

Butler County Historical Society  
327 North Second Street  
Hamilton, OH 45011

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WHAT YOU'LL FIND INSIDE:

- *Theaters of Butler County* Exhibit Now Open
- *Mosler* Special Exhibit Through July Now Open
- Butler County Fair July 20-26
- Night at the Museum, October 23

**Night at the Museum Returning in October**

Hold the date of Thursday, October 23, 2014 for round three of Night at the Museum. We will have all new riddles and questions for you to solve this year, along with the traditional wine, soft drinks and snacks. Plan now on attending this fun filled evening!

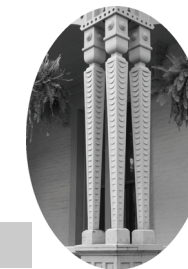


A special THANK YOU to all of the Master Gardeners who do such a terrific job keeping our gardens and yard looking great!

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# The Benninghofen Post

A Publication of the Butler County Historical Society



Summer 2014 Issue No. 2014-2

## The Butler County Historical Society

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

[bchistorysociety.com](http://bchistorysociety.com)

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[bcomuseum@fuse.net](mailto:bcomuseum@fuse.net)

Hours  
Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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Butler Co. Historical Society  
Newsletter  
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## The BCHS Costume Collection Gets Some Needed Attention

Prior to their graduation in May, two Miami University interns have been moving boxes, struggling with dress forms, stressing over spreadsheets and making fabulous costume discoveries. Mallory Hellenthal, an Art and Architectural History major and Michelle McVicker, an Individualized Studies student served as interns working with the extensive BCHS costume collection spring semester.

Mallory focused her attention on organization of the clothing and textiles collection, emphasizing what came to be known as the "attic collection". Multiple boxes that had been stored in the attic were brought downstairs and the artifacts in the boxes cataloged. Mallory developed a spreadsheet that defines each item, including a general description, approximate date, condition, donor, wearer and several other descriptors. She recently recorded her 1200<sup>th</sup> item, with many more artifacts to be entered!

Michelle spent her time on exhibits, interpreting the Butler County Theaters exhibition and three Benninghofen House bedrooms with clothing and accessories. Using borrowed dress forms, Michelle located the appropriate artifacts from the BCHS collection and dressed the forms, a difficult task given the custom clothing of the 19<sup>th</sup> century! Clothing from the 1880s, 1910s and 1920s is displayed in the bedrooms. Mallory provided valuable advice based on her prior exhibition experience. Michelle wrote text panels with appropriate images (photos or fashion plates) to put the artifacts in historical context for visitors.

Mallory will continue to volunteer with the costume collection at BCHS this summer and Michelle will serve as a costume intern at the Chicago Institute for the Arts. Sara Butler, BCHS Board member, mentored Mallory and Michelle during their internships.

Stop by the historical society soon to see the results of their hard work and some marvelous costume artifacts from the BCHS collection!



## Mystery Item?

For those of you who attended the Arts & Crafts Fair/ Sample of History Event in June, the mystery item in the BCHS booth was the top part of an apple cider press. Congratulations to Peggy Kosher for winning a one year membership! Our exhibit on flag history and trivia was a big hit, and will make another appearance at the Butler County Fair later this month.

The Sample of History event was a huge success, with estimated attendance 3000+. A big thank you to the Smith Family Trust for funding the tent and advertising for this great event.

**Special Guests Visit the Butler County Theater Exhibit**

We had two special guests come all the way from California to see the *Theaters of Butler County* exhibit. Ben Thompson (l) and Robert Scherzinger (r), great nephews of Ben Thompson, one of our featured individuals from Butler County who made it big in show business, stopped by to “see” their famous relative.

Ben Thompson was a member of the Brooklyn Comedy Four, a vaudeville team of local Hamilton and Reily gentlemen consisting of Perry Stomps, Elmer Raines, Tom Goldrick and Ben Thompson. They played in nearly every major American city, and toured Honolulu, New Zealand, India, South Africa, Ireland and the United Kingdom between 1909 and 1925. The act featured a variety of catchy songs and decidedly funny comedy.

Ben Thompson married Elizabeth Weber, a piano and pipe organ player for early motion pictures in 1914. During the Brooklyn Comedy Four’s tour of western states, Ben and Elizabeth formed a singing and piano act that performed as “Webb and Thompson”.



**Thank You Smith Family Trust**

Thanks to a grant from the Smith Family Trust, our clothing collection is receiving some much needed tender loving care. We have purchased numerous archival boxes and supplies that will allow us to properly store the collection, once the inventory is complete. Several dress forms will also be purchased to facilitate the display of some of the items.

Thanks also to the Smith Family Trust, we have two rolls of 16 mm film being transferred to DVD. We don’t know what is on the film, but do know that it was shot in the early 1940s and was found in the Homer Gard collection.

