

The Bedford Bee.

BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 46282

Bedford, Ohio 44146

founded
1955

440 232-0796

bedfordohio.com/history

September –November 2002

Issue 270

Up Coming Events

September 5, 2002 Thursday 8:00-Lyceum: *'Steel Rails Tunes & Tales'*; join us as Hank Mallory presents railroad tunes and tales. Mr. Mallory has a Masters Degree in Music and Theatrical Arts. He was employed by the National Park Service for many years and recently was hired by the Cuyahoga County Park System.

October 3, 2002 Thursday 8:00- Lyceum: *Bedford Artist Series*; This year we honor Peter Dickson. Pete is gifted in being able to take a piece of wood and make it into something of exquisite beauty. Join us as we toast this artist with a champagne reception following the lecture.

October 19, 2002 Saturday 2:00 – 4:00- An Enchanting *Autumn Victorian Tea* for the benefit of the Bedford Historical Society Elevator Fund. Your invitation is enclosed.

November 7, 2002 Thursday 8:00-Lyceum: *A Christmas Glow*; Helen Pratt presents an interesting history of Christmas lighting and shows us her collection.

Lyceum Programs

This year's Lyceum Program schedule is enclosed with this issue of the Bee. We hope you will enjoy the program selections. There is no charge for the programs and everyone is invited. Our September program kicks off with a bit of Railroad lore and tunes. Hank Mallery is our guest and the evening should be entertaining and informative. The program will be held in the sanctuary of the old church on the Square. Historical Society volunteers will be at the doors to assist anyone who needs help up the stairs. Refreshments will be served.

In October, we are honoring Pete Dickson as our Artist of the Year. Pete's creations in wood are known far and wide. Come and learn about Pete's fascination with this media and how he creates such beauty from Nature's bounty.

In November, Helen Pratt enlightens us about the history of Christmas lighting. Helen is an avid collector of early Christmas lights. If you are on line with your computer, type in "Glow of Christmas Past" for an interesting preview. Helen is loaning a lighting display to the Museum this Fall. Stop into the old Town Hall and view some items from her collection.

From Bob Schroeter, Sr.

We sincerely regret to inform our members that Dick Squire tendered his resignation as director of the Bedford Historical Society on June 10th. Dick has been the director and guiding force of the Society since it was founded in 1955. Health concerns in recent years have accumulated to the point where Dick is unable to fulfill his duties to the benefit of the Society on a regular basis. He will continue to help in other capacities as his health permits.

The Historical Society Board of Trustees has appointed Janet Caldwell as acting director. Janet has consented to serve through December of 2002 thus allowing the Trustees time to review the Society's policies and determine it's future needs.

Cards and letters of encouragement can be sent to Dick c/o 76 Palmetto St. Bedford OH 44146.

Back to school

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer September 1929:

Viaduct Park Opening

Society members and public officials held a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 20, 2002. A graded trail leads visitors to the Great Falls of Tinker's Creek and the ruins of Bedford's early mills. The Park is a joint effort between the County and the City of Bedford. The Bedford Historical Society worked with park personnel on the historical markers. Vintage photographs used on the markers are from the Society's archives.

Oral Histories

From Joanne Rose.....

Bertha Pratt Werner
1899 – 1987

Berth's jobs included Stearns Toy Co., McMyler-Interstate, Walker China and Stalwart Rubber before retiring from Cleveland Trust Bank in 1964. Her niece is Historical Society member, Doris Shriver.

“ I worked myself up to an assistant teller. They wouldn't let a women be manager in those days. Men did that job. Of course we didn't have calculators. We did all the calculations in our heads. The auditors would come in and try to find mistakes, but they didn't. We couldn't leave the bank at the end of the day until everybody balanced. Now they just punch a button.

Grandpa Dengate had his farm on Warrensville Road where the Maple Heights Fire Station is. We kids would walk from Magnolia Street. Coming home, he would drive us in a bobbin, a long box to haul stuff in. It was full of hay and blankets with runners, not wheels.

