
◆ Boone Co. Historical Society ◆

Editor: Betsy R. Conrad

November—December 2005

Volunteers needed for historical projects

The Boone County Public Library is looking for enthusiastic history-oriented volunteers to assist with the Local History and Genealogy Collection. Projects include indexing, transcribing oral histories, organizing donations and other activities relating to the day-to-day operations of the collection. Whether you have a few hours to spare or are looking for something worthwhile to keep you active, please consider volunteering at the Boone County Public Library. Please contact Bridget Striker at 384-5550 Ext. 33 if you would like to volunteer.



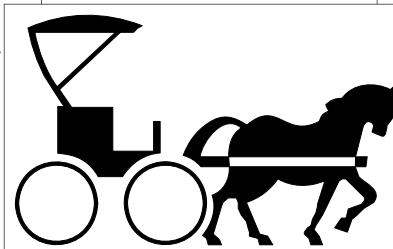
Historical Society Programs to be recorded

The Society recently purchased a digital video camera so that VHS copies of our programs will be available for checkout at the Boone County Public Library Scheben Branch a couple of weeks after the presentation.



Subscribe to the Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine — only \$15 / year for this high-quality, semi-annual publication. Visit www.kenton.lib.ky.us/~histsoc or call 859/431-2666.

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 \$20. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE BOONE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

November 17 topic: Farming on the banks of the Ohio River

Harold Hempfling will present a fascinating program on his family's long history of growing agricultural products along the Ohio River in northern Boone County. The program will be held at 7 pm Thursday, November 17, at the Florence Government Center in Community Room C.

The Board of Directors of the Boone County Historical Society will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, November 17.



Dinsmore Homestead

Everyone is invited to historic Dinsmore Homestead's annual **Christmas in the Country** on Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4. Enjoy this graceful old Boone County home in its holiday splendor with historic dancers, music and refreshments. The all-natural decorations are provided by the Boone County Garden Club and Northern Kentucky Herb Society members. Adults \$5, Seniors & Members \$3, Children 7-17 \$2, under 7 free. 1-5 pm both days. Special Saturday evening candlelight tour 7-9 pm. Call 586-6117 for more information or to volunteer.

County Formations

by Laurie Wilcox

County formations can be tricky but very necessary to understand for the genealogist and historian. Just to be clear, I'm not talking about Split Rock or Boone Cliffs. I'm talking about the political boundary that defines a geographical area and its governing body.

If we stop and think for a minute we know that the United States started out as thirteen colonies which were all located along the east coast. Wait a minute — Kentucky is not on the eastern coast, so how did it get here? Okay, I'm being silly but my point is that throughout history, the borders of the United States as well as the States and counties within it have dramatically changed. The

good news for the genealogist or historian is that there are books about these county boundary changes.

Two of the best reference books to begin learning about boundary changes and county formations are *Ancestry's Red Book* and *The Handybook for Genealogists*. Both of these books are excellent resources and can be found at the Boone County Public Library. The biggest difference between these books is format. Each book has essays on the re-



sources that are available for that state as well as the county formation dates, parent county, and mailing addresses for the county offices. *Ancestry's Red Book* has the county formation information in a table or grid format while *The Handybook for Genealogists* has it in a list format.

As I said, these books are a great beginning point but they have their limits. Each of these books only gives the original creation date of the county. But keep in mind that the county you are interested in may have gone through changes after its creation; Boone County certainly did.

Before it was Boone County

by Laurie Wilcox

In December of 1798, the Kentucky Legislature voted to create Boone County out of part of existing Campbell County. This was to take effect "from and after" the first day of June 1799. But what was this area called before it was Boone County? In the box is a chronology according to *Kentucky Atlas of Historical County Boundaries* by John Long.

Botetourt Co., VA was created Jan. 1770 from Augusta Co., VA.
 Fincastle Co., VA was created Dec. 1772 from Botetourt Co., VA.
 Kentucky Co., VA was created Dec. 1776 from Fincastle Co., VA.
 Fayette Co., VA was created Nov. 1780 from Kentucky Co., VA.
 Woodford Co., VA was created May, 1789 from Fayette Co., VA.
 In June of 1792, Kentucky separated from Virginia.
 Scott Co., KY was created September 1792 from Woodford Co., KY.
 Campbell Co., KY was created May 1795 from Scott Co., KY.
 Boone Co., KY was created June 1799 from Campbell Co., KY.

