

# SCCOGS NEWS

Volume 30, Issue 3

May / June 2005

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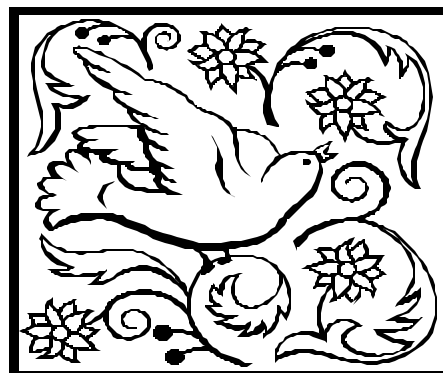
## A Note From The Desk of The Newsletter Editor

Hello Members!

We are happy to report that we have made the move to our new offices located inside the Masonic Temple Building in downtown Portsmouth.! We share this space with The Joseph Spencer Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The offices are located on the 4th floor, Room 432 and are open by appointment only. These offices will be used to store the Records we receive from the Scioto County Probate Court.

We have received answers to some of the questions asked of Mr. Todd Book, State Representative, from the February Meeting. Excerpts from his letter are included in this issue. You may read the full version online at [www.sccogs.com](http://www.sccogs.com)

Also included in this issue are places to research in Scioto County, an article on "how to family research", the family history of Henry and Elizabeth Leisburg and our popular unknown



photos section.

We are still in the process of locating and transcribing all Scioto County Cemeteries. If you and/or a friend would be able to help with this project, we would greatly appreciate it. There will be sign up sheets and more information at the June meeting.

We hope you enjoy this issue of SCCOGS News.

- Joyce M. Sadler  
Newsletter Editor

## Meeting To Be Held

The next scheduled meeting of SCCOGS will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. in the Robert Copley Meeting Room at the Portsmouth Public Library .

The speaker will be Belinda "Bunnie" Bowman-Schaefer. Her main subject will be on the April OGS meeting which she attended this year. She is also

close to getting her Certified Genealogist Certificate. If any one has specific questions about the meeting we will be pleased to forward them to her.

We hope you will attend!

# What Happened at The April Meeting?

Approximately twelve members and guests attended the April Meeting of SCCOGS. The members only meeting was held at noon in the office of Irene Ashley, Scioto County Recorder as a research day.

In other business, discussion included:

the office space at the Masonic Temple Building for SCCOGS and the moving and storage of our probate records .

The ongoing cemetery project and it was noted that more volunteers are needed.

The letter received from Todd Book, State Representative with answers to two of our questions.

Well wishes were sent to members Ruth Vance and Jan Edwards, who both recently broke their legs.

Donating the Julia Churchill Griswold book to the First Presbyterian Church, where Mrs. Griswold is a member was discussed. The motion was tabled.

A great day was had by all who attended.

## Unknown Photo Update

### Ohio Civil War Veterans, 1915, Portsmouth, Ohio

"Mrs. Rosemary Crabtree recognized the photo, posted in the last edition of SCCOGS News. She said it was taken at the Bethany Baptist Church in Rushtown - which is still standing.

It is a photo of the members of the Robinson Post GAR. She said she knew that Abraham Doll was in that Post but had info that Peter was in the Bailey Post at Portsmouth, but he could have transferred maybe."

The photo was submitted by Richard Doll at Dollrl@aol.com

## Unknown Photo

This section of the newsletter was suggested by David Cayton and Mima Vita. It is hoped that other members will participate in this endeavor. If you would like information listed for a photo that you are seeking and/or photos that you would be willing to share, please email: [sccogsnews@earthlink.net](mailto:sccogsnews@earthlink.net) or send a letter to: SCCOGS, Attn: Photos, P.O. Box 812, Portsmouth, Ohio 45662. You may also view photos on our website at: [www.sccogs.com](http://www.sccogs.com) . Click the link for Unknown Photos

### Family of William T. and Christina Miller Mackey

This family photo was taken in Portsmouth in early January 1950 after the funeral of my grandmother, Chrisina Miller Mackey. I have long wondered about the location and names of the buildings in the background. Is anyone able to identify the buildings for me?"