At picnics we went in long dresses and sat on the grass. Now you go to picnics in slacks and shorts! At the end of the growing season they would take all kinds of vegetables—beans, limas, etc. and make pickles of that. We called this “ The End of the Garden”. When eggs were cheap, we would buy eggs and put them in “waterglass”, a chemical we got at the drugstore—like water. It sealed the eggs so air didn't get to them. We used those eggs for cooking in the winter.

One Bedford fellow went to Cleveland to sell produce. Coming home he would leave his money at the Newburgh Branch of the Cleveland Trust, because if he came out to Bedford, the highwaymen would take the money from him. He tied the reins around the front of the horses and lied down in the box in the wagon the produce had been in and go to sleep. Those horses would cross the railroad tracks on Broadway and a couple more tracks until they got themselves to him home on the other side of Bedford. On Saturday night the stores were open and everyone came to town to buy groceries and talk. The town was busy...booming. It was a big social time. This fellow would go through town, still asleep until the horses had found their way home where his wife would wake him up.

At the bank I got acquainted with the new people that came in. That's what I miss—I miss people. There was a lady who did all the banking because her husband was in Cleveland working. When he retired, she introduced me to him at church and I said...” Oh, your wife and I have been handling your money for years”, As they walked away I heard him say to his wife, “ Who is she? Who is she?”

Preservation Efforts

Historic Business District

Have you walked downtown lately? Good things are happening . The Bedford Historical Society is an active participant in encouraging building and business owners to preserve and restore their storefronts. We are the resource for photographs of how the district looked since the 1890s. The Bedford Community Developments Corporation and the City of Bedford are active partners in this effort. Nine grants were recently awarded to assist owners. Stop into these businesses and let them know of your appreciation for preserving Bedford's history.

1852 Depot

Newspaper readers may have noticed the recent articles about the 1852 railroad depot on Bedford Public Square. This old structure was the first depot built in Bedford by the Cleveland & Pittsburgh Railroad. Bedford boys left from this station to serve the Union in the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln's Inaugural Train passed through Bedford on this track.

The railroad still owns the right of way along Willis Street beside this station although the track is long gone. Originally, the train crossed at the corner of Willis and Taylor Rd and went over the Viaduct. A hundred years ago in 1902, the railroad built two tracks a few yards west. These are still used today as part of the main east west rail corridor.

Many of our older members may remember that the Pennsylvania Railroad built a platform and station for boarding between the Glens Road and Whitacre Court. The old 1852 Depot was sold about 1903 to the new Franklin Oil Company. The City of Bedford purchased the depot this Spring. The Society furnished them with a brief history of the depot and archival photos of how it used to look. Structurally, the old post and beam construction seems to be solid and the foundation is fairly new. We hope the City will consider renovating the exterior of the depot since it is one of the oldest buildings in Bedford and sits on the historic Square.

The 1882 Wheeling & Lake Erie Depot was restored several years ago with a grant from the State of Ohio.

Do You Crochet or Sew?

One of the interesting small collections at the Bedford Historical Society is clothing patterns and crochet instructions. These were the patterns used by our mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers.

The patterns, and other sewing items, were last on display in the Fall of 2001. If you are interested in older patterns starting from the early 1900s and would like to see our collection, please stop into the Museum. Perhaps you would like to try your creative skills, we will be glad to make a copy for you.

From the *Scientific American*

Some of the interesting periodicals in the Bedford Historical Society Library are early editions of *Scientific American Magazine*. Our earliest editions are from the 1840s. *Scientific American* was (and is) “an Illustrated Journal of Art and Science” published by M. Munn & Co. with ‘ practical information on art, science, mechanics, agriculture, chemistry and manufactures’.

