

The Bedford Bee.

BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 46282

Bedford, Ohio 44146

1955 - 2005
50 Years of Keeping History

June - August 2004
Issue 277

Up Coming Events

June 11, 12 & 13, 2004: **Annual Strawberry Festival.**
Great entertainment and two and a half days of activity.

August 14, 2004: **Annual Flea Market on the Square**
(see article)

September 16 & 17, 2004: **Building Doctors Seminar.**
(Registration forms are available at the Museum.)

The Strawberry Festival Raffle

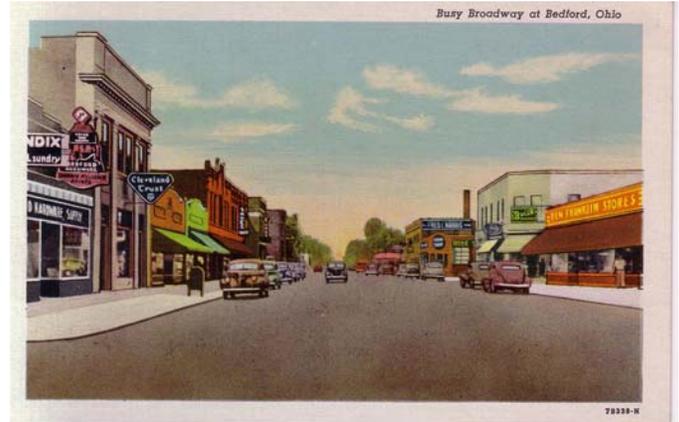
This year's raffle has two unique treasures. Member, Helen Batko has made a beautiful afghan. Helen crocheted the names of many of Bedford's streets along the border. This is a one of a kind beauty. It is hand crocheted with a cream colored yarn. A lovely keepsake of the old hometown.

Helen entered the afghan in the Stow Library Needlework competition. She won first place beating entries from all over the state! (She also won first place for a cross stitch entry.)

It is That Time of Year Again

Time for all volunteers to attend *Docent Training*. We will have our annual review of 'what ifs...' (Tornado, sick or injured visitor, fire safety etc.). This is especially important this year because of the new addition on the Town Hall; there is a new fire escape with which to familiarize ourselves.

Join us on *Wed. May 26th* at 7:30 for a review and refreshments. And please accept a small token of our appreciation for your help in the past. Members who would like to be trained as a docent are encouraged to attend the session. RSVP Janet 440 232-0796 to attend. Those unable to attend are asked to call for an individual training session. Thank you.



Update on the Historic District

On April 2, 2004, a recommendation was made to list the Bedford Ohio commercial business district on the National Register of Historic Places. We have not received the formal letter from the National Park Service and the State Historic Preservation Office; however, all of the hurdles to get the district listed have been overcome. The district is loosely bound along Broadway between Franklin and Powers Streets plus the Square. Not all buildings are significant; several have been altered to the point where they are non-contributory. One that did not make it on the list is the Newman Building, also called the Exchange Building. The Gaslite Restaurant is located in this 1891 structure; however the third floor was removed in the 1960s. The 1852 Cleveland & Pittsburgh Depot, on the southwest portion of the Square, will be a contributing structure when the vinyl siding is removed and portions of the Eastlake design are restored. All structures, both contributory and non-contributory, are listed within the Historic District.

Flea Market

Our annual Flea Market is scheduled for August 14th. Time to clean out the attic. You can rent a table to sell your own stuff, call Chris Sweet, 440 439-7470. Call us, 440 232-0796 if you would like to donate to the Historical Society table. And don't forget to attend. It is great fun and many dealers and neighbors have great items to sell.

Oral History...

We continue with excerpts from reminiscences of Ned Hubbell. Ned was born in 1886 and died in 1978. His recollections of life in Bedford resulted in the Bedford Historical Society's first published history, "Life in Bedford, 1813 – 1970". Here he discusses business in Bedford.

“When I was a small boy we had as much of an agricultural or agrarian economy as the country ever had. We still had the mills on Tinkers Creek and cheese factories in the country, chair factory in town to use the wood. We had had these almost from the time that the town was founded. None of these caused any appreciable pollution in the way of noise or impure air.

