



Union Echoes

Union County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society

The Mission of the Union County Chapter of The Ohio Genealogical Society is to promote and nurture an interest in genealogy by providing instruction, information, and inspiration while encouraging members and others in the development of family histories and genealogical records for the benefit of future generations.

Website: www.uccogs.org

The Union County Chapter
of the Ohio Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 438
Marysville, OH 43040

Executive Board

President: Eva Schooley
evaschooley@yahoo.com

Vice President: Steven C. Lowe
slowe49@icloud.com

Treasurer: Nina Lee Hampton
grandviewnl@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Marie Bouic
Bouic1@gmail.com

Webmaster: Dave Gustafson (Acting)

Librarian & Queries: Nancy
Katzenbach
nankatzen@gmail.com

Union Echoes Editor: Marty Scott
martylou50@gmail.com

Program Chairperson: Vacant

Lineage Society Committee
Chairperson: Lynn Baldwin
karenbaldwin22@gmail.com

Letter from the Editor

Greetings,

We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We are looking forward to an enjoyable new year with many happenings at Union County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society. The Executive Board has been busy lining up speakers for 2019; please let us know if there is a special topic you would like to be presented or speaker you would like to hear. 2018, we were blessed to have many enjoyable speakers/events, and the topics were educational

As always, we welcome any submissions to the newsletter or topic you would like to read about. Thank you to the many who submitted topics, articles, photos, etc. for last year's newsletters.

2018 Veteran's Day Ceremony presented us with valuable information about World War One. It was the first one I had attended and will not be the last. Please read more about this ceremony in this newsletter.

Marty

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Librarian & Queries:

- Nancy Katzenbach, nankatzen@gmail.com
- Nancy is at the Marysville Public Library on Tuesdays from 10am to 3pm to assist all comers.

Mailed Queries: Send inquiries with a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

UCCOGS Query Committee

P.O. Box 438

Marysville, OH 43040

All members queries are FREE.

Non-member receive one query FREE

The Union County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society Minutes – November 17, 2018



The Union County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society held their last meeting of 2018 at the Marysville Public Library on Saturday, November 17, 2018, at 10 am in Meeting Room A. **Steve Lowe**, Vice President called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Steve then introduced, **Sue Kienbaum**, Adult Services and Reference Assistant with the Marysville Public Library. Sue showed us how to see Fold3 and the FamilySearch site. The library is now a Family History Affiliate Library, and more records are available for use at the library to download to your computer. Sue started everyone out in the Catalog Section of the site if you know where the town or area where your ancestors came from you can pull up records from the site. Many are in the language of the origin, so they will need translation.

Sue also suggested using Archive.org for county history books and other historical books.

A light luncheon served after the presentation.

Those who enjoyed the presentation were: **Lynn Baldwin, Marie Bouic, Nina Boerger, Sara Halley, Eva F. Schooley, Nancy Katzenbach, Darlene Shull, James & Janice Willits, Steve Lowe, Linda Prosser, Nina Lee Hampton, Virginia Smith, Marty Scott, Avanelle Oberlin, John Brown, Roberta Coder, Bill Thompson, Jim Riggs, Connie Simpson, Leona Gustafson, Barry Reese, Peggy Edwards, Patricia Sallee, Earlene Rhodes, and Joy Ballard.**

Marie Bouic, Recording Secretary

Thank you for the donations of money, books, articles, information, etc. in 2018. We are looking forward to 2019 and hope to see you on the 3rd Saturday in March.

-The Executive Board of UCCOGS



Robert O. Hamilton

We say goodbye to a friend and fellow genealogist.

Robert O. Hamilton, 91, of Marysville, died Saturday, November 3, 2018, at the OSU/Rhodes Medical Center in Columbus. A long time Union County attorney, Bob served as Union County Prosecuting Attorney for 8 years and then was the Marysville City Attorney for 16 Years. He carried on his law practice until 2007. During his career, he also from time to time would sit as presiding Municipal Court Judge, Common Pleas Judge, or acting Mayor when needed.

Raised on his family’s farm, the Oakland Farm, he was a 1945 graduate of Marysville High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the south Pacific during World War II, spending time on Guam and Iwo Jima. Upon his return from the service, he enrolled at Miami University, graduating in 1950 and then attended the University of Michigan where he earned his Law Degree in 1953.

