

Nov./Dec. 2025

Historical Society
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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

November

6 Christmas Sale, Barn, 9AM – 3PM
7 Christmas Sale, Barn, 9AM – 1PM
10 Board Meeting, Meeting House, 7PM

December

8 Board Meeting, Meeting House, 7PM
24 “An Old-Fashioned Christmas”
Old Brown School, 3PM

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



The Homestead News



Address

336 East Alkaline
Springs Road,
Vandalia, Ohio 45377

Mailing Address

PO Box 243
Vandalia, Ohio 45377

937-898-5300

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 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

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From our President ... Al Tuttle

Dear Members & Friends,

With the exteriors of the buildings repaired and in good shape, we have focused on the interiors and on cataloging items in our buildings. We did add hand rails to the walkway at the Spring House which makes access much safer.

We are blessed with volunteers and are looking for more.

From our President Continued

Specifically, we would appreciate more help with the open houses and the landscaping, but there is also need in the area of cataloging and collection management. One way to let us know that you are interested is to send us an email through the website hsvb.online.

At our September 7th open house which featured war memorabilia, we had a special visitor, Daniel Masters. He is the author of "Hell by the Acre", about a Civil War campaign. We have a copy in our library.

The Society was the recipient of a quality collection of Christmas decorations. We will have these items for sale November 6th from 9-3 and November 7th from 9-1, in the Barn.

The third annual "Christmas At The Society" will be December 24th at 3:00 P.M. This service will be held at the School House and will be led by Pastor Mike Malcosky of the Vandalia United Methodist Church. All are welcome to attend.

Kay and I would like to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

2026 Board Nominations

The Society thanks Jack Shirley for serving as a Trustee.

The Historical Society of Vandalia Butler Board will submit names to the Society membership at our 2026 annual business meeting in January. If any Society member would like to submit his/her name for consideration for any officer or open trustee position, you can do so during the meeting election process or by calling me at 937 776-9829.

NOTE: Please don't submit the name of another Society member without first checking with that member to be sure he/she is willing to serve. All members below have offered to volunteer for 2026.

Current nominations for the 2026 Society Board (Officers and Trustees):

Officers serve 1-year terms and can be re-elected:

President: Al Tuttle

Vice President: Ken Johnson

Treasurer: Keyona Koebel

Secretary: Wanda Weber

Trustee: Bud Zupp (3rd-year of 3-year term to expire 2026)

Trustee: Linda Karns (2nd year of 3-year term to expire 2027)

Trustee: Mary Geiger (2nd-year of 3-year term to expire 2027)

Trustee: Dave Cassell (1st-year of 3-year term to expire 2028)

Trustee: Tiffany Goodman (1st-year of 3-year term to expire 2028)

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:

November 6 – Christmas Sale, Barn, 9AM – 3PM

November 7 – Christmas Sale, Barn, 9AM – 1PM

November 10 – Board Meeting, Meeting House, 7PM

December 8 – Board Meeting, Meeting House, 7PM

December 24 – “An Old Fashion Christmas”
Old Brown School, 3PM

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

Historical Society of Vandalia-Butler

Membership Renewal Reminder – Thank You for Supporting HSVB!

As we look forward to another exciting year preserving and sharing Vandalia-Butler's history, we'd like to remind all members that **annual membership renewals are due in January 2026.**

You can renew **by mail** using the form you received, or online through our website. Please be sure to **fill out all of the information on the form completely** so we can keep our records current.

Your membership and support help us maintain our historic buildings, host community events, and continue educational programs that keep our local heritage alive.

