

The Bedford Bee.

BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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June-August 2005
Issue 281

Up Coming Events

May 14, 2005 Saturday 10:00am- 'Historical Happenings Tour'. Joint tour with the Cleveland Metroparks. Meet at the 1874 Town Hall to start. We will end up at Viaduct Park. No charge but call the Metroparks if you plan to attend. 216 341-3152

May 19, 2005 Thursday 6:00pm- 1880s Dinner. The first of our Foods from Bedford's Kitchens series. (This is filled).

June 10, 11 and 12, 2005- Annual Strawberry Festival
Great entertainment, lots of food and berries! Schedule enclosed with this newsletter.

August 13, 2005 Saturday 9-4- Annual Flea Market on the Square.

August 18, 2005 Thursday 6:00pm- 1950s Dinner. The second on our series about Foods from Bedford's Kitchens. Have a favorite from your Mom's kitchen?

September 8, 2005 Thursday- First Lyceum of the 2005-06 season. Schedules will be mailed in the next newsletter.

Every Wednesday evening June through August- Parties-in-the Park. Bring the lawn chair and enjoy these wonderful summer evenings.

Lyceum on Hiatus for Summer

Thank you for your support of this past season's Lyceum series. The popular educational lectures were well attended by the community. The April program honored Bedford artist, Kristen Boyesen. Kristen discussed the influences that inspired her paintings. Her renditions of local Western Reserve landscapes are beautiful. Kristen's works are shown in several galleries in the area.

We have been able to offer these lectures without charge through the generosity of members like you.

Adopt-a-Room?

Regular dusting keeps our exhibit areas looking good for visitors and helps preserve our collections. Would you be willing to 'adopt-a-room' and dust the artifacts periodically? Call the museum if you can help. Thank you.

Annual Dinner Meeting Held

The Annual Dinner Meeting of the Bedford Historical Society was held on May 5th at La Casa Bella in Oakwood Village. The food was, of course, delicious. Six people were elected as trustees for a three-year term ending in 2008. We welcome: Jim Harding for a second three year term and Betsy Lee who is coming back on the board after rotating off for a year according to the by-laws. We welcome first time members: Mr. Phil Saunders, a Bedford Hts. Councilman and community activist. Mrs. Lola Gergye, Mrs. Kathie Williams and Mr. Ralph King, all citizens of Bedford and active in the community.

The Society thanks Bob Hamilton, Art Dickard, Ed Romito, Jay Squire and Pete Dickson for their tenure as board members. Bob Schroeter, Sr. was thanked for serving as President for the past four years. Officers will be chosen at the first meeting of the new board in late May.

Andy and Lynn Jones were acknowledged for their many volunteer hours and their commitment to the Society. They continue to serve in many capacities for the betterment of the Bedford Historical Society.

The program was a multimedia presentation about the History of the Bedford Historical Society. The text and pictures will be available on the Society's website for those members who were unable to attend.

The evening ended with a delicious piece of Anniversary Cake.

From the Archives

Joyce Maruna notes...

Items that bring a smile to the archivist's day-- a bill dated 1916, from the Orchard Supply Co.: "We dislike to disappoint you by not making our bill as large as we originally quoted, but were unable to do so."

1837 Document Purchased for Society

Lester and Helen Pratt have purchased a significant document for the archives. A letter and the envelope were placed on E-bay, the on-line auction house in March of this year. There is a wax seal on the envelope and no stamp but it is marked 25 cents for the mailing. The letter has two writers, a husband and his wife; both were early settlers in Bedford in 1837. From the letter we learn that Mr. Stern was a tailor by trade. His wife spun wool and knitted socks and mittens. They had friends in Streetsboro. They write about visiting Cleveland. They tell of life in this early Western Reserve town. Included is a drawing of their house being built on Dunham Street (now Woodrow). The house still remains.

