Ladies Draw Crowd

The Columbus-based band The Ladies of Longford attracted an audience of almost 250 persons to St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Glynnwood, on Sunday, March 25, for an afternoon of Celtic music. The band, shown here with special guest James O'Shea, performed contemporary and traditional renditions of Irish favorites, as well as some of their own original songs. The event included a reading of the history of St. Patrick's Church, and a selection from local writer Jim Tully's Emmett Lawler, which includes many references to Glynnwood, Kossuth, St. Marys, and other area locations. The concert was followed by an outdoor reception with punch and cookies.

More About “Other Citizens”

The Ladies of Longford concert was the first event in the Auglaize County Historical Society’s series “Auglaize County’s Other Citizens.” Other Citizens documents the ethnic groups other than Germans that have contributed to the settlement and development of Auglaize County. Other Citizens has received funding from the Ohio Arts Council and Honda of America Foundation. States Auglaize County Historical Society administrator Rachel Barber, “We're all aware of and grateful for the numerous contributions made by the Germans who immigrated to and settled Auglaize County during the mid-19th century. Yet sometimes we forget the other groups that have called Auglaize County home, from the Irish to the New Englanders and Virginians to the Japanese. All of them have an interesting story that’s worth telling.”
The Auglaize County Historical Society sincerely thanks Barbara Harrod for serving as chair of the 2007 Century Farms, Homes, and Businesses program. This year marked the fourth occasion that Barb has chaired Century Farms.

**Century Farms and Homes Recipients 2007**

**Clay Township**
- Bernice Ruck and Clea Anna (Roger) Helmlinger (150)
- Wilbur and Waneta Helmlinger
- Linda and Jerry Shipp
- Denis L. Thrush, Douglas R. Thrush, and Sheryl C. Thrush Miller Beers

**Duchouquet Township**
- Andrew and Betty Kiser
- George A. Brown
- Frank O. and Nancy J. Heffner

**Jackson Township**
- Paul and Rosalyn Berger
- George W. and Mary F. Brown
- Luke Dahlinghaus (150)

**Moulton Township**
- Robert Sudman

**Noble Township**
- Kenneth Ankerman (150)

**Noble Township (continued)**
- James E. and Darlene Hollman
- Ruth Hollman
- Robert V. and Barbara A. Vogel
- Eugene and Janet Yahl

**Pusheta Township**
- George and Nancy Lunz
- Delores May Schumann and Sharon Ann Schumann (150)

**St. Marys Township**
- Thomas L. and Diane Fledderjohann (150)
- Timothy Tangeman and Michael Tangeman (150)

**Salem Township**
- Marilyn Lichty Haller and Margo Lichty Metzger

**Washington Township**
- Ned and Ruby Berlet (150)
- Cindy A. and Jerry Lehman, Jr.

These generous businesses sponsored refreshments for the Century Farms Ceremony:
- A.G. Boogher & Son Elevator, Santa Fe
- Jerry Hoelscher Seed Center, New Knoxville
- Lee Ann Krize Mycogen Seed, New Bremen
- S & H Farm Supply, Wapakoneta
- Auglaize Proviso, Wapakoneta
- J & I Power Equipment, Inc., Wapakoneta
- Koenig Equipment, Botkins
- Sorenson Insurance Agency, Wapakoneta

This illustration from the 1880 Auglaize County Atlas appears on the plaques for Century Farms recipients.
A History of St. Patrick’s Church and the community of Glynnwood

The Potato Famine forced untold numbers of Irish to leave their homeland and come to America. The construction of the Miami-Erie Canal brought many of these immigrants to western Ohio, and many remained in the area as laborers or farmers after the canal was completed. A little Irish settlement emerged in Moulton Township, then known as Six Mile, because of its distance from St. Marys.

On March 17, 1857, Father Patrick Henneberry came from Lima and the new St. Rose parish to offer Mass for the Irish settlers at Glynnwood. A missionary, Father Henneberry visited Glynnwood as part of his regular route through western Ohio. He celebrated Mass in the home of Jerome McFarland, John Naughton, Bridget O’Boyle, and John Cogan, among others.