From the July 2, 1859 edition (called number) , we learn the following;

- Nystrom’s improved hydraulic pontoon dock was the main article complete with illustrations.
- The Ohio Mechanic’s Fair was to be in Cincinnati.
- An article on the Bayonet says that it was an invention of the French, first used in 1641.
- There was a new railroad car seat illustrated in an article- Baird’s Car Seat & Reclining Chair.
- An article on the improved friction match tells us it was patented on April 5, 1859 by Daniel Benrimo of New York. Mr. Benrimo reversed the order of chemicals used to coat the match head. First he dipped in phosphorus then in sulfur.
- The magazine regretted to inform us that a novel experimental steamer, Winan’s Steamer, sunk at the wharf in Baltimore.
- An article on utilizing small things is reminiscent of our modern day recycling efforts- hair from tanneries found a new use in strengthening plaster; saw dust was used to pack ice and was scattered on market floors; knuckles and joints of rendered animals made a gelatin; lint improved the strength of paper; copper scrap was being used to make bronze chandeliers; oyster shells made good cement & lime; and finally, discarded gauze Parisian ‘belles’ dresses were made into new dresses by West Indies women.
- Another article was entitled “Steam –Plowing” It read as follows: “ The steam plow of Mr. J. Fawkes, of Lancaster, Pa., which lately met with an accident at Philadelphia, as recorded in a former number, will be repaired in due season, as we have been informed, and exhibited at the Illinois State Fair, to be held in the month of September next”.

We can only hope that Mr. Fawkes’ machine was repaired for the event. That’s a bit of the news from the 1859 edition of *Scientific American*.

Sportman’s Park News

John Malone reports that Gordon Eliot White from the Smithsonian Institute, is publishing a book; “Lost Speedways of America”. It should be available in book stores for Christmas. There is a section on Sportman’s Park in the book with a photo from our collection.

Bicentennial

As the State’s Bicentennial approaches, the little town of Bedford is preparing to celebrate our state’s 200th Birthday. One of the projects is a mini history of the state Just in case you have forgotten your lessons, Millie McCarty will present an interesting program next March on some key bits of Ohio history. A big Bicentennial Birthday Cake will cap off the evening. (We’ll let you know if Millie wants you to bring a No.2 pencil and exam book.)

Bedford’s Beautiful Homes

Many of the beautiful homes in Bedford were built in the 1920s. This was the last construction of fine craftsmanship before the stock market crash and the Great Depression. There is a renewed interest in homes built during this period. Two recent books have been added to our library about 1920s home construction . The books show home styles popular during that period and include the trendy name of the style and the blue prints. If you , or someone you know, is restoring a 1920s home, stop by the Town Hall Museum and Library.

Member Alert!

Your memory is needed.....

We are requesting information on the following: NAPCO; The National Potteries Company was located on Richmond Road in the portion of Bedford Township now known as Bedford Heights. The company imported ceramic and plaster ware from Japan. The firm moved to Jacksonville FL in 1984. If you or someone you know worked there we would like to compile more information on the company.

Also the Maxwell Company at 386 Broadway. The company made machine tools.

Also...

There is a stone in Viaduct Park with an inscription:

“ Sit and talk with me
Take in
Nature’s Glory”

Does anyone know about the mysterious poet who chiseled these lines into the stone?

Thanks !

Our thanks to Alma & Jules Rhine, Elmer & Pearl Palinkas, Marion Hotchkiss, Rita Heintel, the Backo Family, Dorothy Muhl, and Pat Bosway for helping make pop corn on Wednesdays during the Party-in-the-Park. Special Thanks to Marilyn Zolata and Paula Mizesak for selling popcorn throughout the crowd each week. Thanks to Chris and Tom Sweet for ordering and hauling the heavy bags of popping corn. Thanks to Lynn and Andy Jones for offering tours of the Town Hall museum to the Wednesday crowd; And, last but not least, our Thanks to Tom and Medic Drug Store for donating all of the pop corn bags. We go through hundreds of them and Tom generously donates these to us.

Ruth's Quilting Legacy

A beautiful quilt has been given to the Bedford Historical Society from the estate of Ruth Dobry. Ruth left instructions for the quilt to be accessioned so that everyone could enjoy its beauty. The pale green and white quilt has embroidered state birds. Ruth wrote a note saying that the quilt took four years to complete. She used single strand floss for embroidering.

The quilt will be on display for several months. It will then be placed in storage for awhile. It is the Museum's policy to rotate quilts and textiles. This allows fabrics a chance to recover.

