

Boone County Historical Society



March—April 2022

2022 MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

Thursday, May 19, 2022:
Bob Schrage & Dave Schroeder will introduce their book on Lost Northern Kentucky.

Thursday, July 21, 2022:
The annual “Out and About” will be held at Little Britain Carriage House. It is located at 5307 Idlewild Road, Burlington, KY.

Thursday, September 15, 2022: Joetta Prost will present **Universalist Churches: Complex History before and after the Civil War.**

Thursday, November 17, 2022: Mike Striker will be speaking on a topic TBD.

BRIDGET STRIKER WILL SPEAK AT OUR MARCH 17TH MEETING AT 6:30 P.M.

The Boone County Borderlands Archive and History Center is a collaborative effort between Boone County government agencies and the



Boone County Public Library to preserve and store the community's historic records. Housed at the Main Library in Burlington, the project will include both government records and donated community collections within a

physical archive space, as well as, a history center and staff to support a digital archive, virtual exhibits, research help, and local history programming. Join Local History Coordinator Bridget Striker as she gives an update on the project and how the community may support this groundbreaking initiative.

An Heirloom Finds Its Way Home

By Hillary Delaney

Several months ago, I received a mysterious research question regarding a silver pitcher found in an attic in Iowa. Mr. Julius Graves, the gentleman in possession of the item, was interested in returning it to someone connected to its history. There is an inscription on the pitcher which reads, "Miss Sophia Finch, Presented by the M. E. Church South, Florence, KY." This was the clue that led him to the City of Florence; they then contacted me at the Local History department at the Boone County Public Library. Mr. Graves had two questions: would family be found locally and how did this item end up in Iowa?

I was familiar with the family name from the early history of Florence. Sophia Finch was born here in 1848 to Adam and Louisa Finch. Her father was one of the earliest citizens of Florence, having moved here from Bourbon County in 1828. The Finch house, built ca. 1840, is the oldest standing home in town.

Sophia never married, so she did not have any direct descendants. However, she did have five siblings and seven half-siblings, so chances were high that a local family member could be located. Sophia moved to Louisville to be trained as a pharmacist in the late 1880s, then began working in Monterey, California. In 1900, Sophia was living in Colorado with her sister, Fanny, Fanny's husband, and their child. She moved with them first to Virginia, then Missouri, where she died in 1929. I have not found any evidence that she ever lived in Iowa.

Sophia's older brother, John Milton Finch married Maggie Grant, whose family ran the large Southern Hotel in Florence. Their daughter, Virginia Finch, married William Goodridge, uniting two families with deep roots in Florence. Virginia and William's daughter, Elizabeth Delle Goodridge, married Roy Nestor. Their daughter, Virginia "Ginny" Nestor married Harold Kohl. She currently lives in the family home in Florence.

This discovery was providence! Ginny Kohl was my favorite teacher through my middle and high school years, is a dear friend and serves with me as a board member of the Boone County Historical Society. She is the great-great niece of Sophia Finch and is now in possession of this recently-discovered family heirloom. The mystery of how the pitcher ended up in Iowa still lingers. Did Sophia's work take her there at some point or was it left by another family member, forgotten in an attic for years? The answer may never be found, but thanks to Mr. Graves' curiosity and kindness, Sophia's pitcher has returned home to Florence and the caring stewardship of Ginny Kohl and her family.

The Heirloom Pitcher



Annual Business Meeting

The Bylaws of the Boone County Historical Society were revised in August 2021. Copies of the Bylaws will be distributed at the March 17, 2022 meeting. Changes are in the number and years of office of the board. One change is: The President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary as well as four Directors shall be elected for terms of three years. The other change is that the program at the meetings of the society must precede the business meeting.

After the death of President Betsy Conrad the board appointed society member Hillary Delaney to be the president. At the March 17, 2022 meeting Hillary Delaney will be running for the office of president. Vice President, Brent Johansen, Treasurer, Stephen Conrad, Secretary Patricia Yannarella, and board members Tom & Carol Schiffer, Ginny Kohl, Ron Buckley would like to continue for these positions. .

If anyone is interested in being elected to one of these positions, please notify one of the society's officers before the March 17 meeting of the society.

Dinsmore Homestead

After being cancelled for two years due to the Coronavirus, Dinsmore Homestead is planning to have its Derby Day Party on May 7th starting about 3:30 pm. House tours will begin for the season on April 1st and will be from 1 to 5 pm on Friday through Sunday.

For further information, contact Dinsmore Homestead at 859-586-6117.

Proposed Kentucky Historical Marker

The board is proposing that we apply for a Historical Marker for Frank S. Milburn "Cornfield Edison" who in his Burlington shop was an inventor that created, in secret, the Nordon Bombsite that was used in World War II.

Since the original site of his workshop was torn down, we are proposing to have the marker placed to the front of our museum so the public can have easy access to it.

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 west-bound 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

Newsletter Editor: Stephen D. Conrad
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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 7pm on the third Thursday evenings of March, 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 Boardmembers:

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