Having a deep faith from a young age, he was active in Lutheran youth ministries at both Miami University and the University of Michigan. A longtime and active member of First English Lutheran Church in Marysville, he served as president of the congregation and held some other positions over the years. He also helped build the current building where the church currently worships. He also served on the Mental Health Board of Union County, the Polio Foundation of Magnetic Springs, the Union County Historical Society, the Red Cross Board, the Memorial Hospital Board, the Chamber of Commerce, the Jaycees, the Union County Republican Party. He was a 70 year member of Palestine Lodge #158 F&AM, was a member of the Ohio State Bar Association Executive Committee, the Union County Bar Association and also formerly served as the Milford Center City Attorney. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 79, serving a period as Post Commander and was active with the 40 and 8.

He enjoyed researching Genealogy, was an avid historian and could often be found puttering around the Historical Society. He attended many Marysville High School sporting events. His biggest joy came from being a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather and attending those sporting events, especially when his children and grandchildren were participating.

Born July 27, 1927, in Delaware, he was the son of the late **George R. and Annette (Otte) Hamilton**. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his sisters, **Mary Huffman**, and **Ruth Whilton**.

On December 16, 1962, he married his wife **Phyllis (Clark) Hamilton**, and she survives in Marysville. Also surviving are his sons, **Nathan Hamilton** of Dublin and **Scott (Amy) Hamilton** of Marysville and his grandchildren, **Morgan, Clark, Mack and Clarissa Hamilton**.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M. Friday, November 9, 2018, at First English Lutheran Church, Marysville. **Reverend Tonya Brittain** will officiate, and burial will follow at Oakdale Cemetery where Military Honors will be conducted by the Union County Honor Guard. Friends may call from 2-4 and 6-8 P.M. on Thursday, November 8, 2018, at Wilson Funeral Home, Mannasmith Chapel, located at 621 West Fifth Street, Marysville, Ohio 43040. Memorial contributions can be made to the First English Lutheran Church Building Fund, The Union County Historical Society or the Marysville High School Alumni Scholarship Fund in care of the funeral home. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.wilsonfuneralhomesinc.com

LIBRARY VISITORS

NOTE: Only visitors who permit their information for publication are listed here.

Visitor’s Name	Address	E-mail	Surnames
Janice Fry	97 Wetmore Columbus, OH 43214	Jfry5@columbus.rr.com	Fry
Virginia Smith	Plain City, OH	Gin.schmitt@yahoo.com	Thompson/McClung
Chelsea Eismon	Plain City		Bonham/Hardin/Lister
Carlie Moran	857 W. 5 th St. Marysville, OH 43040	Carliemoran@yahoo.com	Kreakbaum/Moran
Judy Warner	5609 Princeton Rd. Liberty Twp., OH 45011	JWarner43@aol.com	Judy Rausch Warner
Becky Morelock Zeren	150 Corona Way Portola Valley, CA 94028	becky@zeren.com	Hammerle/Morelock

NO Meetings: January and February 2019

First Meeting 2019 March 16, 2019

Upcoming Events/Meetings

**Unless otherwise noted, all meetings held in the lower level of the
Marysville Library (Elevator located inside the back door.)**

231 S. Plum St., Marysville, Ohio 43040

10:00 AM on the third Saturday of each month

No meetings December, January, February or July

March 16, 2019 – 10am Marysville Library

“The 100th Anniversary of American Legion Union Post 79”

Presenter – Steven C. Lowe



Steven C. Lowe is married to **Jeanne Lowe** and has one son, **Aaron Lowe**. He is a retired teacher, having taught twenty-eight years at Fairbanks High School and nine years at London Correctional Institution and the Ohio Reformatory for Women. Steve served fifteen years on the Marysville City Council and four years as the Mayor of Marysville. He served eight years in the Army Reserve. He has been a member of American Legion Post 79 for twenty-two years. Both of Steve’s grandfathers, **Warren H. Ritchie** and **Truman R. Lowe** served in Europe during World War I and were original members of Union Post 79. His father, **Donald R. Lowe**, served in the Pacific during World War II.