Excerpts from the letter: (*Mr. Stern, to Dear Father*)

‘We are in good health and my business thus far this fall has been as good as could reasonably be expected considering that the times are very hard. I employ but one girl now to assist me. My brother who came out with me proves a great assistance to us. He chops all our wood, runs of errands, assists about the house and does many chores which would otherwise consume my time, which should be devoted to my business. We have purchased a good cow 6 years old from which we make more butter than we want to use and so we put it down against the time she is dry she will be a new milk cow in March. We paid 20 dollars for her. Hay here is 6 dollars a ton, wheat \$1.25 per bushel corn 63 cts and oats 38 cents. Beef is from 4 to 6 dollar per cwt. (*ed. note: cwt = hundred weight*)

‘We are going to build us a dwelling house this year if we can, so that we shall not be obliged to pay 50 dollars a year for a house not convenient, and have to move over a year. I will write you what calculations we have made and should like to know how you approve of them. I have bought a lot 4 rods square lying very pleasantly about 8 rods from Main Street elevated a little above Main Street for which I pay 75 dollars to be paid wholly in my work. I have taken a deed and given my Note to be paid in work Lots lying on Main Street are selling at 300 dollars, and I thought I should prefer one a little retired.’

(*Mr. Stern to ‘Dear Sister’*)

‘we hope to see you here next season I do not know as I should advise you to come to Ohio to stay for it is much pleasanter living in Mass on account of society at least. We mean to return to Mass to live when we get rich, but we should like to have you come out on a visit and stay as long as you please. Perhaps your father will come out with you next spring.’

(*ed. note: Helen Batko is tracing this family genealogy.*)

Our sincere appreciation to the Pratts for purchasing these documents for the archives.

Genealogy Request

Mr. Richard Ganofsky, son of Carolyn Falzini (BHS Class of 1953) is researching the Szabo and Falzini families. His grandmother was Erma Rose, daughter of Alexander and Kaitlin Szabo. Mr. Ganofsky can be reached at <rganofsky@hotmail.com> or call the museum to leave a message for him. Mr. Ganofsky is a Thursday volunteer at the museum and has been helping others trace their roots.

The Mystery Sayings

Our contest to find the mystery sayings somewhere in the museum was finally figured out by two museum regulars- Joyce Maruna and Helen Batko. They found the sayings in the ‘modern’ 1920s kitchen. Each piece of china on display has one of the quaint sayings baked in. This type of china is called Torquay ware and was made in England from the 1870s to the 1960s. The lettering is inscribed in the clay before firing. Our set is from the estate of Richard and Anne Sedlon.

Elmer Flick Archives Enriched

The Society extends its thanks to member Jim Wagner for his donation of additional material about Bedford’s baseball great, Elmer Flick. Jim was researching information about Flick for the Bedford School District. His material includes documentation that was not originally in our archives.

Elmer Flick was a baseball hero 100 years ago. He played most of his career with the old Cleveland Naps. He holds the 5th all time leading record for stolen bases. Flick was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1963. He lived his entire life in Bedford Ohio. The Flick homestead during the years he played ball still stands across from the new city hall on Center Road. It is on the corner of Elm St. at Center. Flick lived in several homes throughout town during his lifetime.

Fred Schuld, another member, recently donated a photocopy of Elmer Flick in uniform with his Philly teammates. Flick played for Philadelphia prior to his tenure with the Cleveland Naps. We thank both of these members for contributing to our archives.

Thank you for completing the volunteer profile’. Those of you interested in preparing exhibits will have a chance to help with the print shop. We will be working Thursday afternoons and Monday evenings starting in mid June.

Special Oral History in honor of our 50th Anniversary.

Joanne Rose continues her four part series taken from the oral history of former director and founding member, Dick Squire.

By Joanne Rose Part II.

Track

“In high school I went out for track in my junior year...and barely made it(*Dick’s wry humor here*). I won the Eastern Greater Cleveland Conference for the 440 and anchored the mile relay. Also won the District Championship in the 440. At the State I got 3rd in the final of the 440. There were just two classifications at that time: Class A and Class B. We were in the Class A which included the big schools. The Bedford High track was the same old soft muddy cinder track that was used in 1994. The new track is much faster than the old one ever was.

“ At Ohio State, I co-captained the track team and ranked 17th on the all time list of world half milers. In the Big Ten Meet I was 2nd behind Charlie Beetham, who was a national champion. I anchored the winning mile relay that year also. Finished 5th in the country at the National Collegiate... Also participated at Madison Square Gardens, the Boston Gardens and all over the East.

“ After college Charlie and I formed a mile relay team with two others. We set a World Indoor Record at the National Championship in Madison Square Gardens, where I finished 3rd. All our expenses were paid, but we made no money because it was strictly amateur.

“After I returned to Bedford I volunteered at Bedford High track meets for a long time. Then the District set a ruling that a starter has to have a license- take tests and everything. I didn’t want to bother with that. I enjoyed being a starter a lot because I met all the kids. One year at a GCC Meet the official starter never showed up. So I had to go out there and start that meet. It worked out OK. I didn’t get any complaints- at least I didn’t hear any complaints.”

