

---

---

# ◆ Boone Co. Historical Society ◆

---

---

Editor: Betsy R. Conrad

January—February 2006

---

---

## *Volunteer Opportunities Available*

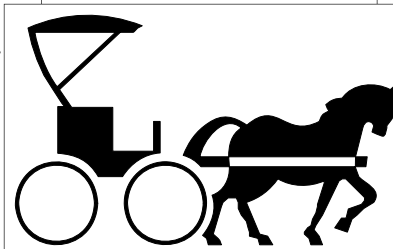
The Boone County Public Library is looking for enthusiastic history-oriented volunteers to assist with the Local History and Genealogy Collection. Projects include indexing, transcribing oral histories, organizing donations and other activities relating to the day-to-day operations of the collection. 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.

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE BOONE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE TO DEVELOP AWARENESS AND PROMOTE APPRECIATION OF THE HISTORY OF BOONE COUNTY.

## *Dr. Eric Jackson to speak January 19*

Dr. Eric Jackson, Assistant Professor of History at NKU, will be the guest speaker at the January 19 meeting of the Boone County Historical Society. The meeting, which begins at 7 p.m., will be held at the Florence Government Center in Community Room C (lower level).

Dr. Jackson recently published a book, *Black America Series: Northern Kentucky*, a compilation of vintage photographs illustrating this area's African-American heritage.



## *Anne Fitzgerald Passes*

Anne Fitzgerald, Boone County Historical Society's first Honorary Lifetime Member, passed away on December 21, 2005 at the age of 102. She was preceded in death by her husband, William, in 1969.

Mrs. Fitzgerald dedicated many years to the preservation of Boone County's historic documents and the information they contained. She worked as a faithful volunteer in the Boone County Clerk's office until she was no longer able to do so. We extend our sympathy to her nieces and nephews.

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.



**The 2006 Kentucky History Awards** — the Historical Confederation of Kentucky and the Kentucky Historical Society are receiving nominations until February 3rd for various service and special awards for organizations, individuals or projects. If you are interested in reviewing the criteria and preparing a nomination, please see President Anne Leake for details.



**Subscribe to the Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine** — only \$15 / year for this high-quality, semi-annual publication. Visit [www.kenton.lib.ky.us/~histsoc](http://www.kenton.lib.ky.us/~histsoc) or call

## Thanks to Harold Hempfling for November program

Succulent peaches, red-ripe tomatoes, hanging baskets chock full of beautiful geraniums — these are the memories we all have of the Hempfling family's Valley Orchards along the Ohio River, on Route 8. For decades, this was the favorite place of many area folks to purchase their produce.

The Historical Society was fortunate to have Harold Hempfling as our guest speaker at the November 2005 meeting. He explained that his Great Grandfather, C.O. Hempfling, and his Grandfather, Charles L. Hempfling, purchased original 270 acres that had been the Webb property in 1914. Mules were the mode of operation in those days, until 1939

when the first tractor was purchased. In later years, additional farms were purchased in the vicinity.

Dairy cattle and hogs were raised on the farms at one time. Peaches and apples were the main crops for many years, but an increase in late killing frosts as well as out-of-state competition resulted in the Hempflings changing to a direct marketing concept — where customers could pick their own fruit and the varieties of product were greatly expanded.



Harold explained that the operation added chipping potatoes in the late 1970s, supplying 2.5 million pounds of potatoes per year to Frito Lay, Husman's, Mike Sells, and other entities.

Mr. Hempfling recently sold 80 acres of his property to the County of Boone for a riverfront park. He and his wife live in the Kirtley house, built in the 1830s, and which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

VCR copies of Mr. Hempfling's presentation are available for check-out at the Boone County Public Library.

## NKU History Day Scheduled

by Laurie Wilcox

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, February 25, 2006** for the 13th Annual Northern Kentucky History Day at Northern Kentucky University.

Boone County will be well represented this year with three programs. Matt Becher will present a program on inventor Frank Milburn, known as Burlington's Cornfield

Edison. Betsy Conrad will review the history of Florence. And another production of the Kiger Murder Trial will be presented by Bruce Ferguson and company! A couple of new cast members have been added those who portray the 1943 trial of Joan Kiger, the young woman accused of killing her father and

brother in their Boone County home.

