

## Warren County History Center Tour

### **A SOCIAL STUDIES BACKPACK: Map Skills, Primary Sources, Branches of Government and Much More**

#### **Pre-Tour Lessons**

**GOAL:** The goal of this tour is to cover several Content Statements from a variety of Social Studies Strands in Ohio's New Learning Standards. Students will receive hands-on experience working with primary sources such as letters, documents, photos and period newspapers. Map skills will be exercised using a copy of an 1875 map of Warren County. The three branches of government, along with the different levels of government, will be explored by discussing the long and varied public careers of prominent Warren Countians such as Ohio Governor Tom Corwin and U.S. Supreme Court Justice John McLean.

**PRE-VISIT DISCUSSION TOPICS:** Before visiting the Warren County History Center discuss the following topics with your classes:

- 1- **What do the words "primary" and "secondary" mean?**
- 2- **Why are primary sources important when doing research?**
- 3- **What are the three branches of government?**
- 4- **The levels of government, like different levels of sports and schools, perform the same functions but for a different area or intensity. Discuss the levels of a sport like football or basketball (i.e. junior high, high school, college, pro, etc.); the levels of schools (i.e. elementary, intermediate, junior high, high school, and college or university, etc.); the levels of government (i.e. city or village, county, state and national).**
- 5- **What do maps do? Why do we need them?**

**PRE-VISIT TERMS TO KNOW:** Students should be familiar with the following terms before visiting the Warren County History Center:

- 1- **EXECUTIVE BRANCH-** the branch of government that enforces or carries out the law.
- 2- **LEGISLATIVE BRANCH-** the branch of government that makes the law.
- 3- **JUDICIAL BRANCH-** the branch of government that explains or interprets the law.
- 4- **PRIMARY SOURCE-** a source that provides a first-hand account of an event. A primary source may be a document by an eye-witness, diaries, letters, reports, photographs, newspaper articles, etc.
- 5- **SECONDARY SOURCE -** a source that was created after an event by someone who was not an eye-witness to it nor participate in it. Secondary sources are generally scholarly books, articles or reference sources.