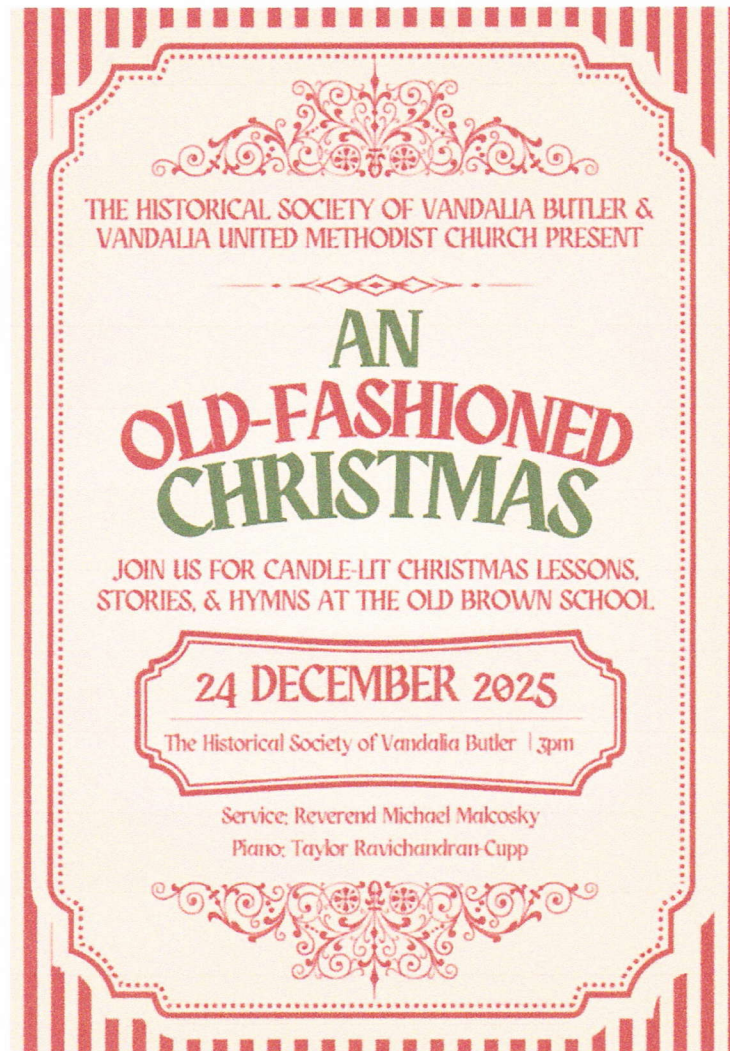
Thank you for being an important part of the Historical Society of Vandalia-Butler family — your continued involvement makes all the difference!

■ Questions about your renewal? Contact us anytime or visit our website for details

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

An Old-Fashioned Christmas

Step back in time and celebrate the warmth and wonder of the season at “**An Old-Fashioned Christmas**”, presented by the **Historical Society of Vandalia-Butler** and the **Vandalia United Methodist Church**. Join us on **December 24, 2025, at 3:00 PM** at the Old Brown School for an afternoon filled with **candle-lit Christmas lessons**, heartfelt stories, and timeless hymns that capture the true spirit of a 19th-century Christmas. The service will be led by **Reverend Michael Malcosky**, with beautiful piano accompaniment by **Taylor Ravichandran-Cupp**. Come experience a simple, joyful celebration of Christmas past — a tradition of community, reflection, and peace.





Civil War Grave Markings:

We have been invited by the Elizabeth Township Historical Society to the grave marking ceremony in honor of four Civil War soldiers at Casstown Cemetery, 1000 N. Children's Home Road, Casstown, OH, on Sunday, November 2, 2025. The program will commence at 2:00 p.m.

Four Civil War Veterans lay in unmarked graves at Casstown Cemetery, and the Elizabeth Township Historical Society applied for and received new Veteran headstones from the Veterans Administration. This was part of the Casstown War Veterans Monument Project completed by their society this past summer, which included the repair and/or cleaning of 135 Veteran headstones.

Corporal Samuel Watson Helvie, Private Thomas Richard Livingston, Private George W. Howett and Private Josiah Routzahn will be honored on November 2nd with all the pageantry deserved by soldiers who defended the Union. The ceremony will be conducted featuring a riderless horse, members of the Sons of the Union Soldiers of the Civil War and Elizabeth Township Historical



Esther Elizabeth Brown

April 10, 1933 – September 25, 2025

Esther Elizabeth Brown (Smith), age 92 of Vandalia, passed away Thursday, September 25, 2025. Esther was born in Boston, Massachusetts on April 10, 1933. She graduated from Lexington Sr. High School (MA) Class of 1950 and Fisher Jr. College, Boston, MA, completing a 2-year stenographic course. She married Foster F. Brown ("Bud") on Sept. 12, 1953. They spent 4 years at Lowery AFB, in Denver, Colorado, and after Foster's USAF discharge, they moved to Vandalia, Ohio. Esther loved her family and she was an excellent homemaker. She loved sewing, cooking, flower gardening, birdwatching, playing bridge, raising dogs, and OHIO STATE Football. She and Bud were active volunteers with the Vandalia Lions Club and raised 15 puppies in a 20-year span for the Canine Companions charity. She was a member of Shiloh Church U.C.C. She loved to cook and enjoyed hosting holiday gatherings, using her mother's fine Wedgwood China. She was the business office director at the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) for many years in Vandalia, OH and Pittsburgh, PA. She loved flower gardening and was the V-B Federation Gardener of the Year in 1972. Preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, Foster, in 2023.

