

History at a Glance

Volume 10, Issue 1 Mid-winter 2015

Historical Society Applies for Heritage Tourism Grant

The Auglaize County Historical Society recently applied for a Heritage Tourism Planning Grant from the Ohio Humanities Council. If awarded, funding would allow us to assess Auglaize County resources that have the potential to be part of heritage tourism initiative in our area. It would help us answer such questions as:

What do local residents and guests know (or not know) about Auglaize County's history and the sites that reflect this history?

What stories about Auglaize County history do we interpret and share well and what stories are missing?

How can historic sites in our county work together to present our unique history better and more creatively to ever larger and more diverse audiences?

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has developed the following principles for Heritage Tourism, which we'll explore throughout the year:

Five Principles for Successful and Sustainable Heritage Tourism

Make the most of your opportunities for cultural heritage tourism by following the National Trust for Historic Preservation's five basic principles. Follow these principles and you'll avoid many difficulties that could otherwise arise when culture, heritage and tourism become partners.

Collaborate

Much more can be accomplished by working together than by working alone. Successful cultural heritage tourism programs bring together partners who may not have worked together in the past.

Find the Fit

Balancing the needs of residents and visitors is important to ensure that cultural heritage tourism benefits everyone. It is important to understand the kind and amount of tourism that your community can handle.

Make Sites and Programs Come Alive

Competition for time is fierce. To attract visitors, you must be sure that the destination is worth the drive

Focus on Quality and Authenticity

Quality is an essential ingredient for all cultural heritage tourism, and authenticity is critical whenever heritage or history is involved.

The true story of your area is the one worth telling. The story of the authentic contributions previous generations have made to the history and culture of where you live is the one that will interest visitors, because that is what distinguishes your area from every other place on earth. It's authenticity that adds real value and appeal. Your area is unique, and its special charm is what will draw visitors. By doing the job right—by focusing on authenticity and quality—you give your area the edge.

Preserve and Protect

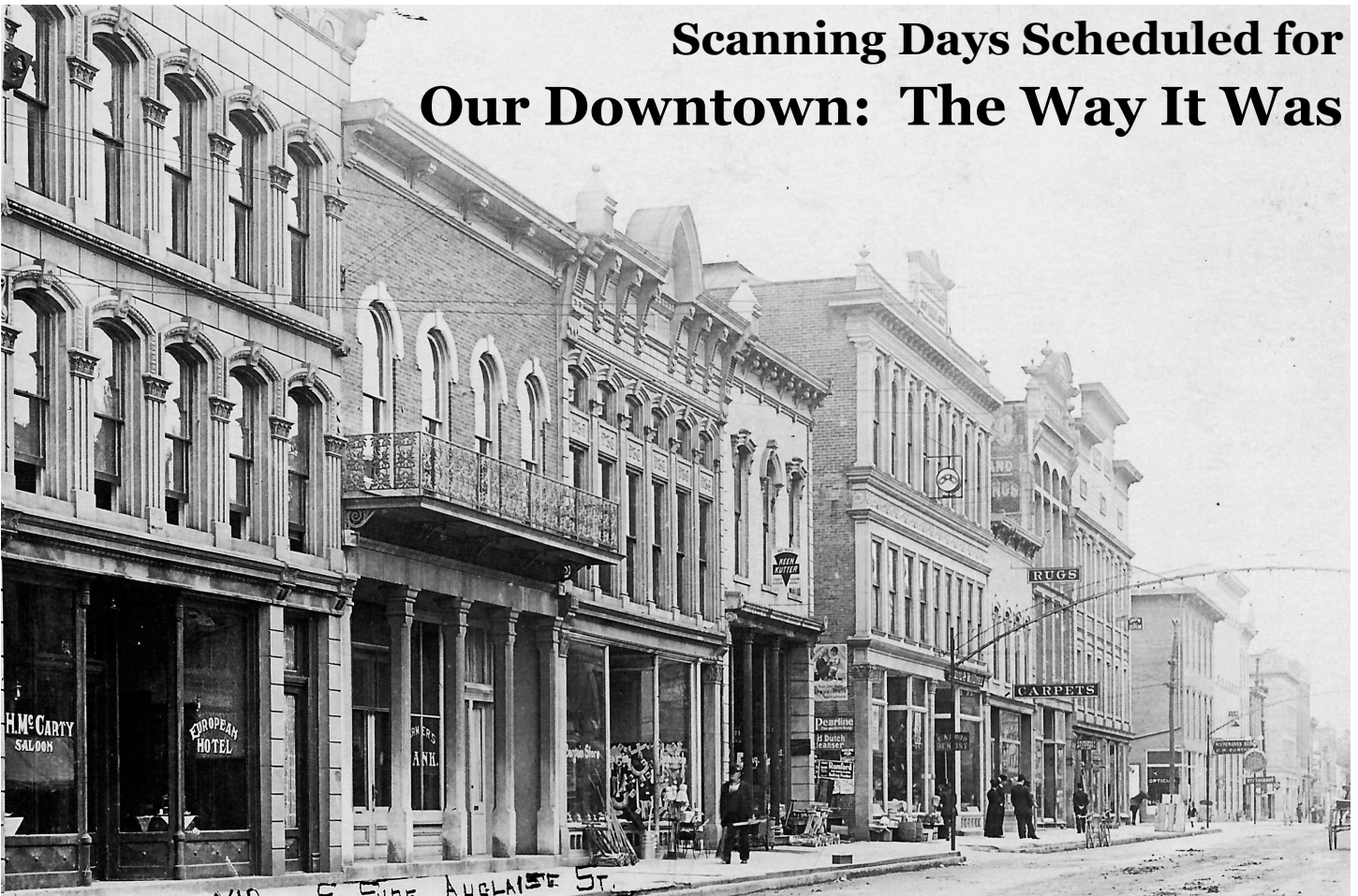
A community's cultural, historic, and natural resources are valuable and often irreplaceable.

