

# History at a Glance

Volume 10, Issue 2 Spring 2015!

## **April 16 Presentation about *Lincoln the Lawyer***

The Auglaize County Historical Society and the Auglaize County Library will co-host “Lincoln the Lawyer: His Courtroom Experiences and His Legacy” on Thursday, April 16, 7 p.m., at the Auglaize County Public Library, 206 Perry Street, Wapakoneta. The event is free and open to the public.

Presenter for the evening is Brian Dirck, professor of history at Anderson University in Indiana. Having taught many classes on United States history, Professor Dirck is considered an expert on the Civil War and on Abraham Lincoln in particular. His books include: *Lincoln’s Hardest Summer: The President and an Ethic of Endurance, 1864* (Southern Illinois University Press, forthcoming); *Abraham Lincoln and Indiana* (Southern Illinois University Press, forthcoming); *Abraham Lincoln and White America* (University Press of Kansas, 2012); *Lincoln and the Constitution*, (Southern Illinois University Press, 2012); *Lincoln the Lawyer* (University of Illinois Press, 2007). *Lincoln the Lawyer* received the Barondess/Lincoln Award for the Best Book on Abraham Lincoln. States Tom Thompson of the local Civil War Roundtable: “(Professor Dirck) is always a crowd pleaser with his well informed approach to the sixteenth president. Pass the word: this is an event that is well worth attending.” Join us for what promises to be a fascinating evening!

### **150 Years (+ 1 Day) Earlier, on April 15, 1865** (from *This Day in History*, history.com)

At 7:22 a.m., Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, dies from a bullet wound inflicted the night before by John Wilkes Booth, an actor and Confederate sympathizer. The president’s death came only six days after Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered...at Appomattox, effectively ending the American Civil War.

Booth, who remained in the North during the war despite his Confederate sympathies, initially plotted to capture President Lincoln and take him to Richmond, the Confederate capital. However, on March 20, 1865, the day of the planned kidnapping, the president failed to appear at the spot where Booth and his six fellow conspirators lay in wait. Two weeks later, Richmond fell to Union forces. In April, with Confederate armies near collapse across the South, Booth hatched a desperate plan to save the Confederacy.

Learning that Lincoln was to attend Laura Keane’s acclaimed performance in *Our American Cousin* at Ford’s Theater on April 14, Booth plotted the simultaneous assassination of Lincoln, Vice President Andrew Johnson, and Secretary of State William H. Seward. By murdering the president and two of his possible successors, Booth and his conspirators hoped to throw the U.S. government into a paralyzing disarray.

On the evening of April 14, conspirator Lewis T. Powell burst into Secretary of State Seward’s home, seriously wounding him and three others..... Meanwhile, just after 10 p.m., Booth entered Lincoln’s private box unnoticed and shot the president with a single bullet in the back of his head. Slashing an army officer who rushed at him, Booth jumped to the stage and shouted “Sic semper tyrannis! [Thus always to tyrants]—the South is avenged!” Although Booth had broken his left leg jumping from Lincoln’s box, he [escaped] Washington.

The president, mortally wounded, was carried to a cheap lodging house opposite Ford’s Theater. An hour after dawn the next morning, Abraham Lincoln died, becoming the first president to be assassinated. His body was taken to the White House, where it lay until April 18, at which point it was carried to the Capitol rotunda to lay in state on a catafalque. On April 21, Lincoln’s body was taken to the railroad station and boarded on a train that conveyed it to Springfield, Illinois, his home before becoming president. Tens of thousands of Americans lined the train’s railroad route and paid their respects to their fallen leader during the train’s solemn progression through the North. Lincoln was buried on May 4, 1865, at Oak Ridge Cemetery, near Springfield.

Booth, pursued by the army and secret service forces, was finally cornered in a barn near Bowling Green, Virginia, and died from a possibly self-inflicted bullet wound as the barn was burned to the ground. Of the eight other persons eventually charged with the conspiracy, four were hanged and four were jailed.

**LAST CALL:  
Join the Historical Society  
in Indianapolis on April 30**

Our spring bus trip will take us to beautiful Indianapolis, Indiana. Join us as we visit such attractions as the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, Indiana Landmarks, and much more, including a great lunch stop! Email us, and we'll send you the informational flier. Hope you can travel with us.



**AS OF THIS PRINTING, ONLY A FEW SEATS REMAIN AVAILABLE!**

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Join us for the 3rd Annual  
**BE A TOURIST IN YOUR OWN HOMETOWN!**  
Saturday, May 2, and Sunday, May 3, Noon to 4 p.m.

*The following locations will be open as part of Be a Tourist:*

- Armstrong Air & Space Museum (1/2 price)
- Bicycle Museum of America (FREE)
- Cridersville Historical Society Museum (FREE)
- New Knoxville Historical Society Museum (FREE)
- Luelleman House, New Bremen Historic Association (FREE)
- ACHS' Former Olive Branch Methodist Church, Shinbone (FREE)
- Pape House, New Bremen Historic Association (FREE)
- Uniopolis Historical Society Museum (FREE)
- Wapakoneta Museum (FREE)

VISIT 7 of the sites and you'll be eligible to win big, big prizes, including Chamber of Commerce gift certificates. More information to come!