April 20, 2019 – 10am Marysville Library

“Notable People Who Have Come From Marysville”

Presenter – Robert W. Parrott



Robert W. Parrott is president of the Union County Historical Society and a life-long resident of Marysville and Union County. In honor of the 200th anniversary of the founding of Marysville, his presentation will be “Notable People Who Have Come From Marysville.” He will look at a dozen people from Marysville who achieved national fame and success. This will include both men and women in various fields of art, military, politics, business, and entertainment. He will tell the story of each and why our town can be proud of the accomplishments of these remarkable citizens.

Upcoming Events/Meetings

continued



OGS 2019 Annual Conference 1-4 May 2019

The OGS 2019 Annual Conference will be held 1-4 May 2019 at the Great Wolf Lodge in Mason, Ohio. For the most up-to-date information on the conference, visit the conference website at <http://www.ogsconference.org/>.

May 18, 2019 – 10am Marysville Library

“Gravestone Cleaning”

Presenter – **Krista Horrocks**



Krista Horrocks being a professional archaeologist is an Archaeological Reviewer for the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Krista is a member of the Association for Gravestone Studies (and co-run the Ohio Chapter). She lives in Columbus with her husband, **Brian**, and two daughters. Besides spending her lunch break in the OHC Archives Library, she enjoys working on the Old Fredericktown Cemetery Preservation Project in her hometown of Fredericktown.



**Find us and like us
on Facebook!**

www.facebook.com/UCCOGS/

Please Note: Every Name Index for 2018 Newsletters will be available with this first newsletter of 2019.

Veterans Day Program
11 November 2018
2:00 P.M.
First Presbyterian Church



The following are excerpts from the presentations given by **Bo Johnstone** (left in the picture), Docent Director of Union County Historical Society and an Army Veteran; and **Chris Zorman** (right side in the picture), the great nephew of **Ralph Ewing**.

Excerpts from Bo Johnstone's speech:

Today is November 11, 2018. If you were awake this morning at 5 a.m., you would have been up at the exact hour 100 years ago the 'armistice' took hold in France. At the 'eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month,' or 11 a.m., November 11th, 1918, the war known as the 'Great War' or 'The World War' came to an end.

We are here this brisk autumn afternoon for a noble purpose. We continue a tradition that began in 1919, when **President Woodrow Wilson** declared the first Armistice Day Remembrance, a day set aside to honor the men fallen in this war, especially those men from Union County.

Part of this tradition is remembering the service of all who have served in our nation's military, whether in war or peace. We especially remember those that made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

In "Voices from the Stone," we will hear about men from Union County that made that sacrifice during World War I, and about the man chosen to represent them this afternoon, **Private First-Class Ralph Ewing**. Many were members of Company E of the 166th Infantry Regiment. The Union County Historical Society has World War I items and photographs on display in both their museum and the Veterans Auditorium across the street in the County building.

In June 1914, in a little backwater town called Sarajevo, Serbian nationalists assassinated **Archduke Franz Ferdinand**, the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary. This set-in motion the events that would lead to the start of the First World War. Within 90 days the countries of Europe had taken sides to honor their military alliances or to pursue their own territorial ambitions. From that single event began World War One, also known as "the Great War," one of the most destructive conflicts in history. By the time it ended, almost 10 million soldiers had been killed, while 15 million civilians had died, many from disease. All of Europe and many other

parts of the world would be changed forever. New nations would appear, while others ceased to exist. Kings and Emperors, Czars and Kaisers would become names in history books, never to rule again.

From 1914 until 1917 America stayed out of direct action in the war. While many people supported the Allies – England, France, Russia, and Italy; there were many others, recent immigrants from Germany and Austria - Hungary that supported the Central Powers. Union County itself had divided loyalties, as there was a large German population. But in April 1917, because of actions by the German government, British propaganda, and his own mis-guided idealism, **President Woodrow Wilson** decided that America had to get involved. So, he asked Congress for a declaration of war against Germany, stating that ‘America must make the world safe for democracy.’ The nation was united against the ‘Hun.’ The first American Expeditionary Force, or AEF, troops didn’t arrive in France until the end of June. On the 4th of July 1917, the 16th Infantry regiment marched through Paris, and at the tomb of **General Lafayette**, a member of **General John ‘Black Jack’ Pershing’s** staff uttered the words, “Lafayette, nous sommes ici. Lafayette, we are here.” The song “Over There” became our theme. But American soldiers didn’t even see major action until April of 1918, and most troops didn’t begin arriving until July of 1918. Once in combat, the doughboys endured horrific conditions on the front lines. Not only did Marysville.

