

The Benninghofen Post

A Publication of the Butler County Historical Society



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The Butler County Historical Society

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To help us prepare for
your visit, please call
ahead.

bchistoryalsociety.com

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Butler Co. Historical Society
Newsletter (ISSN383367-13)

IN REVIEW: THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER MEETING



Above: Left to right: Guest, Alexander "Sandy" Thomson, honored speaker, Dr. Daniel S. Pierce, and former BCHS President, Jim Schwartz, discuss the connections between Hamilton's paper industry and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Below: Volunteer of the Year recipients Dave and Mary Ann Keller accept their award. The Keller's spoke briefly about the importance of preserving and interpreting history and also why they enjoy volunteering at the Society.



Below: Mike Dingeldein of SHP Leading Design presented conceptual designs for the BCHS Research Center addition. The new addition will connect the Benninghofen House, Emma Ritchie Auditorium, and new Research Center.



Above: BCHS Historian of the Year, Nancy Poe, talks about her role as part of a group effort to restore the 1858 Morgan Township House and reopen the building as a community museum.



OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER MEETING PATRONS... WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

US Bank
Sam Ashworth & Judy Gilleland
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Bill and Marcia Bunce
Christine Carroll

Mike and Cindy Dingeldein
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Greg and Kim Young

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Member and Supporter,

I am honored to have been selected for the role of president of the Butler County Historical Society. The society has had much success in recent years and I will work hard to build on that success.

I would first like to thank Jim Schwartz for his outstanding leadership of the BCHS as president over the past two years. Jim brought stability to the leadership of the society and was responsible for planning some outstanding programs. We are very pleased that he plans to stay active in the society.

Speaking of leadership, the BCHS is fortunate to have a very dedicated and talented Board of Trustees to lead us in what is proving to be a challenging time for the society. As you may be aware, we have been operating since September, 2009, without an executive director. Mike Riesenberg, our former executive director returned to college to complete a master's degree program. At the same time, the society had been struggling financially due to the downturn in the economy. Our annual funding from the Butler County Commissioners was cut drastically and like all non-profit organizations, our investment income dropped. Both of these sources of income have traditionally been used to fund the daily operation of the society.

As a result of the reduced revenue, the decision was made to only open the museum for three days each week. Although the days have been reduced, we have managed to continue thanks, in large part, to the efforts of our outstanding volunteers. I want to thank Dick Scheid in particular for his dedication to be at the museum every Tuesday and Wednesday and for doing most of our research. Jeff Hall and Tom Redmann have also assisted on those two days. Our officers, board members, Jeannie Payne (bookkeeper), Christine Jauch (curator), and Mike Riesenberg (communications coordinator) have all pitched in to keep our operation running as smoothly as possible. We are also greatly indebted to the Master Gardeners organization for continuing to take care of our grounds.

The Board of Trustees is currently working on developing a stable revenue base for our operations. We are also in the process of interviewing candidates for the position of executive director. We hope to have both in place by the first of June. Some other projects that we hope to complete in 2010 are an inventory of our collections and establishing an annual fundraising event. I am very pleased to announce that we have completed the project of replacing the dining room carpet. In addition, the old boiler in the basement of the Benninghofen House has been removed. Our curator is in the process of util-

izing the space to help with the re-organization of the basement.

While it might seem odd to talk about building a research center when we are facing a number of challenges, the time is right in many ways. First, as announced at last fall's annual dinner, we have received a generous gift from Mrs. Ollie Randall to help support the project; Second, the recession has driven down construction costs considerably; Third, we desperately need a safe and secure place for our documents and archives, and; Fourth, in order for us to attract continued support and interest, we need to develop a modern and progressive approach to promoting history in Butler County. For all of these reasons and more, the Board of Trustees is committed to completing construction of the research center by the end of this year.

In the event that you were not present to view the conceptual drawings of the proposed construction at the annual dinner, we have included some of the images in this newsletter. The concept will be to construct a welcome center in the space behind the museum which will tie the Benninghofen House, the Emma Ritchie Auditorium, and the Research Center together. The Research Center will be located in the grass area between the parking lot and the auditorium. This design will allow us to control access to all three areas with minimal staffing.

