

# The Bedford Bee.

BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P. O. Box 46282  
Bedford, Ohio 44146

1955 – 2005 50 Years of Keeping History

December 2004 – February 2005 Issue 279

## Calendar of Events

### December 11, 2004 Saturday Noon – 4:00pm

*Annual Christmas Open House.* Bring your friends and family on Saturday for the Annual Christmas Open House. This is in conjunction with the Christmas In Bedford Falls Festival. Something for everyone-music, tours, entertainment, and carriage rides.

### January 6, 2005 Thursday 8:00pm; Lyceum-

*The World of Button Collecting;* Member Kathie Rice presents a fascinating history of buttons. She brings along beautiful examples from her grandmother's extensive collection.

### February 3, 2005 Thursday 8:00pm; Lyceum- A

*History of Chocolate;* Member Joyce Maruna tells the intriguing history of chocolate. The story contains intrigue, espionage and secret recipes. Skip dessert, we will be sampling chocolates from around the world!

### March 5, 2005 Saturday- Annual Reverse Raffle

It's a '50s Be-bopping' good time; In honor of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Reverse Raffle has a 50s theme. Get out those poodle skirts and roll up those sleeves! Special menu and extra prizes in honor of our 50<sup>th</sup>.

*'To Collect, Preserve and Interpret the history of Bedford, Bedford Township and portions of the Western Reserve.'*



## New Addition Open

October 2,  
2004 – a day to

remember: The Town Hall Museum was dedicated. The dedication program included inspiring words and a special blessing, an explanation of the Masonic Cornerstone Laying ceremony and choral arrangements from the Golden Tones. Plus delicious treats.

Our 'ribbon cutters' were Louise Ake, a member since 1959 and Elise Lingenfield, our newest member.

Over 250 visitors gave the new elevator a workout! The second and third floor exhibits are now accessible for everyone.

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*How to reach us 440 232-0796*

*Bedfordohiohistory.org*

*PO Box 46282, Bedford OH 44146*

*Town Hall Museum: Mon. & Wed. 7:30pm – 10:00pm; Thurs. 10:00am – 4:00pm*

*Second Sunday Monthly 2:00pm – 5:00pm.*

*Dunham House: Second Sunday April – October 2:00pm – 5:00pm*

*W&LE Depot: Open Houses*

*All buildings are open by appointment year round.*  
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*'To win a smile at fortune, wink at trouble.'*  
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## Thanks for the Loan of Your Coat Hanger

If you have a coat hanger on display at the museum, please make arrangements to collect your treasure. We will be disassembling the collection soon. Visitors enjoyed the stories attached to these common items. We had over 50 hangers, no two alike.

**Proudly Flying High**

*For your information:*

**Donations to the Museum, Library and Archives**

Members, friends and those interested in the preservation of historically significant objects and information, have donated many items to the museums, library and archives of the Bedford Historical Society. This year alone, sixty-three donors gave 304 objects that were accessioned into the museums' collections. In addition, papers, photos and related ephemera were accepted into the archives and several books were donated to the library. Donations help us to share history.

**Chilcote Railroad Memorabilia Added**

The family of Robert Chilcote Jr., Bedford Class of 1958, has donated his collection of Railroad artifacts, books and papers to the Bedford Historical Society. Mr. Chilcote enjoyed railroad history since childhood and was an ardent collector. It was his wishes upon his death to donate the collection to the Society for the pleasure and research of those interested in American Railroad history. We are grateful to his family for the donation. With the addition of the Chilcote Collection added to the Leonard Siegel Collection and additional materials, the Society now has an extensive holding of railroad history.

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'Life is made of time, don't waste it.'  
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**Donations Still Accepted**

As we enjoy the new addition to the Town Hall, please remember that we owe app. \$30,000 for its construction. Your end of the year charitable donation to the Town Hall Building Addition fund is tax-deductible. The hall plaques mounted in the new lobby will be periodically updated to include new donors until the total amount is raised. Your thoughtful consideration is most appreciated.

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Curran have donated a special flag in honor of their son, Kevin. The flag flew in the face of the enemy at a prisoner of war detention center in Afghanistan. You can see it waving proudly by the new addition to the Town Hall museum. Kevin is serving in the military in Afghanistan. We thank the Currans for their donation.

We wish Kevin, and all of our military, a safe tour of duty and Godspeed home.