Of course, the territory occupied by the business buildings of the town was much more limited than it is today. For the most part they were located on Main Street (now Broadway) from Powers Road and Columbus Street on the north to North Park Street on the south.

The building at the corner of Powers Road and Main Street where the ‘Gas Light Inn’ is was built and occupied as a shoe store by Newman Robinson. The buildings from there along the west side of Main Street included at least one clothing store, one office building, a New Produce Bank, Climax Drugstore, the grocery store of George Tinker and Charley Collins, the butcher shop of Ed Foster and the hardware store of George Nichols.

There were no restaurants in town but there was a boardinghouse of a Mrs. Durst where single men and women boarded. As far as I know, it was the last eating place of its kind. It was located on Main Street between Robinson’s shoe store and the Public Square. There was also a large private dwelling occupied by Caroline Comstock, a widow, on Main Street directly opposite Woodrow Street. There was likewise the barber shop of Doc Matthews just south of Collins’ grocery next to North Park Street.

On the other side of Main Street opposite Doc Matthews barber shop was a dress shop owned and operated by Minnie Lamb. This was the only business place on the east side of Main Street south of Dunham Street (now Woodrow). The remaining space between the dress shop and Woodrow was occupied by a large house and yard surrounded by an iron picket fence where Ann Tarbell lived.

‘At the northeast side of Woodrow and Main was a drug store operated by George Forbes. Except for the grocery store of Charley Marble and the Post office, this was the only business place on the east side of Main north of Woodrow. There were several private houses in this area, some between Forbes store and the Post office and others north of Marble’s store. Farther along there

was an inn called the Fountain House and to the north of that a large house and yard surrounded by an iron picket fence at the northeast corner of Main and Columbus. This was occupied by Newman Robinson and was opposite his shoe store.

The stores opened at seven o’clock in the morning and some stayed open until nine o’clock at night, including Forbes drugstore and Charley Marble’s grocery. In Marble’s grocery a small group of town philosophers gathered nightly about the stove where they helped themselves out of the cracker barrel and told how affairs at Washington D.C. could be better conducted.”



Oral Histories are an important part of ‘keeping history’. Money from the Memorial account was recently used to purchase a Transcriber. This machine allows the typist to play an oral history tape at any speed with the press of a foot pedal. Tapes have a short life, but transcribed text on acid-free paper, lasts a life time and beyond. A fitting use of funds in memory of those who have walked the path before us.

May 1st Tea

Our Spring Tea for Mothers, Children and Grandchildren was good fun. The money earned went toward the Building Fund. Everyone enjoyed Lisa Lingenfield’s delectables. The Maids’ attention to detail spoiled everyone and Elise Lingenfield, age 8, was a most gracious hostess. Violinist, Birdie Smith played the Music of Childhood which was enjoyed by everyone. Children received a treat bag filled with keepsakes and goodies.



A Funding Primer for Members

Do you know our yearly fund raisers? Can you name them? The Reverse Raffle, the Strawberry Festival, the Flea Market all contribute to our general operating fund. Other sources to this fund include your membership dues and popcorn sales at the Wednesday Parties-in-the-Park.

The Teas help to collect more funds. Last year’s Antique Appraisal Fair helped us collect for the building addition. (We still owe more.)

We have other funding sources but they are a bonus when we receive them; many are designated for a specific purpose.

Joyce Maruna relates a tale from an acquaintance: The woman was driving past Bedford Public Square with her young grandson. Upon seeing the Civil War stature, he remarked; "Look Grandma! Its Jesus and he's got a gun!"

Annual Meeting

Seventy five members attended the Annual Meeting of the Bedford Historical Society on May 6th. Members convened at the Astorhurst to enjoy Lemon Chicken or Breaded Pork Chops. The business portion of the meeting included election of this year's Trustees and a vote to allow the current president one additional year to serve due to the construction project. A report from the Ad Hoc Endowment Committee resulted in passing a resolution to create and manage a Fund with the Cleveland Foundation.

Chris Mallin was honored for encouraging us into the world of cyberspace and developing our first website. We recognized long time volunteers LuVerne Skillicorn and Mary Houghton who continue to serve as docents for events. We recognized teen volunteers, Tim Grubb and Joe Ross for their hours of service. Tim Grubb will be attending Mount Vernon Nazarene University in the Fall.