The Board of Trustees visited other county history centers in Ohio which had constructed research centers in combination with a house museum. Our architect, SHP Leading Design, is currently working with the board to finalize the drawings. If you would like to see more complete renderings or drawings of the project, you can do so at the museum. You will be hearing more about this exciting project in the future.

As I have outlined in this article, this is both an exciting time and a challenging time for the Butler County Historical Society. I would encourage each member of the society to support your history organization in every way possible in 2010. I am certain that you will find your experience satisfying and rewarding.

Sincerely,

Greg Young, President

The Butler County Historical Society is dedicated to preserving the history of your family for future generations. Please help us in this endeavor by remembering us in your will and estate planning.

COUNTYWIDE EVENTS & PROGRAMS

U.S. Presidents in Combat - Tuesday, April 27th, 12:00 pm. Jim Blount takes a thought-provoking look at the military experience, records, and performance of the 44 men who have served as Commander in Chief. Program to be held at Miami Hamilton Downtown. For more information call (513) 738-3000.

Germanic Immigrants in Ohio - Thursday, April 29th, 7:00 pm. Ohio University professor of geography Tim Anderson explores German influences on Ohio's landscape as part of MetroParks of Butler County's *Festival of Fences and Farms*. This free, public lecture is sponsored by the Ohio Humanities Council, Michael J. Colligan Fund, and Friends of Chrisholm. Program to be held at Miami Hamilton Downtown. Reception to follow. For more information call (513) 738-3000.

Opening of "Frederick G. Mueller and the Hamilton Municipal Building" Exhibit - Friday, April 30th. The former Municipal Building, renamed the Frederick G. Mueller Building in 2008, is 75 years old this year. It is now home to Heritage Hall and the Robert McCloskey Museum, along with Hamilton's BizTech Center. The exhibit will include photographs, and artifacts that highlight the work of architect Frederick G. Mueller. For more information call (513) 737-5958.

Opening of the Smithsonian Between Fences Exhibit - Thursday, May 13, 4:30 pm. Butler County premier of Cincinnati's acclaimed Cajun band, Lagniappe. After the ribbon cutting the band will lead us in a New Orleans style parade to celebrate the opening of the exhibit AND the new off-the-grid, composting restroom facility at the site – another first for Butler County! Program to be held at Chrisholm Historic Farmstead. Reservations appreciated. For more information, or to RSVP, call (513) 867-5835.

Antique Appraisal - Saturday, May 15th, 10:00 am. Join the fun as the Morgan Township Historical Society hosts auctioneer/appraiser Stuart Holman. Select one item that you would like to have Mr. Holman appraise and bring it to the meeting. Cost is \$2.00 per item and the proceeds benefit the 1858 Museum Fund. Program to be held at the Morgan Township Administration Building. For more information call (513) 738-0910.

Oxford Township House Dedication - Friday, June 18th, 10:00 am. Join the Oxford Museum Association as they celebrate the completion of the restoration of the Oxford Township House. The Township House was relocated from uptown Oxford to the Pioneer Farm in 2007. Dedication to be held at the Pioneer Farm. For more information call (513) 523-2546.

RECENTLY ACQUIRED

By Christine Jauch

Beckett Jacket (Pictured at Right)

David and Margery Belew of Hamilton, Ohio have donated a blue swallow-tailed coat that belonged to William Beckett, Marge's great grand-father and also one of the founders of the Beckett Paper Company in Hamilton, Ohio.



Button Collection

Jack W. Confer of Hamilton, Ohio has donated the button collection of Miss Maude Horn who had been collecting since the 1940's. Some of her buttons date back 100 or more years and may have belonged to Civil War soldiers.



Cooler (Pictured at Left)

Richard Scheid, a long time volunteer, donated an early Petra Cabot cooler design made by the Hamilton Metal Products of Ohio. It will be a wonderful addition to the skotch cooler collection.

Wedding Dress

Gerry Plinneke of Hamilton, Ohio has donated in memory of his mother, Dorothy Bokeno, her 1929 black wedding dress.

Lithograph

In memory of her father, **Lisa Seltzer** has donated a wonderful reproduction lithograph of the "View of Hamilton." It was drawn by an unknown artist around 1860 during the Civil War.

