



news & notes



BCHS Will Be 100 Years Old in 2024!

Chris Campbell
Executive Director

Well, the headline pretty much says it all. If you didn't already know, our beloved organization will be 100 years old on July 16, 2024, and we're going to have a year-long party to celebrate.

Our organization began at a luncheon in the Daniel Boone Tavern on July 16, 1924. (see the *Tribune* article that was published that evening on page 3). Seventeen men came together with the purpose of creating an organization that would "preserve the history of Boone County and the achievements of the pioneers who laid the foundation of this county community so solidly." We are still

pursuing that mission in 2023 and I must believe that those seventeen men, led by our first president, E.W. Stephens, would be proud to see where we are today. Many things have changed since 1924, and for the better, particularly the role of women in our organization. Women were notably absent from the list of charter members, but I feel certain the women who *should* have been included in 1924, such as Mary Paxton Keeley and Luella St. Clair Moss, would be pleased to know that of our 26 board directors and endowment trustees in 2023, 24 are women. What has not changed in the last 99 years is our mission and purpose.

In the last 99 years, we have transitioned the organization's regular meetings from members' living rooms to the Maplewood House—our society's headquarters and office



A new logo celebrating the Boone County Historical Society's centennial year will be used throughout 2024.

space from 1971 through 1989—and then to the Boone County History & Culture Center in 1990. Over the course of the last 99 years, and primarily the last 30 years, the organization has collected approximately 516,000 community photographs, 10,000 artifacts, 2,200 articles of clothing, and 2,000 works of art. Additionally, the society, founded when Calvin Coolidge was president and movies didn't yet have sound, now curates four historic venues in the "Village at Boone Junction," and the historic Maplewood House. We've come a long way.

The Centennial Committee began making celebration plans early this summer —**continued on page 3.**



Holiday Give

Your support makes the difference for children in Boone County. Over 1,000 attendees at our free family events have enjoyed hands-on activities at the History & Culture Center. With your help in 2024, even more families will be able to experience these essential programs that allow youth to discover history and culture. **More on page 4.**

From the Desk of the President

Dear Members,

It is hard to believe that another year is coming to an end. So much has happened across the world, across the nation, and in our own little community of Boone County. It is so important to preserve and understand our past if we are to grow and build a meaningful future for ourselves and for our communities.

Towards that goal, the History & Culture Center has been hosting a series of free family events. These educational events give children a hands-on opportunity to learn about what life was like before the internet and technology dominated our day-to-day lives. Since the first such program in May of 2022, over 1,000 people have attended and participated in these activities. It is introducing a whole new demographic to the Center!

The series *Things That Matter* has been a tremendous success since its introduction. The timely and impactful programs bring groups of people together in an inclusive and safe space to highlight events from our collective past. Some topics can be ugly and painful to acknowledge as having occurred and remind us that there is much to be done to heal as a community. Other topics remind us that Boone County embraces progress and opportunities to improve and grow as a community.

In 2024, the Boone County Historical Society will turn 100 years old. The new year will be filled with celebrations to mark the occasion. It is an opportunity to remind people who and what we are. It is also an opportunity to introduce ourselves to those who might not otherwise know we are here.

Among the activities planned there will be an exhibit showing off 100 years of historical items from our vaults. Some of these items have not been part of a public exhibit for many, many years.

It takes a lot of time, effort, and money to bring our history to life through these types of programs and exhibits. Your ongoing support is needed to continue to provide a place where we celebrate all that is Boone County—past, present, and future.

Volunteers are an integral part of making all of this happen year after year. We ask that you consider helping at an event once or twice a year to ensure our visitors have a good experience. If your schedule allows, we always need people to welcome our guests as they enter the History & Culture Center throughout the year. If we are to continue to be successful, we need people to help with these support roles.

Finally, we recognize that these are difficult financial times. It is during such times that we need your support most. Please consider making a year-end donation to ensure that the Boone County Historical Society will be here for another 100 years. Help us in continuing to preserve those things that make us Boone Countians.