Chester L. Sheffer, 8611 Arran Road, Richmond, VA 23235

email: [chestersheffer@mindspirng.com](mailto:chestersheffer@mindspirng.com)



## Member Query

### **FOSTER, WILEY, MOORE, PITZER**

Seek descendents and information of **Charles Foster**, b. 1838, Clinton County, Ohio; d. 1918, Sabina, Clinton County, Ohio, son of **Robert** and **Ellen (Wiley) Foster**, who married 1858 in Adams County, Ohio. **Ellen Wiley**, b. 1835; d. 1916, Sabina. Records indicate family resided in Iowa, Missouri, Indiana and Ohio. Known children: **Sanford Foster**, b. 1860; d. 1931, married **Louisa S. Moore**.

**John Elmer Foster**, b. 1865; d. 1928, married **Sarah E. Moore**. **Isaac Branson Foster**, b. 1867; d. 1911, married **Annabelle Pitzer**. **James H. Foster**, b. 1868; d. 1931. **Martha Foster**, b. 1872, d. ?, married **William Pitzer**. **Charles Foster, Jr.**, b. 1877; d. ?.

Whom did **Charles Jr.** marry? Where did **Charles Jr.** and **Martha Foster-Pitzer** and their families reside?

## Answers From Mr. Todd Book, State Representative

Our guest speaker at the February 2005 SCCOGS meeting was Mr. Todd Book, State Representative. Mr. Book took several of our questions with him and has sent the following reply regarding cemetery maintenance and the use of a digital camera to photograph public records. The Memorandum to Mr. Book is from Abigail DeFrance, dated February 25, 2005:

### Lawn Maintenance in Cemeteries

“You requested the requirements for the frequency with which the grass should be cut in Ohio cemeteries. There is no official requirement with respect to this issue. However, the Ohio Cemetery Dispute Resolution Committee, under the Department of Commerce, has published guidelines requiring that cemeteries “cut grass once per month during the growing season.” I have attached the guidelines for you and your constituent.”

### Photographing Public Records

“You inquired whether a member of the public could photograph records they were inspecting at no cost rather than

using the photocopying equipment or services provided by the public records office. Agencies are not permitted to charge fees for inspection of records and agencies have no ability to prevent the public from bringing photography equipment into the public records office. Under OAG Opinion 2004-011, the Ohio Attorney General concluded, “a county recorder has no authority to impose a fee upon a member of the public who is using his own digital camera or imaging equipment to make copies of documents in the recorder’s office.” While this opinion responds to a prosecutor’s inquiry regarding a specific instance, the logic behind this can be extended to any office with public records that must be made available for inspection.”

You may read the 8 page Attorney General Opinion letter in full at: [www.sccogs.com](http://www.sccogs.com)

## New Members / Member Updates

### **New Members**

BICKELMAN, Jane  
10301 San Luis Rey NE  
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Researching:  
OILER, YELEY, SMITH, HUGHES, HILL, EVANS,  
PHILLIPS, KAYTON, SEARLE, DONAHUE, SWAINE,  
HUMPHRIES, CARTEE, NEFF, CULP

### **Updated Info**

EDWARDS, Janice  
2233 Micklethwaite Road  
Portsmouth, OH 45662  
e-mail: [gennee@adelphia.net](mailto:gennee@adelphia.net)  
Researching: ALLARD, DILLON, CRAWFORD, BENDER

MINCH, Terry L.  
new e-mail address: [stminch62@msn.com](mailto:stminch62@msn.com)

FRANZEN, Pat  
new email address: [ptfmz6@aol.com](mailto:ptfmz6@aol.com)

HARSHMAN, Janice  
7901 Ranch Acres Rd.  
Pahrump, NV 89061

FERM, Mary  
5062 New Sweden Rd. NE  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

### **Cemetery Maintenance Guidelines by The Ohio Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission**

#### **Grounds and Structure**

- Cut grass once per month during the growing season
- Trim markers and/or tombstones once a year
- Removal of underbrush, leaves, tree seedlings, dead trees and flowers
- Sod or seed graves once a year
- New foundations for markers should be set at least once a calendar year
- Roads, buildings, structures and fencing should be maintained and repaired as needed
- Cemetery perimeter should be marked

