

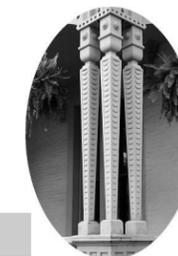
Butler County Historical Society
327 North Second Street
Hamilton, OH 45011

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The Benninghofen Post

A Publication of the Butler County Historical Society



WHAT YOU'LL FIND INSIDE:

- *Theaters of Butler County* Exhibit Now Open
- *The Amish of Butler County* Lecture, March 29
- *Perilous Paths, Butler County's Role in the Westward Expansion* Lecture April 30
- *Let's Go to the Movies: Hamilton's Theaters from Silent to Sound* Lecture May 8

Happy Birthday Robert McCloskey

Robert McCloskey will turn 100 years old in September and events celebrating his accomplishments are planned throughout the year.

A series of adult book discussions featuring *Make Way for McCloskey: A Robert McCloskey Treasury* will be held at the Hamilton Lane Library on March 5, the Fairfield Lane Library on March 10 and the Oxford Lane Library on March 18 at 6:30 p.m. The first 15 people at each discussion will receive a copy of the book. This series is sponsored by the Lane Libraries and the Michael J. Colligan History Project.

A two month-long exhibit of McCloskey's sketches and original prints from *Yankee Doodle's Cousin* by Anne Malcolmson will open at the Fitton Center for Creative Arts in March. On Saturday, March 15, *Family Arts Day* at the Fitton Center for Creative Arts will feature Gratia Banta in the McCloskey exhibit from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 22 from 10:00 a.m. to noon will feature *Make Way for McCloskey: A Children's Walk for All Ages* at the Hamilton Lane Library. Walk in the footsteps of Robert McCloskey with a parade from the library to Heritage Hall, the site of the Robert McCloskey museum, touring McCloskey landmarks along the way. Registration can be made at the Hamilton Lane Library. The McCloskey Walking Tour is available at Heritage Hall or <http://lanep.org/McCloskeyWalk>.

Blueberries For Sal, Story Time, ages 4-7 will be at the Fairfield Lane Library on Saturday, April 12 at 10:30 a.m. Children will be able to create blueberry crafts and enjoy yummy snacks.

Leonard S. Marcus, a leading children's book historian, author and critic will speak on *American Dreamer: Robert McCloskey and the Art of the Picture Book* at the Wilks Conference Center, Miami University Hamilton on Wednesday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. This talk is sponsored by the Michael J. Colligan History Project and the Lane Libraries.

Make Way for a Robert McCloskey Special Story Hour for ages 3-5 will be held at the Oxford Lane Library on Saturday May 10 at 10:00 a.m. The event will feature stories, crafts and music centered on *Make Way for Ducklings*.

Stay tuned for more events.



The Butler County Historical Society

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Hamilton, Ohio 45011
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To help us prepare for your visit, please call ahead.

bchistoricalociety.com

Email:
bcomuseum@fuse.net

Hours
Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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Upcoming BCHS Programming

We have three special programs planned for this spring that you will want to be sure to attend.

Steven M. Nolt, professor of history at Goshen College, Indiana, and author of several well-acclaimed books about the Amish, including the 2013 publication, *The Amish*, the companion to the PBS American Experience program on the Amish, will speak in Hamilton on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at the Butler County Historical Society's Emma Ritchie Auditorium.

This program is offered through the collaboration of the Butler County Historical Society, MetroParks of Butler County, and the Friends of Christolm and is free and open to all. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Amish and in particular the now-extinct Amish settlement of Butler County.

On Wednesday, April 30, at 7:00 p.m., you will have the opportunity to learn about our early history through the eyes of Robert McClellan, when George McClellan talks on *Perilous Paths, Butler County's Role in the Westward Expansion*. The McClellans were early settlers in Hamilton and the talk will focus on life in the United States in the early 1800s.

On Thursday, May 8, Jim Blount will present *Let's Go to the Movies: Hamilton's Theaters from Silent to Sound*. This talk will be at 7:00 p.m. and plan on coming early to view the BCHS exhibit *The Theaters of Butler County*.

All three of these events will be in the Emma Ritchie Auditorium and are free and open to the public.



Theater Exhibit Now Open

Take a walk down memory lane at the BCHS and the new Theaters of Butler County exhibit. Theaters and drive-ins that were in Butler County throughout the years are highlighted, along with many of the opera houses. Did you know that Reily and Seven Mile both had opera houses?



Butler County also produced many people that made it big in the entertainment industry. Many names, like the McGuire Sisters and Ray Combs, will be familiar to you, but did you know that Frank Simon, cornet soloist for the John Philip Sousa Band was from Middletown, or that the Brooklyn Comedy Four, from rural Butler County, played in nearly every American city and toured to such faraway places as New Zealand and South Africa?

Help for Planning Your Summer Trips

Love history, but don't know great places to visit within the tri-state area? Help is on the way! In conjunction with the Oxford Museum Association's Arts and Crafts Fair at the Hueston Woods Pioneer Farm on June 14 and 15, 2014, the museums and historic sites in Butler County and surrounding areas will have booths and exhibits set up, and literature available to help you plan your summer trips. BCHS will be there, so stop by and say hi!



