

History at a Glance

Volume 12, Autumn 2017

ANNUAL MEETING on November 2 to include *Ohio Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s*

The Auglaize County Historical Society will host its Annual Meeting on Thursday, November 2, at 7 p.m. in the St. Joseph Parish Life Center, Wapakoneta. The meeting will focus on the ways the folks targeted by the Klan fought back.

Following a brief business meeting, Dr. William Trollinger will present "Terrorizing Immigrants and Catholics: The Ohio Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s." The event is free and open to the public; attendees should use the Blackhoof Street parking lot to access the parish life center.

Having virtually disappeared in the late 19th century, the Ku Klux Klan exploded onto the national scene in the early 1920s, with perhaps five million members at its peak. While the original Klan concentrated its animus against the newly freed slaves, this "second" KKK had an expanded list of social scapegoats that included immigrants, Jews, and Catholics. While the original Klan was based primarily in the South, the second Klan had its greatest numerical strength in the West and Midwest. In fact, Ohio may have had more KKK members than any other state in the Union, with an estimated 400,000 Klansmen and Klanswomen. We will explore why the Klan was so strong in Ohio, what activities the Ohio Klan engaged in, and

William Trollinger is professor of history in the History and Religious Studies Departments at the University of Dayton. He is also director of UD's Core Integrated Studies Program, which features an innovative, five-semester interdisciplinary curriculum. He earned his B.A. in English and History from Bethel College (Minnesota) and his M.A. and Ph.D. in History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research has focused on 20th/21st-century American Protestantism, particularly fundamentalism, creationism, and Protestant print culture. His publications include *Righting America at the Creation Museum* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2016), which he co-authored with his wife, Susan Trollinger.

Trollinger has also done a good deal of research on the Ku Klux Klan in Ohio in the 1920s; one result of this work is "Hearing the Silence: The University of Dayton, the Ku Klux Klan, and Catholic Universities and Colleges," for which he won the 2014 Catholic Press Award for Best Essay in a Scholarly Magazine.

Historical Society to assist with 50th Anniversary Celebration for Library



Exactly fifty years ago the Auglaize County Public District Library's building in Wapakoneta was under construction. The *Wapakoneta Daily News* provided frequent updates on the building project. As some long time county residents may remember, the community's library was previously housed at Blume High School. Construction of the new building would also necessitate moving all the collections from Blume up Blackhoof Street and over to the Perry Street building. The Historical Society is working with the library to create an exhibit with photographs of and stories about the library over the past fifty years. If you have any photographs we can borrow and scan or if you have any memorable stories about how the library has influenced your life, please contact the Historical Society at auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net, by December 1. Thank you! We look forward to assembling a fun exhibit about the library and its important role in the community over the past half century.

The Trustees of the Auglaize County Historical Society

Chris Burton, president
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Julie McCullough, secretary
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**The November 2 meeting will include
the election of trustees and officers.**

Earn Money for the Historical Society!

Support the Society's programs and services each time you shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card. If you registered for Kroger's Community Rewards program last year, you must re-register. To register or re-register:

Log onto www.kroger.com

Click Community Rewards

To designate the Historical Society as your charity:
type 83438 (and click search).

Select the *Auglaize County Historical Society*.

Save your changes.

*What an easy way to support ACHS
every time you shop at Kroger.*

RESEARCH *by the Historical Society*

Looking for information about family history, but short on time? Let the Historical Society help. Our trustees have extensive experience in research, especially in genealogy, and is available to conduct research, including the documentation necessary for the Ohio Department of Agriculture's CENTURY FARM designation. The fee is \$15/hour. All fees are then donated to the Historical Society.

Contact our office, 419/738-9328 or
auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net, for more
information.

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.

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 this information unless we have your email address! Please contact us, auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net, and we'll add you to the mailing list. Join the more than 800 individuals and families who LIKE the Auglaize County Historical Society on FACEBOOK as well.

We LOVE our heritage tourism banners, made possible by the support of Ohio Humanities. These banners will continue to tour Auglaize County indefinitely. Let us know if you'd like to display one at your event or place of business!



The heritage tourism banners highlight the following sites/themes:

Auglaize County Courthouse

Auglaize County as Neil Armstrong Knew It

Armstrong Air and Space Museum

Bicycle Museum of America

Chain Migration

Criderville & Uniopolis historical societies

Fort Amanda

Miami and Erie Canal

New Bremen Historic Association sites

New Knoxville Historical Society

Mooney Museum/Wapakoneta Museum

Railroads in Auglaize County

The Shannon Theatre Company

Have you seen them all?

Auglaize County
Historical Society

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419/738-9328
auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net
Check us out on FACEBOOK, too!

Ohio
HUMANITIES
SHARING THE HUMAN STORY

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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3,
1 TO 4 P.M.**

**JOIN US FOR
A CHRISTMAS
OPEN HOUSE**

**MOONEY MUSEUM,
223 SOUTH MAIN, ST. MARYS**

**WAPAKONETA MUSEUM,
206 WEST MAIN STREET**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

