

# Boone County Historical Society



November-December 2022

## 2023 MEETINGS & EVENTS

All meetings at the Boone County Public Library will start at 6:30 pm

No January 2023 Meeting

Thursday, March 16, 2023:  
Bernie Spencer will present his fascinating website:  
*nkyviews.com*

Thursday, April 20, 2023:  
meeting TBD.

Thursday, May 18, 2023:  
Don Sanders will talk about being a Riverboat Captain.

Thursday, July 20, 2023:  
Annual Out & About at Dinsmore Homestead.

Thursday, September 21 2023: Ron Buckley will present Crisler Mill.

Thursday, November 16, 2023: Tracy Howerton will talk about Dr. B. F. Stevenson

## **MIKE STRIKER WILL PRESENT NATIVE AMERICAN, ADENA MOUNDS IN BOONE COUNTY ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17.**



The Robbins large mound site in Boone County from the William S. Webb Museum of Anthropology, University of Kentucky. Picture taken November 8, 1939

Between about 1000 B.C. and A.D. 500, the Ohio River Valley was home to what archaeologists call the Adena culture. Although they relied heavily on hunting, the Adena people were the first farmers in the region, growing native crops such as goosefoot, maygrass, and sunflower. They also developed the first pottery in the area, and engaged in long-distance trading networks, acquiring copper from Lake Superior and shells from the Gulf of Mexico. Most famously, the Adena people built thousands of burial mounds throughout the Ohio River Valley and beyond. In the late 1930s, archaeologists from the University of Kentucky excavated several Adena mounds in Kentucky, including the Crigler mounds, the Hartman mound, the Landing mound, the Riley mound, and the Robbins mounds in Boone County. The largest of these, the large Robbins mound, was 125 feet in diameter and over 20 feet high and included the burials of at least 1000 individuals. Mike Striker will discuss what archaeologists have learned about the people who built these mounds, how they lived, and how they honored their ancestors, with a focus on mounds excavated in Boone County.

## Happy Holidays from Boone County's Past By Hillary Delaney

The hectic pace of the holidays may make us yearn for simpler times: horses clip-clopping down a snowy pike, festive carolers strolling from door-to-door, and deco-rating the parlor with family. After all, in the old days, folks didn't have the distractions and commitments we do today, right? Before "Black Friday" shopping and traffic jams, Christmas came at a much slower pace, certainly. As we look into the archives, maybe it wasn't so different:

From the Boone County Recorder, December 19, 1883:

*"Florence- The snow is coming; Christmas is coming, and Old Santa Claus, with his precious freight is coming; and everybody is getting ready for the coming. The farmer is busily arranging his stock convenient to feed and shelter, else husking the heaps of corn or piling high the loads of fuel. The sleighs are brought from their resting places and cleared for action. The merchants are looking over their stocks of warm goods and wishing for a lower temperature. Their stores are teeming with all the good things that are edible and the show windows alive with things to make the little ones rejoice in the event of Old Santa's breaking down. Then gay belles are at the mantel-makers with their laces and velvets and trimmings, arming for the conquest. Then old maids have laid in a fresh supply of cologne and bloom of youth, the widows having their lives insured. Mamma is darning the stockings to keep the sugar-plums from running out. The little ones are counting the days while their imaginations see away up the road to the moon, the leaders of St. Nick's gallant team of rein-deer, heading for the earth with the precious burden."*

In 1890, our communities were full of bustling merchants, musical and dramatic performances and social engagements:

Dec. 24:

*"Joe Reed was out Monday and Tuesday inviting people to a 'turkey wing' dinner at James Westbay's on Christ-mas Day. After dinner the guests will proceed to the courthouse, where they will be treated to a drama in three acts."*

*"The enterprising firm of Gaines and Berkshire laid in 1,000 pounds of candy for the holidays."*

Dec. 31: *"The Christmas festivities were inaugurated in Burlington by a cotillion party at F. Riddell's. Flying feet kept time to merry music until midnight."*

*"At the home of G.T. Gaines, quite a large number enjoyed tripping the light fantastic till a late hour."*

Revelers and shoppers were all but forced to slow down when, on Christmas morning they were greeted by a heavy blanket of waist-deep snow, which brought the pace to a near-halt, which doesn't sound so bad, from the perspective of our busy modern lives. Happy Holidays!

