Mar./Apr. 2025

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Mission Statement

The mission of The Historical Society of Vandalia Butler is to perpetuate the history of the Vandalia-Butler Community and to educate people about the importance of this history.

The Historical Society of Vandalia Butler Calendar March April

10 Board Meeting, Meeting House, 7PM

17 General Meeting, Vandalia Library Community Room, 6:30PM – 8:00PM

29 Clean Up Day, Society Grounds, 9AM-12PM

6 Open House, 1PM – 3PM 14 Board Meeting, Meeting House, 7PM

For future events visit our Website at hsvb.online or our Facebook at: www.facebook.com/hsvb.online





MARCH-APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

Board Officers:

President: Al Tuttle V-President: Ken Johnson Secretary: Wanda Weber Treasurer: Keyona Koebel

Trustees:

Trustee: Dave Cassell Trustee: Linda Karns Trustee: Jack Shirley Trustee: Mary Geiger Trustee: Tiffany Goodman

Committee Chairs:

Membership: Tonya Hittner

Program: Open

Rentals: Wanda Weber Education: Linda Karns Acquisitions: Wanda Weber Gardens/Pollinator Plantings:

Mary Geiger

Grounds: Dave Cassell Social Media: Tonya Hittner From our President..........1&2 Membership........3 Updates/General information..4,5,6,&7 Our Sponsors.....8&9

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Address

336 East Alkaline Springs Road, Vandalia, Ohio 45377

Mailing Address PO Box 243 Vandalia, Ohio 45377

937-898-5300



From our President ... Al Tuttle

Dear Members & Friends,

Our second annual Christmas Eve service was well attended. Actually it was standing room only. Thanks again to Pastor Mike, Taylor Cupp and Tonya Hittner for making it happen and to the Society members who decorated the grounds including the School House.

From our President Continued

Our water customers have learned what we mean when we say that the Spring House will not be open if it is inclement weather. Even though we had not posted the Open signs, some people went to the Spring House and called to let us know it was not open, driving past the entrance sign that stated that the Spring House would not be open if there is inclement weather. The next two weekends we put up the Spring House Closed sign across the entrance. We have been putting out a message on our website and on social media letting people know that we will not open. We recently changed the message on the Society answering machine to include information about the Spring House and directing the caller to check out our website and Facebook page for up-to-date information. If you have not been to the Society website recently, please take a few minutes to check it out, hsvb.online.

Please be sure to read the sections on our March General Meeting and upcoming open houses. Keep in mind that Society members work to make the events happen, and we appreciate any volunteers. Let us know if you can help.

The Society membership elected the following to serve as officers and trustees for 2025: President Al Tuttle, Vice-President Ken Johnson, Treasurer Keyona Koebel, Secretary Wanda Weber and Trustees Dave Cassell, Mary Geiger, Tiffany Goodman, Linda Karns and Jack Shirley.

More buildings have been repaired and painted and we had a walkway installed from the driveway to the Spring House entrance. This is a help to the water customers who have mobility issues and is safer for all involved.

Please renew your membership if you have not done so already. We appreciate your support.

We are looking forward to visits from the schools again this year, including the history and environmental sciences class at Butler High, the third grade students and the pre-school classes. When I took over as president I made the statement that the Historical Society of Vandalia Butler was one of Vandalia's best kept secrets. With the support of dedicated members, we have changed that.

Membership Dues for 2025

Many of our members have already sent in their dues for 2025. If you see the words "Please Renew" on the mailing label it means our records show you have not renewed for 2025. Please remember we have Student, Participating, Family, Supporting, Business/Organization, Life Time, Patron and Founding membership categories. Life Time, Patron and Founding memberships renew automatically.

If you have renewed we thank you; if not please do. Consider encouraging your family or friends to become a member or you can give a gift membership to someone.

PURPOSE OF OUR SOCIETY:

The Mission of **The Historical Society of Vandalia Butler** is to perpetuate the history of the Vandalia-Butler Community.

