

The Bedford Bee.

BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 46282

Bedford, Ohio 44146

Founded 1955

Bedfordohio.com/history

June – August 2003

Issue 273

Up Coming Events

June 2, 2003, 7:30 – 9:00pm Mon.: Annual Volunteer Training for Museum docents and those interested. (See article).

June 13, 14 & 15, 2003: Annual Strawberry Festival; New children's activities; great new entertainment; New vendors; See the Biggest Bicentennial Birthday Cake be created on Saturday; Same great Strawberries.

August 9, 2003, 9:00am – 4:00pm, Sat.: Annual Flea Market on the Square; Good fun, great finds. Cleaning your attic? Remember we have a Historical Society table. Call us to donate.

September 4, 2003 8:00pm; Lyceum- An Organ Recital. Hear the 1912 Moeller Pipe Organ in the Old Church on the Square.

Save the date: Antique Appraisal Fair; Friday November 7 & Saturday November 8, 2003; also An Evening with Chris Jussel on Friday evening, November 7th.

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner of the Bedford Historical Society was held on May 8, 2003 at the historic Astorhurst Country Place. The Society honored three long time volunteers for their years of service: Marion Henderson, Verdabelle Spaulding and Alice Weisenbach. After an enjoyable meal and brief business meeting, they were entertained by Herman Rueger who presented the 'Life and Times of Early Settler, Lorenzo Carter.'

A New Burns Letter

A recent donation to the Bedford Historical Society archives came from the curator of the Medina County Historical Society. Mr. Thomas Hilberg, the Curator, recently spotted the document at an antique mall. He purchased the letter and kindly donated it to us. We are most appreciative.

The letter is dated January 21, 1884 and is sent to Mrs. J.A.Burns, Bedford O. It is from West Point Mississippi. The letter is in response to an inquiry by Mrs. Burns about the purchase of acreage in the West Point area. Mrs. Burns had inquired about the purchase for Frank Burns. The letter describes several parcels of land and the asking price. It describes the buildings and the type of soil. Judging from the letter, Mrs. Burns had inquired about land for cattle not for crop farming.

“Another place of 93 acres” had “a good house, good water, 2 or 3 Negro cabins, good land, plenty of timber.”

“Labor is cheap here. Good able bodied men work for 58 cents per day, house servants for 2 – 3 dollars per month.”

In 1884, land was cheap in the South and ripe for speculators from the North.

The letter mentions that Mr. Chas. Wheelock ‘has been here the past week and bought 80 acres in the incorporate limits of West Point at \$810.’

The letter closes to advise Mrs. Burns that Frank was welcome to visit for awhile, the writer of the letter tells her he will be looked after during his stay.

Oral Histories

.....from Joanne Rose

This month's oral history is a visit with Glenn & Olive Maley. These active residents recall their early days growing up in Bedford. They have been Historical Society members since 1982.

Glenn & Olive (nee: Glover)Maley

Reminiscences of the Knights of Pythias plays; "A company from New York would send a very vivacious and attractive young director with a trunk load of costumes, books of script... and then she would audition the local talent for the leading parts in the plays. For the dance review and the chorus, all the kids from high school could go down and be assured a part in the play. Then these plays would be here about 3 nights and then the director would move on to another city. One year in particular this incident is very clear:

Glenn was a senior and Olive was a sophomore. They were both in the play. After the play finished, the young director needed transportation to Weirton, W. Va. Glenn had a little model T roadster and since his Dad and Mother were both in the Pythians, his Dad said he could drive this young lady down to her next assignment. He had to be excused from classes for the day but his Mother hesitated about him taking this lady that far and suggested perhaps Olive would accompany them. This involved permission. Glenn's Father wrote a letter to Mr. Moody saying that he would be responsible for his son and Olive to travel with this young lady over the state border into West Virginia.

(Glenn tells the story of the inter-urban streetcars) "On Friday nights for our basketball teams at the time; we were in a league with Kent, Ravenna and Bedford. When we would go to Kent we would have two inter-urban street cars stop in Bedford and all the rooters and the team would all go. When we go to Kent, we would have our basketball game and then when it was over we would go and wait at a particular little store for the streetcar. There were so many people crowded into this little store!

Then when we got back to Bedford, on the corner where the present gun shop is (*now Arabica Café*), was Parker's Hamburgers. Everybody would get off at the store—that was called Day's Store then. We would all go into

Parker's and we would get a hamburger and a glass of milk...the school paid for our hamburger at that time, which was great! Parker's was well known for their hamburgers. Our coach was Bill Fulton, in basketball. Those were the days of low scoring games. And How! Fifteen to sixteen and such. I have a lot of clippings of those games."

