

History at a Glance

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The Historical Society Greet Spring

The Auglaize County Historical Society has a full schedule of events planned for the coming months, including the following presentations, which are free and open to the public:

Working in History:

Stepping Stones and the Paths We Choose

Thursday, March 5, 7 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church
210 N. Wayne Street, St. Marys

St. Marys native Rebecca Torsell will speak about her work with the Steamship Historical Society of America and explain how a girl from the Midwest became a professional historian in Providence, Rhode Island. Rebecca Torsell was born and raised on a small dairy farm outside of St. Marys. A graduate of Memorial High School (2000), she attended Bowling Green State University and then Wittenberg University. After working for almost two years, Torsell obtained a master's degree in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University. She is now the assistant to the administrator of the Steamship Preservation Society of America, whose motto is *Celebrating the Maritime Heritage of... Powerful Ships, Legendary Passengers, & Hardworking Crews.*

Ohio Archaeology: A 15,000-year Human Odyssey

Thursday, April 2, 7:30 p.m., American Legion Hall, Mill Street, New Knoxville
Brad Lepper, archaeologist for the Ohio Historical Society, will speak about the state's great archaeological legacy. Sponsored in cooperation with the New Knoxville Historical Society and Heritage Trails Park District, the event is made possible through the support of the Ohio Humanities Council.

Lepper is a Curator of Archaeology for the Ohio Historical Society and an occasional Visiting Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Denison University. His primary areas of interest include North America's Ice Age peoples, Ohio's magnificent mounds and earthworks, and the history of Archaeology. Noteworthy research includes excavation of the Burning Tree mastodon and discovery of the Great Hopewell Road, featured in a recent documentary.

Sojourner Truth: Destiny's Journey

Monday, March 16, 6:30 p.m.,
St. Marys Community Public Library
140 Chestnut Street, St. Marys



Annette Jefferson will present her portrayal of this pivotal figure in American history. This event is made possible through the support of the Ohio Humanities Council.

Sojourner Truth was an ordinary woman, illiterate and untrained, who did extraordinary things.

In this first person portrayal, Truth shares her amazing story through personal anecdotes, songs and stories, explaining how she overcame repeated challenges in service to mankind.

Annette Jefferson holds an MA in Black Studies and a PhD in Social Work, and works as a development officer in Human Services. She has spent more than 20 years developing her presentation and performing as Sojourner Truth across the state, including Ohio Chautauqua 2001.



Evelyn Gray Exhibit Held Over Through March 7



Historical Society members and friends are reminded that the exhibit *Evelyn Gray: A Life of Color* will appear at the White Memorial Library, Waynesfield, through **March 7**. Mrs. Gray has extensive eastern Auglaize County connections, having been born in Geyer and raised in Union Township; she lived on a farm just north of New Hampshire after marrying. Her family established Gray's Orange Barn. With a degree from Oberlin College, Mrs. Gray taught in the New Hampshire and Waynesfield schools, serving as the founding instructor for the art department in Waynesfield. But she always painted, and continues to do so at the age of almost 97. Don't miss this heart-warming exhibit of delightful artwork!



The opening reception for *Evelyn Gray: A Life of Color* on February 16 was a great success. The many persons in attendance enjoyed the artwork and refreshments. Thanks to Dee Sanders, the White Library Staff, and Friends of the Library.

Pictured above left: Wapakoneta resident Beth Steiner enjoys two of Mrs. Gray's still life paintings.

Above right: Lima television covered the exhibit opening.

Center: Many former students surprised Mrs. Gray.

Bottom: Treats were in abundance.





The former St. Mark's Lutheran Church (constructed in 1865), now the Wapakoneta Community Worship Center, was a stop on the historical society's 2008 tour.

The Historical Society will organize the “**Sacred Art and Architecture**” tour of Southwest Auglaize County on Sunday, April 19, from Noon to 4 p.m. Participating churches include:

- Calvary Chapel Baptist Church, Minster (1-4)
- Church of the Holy Redeemer, New Bremen
- St. Augustine Catholic Church, Minster
- St. Joseph Catholic Church, Egypt
- St. Paul United Church of Christ, New Bremen
- St. Peter's Church, New Bremen
- United Methodist Church of New Knoxville, and
- the former Olive Branch United Methodist Church, Shinbone

The First United Church of Christ, New Knoxville, will be open for tours from 3 to 4 p.m. At 4 p.m. the church will host an organ concert by Nicholas Bowden, principal organist at Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, which all are welcome to attend. What a way to end your tour!

The Historical Society organized its first Sacred Art and Architecture tour in 2008, in the 175th birthday community of Wapakoneta, providing an opportunity for visitors to appreciate the architecture, stained glass, statuary, artwork, and other furnishings in our many beautiful local churches. Mark your calendar now!

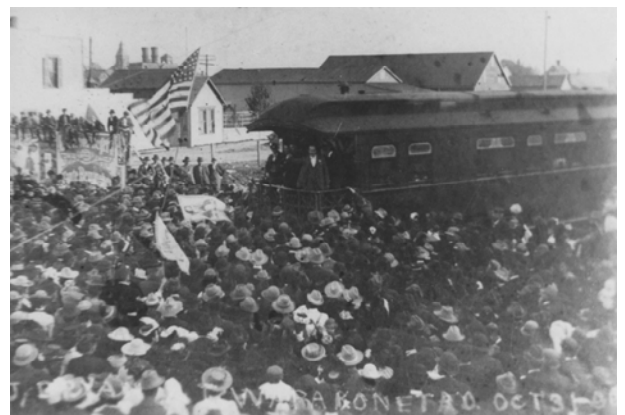
TRAVELING EXHIBIT UPDATE

Executive Connections: Auglaize County and the Presidency will visit the White Memorial Library, Waynesfield, from March 2 through March 14. If you haven't had the chance to see the exhibit elsewhere, Waynesfield is your last chance! Thanks to the libraries in St. Marys, Wapakoneta, New Bremen, and Minster for hosting the exhibit. And thanks to those who provided information, artifacts, or photographs: Nancy Ainsworth, Mary Lou Chapman, Vern Doenges, Myron Fledderjohann, Chuck and Joy Kantner, Mike Kuck, and Judy Walter.

Below: William Jennings Bryan was one of many presidential candidates to visit Auglaize County.

The Historical Society welcomes its newest docents... Thank you for your interest in telling Auglaize County's story!

- Linda Klaer, New Knoxville
- Janet Koschalk, Wapakoneta
- Larry Kramer, St. Marys
- Connie Miller, Wapakoneta
- Mary Ray, Egypt



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Interested in helping clean the Mooney Museum in St. Marys on Saturday, March 21?
Contact Historical Society president Kimberli Rompilla, 419/778-3020, for more information.*

The Auglaize County Historical Society will host its first American Girl Tea Party on Saturday, April 25, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at St. Paul United Church of Christ, Wapakoneta. Admission is \$10 for children and \$5 for adults (all children must be accompanied by an adult). The event will include tea and other refreshments, tasty treats, a doll exhibit, and a visit by a doll maker. Each child will have the opportunity to decorate and take home an American Girl pattern outfit. Tickets will be available (as of March 16) from The Bookmark, Closet Systems, and The Apple House in Wapakoneta, and from Spring Flowers and the Chamber of Commerce in St. Marys.

