

The Towner Tattler

The official publication of the Boone County Historical Society



Although our doors were closed to the public for many weeks, staff continued to work hard at the museum! Chris, Anna, Art, volunteers, and board members have worked every day to update exhibits, improve our building, and organize our archives and collection. Upon our reopening on June 24th, we are inviting one family to visit at a time. We ask that those planning to visit please call ahead, in order for us to ensure that we can provide each group with a comfortable and safe museum experience. Staff and visitors are encouraged to wear masks, and sanitize hands at one of our many hand sanitizing stations placed throughout the museum. Please come and visit us! Call 815-544-8391 to plan your visit Tuesday thru Saturday.

Museum Updates:

- * Duxstad Cabin has been thoroughly cleaned and reorganized
- * WWI in Boone County exhibit has been completed, along with a reproduction war trench
- * Fresh coats of paint in many new colors have been applied to gallery walls
- * Curator Chris Gardner is updating the photo database in order to eventually make our photo collection accessible online!
- * General Store and shops are now handicapped accessible thanks to a new boardwalk built by Art Swanson!
- * Reorganized research library and book storage room are thanks to Karen Neibarger!
- * Organization of artifact storage room is thanks to Heidi Thacker!



Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, we must cancel our 2020 Ice Cream Social. Thank you to all of our loyal volunteers and guests who make our annual Social our favorite day of the year! We will be back in 2021!

Featured Donation

Beginning in this addition of The Towner Tattler, we will now feature a recent donation in each issue! Our first Featured Donation is the medical kit pictured below. This is a physician's amputation kit used in the American Civil War by Belvidere physician, Dr. Amos Scott. Dr. A. Scott was the first in a lineage of 5 generations of the Scott family to practice medicine. He and his son Dr. Charles Scott cared for Belvidere citizens for many years. We are so appreciative of the Dr. James Scott's donation of this amputation kit, along with several other medical tools. James is the 5th and final generation of Scott physicians who so kindly offered this treasured collection to the Boone County Historical Society.

THANK YOU
DR. JAMES SCOTT!



FUNDERBURG HOUSE UPDATE

Despite delays due to Covid, quite a bit of progress is being made on the beautiful Funderburg House! Thanks to Belvidere's own Ollmann, Ernest, Martin Architecture

firm, we are well on our way to beginning updates on the home that will allow for ADA accessibility of the first floor. Eventually, there will be an accessible restroom on the first floor, as well as a wheelchair lift installed. Thanks to the wonderful architects at OEM, there is a plan in place to allow for these modifications with very minimal changes made to the house itself.



There are many other projects in the works at the Funderburg House. Flaws in the plaster have been repaired, and preparations are being made to have all of the wool rugs in the house cleaned and carpet padding replaced. Discussions are in progress regarding the refinishing of wood floors, and restoring wall coverings.



Please drive by and take a look at the landscaping work! Area Services did a fantastic job clearing weeds, trimming trees, and laying mulch.

Unfortunately, there were two trees that had become hazardous, and were taken down. BCMH staff and boards would like to extend a big Thank You to the City of Belvidere street department for doing a wonderful job of removing those trees.

If anyone has any questions or comments about our Funderburg House project, please call Chris or Anna at 815-544-8391. Also, we are continuing to collect photos, archives, and artifacts relating to the Funderburg, Fuller, or Rhinehart families, or anything relating to the home at 605 N State Street. If you have an item or a memory, please call us!



**Boone County
Museum of
History**

314 S. State St.

Belvidere, IL 61008

www.bcmuseumofhistory.org

815.544.8391

Key Dates

8/19/20: Boone County Historical Museum District Meeting 4pm

9/15/20: Boone County Historical Society Meeting 5:30pm

9/16/20: Boone County Historical Museum District Meeting 4pm

10/21/20: Boone County Historical Museum District Meeting 4pm

11/17/20: Boone County Historical Society Meeting 5:30pm

11/18/20: Boone County Historical Museum District Meeting 4pm

*All museum meetings are open to the public!