

## Auglaize County Historical Society

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
AUGLAIZECOUNTYHISTORY.ORG

*Be sure and check out the website's brand new look! Thanks to outgoing president Karen Dietz for spearheading this effort.*

The Auglaize County Historical Society was founded in 1963. Its mission is to collect, preserve, interpret and share the history of Auglaize County and its people through exhibits, programs and publications.

The next issue of the newsletter will highlight some great memories from 2008

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## Historian Studies Local Schoolhouses

Thanks to the efforts of a recent university graduate, Auglaize County residents will have a better understanding of a quickly vanishing part of local history: the one-room schoolhouse.

Wapakoneta native Melissa Luthman is currently recording and photographing the more than one-hundred-thirty one-room schoolhouses that were constructed across the county.

The foundation for Luthman's work is a map created by Dan Bennett, an engineer for Auglaize County. In 1991 Bennett painstakingly mapped the one-room schoolhouses known to have existed in the county, even document-

ing those that had closed before 1900.

Using Bennett's map, Luthman is now traveling to each of the sites to determine whether the original school (or any of its components) still exist. She gathers what information is available from the site, photographing any buildings from the road, and interviewing any residents or neighbors.

The information will be provided to all village historical societies and archived with the Auglaize County Historical Society. Luthman is a 2004 graduate of Wapakoneta High School and a 2008 graduate of Ohio University with a degree in



history. In June she will begin work at the National Women's History Museum in Washington, D.C.

States Historical Society administrator Rachel Barber, "We are very grateful that Melissa has taken on this important project. One-room school houses were vital to the education of

countless Auglaize County children, yet they are rapidly vanishing from the local landscape."

**NOTE TO MEMBERS:**  
The Society can order more copies of Randall Buchman's *A Sorrowful Journey* from the publisher for \$25 each. Contact the office by January 31 if you wish to obtain a copy.

# The Auglaize County Historical Society Newsletter

## History at a Glance

Volume 4, Issue 1 Midwinter 2009

### Executive Connections: American Presidents & Auglaize County

In honor of the upcoming inauguration of Barack Obama and in honor of Presidents Day 2009, the Auglaize County Historical Society is organizing an exhibit called *Executive Connections: American Presidents and Auglaize County*.

The Auglaize County Historical Society plans to include photographs and/or artifacts that reflect visits by presidents, vice presidents or presidential/vice-presidential candidates through the years. The Society is also interested in telling the stories of Auglaize County folk who went on to work at the highest levels of government (for example, Daniel Mooney was ambassador to Paraguay, appointed by President Woodrow Wilson).

If you have any photographs that we could scan for use in the exhibit, please contact the office by January 24.

Check out your local newspaper for exhibit dates and times in your area.

### Historical Society Elects Officers for 2009

At the annual meeting in November, the members in attendance elected the following persons as officers of the Auglaize County Historical Society:

President:	Kimberli Rompilla
Vice-president:	Kelly Kill
Treasurer:	Tom Pfenning
Secretary:	Julie McCullough

The terms of the officers run from January 1 through December 31.

The following persons were also elected trustees at the same meeting: Kimberli Rompilla, Kelly Kill, and Doug Sorensen. Dale Alstaetter was re-elected as a trustee.

At prescribed in the by-laws, the board appointed Chad Doll and Doug Brookhart to complete the unfinished terms of departing trustees.

Returning trustees include: Betty Bulp, Becky MacWhinney, Laura Paulus, and Gayl Ray.

AUGLAIZE COUNTY  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
DANIEL F. MOONEY  
MUSEUM

*The Mooney Museum, St. Marys, is sporting a new sign, thanks to the efforts of the 2008 board, which worked with Unique Awards & Signs for several months to create the appropriate signage.*

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY SETS 2009 CALENDAR

The board of trustees approved the tentative 2009 schedule of events presented by administrator Rachel Barber at its December meeting. Highlights include:

February

*Executive Connections: American Presidents and Auglaize County* (February 2-28)

*The Paintings of Evelyn Gray* exhibit, White Memorial Library, Waynesfield (February 16-28)

March

*Sojourner Truth* reenactment, St. Marys Community Public Library (March 16; 6:30 p.m.)