Survived by 3 children, Steven (Sheri), Glenn (Debra) and Karen Thompson (Dave); 11 grandchildren, Alicia (Justin), Suzanne, Theresa, Melissa (Josh), Mitchell (Rachel), Bobby, Brian, Nate (Amber), Nick (Julia), Jesse & Corey; 10 great-grandchildren, Dylan, Carmen, Sonya, Hazel, Hannah, Nik, Azlyn, Liam, Pierce, & Billie J; 1 great-great grandchild, Azula; many other relatives and friends



Laundry Paddles

Our collection of household utensils includes two pieces labeled "Laundry Paddles, 18th Century, donated by friends from Lichtenfels, West Germany." These wooden tools, called paddles were used in the laundry process. Water was drawn from the well or spring or other water source and then was heated. Paddles were used to push the clothes into the hot water to loosen the dirt. Soap was rubbed on the wet clothes and they were returned to the water where the paddles were used again to help agitate the clothes while they soaked. Soapy clothes were wrung by hand or put through a mechanical wringer. Then paddles were used in the rinse process. The fork shaped paddle was used to remove clothes from the heated water. Clothes were hung to dry. Paddles continued to be used by some households when modern electric wringer washers became available. The paddles were used to get clothes out of the washing machine tub so they could be placed through the wringer. We have a wringer washing machine on display in the Wash House.

Events to Close out 2025 and Looking Ahead to 2026

Our open houses have ended for 2025. Many thanks to the volunteers that served as docents in our buildings. We still have two events remaining for the 2025. Check out the flyers in this newsletter for the Christmas Sale on November 6 and 7 and our Christmas Eve Program. Our wooden carolers will be on the Log House porch in late November and will remain there through December. Our buildings and grounds are a beautiful setting for holiday and winter pictures. We are working on closing our buildings for the winter and planning events for 2026. On April 18, 2026 we will participate in the Bee City celebration that is being planned by Vandalia Parks and Recreation. In June, we will have special events to honor our country's Semiquincentennial. Our open houses will explain how many of our streets and parks were named, how many kitchen tools were used, and how herbs were used in cooking and as medicine. Open houses are from 1-3 the first and third Sundays of each month, from April through October. There will be no open house on Easter Sunday.

Help from Wright State

Wright State University has a class in Community Based Learning as part of their Organized Leadership Program. Students taking this class volunteer with a non-profit for the semester. Vandalia resident, Addison Williams chose the Historical Society for her volunteer experience. She has been helping us with inventory, planning activities, setting up for open houses, recruiting volunteers, and modernizing our inventory system,. We have enjoyed working with her and hearing her ideas.

Home Tours:

We are still looking for someone to help Ruth Ann with the home tours. If you are interested, please contact the Society on our website hsvb.online

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.

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](https://www.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

Or Email to:

