

**SUPPORT THE STORY.  
PRESERVE THE LEGACY.**



Your gift helps ensure that the story of Butler—  
and the families who called this valley home—  
will never be forgotten.

**YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE MISSION**

- \$25 Friend of the Museum (Includes Season Pass)  
 \$50 Supporter  
 \$100 Preserver  
 Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory / In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_



Please make checks payable to:  
**MUSEUM OF BUTLER, TN**



Mail to:  
PO Box 261  
Butler, TN 37640

The Museum of Butler, TN is a 501(c)(3)  
nonprofit organization.  
Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.  
EIN: 31-1743534

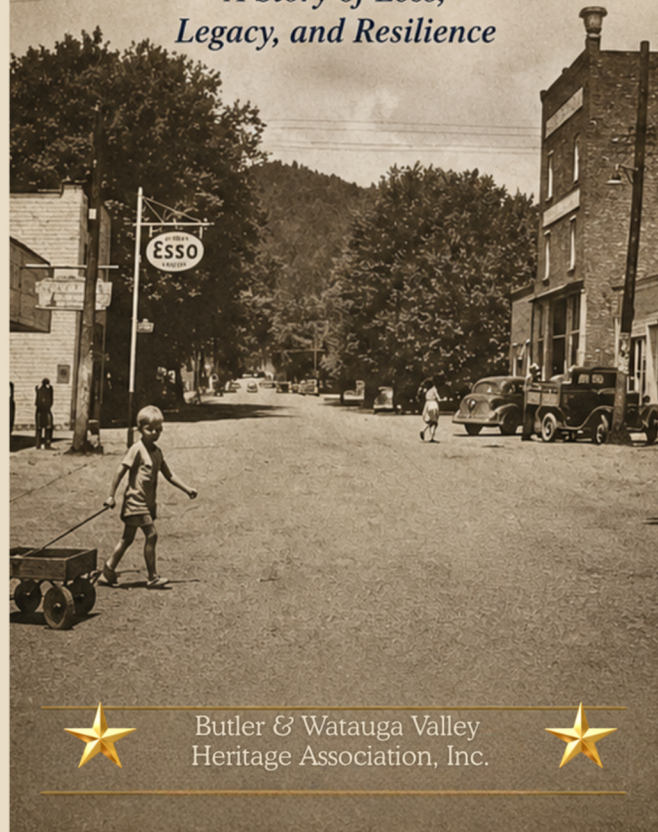


*Thank you*  
for helping us ensure that  
Butler's story is never lost again.

★ AMERICA 250 ★

**THE TOWN  
*that*  
WOULDN'T  
DROWN**

★  
*A Story of Loss,  
Legacy, and Resilience*



Butler & Watauga Valley  
Heritage Association, Inc.



*Welcome*  
**TO BUTLER**



Before the waters of Watauga Lake  
covered the valley, Butler was a thriving  
Appalachian town—filled with families,  
businesses, churches, and generations  
of history.



“**A TOWN  
WAS LOST—  
BUT ITS STORY  
LIVES ON.**”



Step inside and experience  
the history, the people, and  
the legacy of the  
town that wouldn't drown.



## ★ OUR STORY ★



Explored by Daniel Boone and first settled in **1768**, the Watauga Valley grew into a thriving Appalachian community.



By the 1940s, Butler was a bustling town with several hotels, retail stores, schools, churches, skating rink, movie theater, and a strong sense of home.



On September 6, 1947, the Tennessee Valley Authority purchased the town, including city hall and the jail, for \$35,000. One local resident joked, *“the next mayor of Butler will be a catfish!”*



On December 1, 1948, the gates of Watauga Dam closed—flooding 11,600 acres of land, the town of Butler and many communities.



This resulted in the relocation of **1,281** graves and the displacement of over **650** families, many whose ancestors had called this valley home for generations.

**BUTLER DISAPPEARED BENEATH THE WATER... BUT ITS STORY DID NOT.**



## EXPERIENCE THE MUSEUM



The Museum of Butler, TN offers a powerful glimpse into life before the flood—preserving the voices, artifacts, and memories of a community that refused to be forgotten.



Original artifacts and photographs



Stories from families of Old Butler



Appalachian farming and daily life



The history of the Watauga Dam



Living History & America 250 programs



## VISIT US

Open Seasonally (May–October)

Saturdays

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sundays

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

*Private tours available by request.*



123 Selma Curtis Road  
Butler, TN 37640



423-281-1113

★ [MuseumofButlerTN.org](http://MuseumofButlerTN.org) ★

## WHY IT MATTERS



The Museum of Butler, TN exists to preserve, protect, and share the story of a community that refused to be forgotten.

We honor the families, the land, and the legacy of Old Butler—ensuring future generations understand not just what was lost, but what endures.

## WHAT WE'RE DOING



Living History Saturdays



America 250 Programming



Digital Interactive Exhibits



Artifact Preservation



Youth & Educational Outreach

## A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



We are a volunteer-led, community-supported museum. Every exhibit, program, and preserved story is made possible through the generosity of people like you.

*Become a Friend of the Museum!*



Your support helps us preserve history, expand programming, and educate future generations.

**GIVE TODAY!** →

[MuseumofButlerTN.org](http://MuseumofButlerTN.org)