April

*Ohio Archeology* lecture (April 2, 7 p.m.)

*Eastern Auglaize County: Open For Business* traveling exhibit, White Memorial Library, Waynesfield, and other locations (April 13-?)

*Sacred Art and Architecture* tour of southwest Auglaize County

May

Spring Bus Trip to Licking County (May 7)

Historic Preservation Month Activities

June

*Grandma's Wedding Dress*, a presentation of vintage wedding apparel, Olive Branch Church, Shinbone (June 4, 7:30 p.m.)

July

*Tours, exhibits, and roundtables* presented in conjunction with the Armstrong Air and Space Museum and the 40th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Mission and Neil Armstrong's Moonwalk

August

Auglaize County Fair exhibit in conjunction with local historical societies (August 2-8)

September

Fall Bus Trip (September 24)

October

*The Landscape and Wildlife of Frontier Ohio* lecture, presented in conjunction with Heritage Trails Park District (October 1, 7 p.m.)

Cemetery Walk

November

Annual Meeting, featuring *The War Nobody Knows* lecture (November 5)

Locations for several of the events are still to be determined. Check upcoming issues of *History at a Glance* for more information.



## SPRING BUS TRIP TO VISIT LICKING COUNTY

Mark your calendars for May 7 and another exciting Historical Society bus trip. Our visit to Licking County will include:

Newark Earthworks

*The Earthworks are an archaeological treasure, nominated for international heritage status.*

Cranberry Bog

*Cranberry Bog on Buckeye Lake is known as one of the most unique and fascinating natural areas in the nation. A must see before it is too late, the bog was 50 acres and today is only 11 acres. We'll take in an entire lake tour via a new 60-passenger pontoon boat.*

The 1812 Buxton Inn

*We'll enjoy a gourmet lunch at the oldest continuously operated inn in the state. According to Haunted Columbus, the Buxton Inn is considered one of the best haunts in central Ohio.*

Tour of the Historic 19<sup>th</sup> Century Architecture of Granville, with a step-on guide

Visit to Velvet Ice Cream Company

*Velvet is the home of Historic Ye Olde Mill (carried by many local groceries). Velvet Ice Cream, Inc., is an ice cream powerhouse, producing more than 6 million gallons of ice cream a year, distributed in 26 states. Our tripgoers do love their ice cream.*

Registration forms will appear in the next newsletter. The Historical Society is committed to keeping our bus trips enjoyable and reasonably priced. As always, we'll offer a discount to Historical Society members.



*The Buxton Inn, Granville*

**Ohio's Historical Markers Program**

The Ohio Historical Markers identify, commemorate and honor the important people, places, and events that have contributed to the state's rich history. The Ohio Historical Markers Program, administered by the Ohio Historical Society, is a vital educational tool, informing residents and visitors about significant aspects of Ohio's past.

**How to Read a Marker**

In addition to the text describing the historic marker, there are also the names of individuals and organizations that sponsored the particular marker and the year the marker was erected. This information is included at the bottom of the marker. Sponsors may also choose to attach a piece of custom artwork or metal plate to the marker. These can often be found in the corners and might include portraits or emblems. The Sewah code is also located at the bottom of each marker.

*Example: Marker #23-1*

*23 indicates that this particular marker is the 23rd marker to be erected in the county*

*1 indicates that the marker is located in Adams County, which is alphabetically the first county*

Although Auglaize County is rich in history, only six Ohio Historical Markers have been erected here: Dayton & Michigan Railroad (Wapakoneta), Dudley Nichols (Wapakoneta), Fort Amanda, Miami & Erie Canal and New Bremen, Shannon Stock Company (Wapakoneta), and the Town Pond Reservoir/Cridersville's Great Fire of 1918. In the fall the trustees of the Auglaize County Historical Society determined to take a leadership role in gaining markers for more local historic sites.

Check out [remarkableohio.org](http://remarkableohio.org) for more information.