**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](mailto:auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net) to learn more.

**Visit Us in Columbus!**

If you're traveling to Columbus, remember to visit our Auglaize County exhibit at the Ohio State-house—we're there until the end of May.

## ANNUAL FUND 2014

Our sincere thanks to those who contributed to the Historical Society's 2014 Annual Fund campaign, including, most recently, trustee Dick Falkner.

We are grateful for these expressions of confidence in our organization.

## 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.

The fees are:

\$15/hour (2-hour minimum) for members, and \$30/hour (2-hour minimum) for non-members.

All fees are donated to the Historical Society.

Contact our office, 419/738-9328, for more information.

## LOOKING AHEAD

St. Marys native and amazing historian Rebecca Torsell will present a program about historic houses on Thursday, May 7, at 7 p.m. at the St. Marys Community Public Library.

MAY IS

*NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH.*

HOW WILL YOU CELEBRATE THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN YOUR LIFE?

### *The Trustees of the Auglaize County Historical Society*

Chandra Hoffman, president

Chris Burton, vice-president

Julie McCullough, secretary

Tom Kotnik, treasurer

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Susan Crotty

Stan Davis

Dick Falkner

Diana Schneider

Sharon Schnell

## Mooney Museum Renovations

**Continue—**

**Look for a festive re-opening party in June!**

Cultural & Heritage Tourism for Auglaize County:  
**How Can YOU Help?**

\*Attend the May 22 program described on Page 4.

\*Complete the enclosed survey about cultural and heritage tourism and return by April 30.

\*Learn as we're learning. Here's more about

**Collaboration**, a key principal to successful heritage tourism (from *preservationnation.org*):

Much more can be accomplished by working together than by working alone. Successful cultural heritage tourism programs bring together partners who may not have worked together in the past.

Building partnerships is essential, not just because they help develop local support, but also because tourism demands resources that no single organization can supply. Its success depends on the active participation of political leaders, business leaders, operators of tourist sites, artists and craftspeople, hotel/motel operators, and many other people and groups.

Regional partnerships are also useful to cultural heritage tourism efforts. Cooperating in a regional arrangement lets you develop regional themes, pool resources, save money and expand your marketing potential.

Those resources include not only money for marketing campaigns, for example, but also facilities (accommodations for travelers, say) or expertise in tourism, preservation, the arts or another area.

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 nearly 350 persons who LIKE the Auglaize County Historical Society on FACEBOOK as well.

COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES

At the end of March the Historical Society lost the entire contents of its email Inbox. The problem was determined to be a glitch in the Outlook Express system, NOT a virus of any kind. If you emailed the Historical Society and did not receive a response, please contact us again. Your email probably just disappeared with all the rest. Also, please note that the regular postal carrier for the Historical Society has been ill. We have experienced days when our postal carrier was a sub for a sub for the regular carrier. Expecting something from us and haven't received it? Please contact us immediately. Thank you.

**Auglaize County  
Historical Society**

206 West Main Street  
Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895

Phone: 419/394-7069 *or*  
419/738-9328  
auglaizecountyhistory@bright.net  
*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.*

## **April 22 Program Highlights Cultural, Heritage Tourism**

The Auglaize County Historical Society will host the presentation “Cultural and Heritage Tourism: What It Is and What It Can Do” by Mark Holbrook on Wednesday, April 22, at 7 p.m. at the Lockkeepers House, southwest of the intersection of State Routes 274 and 66A, New Bremen.

The event is free and open to the public.

Holbrook will define cultural/heritage tourism and speak about other Ohio communities that have used such tourism to highlight and preserve the stories, artifacts, and even buildings that define their locations. He will also address cultural/heritage tourism’s potential for Auglaize County.

Holbrook’s presentation is made

possible through a Heritage Tourism grant awarded to the Historical Society by Ohio Humanities (formerly, the Ohio Humanities Council). The purpose of the grant is to “study local cultural and heritage tourism efforts and, through collaboration with others across the county, develop plans for their enhancement.”

Mark Holbrook is a native Ohioan and graduate of The Ohio State University. With experience in marketing, communications, copywriting, and strategic planning, his business, *History Is Personal*, is dedicated to helping others share their stories. For twenty years he worked in various cities in Ohio in television and radio news covering people and events that mattered.

For the past nine years Mark had the privilege to travel Ohio promoting and preserving Ohio historical sites and stories as the marketing manager for the Ohio History Connection. He has spoken about and consulted for heritage tourism throughout Ohio. Mark is the editor of the 2010 book, *The Buckeye Vanguard* (Little Miami Publishing), and has served as a historical consultant on films and television productions.

Ohio Humanities is the state-based partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Through programs and grants, Ohio Humanities helps Ohioans use history, literature, and philosophy to explore the past, inform the present, and envision the future.