Upcoming Meetings:

March 10 - Board Meeting, Meeting House 7PM

March 17 – General Meeting – "Captain Crook's Boys"

With Historian Phil Spaugy

Vandalia Library, Community Room 6:30 – 8:00 PM

March 29 - Clean Up Day, 9AM - 12PM

April 5 – Clean Up Day, 9AM – 12PM* *only if rained out on March 29

April 6 - Open House, 1PM - 3PM

April 14 – Board Meeting, Meeting House 7PM

We would love to have you join our Vandalia Butler Historical Society as a member, our dues are:

- Participating (each individual) \$10
- Student (High School or College) - \$1
- Family (Parents & Children under 18 yrs) -\$20
- Supporting Membership
 \$35
- Business Organization Membership - \$50
- Lifetime Membership -\$500
- Patron \$1000

"Your Membership Matters"

Membership Happenings

Thank you to all those who have renewed their membership for 2025:

Bob & Judi Pope, Steve & Diane Adams, Skylla Frye, Arlene Setzer, Dave & Pam Cassell, Regina Froschauer, Alonzo & Dawn Hathaway, Ruth Ann Nagel, Sheila West, Mike & Mary Blakesly, Elaine & Dave Lewis, WM F. Heidenrelch, Mary M. Zellmer, Dave & Regina Condy, Mary Geiger. Dan & Jill Stoner, Jane Sayre Logan, Sharon Kidd, and Linda & Larry Karns.

To renew your membership, you may mail your check and completed membership form to HSVB or you may go to the membership tab on our Website and renew online.

Thank you for supporting HSVB!

Tonya Hittner Membership Chair 937-470-7396 tjhittner@gmail.com

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VANDALIA BUTLER PRESENTS

CAPTAIN CROOK'S BOYS

***** WITH HISTORIAN PHIL SPAUGY ****

Join us for a compelling presentation featuring American Civil War artifacts FROM THE HSVB COLLECTION AND THE STORY OF COMPANY F OF THE 74TH OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY.

COMPANY F, RAISED PRIMARILY IN AND AROUND BUTLER TOWNSHIP BY CAPTAIN WALTER CROOK, SERVED WITH DISTINCTION IN SOME OF THE FIERCEST BATTLES OF THE WAR.

BATTLE HONORS OF THE 74TH OVI:

- · STONES RIVER
- . THE TULLAHOMA CAMPAIGN
- · CHICKAMAUGA
- · MISSIONARY RIDGE
- ATLANTA CAMPAIGN (BUZZARD'S ROOST KENNESAW MOUNTAIN, JONESBORO)
- SHERMAN'S MARCH TO THE SEA (FORT MCALLISTER)
- . BENTONVILLE



THE 74TH ENDURED HARD SERVICE, LOSING 164 MEN TO BATTLE AND DISEASE.

THEIR SACRIFICES AND STORIES DESERVE TO BE REMEMBERED.

LOCATION: VANDALIA LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM
DATE: MARCH 17th | Time: 6:30 PM

DON'T MISS THIS FASCINATING LOOK INTO LOCAL HISTORY AND THE CIVIL WAR!

PHIL SPAUGY, A VANDALIA, OHIO RESIDENT, IS A RETIRED AVIATION EXECUTIVE AND CIVIL WAR HISTORIAN. A LIFELONG COLLECTOR, RESEARCHER, AND AUTHOR, HE SPECIALIZES IN OHIO SOLDIERS, FIREARMS, AND THE IRON BRIGADE. HE CONTRIBUTES TO MILITARY IMAGES MAGAZINE AND SUPPORTS HISTORICAL PRESERVATION EFFORTS IN GETTYSBURG.

Upcoming Events

March becomes a busy time at the Historical Society as we prepare for our programs and open houses. On Monday, March 17, we will host our first program of the year. Everyone is invited to hear local resident and Civil War expert, Phil Spaugy present "Captain Crook's Boys". Please see the attached flyer and join us at the Vandalia Library Community Room at 6:30pm. After the presentation, please stay for "Recipes with a History". You will learn the history of and be able to sample a Civil War Era Cake, a Skillet cake popular in the 1920's to 1960's, and a cookie recipe that became popular in the 1940's.

March Clean-Up Day

On Saturday, March 29, we will have our annual clean-up day as we prepare to re-open our buildings in April. We can use help with many jobs: removing trash from the grounds, raking leaves, picking up limbs, dusting and floor sweeping in all the buildings, etc. We will have beds to make and displays to prepare. The time is 9 am to 12 noon. If the weather is rainy, our work day will be Saturday, April 5, also from 9 until noon.

From Our Collections

We have an 18th Century Leather Fire Bucket that was donated by Friends from Lichtenfels, West Germany.

Leather buckets were used in the 17th century and maybe earlier. Water from rivers and ponds was carried to a fire in leather buckets. Leather is relatively dense, making it difficult to ignite. The bottoms of the fire buckets were rounded to prevent them from being used for storage or other purposes. The fire bucket will be on display in the log house.



