

Boone County Historical Society



July - August 2023

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS and EVENTS

All meetings at the Boone County Public Library will start at 6:30 pm.

September 21: Ron Buckley will present **Crisler Mill**.

November 16: Tracy Hower-ton will talk about **Dr. B. F. Stevenson's life** and his service as a Civil War surgeon.

No meetings in December, January or February.

March 21: James Duvall will talk about the 19th century **Big Bone Springs Hotel**.

April 18: We will again do our **Show and Tell**.

May 16: Captain Don Sanders will talk about life on the river.

OUR ANNUAL OUT AND ABOUT AT DINSMORE HOMESTEAD AT 6:30 PM ON THURSDAY, JULY 20.



Dinsmore Homestead is located at 5656 Burlington Pike (KY 18) about 6 miles west of Burlington, KY.

The Dinsmore Homestead museum is a living documentation of several generations of a successful & cultured Boone County, Kentucky family and the men and women who labored for them. The farm is now a beautifully preserved site where visitors can step back in time and experience life as it was in nineteenth-century Boone County.

We plan to meet at the Homestead where Cathy Collopy will do a presentation about the people and times that made this place such a historic treasure.

OUR MUSEUM

Our museum, located in the Old County Clerk's Office behind the Administration building in Burlington, has not been open for several years. This was caused partly to the pandemic and the water damage to the inside of the building.

We met last week with the Boone County Director of Property Maintenance, Mike Albrecht, at the museum and he is aware of the condition issues. The water damage was largely due to leaks from the box-gutters. New liners were installed in all gutters and tuck pointing was finished on the west-facing wall, but the plaster on the inside has not been repaired. There is also an issue with the air conditioner unit throwing the breaker. He has set a goal of 3 weeks to get necessary repairs going:

1. identify any existing moisture using infra-red technology
2. repair damaged plaster/paint
3. move dehumidifier to crawl space so trap-door can be closed (once no moisture is confirmed)
4. check/repair electrical issue with A/C unit throwing breaker

During the last several months, Ron Buckley, Pat Yannarella and Steve Conrad have been labeling and carding all the books by number. They will continue to catalog the artifacts, furniture and documents.

There is a need to rearrange displays, secure artifacts and do basic cleanup before opening to the public. This will have to be done once the repairs are finished.

When the building is ready, the Historical Society would like to begin to offer regular hours to be open to the public and for special events. We will need volunteers to staff it.

We hope to have our Museum open for the Community Yard Sale at the Administration's parking lot from 8 am—1 pm, October 7, 2023.

THE ANNE FITZGERALD COLLECTION

Anne Fitzgerald volunteered for many years in the old records department of the Boone County Clerks office. She was the "go to" person for anyone searching the older records of the county. She also made records of older documents that she feared would be lost and kept them in her home.

When Mrs. Fitzgerald passed away, her heirs gave this collection of records to the Boone County Public Library. At that time, the History department of the Library reviewed the documents, kept what they wanted and gave the remainder of the collection to us. We hauled them from the basement of the Walton library and stored them in our museum. This collection consisted of 80 boxes of documents. Needless to say, the collection was overwhelming. We found that the collection could be donated to the NKU library but they wanted a detailed inventory of what was in the boxes. Several of our members tried to make this inventory but the task was overwhelming. Then, the museum was off limits to us while the Old Court House was being renovated and the judges' records had to be stored in our museum. After that the water problem occurred and everything was moved to hard to reach places so we could not do anything about this collection.

In late 2021, the Borderland Archival and History Center was created by the Boone County Judge Executive and would be housed at the main office of the Boone County Public Library. This organization would house all of the older records of the county. So, they now have the 80 box Anne Fitzgerald collection and will house them in a very secure and protected environment.

Since this collection of 80 boxes was removed from our museum, we now have room to set up our museum and make it available to the public.

RE-OPENING OUR MUSEUM

Our museum houses collections that we have received over the years since 2007 when we opened it. We are purchasing a set of Barrister bookcases from the estate of Gail Ruef to store a great deal of our book collections. We have display cases to display much of our collection and we have two fire proof cabinets to store our most valuable items. The vault contains about 50 unsold copies of *Mastodons to the Millennium* books that were published for Boone County's Bicentennial in 1998.

In the past, we have been open for special exhibits that were centered around a theme. We have asked our membership to loan us items to display that was centered on that theme. We also opened for special events that were being held in the Administration's parking lot, such as the Chalkfest and Christmas events in Burlington.

Now that we are inventorying and restoring the museum, we would like to hear from our membership. What would you like the museum to look like and provide?

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Verona Vineyards is hosting *Verona Farmers and Artisans Market* on the 1st Sunday at 11—3 through October.

Dinsmore Homestead is planning *Pioneer to the Past Day Camp Session 2* for children, from **July 10 to July 14** Call Cathy Collopy at 859-586-6117 for reservations.

Dinsmore Homestead is planning *Fine Arts Weekend* Saturday and Sunday, **August 5—6**. Come and see local artists' artwork as well as rarely seen art at Dinsmore!

At the **Friends of Big Bone** meeting, on **August 24 at 6:30 p.m.** at The Scheben library, Bridget Striker will talk about **Big Bone Lick and the Underground Railroad Part 2**.

THE BCHS MUSEUM

Boone County Historical Society expresses appreciation to the Boone County Judge/Executive and Fiscal Court Commissioners for permission to use the Old County Clerk's Office as a repository for items of historical significance to Boone County's heritage.

Directions: I-71/75 Exit 181 (KY 18 Burlington Pk). Proceed westbound 4.6 miles, turn right at the first traffic signal (Bullittsville-

Burlington Road aka Garrard St.); turn left into the Boone County Administration Building parking lot. The Museum is the small white brick building marked "County Court Clerk's Office...1853" The street address is 2965 Gallatin Street, Burlington, KY 41005.



Artwork by Pattie Purnell

BOONE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 23
FLORENCE, KY 41022-0023



Website: boonecountykyhistory.org

Newsletter Editor: Stephen D. Conrad
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ABOUT THE BOONE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The **mission** of the Boone County Historical Society is to develop awareness and promote appreciation of the history of Boone County, Kentucky. We are fortunate to partner with the Boone County Public Library.

The Boone County Historical Society provides program meetings at 6:30pm on the third Thursday evenings of March, April, May, July, September and November.

Meetings (except for July) are held at the Boone County Public Library, Main Library, 1786 Burlington Pike, Burlington, Kentucky. July "out-and-about" meetings are held at various locations around the County.

The Society will be hosting a number of exhibits at the BCHS Museum (*see page 3*) each year. Most items for these exhibits are borrowed on a temporary basis from our members and friends, and do not belong to the Society. We greatly appreciate being entrusted with these loaned items that relate to our exhibits.

Items in our permanent collection have been donated by individuals and families who desire to share with others items of historical significance to Boone County. Their generosity is gratefully appreciated.

Annual membership fee is \$15 per household, due every March. This covers the cost of printing and mailing our newsletters. Checks, payable to the Boone County Historical Society, can be mailed to the Boone County Historical Society, P.O. Box 23, Florence, KY 41022-0023.

The Boone County Historical Society has received a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status — all gifts to the Society are tax deductible.

All programs and exhibits are free and open to the public.

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Officers and Boardmembers:

President:	Hillary Delaney
Vice President:	Brent Johansen
Secretary:	Pat Yannarella
Treasurer:	Steve Conrad
Web Master:	Jim Duvall
Board Members:	Ron Buckley
	Thomas Schiffer
	Carol Schiffer
	Ginny Kohl