#### **Management/Maintenance of Rules, Regulations and Records**

- Cemetery records pertaining to burial right owners should be maintained in the cemetery’s office
- All graves or lots shall be identified by a map that is stored in the office of the cemetery per Ohio Revised Code Section 1721.09
- Records for identifying grave spaces is the cemetery’s responsibility to maintain. Each lot should be pinned and the owner’s name should be recorded.
- Cemeteries shall conduct all burials or entombments within seven days of the date of the order unless waived by the next of kin.
- Rules regarding flowers and decorations must be posted at the cemetery
- It is recommended that the vault or any other burial container be placed at least twelve inches below grade
- The cemetery’s rules and regulations must be provided upon request.

# Where to Research in Scioto County

## Scioto County Recorder's Office

Scioto County Recorder: Irene Ashley  
 Located: Scioto County Courthouse  
 6th Street, Portsmouth OH 45562  
 Hours: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.  
 Phone: (740) 355-8304

Records kept in the Recorder's Office include deeds of all types, in part they are: Quit Claim, Sheriff's, Certificate for Transfer from Court, Warranty, Auditor's Forfeited Land and Executor and Executrix Deeds. Other records kept are: Mortgages, Power of Attorney, Armed Service Discharge, Releases, Liens such as Mechanics Liens, Federal, State, Unemployment Compensation, Workman's Industrial Tax Liens, Personal Property Tax, Aid for Aged Liens and 12 other kinds of Liens, Articles of Agreement, Certificates of Merger of Corporations, Limited Partnership Associations, Easements, Partnership Records, Subdivisions, Land and Coal Contracts, Leases of all types, Soldier's Grave Registrations, Partial Releases, Cancellation or Assignment of Mortgages or Leases, Fence Partitions, Amendments to Articles of Corporation, Notice of Accounts Receivable, Rights of Way, Plats of Allotments. Legal papers for which the Recorder is responsible are: Security Agreements, Financing Statements, Recognizance Bonds from Common Pleas and County Court.

Each legal instrument recorded or filed is carefully indexed and cross indexed for ease of location and ready reference, microfilmed for security purposes. A new computer system was installed in the Scioto County Recorder's Office on June 28, 1996.

## Scioto County Probate Court

Scioto County Probate: Judge J. Kirsch  
 Located: Scioto County Courthouse  
 6th Street, Portsmouth OH 45562  
 Hours: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.  
 Phone: (740) 355-8243

Probate Court contains records of marriages from 1803 to present. From 1899 on will show who the parents are. Before 1899, only if the couple are minors will one or both parents be listed.

Probate Court also holds the birth and death records for the years of 1856-1858 and 1867-1908 for both City and County. No records can be found for the years of 1859-1866.

Also located in Probate Court are Wills and Estates, Naturalizations, Consent for Medical Treatment—power of attorney, Guardianships, Conservatorships, Mental Illness and Mental Retardation, Adoptions, Changes of Name, Le-

gitimations, Land Appropriations, Testamentary and Inter vivos Trusts, Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

## Portsmouth City Health Department

Located: 605 Washington Street  
 Portsmouth OH 45562  
 Hours: 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.  
 Phone: (740) 355-6819

The Portsmouth City Health Department contains Birth and Death Records for the City of Portsmouth (only) from 1909 to Present. Certified copies only available, the cost is \$15.00 each.

## Scioto County Health Department

Located: Scioto County Courthouse  
 602 7th St, Room 210  
 Portsmouth OH 45562  
 Hours: 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.  
 Phone: (740) 354-3241

The Scioto County Health Department contains Birth and Death Records for the county only from 1909 to Present.