April Open House

Our April Open House will be Sunday, April 6 from 1-3. There will not be an open house on Easter Sunday, April 20. Our feature for April is the 1913 Flood. The flood began in March of 1913. The town of Tadmor was flooded and then abandoned. Dayton was flooded with up to 20 feet of water. We have many photographs of the flood, damages, and rescue efforts. In response to the flooding, the Miami Conservancy District was formed and 5 dams were built. We have a large display of the building of Taylorsville Dam. Building Taylorsville was a huge project that took several years to complete. These displays will be in the meeting house, but all of our buildings will be open.



250TH ANNIVERSARY OF PAUL REVERE'S MIDNIGHT RIDE

April 18, 2025 is the exact 250th Anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride. The next day is the anniversary of the battles at Concord and Lexington, considered the beginning of the Revolutionary War. To commemorate these events, the local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) are teaming up to present a historical program.

The program will take place Friday, April 18th at the Waco Airfield located at 1865 S. County Road 25A in Troy, Ohio beginning at 2:00 pm. This is a family-friendly free event. The public is encouraged to bring a lawn chair.

This short program includes colonial music, color guard of historical flags, a reading of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "Paul Revere's Ride" and a discussion of the poem's historical inaccuracies. DAR and SAR members will be in colonial attire. The horse is provided by 4-Freedom Equestrian Team. Children and families will be able to join us for photos.

The event is organized by the Piqua-Lewis Boyer Chapter DAR and Richard Montgomery Chapter SAR.



Steve Pelfrey's talents were put to good use in making an insert for our WWI Engineer's Chest. This empty chest was found in the loft in the barn. Linda Karns cleaned the outside of it and did research on what it possibly looked like during its use. Steve then made shelves and drawers that fit perfectly and really complete the chest.

Marilou Cannon, founding member of the Society and widow of Dick Cannon, gifted us with a beautiful framed copper etching of the Log House. This was presented to Dick for his service as President of the Society in 1984-1985. This etching was done by Steven Wright, son of Dr. Wayne and Susan Wright. We will display this etching in the Meeting House.



Judith S. Smith ("Dee")
March 4, 1944 – January 13, 2025

Smith, Judith Sarles, lovingly known as "Dee", passed away peacefully on January 13, 2025, at her home in Butler Township, surrounded by her the love of her devoted husband and children. Dee was born on March 5, 1944, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to the late Bernice Green Sarles and John Edward Sarles. She grew up in Norwood, Ohio were she graduated from Norwood High School in 1962.

Dee was the cherished wife of Larry Smith for 60 years. Together they built a beautiful life filled with love and adventure. She is survived by her devoted

husband Larry Smith; her son, John E. Smith (Zeila); her daughter, Judith A. Smith; and her beloved granddaughters, Kayla M. Smith and Jessika K. Smith.

A lifelong learner with an insatiable curiosity for the world around her, Dee pursued higher education with passion. She earned an Associate's degree in Home Economics from the University of Cincinnati, followed by a Bachelor of Science in Geology and a Master's in Education from Wright State University.

Dee's love for travel carried her across the globe on remarkable journeys that reflected her adventurous spirit. From riding the Trans-Siberian Railway across Russia to exploring Mexico's Copper Canyon via Railway and exploring Alaska's majestic landscapes via luxury cruise and railway, she embraced every opportunity to experience the world's wonders. Her travels also included flights aboard historic Ford Trimotor planes over Lake Erie, and voyages along the Ohio River aboard the Delta Queen. Her explorations extended to destinations across the U.S., Canada, Europe, and beyond.

Throughout her life, Dee was an active member of numerous organizations that reflected her diverse interests and dedication to community service. She enjoyed participating in the Tipp City Community Band, U.D. New Horizons Band, Englewood Civic Band, Daughters of the American Revolutions (Piqua-Lewis Boyer Chapter), Antioch Shrine Gun Club (Annie Oakley award 2023), Green Acres Garden Club, Geology Society, Dayton Amateur Radio Association, Vandalia Historical Society, Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, Vandalia Lions Club and other organizations.

Dee's vibrant life touched all who knew her. Her adventurous spirit, kindness and enduring love for family will remain treasured by all who knew her. She was loved by all.

