



**Warren County Records Center & Archives / Microfilm Department**  
406 Justice Drive • Lebanon, Ohio 45036 • Phone: (513) 695-1815 • Fax: (513) 695-2615 • [archives@co.warren.oh.us](mailto:archives@co.warren.oh.us)

### Warren County Jail Exhibit Oral History Committee



Image: 1903 Warren County Atlas

*Did you or someone in your family live or work in the Warren County Silver Street Jail? Or do you have a personal experience about the old Silver Street Jail?*

**If so, we would love to hear your story!**

*What is an oral history and why is it important?*

Oral histories preserve first-person recollections of those who shaped the past and laid the foundation for the future. The Archives staff will be conducting interviews in late June and July to capture this unique part of Warren County government history.

To schedule an interview contact:

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# Let's Try This Again: Revamping Oral History At Warren County

Jen Haney Conover & Jenifer Baker  
Warren County Records Center and Archives

# Background

Lebanon, Ohio

Records Center established in 2001

Staff of 7

Mission: to serve the public through the protection and access to public records that document the activities and functions of Warren County government



25,000 cubic ft records storage and climate controlled storage room



*Warren County Ohio*  
**Records Center & Archives**

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**Welcome to the Warren County Records Center & Archives**



The Edna L. Bowyer Records Center and Archives of Warren County was dedicated in honor of the former Warren County Recorder on June 22, 2001. Directed by the County Records Manager & Archivist, the new facility is housed in the County Administration Building at 406 Justice Drive in Lebanon, Ohio.

The Records Center has a storage capacity of over 20,000 cubic feet. The Reading Room offers patrons an opportunity to research county records in hard copy, electronic, and microfilm forms.

The Microfilm Department, a division of the Records Center and Archives captures county-generated information in digital and analog formats to produce both electronic and secure microfilm files.

The Records Center & Archives and the Microfilm Department are governed by the Warren County Records Commission and by the Warren County Microfilm Board, respectively.

Prior to 2013

Kind of a webpage

No inventory of basic records

No social media

Patrons could call, make web requests or walk in

Website: 2008

Source: [Wayback Machine](#) – Internet Archive

# Redefining our public access and outreach

**2013:**

Updated Records Center website

Began overhaul of inventory and indexing of records

**2015:**

Hired an intern to assist with the writing a social media policy

Launch of Facebook, Wordpress

Intern also put together Educational outreach program with lesson plans

Exhibit on our old Infirmary Building



# Fast Forward to 2017

- Started to do research
- Imitation is the best form of flattery
- Put out feelers for oral histories with staff after looking at Licking County's County Home Oral History Project
- Created/borrowed best practices and policies
- Oral History Release Form
- Told Jenifer go be awesome



# Transcriptions

CB: Warren County emergency police was set up basically for a, like a training program for people that might be interested in law enforcement. In doing so, they uh set up uh, Kennard set up a program and my dad got into it first. And then I followed him into it. And uh, it was basically uh – like I say, Warren County at that time was a poor county. They didn't have no money, they didn't have nothing. So, they took us in and basically trained us to be a deputy sheriff. And then uh – when Roy Wallace come in – he uh said that uh, started a training program for special deputies. And that was where you had the same power, arrest power, and all powers to – as a regular deputy, but you only got paid one dollar a year. It is; I still got some of my checks for a dollar a year!

(Laughter)

CB: And uh, Les Spaeth - I still got one from Wes, Les Spaeth uh – of course he was the Treasurer here for years. And uh, I got one signed by him for a dollar a year. And most of the guys just kept them anyway, yeah that's all there was to it. And then when Roy took that over, he started programs of more intensified training. And they not only did police work, but we did a lot of - emergency police did a lot of good for the community. Uh, we – when I – let's see, would've been (*nineteen*)sixty-one – yeah – sixty or sixty-one - uh, when I joined I was at the Maineville fire department and life squad, then I joined the emergency police. But they did – what I really got interested was that, dad had a big barn over on top of Columbia Road – um Brandon Road - I'm sorry – Grandin Road. When he sold the place over to Kings Island, he moved over on top of Grandin Road which was still in the Kings school district, which Luanna was the last one of the Bastons to graduate from, of the original family. Now my brothers and sisters, they had kids that graduated from Kings too. So, I went in the barn one day and that - I was coming home from work or something – God, there was a whole bunch of people at dad's house so I went in there, and here was about fifteen or twenty guys in there. Men, grown men. They was having the time of their lives. They had toys scattered everywhere. They was there fixing the toys at Christmastime. We would donate them, I mean. I would - I went to Hamilton-Maineville School and got a list of needy families and which they took in Morrow at that time. So – and took in Harlan Township – so, I took anything east of – no, I should say south of – Little Miami. And I took the school districts there; dad took in Deerfield and he took in Mason and part of Turtlecreek. So, the county was split up between all these guys, and it was your place to go get the needy families. So I went to the school and told them what we was doing, and she gave me a whole (*indecipherable*) and some good stuff. And so Christmastime come, we played Santa Claus. Which I thought was great, yeah! (Laughter)

TR: That sounds great!



# Oral Histories Post COVID

- Use apps such as
  - Zoom
  - WebEx
  - GoToMeeting
  - Google Duo/Hangouts
  - Microsoft Teams
- Social Distancing, masks and an old fashioned recording device

# Thank you!

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