The Board of Directors and the Endowment Trustees thank you for your continued support of the Boone County Historical Society, the History & Culture Center, and the Montminy Gallery.

Amy Henderson, *President, Boone County Historical Society Board of Directors*

December *Things That Matter* Discussion Showcases Persistent Problems in Show-Me State History

A new speakers series exploring
REAL PEOPLE and REAL STORIES



Dec 14 Gary R. Kremer
Executive Director, State Historical Society
Persistent Problems in MO History

Join us for the December *Things That Matter* event featuring Gary R. Kremer.

Join us at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 14 for the next *Things That Matter* event featuring Gary R. Kremer, the executive director of the State Historical Society of Missouri (SHSMO). He'll enlighten us with a discussion of "Persistent Problems in Missouri History."

As a fifth-generation Missourian and SHSMO's executive director since 2004, Kremer is highly qualified to help broaden our understanding of reoccurring trends in the Show-Me State.

Kremer earned his Ph.D. from American University in Washington, DC. He has written, coauthored, and coedited 12 books. Previously, Kremer taught history at Lincoln University in Jefferson City (1972-1987) and William Woods University in Fulton (1991-2004). He also served as the state archivist of Missouri from 1987 to 1991 before his tenure started at SHSMO.

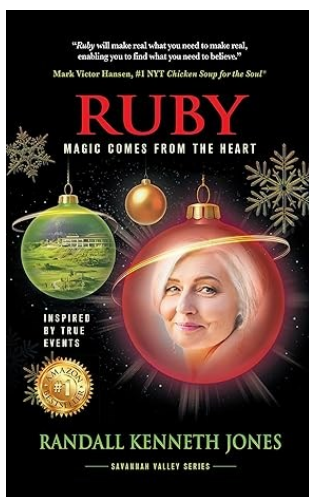
Things That Matter aims to produce a series that is inclusive of all voices and creates a safe space for all to feel heard. It is a free, conversational-style speaker series hosted from 1:00-2:00 p.m. once monthly on Thursdays in the History & Culture Center's Montminy Gallery. No RSVP is required.

100 Years of BCHS—continued from page 1

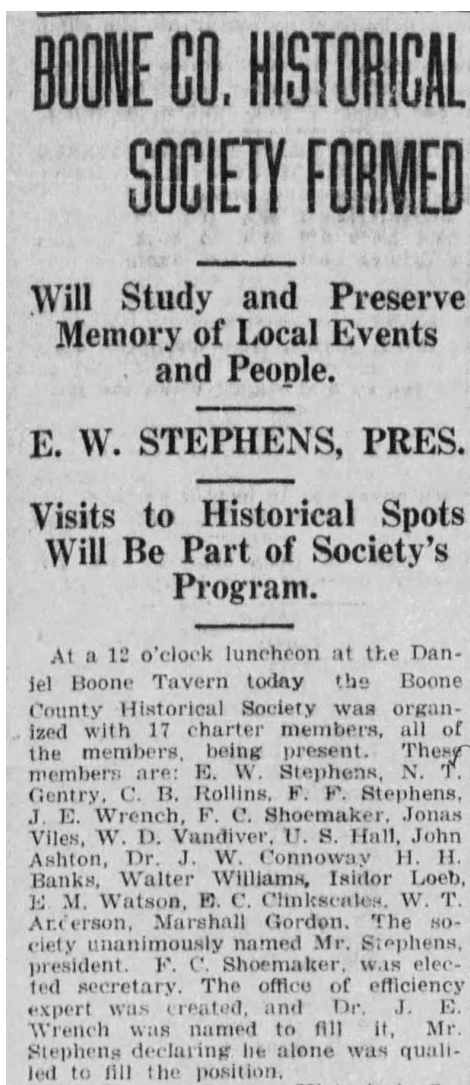
and continues to work on a series of events and activities that will highlight our 100th birthday throughout 2024. Details of the events will be announced early in the year, but there are plans for a big outdoor event on our grounds on Saturday, July 13. There will be live music, food, and fun activities for families and kids of all ages.

