

Warren County Historical Society
2012 Interim Report to OHRAB

As of September 2012, we are roughly one quarter of the way through our digitization project. With the preliminary stages wrapping up, numerous sub-projects are well underway. Heading these sub-projects are screened, trained and dedicated volunteers who have committed at least one day of work per week.

Last winter we announced through local newspapers and volunteer websites that we were seeking detail-oriented workers with computer skills. We were fortunate to gain 15 qualified and dedicated volunteers for this project. Each volunteer was assigned to a project based on their skill sets and interests, and were then trained by staff. Several of these new recruits are now involved with the sorting, evaluating and preservation of our existing archival resources; however most are engaged in indexing and scanning our collections for future use.

The current digitization sub-projects encompass several topics in Warren County history. The National Normal University Project, headed by Hope and Paul Schneider, focuses on indexing and scanning our extensive collection of photographs, ledgers, programs and other documents related to this former Lebanon university. Volunteer John Davey is leading the effort to scan all of the mug shots that came with our recently acquired archive collection of *The Western Star* newspaper. Several volunteers are collaborating to scan index and scan our collection of Warren County places and events photographs. Jeannie Dorn has been working on an index of our Shaker resources for six months, and is one third finished. An index of our microfilm collection has recently been completed and will be available online in the near future. Several high school volunteers

used WCHS resources to create historic walking tours of Lebanon, and are now offered to our guests.

Although our digitization project is not scheduled for completion until 2014, we are very pleased with the progress so far. The scanner and laptop purchased with grant funds from OHRAB/NHPRC have made it possible for several community members to participate in this project and to contribute to their community by making county documents and photographs readily accessible.