

## Butler County, Ohio

Butler County was formed in 1803, the same year Ohio became the 17th state. The county was named for Revolutionary War veteran General Richard Butler. He was killed fighting Indians four years before the 1795 Treaty of Greeneville opened the Miami Valley to new settlers.

The new county was located just north of Cincinnati, a major gateway for migration to the Northwest Territory. It prospered throughout the 19th and 20th centuries with major industry, commerce, and prominent cities as well as profitable agriculture.

In the 21st century Butler County and its communities are experiencing significant revitalization. Museums, historic sites, historical societies, history research facilities and related organizations tell its fascinating story. This booklet is a guide to unique architecture, significant artifacts, original documents, changing exhibits, and public programs. We encourage you to explore the county's rich history and heritage.



*Hamilton, 1890 Lithograph*

## *Early Settlement*

After 1795, pioneer migration moves rapidly into the lower Miami Valley. Earliest settlement features self-sustaining farms with local blacksmithing, and local markets. Religious expression is important to communities, and vernacular architecture prevails.

### **Governor Bebb Pioneer Village**

1

*1979 Bebb Park Ln., Morgan Twp., OH 45053*

*513-867-5835*

*[www.yourmetroparks.net/parks.asp](http://www.yourmetroparks.net/parks.asp)*

Built in 1799, the Bebb Cabin was the birthplace and boyhood home of Ohio's 19th governor, William Bebb. It was moved from its original location on Dry Fork Creek four miles away and added to other log structures reconstructed in the park to represent a pioneer village. They include a blacksmith shop, tavern, schoolhouse and covered bridge.

*MetroParks of Butler County*



### **Monroe Pioneer Log Cabin**

2

*500 S. Main St., Monroe, OH 45050 • 513-539-2270*

*[www.monroeohhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.monroeohhistoricalsociety.org)*

This one-room log building was constructed between 1797 and 1817. It was moved from its original location near the Warren County line to Monroe Community Park in 1968, and includes pioneer furnishings.

*Monroe Historical Society*



### Monument Cabin

3

*15 S. Monument Ave., Hamilton, OH 45011 • 513-785-7055*  
*[www.hamiltonparks.net](http://www.hamiltonparks.net)*

Built in 1804, this log cabin was discovered and moved from Park Avenue on the west side of the Great Miami River to Monument Park in 1964. Now located on the site of old Fort Hamilton, it is furnished to reflect pioneer life.

*Hamilton Parks Conservancy*



### DeWitt Log House

4

*4824 Trenton Oxford Rd., Oxford, OH 45056*  
*513-523-8005*

*[www.oxfordmuseumassociation.com](http://www.oxfordmuseumassociation.com)*

The 1805 home of Zachariah DeWitt and family is the oldest remaining structure in Oxford Township. It has been restored to its original appearance and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. DeWitt was one of the early settlers in the area, where he farmed and operated a sawmill on nearby Harker's Run.

*Oxford Museum Association*



### Indian Creek Pioneer Church & Burial Ground

5

*3000 Indian Creek Rd., Reily Twp., OH 45056*  
*513-867-5835*

*[www.yourmetroparks.net/parks.asp](http://www.yourmetroparks.net/parks.asp)*

The Indian Creek Baptist Church formed in 1810 and built this brick church in 1829 to replace an earlier log structure. Gravestones of early settlers, including relatives of Daniel Boone, are still standing in the cemetery.

*MetroParks of Butler County*



## Elisha Morgan Farm Mansion

6

6181 Ross Rd., Fairfield, OH 45014 • 513-867-5300

[www.fairfield-city.org/parks/morganmansion.cfm](http://www.fairfield-city.org/parks/morganmansion.cfm)

This brick farmhouse, built in 1817 and purchased by Elisha Morgan, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Located in Gilbert Farms Park, it is used for meetings of the Fairfield Historical Society and may be rented for special occasions. The grounds include heritage gardens. *City of Fairfield*



## Blanton Log Cabin

7

5610 W. Alexandria Rd., Madison Twp., OH 45042

513-907-8814

This 1833 log cabin was a gift from the Blanton family to the township historical society. It was moved from a farm near the Montgomery County line and reconstructed in Madison Township Community Park. It is open to the public, and includes period furnishings.