### OUR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S SUPPLEMENT.

"RING OUT THE OLD, RING IN THE NEW; RING OUT THE FALSE, RING IN THE TRUE."



## Christmas Events around the County

### Florence

The City of Florence will have a Christmas tree lighting in the lobby of the City building at 8100 Ewing Blvd. on Tuesday, December 6. from 6-8 p.m. Events and refreshments are planned.

### Walton

The City of Walton is planning their Christmas on Main (in front of City Hall) on Friday, December 2 from 6-8 p.m.

A Christmas Tea is planned for 30 guests on Saturday, December 17 at the Gaines Tavern. For reservations, call the city hall at 859-485-4383.

### Boone County

Reindeer Games & Holiday Crafts for the children at the Boone County Enrichment Center on Saturday, December 3 from 10:30 –12:30. (Registration online)

A Christmas Tree lighting will be held at the Burlington Commons on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 4-7 p.m. There will be music, crafts and refreshments.

### Dinsmore Homestead

Dinsmore is planning to have Christmas in the Country on Saturday and Sunday December 3 & 4 from 1-5 each day. The house will be decorated for Christmas, there will be children's crafts and refreshments.

## April Meeting

Three years ago our board decided to eliminate the January meeting. This meant that we would only have five meetings a year. So the board decided to add a meeting in April to bring us back to six meetings a year.

Don't forget our fundraiser! Quality cast metal ornaments featuring the historic Boone County Courthouse will be available for \$20, cash or check accepted. Proceeds will fund historic markers in Boone County.



## THE BCHS MUSEUM

Boone County Historical Society expresses appreciation to the Boone County Judge/Executive and Fiscal Court Commissioners for permission to use the Old County Clerk's Office as a repository for items of historical significance to Boone County's heritage. Directions: I-71/75 Exit 181 (KY 18 Burlington Pk). Proceed westbound 4.6 miles, turn right at the first traffic signal (Bullittsville-

Burlington Road aka Garrard St.); turn left into the Boone County Administration Building parking lot. The Museum is the small white brick building marked "County Court Clerk's Office...1853" The street address is 2965 Gallatin Street, Burlington, KY 41005.



Artwork by Pattie Purnell

# BOONE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 23  
FLORENCE, KY 41022-0023



**Website:** [boonecountykyhistory.org](http://boonecountykyhistory.org)

Newsletter Editor: Stephen D. Conrad  
[sdconrad@fuse.net](mailto:sdconrad@fuse.net)

## ABOUT THE BOONE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The **mission** of the Boone County Historical Society is to develop awareness and promote appreciation of the history of Boone County, Kentucky. We are fortunate to partner with the Boone County Public Library.

The Boone County Historical Society provides program meetings at 6:30pm on the third Thursday evenings of March, April, May, July, September and November.

Meetings (except for July) are held at the Boone County Public Library, Main Library, 1786 Burlington Pike, Burlington, Kentucky. July "out-and-about" meetings are held at various locations around the County.

The Society hosts a number of exhibits at the BCHS Museum (*see page 3*) each year. Most items for these exhibits are borrowed on a temporary basis from our members and friends, and do not belong to the Society. We greatly appreciate being entrusted with these loaned items that relate to our exhibits.

Items in our permanent collection have been donated by individuals and families who desire to share with others items of historical significance to Boone County. Their generosity is gratefully appreciated.

**Annual membership fee is \$15 per household, due every March.** This covers the cost of printing and mailing our newsletters. Checks, payable to the Boone County Historical Society, can be mailed to the Boone County Historical Society, P.O. Box 23, Florence, KY 41022-0023.

The Boone County Historical Society has received a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status — all gifts to the Society are tax deductible.

**All programs and exhibits are free and open to the public.**

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Officers and Board members:

President:	Hillary Delaney
Vice President:	Brent Johansen
Secretary:	Pat Yannarella
Treasurer:	Steve Conrad
Web Master:	Jim Duvall
Board Members:	Ron Buckley Thomas Schiffer Carol Schiffer Ginny Kohl