

Williams Museum of Natural History
Baker-Hunt Foundation

Archie J. Williams, Director
3812 Huntington Avenue, Covington, Kentucky

20th June 1929

HISTORY OF THE WILLIAMS MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY; State of Kentucky.

The Williams Museum was first organized in the year 1920 for the promotion of scientific research, recording of Natural History and historical data and the exhibit of such specimens and the advancement of all educational projects concerning literature, art and music.

The museum was founded by Archie J. Williams, who has been connected with the Boy Scouts of America since July 15, 1911, serving as Assistant Scout Master, Scout Master and Deputy Scout Commissioner of Nature Study and Indian Lore and Crafts. During this time over 400 scouts have been members of our various departments of study and introduced to the many wonders of our trails, forest and Kentucky Hills. For 20 years we have been working with the boys and girls of the schools, churches and scouts; summer camps and winter camps, hikes, lectures and exhibits ---- carrying ever the sacred message of Old Kentucky's tradition and her famous trail of God'd Natural Wonders.

During this time we have collected, purchased or received as giftd over 65,000 specimens covering all known phases of nature; a library of 2000 books and thousands of clippings and works of art.

During the summer and fall we take the young people on week-end and over-night hikes. These hikes are very interesting and instructive in woodcraft, indian-lore and nature study. The young naturalist and nature student can put in practice what he has learned during the winter months. Nothing is over looked on these trips, from cooking to the stars far above. Everything from the geology of the place to insects, trees and flowers are studied. These young nature lovers come prepared to study individual groups whether it be botany or birds and are given adult leadership and a authority on their special subject.

During the winter months lecture are given monthly, with slides, pictures and specimen. The advanced students have use of the Idle Hour Hut library and Lab. These and many other branches of science and the arts are so well covered that high school sciences are mere trifles. In fact, it is a factor in preparing the student for college or the higher ideals of life, for here in their early youth foundations are laid by experience, able teaching and love of the earth and sky, upon which their future work depends. Our members are easily superior to their fellow students both in mind and body.

The Buckskin Totem our museum journal was first printed October 1925 and exchanged with schools, colleges, natural history museums and other national scientific societies. It is exchanged in 16 foreign countries. Thousands of booklets and educational leaflets are printed on our own press.

