

The Auglaize County Historical Society Newsletter

Katy Gilbert, Editor

May & June 2003 Edition

Contents:

- [Letter from the President](#)
- [Surviving World War II](#)
- [Olive Branch United Methodist Church](#)
- [Wallpaper Project Hits Road](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Bottom of Page](#)

click the dividers to return to the Contents



Letter from the President

Dear Members,

It has been a busy couple of months since the last newsletter. The Centennial Farm Recognition Program was very well attended with close to 200 people in attendance.

The Wapakoneta Middle School Auditorium has great seating and sound system. Everyone attending could view and hear the program.

You know we have the best cookie bakers within the Society so the refreshments were ever so good and we thank them so much for lending a hand. We had cookies baked and decorated in the shapes of a barn, tractor and the State of Ohio and enough left over that if you come to the May membership meeting you'll get to enjoy some.

All in all it was a great day -- it had been ten years since the last recognition so we were a little anxious to make sure we were doing everything as nice and as right as we could. The recipients all had great comments on the program.

We have had so many more sign up for applications that the Trustees have put the Committee back to work on another Recognition Day to be held in the fall. New application forms are being printed and will be in the mail within the next couple of weeks, to those that have signed up and we will be looking for more. It is up to our membership to help get the word out that we will be recognizing 100 years and 150-year business, farm and home. Barbara Harrod will again serve as Chairperson for this committee. September 30th will be the cut off date for getting the applications in and the program has been set for November 2nd. Those are dates that you will want to get on your calendars.

this being our State Bicentennial year is why we are doing the second program this year, and then it will probably be 3-5 years before we do it again.

The Mooney Museum Siding is moving along nicely since the weather has warmed up and is

more favorable to the workers.

We are having the window frames covered and caulking work done at the Wapakoneta Museum also to prevent damage to the air conditioning units along the alley protective poles were installed.

We've purchased an electric lawn mower for Dick Schwer who treats the Wapakoneta Museum lawn just like his own. He does such a wonderful job of keeping that lawn manicured. We appreciate all of his help and also to Paul Oakley who has been helping Dick out this spring. Thank these guys when you see them around.

SHINBONE CHURCH: the deed has arrived and been recorded for the Olive Branch United Methodist Church to become a site of the Auglaize County Historical Society. We are working to put together a program night on and at Shinbone for the July 10th membership meeting. Watch the next newsletter and the newspapers for more information on this important event; in the meantime mark your calendar for that event.

Moulton Gas Co. checked over the heating stoves at the church and will be installing new stovepipes from the stoves through the chimney and putting a cap on the chimney for the Society. They are donating a large portion of this project and we are very grateful to them for giving the Society this support. When you see Van, Tracy or Kerm please thank them for their generosity.

TRAVELING MUSEUM: The Traveling Museum is coming out of storage to be used this summer to high light the Centennial Recognition Program. It will display the program through the years and be set up at the fair and other festivals and events, through out the county, to promote the recognition project. It does need a lot of work, repainted, new signs made, windows caulked and the roof resealed. The trailer will be moved to the Settlement Restoration building at 301 W. Vine St., along the Logan St. side to be "restored". Volunteers needed -- give Lawrence Dietz a call.

We have much work ahead of us and it is all may easier and lighter when we work together to accomplish our goals. We are about promoting, saving and preserving history. We must be about our work. Come join in the fun.

Looking forward to seeing you at the project sites and meetings,

Karen Dietz, President



Surviving World War II **Tales of Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times**



Thursday, May 1st, 7 P. M., at Midwest Electric, Glenna Meckstroth author, president of the county genealogy society and just plain "housewife", in her words, will be talking to the ACHS members and guests about her latest book.

this new book is not a "war" book but a "people" book. It is about courage and determination in a very difficult time, preserving stories of the war years and its survivors in the area. Glenna has interviewed more than 250 people, some men from our area who were prisoners in Germany and German men who were held prisoner in Ohio, Indiana and Russia. many stories were taken from area newspapers, the National Archives, guards and from people living near the war camps. Stories were taken from interviews with people who worked with the prisoners on farms, in cities and factories

as well as the military camps. The book holds accounts of the prisoner's daily life, work, play, deaths, escapes, strikes, and so on. Although many of the stories are serious, there are many humorous incidents included.