*Historical Society of Madison Township*





## Early Nineteenth Century

In this era of rapid population growth and the rise of commerce, early industry, cities and trade networks, the styles of domestic architecture in Butler County diversify and begin to become more formal. Educational institutions are created across the county, and civic structures are built.

### William Holmes McGuffey Museum

8

401 E. Spring St., Oxford, OH 45056 • 513-529-8380

[www.miamioh.edu/mcguffeymuseum](http://www.miamioh.edu/mcguffeymuseum)

The *McGuffey Eclectic Readers* educated generations of 19th century Americans and made their compiler, William Holmes McGuffey, “Schoolmaster to the Nation.” McGuffey taught at Miami University, and with his family lived in this two-story brick house from 1833 to 1836. The house is a National Historic Landmark and exhibits early books, period furnishings, decorative arts and university history.

*Miami University*



### Pioneer Farm and House Museum

9

6924 Brown Rd., Oxford Twp., OH 45056

513-523-8005

[www.oxfordmuseumassociation.com](http://www.oxfordmuseumassociation.com)

The Doty Homestead, located in Hueston Woods State Park, includes the 1836 brick house once occupied by the Doty family and an 1840s barn that replaced the original one after it burned. Both buildings include items and exhibits about farm life and agriculture. The 1880s Oxford Township House was moved to this site to save it from demolition in Uptown Oxford.

*Oxford Museum Association*



## Doty Settlement Cemetery

10

6777 Brown Rd., Oxford Twp., OH 45056 • 513-523-8005

[www.oxfordmuseumassociation.com](http://www.oxfordmuseumassociation.com)

This site was established as a burial ground for a local Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation in 1844 and a frame church was constructed here soon after. The church building is gone and the cemetery was later used by others. The farming community known as the Doty Settlement also included a nearby schoolhouse that still stands.

*Oxford Museum Association*



## Canal Museum

11

1605 N. Verity Pky., Middletown, OH 45042

513-424-5539

[www.middletownhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.middletownhistoricalsociety.com)

Located on the route of the Miami-Erie Canal that thrived with western Ohio commerce from the 1820s to 1860s, the museum was built as a replica of a lock tender's house and exhibits artifacts, photographs and videos of the canal era that reached its peak in the mid-19th century.

*Middletown Historical Society*



## **Bunker Hill Universalist Pioneer Cemetery**

12

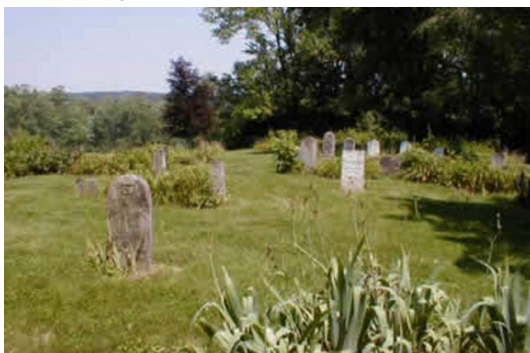
*5351 Reily-Millville Rd., Reily Twp., OH 45056*

*513-867-5835*

*[www.yourmetroparks.net/parks.asp](http://www.yourmetroparks.net/parks.asp)*

Beginning in the second decade of the 19th century this burial ground was used by early settlers. In 1855 the site was purchased by the Bunker Hill Universalists for their church and cemetery. The frame church burned in 1924, and the outline of its foundation can still be seen, along with tombstones of Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War and Civil War veterans.