Library Call for Items

by Laurie Wilcox

The Boone County Public Library is looking for information, photos and memorabilia of the **Harrison family**, relatives of President William Henry Harrison, who lived in the North Bend area of Boone County on Sugar Grove Plantation. The library is also interested in the **Bernard Southgate family** who

owned the same property in later years. Photographs and memorabilia will be copied or scanned and returned to the owner. If you have any infor-



mation, photographs or memorabilia you are willing to share, please contact Bridget Striker, Local History Librarian, Boone County Public Library, Scheben Branch, 384-5550.

Laughry Island

by Laurie Wilcox

Laughry Island, on the Ohio River near Belleview, is where Colonel Archibald Lochry, and many of his men, were ambushed while on their way to fight in the Revolutionary War.

In the summer of 1781, George Rogers Clark requested that Archibald Lochry of Westmorland County, Pennsylvania to raise a militia force to help fight the British and their native allies in the Northwest Territory. The Northwest Territory at that time consisted of present day Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin.

Colonel Lochry gathered 82 men from his county and started to Fort Henry on July 15, 1781. When they arrived at Fort Henry, where they were to meet Clark, the company had swelled to 107. At the fort, Colonel Lochry received word that General Clark had moved 12 miles downriver to wait for them. General Clark had left some supplies at the fort, but Lochry spent ten days securing more supplies and boats for his men.

When Colonel Lochry and his men arrived at the rendezvous point, they found that Clark had tacked a note to a tree telling them to meet him at the mouth of the Falls of the Ohio. Clark had been forced to continue his march to prevent desertions among his troops. General Clark had left no supplies for Lochry and his men, but they continued, as ordered, down the Ohio River to meet General Clark.

Lochry's company soon ran low on food and morale was also low. On August 25, 1781, one of the men shot a buffalo and the company stopped to have a meal on the Indiana side of the Ohio River near the island. While the men were eating, they were ambushed by Indians under the command of Joseph Brant. Brant, an ally to the British, was a Mohawk chief who was a very skilled fighter. The militia had more men, but the Na-



tives with the element of surprise soon defeated them.

Around 40 men were killed in the initial battle including Colonel Lochry. After the fighting stopped, the militia men who survived the initial battle were taken prisoner and some were killed in retaliation for outrages committed by a Captain Brodhead who a few months earlier had killed Natives while they were being held as prisoners. The men who survived were taken prisoner and marched to Detroit where they were handed over to the British. These men were held as prisoners in Detroit and later transferred to a British prison in Montreal. They were released at the end of the American Revolution in 1783. Many returned to their homes in Pennsylvania. One man who was in this battle at Laughry Island was named Hugh Steers. Hugh later became a resident of the Union area of Boone County.

2006 Programs Scheduled

January 19: **Dr. Eric Jackson** of Northern Kentucky University will present a program on Boone County's African American Heritage. Dr. Jackson has recently published a book titled *Black America Series: Northern Kentucky* through Arcadia Publishing. This book can be purchased at Barnes & Noble and it is on order for Boone County Public Library.

March 16: **Granville Griffith** will give a presentation on the **history of beekeeping and its role in Boone County history.**



May 18: **Tom Utz**, an employee of **Consolidated Telephone Company** that served Boone County for many years, will give a history of the company and Boone County's first phone system.

July date to be announced after Frontier League schedule is determined: **Pat Scott and the Florence Freedom Game.** Boone County's Pat Scott played in the American Women's Baseball League and has thrown out the first pitch in many baseball parks around the country. Join us for her first pitch in her hometown Boone County. Pat will

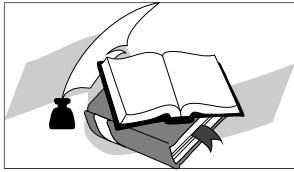


tell about her baseball days before the Florence Freedom game.

September 21: **Bridget Striker**, the Local History Librarian of the Boone County Public Library will talk about the Library's local history collection and its most exciting collection, the **Fitzgerald papers.**

November 16: **Matt Becher and Lori McEntee** will present a program on **architect George Nicholson of Walton.** They have done a lot of research on his life and work in Boone County.





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

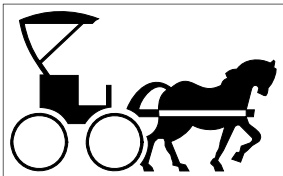
Websites of local interest:



BooneCountyKy.org.
 BooneCountyHeritage.org
 Kenton.Lib.Ky.US/~histoc
 DinsmoreFarm.org
 SaveAmericasTreasures.org
 Nkyviews.com

NOV. 17: HAROLD HEMPFLING, FARMING IN BOONE COUNTY

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



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.