Stories from war brides and ladies in the military and of children who grew up under Hitler's rule, all tucked into this 7" x 10", hardcover book with nearly 500 pages and 80 pictures. There is a story of a Jewish lady that escaped Germany just before Hitler began killing the Jews. In these pages you'll discover the story of a navigator on a B-17 bomber who bailed out of his crippled plane and spent three months hiding in the Dutch underground, making it back safely to his base in England.

Very little has been written on these topics in our area, so much of the information will be completely new to most, and especially to those born after the war. Glenna has verified the stories with permission of the individuals to include them in the book. many stories are retold in the book using the exact words of the interview.

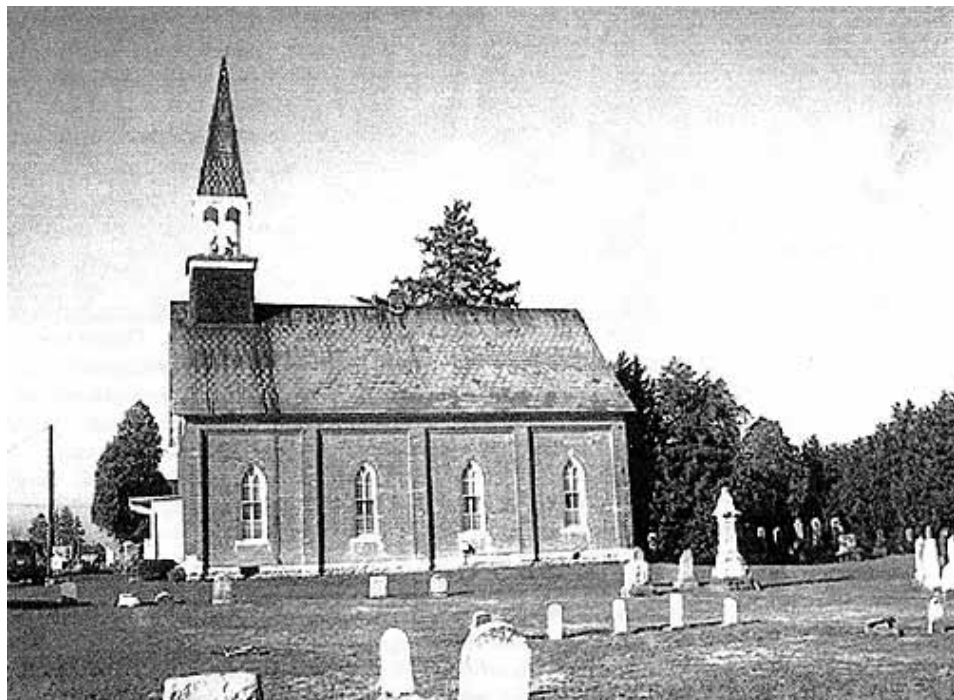
"Tales of World War II: Tales of Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times" sells for \$31.90, which includes tax. Those not making it to the May 1st meeting, wanting a copy mailed, can do so by mailing an extra \$5.50 for postage and handling for a total of \$37.40. mail the check and book request to Glenna Meckstroth, Box 502, New Knoxville, Ohio 45871.

Many of you are very familiar with Glenna and know quite well that she is any thing bu "just a housewife" as she jokingly referred to herself, but for some who might not know, Glenn has been married for 52 years, mother of three and grandmother of two. This is her second book, the first being the delightful "Tales from Great-Grandpa's Trunk: A lighthearted Look at Rural Life", again preserving history through the tales of the old time way of life as her family settled in Ohio. Glenna is one of her churches organists, a chior member, sews for missions and an active Gideon member. Glenna is a lady involved to her elbows in life. Come and enjoy.



Olive Branch United Methodist Church, Shinbone and Shadrack Montgomery

By KATY GILBERT



This is the first of a two-part series on Shinbone, the Olive Branch United Methodist Church

and Shadrack Montgomery.

The members of the olive Branch Methodist Church donated the building to the Auglaize County Historical Society on Dec. 30, 2001 when it was decided its membership was too small to continue.

The Auglaize County Historical society is planning a celebration and open house at the church in July. Watch the newspaper and the next newsletter for more details.

The McCullough families, descendants of Shadrack Montgomery, provided much of the information which had been gathered by Kermit McCullough, (dec.) church historian and his granddaughter, Julie McCullough, Auglaize County Historical Society's secretary has continued to research the church and its history.

More information on Shinbone was gleaned from area newspapers and also from a Kansas genealogical newsletter. Kansas is where Montgomery's son, David moved to in 1860.

Montgomery was considered to be one of the first settlers of Washington Township and was also one of the first Auglaize County commissioners when the county was formed in 1848.