- * Ferdinand and Beverly Bach - Oxford, OH
- * Jerry and Kathy Banks - Collinsville, OH
- * Jim Barge - Hamilton, OH
- * Joseph and Susan Belew - Hamilton, OH
- * David Blevens - Hamilton, OH
- * Clyde N. Bowden - Cincinnati, OH
- * Peter Browning - Lafayette, CA
- * Anna Burnett - Fairfield, OH
- * Tony Carito - Hamilton, OH
- * Christine Carroll—Somerville, OH
- * Marilyn Compton - Hamilton, OH
- * Carolyn Conlin - Winnetka, CA
- * Robert and Nancy Cottrell - Hamilton, OH
- * Ed and Kathy Creighton - Hamilton, OH
- * Jerry Damron - Hamilton, OH
- * Michael Demeter - Hamilton, OH
- * Don and Emily Young Eberwine - Ross, OH
- * Geraldine Ehresman - Hamilton, OH
- * Mildred W. Elberfeld - Hamilton, OH
- * Curtis Ellison - Oxford, OH
- * John and Jill Evans - Hamilton, OH
- * Patricia Everhart - Hamilton, OH
- * Kay Faris - Middletown, OH
- * Michael and Patricia Fawns - Hamilton, OH
- * Vaden and Grace Fitton - Hamilton, OH
- * Nancy B. Follmer - Hamilton, OH
- * John and June Gilmore - Middletown, OH
- * Mrs. Richard E. Gustafson - Oxford, OH
- * Valerie Hart - Hamilton, OH
- * Laura Henderson - Oxford, OH
- * James and Lisa Herrmann - Hamilton, OH
- * Lois Hinshaw - Hamilton, OH
- * Earl and Karen Jentz - Chula Vista, CA
- * Richard Jones - Hamilton, OH
- * Nathaniel Kaelin - Franklin, OH
- * Elaine Karch - Cincinnati, OH
- * Don and Carol Kersteiner - Hamilton, OH
- * Kathleen Klink - Hamilton, OH
- * Rick and Jennifer LoBuono - Hamilton, OH
- * Steve and Trudy Marcum - Hamilton, OH
- * James McDulin - Spring City, TN
- * Robert McMaken - Hamilton, OH
- * Thomas Montgomery - Fairfield, OH
- * John and Shirley Moser - Hamilton, OH
- * Kurt and Anne Mueller - Wilmette, IL
- * Stanley and Ginger Norman - Hamilton, OH
- * James O'Dell - Fairfield, OH
- * Patricia Oney - Oxford, OH
- * Lee and Jackie Parrish - Hamilton, OH
- * Bob and Patricia Pendergrass - Fairfield, OH
- * Morris Peters - Oxford, OH
- * Richard Piland - Fairfield, OH
- * Howard Poffinbarger - Somerville, OH
- * Tom Redman - Fairfield, OH
- * Allan Rettberg - West Chester, OH
- * Gary and Deborah Ripperger - Hamilton, OH
- * Kathleen Dobrozsi Romans - Middletown, OH
- * Kate Rousmaniere - Oxford, OH
- * Shirley Rudd - Hamilton, OH
- * Al and Marti Ryan - Middletown, OH
- * John Sarver - Fairfield, OH
- * Ted and Harriet Schmitt - Camden, OH
- * Janice Elzey and Steve Schnabl - Oxford, OH
- * Paul Schoenharl - Okeana, OH
- * Phillip R. Shriver - Oxford, OH
- * Rhonda Smith - Hamilton, OH
- * Robert and Joyce Smyth - Okeana, OH
- * Neil and Janet Sohngen - Hamilton, OH
- * Dick and Kathy Sollmann - Oxford, OH
- * Mrs. Sam Spoerl - Hamilton, OH
- * Thomas Stander - Reily, OH
- * Connie Stauffer - Middletown, OH
- * Terri Stewart - Hamilton, OH
- * Judy Stitsinger - Hamilton, OH
- * Joan M. Stitzel - Fairfield, OH
- * John and Mildred Suermann - Fairfield, OH
- * Jon Thiem - Fort Collins, CO
- * Nancy Thomas - Cincinnati, OH
- * Linda Thompson - Hamilton, OH
- * Patricia Tipton - Fairfield, OH
- * Richard Toennison - Norris, TN
- * Mark, Eleanor and Nicklaus Tremayne - Liberty Twp., OH
- * Ronald Tutas - West Chester, OH
- * Scott Vaaler - Glendale, OH
- * Fred Voigt - Enola, PA
- * Randolph and Sallie Wadsworth - Brookville, IN
- * Paul Waechter - Fairfield, OH
- * Len and Patty Weber - Fairfield, OH
- * Rob and Nancy Wile - Hamilton, OH
- * Lawrence Woodruff - LaVerne, CA
- * Jack and Judy Young - Seven Mile, OH

