

Outstanding OGS Chapter Volunteer Award

Warren County Genealogical Society Chapter of Ohio Genealogical Society nominates Charles "Chuck" Griffen for the outstanding OGS Chapter volunteer for his work in preservation of Warren County records, for his dedication to helping researchers and his efforts toward maintaining a well-run library.

As a library volunteer, Chuck is assigned certain days to open and close the library. He serves above the call of duty being there almost every day. When other volunteers are unavailable to work in the library on their assigned day, Chuck graciously volunteers to work as a substitute for them.

When researchers visit the library he orients them to our resources, makes suggestions and guides them in their research, exploring all possible options ranging from books, files and the computer. Not only does he help patrons, he helps answer WCGS research requests via phone, mail and email. He trains new volunteers and orients them to our library. During the summer, Chuck teaches the "local sources" daytime genealogy workshop at our library. He also has taught genealogy workshops throughout Warren County in our libraries and at other local organizations.

Chuck is the chairman for three committees: membership, publications and technology; and is the co-chair for the Shaker Materials Committee. We can always count on Chuck to put forth his best efforts and get the job done. As the membership committee chair, he keeps a running log of WCGS membership both current and past. He maintains the mailing list and sends out all membership cards. He prints, collates, folds and mails each issue of our quarterly newsletter publication, *Heir Lines*, to all current members and society and library exchanges. As the publications committee chair, he promptly prints, binds and mails all publication orders. He designed many of the covers for the books we publish. We would not have as many publications if it were not for Chuck's contributions. As the technology chair, he is the liaison between company vendors for our computer, printers and microfilm readers. He serves as our office manager and makes sure our equipment is properly serviced and is in good working order. When the need arises for new equipment, Chuck researches the product thoroughly and reports his recommendation to our board members. Chuck also orders all our office supplies.

In addition to serving as the committee chairman, he is actively involved in many of our projects. Some of the projects he has completed include reading rolls of microfilms from local newspapers and copying obituaries for our obituary master index, indexing funeral home records and working in our cemeteries. We now have over 60,000 obituaries in our library; most are from Chuck's hard work and sacrifice. He has helped gather and compile information on the Shakers and the Memory Lane books. He co-created our master indexes (births, marriages, deaths, obituaries, military, coroner's records, tax records, etc.) searchable by surname on our computers, website and in book format. After another member, made arrangements with one of our local funeral homes to photocopy and index all of their records, Chuck made the photocopies of over 10,000 pages and organized them into a set of 34 binders, now found on our library shelf. He also provided a duplicate copy with his index to the funeral home. The index he created is our latest publication, "*Warren County Ohio Funeral Record Index*." He transcribed the names of the 13,742 deceased individuals recorded in 73 volumes of funeral home records that he copied, covering the period from 1896 to 2000. Chuck has greatly contributed to our Cemetery project. In 2006, he helped to probe, uncover and catalog gravestones in 3 abandoned cemeteries (Mount/ Barrett, Hill-Wagner, and Ertel Cemeteries) unearthing some of the earliest known gravestones in Warren County. He also photographed all extant tombstones at the Cline, Corrington, Muddy Creek and Unity cemeteries. His efforts at the Unity cemetery were featured on page 137 of the Oct/Dec OGS *Genealogy News*.

Chuck Griffen has been an outstanding volunteer for the Warren County Genealogical Society chapter of OGS for the past nine years. We are very appreciative of all he does for our society and highly recommend he be recognized for his efforts by awarding him the Outstanding OGS Chapter Volunteer Award for 2006.