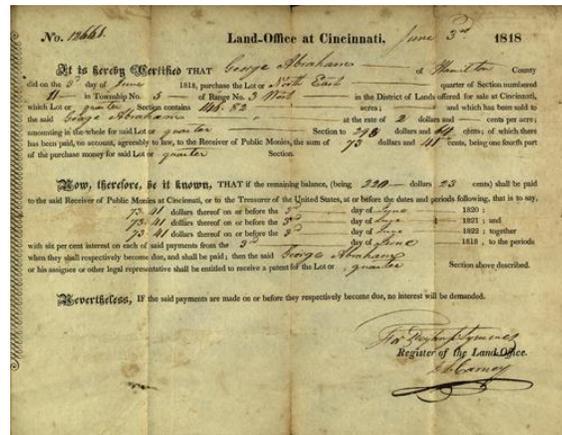


November, 2011

When the State Library of Ohio transferred the bulk of its genealogical collection in 2007, including a large variety of print sources, to the Columbus Metropolitan Library, it was assumed that the State Library was “getting out of the genealogy business,” as some described the move. The move, however, was not motivated by a desire to stop being a source for genealogical research. The decision involved a variety of factors, one of which was access. The Columbus Metropolitan Library, with its evening and weekend hours, was simply better equipped to provide in-person access to print materials. And because other research materials of interest remained in our collection, we endeavored to find a way to make those materials both more visible and more accessible. These materials included our Ohio government documents, which we have been mandated to both retain and make available.



One of the means by which we have increased accessibility is via digitization and digital collection-building. Over the past four years, a variety of our items have been digitized and made freely available to the public. These items reside in [Ohio Memory](#), our digital repository which we created and maintain in partnership with the Ohio Historical Society, and are easily accessed via the internet. Such items include:

- [Sales records from the Federal Land Office in Cincinnati](#). These were created in the early decades of the nineteenth century and include the name of the buyer and his (or occasionally, her) county and state of origin, the location of the land purchased, and the purchase amount. Also included in this collection are a number of power-of-attorney records that often list the names of family members.
- [Annual reports from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans Home in Zanesville](#). These documents include names of residents and their places of birth, their parents' names, whether their parents were living or dead (not all of the residents were orphans; some had living parents), and the battle in which their fathers died, when applicable.
- [Annual reports from the Longview Asylum](#). These reports from the state hospital in Cincinnati include employee lists, along with their salaries.
- [County atlases](#). These atlases feature maps of cities and townships within each county, often listing names of residents and county histories, as well.

Each of these items is still available in its print form, as are a large variety of items not yet scanned. Paul Immel, a former librarian at the State Library, created a bibliography of Ohio government documents of interest to genealogists during his tenure. That [bibliography](#) is available on our website.

The State Library's [digital content](#) page offers links to a number of sources, some owned by the State Library, and other sources of particular interest to users of our collections. Featured collections include:

- ü [Downloadable city directories provided by the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County](#)
- ü [Online death certificate index from the Ohio Historical Society](#)
- ü [Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps](#)
- ü ...and a variety of others!

Other links of interest to genealogists are available on our [genealogy pages](#). Here you will find a link to Paul Immel's bibliography (mentioned above), and to genealogical sources for use by researchers with Ohio roots and for those with roots outside our state's borders. All of the digital sources listed here are free, and we hope they are helpful to researchers worldwide.

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