Our speaker for the evening was Dr. Neil Glazer who presented the story of Col. Franklin Sawyer of the 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. It was a great evening.

Welcome New Trustees

We welcome Kathie Rice and Jack Ulman as incoming Trustees for the Society. They join Jim Rice, Ron Lisy, Evelyn Sawastuk and Brian Melling who consented to serve a second term. We thank Betsy Lee and Bob Schroeter, Sr. for their service. According to by-laws, Trustees must rotate off the Board after two consecutive terms. Bob Schroeter, Sr. consented to serve an additional year as President due to the construction project. This was voted upon at the Annual Meeting.

A Memorial Building Committee

A committee has been formed to design and order the plaque for the new building. Stan Koci, Marilyn Koci, Rose Grossenbaugh, Betsy Lee, Joyce Maruna and Kathie Rice will choose a design fitting for the project. The final date for listing names 'in Memory of', 'in Honor of', 'a Bequest from', the 'President's 1K Challenge', 'from members & friends' and 'Corporate & Business Sponsors' is August 31, 2004. Anyone wishing to sit on the committee is asked to call Stan & Marilyn Koci, 440 439-6438. Thank you.

Summer Season is Tourist Season

Summer in Bedford brings many visitors to the Museum, Viaduct Park and throughout the town. Some of our farthest visitors are the feathered variety. The largest chimney on the 1892 Old Church on the Square (Community Building) is host to thousands of Chimney Swifts. The Swifts are fast little birds noted for their daredevil dives into the chimney at sunset. Our 'people' visitors enjoy sitting on the Square and watching the show. The birds will arrive in late Spring and depart in early Autumn for their winter home in Peru and Ecuador. Quite a journey! They cause no damage to the chimney or surrounding property; we are quite delighted to have them visit and munch a few thousand mosquitoes. Hopefully this year, they will adjust to newly routed high tension lines.

Our Stamp Collection

The Bedford Historical Society has had a disorganized stamp collection for many years. This winter, member Lester Pratt, a stamp collector himself, started to organize the collection. The results are beautiful. Lester has mounted the stamps according to the latest methods and is annotating the collection to highlight significant stamps. *This project can use your help: we need more stamps!* Please save the entire front of an envelope or cut the entire upper quarter of the envelope including the cancellation mark. This is a good project for those members who are unable to volunteer at the Museum and want to help. Of particular interest are the commemoratives. Lester says that we are all into 'quick self sticking stamps' and don't take the time to use commemoratives anymore. Stamps can be dropped off at the Museum or mailed to our PO Box 46282, Bedford, OH 44146. Duplicate stamps will not be wasted; Lester will use them as trades to obtain ones for our collection. Any year stamp is appreciated, old or current. We are mainly concentrating on U.S. postage. Stamps are an important part of history. Our collection may introduce a young visitor to a lifelong hobby. Thank you.

The Keeping Society

In New England, preservation groups are known as *Keeping Societies*. They determine why something is significant and how to preserve it. Catchy little phrase- 'Keeping Society'!

Have You Seen the Building Addition Lately?



Our building addition to make the Town Hall Museum accessible to everyone is about 60% completed at this date. The outside of the structure is up and workers have been busy inside installing plumbing, lighting, dry wall and, of

course, the elevator. Left to do is installation of the windows. Our neighbor, Russ Masetta, owner of Nature Stone Floors has graciously donated a beautiful Nature Stone floor for the main lobby. This is a great cost saving to the project and certainly is a premier covering that should last many years. If you see Russ, please tell him you are a member and thank him. Several of you already have a Nature Stone floor so you know how great it will be.



Post construction work will take the remainder of the summer and into the Fall to complete. Preservation of portions of the 1874 exterior, rewiring portions of the interior, unpacking and setting up

exhibits must all be accomplished before we can open to the public. Please fill out the volunteer form so that we know when you can help. It will take all of us working together.



Another Construction Project

One of our other buildings is in the midst of construction- the Dunham House. The building itself is doing just fine, but the front landscaping has been deteriorating steadily. The City of Bedford approached us about giving an easement for the front footage; this was for inclusion in the Historic District Streetscape Beautification Project. Most of the front is being completed as part of the project at no cost to the Society. The arrangement is most appreciated due to our tight budget constraints. The money for the project is grant money obtained by Economic Development Director, Rebecca Corrigan.