*MetroParks of Butler County*



## **Morgan Township House Museum**

13

*6464 Okeana Drewersburg Rd., Okeana, OH 45053*

*513-738-0845*

*[www.morgantownship.bchistoricalociety.com](http://www.morgantownship.bchistoricalociety.com)*

This township house was built here in 1858 and served as the seat of Morgan Township government for over a century. The frame structure has been restored and now serves as a museum with exhibits interpreting the community's history.

*Morgan Township Historical Society*



## *Victorian Era*

The second half of the 19th century brings more elaborate architecture to Butler County in a variety of styles. Industrial development emerges to dominate commercial enterprise, and Hamilton and Middletown become cities of national and international importance. Public schooling expands, and fashion, arts, architecture and domestic arts of this era have lasting impacts.

### **Lane-Hooven House**

14

*319 N. Third St., Hamilton, OH 45011 • 513-863-1717*

*[www.hamiltonfoundation.org](http://www.hamiltonfoundation.org)*

This octagonal house was constructed in 1863 in the Gothic Revival style and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It was built for Hamilton industrialist Clark Lane, who gave the city the library located across the street. Today it is occupied by the Hamilton Community Foundation.

*Hamilton Community Foundation*



### **Black Covered Bridge**

15

*5401 Corso Rd., Oxford Twp., OH 45056*

*513-523-8005*

*[www.oxfordmuseumassociation.com](http://www.oxfordmuseumassociation.com)*

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this bridge spans Four Mile Creek and is the only covered bridge in the county still in its original location. It was built in 1869 and sometimes was called “Pugh’s Mill Bridge” because it led to the nearby mill of that name. The bridge was bypassed in the 1950s and restored in the 1990s.

*Oxford Museum Association*





## Chrisholm Historic Farmstead

16

2070 Woodsdale Rd., Madison Twp., OH 45067

513-867-5835

[www.yourmetroparks.net](http://www.yourmetroparks.net)

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the farm includes Samuel Augspurger's 1874 brick house, 1890s barn, family cemetery, kitchen gardens, and more. The Augspurgers were leaders of a flourishing Amish Mennonite community.

*MetroParks of Butler County*



## Hughes School

17

6010 Princeton Rd., Liberty Twp., OH 45011

513-678-8346

This 1887 one-room school, presumably named for its proximity to a nearby railroad station, has been restored and features authentic furnishings. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the red brick schoolhouse is representative of many that served rural Butler County in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

*Liberty Township Historical Society*



## Butler County Courthouse

18

*101 High St., Hamilton, OH 45011 • 513-860-4194*

This four-story building with imported granite columns and marble floors was completed in 1889, the third courthouse on the site since the county was formed in 1803. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it was built with classical detailing in the Second Empire Revival style, and is still in use.

*Butler County Commissioners*



## Benninghofen House Museum

19

*327 N. Second St., Hamilton, OH 45011*

*513-896-9930*

*[www.bchistoricalociety.com](http://www.bchistoricalociety.com)*

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, this fully furnished Italianate home was built ca. 1861 and later remodeled. It interprets the lifestyle of prominent industrialist John Benninghofen during the late 19th century and features changing exhibits on county history.

*Butler County Historical Society*



## Trenton Historical Society Museum

20

*17 E. State St., Trenton, OH 45067 • 513-424-0740*

The museum is located in a house that was built by Adam Schafer, a local blacksmith. When he constructed the house ca. 1890, he incorporated an earlier log house into it. The museum features exhibits related to the development of Trenton since 1816.

*Trenton Historical Society*



## Shartle House Museum

21

*120 N. Verity Pky., Middletown, OH 45042*

*513-424-5539*

*[www.middletownhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.middletownhistoricalsociety.com)*

The 1895 Shartle family home features displays about the history of Middletown, including exhibits on Armco Steel Corporation, city founders, Boy Scouts and more.

*Middletown Historical Society*



## Patterson Place Museum

325 S. Patterson Ave., Oxford, OH 45056

513-529-4400

[www.miamioh.edu/wcaa](http://www.miamioh.edu/wcaa)

This 1898 house built by James Patterson as a summer home later served as the residence of Western College for Women presidents from 1914 to 1974. Today it is a museum with paintings, furniture and other artifacts of the independent women's college that closed in 1974.