**New on the National Register:  
The Bedford Historic Business District**

It is official, the National Park Service and the Ohio Historic Preservation Office have announced that the Bedford Business District is officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The district is roughly bound between the Powers & Columbus Rd intersection south to Franklin St and a bit beyond. It includes the unique Masonic Hall on Tarbell and all of Bedford Public Square to Willis St.

Restoration of several of the buildings within the district has been on going. We applaud those owners who have returned these building facades to the way they looked when constructed. It allows visitors to the city an opportunity to enjoy the architecture and history that is uniquely Bedford.

Congratulations to the City of Bedford and the Bedford Community Development Corporation for collaborating with the Bedford Historical Society to get the area listed. The Bedford CDC covered expenses to hire a consultant who wrote the proposal and made the presentation.

*(Editors note: Out of town readers- The latest shopping 'malls' in greater Cleveland are designed to look like an old-fashioned business district similar to Bedford's own!)*  
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'No road is long with good company.'  
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It is dues time again; the envelope is enclosed. We will anxiously await your yearly dues. Thank you.

## Oral History...

*This is a third segment from reminiscences of Ned Hubbell. A Bedford resident for his entire life, Ned wrote "Life in Bedford, 1813 – 1970". The book was published by the Bedford Historical Society in 1972 and is out of print. In this segment, he discusses 'rural Bedford Township' and the fall and winter seasons.*

"The winding hilly roads were bordered by dogwood trees and picturesque rail fences frequently covered by wild roses, honeysuckle and bittersweet vines. Rollicking bobolinks warbled above the fields of buttercups and daisies, red winged blackbirds flitted about the roadside cattail swamps and cheery goldfinches fed upon the seeds of thistles and teasel. Big farmhouses, great red barns, silos and corncribs dotted the countryside and in early autumn, the goldenrod and ironweed blossoms fringed our roads. The later fall was bright with ripened fruit and picturesque with big shocks of corn and yellow pumpkins, while the countryside looked cozy in winter with great cords of wood stored against the cold.

In severe weather, when the people could not be comfortable out of doors, youngsters read or played such games as checkers, dominos, marbles, crockinole, authors. Adults played card games such as seven-up, pedro, cribbage and euchre. Sometimes they indulged in the now lost art of conversation and at parties, they played such games as charades and anagrams.

When they could get outdoors in the winter, boys and girls coasted down hill in the daytime and after dark, particularly on "Disciple Hill" down Broadway and Union Street from the railroad to the bridge over Tinkers Creek or down Langmuir Hill starting at the railroad overpass on Walton Road down Walton Hill to Union Street and down to the bridge, a distance of perhaps two or three hundred yards. The water in Tinkers Creek was much higher then than now due to the several dams and youngsters skated under the bridge."

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'Good examples are the best sermons.'

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'Do the best you can and leave the results to time.'

## The Dunham House Project

Can you imagine no running water in your house? No heat to take the chill off a spring evening? No refrigeration to keep foods fresh? No switch to illuminate a room with electric light?

Members, Brett and Becky Johnson, will tell you about it after they reside in the historic Dunham House for a week next spring.

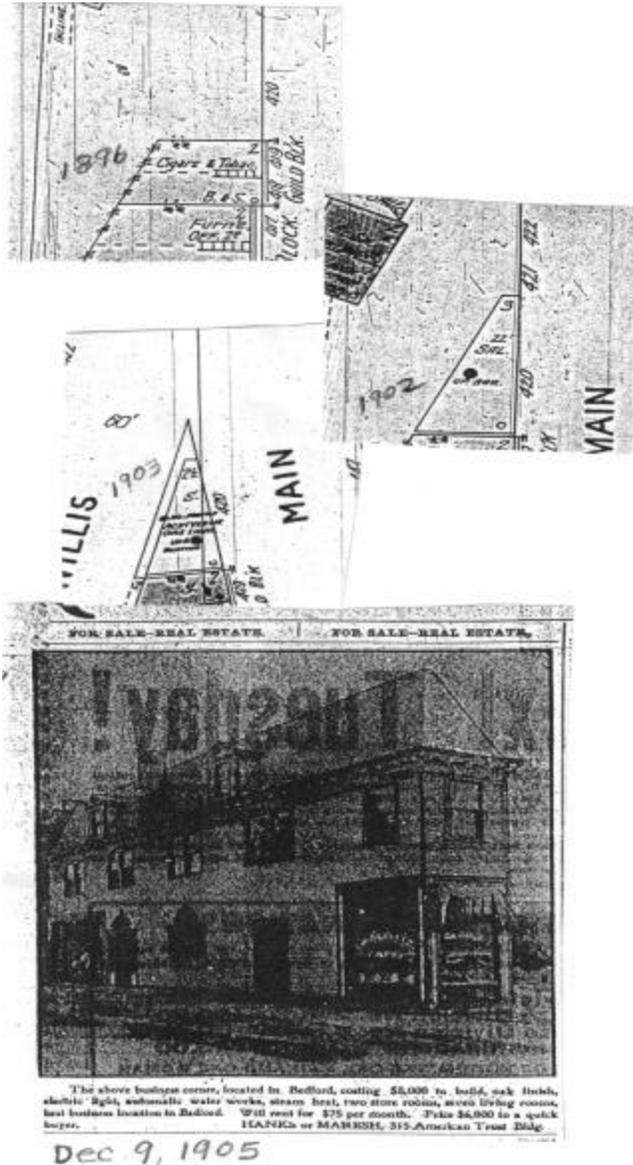
The Johnsons are both master teachers in the Bedford School District and are part of a team that is developing curriculum materials for third graders. Students will be researching and preparing the Johnsons to stay in the Dunham House for one week. The Bedford Historical Society, Bedford City School District and the Southeast Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library have been collecting ideas since last spring.

