

## **Butler County Historical Society**



- Butler County, Pennsylvania, was established March 13, 1800, when it separated from Allegheny County. It is named after Revolutionary War hero General Richard Butler, whom George Washington directed to receive the sword of General Cornwallis after the Battle of Yorktown. It is the birthplace of the most iconic of World War II vehicles, the Jeep, and the site of the granddaddy of modern horror movies, *Night of the Living Dead*.
- The Butler County Historical Society (BCHS), founded in 1924, is a true grassroots organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the rich history of the county.
- BCHS maintains a county-related resource library of historical books, records, and documents that is open to the public. It also owns and operates three historic sites: Cooper Cabin Pioneer Homestead, the Little Red School House, and the Senator Walter Lowrie House.
- The records of BCHS include newspapers, birth and death records, estates and wills, high school yearbooks, and records from the Butler County Poor Farm. It also preserves military records dating back to the Revolutionary War and maintains an extensive collection of primary and secondary source materials dealing with automobiles, local businesses, religious organizations, clubs, families, the fine arts, and railroads.
- The Society's museum reopened this spring with displays on the anniversary of the end of WWII
  and the Bantam Reconnaissance Car or BRC, better known as the Jeep, invented by the
  American Bantam Car Company in Butler County. A BRC 60, which was #7 in the U.S. Army's
  early order to Bantam, is on display at the Heinz History Center as part of the *We Can Do It! WWII* exhibition. It is the oldest one in existence and is on loan from the Smithsonian.

- The Society's displays will be available to the public through the end of October 2015. The Society also has self-guided tours that are available Tuesday Friday, 9 a.m. 4:30 p.m. Guided tours are available 1 p.m. 4:30 p.m., with the last tour at 3:30 p.m.
- The BCHS will host the Heinz History Center's traveling exhibit, *The Civil War in Pennsylvania*, from October 31, 2015, to January 12, 2016, along with additional exhibits, public programs, and receptions. This will be the final venue for The Civil War in Pennsylvania as it has been successfully traveling between Western Pennsylvania sites since March 2012.
- The Butler County Historical Society is located at the Senator Walter Lowrie House, 123 W. Diamond Street, Butler. The Museum, Office, and Gift Shop are open Tuesday Friday, 9:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.
- For more information visit http://www.butlerhistory.com or contact the museum at society@butlerhistory.com or call (724) 283-8116.

The History Center Affiliates Program, HCAP, is a membership-based network that allows local and regional historical societies and museums access to museum professionals and best practice standards through the Senator John Heinz History Center.

To find out more about HCAP or to apply for membership for your organization, please contact Robert O. Stakeley, Educator, at rostakeley@heinzhistorycenter.org or (412) 454-6359.