Earlier in the war, prior to the battle where he was killed, **Ralph** had been wounded in June during the patrol when **Ralph Berger** became missing in action and was presumed killed. **Ralph** wrote home about another soldier killed that day, **Mac Winget**. **Ralph** told his parents that **Mac** died on the way back to the first aid dressing station, and **Mac** died while **Ralph** was holding his head in his lap. The picture of **Ralph** used by the committee was taken while he was recovering from this wound, and a copy is on display at the Veterans Auditorium.

In early September of 1918, the 42nd and other US divisions attacked the Germans in the St. Mihiel salient and drove the Germans out. However, because of casualties and the need to rest and regroup, Company E and the rest of the Rainbow Division were not available to take part in the start of the Meuse-Argonne offensive in late September – early October. The going was tough during this battle, as the Germans had four years to construct defenses, so the Americans and French made little head way at first. In mid-October, the veteran 42nd Division replaced the First Division “Big Red One” and moved into the line to assault the Hindenburg Line and try and capture the Kriemhilde Stellung, the first German line of defense. From October 14th until October 24th, Company E and the 166th Regiment pressed their attack against stubborn German resistance. On October 26, an order came down from division headquarters that the 166th was to be relieved and replaced on the line by the US 2nd Division. Unfortunately for several men in the regiment, including **Ralph Ewing**, this order was soon cancelled, and the men stayed where they were. The 42nd Division prepared to continue their attack, and during this time the 166th sent out patrols and was subject to artillery fire from the Germans. This artillery was not only high explosives but also poison gas. On October 27th, the day **Ralph** was killed; two other men from

Company E were wounded, which indicates that **Ralph** was probably killed while on patrol. The War ended less than two weeks later. Regrettably, **Ralph** was not the last man killed in Company E before the Germans surrendered.

The respect, affection, and honor **Ralph Ewing** had from his comrades, and his family is a testament to his bravery and to the dedication he had to his comrades and his duty which he displayed during the war. **Ralph** died during the Meuse Argonne battles, not yet even able to vote. But he was willing to defend his country, even to laying down his life on the altar of freedom. For this reason, we remember Private First-Class **Ralph Ewing** as our ‘Voice from the Stone.’

Bo Johnstone introduced **Chris Zorman** and his family. **Chris** is the great-nephew of **Ralph Ewing**. He shared his uncle’s story, bringing us **Ralph Ewing**’s ‘Voice from the Stone.’ He told us about his uncle being killed on his 20th birthday 100 years ago, October 27, 1918. At the end of World War One, the families of those men killed overseas were given the choice of having them interred in one of the military cemeteries in France or bring the body back home. **Ralph**’s parents chose to return him to Marysville, and he was buried in Oakdale cemetery on October 21, 1921, in the family plot at Section G, Row 7, Plot 11.

Excerpts from Chris Zorman’s speech:

Private First-Class **Ralph C. Ewing** was born to **Charles** and **Essie Ewing** on October 27, 1898, in Mechanicsburg, Ohio. Oldest brother to **Chester, Robert, Melvin, Pearl, and Helen**. He was raised on the family farm on Waldo Road. He attended Marysville High School until the spring of 1917. Like tens of thousands of young men of his generation he opted to serve his country upon his entry to World War One by voluntarily enlisting in the US Army and like many young men from the Marysville area he served in Echo Company, 166 Infantry Regiment, 83rd Infantry Brigade of the 42nd Division also known as The Famed Rainbow Division. He held the rank of Private from the date of his enlistment until February 22, 1918, when he was promoted to Private First-Class. The 42nd division which was comprised of National Guard units from over 26 states was activated in August 1917 and shortly thereafter sent to Europe as part of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) under command of **General John J Pershing** the AEF was stationed on the Western front of Belgium and France. Private **Ewing**’s unit participated in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive which remains to this day the largest military action in US history involving 1.2 million soldiers. It also the bloodiest operation for US forces in World War One. Over 26,000 US soldiers were killed in action during this event. **Ralph** and his fellow soldiers joined British and French forces along the front and were engaged in trench warfare the defining method of combat during World War One. And in addition to dealing with the struggles associated with daily life in the trenches, **Ralph** was twice a direct casualty of battle on June 21st, 1918 Private First-Class **Ewing** was wounded in the hip by a piece of German artillery scalpel while going over the top as part of an encouragement in no man’s land. After recovering from these injuries **Ralph** return to the front was sent to Sommerance,