A special exhibit is also planned for our big birthday. We hope to open *100 Years. 100 Objects.* in both the east and west Walters Family History Galleries in April. The exhibit will feature what we believe are the 100 most fabulous items in our collections. Some of the items being considered are artifacts that have not been exhibited in years and all the artifacts—from Blind Boone's gold pocket watch to Hospital Steward Henry Martyn Cheavens' 1862-1863 civil war diary—will tell us something about who we were then and who we are now.

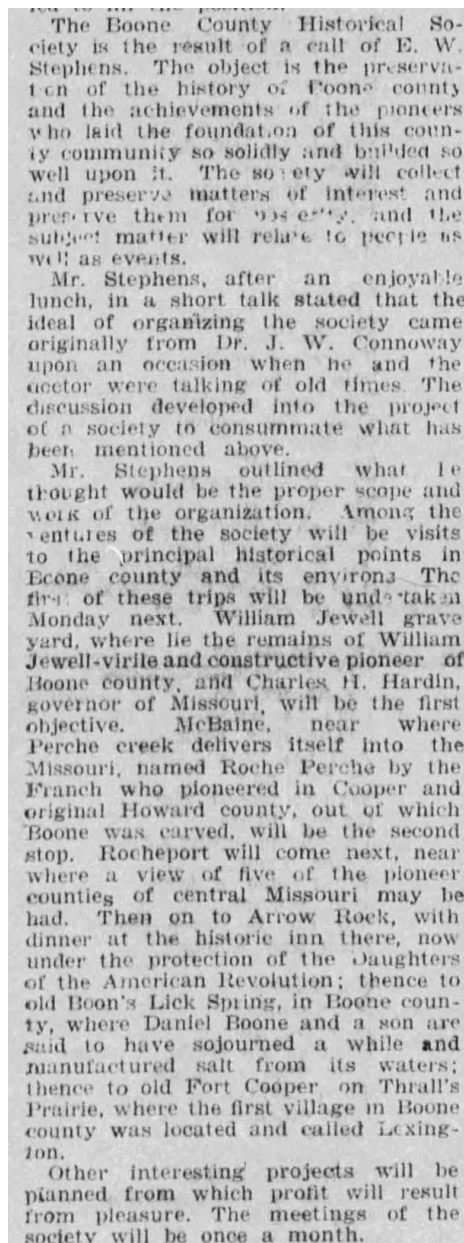
It's going to be a great year for BCHS. Spread the word. Take pride in our Boone County Historical Society and tell all your friends, "we're 100 years old!"



Enjoy a Christmas story and songs on December 13.



Article appearing on page 1 of the July 16, 1924, issue of the Columbia Daily Tribune announcing the formation of the Boone County Historical Society.



Book Event: *Ruby: Magic Comes from the Heart*

At 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13 join us for a book reading with a musical performances featuring vocalists singing as characters from the *Ruby: Magic Comes from the Heart* written by Columbia native Randall Kenneth Jones.

In this imaginative novel Cynthia Grant arrives in posh Savannah Valley, searching for purpose and a new life. When she accidentally encounters her new neighbor Ruby, the winds of change go into overdrive.

A woman of untold mystery, Ruby's impact on the magic of Christmas is a spectacle to behold. Ruby's influence on wondering, wandering Cynthia leads to a whirlwind of activity that transforms not only Cynthia but everyone she touches.

With spirits, angels, messengers, and boundless imagination alongside mystery, whimsy, speculation and a search for truth, Ruby tempts even the most hard-hearted naysayer to believe in believing again.

Be sure to join us for a little Christmas magic in the Montminy Gallery. This is a free event and no reservation is required.

Your Support Matters: Holiday Give Campaign

When I need a dose of tranquility during a long day, I often find myself in the Montminy Gallery. Our vast art gallery is a place where one can pause, let stress fade away and discover new inspiration.

However, as I entered the Montminy one morning, the usually serene space was buzzing with people.