Oxford Museum Association

Annual Meeting and Robert T. Howard Lecture

Langstroth's Honey Bee Legacy & Unintended Consequences

featuring: Alex Zomchek, Apiculturist, Miami University, Director, Ohio State Beekeepers Assoc.



Knolls of Oxford • Commons Auditorium, Wednesday March 19, 2014 • 6:00 p.m.

Covered Dish Dinner, bring salad, casserole or dessert along with table service, meat and drinks provided, Review of Association Activities, Robert T. Howard Lecture at approximately 7:30 p.m.

open to members and nonmembers

Dayton Lane Promenade

The biennial Dayton Lane Promenade occurs on Sunday, May 18, 2013 from 1-5 p.m. in Hamilton's Dayton-Campbell historic district. The May Promenade is a step back in time to the early 1900s when Hamilton's industrial barons built their grand homes along Dayton Street and Campbell Avenue. Ten renovated historic homes will be open for tours and period demonstrations will be held in the Campbell Avenue Park. You can also take a ride on a horse drawn trolley and see high wheel bicycles with costumed wheelmen. Presale tickets can be purchased at Vision Source, 712 Dayton Street, or on line at www.historicdaytonlane.org for \$15 per person. Tickets purchased the date of the Promenade are \$20 per person. Tickets can be picked up at one of the Promenade's locations the day of the event at the Wolfe Gazebo, 900 Block of Campbell Avenue, or outside of Dayton Lane Gardens, 600 Block of Dayton Lane.



Mystery Photo

When working on the theater exhibit, we discovered this lovely picture of Jennie Curtis. We know she acted in an Eastern stock company and was the niece of Col. George L. Phillips and cousin of Mrs. John (Jennie Beale) Grafft. We are guessing that the picture is from the late 1890s or early 1900s. Can anyone help us with information on Jennie Curtis?



We Have Interns!

BCHS has three interns working with us for the spring semester. Sarah Turner, a Masters candidate from Kent State is working with our family files in an attempt to make them more user friendly. She is going through each file, copying material that is in danger of disappearing, copying material that pertains to more than one surname and cross filing that material, creating family files where needed, and removing photographs and other family memorabilia that have been stored in the family file and moving it to individual family boxes where the material is less likely to be damaged. There are over 16 file drawers worth of material, and numerous boxes that contain family material. Once done, everything will be cross-referenced and notes placed into the family files as to the location of other family material.

Mallory Hellenthal and Michelle McVey are working with BCHS Vice President Sara Butler to catalog, organize and properly store BCHS's huge collection of textiles. Our current textile collection is spread out throughout the house and the auditorium, with much of it packed in drawers, trunks or non-archival boxes. Mallory will be working with the organization and proper storage of the collection, while Michelle will develop a clothing exhibit for both the theater exhibit and exhibits throughout the upstairs of the Benninghofen House. They have already discovered some exciting pieces and are anxious to get them on display. Several grants have also been written in hopes of obtaining much needed material to complete this project.



Please join us on Facebook for breaking news and information regarding the Butler County Historical Society

THE AMISH OF BUTLER COUNTY: MIGRATION, FERMENT AND TRANSFORMATION IN 19TH CENTURY AMERICA



LECTURE BY DR. STEVEN M. NOLT

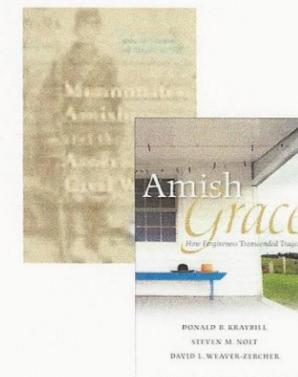
Join the Butler County Historical Society, MetroParks of Butler County and the Friends of Chrisolm for this first lecture in a series of events to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Amish Settlement in Butler County.

WHEN:

March 29, 2014, 11 a.m.

WHERE:

The Butler County Historical Society and Museum - Emma Ritchie Auditorium, 327 North Second Street, Hamilton, OH 45011, 513-896-9930



NOLT'S BOOKS INCLUDE:

THE AMISH (written with Donald B. Kraybill and Karen M. Johnson-Weiner) - the companion to the PBS American Experience program on the Amish, A HISTORY OF THE AMISH - now being prepared for its 3rd printing, AMISH GRACE: HOW FORGIVENESS TRANSCENDED TRAGEDY (with Donald Kraybill and David Weaver-Zercher); the Amish reaction to the shootings at Nichel Mines Schoolhouse. Selected Best Book of 2007 by Publisher's Weekly, MENNONITES, AMISH, AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR (with James O. Lehman), published in 2007 by Johns Hopkins Press

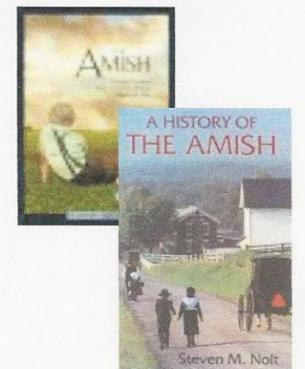
SPECIAL EVENT

SPEAKER CREDENTIALS:

Professor of History, Goshen College-Indiana



Well known author on Amish Culture



SPONSORS:



(513) 896-9930, bcomuseum@fuse.net



OF BUTLER COUNTY, www.YourMetroParks.net, 513.867.5835