Town Hall Radio Tower is Down

A wicked wind early this past winter resulted in the old radio tower being felled. It also blew open all of the first floor windows in the old church, with not one being broken! The three-sided tubular metal tower stood by the Town Hall for about 50 years. Dick Squire and others said the tower was installed in the early fifties by the City. The tower could have damaged the historic Town Hall or the Old Church. It could have fallen onto the old Stewart military tank and it could have taken all of our wiring with it. Luck was with us- it fell in the only open place around, along the driveway. City Hall service crews were gracious enough to clear it from the driveway and Andy Jones, trusty torch in hand, disassembled the mass of metal into pieces that could be lifted. He and John Piazza loaded it and took the remains to the recycling center. Our thanks to Andy, John and the Service Dept. for their help.

Sooty

Sooty, the Museum cat, is doing well. It will be two years this Flag Day that she was found trapped in the walls of the Town Hall Museum. She had been deposited there by her well-meaning Mother three days earlier. A recent update and picture from her owners indicate that Sooty weighs over 11 pounds. She still can't resist playing with water and house plants. And, of course, loves sunshine.

Calling All Members—HELP!

It is that time of year to donate a few hours to help with our Annual Strawberry Festival. The dates are Friday evening June 13th ; all day & evening Saturday, June 14th ; and Sunday June 15th. Please call Chris Sweet (440 439-7470) if you want to serve berries and ice cream; Janet at the Museum (440 232-0796) if you would like to host in our buildings and Betsy Lee (440 735-0135) if you can help with set-up or clean-up or cake baking). It takes all of us to make the Strawberry Festival a success. Thanks.

Time For Training

It is time for our Annual Museum Volunteer Training on Monday evening June 2nd at 7:30pm. If you are a regular volunteer or would like to learn more about the roll of a Museum docent; please plan to attend. We will have a basic review of crowd management and safety; a refresher of basic Bedford History; and a review of the Museum's Bicentennial Military textile exhibit. We'll discuss how we can make our Museum more 'kid friendly'. And we'll have fun doing it! Join us for refreshments and receive a small token of our appreciation for your interest and time. It takes a lot of volunteers to keep our buildings open. We couldn't do it without your help. Call 440 232-0796 to let us know if you can attend.

The Biggest Bicentennial Birthday Cake in the State?

Well maybe, if you help. We have several members and friends baking 9 x 11 cakes. They will be assembled on the morning of June 14th starting at 9:30 am. The Bedford Lion's Club is building the platform for the cake and will stand by 'with muscle'. We have invited state, county and local officials to help cut and serve. Join us for some fun. Call if you can bake. 440 232-0796

Annual Flea & Treasure Market- August 9, 2003 – 9-4

Don't have fleas? How about that stuff in the attic ? You can rent a space for \$15 (or \$20 on the day of the sale.) Or you can donate your treasures to our Historical Society table. Call Chris Sweet 440 439-7470 for a space or Lynn Jones 330 467-4338 to donate. You can send a check for a 10 ft space, you supply the table, to: PO Box 46282, Bedford OH 44146 And don't forget to attend and take more stuff home! Free admission.

Old Journals Found

Several members of the Bedford Historical Society participated in an Ohio Educational Television show called *History Hunt*. A 10 year old student from a neighboring community obtained two hand written journals dating from 1803 & 1804. The journals were found by his Mother's friend, in Bedford, in the curbside trash. Recognizing that they were valuable pieces of history, the young historian showed his teacher who in turn, called the producers of the show. We were contacted to participate in the taping because of the Bedford connection, we had also signed on to help with any part of this educational program several months ago. We took along a dip pen and an old ink bottle to show the young man how the journals were written. We talked about the writer's travel from Chester County Pa. to Bedford and back. We gave the young man an archive box to protect his treasures and told him about the conservation of old documents. We also made the offer to borrow and transcribe the journals so that all can enjoy reading about this early adventure.

Historic Bedford Brochure

The popularity of the Historic Bedford brochure was more than we anticipated- we ran out. It has been available in town and at tourist kiosks in Northeast Ohio. We have ordered a second printing which has updated text. Our thanks to the following for their financial assistance: the City of Bedford, Bedford Chamber of Commerce, Bedford Community Council & the Bedford Community Development Corp. Without help from these groups, we would not have been able to print more.

BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

Rix Mills Remembered

Paul Patton, retired principal of Central School, became well known for his beautiful folk art paintings. The original of his "Central School Playground" hangs in the Bedford Historical Society Museum. Paul also painted a series about his boyhood home in Rix Mills Ohio. He painted the town as he remembered it in childhood before strip mining altered the landscape. Even after his death in 1999, Paul's works live on as a testament. Kent State University Press is publishing a book about Paul Patton *Rix Mills Remembered, An Appalachian Boyhood*. Those who knew him as a beloved friend and colleague may obtain a copy from the Kent State web site. The cloth bound book is priced about \$39

A Close Shave

Member, Iris Dawson, has recently donated an interesting item to the museum. It is a Government Issued Safety Razor from World War I. The razor belonged to her father-in-law. A little note attached to the razor from Iris' mother-in-law says that he used the razor every morning from the time he received it until January 18, 1980. Iris believes he then switched to an electric razor that was given to him as a gift. Sixty two years of service is a pretty good record.

New at the Gift Shop

We have copies of Harold George's new book *Men of the 9th Ohio*. Mr. George researched the history of this Civil War outfit for over 8 years. Included in the book are seven sons from Bedford Ohio. Autographed copies are available in the Museum Gift Shop at the discounted rate of \$15.

Also in the Gift Shop are *Ohio Bicentennial & 'Bedford-Everybody's Hometown'* Tees and Sweatshirts and many homemade items lovingly made by our members. The prices are reasonable so remember us when you are shopping for yourself or that special someone! Thank you.

President	Robert Schroeter, Sr.
Vice President/ Gift Shop Manager	Betsy Lee
Treasurer	Alice Weisenbach
Assist Treasurer	Robert Schroeter, Jr.
Recording Secretary	Kathleen Rice
Membership Secretary	Patti Sirna

TRUSTEES, TERM EXPIRING 2003

David Beveridge	Rose Grossenbaugh
Chris Sweet	Richard Backo
Shirley Taussig	Daniel Pocek

TRUSTEES, TERM EXPIRING 2004

Betsy Lee	Robert Schroeter, Sr.
James Rice	Ronald Lisy
Brian Melling	Evelyn Sawastuk

TRUSTEES, TERM EXPIRING 2005

Ed Romito	Jay Squire
James Harding	Robert Hamilton
Peter Dickson	Art Dickard

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY STAFF

Janet Caldwell	Interim Director/Curator
Albert E. Kadlowec	Curator Emeritus
Verdabelle Spaulding	Librarian Emeritus
(Vacant)	Librarian
Joyce Maruna	Archivist
Jim Rice	School Visit Coordinator

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Evelyn Sawastuk	Events Coordinator
June & Dave McCandless	Custodians

HEZEKIAH DUNHAM HOUSE

Pat Papish & Kay Parsons	Events Coordinator
Pete Dickson	Building Superintendent
Dorothy Schwende	Front & Side Landscaping

Thanks

The Bedford Historical Society thanks His Honor, Mayor Daniel Pocek for serving as a Trustee. Dan has been a member and an active supporter of the Bedford Historical Society; he was instrumental in helping us obtain funding for the Town Hall addition. According to the by-laws, he is rotating off the Board after two consecutive terms.

Welcome to Don Saunders

Don Saunders, Bedford City Councilman of Ward 6 is a new trustee of the Bedford Historical Society. Members voted on his appointment at the annual meeting. Don is a long time Bedford resident and a dedicated citizen of the community. He and his wife Judy and their two sons live in Bedford. We are most appreciative of Don's willingness to serve and advise. Thank you, Don, and welcome aboard!

From the Archives:

The following poem was written by Bedford artist, Richard Sedlon.

Gratefulness

*I feel so blessed for things
I love to do,
Reading, painting, gardening are
hobbies I pursue.
And yet with doing all these things
I have the luxury
Of sleep before the hour of ten,
Of waking normally.
My time is all my very own
For in my life as yet
I do not have the thief of time
A television set.*

A New Display Case for the Museum

When the City Hall closed at 65 Columbus Rd. recently, we obtained a glass display case that stood in the lobby. These cases are expensive to buy so we are thrilled to obtain one. Our thanks to City Manager, Bob Reid, who allowed us to obtain the case. And thanks to Bob Paulson who loaned us the use of his truck and helped lift the case along with Frank Caldwell, Steve Batko, Joe Ross and Tim Grubb. Without their muscle, we would have been stuck!