Oral History Project a Success

On May 6th students from Bedford High School interviewed several old-timers from the days of automobile racing in Northeast Ohio. Bedford with its rich transportation history was a center for early auto racing particularly Sportsman’s Park. The students and interviewees had lunch together, watched a short video of races from the 1950s and then got down to work recording memories and stories. The students are transcribing their interviews so that the histories can be published by the Society. Every participant will receive a copy of the published work.

Dunham House Project

At this writing, the Dunham House is alive with activity the week of May 9th. Members and master teachers, Brett and Becky Johnson are occupying the house as part of a local history project in conjunction with Bedford City Schools and the local County Library. Third graders have been making gifts and planning activities for the Dunhams. One class has made candles, another class made soap. A class made a quilt. Some classes researched songs, poetry and readings from the 1850s so that the ‘residents’ would have entertainment. Our own members have planned meals and offered insight into life at that time. Anne Laslo, a Columbus Road School teacher produced a study guide for all of the classes involved. Member, Linda Sleeman, our children’s librarian, found all the necessary books for adults and children involved in the project. Linda could tell us what songs were sung, what games were played, what foods were eaten and what clothes were worn! The ‘Dunhams’ are having several notable visitors: a seed sales clerk from Medina County is visiting with a sampling of seeds from that time. Our local Methodist minister, Robt. Dieterich is stopping by as a circuit preacher from the era. A knitting circle and a Quilter’s Club plan to visit. Brett and Becky are entertaining city, county and state officials one afternoon for Tea. And, of course, they have over 200 schoolchildren visiting throughout the week.

The Johnsons and those involved in the planning will speak about the Dunham House Project at the October 6th Lyceum. Our gratitude to them, Bedford City Schools and the Southeast Branch of the Cuyahoga County Library for their cooperation.

We planned this project to get kids excited about history ,instead, the whole town got excited about the project!

Meet Our New Librarian

Paul Pojman has accepted the position of Librarian for the Society and was approved by the Board of Trustees. Paul has been a school librarian for many years. Our historic library has well over 12,000 volumes, many first editions and some tomes over 200 years of age. This poses a particular challenge for a librarian- *not only is the content of the books important, but the books themselves become important historical objects*. If you have time to help Paul with book repair, cataloguing, typing, and shelving, please call or stop in.

Paul has been helping our archivist, Joyce Maruna for several months. Their duties include an assessment of current and future needs. This is in anticipation of a reconfiguration of the first floor of the Town Hall Museum to better serve our members and patrons.

Bedford Public Square- a new photo

Member, Holsey Handyside, recently donated an interesting photo of Bedford Public Square. The framed sepia tone photo is marked on the back to Mrs. Eliza Grier, Charlotte Michigan, Compliments of Henry Bowers, Bedford Ohio July 2, 1887.

The photo looks southwest past a newly installed Civil War Monument. The statue is surrounded by construction dirt. It was dedicated on July 3, 1886. Trees are in bloom in the photo. These details help us date the photo to probably late spring or early summer 1886. The structure on the left was part Dr. Hubbard's property. When the Baptists purchased his property to build their second church at the corner, the little building was moved to Washington Street where it still stands today in use as a home. The white church is the first Baptist Church. It was moved to Washington Street and served as a school for several years. Then it was moved again by Jack Strathdee where it lived out its life as his blacksmith shop. The Town Hall was only 12 years old when the photo was taken. It had fancy chimney tops, lightening rods on the dormers and a diamond slate pattern on the mansard. The photo reveals several steps leading down from the sidewalk in order to cross the track. The grade was lowered for the Connotton Valley Railroad when it was laid in 1882. The Town Hall front stairs were not reconfigured to the two side stairs until much later when tons of earth were removed from that side of South Park Street. There is a telegraph pole along the track and a lamp pole nearby to light the stairs at the track.

Our gratitude to Mr. Handyside for his donation.



Field Trip Ideas

Member, Jack Ulman has some field trip ideas: a visit to Grey's Armory or the Shaker Hts. Historical Society. The Armory has a complete parade ground inside and a museum on the top floor. (It is not handicapped accessible). Shaker Hts. Historical Society visited us a couple of years ago. Now it is our turn to visit and appreciate their role in keeping the history of Shaker Heights. Call Lynn Jones if you are interested. 330 467-4338 or the Museum 440 232-0796.