France in the Argonne District on October 22nd, 1918 which was his 20th birthday and only 15 days before the armistice that seized all hostilities along the Western front **Ralph** was tragically killed by sniper fire. His body remained in France until October 1921 when it was returned to Marysville for permanent Interment in Oakdale Cemetery. Funeral services were held on October 30th, 1921 at the **Ewing**'s farm. The funeral procession to the cemetery was noteworthy in that it was led by the wagon that was pulled by **Ralph**'s favorite horse. It was the same horse he wrote to the train station when he shipped out for military duty. As this was his favorite horse, he kissed it goodbye before boarding the train. As he left the train station, the horse broke free and chase his master down on the tracks.



Ralph was laid to rest in Section G in the northwest section of Oakdale Cemetery. But, the story of Private First-Class **Ralph Ewing** did not end on the day he was laid to rest. Point to contrary, it continues to this day. To honor the sacrifice that their son freely made, to grieve his lost **Ralph**'s parents decided to fly the very flag that draped over his casket, to display this flag at his gravesite on Decoration Day 1922. **Charles** and **Essie** continue to perform this simple but profound gesture until their passing upon which their youngest son, **Pearl** and his wife, **Belva** assumed the duties. Now their daughter **Karen Zorman**, along with me her son (**Chris Zorman**) and my daughters **Katherine** and **Audrey** have taken over ensuring that knowledge of **Ralph** sacrifices is not lost to history but is known and revealed 3 generations after his passing. His legacy lives on each Memorial Day thru this simple act of respect.

Admittedly, I don't know much about **Ralph**, the person other than through some stories passed down to me from my mother and my grandparents but this I know must be true he didn't enlist for personal gain, pursuit of glory or the excitement of the adventure like many of the tens of thousands who join him, he enlisted out of strong sense of duty he chose to serve because his country asked him to, he left his family, his home and all that he knew to go to a foreign land and fight a foreign foe not for personal benefit but because his nation said it needed to be done and this makes the sacrifice that he and all who have selfishly gave their life in service of our country all the more incredible. In reflecting on the magnitude of **Ralph**'s sacrifice, I am drawn to a tribute made by **Miss Nellie Pierce**, one of **Ralph**'s high school teachers at his funeral. She said, "his classmates and comrades will remember the happy life the kindness the sense of companionship the fun the humanity that were his." Those who were intimate with him can never forget his devotion to children and kindness to animals. As a community we honor his memory there are pictures and poems that lift this to higher levels if we notice it and we love it. How much more of the inspiration of a life sacrificed and service where sincerity, bravely and the right steadfastness and responsibility to constancy and loyalty to country were the high ideas. For the Master has truly said, "Greater love have no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends." So next time you

are visiting Oakdale Cemetery on Memorial Day take a drive to the far northwest section. Nestled near an old pine tree, you'll see all glory flying freely in the breeze, and when you do think of **Ralph** and all the others who made the extreme sacrifice, so we can live free and vow never to forget, so their sacrifice was not in vain.

Dedication of New Pavers

On behalf of the Veterans Remembrance Committee, and the veterans honored on the monument, committee member and Vietnam Tet Offensive US Marine Corps veteran Rick Campbell formally dedicated new pavers to the honor, glory and perpetual memory of 25 who have served and are serving from Union County.

