

BUTLER COUNTY  
← HISTORICAL SOCIETY →



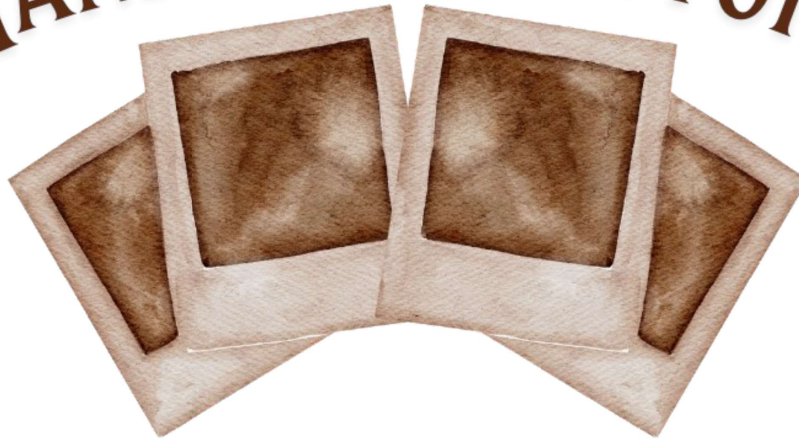
# Butler County

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*June 2024 Vol. 45, # 2*

## HANDS ON HISTORY



## PRESERVE YOUR FAMILY'S TREASURES

**Tuesday, June 25th**

Butler Art Center | 6:30PM

*Members \$15 / Non-Members \$20*

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Learn how to keep your family photos safe in the  
first talk of a new series!

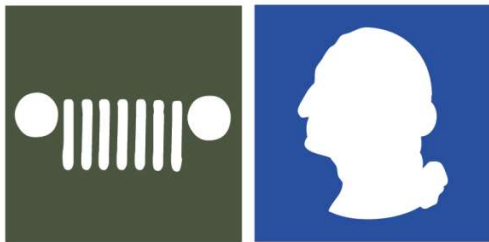
Reserve your spot at  
[www.butlerhistory.com](http://www.butlerhistory.com) or call (724) 283-8116

# Members Only

It's finally here! The Members portion of our website is available NOW! Access exclusive content by going to [butlerhistory.com/members](http://butlerhistory.com/members) and using the password below!

PASSWORD: sullivan

**BUTLER COUNTY, PA**



*History Day*

**Saturday, June 29th  
10AM - 2PM**

Historical sites around Butler will host free open houses. Everyone is encouraged to visit as many as they can!

This year, we will have the Senator Walter Lowrie House open for tours.

# Inside the Archives

## Lost Media

*Outreach Coordinator Mackenzie Herold explores media preservation.*

I watched a lot of cartoons as a kid.

From Hanna-Barbera classics to modern teen sitcoms, there was always something on TV to keep me entertained. If we're being honest, I watched some of these shows so many times that I can now recite them by heart (looking at you, Scooby-Doo).

If you had to entertain kids in the early 2000s, chances are that you have heard the Disney Channel theme song. It's a little thing that played between the regularly scheduled programming. It was often accompanied by one of Disney's stars trying to draw an outline of Mickey Mouse.



In late 2022, documentarian Kevin Perjurer released his magnum opus: "Disney Channel's Theme: A History Mystery." What started as a hunt to find the uncredited composer of the Disney Channel jingle became an exploration into preservation, artistry, and the legacies that we leave behind.



*This John Wayne movie from 1936 is considered lost.*

This documentary also propelled a little-known subculture into the public eye. For the first time, the general public learned about the digital detectives that made it their mission to recover "lost media."

What is lost media?

Simply put, it's any form of media that has been lost to time. Films, music, art, books: the list goes on. Whether they have intentional destruction or by accident, these works have disappeared.

What these internet sleuths set out to find as many lost works as they can. They established dedicated chat spaces where they brainstorm,

# Inside the Archives

post resources, and share a mutual passion that creates a real-world impact.

In some ways our work at BCHS follows a similar vein to that of these digital detectives. Every day we deal with unidentified media; objects that are in our collections but have no information attached to them. Over the years, donations have been accepted without being properly cataloged or stored, so now our work consists of locating and identifying these pieces.

For some items, this job is easier said than done. Photos and negatives are notoriously hard to identify if they weren't originally entered into a museum cataloging system. And all too often we find loose photos that were removed from their numbered files years ago, or improperly stored objects that have been destroyed by mold.