Meet Our Intern

The Bedford Historical Society in conjunction with the University of Akron has an intern for the next two semesters. Kevin Johns is a senior at Akron U. and is interested in pursuing a degree in museum studies. Kevin will serve as assistant to the curator and will help with the future print shop exhibit. He will work with the curator and the committee on logistics, help supervise moving equipment, prepare items for exhibit, learn about the printing trade and prepare educational signage, write educational material for docents and for students, he will help with a special opening event and also publicity for the exhibit. We look forward to working with Kevin. Stop in and meet him on Thursday afternoons. *If you would like to help with this project, call the museum 440 232-0796.*

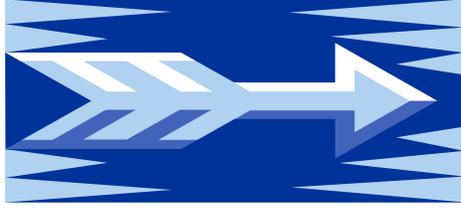
Obituaries

Christopher Hetherington Hedley; Long distance member, Chris Hedley passed away on December 27, 2004. Mr. Hedley and his wife, Pamela visited the Bedford Historical Society to do genealogical research. He became a life member in 2000. Mr. Hedley lived in Los Angeles California.

Ruth Locher; Member Ruth Naomi (nee Horn) Locher passed away on January 31, 2005 at the age of 97 in Newark Oh. She had been a member of the Society since 1988. Ruth was a member of the Bedford 1st United Methodist Church. She was the wife of the late James and mother of Sharon (Jim) Low, Galen (Susie) and Rae Ann (David) Bethel. She was a loving grandmother and great-grandmother.

Charlotte Smith; Word has been received that member Charlotte Smith passed away in California on February 27, 2005. Charlotte was a member since 1973. She grew up in Bedford but lived in California for many years.

Caryl Gremillion; The Society's longest card-carrying member died in Columbus on March 30, 2005. Caryl (nee Wright) Gremillion was one of the first members of the Bedford Historical Society when it was formed. She joined in 1959. Caryl was active in the life of Bedford and was a member of the Bedford 1st United Methodist Church and the Bedford Music Club. Caryl was the daughter of Bayard and Frances (Black) Wright. She was the mother of Marianne Thompson and loving grandmother of Meridith Lee Thompson .



HELP WANTED

Strawberry Festival

Our Annual Strawberry Festival is geared to kick off on Friday June 10th. Please call the museum 440 232-0796 to be a host in the buildings, call Betsy Lee, 440 735-0135 to help sell tickets or work in the booths or call Chris Sweet 440 439-7470 to serve berries and ice cream..

Flea Market

Our annual Flea Market is scheduled for August 13th 9am – 4pm. Time to clean out the attic. You can rent a space for a table to sell your own stuff for \$15 (\$20 day of sale). Call Chris Sweet, 440 439-7470. Call us, 440 232-0796 if you would like to donate to the Historical Society table. Do not forget to attend. It is great fun and many dealers and neighbors have great items to sell.

Helpers on Wednesday Evening Needed

Can you help pop popcorn any Wednesday this summer? How about chaperoning our Town Hall Museum? The Parties-in-the-Park brings many visitors on Wednesdays. Please call the Museum 232-0796 or Lynn Jones, 330 467-4338 if you can help.

Dear Members,

It has been a long cold winter. We are over budget on heating our buildings and for snow plowing. Our Reverse Raffle in March, fell short of the projected goal. What does this mean? It means we need to rally around the Strawberry Festival and the Flea Market ! Our four fundraisers each year (Reverse Raffle, Strawberry Festival, Flea Market and Tea) plus your annual dues make up our yearly operating budget.

We do a great job of keeping expenses down and trimming the fat. Now it is each of our responsibility to fill the coffers.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO OUR FUND RAISING EVENTS

VOLUNTEER AN HOUR OR TWO TO HELP DURING THE EVENTS

DONATE A BIT EXTRA ON THOSE RAFFLE TICKETS THAT WE SENT

PURCHASE A MEMBERSHIP FOR A FRIEND, FAMILY MEMBER OR NEIGHBOR

TELL YOUR EMPLOYER ABOUT THE GREAT THINGS WE DO

REMEMBER US WHEN YOU WIN THE LOTTERY!!!!