

History at a Glance

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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.

Photograph by Eric Maki

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special insert:
*The History of
St. Patrick's Church of
Glynnwood*

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 admin-

istrator 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."

Century Farms and Homes Recipients 2007

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.

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 Janice 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 Kriete Mycogen Seed, New Bremen
 S & H Farm Supply, Wapakoneta
 Auglaize Proviso, Wapakoneta
 J & L 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. Marys pike..."

"Now, Emmett, we are going first to the Forty Acre Pond to hunt mud turtles. After we catch them and make them mad, 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 Añne Johnston, all cookie bakers, punch makers, and servers, chair fetchers, greeters, ushers, and golf cart chauffeur Ed Poeppelman.



What's a concert without a singalong?

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 Ashba
Wapakoneta

Ken Baker
St. Marys

Virgil and Ellen Brown
Moulton

Michael & Courtney Burton
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 LeArdyce 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 mate

rials, 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

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
AUGLAIZECOUNTYHISTORY.ORG

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

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The Auglaize County Historical Society was founded in 1963. Its mission is the "discovery, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge about the history of Auglaize County and the State of Ohio."

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, Shinbone (east of new Knoxville on State Route 219).

The presentation will address the many ethnic 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 historical geography on settlement and ethnicity. Known to be a highly entertaining and inspiring speaker, Anderson was named Ohio University'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 members and friends will join us for an hour on Sunday afternoon to celebrate the diverse history of Auglaize County and west-central Ohio.