As a good look around almost any city or town will show, people are often tempted to provide a quick fix of "band-aid" solution—to cover up an old storefront inexpensively, for example, rather than to restore it. But when your historic and cultural assets are at the heart of your plans to develop tourism, it's essential to protect them for the long term.

Hearts break when irreplaceable structures are destroyed or damaged beyond repair, instead of preserved and protected as they deserve. A plaque pointing out "on this site a great building once stood" can't tell that story. Equally tragic is the loss of traditions: a way of crafting wood or farming, of celebrating holidays or feasting on "old world" cuisine. The preservation and perpetuation of traditions is important to telling the story of the people who settled the land. By protecting the buildings, landscape or special places and qualities that attract visitors, you safeguard the future.



Scanning Days Scheduled for Our Downtown: The Way It Was



In conjunction with the St. Marys Community Public Library and the Auglaize County Public Library, the Historical Society has scheduled two Scanning Days: February 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the St. Marys Library, and March 13, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Wapakoneta Library. Local residents are invited to bring in photographs from the 1970s or earlier depicting commercial buildings in any Auglaize County community. These photographs will be scanned to archival specifications for future use in the Historical Society's *Our Downtown: The Way It Was* initiative. Among its several goals, the project is designed to document historic commercial buildings to assist local residents when they purchase and/or renovate structures in the county. Those who bring in photographs are welcome to bring in a flash drive, so that they make take home a copy of the scan as well.

Join the Historical Society in Indianapolis on April 30!

Our spring bus trip will take us to beautiful Indianapolis, Indiana. Join us as we visit such attractions as the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, Indiana Landmarks, and much more, including a great lunch stop! If you've traveled with us before, you'll receive a registration form before March 1. If not, email us, and we'll send you the informational flier. Hope you can travel with us.



ANNUAL FUND 2014

Our sincere thanks to those who contributed to the Historical Society's 2014 Annual Fund campaign. Your continued support is much appreciated.

Nancy and Don Ainsworth

Rachel Barber

Virgil and Ellen Brown

Stan Davis

Chad Doll

Margene Herman

Marc and Diane Hines

Chandra Hoffman

Carl and Wanda Kogge

Tom Kotnik

The late Doris Lawler

James May

Julie McCullough

Don and Paula Reese

Sharon Schnell

Don and Helen Schramm

Nancy Brown Supler

James Webb

The Wellington Family Trust

Thanks also to the Wapakoneta Women's Civic League for its recent donation and to the Auglaize County Commissioners for their 2015 appropriation. We are sincerely grateful for these expressions of confidence in our organization.

New Docents Needed

We're looking for more docents, both at the Mooney and Wapakoneta museums. If you like people and like history, this could be a great fit! We'll provide all the training, and your commitment could be as little as once every two months. Please call the office, 419/738-9328, or email auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net to learn more.

Visit Us in Columbus!

If you're traveling to Columbus, remember to visit our Auglaize County exhibit at the Ohio Statehouse—we're there until the end of May.



Mooney Museum Undergoing Renovations

The Trustees of the Auglaize County Historical Society are working hard on a significant renovation project at the Mooney Museum. Included in the plans are: expanded exhibits about St. Marys' strong industrial heritage; special Wall of Fame for local residents throughout the community's history who have achieved greatness;

St. Marys at Play—focused exhibit on historic recreational and leisure activities; and dedicated space for traveling/temporary exhibits. This ambitious plan will take time, but we at the Auglaize County Historical Society hope that it will make the Mooney Museum relevant and appealing to new generations of visitors. Watch for more information about the renovation in upcoming issues of *History at a Glance*.

Thanks to Historical Society trustee Chris Burton for his leadership on the renovation effort.

Staying in the loop...

Don't forget that the Historical Society has begun sending out occasional e-updates about events and happenings. But you won't receive these emails unless we have your email address! Please contact us, auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net, and we'll add you to the mailing list. We're on FACEBOOK as well! Please join the more than 200 persons who LIKE the Auglaize County Historical Society. Our Facebook posts also provide the most current information about our activities, as well as dozens of color images.

The Trustees of the Auglaize County Historical Society

Chandra Hoffman, president

Chris Burton, vice-president

Julie McCullough, secretary

Tom Kotnik, treasurer

Kay Ault (new in February)

Susan Crotty

Stan Davis

Dick Falkner (new in January)

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Auglaize County
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Check us out on FACEBOOK, too!



The Auglaize County Historical Society collects, preserves, interprets, and shares the history of Auglaize County and its people through exhibits, programs, and publications.

February 12 Presentation on Western Ohio Railroads

The Auglaize County Historical Society will hold its first quarter membership meeting on Thursday, February 12, at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of the St. Marys Library, 140 Chestnut Street, St. Marys. Following a brief business meeting, Wayne York will speak about "The Railroads of Western Ohio." Mr. York is a well known local railroad historian and administrator for the Village of New Bremen. All are welcome to attend what promises to be a fascinating presentation.

DID YOU KNOW?
February 14 is the 167th Anniversary of the Founding of Auglaize County (1848). Give a big hug to someone from Auglaize County that day!

LOOKING AHEAD—
Because of weather issues, our "New Year, New Acquisitions" exhibit at the Wapakoneta Museum will debut on Sunday, March 1.

Sunday, March 22, 2 p.m., New Knoxville Village Hall "Rural African-American Communities in Ohio" by Professor Rik Sheffield, Kenyon College. Free and open to the public.

