

The Bedford Bee.

BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 46282
Bedford, Ohio 44146

Founded 1955
Bedfordohio.com/history

December 2003-February 2004
Issue 275

Upcoming Events

December 13, 2003 Noon – 1:00 – 6:00pm
Christmas in Bedford Falls festival. We'll be open; there will be horse and buggy rides, train rides and carolers throughout town. Bring the family for some holiday fun.

December 14, 2003 2:00 – 5:00 Annual Christmas Open House. Join us for the festivities. The Garden Club will be decorating Christmas magic. Carols will be played on the 1914 Moeller. Refreshments will be served.

January 8, 2004 8:00pm: Lyceum- Inside the Diary of Sarah Hubbell Hayden. Sandra Vodanoff has studied and written about the diary. Join us as she shares the life and times of this early pioneer with a Bedford connection.

February 5, 2004 8:00pm: Lyceum- A History of Solid Waste Management. How do we compare with our ancestors? Diane Bickett, of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management Department, presents an interesting perspective of the past, present and future of waste management.

March, 2004: Annual Reverse Raffle. Tickets are available now.

Construction Starts

Engineering studies and site clearance have been completed. Heavy equipment for excavating is scheduled for the week of December 1st. The Marous company expects to have the foundation and shell up before the really bad weather commences. Interior work can be completed in winter. The project should be done in late Spring. Note: The parking lot

will be closed during construction; use the Depot lot or Broadway.

Ground Breaking

64 people braved the chilly Fall weather to attend the official ground breaking for the Town Hall Museum building addition. Congratulatory remarks were from Vice Mayor Marilyn Zolata who represented the city, and the Honorable Senator Eric Fingerhut. The Rev. Rick Kessler blessed the undertaking of the construction with a gracious prayer. After some official picture taking with the Trustees of the Society, everyone was invited to have their picture taken with a hard hat and shovel. From a three year old to 80 year olds, folks had their pictures taken. Even Chris Sweet's puppy, Molly, got into the act with an appropriate bark at the right time! We shared cider and donuts while members and guests talked with the Marous construction team who will be building the addition.

As requested by several in attendance at the Ground Breaking ceremony. The Rev. Kessler's remarks are printed below, we thank him for sharing.

Give us, O Lord, a sense of history. Teach us to recognize your hand in the stories of peoples and nations. Help us to be thankful for evidence of your loving eye upon our own lives. Encourage us for the coming days in the knowledge that your touch has still its ancient power.

We ask that you be with everyone who labors to bring this plan to fruition. May your hand keep them safe and may your wisdom guide their craftsmanship, so that what is built here may have a lasting place in the history of downtown Bedford.

Teach us, O gracious Lord, to begin our works in reverence, to go on in obedience, and finish them with love. Amen

A Successful Start for the Lyceum Series

Building Doctors Are Coming!

The Bedford Historical Society has been chosen to host the Building Doctors Program. Experts on the care and preservation of older buildings will visit for a public forum and then make house calls the next day. There is no cost for attendees of the seminar or for the visit. The Bedford Historical Society along with the following sponsors: The Bedford Community Development Corporation (a non-profit group of business and corporate leaders), Doty & Miller Architects (our newest premier firm who restored the old post office); and Lake Front Floor Covering (a community spirited company serving the Northeast Ohio area).

The major share of funding for the program comes from the Department of the Interior through the Ohio Historic Preservation Office. We are very fortunate to be chosen as a site. We will host a region that includes Cuyahoga and the surrounding counties. *Save the date: September 16th & 17th.*

Paul Patton's Book Published

Friends and colleagues of Paul Patton will be happy to know that his art work about growing up in southeast Ohio has been published by Kent State Press. Dorothy Patton has been kind enough to send us a copy for the Bedford Historical Library. *Rix Mills Remembered, an Appalachian Boyhood*, is available to read through us or at the public library. The paintings are beautiful; the text stands alone as great reading. We are making arrangements to sell copies of the book at the museum gift shop, stop in or call to order. How fortunate we were to have had Paul in our town for many years.

Santa and You?

For the Christmas Open House on December 14th, we would like to show some pictures of kids and Santa from yesteryear. Do you have any to share? It will be an interesting comparison between generations. It can be you, your children or grandchildren on Santa's knee. Mark photos on the back and bring them to the museum. Thanks for sharing.