## The Portsmouth Public Library

Located: 1220 Gallia St  
 Portsmouth OH 45562  
 Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.  
 Friday 9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.  
 Saturday 1:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m.  
 Phone: (740) 354-5304

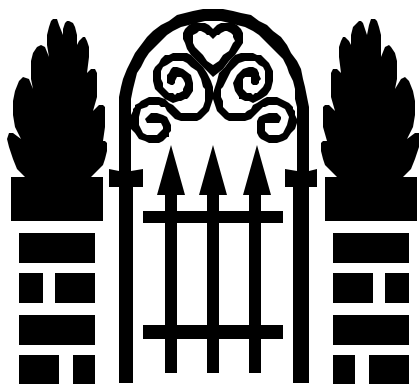
The Henry A. Lorberg Local History Department contains County Histories, Family Histories, Census Data, Local Newspapers, Cemetery Inscriptions, Surname Files, City Directories, Pension Records, Information on Various States, Microfilm Holdings, Civil War Histories, Native American Histories, Early Area History. This Department also contains the holdings of SCCOGS.

## Other Records located in at the Scioto County Courthouse

Located in the Records Room—Old Probate and Common Pleas Records, Chancery Records, Early Divorces.

# State-Wide Genealogical Conference

The Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society and the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania have reached an agreement to hold a state-wide genealogical conference in Pittsburgh on September 29th and 30th, 2006. This event, the first state-wide genealogical seminar held in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, will undoubtedly draw considerable numbers of family historians to Pitts-



Mark Your Calendars Now!

burgh as Pennsylvania is a genealogically significant state. For three centuries the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been one of the most populous colonies or states, so many family historians can track their ancestry back to Pennsylvania.

Program specifics will be announced in 2005. Mark your calendars now for September 29th and 30th, 2006.

Watch the societies websites for information: [www.wpgs.org](http://www.wpgs.org) and [www.genpa.org](http://www.genpa.org).

Conference planners, John T. Humphrey and Barbara Braden Guffey, have noted the program will feature presentations that will discuss all aspects of Pennsylvania research along with computer and internet topics and not to be missed methodology lectures.

Both societies have experience running large conferences and have both held some of the most successful events of NGS.

## Henry and Elizabeth Liesberg History

Henry Liesberg and Elizabeth Bloomberg were both born in the year 1822 in Germany. In 1852 they were married near Hamburg, Germany and Came to America the same year. They first settled in Virginia for a short time and then came to Ohio and lived in the Eifort Community near Oak Hill for several years. There were five children born to their union; Henry Jr., Charlie, Minnie, Ella and Mary who later died in infancy. Later, they moved to the Bussey Road Community off Route #140.

Henry Jr. married and moved to Claredon, TX. Charlie married Sarah Jane Jones and to their union were born Rosie, Nina Mae, Wesley, William Alvin, Cora and Carrie. Minnie married Martin Grashel and to their union were born Ellie, Laura, Liaz, Lizzie, Mayme, Annie, Albert, Fred, Floyd, Henry, Bess and Bob. Ella married

Carlos Jenkins and to their union were born Oscar and Charlie. While the children were small Carlos died and later Ella married Jake Nickel and to them were born Evie, Wilbur, Grace, Nettie, Mabel and Stanley.

From these early settlers there are many descendants still living in the community, some of them being the Millers, Chamberlains and Grashels.

In 1857, Union Freewill Baptist Church on Route #140 was organized, and many of the Liesberg family and relatives are still attending this church.

In the late 1800's the July 4th picnic began. It has been an annual event for the community for over 100 years..

One room schools attended by the family were—Kittle School located on Route #140 near Ashley Corner and Hartley School located at the forks of Hartley and Dogwood ridge Roads. Later, they attended Lindsay Elementary and Portsmouth East High School in Sciotoville.

William Alvin (Bill) served as a Corporal in the Army in World War I, his tour of duty including France. After the war, Bill married Pearl Adams and to their union were born Albert Lloyd (Ab), William Wesley (Bill), Donald, Charles Arnold (Charlie) and Glenn Ray.

In the early 1900's if the residents of the community would

*"many descendants still  
living in the community"*

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Henry and Elizabeth Liesberg History—Continued

(Continued from page 5)

want to go to Portsmouth to shop they would take a horse and buggy to Sciotoville. They would then leave their transportation at a livery stable, board a streetcar to New Boston and after arriving there, would wait for a streetcar from Portsmouth to pick them up to continue their trip. For sure, an all day shopping trip.

