

BUTLER COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

# The Benninghofen NEWSLETTER

327 NORTH SECOND STREET • HAMILTON, OHIO 45011 • 513.896.9930

Spring 2021  
Issue No. 2021-2



## BCHS - Arbor Dedication



Master Gardener Karen Kessler has had a vision for years of a beautiful arbor to accentuate the landscape of the Benninghofen House. With the recent removal of the trees lining the side yard, this vision was made a reality. BCBS Board Member Doug Fraits designed and built an arbor that now stands on the front corner of the house. On April 6th, the Arbor was dedicated in honor of Mel and Karen Kessler. Members of the Master Gardeners, along with a small group of supporters, were



there to celebrate the dedication. The Kesslers were joined by their three granddaughters as well. Both Mel and Karen have dedicated countless hours to the upkeep of the grounds at the Benninghofen House.



The Butler County Historical Society Hours  
Beginning June 15th: Tuesday - Friday: 10 am - 3:00 pm  
Saturday 9 am - 2:00 pm

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## “Lest We Forget” Decoration/Memorial Day Vintage Postcard Collection Virtual Presentation

In 1868, General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR: a fraternal organization of Union veterans who served in the American Civil War), declared May 30, 1868 as a national day of remembrance for those who died in the fight to preserve the Union. Known as Decoration Day, it was customary to “decorate” the graves of these soldiers with flowers and wreaths. By the 20th century, as the country healed from the fissures of the Civil War and engaged in two World Wars, this day of remembrance gradually became known as Memorial Day. It was officially declared a national holiday in 1967.

In the time between 1907 and 1914, the American public was enamored with both picture and souvenir cards, often referred to as the “Golden Age” of postcards. Drug stores, five and dimes and stationery shops across the nation stocked a variety of subjects to satisfy the public’s obsession with these inexpensive and attractive cards. Local street views, humorous greeting cards and holiday cards were mailed daily to friends and family, and also filled albums as collections. Patriotic themed cards were especially favored, and images of Decoration Day were quite popular. Beautifully illustrated images of Northern aging veterans, cherubic children, attractive young women, and pensive widows with scenes of gravesites, men marching off to war, American flags, garlands of flowers, cannon and GAR medals coupled with poetic and sentimental verse created a genre of card unlike any other.

In honor of Memorial Day 2021 Brian Smith has cultivated a vast collection of beautiful Decoration Day cards. His presentation will be done via a Zoom Meeting on Thursday May 27th at 7:00PM. To RSVP to this lecture please call (513)-896-9930 or email [info@bchistorysociety.com](mailto:info@bchistorysociety.com) to have the link sent to you.



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Butler County  
Historical Society



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# McCloskey Walk

Thursday June 17th and Saturday June 19th  
10:00am - 2:00pm

Explore Robert McCloskey's Hamilton! The McCloskey Walk will be held on two dates in June. The walk will begin at the Lane Library, guests can enjoy learning how Hamilton was an influence on the award winning author's books. After leaving the library, stops will include The Butler County Historical Society, Lentil Park, Heritage Hall, and the Soldiers, Sailors, and Pioneers Monument. The Lane Library will provide a take home craft for children, and each family will get a McCloskey book. The BCHS will feature Robert McCloskey original artwork on display in the newly renovated Emma Ritchie Auditorium.



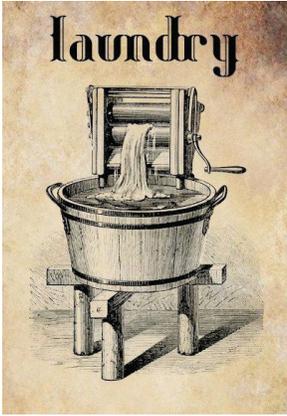
## Heritage Hall

Heritage Hall and BCHS have always worked together to bring you Hamilton history. The day to day operations of Heritage Hall will now be managed by the Butler County Historical Society. Current members of Heritage Hall will be gifted a one year gift membership to The Butler County Historical Society. Heritage Hall's new hours of operation will be Friday and Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day weekend.

The Butler County Historical Society is now able to electronically send communications. Members have the option to receive the newsletter and membership renewal notices via email. If you would like to sign up for one, or both of these services, please call or email  
Christina Beckett  
([christina@bchistoricalociety.com](mailto:christina@bchistoricalociety.com))

GO  
PAPERLESS

# Multi-Generational Summer Programs



Saturday June 12 9:30am - 2:00pm

## All In A Day's Work

Making butter and doing laundry were chores typical of daily life in the 1800's. Hands on experience of these types of chores, as well as a take home craft will be offered.

Saturday July 10 9:30am - 2:00pm

## Archeology Dig

Find out about archeology and fossils. Learn about the Native Americans that lived in Butler County. Go on your own archaeological dig for fossils and arrowheads!



Saturday August 14 9:30am - 2:00pm

## Long-ago Summers in Butler County

What were summers like around 1900 in Butler County? Games, crafts, scavenger hunt and more!

Saturday September 11 9:30am -

2:00pm

## Ice Cream Social

End of Summer celebration! Ice cream with all the toppings, games and crafts.



Weather permitting, all programs will be in the front yard of the BCHS Benninghofen House at 327 North Second Street Hamilton, OH 45011

All events are free and open to the public thanks to a grant from the W.E. Smith Family Trust of Oxford.

# Long Ago Summers in Butler County



Visit the BCHS for the summer exhibit "Long Ago Summers in Butler County". Walk through the Benninghofen House to enjoy the clothing that was typical in the summertime during the early 1900's. Graduation announcements and invitations to local High Schools show the tradition of celebrating the end of childhood and formal schooling. Games such as jacks and marbles were played by children, spending time outdoors for picnics were often enjoyed by families. Also on display will be an area focused on the incredible amount of baseball talent that has hailed from Butler County. An area featuring local made Skotch Koolers will also be displayed. These items from the BCHS collection will be on display from the end of May until September.

## Adopt A Painting

Several of our George W. White paintings are in need of some attention. There are a few with holes or patches that need repaired, frames that are cracked or broken, and others that need to be cleaned. We recently had a representative from Wiebold Studio come and give us an estimate on the cost of repairs. They range in price from \$800 - \$5,000. If you are interested in donating to help preserve these portraits please contact Kathy Creighton ([kathy@bchistoricalociety.com](mailto:kathy@bchistoricalociety.com)).



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

## We've Missed You!

The Butler County Historical Society is now open for tours and research.  
We will begin our Summer hours starting on June 15th.  
Tuesday - Friday 10:00am - 3:00pm  
Saturday 9:00am - 2:00pm.

## COVID-19 SAFETY POLICIES



Hand Washing Areas  
and Hand Sanitizer Available



Face masks will be required  
for all visitors



Please respect proper Social  
Distancing guidelines by  
staying 6 feet apart



Regular cleaning of  
surfaces that are high  
touch areas.