The September Lyceum program, "Tunes and Tales of the Old Church" was an overwhelming success. Over 100 people listened to Jerry Maddox play the grand old 1914 Moeller pipe organ. Jean Jorgensen shared tales of how the organ was purchased (a grant from Andrew Carnegie) and told the history of the Baptist congregation (one of the three oldest churches in Bedford). We had an additional treat as soloist Linda Burgess sang two songs with perfection. We rounded off the evening with peach shortcake. A souvenir program included a reprint of the original recital from May 6, 1914. We even sang a few hymns! As one attendee commented, ' We might have been Catholic, Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian or Muslim when we started, but we were all Baptists when we left!'

The momentum continued into October. The Lyceum honored artist Rick Backo. Rick presented his watercolors, many based on historic photos of Bedford. He gave each recipient a copy of his pen & ink rendition of the historic Bedford Glens Ballroom. Rick received a proclamation from the Ohio House of Representatives congratulating him on being named artist of the year. This was arranged by Lance Mason, our representative. View Rick's work on December 7th at Ellenwood Center.

The November Lyceum presented Mr. Jerry Arnold, a nationally known authority on Christmas antiques and collectibles. He brought many samples of his breathtaking collection. He will be a guest on Martha Stewart Living either December 23rd or 24th. Those of you who missed our program can catch him on the telly. Member Helen Pratt made an ornament of our 1874 town hall for each guest. After the presentation, we shared in some of the best Christmas cookies baked by our members.

Meet 'Ghitza', the new Belle of Bedford

Betsy Lee has created the second in a series of limited edition dolls based on the archives of the Bedford Historical Society. The exotic 'Ghitza' is based on photos and drawings of the gypsies who visited Bedford each summer. Her costume and jewelry are hand crafted by Betsy. Each doll is numbered and signed.

From Joanne Rose...

Oral Histories

Eunice Nichols
1908 - 1997

Miss Nichols was a teacher in the Bedford City Schools. She told wonderful stories of Bedford and here are several:

“My Grandpa Nichols worked for one of the hardware people there in Bedford. He would go from door to door in the country and repair milk cans and sell tin ware to people. Later my Grandfather had a store in Broadway where the Bedford Furniture Store is now (Haines block).

His store burned when the whole side of Bedford burned. He didn't have any insurance. He sold everything from croquet sets to sewing machines. He had his own beard which he usually wore inside his vest. He came home everyday to his home on Columbus Street for lunch. He came to the door this one day and rang the bell at the front door. He had always gone around to the back door. He had gone to the barbershop that morning and had the beard taken off. My Grandmother came to the door and he asked for Mr. Nichols. She said, ‘Oh, he will be home pretty soon’ He said that he would sit on the porch and just wait for him. She told him he would be coming up that street, and so on and so on. And he said, ‘Anna, Don't you know who I am? I'm, your husband!’

My Father was not inclined to get new inventions or things like that. He went over to Mr. Twitt, next door. This is Ed's father—he made crystal sets. He gave my Father a pair of ear phones to listen. Dad came home and said, ‘Do you know that Frank Twitt told me that that was New York. Now he was lying to me. It couldn't have been the symphony playing from New York coming here to Bedford.’ Well, he listened and then he showed us. The next day after he heard this music on Mr. Twitt's crystal set, Dad went right down to the store and bought a radio.

I remember the first automobile I ever saw. It belonged to the Mayor of Cleveland. And of course, it would scare the horses to death, you know. They were noisy. We got our first automobile about 1917. I was too young to drive. But later on when I did learn to drive a car, Dad took me up on Lincoln Blvd. and said to drive up to that tree and stop...back up to that other driveway and go ahead there, somewhere, and I had to do it. And that was it. That ended my driver's training.”

A New Refrigerator

Our thanks to the Bedford Community Council for replacing a broken refrigerator in the Community Hall kitchen. This is the second time that they have rescued us with the purchase of a new appliance. Now both refrigerators are new and should last a long time.

Coat Hangers

Thanks to our members who have loaned unique coat hangers for our up coming display of these useful items. If you have one in your closet with a good story or shape, drop it off at the museum or call Janet (440 232-0796) for a pick up. The display will commence in late January and run through Spring. So far, it is amazing how many shapes we have acquired! Check your closets.