Linda Sleeman, branch librarian, is assembling books on life in the 1800s for students, parents and volunteers to review. Classroom teachers will be able to choose projects from a variety of backgrounds.

*You can be a part of this endeavor.* We are looking for classroom visitors to help teachers and students prepare items necessary for the 'time travelers'. A class may choose to make a quilt, stuff a cornhusk mattress or make early games i.e. checkers for entertainment. They can research poetry or recitations for an evening's presentation and prepare simple food choices for the Johnsons to take. The residents will need some 'good neighbors' to visit with prepared foods; just as a new neighbor would in Bedford 150 years ago. Perhaps you have a skill to share with a class. We already have an offer of a circuit preacher to visit the residents. What can you think the Dunham House residents will need?

The Johnsons will have one modern tool during their stay- a computer. Students will be able to e-mail the Johnsons and read their logbook or ask what they are doing at that time.

Call Janet at the museum, 440 232-0796 if you have an idea or can share an hour or two to help in a classroom or visit the Dunham House during the Johnson's stay. Lets share our excitement about history with the next generation.



### The Corner of Main and Willis

The picture and maps above show the corner where Pidala Law Office is today. The busy intersection had a triangular wooden building for sale in a Cleveland Real Estate publication on December 9, 1905. The wording below the picture reads: "The above business corner, located in Bedford, costing \$8,000 to build, oak finish, electric light, automatic water works, steam heat, two store rooms, seven living rooms, best business location in Bedford. Will rent for \$75 per month. Price \$6,000 to a quick buyer."

Note that this is one of a few buildings made of wood constructed after the 1893 fire in the business district. Most other buildings were constructed of brick and still stand today.

*(Thanks to Craig Bobby, for supplying the above information. Craig is one of the best sleuths of historic structures around. We are pleased that he researched a piece of Bedford's past.)*

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 'He who has a good nest finds good friends.'  
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 'Better to sit still than rise to fall.'  
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### About Those Inserted Sayings

By now, you have noticed several sayings inserted throughout this newsletter. Where have you read these lines recently? If you have visited the Town Hall museum, you are closer to the answer than you think. If you can solve the mystery of where these sayings appear, drop your answer in the mail to 'Mystery Sayings' Bedford Historical Society, PO Box 46282, Bedford OH 44146. If your answer is correct, it will be entered into a drawing with other correct answers. The winner will receive a \$20 gift certificate from the Museum Gift Shop. Just in time for Christmas shopping! Deadline: December 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Dedication Booklets

A limited number of copies of the Town Hall dedication booklet are available at the Museum. The booklets can be mailed for a donation of \$3.00 to cover shipping and handling or stop in for a copy.

Jules Rhine has donated a beautiful book of color photos from the event. It is available to view at the museum.

### Obituaries

The Bedford Historical Society lost member Kenneth D. Crowl on October 15, 2004. Ken was a member since 1992. He leaves a loving family that includes his wife, Vivian and three daughters, Cathy McFarlane, Caren (Ron) Trivett, Cynthia (Rick) Trivett and a son, Jeffrey (Jan). He was a grandfather and great grandfather.

Ken served his country in the U.S. Navy. He was active in the Bedford Lions Club. He was a Little League coach for many years and an avid golfer.

Our sympathy to member Betty MacAlonan on the death of her son, Robert on Sept. 6, 2004.