You May See Yourself!

Our archivist, Joyce Maruna, has a temporary photo exhibit on display in the Southeast Branch of the county library. The black & white photos show events at two of Bedford's former library buildings: the Newman Robinson building on Broadway and the grand opening at the Center Road site. The photos span the 1950s -60s.

Time for the Berries!

ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL



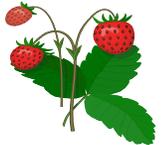
Friday June 13, 2003	6-11 pm
Saturday June 14, 2003	noon- 11pm
Sunday June 15, 2003	noon- 8pm

On the Square in Historic Bedford Ohio

STRAWBERRIES

Ethnic Foods **Beer**
State's Largest Ohio
Bicentennial Cake

Many Crafts
Raffles* Pie Eating Contest
Museum Tours
Great Rides and Fun Stuff!!
Entertainment Everyday, All Times
Historical Figures
Children's Crafts (Make it and Take it)



Jumping Bean



Titanic Slide



Climbing Wall

***Hand crocheted Bedford afghan,
Getaway for two, Pass to Great Bear
Resort, Railroad stuff. Free parking
Free admission Rain or Shine**

New Address

Member Alice Weisenbach has a new address:
Walton Manor Assisted Living Ste 322; 19859
Alexander Rd.; Walton Hills OH 44146

A New Bedford City Hall

Bedford city government has a new address: 165 Center Rd. Early records indicate that the little village of Bedford used a portion of the old Township Hall and then moved to 683 Broadway, the former home of Dr. Garlick. When the Township of Bedford dissolved in 1951, the city moved a portion of their offices to the Town Hall. In 1964, the 'new' City Hall, at 65 Columbus Rd. opened. This site served the residents until May 10, 2003 when the newest City Hall opened at 165 Center Rd.

If you grew up in Bedford, you may recall that a portion of this property was the old Lee family greenhouse for over 80 years. In 1952 it collapsed in a snowstorm. Then the County Library built the Bedford Branch in 1956 fronting Center Rd. The branch moved to the corner of Columbus Rd. and Washington St. in 1991.

When you stop into the newest City Hall, take note of the photos in the hall. The Bedford Historical Society supplied these reprints from our archives. They cover 100 years of Bedford history.

Joint Oral History Project a Success

On March 18, 2003 the Bedford Historical Society hosted an oral history project with Joint Area Veterans and the AP History Class of Bedford High School. The veterans and students shared lunch together and then worked as a team to record the stories and memories of those who have protected our freedom over the years. The Society has published a book of these memoirs and each student and veteran will receive a copy.

Our thanks to Mike and Joan Garvin, who contacted area veterans; to Ginny Golden, director of curriculum for secondary education; Mr. Robt. Rutkowski, Bedford High faculty liaison whose class participated; to the talented students who worked on this demanding project; to Jules Rhine for photographing the event and to Alma Rhine and Evelyn Sawastuk who hosted the luncheon. Our sincere appreciation to Ed Romito Sr. (US Coast Guard Ret.) who helped cover expenses. And to Graphic World, who covered the cost of publication as a tribute to these honored veterans and talented students. And our gratitude to the participating veterans.

Bedford Times
November 4, 1927

Obituaries

Nick V. Durback

Services for Nick Durback were held on March 17, 2003. He died on March 11, 2003 while in Naples Fl.

He was a practicing attorney in the Bedford area for over 45 years and served as an acting judge for Bedford Municipal Court and the Brecksville Mayor's courts. Mr. Durback was a veteran of WWII and was a 32 degree mason of Summit Lodge of the Masonic Order. He was a member of the Bedford Historical Society since 1987.

Surviving are his loving wife, Joan(nee: Rittenberger), a sister, Sophie Kostoff and many loving family members.

Frank Nyerges

1933 Bedford High School graduate, Frank Nyerges, died on March 15, 2003 in Pasadena Ca. where he was a long time resident. He was born and raised in Bedford and lived with his family in the Hezekiah Dunham House. His sister, Anne and brother –in-law, Richard Sedlon remained in the homestead until the Historical Society began restoration of the structure. Mr. Nyerges kept his Bedford ties and was a member of the Bedford Historical Society since 1977.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Marie (nee:Jonke). He is survived by his oldest sister, Natalie and five sons. Burial was in California.