

# History at a Glance

Volume 2, Issue 3 Summer 2007

## Summer Teacher Institute Gets High Marks

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special insert:  
*Teacher Institute photographs  
and*

*a history of St. John's  
Lutheran Church,  
Pusheta Township*

Quaker scholar and Institute presenter Max Carter, Guilford College (NC), stands next to John Johnston's desk at the Piqua Historical Area.

### The Institute at a Glance:

- \* Five days, all day (June 11-15);
- \* 24 teachers, representing five Auglaize County school districts and six other counties;
- \* More than two-dozen presenters, traveling from as far away as Illinois, Oklahoma, and North Carolina.;
- \* Four evening lectures for the public, which drew more than 300 attendees;
- \* Nearly \$19,000 in grant support!

***The Auglaize County Historical Society  
thanks all who helped make  
the Summer Teacher Institute a success, including:***

**The Wapakoneta City Schools  
the staff of Wapakoneta High School**

**Chad Doll**

**Neil and Allison Brady**

**John and Elaine Poppe**

**Becky MacWhinney and Dale and Elaine Altstaetter**

**Mary Ann Valentine**

**Gus Wintzer**

**and our funders: The Ohio Humanities Council, Midwest Electric  
Community Connection Fund, Martha Holden Jennings  
Foundation, and Wapakoneta Area Community Foundation**

## Society Hosts Successful Workshop

A capacity crowd attended the Auglaize County Historical Society's "Gravestones for Novices" workshop about historic cemeteries and their preservation on May 18 and 19 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Pusheta Township. The Historical Society gathered experts from across the Midwest, who discussed the State of Indiana's pioneering cemetery preservation efforts; genealogy and cemeteries; and funerary symbolism. A highlight of the weekend was the presence of the Graveyard Groomer himself, John

Walters, of Connersville, Indiana. John, his wife Micki, and their employee Kelly Luke trained participants in methods to clean, level, and reset tombstones using proper techniques and materials. Workshop attendees then practiced (supervised by Walters) what they had learned by restoring tombstones in the old church cemetery. Attendees, who represented Auglaize County and communities far from our borders (e.g., Beavercreek, Medina, Oberlin, Zanesfield) included historians, genealogists, township and church trustees, cemetery caretakers, and others in-

terested in preserving this unique aspect of local history.

*The Auglaize County Historical Society is especially grateful to our workshop sponsors, whose support was integral to the presentation of this program. Major donors included Bayliff & Eley Funeral Home (Wapakoneta), Miller Funeral Home (St. Marys), and Piehl Brothers Stone Company (New Knoxville). Additional support was provided by Hogenkamp Funeral Home (Minster). The Holiday Inn Express donated accommodations for our presenters.*

### Nine Tips for Cemetery Preservation

by Mary Striegel, NCPTT

1. Create a master plan.
2. Document the cemetery.
3. Assess the condition of the gravesites.
4. Evaluate the landscape.
5. Prioritize the work.
6. Consider treatments.

*Cleaning stones should be done with the gentlest means possible. Begin with a water and a soft brush (no metal or other hard or abrasive bristles). Do not use household bleach.\**

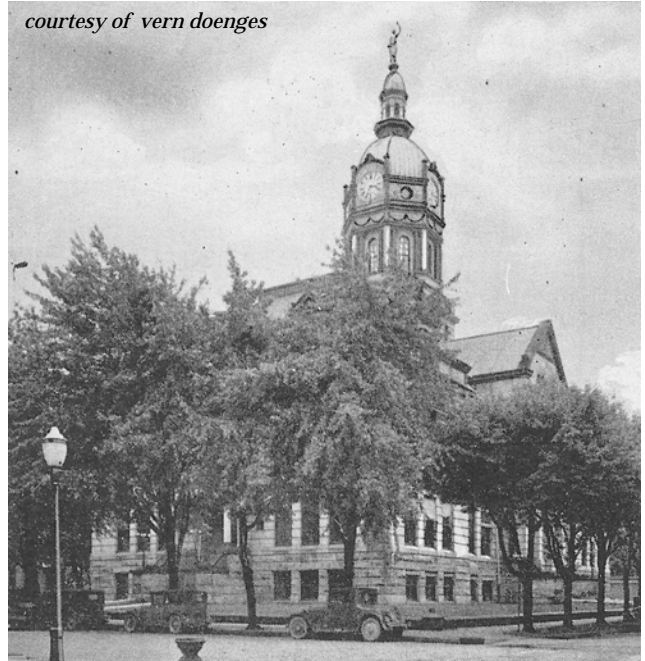
7. Examine maintenance issues.
8. Seek professional assistance.
9. Involve the community.