The back of the Dunham House remains a perplexing problem. Restoration of the Sedlon Art Garden would be a fitting use including a shelter. Young artists could visit and learn from a visiting master teacher. Lack of funds will table the project for the time being.

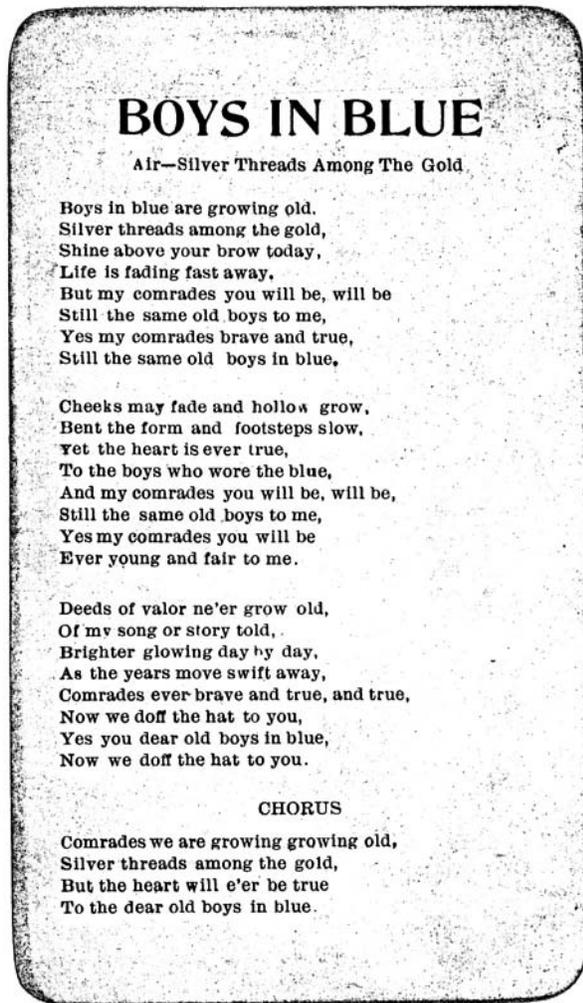
CRS Tour a Success

The Cleveland Restoration Society tour of Historic Bedford proved to be a popular event on April 25th. Seventy four visitors toured our buildings plus the Gates Handyside House, the old Post Office (now Doty & Miller Architects), the former Masonic Lodge (now a Sikh Temple) and the Christian and Methodist churches. The weather forecast called for heavy rain all day but it was mild and dry for the three hours of the tour. For this we are grateful for the Methodist, Christian and Sikh prayers.

Next Season's Lyceum Series

Our popular educational series has ended for the year; bookings are just about complete for next season. We will kick off the series on September 9th in the sanctuary of the old church. The program will be a brief history of Scottish immigration to the US including Bedford. We will augment the lecture with a musical program. A bagpiper and Scottish harpist will play. This program is in memory of long time member, Marion Henderson whose parents emigrated from Scotland. The next issue of the Bee will include the entire Lyceum schedule for the season.

MEMORIAL DAY MAY 31, 2004 10:00AM



From the archives: Words to a song honoring the GAR.

The Grand Army of the Republic consisted of veterans from the Union forces during the Civil War. Bedford had a strong contingency of GAR vets and it hosted several encampments.

The GAR was first organized in Decatur Ill. by Dr. Benj. Stephenson and the Rev. Wm. Rutledge who both served with the 14th Ill Volunteers. Its objectives were 'fraternity, commemoration, and assistance to its members.' The GAR established soldiers' homes and programs for the care and education of soldier's orphans. We owe our Memorial Day holiday to the GAR.

The members made a pact that the organization would only allow soldiers who served in the Civil War. When Albert Woolson died on August 2, 1956 at 109 yrs of age, the GAR ceased to exist. Its records are held at the Library of Congress and its objects are in the Smithsonian Institute. The Bedford Historical Society is the keeper of local GAR artifacts and archives.

Bedford's Memorial Day ceremony has honored veterans from the Civil War through to the present conflict in Iraq. See you on the Square.