Our gallery floor was scattered with red, white and blue paper. A few haphazardly placed stars shimmered on the tables, and the vibrant laughter of children filled the room.

To some it might have seemed the opposite of what an art gallery should be, but not here at the Boone County History & Culture Center.

Our spaces are meant to be filled with people having unique experiences.



I soon heard a little voice that I will never forget. “I’m making a flag to give to my uncle. He is in the army, and I am going to mail it to him!”

The boy continued to tell me all about his uncle, whom he just called Johnson “because that’s what his uniform says!”

That sweet six-year-old who was radiating with pride is named Rhees Young. He’s become a frequent visitor at the History & Culture Center.

Rhees’ artwork is currently hanging in the Montminy’s Creative Corner, alongside masterpieces made by two of his sisters, Emma and Lily.

As a family, they have done every scavenger hunt we’ve created and excitedly earned our new bookmarks. Their mom, Angela, can often be seen pausing behind a stroller thoughtfully reading the stories of local veterans in our *Heroes Among Us* exhibition.

Since 1924, it has been our mission to build a place where individuals—young and old—can learn something new. We preserve artifacts to share the stories they hold and to broaden our understanding not only of this place but also the people who have called it home.

We display unique art in the Montminy Gallery so visitors can see what it inspires them to create. We encourage thoughtful consideration of tough topics, whether that is through a well-researched history exhibition or during an open dialog at a *Things That Matter* event.

Your support builds that safe space. One where Rhees and his sisters can return month after month to **discover something new that expands their horizons.**

It is all possible because of your generosity. Every dollar enables the Young family and countless others in our community to discover where history and culture meet.

Thank you for making that a reality.



Thanks to you, local children engage with history in new ways with the hands-on experiences offered at our free events. Captions (top to bottom): Rhees Young shows off the flag he made for his uncle, Matthew Johnson. The Montminy Gallery’s Creative Corner encourages visitors to add their creation to the gallery walls. At the July 8 family event, the Young family creates “funworks” in the gallery. Emma Young’s artwork is currently on display in the Creative Corner.



Imagine. Discover. Experience.

Your generous donations make it possible for children to discover something new and expand their horizons. See what your gift can do in four key areas of need. Thank you.

Next year marks 100 years of the Boone County Historical Society preserving local history (1924-2024)! One way we plan to celebrate this important milestone is an exhibition, *100 Years. 100 Objects.*, showcasing our favorite BCHS artifacts. This grand display will require purchasing new lighting, display cases, and more.

\$550 gift covers the purchase of a table-top display case to help ensure the safety of a priceless artifact.

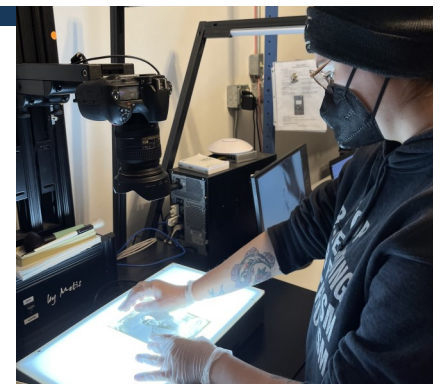


Help local children thrive with hands-on experiences. During our free events, families engage with history in new ways. They test their skills at rolling film strips, deliver mail via the Pony Express, learn to celebrate our veterans and even make maps like Lewis and Clark. (Currently, averaging 64 people per event!)

\$325 donation supports the cost of one family event to ensure they remain freely available to attendees.

To date, 30,000+ photographs, spanning the 1880s-1960s, as well as 100+ years of historic records (1821-1934) have been digitized and are available online. As we continue processing, the need for long-term, archival storage is growing. Help ensure precious glass plate and plastic negatives are here for future generations.

\$150 contribution pays for 10 glass-plate negative storage boxes, ensuring the proper storage of 300 negatives.



