
◆ Boone Co. Historical Society ◆

Editor: *Betsy R. Conrad*

March—April 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.



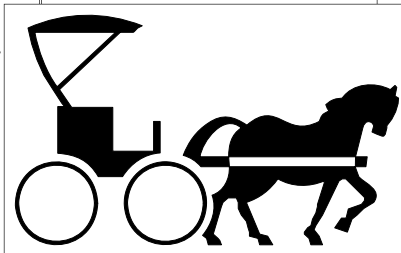
BCHS President Ann Leake audited the Treasurer's Books for the year 2005 and reported that all records were in order. Anyone desirous of reviewing the organization's financial records may do so by contacting Treasurer Steve Conrad at 371-5882.

VCR tapes of the Joan Kiger Trial reenactment last summer will soon be available for check-out from the Boone County Public Library.



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

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.

Granville Griffith to speak March 16

Beekeeper Granville Griffith recently placed honey beehives on the edge of a field belonging to the Answers in Genesis Creation Museum to pollinate the wild flowers and as an educational element about bees' behavior and instincts. Last June, Griffith participated in Covington's Farmers Market Grand Opening by showcasing his bees and allowing children to roll beeswax. In 2002, he relocated 40,000 bees and their eggs, larvae and honeycomb from a heavily used Ft. Thomas jogging trail to a more remote site in Campbell County.



Griffith received one of twelve Heritage Awards for 2005 from the Appalachian Community Development Association for his efforts to promote and contribute to the continuing success of the Appalachian Festival.

Needless to say, Granville Griffith will be a fascinating presenter at the **Thursday, March 16 meeting** of the Boone County Historical Society. His knowledge of the history of beekeeping in Northern Kentucky is extensive.

The meeting, which begins at 7 pm, will be held at the Florence Government Center in Community Room C (lower level). Don't miss out on this opportunity!



Thanks to Jim Duvall for January's program

Boone County Historical Society Board Member Jim Duvall very ably stepped in "last minute" to provide a program for January when our scheduled speaker cancelled. Jim has done an extraordinary amount of research on the history of Boone County — particularly its churches and the issue of slavery in Boone County. It was the latter subject that he presented, noting that his sources included John Tanner's *The Falcon*, a narrative of Tanner's captivity by the Indians and his life adventures; Paul Tanner's *Slavery in Boone County and Its Aftermath*; Mary Beckley Bristow's letters and diary; *The Loder Diary*, and John Taylor's *History of Ten Baptist Churches*.

Jim pointed out that throughout

Biblical and secular history, conquering peoples enslaved those they conquered. He noted the most famous Boone County slave was Margaret Garner whose story has been told in several books and a movie.

In *The Falcon*, John Tanner referenced his father's slaves in writing about his capture at the age of 9 in 1789 by the Indians from the family farm near what is now Petersburg in Boone County. Tanner was "adopted" by an Indian woman in Michigan where he resided for some 30 years.

Paul Tanner's writings on Boone County slavery is available on the Boone County Public Li-

brary's website (under Genealogy and History). Loder's diary includes references of bounty hunters coming through Boone County looking for escaped slaves.

Jim explained that slaves were named on church membership rolls as well as in wills. He provided census information that indicated the ratio of slaves to the white population, as well as the monetary value placed on the slaves.

VCR copies of Jim's presentation will soon be available for check-out at the Boone County Public Library. Be sure to see this if you missed the meeting!

Our Own Pat Scott Inducted into Sports Hall of Fame!

Pat Scott of Walton is the first woman to be inducted into the Northern Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame! At a January 18 ceremony held at Villa Hills Civic Club, she was honored for her athletic accomplishments.

According to a *Boone County Recorder* article by Ann Leake and Ruth Meadows, "Pat pitched three

years for the Fort Wayne Daisies of the All American Girls Baseball League. The movie 'A League of Their Own' was based on the lives and games of these girls."

Pat is a native Boone Countian and has resided in Walton since 1965.

Pat is scheduled as our spe-

cial speaker on Saturday, July 8, 2006 — this is our annual "out and about" meeting, and it will be held at Champion Window Field, the Florence Freedom Stadium. Watch for your special invitation for this exciting event that includes a delicious meal from "Shane's Rib Shack" in the stadium, as well as the baseball game!

Northern Kentucky's Fires detailed in new book

Boone County has been blessed with so many volunteer and professional firefighters over the years. And now The Kenton County Historical Society is presenting an excellent book, *Northern Kentucky Fires: A Summary of the Most Memorable Fires of the Region*. The book is written by Robert



Webster, a local historian and author. It details more than 130 fires including the region's worst disaster, the Beverly Hills Supper Club tragedy. With over 115 photographs, the publication is a fascinating review of fire emergencies in eleven Northern Kentucky coun-

ties.

Copies of the book may be purchased from the Kenton County Historical Society (P.O. Box 641, Covington, KY 41012) for \$20 each (includes shipping). Just send your check, indicate the number of copies you want, and don't forget to send your

City of Walton seeks to purchase Abner Gaines House

Mayor Phil Trzop and members of the Walton City Council have applied for a \$300,000 grant to purchase the Abner Gaines House in Walton. The Executive Board of the Boone County Historical Society sent a letter of support in an effort to enhance the City's chances of obtain this grant.

Built about 1814, this mostly restored, 2-1/2 story, unusual seven bay, Federal brick house is listed on the National Register for Historic Places. It served as an inn and stage coach stop, early post office, and an antique shop. It has been a single family residence for more than a half century.

It has four bedrooms, three baths, central HVAC, and quaint out-buildings on a 7.6 acre tract. There are 17 rooms in the main house which is 4,900 square feet. Outstanding Federal details and furnishings in-



clude nine original mantels, three staircases, wall presses, chair railings.

The foundation is stone, and there is a partial basement. The brick walls are 21 inches thick in places. The kitchen has been modernized. The outbuildings consist of a frame cottage, a shed and a barn.

The Kentucky Trust for Historic Preservation states the Gaines House is "possibly the most remarkable Federal House in Northern Kentucky."

Although largely intact architecturally, the house has suffered some



neglect, insensitive additions and exterior wall treatments, like other buildings of this age. According to Boone County's Historic Preservation Review Board, the original handmade bricks, including finely executed arches over the front windows, were covered by stucco in the early twentieth century. Attempts to remove the stucco result in the loss of the original brick face, leading to eventual deterioration. The current owners have reinforced structural stability, reworked or added basic systems, and attempted to undo years of insensitive remodeling.

Upcoming Programs

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.

Saturday, July 8: **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. Pat will tell about her baseball days before the Florence Freedom game.

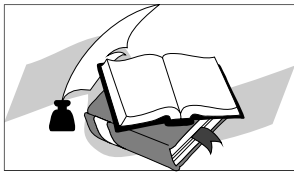


September 21: **Bridget Striker**, the Local History Librarian of the Boone County Public Library will talk about the Library's local history department and its most exciting collection, the **Fitzgerald pa-**

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:

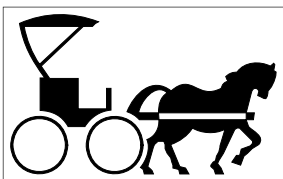


BooneCountyKy.org.
 BooneCountyHeritage.org
 Kenton.Lib.Ky.US/~histoc
 DinsmoreFarm.org
 SaveAmericasTreasures.org
 Nkyviews.com



MAR. 16: GRANVILLE GRIFFITH & HISTORY OF BEE KEEPING

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.