info.hsvb@gmail.com

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

We Thank Our Business And Organization Sponsors For Their Support

Ace Tree & Landscaping , 1960 Neva Drive Dr, Dayton, OH 45414 (937) 890-2102	acetreeservicedayton.com Tree trimming and removal, stump removal
Allied Services, Inc. , (937) 836-5191 109 Diamond Mill Road, Clayton, OH 45315	www.heating-air-conditioning-dayton.com , Heating, ventilation and air conditioning services
American Legion Post #668 , (937) 890-7336 8220 N. Dixie Drive, Dayton, OH 45414	"Veterans Strengthening America" www.americanlegionpost668.org ; alpost668@aol.com
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
Boord-Henne Insurance Agency. (937) 832-4001 915 S. Main Street, Englewood, OH 45322	Offers home, auto, commercial and life insurance. www.boordhenne.com
City of Vandalia , (937) 898-5891 333 James E. Bohanan Drive, Vandalia, OH 45377	www.vandaliaohio.org , Mayor Richard Herbst; "At the Crossroads of America"
Collins Vision Care , 407 Corporate Center Drive, Suite C, Vandalia, OH 45377, (937) 898-9333	www.drrosscollins.com , Vandalia Optometrist providing comprehensive vision care
Tiffany Goodman/Coldwell Banker Realtors , , 356 N Dixie Dr., Vandalia, OH 45377, (937) 470-6973	www.tiffanygoodman.com , Local Realtor for since 2006. Call ME for ALL of your Real Estate needs!!
Heeter Plumbing LLC , (937) 890-5526 8633 N. Dixie Drive, Vandalia, OH 45377	http://heeterplumbing.com , "Drain Your Plumbing Problems, Not Your Savings" Call Us Today!
Interior Supply, Inc. , (937) 276-4046 4620 Webster St., Dayton, OH 45414	www.interiorsupplyinc.com , offers commercial door & hardware sales.
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Koorsen Fire & Security , (937) 641-0592 8090 N. Dixie Drive, Dayton, OH 45414	service18@koorsen.com , Educate, Protect, Integrity, Care
David I. Langdon, DDS , (937) 898-3331 73 Dellsing Drive, Vandalia, OH 45377	Lisa19826019@gmail.com , Dr David Langdon has been in practice in Vandalia since 1992. He performs cleanings, fillings, sealants, root canals, dentures and partials.
Metro Fire Protection, Inc. (937) 233-1333 7748 Wildcat Road, Huber Heights, OH 45424	Provides fire extinguisher and firefighting equipment services.
Morton & Whetstone Funeral Home , S Dixie Drive, Vandalia, OH 45377 (937) 898-4634	www.mortonwhetstonefh.com Funeral and cremation services, pre-planning
Neely Dental Team , 39 Dellsing Dr., Vandalia, OH 45377 (937) 898-8798 www.neelydental.com	Neely Dental Team looks forward to helping you achieve optimal oral health and a great smile, with gentle, patient- centered care.
North Dixie Hardware , (937) 898-0321 9125 N. Dixie Dr, Dayton, OH 45414	Serving the Vandalia/Butler community since 1990. northdixiehardware.com

PLANization 7801 N. Dixie Drive, Dayton, OH 45414 (937)265-4080	hello@planization.com , Planning & Organization Services, Residential & Commercial – reduce clutter and create systems to optimize your living, hobby and work spaces; organize and archive records/images and more!
R.B. Jergens Contractors , (937) 669-9799 11418 N. Dixie Drive, Vandalia, OH 45377	www.rbjergens.com , Concrete, demolition, paving, excavating, utilities, surveying and commercial.
Sparks Electric Service, Inc. , (937) 890-7188 8242 N. Dixie Drive, Dayton, OH 45414	www.sparkselectricservice.com , We keep all of your electrical systems current.
Steve Reed State Farm Insurance , 525 Helke Rd, Vandalia, OH 45377, (937) 898-1331	www.reedagencyvandalia.com We specialize in helping clients make GREAT DECISIONS!
Vandalia Branch Library , 330 S. Dixie Dr., Vandalia OH 45377, (937) 463-2665	www.daytonmetrolibrary.org/locations/vandalia , Informing, Inspiring & Enriching Our Community
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”
Vandalia-Butler Chamber of Commerce , 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.vandaliaacpa.com , Accounting, management advisory, wealth management and tax services.
Your Business Can Be Here	Your Organization Can Go Here



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VANDALIA BUTLER

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Thank you for considering membership with the Historical Society of Vandalia-Butler. Your support helps us preserve local history, share stories of the past, and provide engaging events and educational programs for our community. Whether you're renewing or joining for the first time, we're thrilled to welcome you to our family of history enthusiasts!

Select Your Membership

- ☐ Participating (Individual): \$10.00
- ☐ Family (Parent & Children under 18): \$20.00
- ☐ Supporting (Individual/Family): \$35.00

Continuing Memberships

- ☐ Lifetime (per person): \$500.00
- ☐ Patron (per person): \$1,000.00
- ☐ Founding (per person): \$5,000.00

Member Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Date: _____

Additional Donation: \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Is this a gift membership? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Memberships can also be purchased at www.hsvb.online.