

# History at a Glance

Volume 14, Late Summer 2019



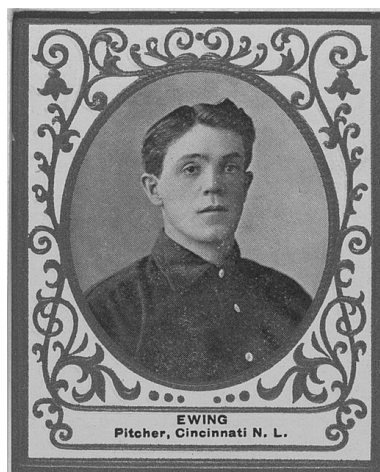
**AUGLAIZE  
COUNTY**  
Historical Society

The Historical Society will host a presentation entitled "The Cincinnati Reds and the Auglaize Connection" with Mike Lackey on Monday, September 9, 7 pm, at the White Memorial Library, 108 East Wapakoneta Street, Waynesfield. The program will occur after a brief 3rd quarter business meeting for the Historical Society. The event is free and open to the public.

In connection with the Reds' 150th anniversary season, Lackey will take a look at how the history of the Reds intersects with the history of baseball in Auglaize County. States Historical Society administrator Rachel Barber, "Many area residents know what a great writer and baseball historian Mike Lackey is. We hope they'll join us to celebrate our connection with the sesquicentennial of Major League Baseball and MLB's first team, the Cincinnati Reds."

Three of presenter Mike Lackey's abiding interests are history, baseball and newspapers. All three came together in his award-winning book, *Spitballing: The Baseball Days of Long Bob Ewing*. A native of New Hampshire in eastern Auglaize County, Bob Ewing is included in the Cincinnati Reds' Hall of Fame. To reconstruct the life and times of a near-forgotten spitball pitcher from more than a century ago, the author delved into firsthand coverage in nearly 100 newspapers from coast to coast.

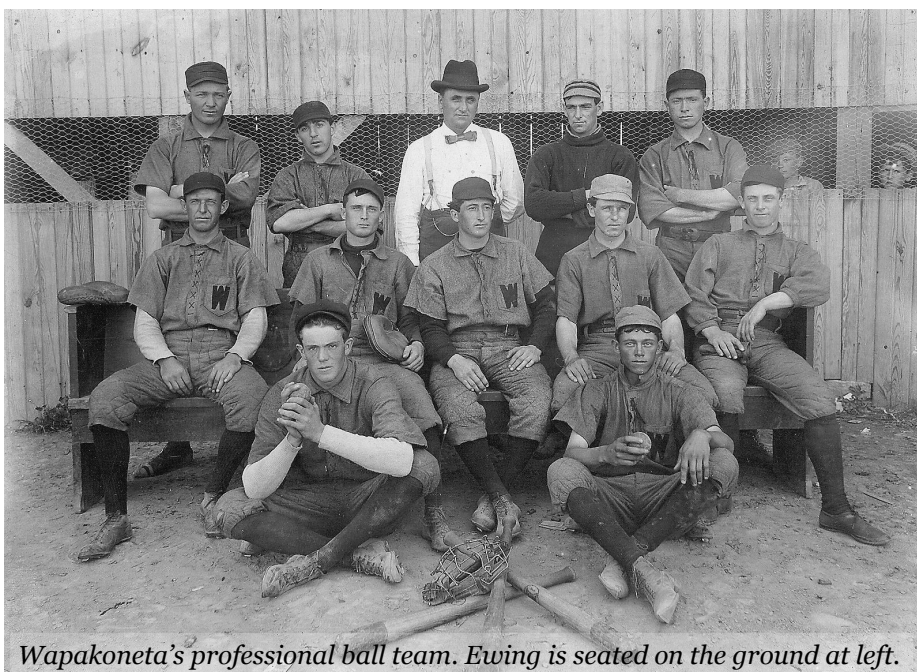
A longtime newspaper reporter, editor and columnist, Lackey is also a lifelong fan of the Cincinnati Reds. He is a native of Dayton, Ohio, and a graduate of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, where he earned a degree in history, wrote for the student newspaper, and kept statistics during the first golden age of Quaker baseball. He launched his newspaper career as a \$45-a-week proofreader in Saint John, New



Brunswick, and subsequently worked 36 years for The Lima News before retiring in 2008. His most memorable assignment involved traveling 16,000 miles to visit every Lima in the United States.

Lackey has won or shared 10 writing awards from The Associated Press, twice

being named Ohio's top columnist in his circulation category. He also has written for publications and projects of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) and the Allen and Auglaize county historical societies; *Nine: A Journal of Baseball History and Culture*; and the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*. Lackey spent 16 years researching and writing the Ewing biography. He lives in Lima, Ohio, approximately 15 miles north of Long Bob's birthplace.



Wapakoneta's professional ball team. Ewing is seated on the ground at left.

Keep watch for news about our upcoming British tea party (a la *Downton Abbey*) and our annual meeting (November 7, St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Life Center, Wapakoneta) where we'll learn about Auglaize County's breweries from Timothy R. Gaffney, author of the newly-published *Dayton Beer*. We have lots going on this fall for you!