*Western College Alumnae Association, Inc.*



*Butler County Scene, 1875 Atlas*



## *Twentieth Century*

After 1900, Butler County's past and its significant industrial, financial and commercial enterprises inspire museums and monuments celebrating local identity and achievements. Civic structures are built to serve both local and global demands. Research facilities are developed to collect materials that serve growing public interest in the region's past.

### **Chickahominy House Museum**

23

*10 E. Elm St., Monroe, OH 45050 • 513-539-2270*

*[www.monroeohhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.monroeohhistoricalsociety.org)*

With interior furnishings from the late 1800s to early 1900s, the museum showcases the history of Monroe, Lemon Township, and local families plus an extensive photograph collection. The building was designed to look like the Williamsburg, Virginia house for which it was named.

*Monroe Historical Society*



### **Hammond House Museum**

24

*6207 Main St., Reily, OH 45056*

*513-477-1052*

*[www.reilyhistory.net](http://www.reilyhistory.net)*

Built ca. 1900 and later named for a Reily family, Hammond House is a museum that interprets the history of Reily, an agricultural township. In early years the village of Reily was a stop for drovers walking their livestock to market. It later had a doctor, post office, barber, bank, general store, hotel and other businesses.

*Reily Township Historical Society*





## Butler County Soldiers, Sailors & Pioneers Monument

25

*1 S. Monument Ave., Hamilton, OH 45011*

*513-867-5823*

*[www.butlercounty.org/monument](http://www.butlercounty.org/monument)*

A memorial structure built in 1906 on the site of 1790s Fort Hamilton, the monument is dedicated to the memory of county veterans and pioneers. Notable features include stained glass windows honoring the Civil War service of women, and military displays. A bronze statue of a Civil War soldier by Rudolph Theim, named “Victory” and known locally as “Billy Yank,” stands atop the monument.

*Butler County Commissioners*



## 1910 Museum

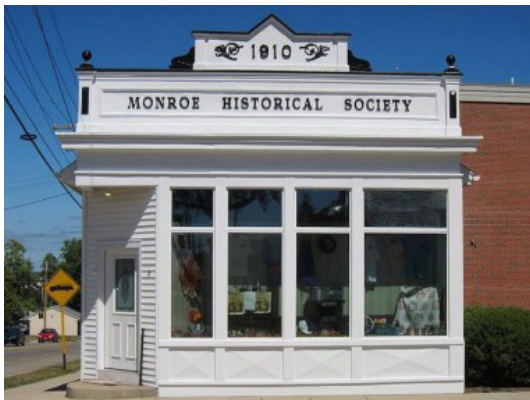
26

*2 E. Elm St., Monroe, OH 45050 • 513-539-2270*

*[www.monroeohhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.monroeohhistoricalsociety.org)*

This building has served as a general store, soda fountain, dress shop, municipal services building, and more. Today the restored 1910 Museum is furnished as a general store filled with antiques to delight people of all ages.

*Monroe Historical Society*



## Heritage Hall & Robert McCloskey Museum

27

20 High St., Hamilton, OH 45011 • 513-737-5958

[www.hamiltonheritagehall.org](http://www.hamiltonheritagehall.org)

Built in 1935 as a municipal building, the art deco design by Frederick Mueller was enhanced with stone bas reliefs created by Hamilton native Robert McCloskey. Today the McCloskey Museum exhibits art by this notable author and illustrator of children's books. The Frederick Mueller Room interprets the work of the Hamilton architect, and other changing exhibits depict local history.

*Butler County Historical Society*



## National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting

28

8070 Tylersville Rd., West Chester, OH 45069

513-777-0027

[www.voamuseum.org](http://www.voamuseum.org)

Constructed in 1944, the Voice of America Bethany Relay Station once housed the most powerful radio transmitters in the world. For fifty years news of freedom and democracy was relayed around the world. Today the building houses the Gray History of Wireless Museum, the radio and television broadcasting archives of Media Heritage, Inc., and the West Chester Amateur Radio Association.

