

History at a Glance

Volume 13, Summer 2018

A NEW MISSION STATEMENT FOR ACHS. During its May 2018 meeting, the Auglaize County Historical Society Board of Trustees voted unanimously to adopt the following:

The Auglaize County Historical Society collects, preserves, interprets, and shares the history of Auglaize County, enriching lives by connecting people and communities to the past and to each other.

The one-sentence mission statement explains what the Historical Society does—*collects, preserves, interprets, and shares*—explains the result of these actions—*enriching lives*—and explains how we do so—*by connecting people and communities to the past and each other*.

We hope you'll agree that this mission statement will guide our organization toward a strong and purpose-filled future, and we're glad you've joined us on this journey!

Look for this new mission statement on all publications and sites associated with the Auglaize County Historical Society.

Historical Societies re-launch 4th Sunday Project for 2018

In conjunction with AUGLAIZE COUNTY: IN MOTION, the Auglaize County Historical Society and many of the county's village historical societies and museums announce that they will be open for tours every 4th Sunday of the month from 1 to 4 p.m., May through October. The next 4th Sunday is June 24.

Auglaize County: In Motion is the heritage tourism initiative funded in 2017 by Ohio Humanities and based upon the themes of motion, movement, and transportation reflected in so much local history. Support from Ohio Humanities, the Wapakoneta Area Community Foundation, St. Marys Community Foundation, and the City of Wapakoneta's Lodging Tax grant program also allowed the historical society to print 20,000 16-panel brochures and 13 life-sized, self-standing

banners that highlight In Motion sites around the county available for the public to visit. These banners will be available for viewing during the 4th Sunday events.

Another accomplishment of the *In Motion* project was the development of a Heritage Tourism speakers' bureau. Does your club or organization need a speaker for its next event? Would you like to learn more about the Miami-Erie Canal, Railroads in Auglaize County, From Auglaize County to the Moon, the Shannon Theatre Company, or heritage tourism in general? Just contact the Historical Society. We've got a great speaker for you!

About Ohio Humanities

Ohio Humanities serves as an advocate for the public humanities in Ohio. Ohio Humanities promotes the humanities through public programs, grants, and community projects with the goal of helping individuals and communities explore, share, and be inspired by the human experience.

The Auglaize County Historical Society congratulates the Petersburg Parishes for their efforts in developing and installing the county's newest Ohio Historical Marker—and its 8th—at the site of Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Petersburg (Santa Fe-New Knoxville Road, east of Cemetery Road). The marker was dedicated during a ceremony on May 8.

Here's the text for the new marker: *Saints Peter and Paul Church, Petersburg (1835), was the mother church for St. Joseph, Wapakoneta; St. John the Evangelist, Fryburg; St. Lawrence, Rhine; and Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Botkins. All were founded by German-Catholic immigrants to west-central Ohio. After the removal of the Wapakoneta Shawnee in 1832, the land became available for purchase. The 1830s and '40s saw a wave of devout German settlers who wished to practice their faith in their new home, a desire served by missionary priests such as Father Wilhelm Horstman. Father Horstman first visited the settlement at Petersburg on May 8, 1835, presiding at Mass, baptizing, and blessing a marriage. In April 1836, immigrants John and Anna Mary Ruppert sold 40 acres of*



land in Pusheta Township to the trustees of the Catholic Church and a log church was built at the Petersburg site. The parish was dedicated to Sts. Peter and Paul. It initially served the region, but often impassable roads prompted settlers to establish churches closer to home, first at Wapakoneta (1839), then Fryburg (1850), Rhine (1856), and Botkins (1865). The members of Sts. Peter and Paul fought for their church, even constructing a new building in 1869, but the parish dissolved by 1897. "Completely surrounded by her children – Wapakoneta, Fryburg, Rhine, and Botkins – the little log church at Petersburg was needed no longer.... Like the good seed: in giving life to new plants she loses her own. The ground where the mother church died is hallowed ground...It is our duty to keep it and respect it."-- Father Lawrence Tebbe, 1950

RESEARCH by the Historical Society

Looking for information about family history, but short on time? Let the Historical Society help. Our former trustee has extensive experience in research, and is available to assist with applications 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.

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 964** individuals and families who follow the Auglaize County Historical Society on FACEBOOK as well.

Earn Money for the Historical Society!

Support the Society's programs and services each time you shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card. The process is easier than ever. To register or re-register:

Log onto

<https://www.kroger.com/account/update>

Scroll down to the bottom of the page to Community Rewards and click edit.

Type in Auglaize County Historical Society as your charity.

Click the circle to the left of *Auglaize County Historical Society* and then click ENROLL.

You're done!

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

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

Dane Daniel

Stan Davis

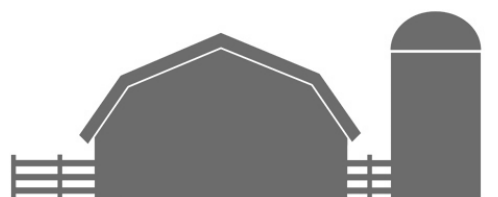
Melissa Luthman

Brittany Venturella

Ron Weaver

Rachel Barber, administrator

Look for the traveling exhibit, “Auglaize County as Neil Knew It,” which will debut this July! We’re a proud partner of the *2019 initiative*, which is planning a yearlong celebration of the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11.



**OHIO
CENTURY
FARM**

SPONSORED BY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

On August 30 former ACHS president Chandra Hoffman will provide a presentation about the state Century Farms program. Learn how your farm can receive this distinction. More information in the next newsletter.

The Historical Societies of
Auglaize County will present

The Sporting Life

at this year's
Auglaize County Fair

This exhibit will explore the many
sports
that Auglaize County residents—
as individuals and teams—
have enjoyed over the years.

Join us at the fair Monday through Saturday!

Auglaize County
Historical Society

206 West Main Street
Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895

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419/738-9328
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Check us out on FACEBOOK, too!

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Check Inside for Our New Mission Statement!

***Don't miss the
2nd Quarter Membership Meeting
featuring
World War 1
on the Ohio Home Front:
"Your Country Calls!"
Thursday, June 7, 7 pm
St. Marys
Community Public Library
140 Chestnut Street***



And mark your
calendar for
the reprise of the

Cemetery Walk



Monday, June 11, 7:30 pm

Greenlawn Cemetery
West Auglaize Street
Wapakoneta

Learn more about this historic cemetery
and the many notable Auglaize County
residents interred there!