

History at a Glance

Volume 14, Late Winter 2019

The Auglaize County Historical Society and the village historical societies of Auglaize County are launching a new initiative, "Our Men and Women in Air and Space," in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing. The goal of the initiative is to document all natives of Auglaize County, living and deceased, who have been involved with aviation and space.

Explains Rachel Barber, historical society administrator, "This year the focus of the world will be on Apollo 11, especially the life and accomplishments of our county's own, Neil Armstrong. We would like to gather the stories of the many others from here who have also contributed to the history of flight and the exploration of space."

Neil Armstrong himself who inspired this project. In a 2001 oral history interview for NASA, Armstrong credited those behind the scenes for the [Apollo 11] mission's success: "When you have hundreds of thousands of people all doing their job a little better than they have to, you get an improvement in performance. And that's the only reason we could have pulled this whole thing off."

Barber continues, "Neil Armstrong was known as a great team player, someone who always gave credit to those with whom he worked. The historical societies of Auglaize County would like to 'give credit' to others from our communities who have made aviation and space a significant part of their lives."

One such example is Second Lieutenant Bennett M. Staton, born on January 20, 1996, who grew up in New Bremen:

Bennett attended New Bremen High School, where he was a member of the varsity football and baseball teams and the National Honor Society. He graduated in 2014 as the class president and salu-



torian. He also earned his Eagle Scout Award with Troop 95 and was named the American Legion Eagle Scout of the year for the State of Ohio in 2013.

Bennett received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, where he studied aeronautical engineering and soloed in powered flight. After graduating in May 2018 with academic honors, he was sent to the Air Force Institute of Technology to earn his master's degree in aeronautical engineering. Upon graduation in March 2020 he will be sent to Columbus AFB in Mississippi to attend flight training.

Bennett has always looked up to the example that Neil Armstrong set and aspires to contribute to the advancement of aviation and space exploration. (*information provided by the family*).

Another Auglaize County native involved in aviation or space is Wapakoneta High School graduate Kip Katterhenry. An engineer, Katterhenry was pivotal in the repair of the Hubble telescope a quarter century ago. He will speak on June 10 in Wapakoneta as part of the First on the Moon celebration.

The historical societies request that those with information about Auglaize County men and women involved in aviation and/or space contact them with information similar to that provided by the Staton family, above. This information will be stored in the archives of the historical societies and will also be used for the group's fair exhibit in 2019.

Those who are unsure how to contact their local historical society may contact the Auglaize County Historical Society via email, auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net, or through Facebook, Auglaize County Historical Society.

Our Armstrong Experience Bus Trip visited the Airstream Factory, St. Paul United Church of Christ (where John Zwez and Dan Bennett spoke), toured Armstrong sites around eastern Auglaize County, and visited the Armstrong Museum. What an enlightening and inspiring day!



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

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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

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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 **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. If you'd like to help, contact the office, auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net.

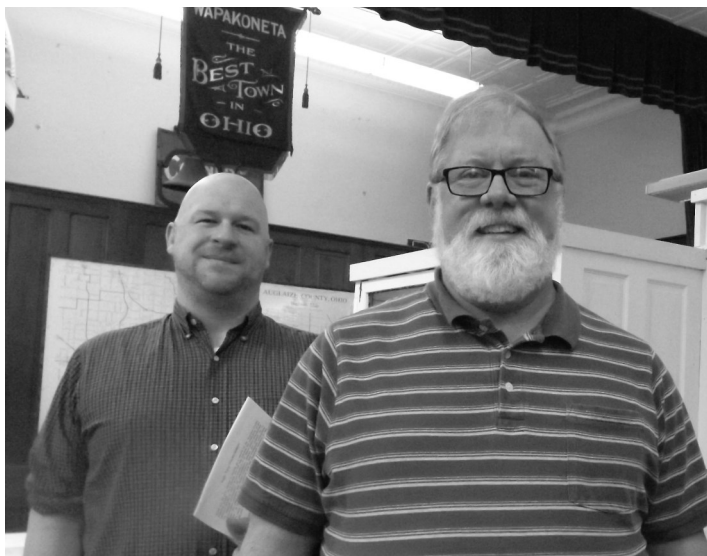


**OUR
FEBRUARY
WAS
AMAZING!**



Thanks to all who helped us celebrate Auglaize County's history in so many ways during February!

The 125th Birthday Party for the Courthouse was a day to remember! We thank the Auglaize County Commissioners, Administrator, and Staff, our partners in the village historical societies of Auglaize County, and our many volunteers—Stacey Myers-Cook and Jennifer Saunders, Diane and Tom Fledderjohann, Gen Conradi and Dennis Dicke, Edee Marshall and Martha Manchester, Kay Ault, Chris Burton, and Julie McCullough, and Floor Manager Kimi Brown—and everyone who helped in any way!



Our Neil Armstrong Experience Bus Trip was sold out+! Special thanks to the Wapakoneta YMCA for providing the bus that made this trip possible.

Will Crawford (left) and Dr. Greg Bergman trained to serve as docents at the Wapakoneta Museum. Our training for the Mooney Museum will be rescheduled for April. Contact the Historical Society, auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net, if you'd like to attend training.

**Auglaize County
Historical Society**

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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.

First Quarter Membership Meeting on Monday, March 18

The Auglaize County Historical Society will host its first quarter membership meeting on Monday, March 18, 7 pm, at the Lockkeepers House, southwest of the intersection of Ohio 66 and 274 in New Bremen. Following a brief business meeting, Dante Centuori, the new executive director for the Armstrong Air & Space Museum, will provide an image-filled update on the museum, its current expansion, and his vision for the institution's future. The event is free and open to the public.

Centuori developed a fascination with space exploration at a very young age, which led to a bachelor's degree in Astronomy and Physics from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. He brought to the Armstrong Air & Space Museum more than 30 years of experience in designing, training and presenting informal science education programming. A museum professional, Centuori is skilled in directing large initiatives and being an on-the-ground facilitator and communicator. As content spokesperson for his organizations over his career, he has made numerous appearances on local media. His collaborative work with ideastream, Cleveland's public broadcasting platform, earned several communication industry awards, including three regional Emmy Award nominations.

Centuori's his work at Great Lakes Science Center of Cleveland well prepared him for his role at the Armstrong Museum. There he held positions such as Scientist in Residence, the Director of Creative Productions and Director of Education & Outreach. At GLSC, Centuori played a major role in developing programs and exhibits for NASA Glenn Research Center's Visitor Center, which relocated to the Science Center in 2010.