*West Chester Township*



## HISTORY RESEARCH FACILITIES

### **Butler County Records Center & Archives**

**A**

*123 N. Third St., Hamilton, OH 45011*

*513-887-5607*

*[www.butlercountyrecords.org](http://www.butlercountyrecords.org)*

The Butler County Records Center contains county archival holdings, with the exception of land records, dating from creation of the county in 1803. Birth, death, marriage and will records are kept here, plus naturalization records, infirmary records, tax duplicates and some court records. Volunteer genealogists are available a few days a week to assist visitors with family history research.

*Butler County Commissioners*



### **Smith Library of Regional History**

**B**

*441 S. Locust St., Oxford, OH 45056*

*513-523-3035*

*[www.lanepl.org/smith](http://www.lanepl.org/smith)*

Smith Library collects, preserves, and disseminates information on the history of southwestern Ohio with emphasis on Oxford and Butler County. Its holdings include books, periodicals, photographs, maps and newspapers, plus histories of families, businesses, schools, churches and cemeteries. The library also creates exhibits, sponsors public programs, and publishes works on area history.

*Lane Libraries*



### **Randall Research Center**

**C**

*327 N. Second St., Hamilton, OH 45011*

*513-896-9930*

*[www.bchistoricalociety.com](http://www.bchistoricalociety.com)*

Randall Research Center holds material about the history of Butler County and Hamilton, including directories, photographs and school memorabilia, newspapers, maps, and more. Items relating to prominent families are kept here, along with business collections including the Estate Stove Company, Mosler Safe Company, Shuler and Benninghofen Mill, Beckett Paper Company, and others.

*Butler County Historical Society*

## RELATED COLLECTIONS

### Local History and Genealogy Collections

D

*125 S. Broad St., Middletown, OH 45044*  
*513-424-1251*

*[www.midpointedigitalarchives.org](http://www.midpointedigitalarchives.org)*

Based in the Ohio Room of the MidPointe Middletown library, physical holdings include photographs, yearbooks, city directories, atlases and newspapers related to eastern Butler County. The MidPointe Digital Archives offers access to online photographs, atlases, letters, and more. The collected materials of local historian George C. Crout are available in both physical and digital formats.

*MidPointe Library System*



### Cummins Local History Room

E

*300 N. Third St., Hamilton, OH 45011*  
*513-894-7158*

*[www.lanepi.org](http://www.lanepi.org)*

Located in the historic Hamilton Lane Library that was constructed in 1866, this collection of the city's history includes books, yearbooks, maps, newspapers, city directories and more. The George C. Cummins Photograph Collection is of special interest and available online. It includes over 3,000 images from the mid-19th to early 20th centuries.

*Lane Libraries*



### Miami University Special Collections & Archives

F

*151 S. Campus Ave., Oxford, OH 45056*  
*513-529-6720*

*[www.spec.lib.miamioh.edu/archives](http://www.spec.lib.miamioh.edu/archives)*

*[www.spec.lib.miamioh.edu/home/western](http://www.spec.lib.miamioh.edu/home/western)*

Located on the third floor of King Library, the Miami University Archives serves as the records repository for a university that was chartered in 1809. The Western College Memorial Archives preserves the history of an independent women's college that was chartered in 1853 and closed in 1974. Records of other Oxford women's schools, and of Miami's former laboratory school, are also available here.

