

Auglaize County
Historical Society



October - Nov. - Dec. 2005

Newsletter

of the

Auglaize County Historical Society

Editor, George Nearing - News Reporter, Katy Gilbert



The Daniel Mooney Museum
223 S. Main Street
St. Marys, Ohio



The Gary Log House
Auglaize County Fairgrounds
Wapakoneta, Ohio



The Wapakoneta
Local History Museum
206 W. Main Street
Wapakoneta, Ohio



Shineborn Church
State Route 219 - East N. Knoxville

Letter from the President,

The Annual Meeting of the Auglaize County Historical Society was held at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Moulton, Ohio on September 1 and was enjoyed by many. Dinner was served at 6 p.m. and the business meeting and nomination of officers and recognition certificate awards was held at 7 p.m. Following was our program speaker, Jim Bowsher speaking on the The Auglaize County Connection to the Underground Railroad.

Our Freedom Center Tour on September 15 was sold out with 55 persons attending. The tour, riverboat ride, and dinner was great. Those attending would like to see the Historical Society plan more tours. The society did make a profit of \$387.

We, at the Auglaize County Historical Society wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a big thank you to those that helped and attended our programs at our three museums this year.

Sincerely,
Karen Dietz, President

Notice !

Due to the high cost of fuel our three Museums will be opened only by appointment during the months of December and January, February and March in 2006. We do plan to improve some of the exhibits during the closings.

Neargarder Earns State Award

By CAROLYN MOORE
Evening Leader Staff Writer

ST. MARYS -- When anyone needs to know local history of the area there is one man that you go to George Neargarder.

Neargarder has served as a local historian for decades and was honored by the Ohio Historical Society on Oct. 8, 2005, with an individual outstanding achievement award. The award was given at a luncheon in Columbus and Neargarder as well as two other individual and eleven groups or organization from all over the state were honored.



Neargarder moved to St. Marys in 1940 and has watched the city change for the past several decades. He has been a business man in the town and has made many contacts through the retail business. These contacts and along with being active in the community has helped him gather history that could have previously been lost without his efforts. He has contributed to the M-E Canal History, St. Marys History and Auglaize County History at the St. Marys Community Public Library local history room.

In 1995, Neargarder compiled the 2nd reprinting of the 1880, 1895 and 1917 Auglaize County Atlas and added 100 old photos of the almost forgotten past. In 2002 he compiled the History of Holy Rosary Church. It took nearly two years to collect the pictures and data from the beginning to the present church.

Neargarder served on the Sesquicentennial committee that celebrated the 150th anniversary of St. Marys in 1973. He also was an active member of the Auglaize County Sesquicentennial Committee in 1998.

Neargarder keeps active in the community. He is a 39 year member of the St. Marys Kiwanis Club having served as president twice and then served as chairperson of the Canal Walk With Nature for 12 Years. He is past president of The St. Marys Chamber of Commerce, St. Marys Retail Committee, St. Marys City Civil Service Board, Auglaize County Historical Society, and Southmoor Shores Association. In 1996 he receive the Chamber Builder of Bridges Award. On May 17, 2005 he was honored as the 2005 Auglaize County Outstanding Senior Citizen by the Auglaize County Council on Aging.

Neargarder and his wife Patricia (Elliott) reside in St. Marys and have celebrated 57 years of marriage. They are the parents of six children, Jim, Garland TX, George R., Arlington, TX, Paula Saintignon, Beavercreek, OH, Dr. Sandy, Bridgewater, MA, Janet Bassitt and Steve Neargarder in Wapakoneta, OH and have 19 grandchildren and four great children.

The above information taken from the Evening Leader Newspaper stories by Staff Writer Carolyn Moore.