EUGENE AMRINE	Army
HAROLD G ASMAN	Army
SHANE BAILEY	Army
EDGAR H. BOWERSMITH	Army
F. SCOTT CREVISTON	Army
ROGER ELLIS	Air Force
DARYL L. GORDON	Air Force
EDWARD GRIFFITH	Army
GENE F. GROSS, SR.	Army
WILLIAM N. HALL	Navy
WILLIAM T. HAMILTON	Air Force
ROBERT G. JORDAN	Army
BRIAN S. MANNASMITH	Air Force
PAUL E. PERTUSET	Army
JAMES D. REECE, JR.	Marines
JESSIE SAMPSEL	Air Force
PATRICK SAMPSEL	Air Force
FRANK A. SCOTT	Army
KENNETH S. SCOTT	Army
WALTER E. SCOTT	Army
GILBERT L. STYER	Navy
JOHN R. WEST	Army
CHARLES YARRINGTON	Navy
HAL YARRINGTON	Navy
YORK TOWNSHIP	

The fact that so many men and women from Union County have served or are serving, and that their names appear together in this plaza is a tribute to the love of country and tradition of service in Union County.

May God bless this place, May God bless all our Veterans, past, present, and future; and May God bless America.

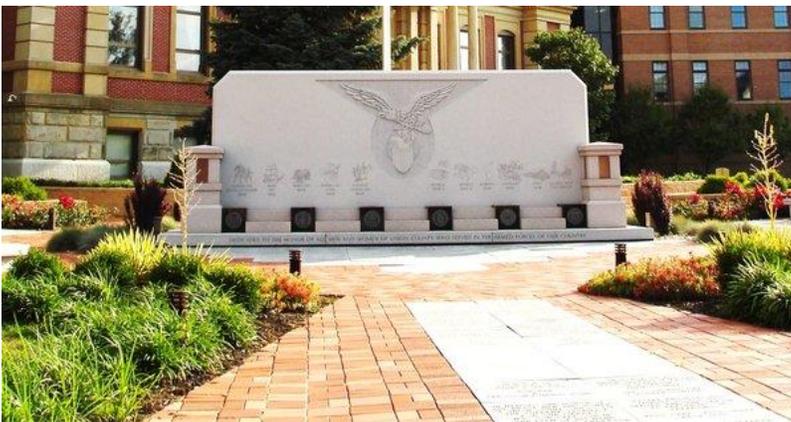
Floral Tribute Presentation

The dedication of a floral tribute honoring Union County veterans was placed at the monument. It serves as a reminder to us of the sacrifice of **Ralph Ewing**, the men of Company E, and all those Union County men that died during ‘the Great War.’

The words spoken on November 11, 2018, reminded us of the men killed during ‘the Great War’ from 1914 to 1918 and serve as a reminder of the men that survived the war and a reminder to us, to always honor the memory of those men. And we above all, remember **Ralph Ewing** and all the men from Union County that died 100 years ago in the ‘war to end all wars.’

People remained and viewed the new pavers. The flag, which has been at half-staff to honor the dead, was raised to full staff.

The Veterans Remembrance Monument and Plaza



✍ It is a solemn place located at the Union County Court House that belongs to **EVERY UNION COUNTY VETERAN**, past, present, and future.

✍ It is a place where their personal contribution to the security of our land is **ALWAYS HONORED**.

✍ It is a place where they will **NEVER BE FORGOTTEN** or overlooked.

The pavers and data forms are available at the website:

<https://www.ucvetmemorial.org/>. Remember if you or a family member/friend has been an U.S. veteran who at one time has lived in Union County, Ohio, please complete and submit the Veterans Information Form so that they may be honored for their service. For more information, please e-mail Marie Bouic, Bouic1@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL *Annual Dues*

Dues are for the calendar year (January 1 thru December 31, 2019)
Current dues expired December 31, 2018.
Renew now!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL

(Renewals: please mark with an X any changes in your information)

May we use your information on our Website (members only section)? Yes ___ No ___

Name _____ Member No. _____ Spouse _____ Member No. _____

ADDRESS _____ Email _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Returning Member _____ Phone _____

Are you a member of the Ohio Genealogical Society? Yes ___ No ___

Surnames you are researching in Union County _____

GO GREEN! May we send the *Union Echoes* newsletter to the above email? Yes ___ No ___

Dues are \$12 per household for 12 months, January-December.

Make check payable to Union County Chapter OGS

Monies used to purchase research materials, microfilm for the Marysville Public Library, and guest speakers.
UCCOGS is a 501(c)(3) society.

Return form and dues to **Union County Chapter OGS**
PO Box 438
Marysville, Ohio 43040-0438

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