

◆ Boone Co. Historical Society ◆

Editors: Jim Duvall and Betsy Conrad

March—April 2003

You're invited . . .

One of our members, Pattie Purnell, lost her home and most of its contents in a fire several weeks ago. Pattie is the artist who has done so many wonderful sketches of Dinsmore and Rabbit Hash. Pattie's friends are planning a shower for her at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 16 at First Church of Christ on Camp Ernst Road, behind the Extension. Please join us! RSVP Betsy at 371-5491 or 371-5882.

Upcoming programs



MAY 15:
Members of the Richwood Presbyterian Church will be our special guest speakers and explain the history of that beloved place of worship.

JULY 17:

Christine Godsey will provide fascinating history of *the Dinsmore Homestead*. *The program will be at the Dinsmore Homestead, 5655 Burlington Pike, Burlington.*

SEPTEMBER 18:

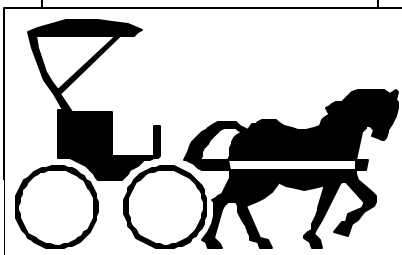
Bruce Ferguson will present a program on Big Bone Lick and its connection with the Bicentennial Commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery expedition.

NOVEMBER 20:

Join **Dr. Howard Ravenscraft** as he reminisces about the ways early Boone County physicians practiced medicine.



The mission statement of the Boone County Historical Society will be to develop awareness and promote appreciation of the history of Boone County.



Copies of **BOONE COUNTY: FROM MASTODONS TO THE MILLENNIUM**, the library-quality hard-bound volume full of fascinating stories and pictures of Boone County's history, are available during business hours at Florence Government Center for \$30. All proceeds go to the Boone County Historical Society.

Matt Becher to speak March 20

Boone County Historical Preservation Planner Matt Becher is the special guest speaker at the March BCHS meeting. He will present a fascinating program about **the old Petersburg Distillery**.

The program begins at 7 p.m. in Community Room C in the lower level of the Florence Government Center on Ewing Boulevard.



Duvall and Clare to present at NKU

BCHS will again participate in the Northern Kentucky History Day at NKU (in the University Center) on Saturday, March 15. Registration and display area opens at 9 a.m. (\$6 at the door). The Opening Speaker is followed by nine breakout workshops, with closing activities (doorprizes) at 1 p.m. and an optional tour of the NKU archives. We are so pleased that **BCHS members James Kenneth Duvall and Don Clare will present a 12:15 workshop entitled Lewis & Clark and Big Bone Lick.**

If you enjoyed our "Hoedown" event last October, be sure to mark October 4, 2003 on your calendar, because we plan to make it an annual event. It will again be held at Florence Lions' Clubhouse.

From the Boone County Recorder . . .

by Laurie Wilcox

EDITORS' NOTE: *We express our appreciation to Laurie Wilcox for doing the research and preparing the following articles. Laurie is a Reference Associate with the Boone County Public Library.*

Washington Watts

From the *Boone County Recorder* March 17, 1897
page 5 column 2

To the Editor of the Recorder

Some of our citizens are of the opinion that the late Washington Watts, Judge of the County Court, died on the day his term of office expired; but such is not the case. Washington Watts and N. E. Hawes were contesting candidates for County Judge in 1870. Mr. Hawes, being successful, went into office on the first Monday in September, 1870, that being the regular county court day. He held the court from the opening to the close of the term that day. Judge Watts was in town, apparently in fine health.

On the first Monday in October Mr. Hawes held the regular term of the court, Judge Watts, being in town that day, apparently as well as usual. It was about 11 o'clock a.m., when he was stricken with apoplexy and fell on the street, from where he was carried to the old County Clerk's office, now the Boone County Deposit Bank, and laid upon a table where he died in a few minutes, never speaking after receiving the stroke.



On the same day a meeting of the Boone County bar and citizens of the county was held to give expressions of their appreciation of Judge Watts, his character and services. A committee to prepare resolutions, consisting of Joseph C. Hughes, M. Hamilton, J.A. Wilson, J. W. Calvert and other citizens of the county, was appointed, and suitable and appropriate resolutions were reported and adopted, and will be readily found on the record of the October term, 1870, of the

County court. These facts, as to date are as remembered by the writer, and are corroborated by the court record.

Judge Washington Watts presided in his court with much dignity and more than average legal ability and learning. He was very fond of legal discussions, and was always intensely interested in the legal arguments made by attorneys in his court, and heard, patiently, what the lawyers had to say on questions in dispute, and if not clearly convinced he would gather up the law and decisions relied on by opposing counsel, and take them home and investigate for himself. He had a well balanced mind and steady nerve, which enabled him to go deeper into intricate legal problems, and rendered a sounder judgment thereon than the average County Judge. His salary was \$400 per annum except, possibly, for one or two years when it was \$500. Even then as now the County Judge was the poorest paid officer in the county.