The spelling of Liesberg was changed to Leesburg in the late 1920's.



*"An All Day Shopping Trip"*

Many of the Leesburgs and their descendants have served in the service of their country. Ab, Don and Charlie in the Navy; Bill in the Air Force and Glenn in the Army, serving part of his time in Germany. Bill made the Air Force his career and retired as a full Colonel in the late 1970's.

In the 1950's Don and Ab served as Deputy Sheriffs for the County under Sheriff Burl Justice.

Three of the Leesburg son's and their

married children still reside in the community.

When meeting a Leesburg in Scioto County, you know they are a descendant of Henry and Elizabeth, because only one family bears this surname.

*The proceeding was sent to Ms. Gladys Reynolds by Lavonda Leesburg. Ms. Leesburg has also sent other family histories, which will be published in this newsletter a a later date.*

## How to "Family Research"

**Find Yourself**—The usual trap is wading in too deep, too fast. To stay in control, start on solid ground. Work backward from the known to the unknown. Collect your own birth certificate and any other documents that connect you to your parents. Then prove the links from them to their parents.

**Find Your Focus**— Now that your grandparents are established, make a choice. Narrow it down and pick just one. Concentrate on this "focus ancestor" until you can go no further. This will keep your search manageable.

**Stay The Course**—It's tempting to skip generations, but you must prove each generation's links, or you risk wasting time on an ancestor that may not be yours.

**Begin On Paper**—Dig through attics and trunks for clue-encrusted gems; diaries, scrapbooks, letters, address books, family Bibles, bankbooks, passports, yearbooks, mem-

bership cards and so on. Deciphering the hints they hold will guide your online research.

**Keep a Record**—Make a dated log of your findings and leads for further followup.

**Consider The Source**—Just because a document is old doesn't mean it's true. A death certificate, for example, can't have been checked by the person it's about. The best proof of a birth date is a birth certificate.

**Visit The Dark Side**—There's a ton of information in divorce records, especially when you get back into the pre-no-fault days. Allegations such as infidelity had to be proven in court, so life details were plentiful. Check state archives and courthouses for other civil or criminal cases.

**Remember The Ladies**—

Unfortunately, the maternal line is generally overlooked, but that's generally where you find most of your connections. When you do research women, be sure to check under maiden and all married names.

**Learn The Lingo**—A cousin or aunt could be a second cousin or a great-aunt; Sr. and Jr. may distinguish between unrelated men of

the same name. Place names also change over time.

**Try Cluster Searching**—Hitting a brick wall on your focus—don't give up. There may be much to learn by studying his spouse, siblings, even fellow church members. A diary in your cousins attic, a land sale, obituaries of children may contain information about their parents.

*Printed in the March/April 2005 edition of AARP*

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MAY / JUNE 2005

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*SCCOGS News* is a bimonthly publication of  
The Scioto County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society  
PO Box 812, Portsmouth OH 45662.  
Email: [information@sccogs.com](mailto:information@sccogs.com)  
Website: [www.sccogs.com](http://www.sccogs.com)

*SCCOGS News* is published in the months of February, April, June,  
August, October and December.

To receive *SCCOGS News*, you must be a member of SCCOGS.  
Membership dues are \$10.00 per year. To become a member, fill-in and  
submit the application on the last page of this newsletter or visit our  
website at [www.sccogs.com](http://www.sccogs.com).

Address Correction Requested



*Researching The Past To Preserve  
The Future.*



The Scioto County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society meets every other month on the second Saturday, beginning in February. Membership dues are \$10.00 per year (January 1st thru December 31st). Membership includes six newsletters with free queries, as space permits. The Chapter maintains a collection of research materials, which are held in the Portsmouth Public Library Local History Department, 1220 Gallia Street, Portsmouth, Ohio 45662.

Dues: \$10.00 Yearly (January thru December) —Single or Family

SCCOGS Membership Application

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Address

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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Please List The Scioto County Surnames You Are Researching:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: SCCOGS, Membership Department, PO Box 812, Portsmouth OH 45662