

Boone County Historical Society



September-October 2023

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS and EVENTS

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

Saturday, October 7 from 8—1. Our museum will be open for the County Garage Sale.

November 16: Tracy Hower-ton will talk about Dr. B. F. Stevenson's life and his service as a Civil War surgeon.

No meetings in December, January or February.

March 21: James Duvall will talk about the 19th century Big Bone Springs Hotel .

April 18: We will again do our Show and Tell.

May 16: Captain Don Sanders will talk about life on the river.

OUR OWN RON BUCKLEY WILL TALK ABOUT HIS RESEARCH AT THE CRISLER/SEBREE GRIST MILL AT 6:30 ON SEPT. 21, 2023

"The Great Water Power"



There were over twenty grist mills started in Boone County between 1810 and 1830. They were often built by influential families who had the property and the means to invest in such a venture. A few examples of such families are the Tousey, Graves and Humphry families. Lewis Crisler built his Grist Mill on land he purchased from H. Marshall in 1817. He realized this parcel of land was positioned right at where Gunpowder Creek makes a ninety degree turn and would give him maximum power to run his mill. The mill stones came to Boone County Kentucky from "La Ferte-sous-Jouarre France" and could weigh up to 3000 pounds a set. What a trip. In order to build the mill, he had to purchase extra horses in 1826. In 1834 Crisler decided to sell the property which included the Grist Mill and house. The land transfer papers refer to the mill as "The Great Water Power". A great legal fight occurred over the property in 1864 and the party with the most influence won. The property was purchased by Robert Gulley in 1902 and still remains in the family. There are a couple of mysterious sites on this property.

VISITING DINSMORE HOMESTEAD

At last month's "out and about" meeting, we visited Dinsmore Homestead. It was a beautiful evening where 34 members came and sat on the back porch and enjoyed a wonderful presentation by Cathy Collopy. We understand that several people that came had not been to Dinsmore before or had not been there in a long time. Our last official visit to Dinsmore Homestead was in 2013 when we dedicated the Kentucky Historical Highway Marker.

Our donation of \$500.00 was very much appreciated since they are trying to raise enough money to build a new welcome center that will be located next to the house.



DINSMORE HOMESTEAD'S
ANNUAL
Fall
FESTIVAL

KIDS GAMES
 PRIZES
 FAMILY GAMES
 PIE EATING
 CONTEST*

*PRIZE SPONSORED BY B & B RIVERBOATS

LIVE MUSIC 🍁 **CRAFTS** 🍁 **FOOD TRUCKS**
SEPTEMBER 9 & 10, 2023
 12 - 5 pm | General Admission

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5656 Burlington Pike, Burlington KY
 For more information visit
dinsmorehomestead.org/events

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

The **Great Outdoor Weekend** will be on **September 23—24** at all major parks in the Cincinnati area. This will include special fun activities at the **Boone Arboretum and Big Bone Lick State Historical Site**.

At the **Friends of Big Bone** meeting, on **September 28 at 6:30 p.m.** at The Scheben library, Cathy Collopy will talk about **The men and women that worked on the Dinsmore Farm**.

Big Bone Lick State Historical Site will again host the **Salt Festival on October 20—22**. This event will include axe throwing, hands on demonstrations, pioneer life demos, salt making, music, crafts and food.

A **Community Garage Sale** will be held on **October 7** at the **Boone County Admin Building Parking Lot** from **8 am—1 pm**. We are planning to have our museum open for this event.

A **Pumpkin Carving Party** will be held on **October 27** at the **Boone County Fairgrounds** from **6—8 pm**.

Jack-O-Lantern Contest & Walk will be held on **October 28** at the **Boone County Fairgrounds** from **7:30—9 pm**. You can walk the illuminated trail lined with Jack-O-Lanterns. There will be hayrides and refreshments

VIDEO LIBRARY

The Boone County Public Library has a large library of Historical Society videos of presentations that have been recorded over the last 20 years at our meetings. There are currently 193 videos loaded on 'youtube.'

There is a link on History and Archives page of the bcpl.org website that will take you to the playlist of videos.

KENTUCKY HISTORICAL HIGHWAY MARKER APPROVED

Our president, Hillary Delaney, received a letter from the Kentucky Historical Society that our nomination for a historical marker about Frank S. Milburn has been approved.

The process will now begin to prepare the design, and installation of the new marker. We anticipate the dedication of the new marker will be sometime next year.

Since the original location of Frank Milburn's building has been razed, we are planning to have the marker placed in front of our museum.

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.

MEMORIAL MONUMENT DEDICATION



Memorial Monument Dedication at Florence Cemetery , Nov. 2, 2023, 2:00PM

"Section 1" of the Florence Cemetery, which is closest to Russell Street, appears to have the least amount of burials. In reality, there are many souls interred within, but few visible stones remain to mark them. It's likely they were either lost to time or never placed, but after much research, over 120 burials of African Americans laid to rest here have now been identified. More than half of those identified include once-enslaved people, the remainder are African American residents and their loved ones who

were buried here for generations after.

Among these are Civil War soldiers who served in United States Colored Troops, church leaders and community members who were a vibrant part of Florence history.

The African American burials at Florence Cemetery will be memorialized with the dedication of a monument honoring those interred there, which was made possible through grant funding. The event is sponsored by the Borderlands Archive and History Center at BCPL and is open to all. Please join us!



Artwork by Pattie Purnell

BOONE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



Website: boonecountykyhistory.org

Newsletter Editor: Stephen D. Conrad
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 will be hosting 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:

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Vice President:	Brent Johansen
Secretary:	Pat Yannarella
Treasurer:	Stephen Conrad
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Board Members:	Ron Buckley
	Thomas Schiffer
	Carol Schiffer
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