From the 1923 Dabbler
The Bedford High School Yearbook
Inspiration from another generation.
Yearbook quotes:

- “A woman will, or won't—depend on it”
Bertine Southworth
- “He can who believes he can”
Winston Wyckoff
- “While awaiting the tragedy—enjoy the farce.”
George Sommer
- “Rest! Rest! Shall I not have all eternity to rest in!”
Sterling Prestage
- “ It is not enough to run; One must start on time.”
Earl Hardesty
- “Fair tresses man's imperial race ensnare.”
Elsie Mowl
- “Prefer to be good, rather than seem so.”
Etta Kenyon
- “Strength of mind is exercise, not rest.”
Bessie Carillon
- “All's fair in love and war.”
George Cowan
- “Great hopes make great men.”
Clarence D. Carver
- “Without the smile—Oh, what were man.”
Page Hamilton
- “ Be thankful for many things you didn't get.”
Eva Flick

*Thank you for your continued support.
Without your help, the work of the Bedford
Historical Society could not continue.*

Thanks!!!!

Thanks to all of our members who helped make the Appraisal Fair weekend a success. We hosted people from several states as they came to Bedford for expert appraisals on treasured items. We added between \$3,500. – 4,000. to the coffers and made many new friends. Thanks to Lisa Kropf who headed the event above and beyond duty.

Also;

Thanks to Lynn Jones for sharing her family's stories and adventures in articles in the paper.

Thanks to Gary Watts for getting our furnaces ready for winter.

Thanks to Al Kadlowec who has been refurbishing some of our permanent exhibit items.

Thanks to Steve Batko who painted the house wares of yesteryear display.

Thanks to Tom & Cindy Lowe who continue to organize our photos with the able help of Helen & Steve Batko and Helen Pratt.

The volunteer hours that keep this organization 'up & running' is phenomenal. (And we have a good time doing it!)

Membership Time Again

Members are asked to renew their membership in the new enclosed envelope. We thank Johnson- Romito Funeral Homes for their generosity in supplying the envelopes. It makes it easier for you to renew. Patti Sirna is ready and waiting for your response. And remember, your purchase of a gift membership for a relative, friend or new neighbor helps us spread the word about what we do. We will send a gift notice in your name. Thank you.

Giving Opportunities

Please consider supporting your Bedford Historical Society in the following additional ways:

The Building Addition fund is within the last 10% of its goal. We have raised \$603K of the \$670K needed to pay for the project.

The Post Office Mural by Karl Anderson has been restored and installed in the lobby of the old Post Office, now Doty & Miller Architects. The last \$1,437 is needed to cover our cost of the restoration.

Please donate to either or both of these funds; enclose your check with your dues.

A Strong Foundation

Readers will notice the name of Marion Henderson in this issue's obituaries. Marion was one of those members of the Bedford Historical Society who made a big impact. It was Marion who kept track of our membership roster. It was Marion who would give members a gentle call as a reminder that current dues had not been received. Of course, in her gracious way, Marion was sure that this was entirely an innocent oversight. We, the regular staff, enjoyed her company at lunch each Thursday. She got us hooked on peanut butter & jam or just plain marmalade sandwiches. We always made Marion say our lunchtime grace. Her prayers 'stuck' (we knew the inside track to heaven when we saw it). Marion joins the ranks of those who went before us who helped in preserving the history of this unique little town and surrounding area. She is one of the rocks that made the strong foundation of the Bedford Historical Society. Sure hope she is still praying for us.....

Janet

Obituaries

Marion Henderson; Marion Henderson passed away on September 19, 2003. A memorial service was held on September 27th. Marion was a long time resident of Bedford and active in many organizations. She was a member of the Bedford Methodist church.

Marion was an active member of the Bedford Historical Society and served as its membership secretary until last year. She joined the Society in 1964.

Surviving are her niece, Sally J. Simson, nephew David J. (Patti) Henderson and sister-in-law Margaret.

Roger Sprengle; Memorial Services for Roger Sprengle took place on October 5, 2003. He died on September 25th. Mr. Sprengle was a member of the Bedford Historical Society since 1965. His loan of some beautiful aprons enhanced the Museum's Apron display a few years ago.

He served in the Army during WWII. He was a Walton Hills resident and member of the 50 Plus Club of Walton Hills. He is preceded in death by his wife, Edna. He is survived by his daughter Pamela L. Mertens and a sister, Kathryn Curtiss.