Split Rock

From the *Boone County Recorder* March 20, 1895
page 3 column 1

Pronouncing the Enquirer's account of the finding of the bodies in a cave at Split Rock, and near his house, a fake, our Gasburg correspondent says: "About once every decade a similar story is gotten up in regard to wonderful caves, ancient burying grounds & all located in this immediate vicinity and goes the rounds of the papers. One gotten up about 20 years ago in regard to the discovery of a subterranean cavern, ancient relics of different kinds, caused the New York Times to send a reporter on to write it up. The stories originate from the fact that Split Rock which is a considerable curiosity, a large Mound Builders burying ground from which many relics have been taken, and a gully in the bank of Peak's Branch from which many curiously formed stones have been removed, are situated in about a quarter of a mile of one another; the aforesaid stones run in size from a few ounces to a hundred or more pounds, and are of all imaginable shapes, they are found in pure sand and no two of them touch."

Hughes Family History

From the *Boone County Recorder* March 20, 1901 page 1 column 2 & 3. (This article was accompanied by photo of George Hughes which we could not reproduce herein.)

George G. Hughes, the original of the above picture, will be an applicant for the office of Collector of Internal Revenue for this the Sixth District of Kentucky, at the end of the four years term of the incumbent.

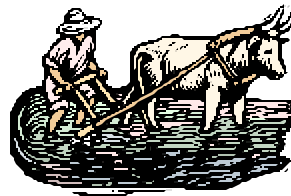
Mr. Hughes easily traces his paternal ancestors back to a period that antedates the revolutionary war, the first one of which the family history gives any account in this country being the great-great-great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch. His name was Barnabas Hughes, a native of Ireland [sic], who came to this country in 1750, settling in what is now the state of New Jersey. He had two sons, William and John, the later being the great-great-grandfather of George G. Hughes. In 1770 the elder Hughes and his two sons moved to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and when war with the mother country was declared, John Hughes shouldered his musket and went to the front, participating in many of the principal battles fought by the Continental army. In 1775 he went to Canada in Benedict Arnold's command, and participated in the attack on Quebec. After this expedition Mr. Hughes was promoted from the ranks to a captaincy and took part in the battles of Princetown, Brandywine; Germantown and Monmouth.

At the conclusion of the war John Hughes settled in Washington County, Pennsylvania, where he married Sarah Wiley. To them were born seven children, MaryAnn, James, John, Thomas, Barnabas, Samuel and Isabel. He died in 1818, aged 68 years.



Thomas Hughes, above named, left his home and parents in 1800, and cast his lot in the west-

ern wilds, floating down the Ohio river in a frail boat, as far as Tanners Station (now Petersburg), where he determined to locate. In 1810 he and Jane Lemon were married, and to them were born six children the late Ethan A. Hughes being one of that



family, and who, shortly after reaching his majority married Nancy Crisler, of this county. Of this union, George G. Hughes is one of the four sons, four of whom are now living.

He was born in Burlington, this county on the 16th day of September, 1844, but grew up on the farm near town. When not engaged at farm labor Mr. Hughes put his time in at school at Morgan Academy at Burlington, under Professors Coleman, Davidson, Huey and Lindsay.

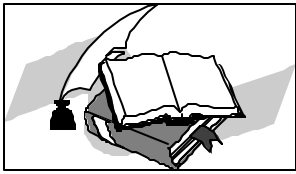
Having prepared himself for a course of legal lectures, he entered the Ohio State and Union Law College, at Cleveland, Ohio, from which he graduated with honor on the 27th day of November 1867, since which time he has been practicing law in Burlington, and his long experience in that profession has qualified him thoroughly for the duties of the office to which he aspires.

Mr. Hughes has always been an ardent Republican, and has been a member of the Republican Executive Committee of this county, for 25 or 30 years, in which capacity he has served his party most faithfully and on several occasions has he lead the forlorn hope as his party's nominee for office in this county.

Mr. Hughes enlisted in the U.S. Army, September 2d, 1862, and was honorably discharged therefrom.

He was a master Mason in Burlington Lodge F and A. M., in April 1869, and was twice Master of that Lodge. He is an upright conscientious gentleman, a good neighbor and a model citizen, and all his acquaintances would be rejoiced at his appointment as Collector.





Boone Co. Historical Society
 P.O. Box 23
 Florence, KY 41022-0023

*Petersburg Distillery
 program at March 20
 meeting!*

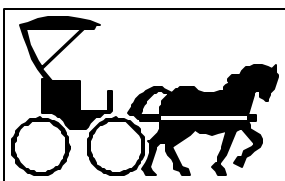


Annual membership fees were due in January!

In This Issue...

You're invited to a shower — see page 1.

The Boone County Historical Society provides program meetings on the third Thursday evenings of January, March, May, July, September and November. Unless otherwise announced, the meetings will be held at the Florence Government Center, 8100 Ewing Boulevard.



BCHS Membership Privileges

Annual Membership Fee is only \$15 per household, **due every January**. This modest fee covers the cost of our newsletter mailings. We appreciate all who have joined the Boone County Historical Society to help us preserve and make known some of the history of our County. Encourage your friends and neighbors to join and attend our meetings. Membership fees can be sent to:

**BOONE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 P. O. BOX 23
 FLORENCE, KY 41022-0023**

The Boone County Historical Society has received **tax-exempt status**. This means that all gifts to the Society are tax deductible.