Provide materials so children can create art inspired by the Montminy Gallery’s vibrant displays or help them develop their own “Civil War tintype” while learning about our 500,000+ piece photo collection—identified as “undoubtedly one of the largest, if not the largest aggregate community collection in the country.”

\$50 gift provides supplies for hands-on activities for children during a trip to the History & Culture Center.

BooneHistory.org/Donate-Now

3801 Ponderosa Street, Columbia, MO 65201 | 573-443-8936

Meet the New Board Candidates

Up for election to the Boone County Historical Society Board of Directors are two new candidates that are familiar faces around the History & Culture Center. Both Jerry Benedict and Jolene Schulz are wonderful volunteers for BCHS and we look forward to their expanded commitment to the Center by their election to the Board.

Members will vote on Benedict and Schulz, up for new 3-year terms, as well as returning directors Nancy W. Thomas and Elizabeth Watkins, up for reelection to 3-year terms, at the Annual Meeting on December 7 in the Montminy Gallery from 5-6:30 p.m. Learn more on page 8 about the BCHS Annual Meeting.

Jerry Benedict was born at Noyes Hospital in 1946 as Winston Churchill was a few miles away coining the Iron Curtain speech. His mother forever associated the two of them, although Churchill never got the connection.

Growing up, Benedict worked in his father's orthopedic business, Central Brace Company. Through his tutelage and inspiration he held that interest while attending first the University of Missouri and later Drury University where he majored in History and English. Benedict's pathway led to years of advanced studies and certification by the American Orthotic and Prosthetic

Association.

Benedict eventually took the helm of his family's business. It was their acquisition of the building on East Broadway that included Francis Westhoff's Portrait Studio that was a milestone in Benedict's life. The fate of half a million photographic negatives of Columbia residents dating from the late nineteenth century through 1970 had to be preserved. Through good people and good fortune, those half million faces that were stored under a stairwell are safely in the vaults of BCHS. Since retiring in 2018, Benedict has been volunteering to digitize these images for posterity in the Henry "Hank" J. Waters III Digital Imaging Lab.

A lifetime supporter of the We Always Swing Jazz Series, Benedict served on their board for five years. Benedict was also a member of CoMo Preservation's board at their inception and served on their Outreach committee.

Jolene Schulz earned an associate's degree from Christian College (now Columbia College) in 1961, followed by a bachelor's and master's of education from the University of Missouri. She has taught kindergarteners and college students alike, including some at Columbia College and the University of Missouri, where she served as an adjunct professor for both institutions. Schulz



Jerry Benedict drives the BCHS float in the Juneteenth parade with board member Barbra Horrell by his side.

served 34 years as a teacher and administrator for Columbia Public Schools. Her last position was Director of Communications and School Community Programs.

Schulz has held board positions with many organizations, including National Association of Partners in Education, Central Missouri Food Bank, Mid-Missouri Leadership Board of Directors, Missouri Community Service Commission (appointed by the Governor), National Association of States Service Association (appointed as a representative for—**continued on page 7.**

See You at the History & Culture Center

Thursday, December 7

5-6:30 p.m. Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, December 9

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Family Event:
Christmas Cards

Wednesday, December 13

3:00 p.m. Book Event: *Ruby: Magic Comes From the Heart*

Thursday, December 14

1-2 p.m. *Things That Matter*: Gary Kremer

Wednesday, December 27

4 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, January 13

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Family Event:
Snowflakes

Current Exhibitions

Holiday Show

Montminy Gallery thru January 6

The Great Flood

West Walters Gallery thru January 2024

Heroes Among Us & On My Honor

East Walters Gallery thru February 2024

Board Candidates—continued

the State of Missouri), Columbia Junior Achievement Board, University of Missouri College Education Advisory Board, University of Missouri Jefferson Club Board of Trustees, University of Missouri Chancellors Society Fund, Ronald McDonald House of Charities Board of Directors, The Symphony Society Board of Directors, Assistance League of Missouri Board of Directors, Boone Hospital Foundation Board, Columbia Chamber of Commerce Board, and an Ambassador for the City of Columbia.