Kroger Community Rewards Program

This is an easy way for our members to help provide financial support to the Society. Enroll or re-enroll in this program using our organization number PN902. Call Kroger Customer Service at 1-800–576–4377 and give them your Kroger Plus Card 12-digit bar code number, on the back of the card, your phone number and our organization number (PN902). When you give the code, since some consonants sound alike, consider saying P as in Paul and N as in Nancy. The Customer Representative will help you register in the program.

Be sure to check out our new website at: hsvb.online and our new Facebook page Facebook.com/hsvb.online



Recycle Your Aluminum

Thanks to all who deposit aluminum cans at the Society dumpster (the West side of the Barn). This is one of the few sources of revenue.

Home & Garden Tours

There were a couple tours in 2024, and we will have several in 2025. Please stay tuned

Open House: 1st&3rd Sunday, Apr-Oct, 1-3PM Located At: 336 East Alkaline Springs Road, Vandalia, Ohio 45377

The Spring House

Water Sales (weather permitting) Every Saturday 9AM-3PM & Sunday 12:30-3PM

Board Meetings:

Held the second Monday of each month at 7PM at the Society Meeting House

Email: info.hsvb@gmail.com Phone: (937) 898-5300 Website: hsvb.online

Facebook: Facebook.com/hsvb.online

The "Homestead News" is published six times a year by the Society for its members.

You are invited to submit material to: Editor, The *Homestead News* The Historical Society of Vandalia Butler P.O. Box 243 Vandalia, Ohio 45377-0243

info.hsvb@gmail.com

Or Email to:

The *Homestead News* reserves the right to edit any material submitted.

We Thank Our Business And Organization Sponsors For Their Support

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Anthony Trissell Foundation. , (937) 750-5545 PO Box 394, Vandalia, OH 45377-0394	The ATMF supports the Butler High School marching band, color guard, kickline and their directors. The ATMF manages the SummerFest at Henry Seger Community Park
BDJ, LLC , Vandalia Shopping Center, PO Box 644, Vandalia, OH 45377-0644	Provides professional services in the nonresidential commercial building real estate business
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David I. Langdon, DDS, (937)898-3331 73 Dellsing Drive, Vandalia, OH 45377	<u>Lisa19826019@gmail.com</u> , Dr David Langdon has been in practice in Vandalia since 1992. He performs cleanings, fillings, sealants, root canals, dentures and partials.
<i>Metronet</i> , (937) 576-1556 336 E. National Road, Vandalia, OH 45377	www.metronetinc.com, Provides cutting-edge fiber optic telecommunication services.

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Vandalia Optometry , 33 Elva Ct., Vandalia OH 45377, (937) 898-3641	www.vandaliaoptometry.com Private primary care optometry with on-site full scope optical
Vandalia-Butler Alumni Association, Contact President Amy DeCamp at thelongpurpleline@gmail.com	www.vbalum.com, Our Mission is "Connecting The Past With The Present And The Future"
<i>Vandalia-Butler Chamber of Commerce</i> , 544 W. National Rd, Vandalia, OH 45377, (937) 898-5351	www.vandaliabutlerchamber.org, Advance our local civic, economic, social and cultural welfare.
Vandalia-Butler City Schools, 306 S. Dixie Drive, Vandalia, OH 45377, (937) 415-6400	www.vbcsd.com, Students come first, supported by dedicated teachers, staff and administrators.
VB Alumni Association , (937) 751-4254 PO Box 295, Vandalia, OH 45377	thelongpurpleline@gmail.com
Warehouse 4 , 335 S Dixie Drive, Vandalia, OH 45377 (937) 387-6640	warehouse4coffee.com Local café offering specialty coffee, house made baked goods, breakfast sandwiches, and lunch.
Woods & Woods Associates , 206 N. Dixie Drive, Vandalia, OH 45377, (937) 898-5802	www.vandaliacpa.com, Accounting, management advisory, wealth management and tax services.
Your Business Can Be Here	Your Organization Can Go Here

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VANDALIA BUTLER MEMBERSHIP FORM



Please Print and Fill Out Completely

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP PERIOD (January 1-December 31)



NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL		
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS		
Participating (individual) \$10.00		
Family (Parent & Children under 18) \$20.00		
Supporting (per individual/family) \$35.00		
Business/Organization- \$50.00		
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S THIS MEMBERSHIP A GIFT? YES NO		
GIFT GIVER'S NAME AND ADDRESS		

Please mail Check & Application to:

The Historical Society of Vandalia Butler P.O. Box 243 Vandalia, OH 45377-0243