Find us on Facebook

Please join us on Facebook for breaking news and information regarding the Butler County Historical Society

**Volunteers Needed for the Butler County Fair**

BCHS will again have a booth in the new, air conditioned building during the Butler County Fair, July 20-26, 2014. We are looking for volunteers to help man the booth between noon and 8:00 p.m. We will supply you with parking/gate passes. If you would like to volunteer for a 4-hour shift, please call BCBS at 513-896-9930.

Of special note, we will have four book signings at the booth for Senior Citizens Day, Wednesday, July 23. Scott Fowler will be signing *Images of America-Lesourdsville Lake Amusement Park*, his new book *Images of America Fantasy Farm Amusement Park*, which is being released mid-July, and Richard Piland will be signing *Legendary Locals of Hamilton* and *Hamilton’s Public Schools 1850-2010*.

**Mosler Safe Exhibit**

Stop by and see our Mosler Safe exhibit that will be in the Emma Ritchie Auditorium during July. Former employees of the company are having a reunion in Hamilton, and we have put together a special exhibit just for them! We have pulled most of the material, pictures and models out of our archives, so this is a chance for everyone to learn about the company from Hamilton that was responsible for protecting so much of the United States (i.e. Fort Knox, Greenbrier, Declaration of Independence) and could honestly advertise that their safes could survive an atomic bomb.



**Recent Additions to Our Collections**

- Last Will and Testament for John Boone, Hamilton, Joseph Weckerle, Malvern, PA
- Wood plaque for the Fort Hamilton Gem & Mineral Society, donor unknown
- Middletown High School Yearbooks 1968, 1969, Steve Schnabl, Oxford
- Hamilton High School Weekly Review, October 1, 1914, Rick and Michelle Costello, Hamilton
- Two Miami University related caps, Marlene Carmack, Hamilton
- Books: *Minutes of our Years Oxford 1830-1981*; *The Centennial Anniversary of Hamilton*; *The Miami Conservancy District*; *Hamilton, Ohio Its Architecture and History*; *The County of Butler, Ohio. An Imperial Atlas and Art Folio 1895*; and a collection of 1913 flood postcards, Mary Roudebush, Denver, CO
- Hooven-Owens-Rentschler token and Hamilton Bi-Centennial Pin, Diane Miller, Eaton
- Four prints from the book *Lentil* that have been hand colored by Robert McCloskey, Mort Schindl, Weston, CT
- Earp Family Bible and photo album, donor unknown
- Eight piece wash set, Elaine Kuth and Susie Grimes, Monroe
- “Hamilton” wooden music stand, Steve Schnabl, Oxford
- 2003 Middletown City Directory, Rich Piland, Fairfield
- Beckett umbrella, Dave and Marge Belew, Hamilton
- Poster for Republican Party Picnic August 26, 1939, two ladies lapel pins from Beckett Paper, two men’s tie tacks from Beckett Paper, framed picture of Benny R. and Lane Symmes and their home, Gene Tipton, Fairfield
- Three mortar & pestle sets, pharmacy weights, pharmacy balance and scale, pharmacy show globe and stand, *Remington’s Practice of Pharmacy*, *The Fabulous Century*, Ken Sunderhaus, Hamilton
- *New World Book of Sohns*, *Planzer Family Heritage Book*, *Blueberries for Sal*, Fanny Hurst postcard, *NY Times* articles on Alexander Hamilton’s home, *NY Times* article on General Anthony Wayne, *NY Times* article on Mosler Safe, microfiche with genealogical information, Doug Froehlich, Hamilton
- Skotch jug half gallon, Skotch Kaddy, Tom Redman, Hamilton
- *Beacon Lights of History, Vols. 1-15*, Herman Dickerscheid, Seven Mile
- Extensive collection of printed material pertaining to Hamilton and Butler County, material pertaining to the Schisler and Son City Bus Lines and Schisler family, ice pick from the Valley Ice Company, match book collection of Hamilton and area businesses, Holt’s Cycle cigarette lighter, Schroder Building Local 648 IBEW ashtray, Tony Carito, Hamilton
- Handmade doll bed, Sarah Rose, Cincinnati
- *1913 Flood Book Illustrated*, Mark Mignery, Hamilton
- Palace Lunch Room cup and photo of opening day of the grandstands at the Butler County Fairgrounds, Dick Scheid, Hamilton
- Scrapbook pertaining to John Cleves Symmes theory of a hollow earth, Susan Cummins Myers, Hamilton, OH
- Scrapbook of newspaper articles pertaining to Butler County from the 1950s-60s, John Vaughn, Hamilton, OH



- Mueller’s Café Token, Brian Teates, Hamilton, OH
- Brick from the Mosler Building on Grand Blvd., Eddie Scherer, Liberty Township, OH
- Large Mosler Key, Nils Pearson, Union, KY
- Weckerle Family information and photos, Joseph Weckerle, Malvern, PA
- Photos of the Black Covered Bridge from 1954, Hancock Historical Museum, Findlay, OH
- *Hidden Treasures* lithographic print, Ed and Kathy Creighton, Hamilton, OH