\*Do not repair grave markers using mortar harder than the stones themselves. (For example, do not use plain concrete.) Do not set historic gravestones in concrete bases. For more information, contact the Historical Society.

*Historical Society Thanks Volunteers*

The Historical Society thanks all those who volunteered as docents during the Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure's recent visit to Wapakoneta. Not only did many GOBA riders visit the Wapakoneta museum; many more took a tour of the courthouse, where they admired the art and architecture of this beautiful 1894 build-

ing, from tile to furniture to stained glass. Courthouse volunteers for GOBA included: Don and Marj Kachelries, Judy Berg, Yvonne Cook, Bob & Marsha Henderson, Carl & Wanda Kogge, Darrel Acker, & Dave Stoll. Thanks also to the Auglaize County Commissioners for welcoming the tours to the Courthouse.



**You're Invited!**

*The Auglaize County Historical Society cordially invites you to attend a Members' Only tour of the Whitney Family Collectibles Museum Thursday August 16, 7 p.m. 19631 St. Marys River Road*

Museum owners and historical society members Joe and Linda Whitney will graciously open their facility for a special tour of their collection of fascinating artifacts that reflect farm and rural life in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Refreshments will be provided. Reservations are required, and may be made by calling the Historical Society at 419/738-9328, by August 13. Directions will be available from the Historical Society upon request.

*Fast Facts*

*about the Auglaize County Courthouse*

The current building was constructed in 1894.

It cost \$259,481.21, or \$5,615,218.72 in 2006 dollars.

This is the third site to serve as the Auglaize County Courthouse.

Initially, the county rented a house for its offices. When court was in session, it would rent the Methodist Church.

The first building constructed as the Auglaize County Courthouse was built in 1851 on Blackhoof Street (one block west of the current site).

The Blackhoof Street Courthouse served until the current building was constructed, after which it was torn down.

This building was designed by the architectural firm of Kremer and Hart of Columbus.

It is made of Berea sandstone.

## Auglaize County Historical Society

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

AUGLAIZECOUNTYHISTORY.ORG

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

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."

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Save the date! Artifact Show at Shinbone—Sunday, August 26, 9 a.m-2 p.m. !

## July 22 Book Signing in Wapakoneta

The Auglaize County Historical Society will host a book signing by legendary St. Marys attorney and new author Eldon Montague on Sunday, July 22, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Wapakoneta Museum, 206 West Main Street.

Mr. Montague recently published a heartwarming collection of memoirs entitled *Growing Up during the Great Depression and Beyond.* Whether readers want to know about the canal and towpath, the New Bremen Speedway, or

even the grain elevator, Mr. Montague has included it all in his book.

Mr. Montague dedicated the publication to his mother, Flora Hertenstein Montague (1887-1984), "who was born on the banks of the Miami & Erie Canal north of St. Marys, who never ventured far from there, who got her eight years of education in a nearby one-room schoolhouse, and who always took pride in being able to recite the alphabet—backwards!"

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Eldon Montague grew up in St. Marys and graduated from Memorial High School. He was a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific Theater in World War II. He graduated from Wittenburg University and the College of Law at the Ohio State University. He has been a member of the Ohio Bar Association since 1949, and is currently semi-retired with Noble, Montague, and Moul. Copies of Mr. Monta-

gue's book will be on sale for \$10 from the Historical Society during the signing. Mr. Montague has graciously offered to give the Society the profits from any books the organization sells.

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**We hope that many members and friends will join Mr. Montague and the trustees of the Historical Society on Sunday afternoon to celebrate his unique and interesting perspective on the story of Auglaize County.**