National Register of Historic Places Update

Our application for the 1892-3 Baptist church is still pending. It is to be reviewed by National Register, a division of the National Park Service, in September.

Strawberry Festival Update

Our annual Strawberry Festival was quite successful although attendance was less than last year. Thanks to Betsy Lee and her committee: Ron Lisy, Randy Starnoni, Pat Papish, Chris Sweet, Ruth Sturges, Lynn Jones, John Grubb, Alice Weisenbach, Helen Paulson, Bob Paulson, JoAnn Harwood, Chuck & Lois St. John. And thanks to all of our members and friends who contributed time to work. Thanks also to all of our members who purchased raffle tickets and to the following businesses for donating: Cuyahoga Valley Railroad, 6 Flags, Bedford Floral, St. John Funeral, Realty One, Dial Cleaners, Velks Flowers, Coffee Cup Family Restaurant, Carol James Floral, LaGra Jewelers.

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Strawberry Festival winners: quilt-Mary Riley; additional raffle winners: Helen Engel, John & Margaret Wise, Hilty family, C.S. Rak, Russ Shriver, Jennifer Brown, H. Taylor, Lois St. John, Frank Protus, Ed Thellman, Sue Martin, Mildred McCarty and Dorothy Muhl.  
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Dunham House Addition

The wooden addition behind the Dunham House was removed in early August. As was suspected, 80% of the frame was eaten by termites and rotted. The demolition was carefully done so that the restored main portion was not impacted. The site was treated much the same as an archaeological site. Artifacts found in the walls, such as bottles, jars and an old shoe were all safely removed along with samples of building materials. Wood that was sound or could be stabilized was set aside for use at a later time. The artifacts will be on display in the future. Photo documentation recorded the process.

The main house is being inspected and the back wall stabilized. With the old portion removed, the restored brick mansion should be protected from further damage.

Obituaries

Ruth Dobry

Bedford quilter, Ruth Dobry (nee Vyner) passed away on May 23, 2002. Ruth was a long time supporter of the Bedford Historical Society. Her beautiful quilts were the top prize at Strawberry Festival raffles.

Ruth was born in Cleveland and moved to Bedford in the 1960s. In 1998, she moved to Stow to be nearer relatives but kept her Bedford ties.

She was preceded in death by her husband Walter and a brother Frank. Surviving are loving nephews and a niece.

J. Thomas Rutledge

Tom Rutledge, a member since 1973, died on June 13, 2002 at the age of 79. Tom was born in Northfield Ohio but lived most of his life in Bedford with his mother and father, who preceded him in death. Surviving are his brothers David and Robert and their families. Services were conducted on June 17, 2002.

Ethel Pearson

Historical Society member Ethel (nee:Brown) Pearson died on July 1, 2002. She was 91 years of age. Ethel lead an active life in Bedford. She was a voracious reader and a world traveler. Her many years in Bedford and sharp memory combined in an interesting lecture of life in Bedford to her Women's Study Group.

She is preceded in death by her husband Elroy. She is survived by a daughter Lucy and many loving grandchildren and great grandchildren. She wished memorial donations be made to either the Southeast Branch of the Library or to the Bedford Historical Society.

Harry Jorgensen, Jr.

Harry Jorgensen, Jr. died on July 16, 2002 at the age of 71. Harry was a member of the Bedford Historical Society since 1981. Harry and brother, Walter, repaired the mechanism and re-roped the town bell in the old 1892 Baptist Church in 1971. Blessed with a beautiful voice, Harry sang in his church choir for any years. He was also an avid gardener whose showcase gardens were recently part of the Bedford Artists and Garden Tour. He was a Marine Corps veteran who served in Korea.

Surviving is his wife, Jean (nee: Fenton) and daughter Kathy, Karen and Amy and their families.

Wilbur Bright

Bedford Historical member, Wilbur Bright died on July 29, 2002. He joined the Historical Society in 1985 and was a Life Member. He was preceded in death by his wife Ruth. He was the father of Joe (Delores), Frank (LuEtta) and Toby (Tom) Zahler. He was a grandfather and great-grandfather.

Services were held August 2, 2002.