Montgomery donated the land for the church and two cemeteries in 1854.

Shadrack Montgomery (1791-1871) fought in the War of 1812. He enlisted July 1, 1812 in Madison County, Oh. and served in the 1st regiment Ohio Volunteer commanded by Col. Duncan McArthur.

He was wounded in August, 1812 at the Battle of Brownstone Creek. He received a ball in his hip and his leg. The ball in his leg could not be removed with the result of suffering a lot of pain throughout his life. He petitioned the government for a pension and received \$4 per month.

Montgomery enlisted in the regular army in May of 1813 and fought in the Battle of Lundy's Lane. He was discharged in May of 1814 and received bounty land 3001-160-50 State of Ohio.

Montgomery enlisted under the last name of Springer, which was his stepfather's name. When requesting a pension in 1848, he wrote the following letter explaining the use of the name "Springer." There are some blank spots with ??? due to the inability to decipher parts of the handwritten letter.

Auglaize County, Ohio, October the 19th, 1848.

To your honorable Bodies of Both Houses of Congress, I will tell you the difference between my Captain Levi Penney and Lieutenant John Moon which was the lieutenant of Captain Penney's company of Ohio Volunteers. Captain Penny and the orderly knew me by my other name. But Shadrack Springer (was) the name I entered on the roles of Captain's company, which was Springer after my stepfather's name, and Lieutenant John Moon knew me in life as a boy before my mother was married to Springer, and he (John Moon) often called me Montgomery when we was in service together, and when we returned from Hull's army on parole in 1812. We was not satisfied and my lieutenant John Moon went to the War Department in Washington City (now known as Washington DC) received the office of Captain in the regular army and acme home and several of his old soldiers enlisted under him ??? during the war and I for one and then took my own name which was Shadrack Montgomery and ??? enlisted under him for during the war and after he made up part of his company, he received the office of county clerk of Common Pleas and he did not go to service and then we was taken to Captain Stagdaills company of regulars and marched to (Agoney or Aganey) under the ??? of General Brown() and was in the Battle of (Agoney or Aganey) and Lundy's Lane and was discharged after peace was made in August 1815 in Chillicothe (Ohio) under Captain Trimble and returned home broke down and in some years after this I was unwell for some lengths of*

time and my wound or wounds hurt me very much and my neighbors and the Lieutenant John Moon gave me this certificate and give it the name that he was best acquainted that was Shadrack Montgomery and this is the way that those certificates come to be in the name Springer and Montgomery. But I now tell your honors that I am the very person that these certificates now offer to your honors and I will further tell you that the older I get the more my (wound) fails me.

Nothing more at present but remain yours in respect forever Springer and Montgomery. But my name is known now altogether by Montgomery. This is a true statement of fact. Signed -- Shadrack Montgomery

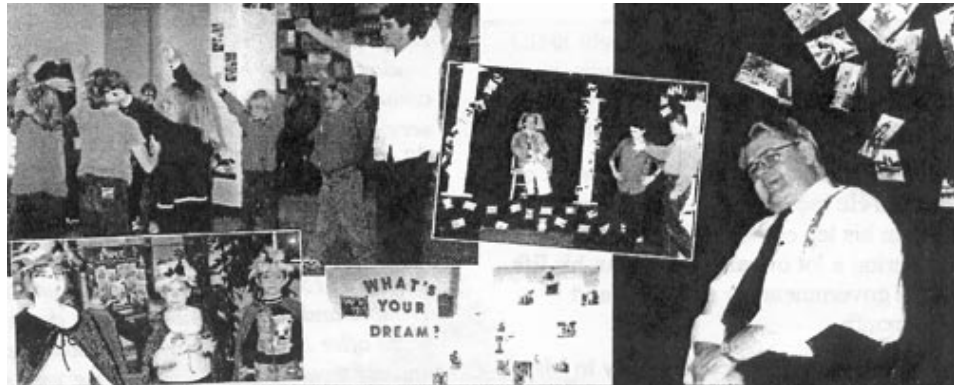
Know this is to satisfy you that I am the very self same person that the Captain cales Springer and the Lieutenant cale Montgomery and this is the first that I presented it to the (public or people). I ???? all was losted. But with your honors ????. Please a littel will help me very much. I am gitten old and won't be in your way very long.

(*)General Brown probably refers to Major General Jacog Brown; commander of the Niagara frontier (1814), succeeding James Wilkinson. The Battle of Lundy's Lane is near the Niagara Falls.

the July/August newsletter will tell you how Shinbone got its name. There will be stories about Shinbone and Olive Branch in the past and a list of civil War soldiers buried in its cemetery.



