five known daughters who married and raised families. Their married names were Lucille Williams (born 1838), Philene Massie-Dent (b. 1841), Elizabeth Darling (b. 1842), Amy Anna Thomas (b. 1844), and Isabella Eblin (b. 1857). It is thought that Nancy was the daughter of Rev . Jesse Corn and Uley Harmon. Using the results of a DNA test, I would like to possibly determine the ancestry of Nancy Corn Vermillion. Finally, I will pay for the DNA test. If interested please contact Victor Vermillion, 433 Bunkers Cove Rd., Panama City, FL 32401 or 407-538-1389 or vicv1@yahoo.com

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Submitted by Cindy Hartman: I am researching the Booth family of Lawrence County. In particular I need to prove that Robert Booth (1792-1861) was the father of Flemon (Flem 1819-1888). Robert came to Lawrence County, Ohio in 1816 with his wife Adah. They had 7 children, then Adah died in 1828. Robert remarried. The 7 children with Adah are Zilla (1817), Flemon (1819), Merit Washington (1821), Robert Campbell (1822), Daniel (1823), Emilia (Millie 1825), and Ann (1826). Robert did not name his children in his Will and I can not find the distribution of the Will. I can not find a Will or grave for Flem. Any information, even family stories, will help. Thank you. (330) 606-3115 or HartmansHook@gmail.com.



## GENEALOGY GONE WILD.....

The Ohio Genealogical Society will present its annual conference on April 26-29, 2017 at Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in Sandusky, Ohio. The full program brochure can be downloaded from the OGS website at [www.OGS.org](http://www.OGS.org).

Pre-conference activities on Wednesday, April 26 will include mid-afternoon two-hour workshops and a social event in the evening. Thursday, Friday and Saturday events include approximately 86 lectures

scheduled every day covering all phases of genealogical study, lineage society inductions, a vendor hall, the OGS annual meeting, special evening events and plenty of genealogical fellowship and fun events. A special room set up like a college lecture classroom will be used for hands-on workshop training on various topics throughout the conference. For those who love to shop, the vendor hall will have ample products and genealogy tools to satisfy your needs.

Lawrence County members or others who would like to carpool to the conference, please contact Don Clark at [lawcoloreman@aol.com](mailto:lawcoloreman@aol.com).



## HOW GETAWAY GOT ITS NAME....

Member Ann Wise reminded us of the importance of her ancestor, Mr. Francis Russell, to the history of Union Township. Mr. Russell was born across the Ohio River in Cabell County, WV (then VA) in 1814. He came to Union Township and eventually owned many acres of land and started a store, blacksmith shop, a tan yard, and a grist mill. [Source: "Russell's Place Postoffice" by R.C. Hall, PhD, History of Lawrence County, Ohio, Vol. 2, page 77] According to an item by Carl B. Hayes in that same volume, also at page 77, the name of the village of Getaway can also be attributed to Mr. Russell. As the story goes, according to Mr. Hayes: "The common saying for most of us when told something out of the ordinary is to say 'You don't say!' - 'Is that so?' - 'Great Scott,' but Mr. Russell's was 'Getaway.' The young boys got a kick out of this, so they made it a point to say something to him in order to get him to say 'Getaway.' They got to calling him, 'Getaway' and on Saturday evenings someone would say 'Let's go down to see ole 'Getaway.' So it wasn't too long before 'Getaway' was used by everyone."

Ann Wise provides the following genealogy for Mr. Russell: Married in Union Township to Lois Morrison, February 28, 1836; Children: Lorenzo D. 1838; Richard 1839; Andrew 1841; Emeline (Waldeck) 1844; Mary A. (Betts) 1846; James 1849; Thomas 1854; James 1849; Sarah (Tomlinson) 1857. Andrew served in the Civil War. Francis Russell died 1866.

**Note to those who receive the Lawco Lore by U.S. mail: If you would like to start receiving the Lore by email, please contact Don Clark at [lawcoloreman@aol.com](mailto:lawcoloreman@aol.com). We appreciate you considering this option. Starting with this issue, if you receive the Lore by email you will get it as a pdf (Adobe) attachment to an email. You will not need to go to the society website to read it. AND you will receive it sooner after publication and can begin enjoying it right away! PLUS you will see it in its beautiful color version rather than the dull black and white that we send by mail. (Color print costs \$\$\$\$ a lot more.)**

### **THE CONNECTION BETWEEN LAWRENCE COUNTY, OHIO AND BEDFORD COUNTY, VA....**

Many people with roots in Lawco can trace their ancestors to Bedford County, VA or its neighboring county, Franklin. They came around 1800 to what was then Gallia County. The names of ancestors hailing from Bedford include such familiar names in Lawrence County as Martin, Blankenship, Hall, Earles, Willis, Freeman, and many, many others. For example, this obituary appearing in the *Ironton Register* on September 17, 1857 celebrates the life of Nancy Dickson Hall, born in 1785 in Bedford County, VA, who married William Hall in 1801. They moved to Quaker Bottom, OH in about 1812 and, according to the obituary, "settled in a cabin in the then almost unbroken forest, near the Big Springs, on the farm now owned by W. D. and Robert Hall...[where she] has made her home with W. D. Hall, her son, except when sickness was in any of her children's families, when she must be where affliction was, to console and help....[S]he has been known to the neighborhood as an example of kindness to all, and an exemplification of that charity that believeth no evil....[She] had a hope for the erring, and a kind word for the penitent....She was the mother of a large family, who are scattered over Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, and all of them partake of their mother's good example or disposition, and are good and useful citizens. Truly 'a mother in Israel' has gone to the land of the blest."

If you know of other obituaries or stories about Bedford—Lawrence families, please write an article and send it to us. We are especially interested in printing research about the actual routes our ancestors took to get from Bedford to Lawrence.

**We greatly appreciate all the members who contributed articles, queries and pictures for this issue of the Lawco Lore. We welcome other members' contributions for future issues. Submit items at any time to the Editor at [T3Wilson@aol.com](mailto:T3Wilson@aol.com). Put the words "LAWCO LORE" in the subject line of your email. THE DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE 2017 ISSUE IS MAY 15, 2017.**

## **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**

**"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**

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## **Membership Application**

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, and phone number with other researchers?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (Draw a line through any section you don't want shared.)

May we send our newsletter by email as a pdf file? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Prefer hard copy \_\_\_\_\_



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CHAPTER 74 OF THE OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**PO Box 1035  
Proctorville, OH 45669-1035**

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Please be sure to include your name in the email.**



**Remember dues expire 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 through that "brick wall." Email us at [contact@lawrencegenealogy.org](mailto:contact@lawrencegenealogy.org)

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