Board candidate Jolene Schulz.

Schulz has won numerous awards such as the Columbia College Alumni Association's Community Service Award and the Distinguished Alumni Award, the University of Missouri's College of Education Citation of Merit for Outstanding Achievement and Meritorious Service in Education, the University of Missouri College of Education "Friends" Award, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Outstanding Community Educator Award, the Missouri Hazel Riback Volunteer Director of the Year award for the State of Missouri, Columbia Public Schools Hall of Leaders, and University of Missouri Alumni-Faculty Award.

Schulz is retired and spends her time volunteering and giving back to the community. Jolene is married to Bill Schulz and has lived in Columbia for 53 years.

Earlier this fall, the board of directors elected from amongst its members a new board president and vice president, each to serve a two-year term beginning at the January directors meeting.



Left. 2024-25 Board President Earl Coleman. *Right* 2024-25 Board Vice President David Wilson.

Retired university administrator and nationally acclaimed instrumental and choral music instructor, **Earl Coleman** will be the society's board president for the 2024 and 2025 calendar years. Fourth-generation Columbian and cofounder of both the RagTag Film Society and the True False Film Festival, **David Wilson** will be the society's board vice president for 2024-25. Biographies of both Coleman and Wilson will be made available at the Annual Membership Meeting on December 7 and published in the January newsletter.

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Vice President Nancy W. Thomas
Secretary Victoria Hubbell, Ph.D.
Treasurer Mendy Diel
Immediate Past President Karen M. Miller

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Executive Director & Curator
 Chris Campbell

Montminy Gallery Director
 Betsy Knabe Roe

Henry J. "Hank" Waters III
Digital Imaging Lab Coordinator
 Brian Flanagan, Ph.D.

Senior Coordinator, Operations & Outreach
 Madeline Bloss

Boone County History & Culture Center

3801 Ponderosa St, Columbia, MO 65201
(573) 443-8936 | BooneHistory.org
Info@BooneHistory.org

Center Hours

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday
 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Check BooneHistory.org
 for the latest announcements

Find us on social media @BooneHistory

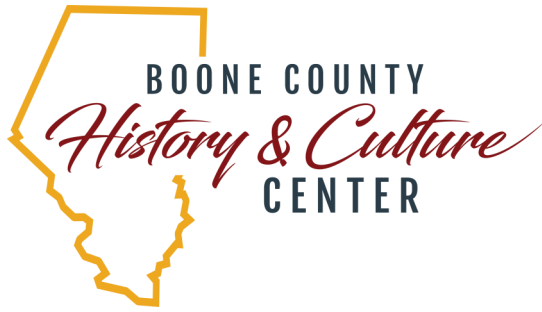


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BCHS Annual Meeting & Holiday Reception: December 7

Don't miss the Boone County Historical Society's 2023 Annual Membership Meeting and Holiday Reception on Thursday, December 7 in the Montminy Gallery. From 5-6:30 p.m. members will enjoy a catered dinner and a business meeting.

Help us celebrate the accomplishments of 2023 with supporters of the Boone County Historical Society. To ensure you can vote at the meeting, make sure your membership is current by renewing at BooneHistory.org/Membership. The meeting portion of the evening will consist of board and staff reports and highlight what your support made possible in 2023.

There will also be an election of new board directors. Candidates will serve 3-year terms beginning in January 2024. Candidates up for a new, 3-year term as a board director are Jerry Benedict and Jolene Schulz. Also, up for re-election to a 3-year term as a board director are Nancy W. Thomas and Elizabeth Watkins.

Attend the meeting to help us



Executive Director Chris Campbell gives his director's report at the 2022 Boone County Historical Society Annual Meeting & Holiday Mixer to a crowd of members.

recognize outgoing board directors and endowment trustees, thanking them for their dedication to BCBS during their years of service to the organization.

Meet your fellow members during the dinner and holiday reception and stay for a brief business meeting to hear what's going on at the Center. See you on December 7!

Help Make History. Volunteer. Donate.