It can be frustrating for all of us involved in this preservation process, especially when we come across an artifact that we *know* must be important but has no attached or cross-referenced information. It's like searching for a needle in a haystack, or in this case, a photo amongst thousands.

Preservation work is tedious. It's frustrating and time-consuming. It can even make you feel like tearing your hair out.



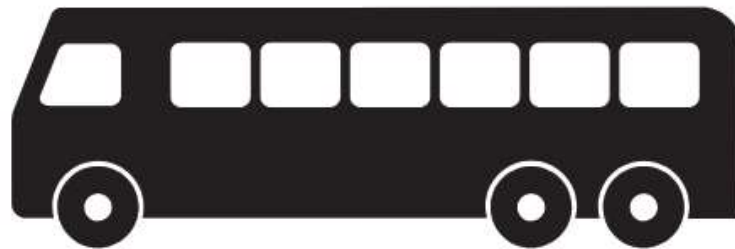
But when you take the time to do it properly, the rewards are tremendous. Sometimes you're able to find long-forgotten documents that solve a decades long puzzle. Other times, you're able to pull a photo of someone's great-grandfather from the archive.

Preservation is a lot like a treasure hunt. You have to do a lot of digging to finally find gold. It takes a whole team of people, a passionate community, and a lot of organization to keep the unidentified media that we have from becoming lost media. If we don't preserve it now, it will be lost to time. And we cannot rely on the good Samaritans on the internet to help us find it again.



# Bus Trip to the

SENATOR JOHN HEINZ  
**HISTORY CENTER**



**Saturday, September 14, 2024**

Cost \$45 for Members | \$50 for Non-Members

Come explore exhibits at the  
Heinz History Center and learn more about  
Western PA history!

For more information visit  
[butlerhistory.com](http://butlerhistory.com) or call our  
office at (724) 283-8116

# Director's Message

2023-2024

## Board of Directors

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**President**

Brad Pflugh

**Vice-President**

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Sara Dickensheets

Jeff Double

Gail Suhr

## BCHS Staff

Jennifer Ford, PhD

**Executive Director**

Mackenzie Herold

**Outreach**

**Coordinator**

Jamie Jones, MLIS

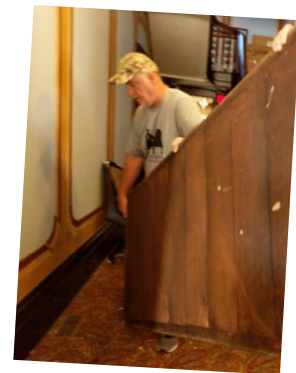
**Collections**

**Manager**

## Coach Jeff Potter 1954-2024

Everyone at BCBS was deeply saddened to learn that our good friend Jeff Potter recently passed away. Jeff was passionate about two things: baseball and mentoring young men. Every summer Coach Potter toured the eastern US with a baseball team made up of young men from a wide variety of backgrounds. Every town where they stopped to play ball benefitted from Jeff's commitment to character-building through hard work and volunteer service. The team visited BCBS in the summers of 2020-2022, during which time they tackled landscaping and building repairs, installed signs, painted, cleaned, moved heavy pieces of antique furniture, consumed mountains of food, and kept us laughing with tales from the road. Without their help we could not have reopened the Lowrie House or Cooper Cabin. Jeff, your life was heroically lived, and you left this world a better place than the one you found.

Godspeed.



## Our Mission

The Mission of the Butler County Historical Society is to collect, preserve, maintain, and interpret the historical documents and sites of Butler County's rich history.

## Membership Updates

If your name is highlighted on the address label, it's time to renew your membership! Please renew online at [butlerhistory.com](http://butlerhistory.com) or by sending a check to our office with your renewal information.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH for your continued support. Every membership is important; each one enables us to preserve Butler County's past for future generations!**

## Office/Tour Hours!

Wednesday, Thursday, &  
Friday

11:00 AM—3:00 PM

Every 1st Saturday

11:00—3:00 PM

**A warm welcome to our**

**newest members:**

Christine Coblentz  
Keith & Beverly Karns  
Suzanne Farabaugh  
Rick McCann  
Maggie Souzer  
Denise Tilko  
Joyce Vinroe

**Thank you for  
your donation!**

Lori Hartman  
Victor E. Robb