Thanks to our many members who donated pillowcases. The cases are being used to protect portions of our scrapbook

Obituaries

Richard Long; Member Richard R. Long passed away on February 9, 2004. He was a member of the Bedford Historical Society since 1986. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy (nee: Brott); son Rick (Lisa) and granddaughter Rachel. Dick was active in the First Baptist Church of Bedford and was a Mason.

Margaret "Peg" Richardson; Long time supporter of the Bedford Historical Society, Peg Richardson, passed away March 1, 2004 in Peoria Arizona. Peg was a member of the Society since 1964 and supported many projects. She was a resident of Bedford for many years before retiring to Arizona. Peg was an elementary school teacher for 38 years.

She is survived by her nieces Wendy Krauss and Cheryl Doyle.

Leslie D. Demand; Les Demand died on March 9, 2004. He was a supporter of the Historical Society particularly through the Annual Reverse Raffle. Poor health prevented him from attending this year. He was the loving father of Anthony and Christopher and the grandfather of Madison.

Leah Sykora; Long time member, Leah Sykora passed away on March 11, 2004 in Troy Michigan. She had been living closer to her daughter in the Michigan area for the past several years. She was the wife of Joseph who preceded her in death. She was the mother of Sandy (Ray) Stillwell and Keith (Sofia). Leah was an active member when her health was better. She, along with her cousins Lois Wardley and Luverne Skillicorn, were faithful volunteers at the Bedford Historical Society. The family suggests contributions be made in Leah's memory to the Bedford Historical Society.

Ruth Lehman; Ruth Lehman passed away on April 26, 2004. Ruth was a member since 1985. She was a Bedford High graduate and, after college, entered the teaching profession. She taught for 36 years in the Bedford School System and in Chagrin Falls. Ruth was active in the Bedford First United Methodist Church, including playing the piano for services. She was preceded in death by her husband, 'Bud' and is survived by sons, Paul and Dave.

Lu Fuhrmeyer; Member Lu Fuhrmeyer (nee: Wolf) passed away on April 18, 2004. She was a member since 1995. Lu is preceded in death by a son, Andrew. She was the loving mother of Gwyn (John) Turkaly. She leaves many loving friends.

We received information that members: Mike Hoychuk and Sandra Swyrydenke had passed away. No information is available.

*It has been awhile since we sent a volunteer sheet.
Please take a few minutes to see if you can help with one
or more of the projects scheduled for this summer.
Thank you.*

Special Volunteer opportunities

1. _____ I can march in the parade. (Memorial Day
&/or 4th of July)

2. Strawberry Festival:

I can help:

_____ Friday evening

_____ Saturday

_____ Sunday

I would be able to:

_____ serve ice cream and berries

_____ Trash detail

_____ Host in our buildings

_____ I can help clean up Sunday
Evening

3. I can help unpack and set up exhibits this
summer.

The best time for me to help is:

_____ Tuesday mornings or afternoons

_____ Monday evenings

_____ Thursday mornings or afternoons

4. _____ I (and my children/ grandchildren) can
help pop popcorn on Wednesday evenings this
summer.

**Thank you for your continued commitment. The success
of the Bedford Historical Society is dependent upon your
willingness to serve.**

Name: _____

Phone: _____

The 50th Anniversary of the



Bedford Historical Society

Next year marks the 50th anniversary of the
Bedford Historical Society. Let's celebrate in a
grand way! Several of you have submitted great
ideas. Let's form a committee and work out the
details for a bang up celebration.

Are you a party animal?

You're just the person to help with this
celebration.

Lets talk, we'll do lunch!



Come and Visit Your Museum

Where is one of the most popular spots for a
brown bag lunch? Your Town Hall Museum on
Thursdays! Pack a lunch or buy one at one of our
restaurants in town and join the crowd. Some of the
crowd is morning volunteers, some are afternoon
volunteers, and some of the lunch bunch only has
time to stop in for lunch. If you are in the area, stop
in and join us. We'll pull a chair up for you.

Remember, there is a hard hat waiting for you at
the Museum. Many of our members have already
stopped in to tour the new addition. Wear a firm
soled shoe and stop in for a peak at the future. It is
our pleasure to show you your hard earned
donations at work.