Wallpaper Project Hits road



Since the Wallpaper Projects conception in 1997 some 350 residents of Auglaize County have been interviewed and their stories collected into a performance based program of oral history. These oral stories have been depicted in plays where adults and high school students perform these stories for Auglaize County residents about Auglaize County residents.

The Wallpaper Project has grown through the support and help of the Ohio Humanities Council to "From Here: A Century of Voices from Ohio" and will be touring thirty plus communities between March and December of this year. this tour will be based on more than 800 interviews with residents across Ohio of all ages and backgrounds. Putting these interviews into a drama production makes the oral history come alive and more receptive to a wide-range of audiences.

"From Here: A Century of Voices from Ohio" will include an original production by Eric Coble, who is an award-winning playwright from Cleveland. It will be directed by Maura Rogers and Jacqi Loewy, both Cleveland artists and presented by local residents at each site and some professional theater personnel. Student matinees of the production, post-show presentations at nursing homes and other similar type facilities as well as story circles that have been designed to involve entire communities in the sharing of the life stories.

What a tremendous on going gift this project has turned into. Hat's off to Rachel Barber

fotting the stuff out the insight and hard work she has put into this absolutely wonderful. We are so very proud of her and the Wallpaper Project Board.

Closing this story by telling one more time Rachel's interview with Eugene Myers that developed into the name for this project.

"Old people who went through the Depression became scared of banks. I can remember if you ad a million dollars, you couldn't buy a loaf of bread, because it was all froze, see... We had one auction and three sisters who never married all lived together in that house. Ed Stroh was president of the bank at that time, and he said, 'Gene, there's money in that house, and I can't find it.'"

"So we were getting the stuff out, and I got a yardstick and every time they got a picture off the wall, I started tapping. And I found a hollow... It had been papered over five times behind that picture... There was \$17,000 in that hole, in that wall."

Following is the listing of Host towns and Tour Schedule, take the opportunity to attend some of these plays and recommend them to family and friends that you may have in these other communities.

Schedule of Wallpaper Programs in Ohio - You are invited to one or all.

May 2-4	Groveport, Franklin County
May 16-18	Georgetown, Brown County
May 23-25	Pomeroy, Meigs County
May 30-June 1	Findlay, Hancock County
June 6-8	Granville, Licking County
June 13-15	Port Clinton, Ottawa County
June 27-29	Wauseon, Fulton County
July 4-6 and July 11-13	Toledo, Lucas County and elsewhere (Spanish-language presentation)
July 18-20	Beaver, Pike County
July 25-27	Hicksville, Defiance County
August 1-3	McArthur, Vinton County
August 8-10	Sidney, Shelby County
August 15-17	Milford, Clermont County
August 22-24	Dayton, Montgomery County
August 29-31	Gallipolis, Gallia County
September 5-7	Circleville, Pickaway County
September 12-14	Portsmouth, Scioto County
September 19-21	Cincinnati, Hamilton County
September 26-28	Akron, Summit County
October 3-5	Wooster, Wayne County
October 10-12	Bellevue, Sandusky and Huron Counties
October 17-19	McGuffey, Hardin County
October 24-26	Oberlin, Lorain County
Oct 31-Nov 2	Cleveland, Cuyahoga County
November 7-9	McConnelsville, Morgan County
November 14-16	Galion, Crawford County
November 21-23	Toledo, Lucas County
November 28-30	Thanksgiving; no shows
December 5-7	Wapakoneta/St. Marys, Auglaize County



Membership Meeting

Thursday, May 1, 2003

7 pm at Midwest Electric.

Come and bring a friend!



Ask Your Friends To Join Auglaize County Historical Society

- Adult Member \$15.00
- Family Member \$25.00
- Student Member \$5.00
- 62 or older Sr. Adult Member \$12.00
- 62 or older Sr. Family Member \$20.00
- Life Member \$250.00

Make check payable to: **Auglaize County Historical Society**
Mail to: **Anna Mae Saum, 131 Bayshore Court, St. Marys, Ohio 45885**

"We are Saving History Now for Future Generations."



[Home](#) [Trustees](#) [Planned Events](#) [Newsletter](#)
[ACHS Store](#) [Membership](#) [Links](#) [Tour](#) [Properties](#)

Help Us To Preserve History
© 2003-2006 The Auglaize County Historical Society
All Rights Reserved