ABOUT THE EXHIBITS

All of the artifacts in the Museum have either been generously donated or are on permanent loan. We would like to thank all of the members of the community who have supported us in the past.

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

In the Museum's central rooms, enjoy pictures and artifacts reflecting Butler's past. View the original Gamewell Fire Call Box system, as well as the railroad signal lantern. Our collection of Military uniforms and Civil Defense equipment is on permanent display. Interested in Genealogy? Then check out our Research Center! Step back in time while reading the Butler High School yearbooks - every year since 1918 is represented. Our collection of vintage postcards and photos of the area is second to none. Peruse the Park Hotel register for Thomas Edison's signature.

DIGITAL ACCESS CENTER

We have the BHS (Nugget) yearbooks, postcards and slides in digital format. In addition, we have numerous newspapers digitized including the Butler Argus going back to the beginning.

INTERESTED IN HISTORY?

If you are interested in history, the all volunteer Museum Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm. Members of the public are always welcome. Please contact the museum at 973-838-7222 for further information. In addition, we are in need of people with various skill sets for one-time projects. Come join us in protecting and preserving Butler's history.

SOME OF OUR EXHIBITS

BUTLER MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Open first and third Saturdays of each Month 10am to 4pm

Handicapped Accessible

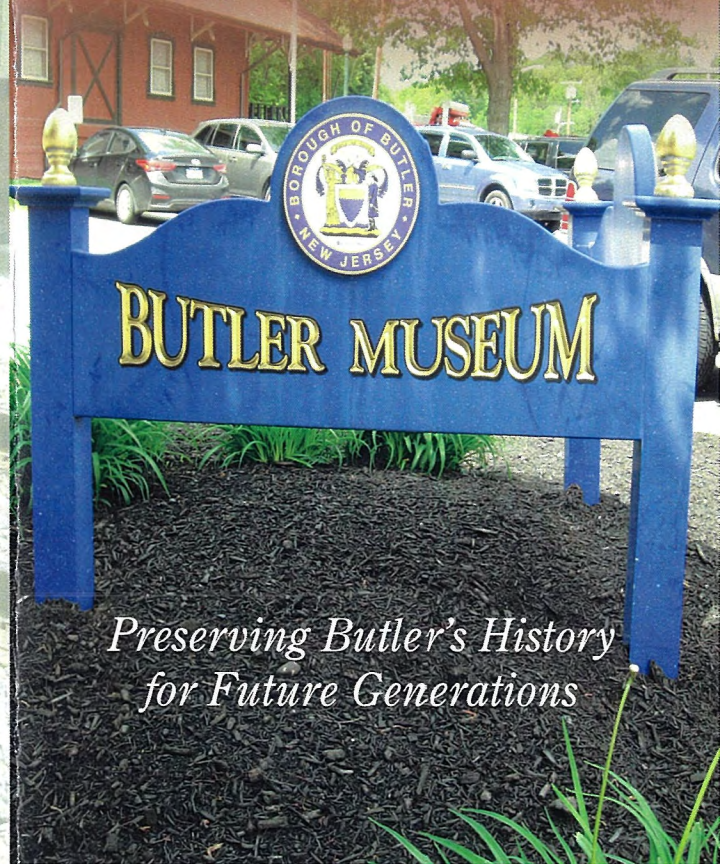
221 Main Street, Butler, NJ 07405
(973) 838-7222 Fax: (973) 283-9895
www.butlermuseumnj.org
butlermuseumnj@optonline.net

Discover BUTLER'S *History*

Listed on the State & National Historic Registers

221 MAIN STREET
BUTLER, NEW JERSEY

(973) 838-7222



Preserving Butler's History for Future Generations

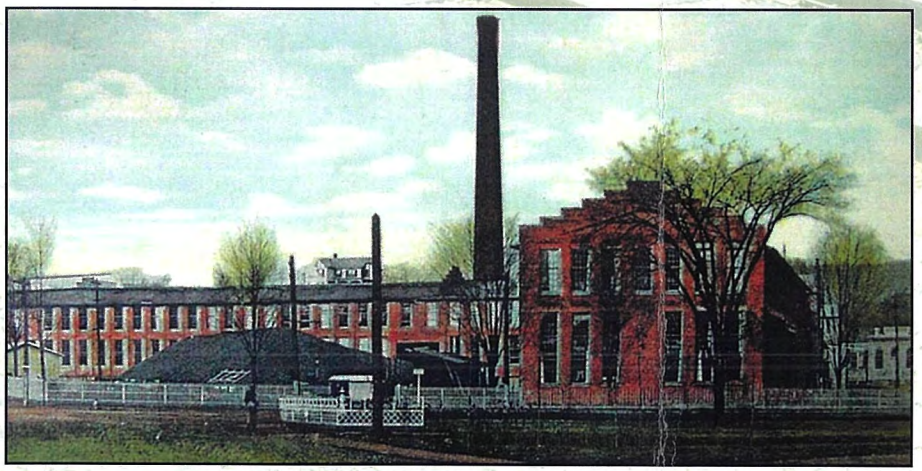
MISSION:

To preserve the history of Butler and the surrounding area. We will:

- Encourage the members of the community to learn more about Butler's history through the Museum exhibits;
- Welcome the input of community residents in sharing their knowledge;
- Actively reach out to the school and members of the local community to increase our collective knowledge of Butler's history.

FACTS ABOUT THE MUSEUM BUILDING

Situated on the upper end of Main Street, the Museum has been located in the former New York Susquehanna and Western Railroad Station since 1976. Built in the late 1800's the building is a fine example of utilitarian Victorian architecture. It is one of the few remaining wooden structures of its kind. Once the center of transportation for the area, the station was used for both passenger traffic and freight deliveries. In 1975, the railroad sold the building to the Borough of Butler as part of the Bicentennial celebration. Through support of the entire community, the Museum was born.



AMERICAN HARD RUBBER COMPANY

THE AMERICAN HARD RUBBER COMPANY & PEQUANOC SOFT RUBBER COMPANY

The central focus of Butler's economy for many years was the Rubber industry. Located in the heart of Butler, American Hard Rubber Company provided jobs and housing for many of its residents. Indeed, the town itself grew up around the rubber industry. Richard Butler, for whom the town was named, was appointed President of the American Hard Rubber Company in 1883. Among its many products, which are on display at the museum. It was also a major manufacturer of items critical to the Defense Industry during World War II. Due to rising costs, the company moved its operations to Tennessee in 1974. Today, the factory building itself has been reborn as the home of many small businesses.

The Pequanoc Soft Rubber Company was located on Upper Main Street, just north of the Museum building. It served as one of the first recycling centers, where old rubber products (boots, tires, and the like) were reprocessed and turned into new products. Unfortunately, the factory caught fire and was completely destroyed in the largest U.S. industrial fire in 1957. Visitors to the Museum can watch the video of this enormous blaze, which took numerous area fire companies three days to extinguish.

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, of Colmar (France), designer of the Statue of Liberty, dreamed that one day he would present Lady Liberty to the citizens of the United States. His close friend, Richard Butler, spent many hours in helping make this dream come true. Working with Joseph Pulitzer, Butler was an integral part of the committee that raised the necessary funds to construct the statue's pedestal. This action forever linked the town of Butler to its sister city, Colmar.

Our Statue of Liberty Exhibit includes pieces of the actual granite and copper that were used to build the statue and pedestal. In addition, there are several gifts that were presented to Butler by the citizens of Colmar. An eight-foot replica of the Statue of Liberty was once housed in the Museum. It was moved to its current location on the Butler Police Station balcony in 1997.

The BUTLER Museum