Jerome McFarland not only offered his house for Mass; he also donated an acre of ground near the southwest corner of the Glynnwood and Glynnwood-New Knoxville roads for a church and cemetery. Inspired by individual donations—"mostly business men in Wapakoneta and St. Marys"—and especially by a generous gift from Mr. McFarland’s brother, the bishop of the Hartford, Connecticut, diocese, Father Henneberry initiated the construction of a frame home for the new, thirteen-family parish in 1860. The church was then called St. Thomas.

HOW GLynnWOOD GOT ITS NAME

The arrival of the Lake Erie and Western Railroad to Moulton Township in 1877 coincided with the gas and oil boom in the St. Marys-Lima field. These events gave rise to dreams for a real community at Six Mile. No aspirations for the Six Mile were greater than John Glynn’s.

Glynn was born in Galway County, Ireland, in 1820, and had immigrated to the United States in 1851. He purchased land in Moulton Township in 1857.

A town was platted, with a Main Street (running north and south), and four side streets—Arch, Oak, Sycamore, and Water—adjacent to the railroad station. Most of the town lots were located on the farm land of John Glynn.

As the story goes, during the building of the railroad, a small boy "with a broad Irish grin" worked fetching water for the laborers. The men took a liking to John Glynn’s son, Henry, and began to tease that they would name the railroad stop after him. When the railroad built a depot here and had to decide upon a name, Glynnwood was born.

GLynnWOOD GAINS A BRICK CHURCH

By 1880 St. Thomas parish had grown from its humble beginnings to a congregation of about 70 families. Although an addition had been made to the church in 1872, the building was still unable to accommodate the projected growth. Father Ferdinand Walser was therefore sent to Glynnwood with an order "to build a new brick Church." The cornerstone of the present church was laid on May 20, 1883. When the church was dedicated, the name was changed to St. Patrick’s, in honor of the patron saint.
The following is excerpted from *Emmett Lawler*, a novel written by Jim Tully in 1922:

"Now, Emmett," she said, as she seated herself beside him. "I have planned this day all for you. "Sometimes I hate days in small towns—they crawl along like wounded snakes—but this is to be a butterfly day in the county. Let the horse trot until it reaches the St. Mary's Pike."

"Now, Emmett, we are going first to the Forty Acre Pond to hunt mud turtles. After we catch them and make them mud, we will let them go; then we will go to dinner...then on to Kossuth, and around through Glynnwood and home again...."

The horse turned at a cross roads from which a church steeple could be seen towering above houses in a village. It was a replica of a church in Ireland.

They entered the village, across the road from which was a Village of Silent Irish.

They had once danced to the music of weird songs, and their Irish hearts had thrilled at the memory of Irish loves, but now they slept on forever undisturbed by the noise of the trains that crept by their village as often as five times a day. And sometimes a train would pass at night, but so far as was known, not one person in the Silent Village had ever complained of the noise that it made.

In front of the Village of Irish Dreams was a long iron pipe which penetrated through wooden posts, in order that the living might tie their horses should they wish to converse with the dead.

The Auglaize County Historical Society thanks all those who made the Ladies of Longford concert such a success, including chief St. Patrick’s organizer Ellen Brown, church secretary Anne Johnston, all cookie bakers, punch makers, and servers, chair fetchers, greeters, ushers, and golf cart chauffeur Ed Poeppelman.
Historical Society Welcomes New Members

The Auglaize County Historical Society has seen the addition of many new members in recent months. We welcome the following persons to the organization:

- Paul and Sandra Albers
  Minster
- Jim and Jana Ashby
  Wapakoneta
- Ken Baker
  St. Marys
- Virgil and Ellen Brown
  Moulton
- Michael & Courtney Barton
  Wapakoneta
- Jeff and Kay Dorner
  Wapakoneta
- Dianna Epperly
  Wapakoneta
- George and Parmie Herman
  Wapakoneta
- Tom Hinkle
  St. Marys
- Carolyn Larj
  Wapakoneta
- Jim Koenig
  Harpers Ferry, WV
- Don and Dianne Knipp
  Wapakoneta
- Kurt and Donna Kuffner
  St. Marys
- Don & Mary Alice McDermitt
  St. Marys
- William & Bernice Shaddock
  Wapakoneta
- Henry and LeArdenie Stroh
  Wapakoneta
- Nancy Stroh
  Wapakoneta
- Dale Thomas
  Wapakoneta
- Holly Turner
  Waynesfield
- Marilou Wuebbenhorst
  Wapakoneta

When you see these folks, please thank them for joining the Auglaize County Historical Society!

Gravestone Workshop Scheduled for May 18 and 19

The Auglaize County Historical Society will host “Gravestones for Novices,” a comprehensive workshop about historic cemeteries and their preservation on May 18 and 19 at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Pusheta Road, south of Wapakoneta.

The Historical Society has gathered experts from across the Midwest to discuss: the State of Indiana’s pioneering cemetery preservation efforts; genealogy and cemeteries; funerary symbolism; and the methods to clean, level, and reset tombstones using proper techniques and materials, including hands-on practice by participants.

The Auglaize County Historical Society Board of Trustees felt that such a workshop could provide important information to historians, genealogists, township and church trustees, cemetery caretakers, and others who are interested in preserving this unique aspect of local history. The Board is very pleased at the quality of the speakers assembled for the event, which may be the first of its kind in Ohio.

about the workshop

On Friday, May 18, participants will enjoy a series of entertaining and highly informative lectures about cemeteries:

- 6:30 p.m.: Ohio Cemetery Law
- 7:00 p.m.: A Grave Matter in Indiana
- 7:45 p.m.: Rocks of Ages:
  Cemetery Research and Tombstone Art

Saturday’s activities (held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) will focus on teaching participants proper techniques for documenting and preserving tombstones.

John Walters, professional cemetery restorer, Connersville, Indiana, will then teach the basics of gravestone cleaning and repair. Participants will have the opportunity to work on actual tombstones throughout the day. We’ve seen the Graveyard Groomer in person; you’ll be learning from the best!

There is no charge for the Friday evening lectures, and no need to register if you are attending only on Friday.

Registration for Saturday (which includes continental breakfast, lunch, and workshop materials) is $23 for historical society members and $30 for nonmembers. We hope you’ll join us both days. Registration deadline is May 4.
Auglaize County
Historical Society
223 South Main Street
St. Marys, Ohio 45885
206 West Main Street
Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895
Phone: 419/394-7069 or 419/738-9328
auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net

The Auglaize County Historical Society was founded in 1963. Its
mission is the “discovery, preservation, and dissemination of knowl-
edge about the history of Auglaize County and the State of Ohio.”

We’re on the Web!
AUGLAIZECOUNTYHISTORY.ORG

There’s never been a better time
to be part of the Auglaize
County Historical Society!

April 29 Presentation at Shinbone

The Auglaize County Historical Society will host “Early Settlement
Geography and Cultural Landscapes of Auglaize County and
Western Ohio” by Timothy Anderson on Sunday, April 29, at 2
p.m. at the former Olive Branch Church, Shin-
bone (east of new
Knoxville on State
Route 219).

The presentation will address the many eth-
nic groups that helped shaped the history of
area, from architecture
to farming traditions, to
culture.

Timothy Anderson is chairman of the Department of Geography at
Ohio University, where he has taught since
1996. Anderson focuses
his research in histori-
cal geography on settle-
ment and ethnicity.
Known to be a highly
entertaining and inspir-
ing speaker, Anderson
was named Ohio Uni-
versity’s Outstanding
Teacher in 2003.

Timothy Anderson’s
presentation is free and
open to the public. Sign
language interpretation
will also be provided for
persons who are deaf.

We hope that many mem-
bers and friends will join
us for an hour on Sunday
afternoon to celebrate the
diverse history of Aug-
laize County and west-
central Ohio.