

History at a Glance

Volume 12, Issue 1 Winter 2017

First Quarter Membership on March 2 to feature “The Railroads of Auglaize County”

The Historical Society will host its First Quarter Membership Meeting on Thursday, March 2, 7 p.m. at St. Paul United Church of Christ, Wapakoneta (catercornered from the Courthouse). All are invited for a brief business meeting, followed by the fascinating program, “The Railroads of Auglaize County,” presented by Daniel Meckstroth. Attendees should use the Mechanic Street door to access the church hall.

Daniel Meckstroth, a native of New Knoxville, has been a train aficionado ever since he can remember. His fascination began as a young boy, when he would watch trains with his grandpa, “Pop,” who lived along the Erie Railroad between Lima and Spencerville. Later Meckstroth became interested in the Nickel Plate Railroad as he heard the locomotive’s steam whistle for the Minster local. While pursuing the Boy Scout railroading merit badge, he was required to interview a train crew. After the interview, Earl Adams, a member of the crew, invited him to ride in the cab of the steam engine from St. Marys to Minster, and return in the cupola of the caboose.

From 1967 to 1969 Meckstroth worked three summers as a locomotive fireman on the Norfolk and Western Railway between Frankfort, Indiana, and Bellevue, Ohio, while teaching school during the nine-month academic year.

Today Meckstroth remains active in railroading as a Trained Presenter for Operation Lifesaver, a national volunteer organization dedicated to safety awareness at railroad grade crossings and right of ways. He also serves on the Board of Di-



rectors of the Nickel Plate Road Historical and Technical Society, where he is Communication Director and edits the monthly electronic newsletter. Meckstroth belongs to the Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society, volunteering as a car host on the steam powered excursions pulled by Lima built locomotive, Nickel Plate 765. In addition, he is an avid railroad modeler with an O gauge layout.

Meckstroth holds degrees from Ohio Northern University, Xavier University, and the University of Cincinnati. He retired from education as a high school principal, and then entered the insurance business. Meckstroth and his wife live in northwestern Clark County.

**Be sure to join us on March 2 for
“The Railroads of Auglaize County”!**

Scanning Day Scheduled for March 8

The Historical Society will host a scanning day for historic photographs on Wednesday, March 8, from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Auglaize County Public Library's Wapakoneta Library, Perry Street. Local residents are invited to bring any images from anywhere in Auglaize County that date from the 1970s or earlier, and they will be archivally scanned.



Scanning Day is part of the

historical society's continuing effort to document the appearance of communities in Auglaize County through the decades, developing a file for as many individual structures/sites as possible.

The Historical Society constantly receives inquiries asking about what individual buildings or places in Auglaize County used to look like. We hope to give them the tools needed by providing as many historic images as we can locate. We are grateful to the staff at the Auglaize County Library in Wapakoneta for making this effort possible.

Scanning Day is more than a way to enhance the Historical Society's archives. We are committed to being a strong community partner and to enhancing the quality of life for Auglaize County residents. We believe that scanning day is an important step in that goal.

The Historical Society previously conducted a Scanning Day at the White Memorial Library in Waynesfield, assisted by Sherri Goudy of History Corps. Thanks to the many local residents who brought more than 50 photographs to that event for scanning!

RESEARCH *by the Historical Society*

Looking for information about family history, but short on time? Let the Historical Society help. ACHS president Chandra Hoffman has 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 wallpaperproject@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.

*The Trustees of the
Auglaize County Historical Society*

Chris Burton, president
Sharon Schnell, vice-president
Julie McCullough, secretary
Tom Kotnik, treasurer
Kay Ault
Mike Burkholder
Stan Davis
Dick Falkner
Melissa Luthman

Rachel Barber, administrator

*We extend a special welcome to Mike Burkholder
of St. Marys, who joined the Board in February.*

The Auglaize County Historical Society notes with sadness the death of two of its former trustees, Betty Bubb, who died on November 8, 2016, and George Neargarder, who died on December 19, 2016. We extend our sincere condolences to Betty and George's family and friends; both were unwavering supporters of Auglaize County history. We also extend our gratitude to Betty's family for designating memorial contributions to the Historical Society.

Thanks as well to Christopher Burton for his donation to the Historical Society in memory of Carl Wintzer. Carl and his family were perennial advocates for and supporters of many local charitable endeavors. Our sympathies to the Wintzer family.

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.*

The 2016-17 Annual Fund approaches its goal!

As this newsletter goes to press, donations to the ACHS Annual Fund have exceeded \$2000. We have been overwhelmed by the support extended to us from our members and friends. Please know that the trustees will use these funds wisely, to maintain a vibrant, relevant Historical Society. Sincere thanks to all who have donated to the Fund thus far, including:

Ainsworth, Nancy & Don
Ault, Kay & Richard
Barber, Rachel
Barrett, Lisa & Jon
Brown, Denise
Brown, Mary Ellen & Dr. Virgil
Burton, Andrea & Chris
Cook, Doris
DeNisco, Barbara & Anthony
Gibson, Janet & George
Heinrich, Jan & Jim
Hines, Diane & Marc
Hoge, Woody & John
Howard, Cheryl & Robert
Jessen, David
Knapke, Mary
Kogge, Wanda & Carl
Kotnik, Shirley & Tom
LeMar, Michael
Lietz, Betty
The Slater Family
Stein, Mary & Richard
Stroh, LeArdyce & Henry
Thieman, Sandy & Tom
Thomas, Mary Ann & Dale
Vantilburg, Deborah
Vogel, Barbara
Wellington, Kay & Rollin
Yahl, Mary

The Auglaize County Historical Society also extends its sincere thanks to
The Auglaize County Commissioners
for their annual appropriation
and to Minster State Bank
for its recent donation.

*An updated list of donors to the Annual Fund will appear
in the next edition of the newsletter.*

Auglaize County
Historical Society

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Check us out on FACEBOOK, too!

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

IN THIS ISSUE: You'll find two inserts: a registration form for our Annual Trivia Competition on April 7 and information about our April 27 Bus Trip to Bucyrus and Crawford County! We've got plenty going on this year at the Historical Society!

AUGLAIZE COUNTY: IN MOTION!

is reaching its conclusion. You'll remember that Ohio Humanities awarded the Historical Society \$6400 for a heritage tourism grant last year. We're in the final stages of developing our printed materials and banners, which will highlight the *IN MOTION!* theme. Consider all the many local history sites that reflect transportation or movement, from the Armstrong Air & Space Museum to the Bicycle Museum of America to the Miami & Erie Canal, and so many more! Watch for the big debut later this spring. Thanks to all for their support of this groundbreaking initiative, especially the St. Marys Community Foundation, which has awarded the Historical Society \$1000 to serve as part our local share of the project costs.

The Auglaize County Historical Society is proud to assist one of its great collaborators, the St. Marys Community Public Library, with upcoming exhibits. Look for us at the library in March with an exhibit about Women's History, and in April with artifacts and photographs commemorating the centennial of World War I.

Can you identify this famous Auglaize County woman?