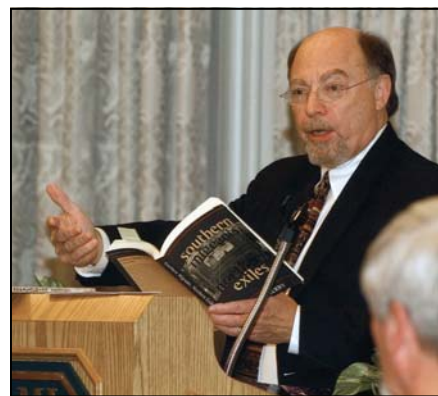
MEET THE BCHS BOARD

Patricia Everhart is a lifelong Hamilton resident. Pat is the mother of two sons, three step-daughters and the grandmother of six grandchildren. For a number of years, she worked as the scholarship coordinator at the Hamilton Community Foundation. After retiring, Pat has devoted her time as

a community volunteer. In addition to serving on the BCHS Board, Pat also serves with Life-Span, Hamilton Living Water, The Women's Fund at the Hamilton Community Foundation, and the Hamilton-Fairfield Symphony Guild. She is also a member of the Hamilton Junior Women's League Auxiliary, P.E.O. Sisterhood—Chapter CL, Browning Club, Trouveres Club, and Women's Club.



Curt Ellison, PhD. is a professor of history and American studies at Miami University. He teaches the history of Miami as well as Appalachian cultures and music, and has published books on country music studies and on African-American literature. Curt was the editor of Miami University, 1809-2009: Bicentennial Perspectives, a social history that involved some sixty contributors, written for the university's 200th anniversary and published by Ohio University Press in 2009. In August Curt will become director of the Michael J. Colligan History Project at Miami Hamilton.



BUTLER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
327 NORTH SECOND STREET
HAMILTON, OH 45011

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MOVING?

Don't forget to give us your
new address!

"Trains, Planes, and Automobiles"

Join us for a series of three programs that will look at the history of transportation in Butler County.

Railroads in Butler County

Thursday, May 6, at Miami-Hamilton Downtown 7:00 pm.

Featured Speaker: Jim Blount

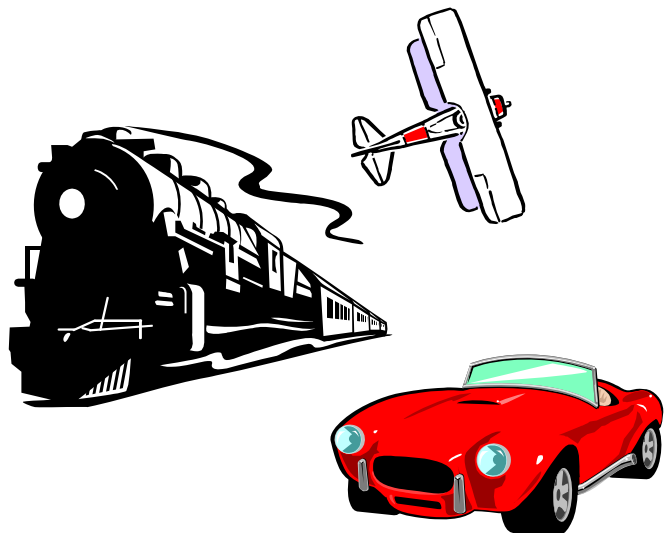
The Butler County Airport

Tuesday, June 15, at Miami-Hamilton Downtown 7:00 pm.

Featured Speaker: Tom Hogan

Butler County Roads and Highways

Date in July to be announced.



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (513) 896-9930 OR VISIT: www.bchistoricalociety.com