

## **Outstanding OGS Chapter Volunteer Award**

Warren County Chapter of Ohio Genealogical Society nominates Vicki Bergerhouse for the outstanding OGS Chapter volunteer for her service as one of our outstanding volunteers.

Vicki is one of our newest volunteers. She is a delightful asset to our Warren County Genealogical Society team. She commits many hours as one of our library volunteers and can be seen working on a variety of projects every day we are open. This past year WCGS has been compiling information on resources within our county and the location of these records. We wanted to include a listing of the elected county officials in our county since 1803, but unfortunately many of the county agencies did not have a listing of people who served in their specified office. As Vicki's first project, she volunteered to help track down information on our elected officials. This has been a huge project taking almost 10 months to complete. She started by contacting various county organizations, then compared their records with the 1903 atlas, which listed elected officials in Warren County. With this limited information, she thoroughly searched the newspapers for election results to document the accuracy of these records and fill in any missing gaps. In cases where nothing was listed in the newspapers, such as in the case of the early coroner's names, she went to the early court records and read through many of those old records looking for the signature of the coroner. This was a very timely process but the last resort since the names were not recorded anywhere else. In addition to documenting names and making copies of the election results, she obtained copies of various articles on the elected officials such as obituaries or clipping which mentioned resignations or appointments. Because of the extensive work she has done we can now provide the county offices with documented proof of each elected official in Warren County and the years served. This information will be listed in our new book about researching in Warren County.

Finding obituaries is the most requested research WCGS receives. As such we have been working to have a complete and comprehensive file of obituaries found for Warren County residents in our newspapers. However, our obituary file is not as complete in the earlier years. Vicki's other major project this year has been spent reading newspaper microfilm looking for obituaries that may have been missed. She has found over 10,000 new obituaries this year, which have been added to our collection.

While searching the newspapers, she also made copies of articles for the following topics: military veterans, high school graduations, high school reunions, natural disasters in Warren County such as floods, wind storms, etc., historical homes, 5 generation Warren County residents, Shakers, and establishment histories specifically on businesses in Warren County. She has also helped with our Civil Docket indexing project and has recently started obtaining death certificate copies for our next death record book.

Vicki contacted township government offices in Warren County and has been given permission to copy their interment records. To date she has copied interment records for Hamilton township, and has received permission to copy interment records for two other townships (Harlan and Turtlecreek). These interment records will be added to our cemetery project and be invaluable to those searching for ancestors who might not have tombstones.

Vicki Bergerhouse has been an outstanding volunteer for the Warren County Genealogical Society chapter of OGS. She goes above and beyond the call of a volunteer position in which she serves and we highly recommend she be recognized for her efforts by awarding her the Outstanding OGS Chapter Volunteer Award for 2008.