Registration information is being forwarded to each BCHS member by NKU History Day. Pre-registration will be rewarded with a discount, so send your reservations in as soon as possible.

## Medal of Honor Presentation

Florence Mayor Diane Whalen announced that the Department of the Army has agreed to place a replica of Sergeant Charles Clinton Fleek's Congressional Medal of Honor on permanent display at the Florence Government Center, 8100 Ewing Blvd. Sgt. Fleek is the only person from Boone County to have received the



prestigious Medal of Honor. Sgt. Fleek's family, as well as the 82nd Airborne color guard will participate in the ceremony at **7 pm, Tuesday, January 24 in City Council Chambers.**

Sgt. Fleek threw himself on a grenade, saving the lives and

preventing the injury of at least 8 of his fellow soldiers during an ambush operation in South Vietnam. He was 21 years old at the time of his heroic death.

**Everyone is invited** to attend this special ceremony honoring Sgt. Fleek and accepting the Medal for display.

## Executive Board Update

As President Anne Leake reported at the November 2005 meeting, Virginia Baker resigned from the Board, and Jim Duvall has agreed to serve the remainder of Virginia's term. We thank Jim for his willingness to serve.

Thanks to Virginia and Don Lainhart for staffing the BCHS table at the Florence Tree Lighting ceremony in December. Virginia reported that they sold two copies of *BOONE COUNTY: FROM MASTODONS TO THE MILLENNIUM*. We appreciate the efforts of the Lainharts.

The BCHS Board has been holding discussions with representa-

tives from the Kenton and Campbell County Historical Societies as well as the Behringer-Crawford Museum and the Northern Kentucky Heritage Magazine, regarding a proposal for collaboration and partnering. This proposal includes linked websites, shared marketing, database, fundraising and grant writing activities, as well as shared office and storage space and other resources.

The Board has also discussed the formation of an alliance with other Boone County groups including Friends of Big Bone, the Historic Preservation Review Board, the

Dinsmore Foundation, the Rabbit Hash Historical Society, Split Rock Conservation Park, and the Johnson-Wilson Cemetery Stewards. At this point, the organizations that are interested in participating in some form of alliance are in the process of proposing a mission statement, a list of desirable goals and projects, and identification of target audience(s).

If you have any questions or comments on these ideas, please contact President Anne Leake or a member of the Board.

## Dr. Gladys Rouse Home on National Register

The Kentucky Heritage Council recently announced that the former home and medical office of Dr. Gladys Rouse on Main Street in Florence's historic district, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places effective November

25, 2005. According to David Morgan, Executive Director of the Council, listing in the National Register gives recognition that the site has historical, architectural or archaeological significance within the context of the community, State or

Nation. Benefits include limited protection against adverse action by Federal agencies and eligibility for Federal tax benefits.

The building is lovingly owned by Rose Schneider, owner of Rosebrook Art Studio.

## Upcoming Programs

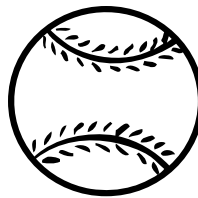


**March 16: Granville Griffith** will give a presentation on the **history of beekeeping and its role in Boone County history.**

**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: 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.

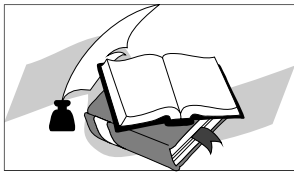


**September 21: Bridget Striker**, the Local History Librarian of the Boone County Public Library will talk about the Library's local history department and its most exciting collection, the **Fitzgerald pa-**

**pers**, a treasure trove of documents from the estates of William and Anne Fitzgerald.

**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

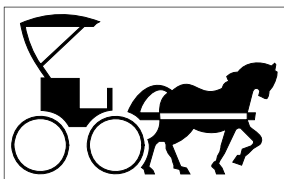
Websites of local interest:



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

**JAN. 19: DR. ERIC JACKSON TO SPEAK**

*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.