*Miami University Libraries*

## **HISTORICAL SOCIETIES**

### **Butler County Historical Society**

MAIL: 327 N. Second St., Hamilton, OH 45011

PHONE: 513-896-9930

EMAIL: bcomuseum@fuse.net

WEBSITE: www.bchistorical society.com

### **Fairfield Historical Society**

MAIL: 4971 Potomac Dr., Fairfield, OH 45014

PHONE: 513-910-3258

EMAIL: ffhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.ffhistoricalsociety.com

### **Liberty Township Historical Society**

MAIL: 5126 Mauds Hughes Rd., Liberty Twp., OH 45044

PHONE: 513-678-8346

EMAIL: Ltfd81@aol.com

### **Historical Society of Madison Township**

MAIL: 7301 Hetzler Rd., Middletown, OH 45042

PHONE: 513-907-8814

EMAIL: spoors@fairpoint.net

### **Middletown Historical Society**

MAIL: P.O. Box 312, Middletown, OH 45042

PHONE: 513-424-5539

EMAIL: themiddletownhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.middletownhistoricalsociety.com

### **Monroe Historical Society**

MAIL: P.O. Box 82, Monroe, OH 45050

PHONE: 513-539-2270

EMAIL: info@monroehistorical society.org

WEBSITE: www.monroehistorical society.org

### **Morgan Township Historical Society**

MAIL: P.O. Box 20, Shandon, OH 45063

PHONE: 513-738-0845

EMAIL: jillsfarm@fuse.net

WEBSITE: www.morgantownship.bchistorical society.com

### **Oxford Museum Association**

MAIL: P.O. Box 184, Oxford, OH 45056

PHONE: 513-523-8005

EMAIL: oxfordmuseumassociation@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.oxfordmuseumassociation.com

### **Reily Historical Society**

MAIL: 6207 Main St., Reily, OH 45056

PHONE: 513-477-1052

EMAIL: sandracampbell@reilyhistory.net

WEBSITE: www.reilyhistory.net

### **Seven Mile Historical Society**

MAIL: P.O. Box 202, Seven Mile, OH 45062

PHONE: 513-726-4034

EMAIL: viviangorsuch@fuse.net

### **Trenton Historical Society**

MAIL: 17 E. State St., Trenton, OH 45069

PHONE: 513-988-0282

EMAIL: jannah3722@cinci.rr.com

### **West Chester - Union Township Historical Society**

MAIL: 5171 Rialto Rd., West Chester, OH 45069

PHONE: 513-874-4373

EMAIL: westchesterhistory@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.westchesterhistoricalsociety.org



## OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

### **CHAPS (Citizens for Historic and Preservation Services)**

*P.O. Box 1276, Hamilton, OH 45012*

*[www.butlerpreservation.org](http://www.butlerpreservation.org)*

CHAPS strives to educate the public about the value of saving historic buildings and structures from neglect, insensitive alteration, and demolition.

### **Michael J. Colligan History Project**

*1601 University Blvd., Hamilton, OH 45011*

*513-785-3277*

*[www.colliganproject.org](http://www.colliganproject.org)*

The Colligan Project is a public history initiative of Miami University Hamilton and the Hamilton Community Foundation. It offers programs about the people, places, events and social forces shaping American life, recognizes distinguished teachers and historians, and forms community partnerships.

*Miami University*

### **Butler County Chapter, Ohio Genealogical Society**

*P. O. Box 224, Middletown, OH 45042*

*[www.butlercountyogs.org](http://www.butlercountyogs.org)*

The Butler County Chapter strives to help its members and the public acquire, preserve and disseminate genealogical and historical information. It offers public programs, publishes a newsletter, and supports family research.

---

## **HOURS & CURRENT INFORMATION FOR THESE LOCATIONS AND OTHERS**

Butler County Visitors Bureau

*[www.gettothebc.com/history](http://www.gettothebc.com/history)*

## **HISTORY NEAR BUTLER COUNTY**

Museums & Historic Sites of Greater Cincinnati

*[www.historicgreatercincinnati.org](http://www.historicgreatercincinnati.org)*

---

Contributed by

Butler County History Collaborative

Designed by

Sam Ashworth

Edited by

Valerie Elliott and Curtis Ellison

Supported by

W. E. Smith Family Charitable Trust

2016