# LOOKING AHEAD



## DAYTON BEER

### 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

Sharon Schnell, president

Dane Daniel, vice-president

Julie McCullough, secretary

Al Bishop, treasurer

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Rachel Barber, administrator

### RESEARCH by the Historical Society

Looking for information about family history, but short on time? Let the Historical Society help. Our former trustee and president Chandra Hoffman 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](mailto: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](mailto:auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net), and we'll add you to the mailing list. Join the more than **1160** individuals and families who follow the Auglaize County Historical Society on FACEBOOK as well.

### DO YOU PECHA KUCHA?

The Historical Society would like to organize a Pecha Kucha night as a much-needed fundraiser for the organization. [Checkoutpechakucha.com](http://Checkoutpechakucha.com). If you'd like to help, contact the office, [auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net](mailto:auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net).

More from the "OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN AVIATION AND SPACE" Initiative:

## MELVIN BOBB, as told in his own words



After graduating from Blume High School, Wapakoneta, in 1953 Melvin earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aeronautical Engineering at Tri-State College (now Trine University) in Angola, Indiana.

He began his career at McDonnell Aircraft Company in St. Louis in January 1957 where he was structural designer on the F-4 Phantom II jet fighter, the Model 119 corporate jet transport and the Mercury Space Capsule. While working on the Mercury program, Mel was asked to respond to a request from John Glenn who wanted an auxiliary foot rest so he could occasionally reposition his legs. The capsule was so compact that a suitable location could be found, but the astronaut appreciated the effort.

In 1960, Mel moved to Huntsville, AL to work at the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center. He coordinated design and vibration testing of various methods of mounting sensitive equipment on the Saturn Booster, which was important to the Apollo program. He was also given the job of designing something that would keep ice from forming on the Saturn Booster's very cold liquid oxygen and hydrogen tanks to avoid the added lift-off weight. After many hours of study, design and testing, his idea was presented to Werner Von Braun, who commended the design but said it was unnecessary since the shock of the rocket's ignition would shake off all the ice.

In 1962, Mel returned to McDonnell Aircraft Company where he did equipment and cockpit design work for various versions of the F-4 Phantom II, F-18 Hornet, AV-8B Harrier, and F-15 Eagle jet fighters. When he was lead engineer for the F-4B/J Phantom II aircraft Cockpit Group, the Blue Angels selected the F-4 for their air shows. Mel's team had the job of customizing the cockpit to accommodate their special needs. One of the pilots was a marine. One of the company's vice presidents also was a marine and he asked that something special be done in the marine Blue Angel's cockpit as a joke. He suggested using the Banana Pill Dispenser from the chimp module used in the Mercury Space Capsule. It was a device used to reward the chimp when he performed well during space flight. Mel's team designed a control panel that would dispense a banana-flavored pill if the pilot pressed the correct button.

Mel considers his biggest work related success to be the later success of dozens of teammates whom he trained. One such person became a vice president of the company. Mel retired from McDonnell Douglas on July 31, 1997. *Thank you, Mel, for submitting the story of your very accomplished life!*

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**DID YOU KNOW?** The Auglaize County Historical Society is part of the AmazonSmile program. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice, such as the Historical Society. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Register today to begin supporting the Auglaize County Historical Society!

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**Auglaize County  
Historical Society**

206 West Main Street  
Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895

Phone: 419/394-7069 or  
419/738-9328

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*Check us out on FACEBOOK, too!*

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*Founded in 1963, 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.*

## **SOCIETY PARTICIPATES IN SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL**

Rachel Barber, administrator of the Auglaize County Historical Society, is currently serving as Regional Coordinator for west-central Ohio for the Ohio Suffrage Centennial ([ohiosuffragecentennial.com](http://ohiosuffragecentennial.com)). The American Association for State and Local History explains the significance of the Suffrage Centennial:

*In 2020, the nation will mark the 100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment. Women and men of all races, ethnicities, and identities fought for—and against—women's right to vote. It was a national movement carried out on the local level by tens of thousands of people across the country. It is one part a story about women's rights, but it is also equal parts an American story of race, class, citizenship, gender, immigration, political identity, and values, and the intersections where those meet in America's collective narrative and history. The history of the 19th Amendment is a complex narrative that encompasses multiple perspectives and points in time...The 100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment presents an opportunity to expand the narrative of women's suffrage; challenge preconceptions and definitions about history; and engage with the proud, conflicted, and complex realities of our shared history.*

States Barber, "We are thrilled to be associated with the centennial of Women's Suffrage, and hope that our local residents can contribute to a memorable celebration of this important milestone in American history." ACHS is especially interested in documenting local stories, photographs, and artifacts that help tell the story about suffrage efforts in west central Ohio. The Historical Society also encourages local individuals and organizations that wish to be involved in the upcoming celebration to contact Barber, [auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net](mailto:auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net), for more information.

The postcard above features the Seal of Ohio with a woman's face in the center, framed by the rising sun and the slogan "Let Ohio Women Vote." This original illustration is from a poster done by Cornelia Cassady-Davis of Cincinnati for the "Votes for Women" campaign.

