

The Bedford Bee.

Bedford Historical Society
PO Box 46282
Bedford OH 44146

March – May 2008
Issue 292
440 232-0796 bedfordohiohistory.org

Up Coming Events:

March 1, 2008 Saturday 6:30 cocktails- 7:30 dinner. Annual Reverse Raffle and Dinner. Our first fundraiser of the year, this fun event hosted by the Society's Trustees will be an epicurean delight. Phil, at Catered Elegance, is planning a memorable menu with a French theme- an Evening at Moulin Rouge. Forget the weather and enjoy an evening out.

March 6, 2008 7:30 pm; Cartoon Images of Kids at Play 1900 – 1925: Fred Schuld presents an interesting discussion about the games of childhood. His slide collection of newspapers and magazine cartoons shows play patterns from this era. Join us for an interesting discussion on childhood 100 years ago.

April 2, 2008 7:30pm; Docent training (article inside).

April 3, 2008 7:30pm; A Passion for Strings Join us as we honor Bedford resident, Joel Ferren, master violinmaker and teacher. Mr. Ferren was raised in France; he is world renowned for his artisanship in violin making and repair. A champagne reception follows his presentation.

April 13, 2008 2:00 – 5:00: Annual Spring Open House Made in Bedford - The Walker China Company. It is the grand opening of our new Walker China exhibit. Bring the family for an afternoon of special music, refreshments, pottery demonstrations, children's activities and a take home keepsake.

May 8, 2008 Annual Dinner – Save the date for this special event. Invitations will be mailed with details.

A Gift From Richard Backo

Artist Richard Backo donated a painting based on historical photos. The 20 x 24 acrylic on canvas is a portrait of the old mill sites along Tinkers Creek. Rick is a frequent visitor to the museum archives where he looks for detailed images of Bedford's past. A life-long resident, his works hang in many homes in the area. We thank him for his gift of this painting to the community.

From the president-

Spring is a busy time at the Bedford Historical Society. We hope you will enjoy the programs, the special Spring Open House on April 13th and the popular Annual Dinner meeting and program.

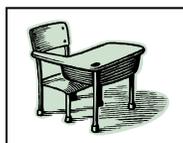
Fundraising plans are underway to help us continue to offer these events and keep our museums open. The March 1st Reverse Raffle and Dinner is the first fundraiser of the season. It is a much-needed shot in the arm of funding because of the first quarter high utility bills. The Strawberry Festival has great crafters, delicious foods, a first-class car show and, of course, the world's best strawberry shortcakes and sundaes.

A committee is working on an additional one-time fundraiser to raise money to restore the 1914 pipe organ in the old church. This special treasure is a rare organ entrusted in our keeping.

We hope you will support these efforts with your time, money and presence. Call the museum for details. Thank you, Betsy Lee

Society Receives Gift from Eagles Aerie Lodge No. 2122

The society gratefully accepted a \$5,000 donation from local lodge No. 2122 in December. The Eagles support of our programs and preservation efforts allows us to continue to serve. Donations such as this are the lifeblood of non-profit organizations that serve communities. If you know an Eagles Lodge member, please extend your thanks for their help.



Old Ways School

Thanks to the generosity of our instructors, we will again offer the Old Ways School on four Mondays in April. Please help spread the word about this program to those who enjoy learning a new skill. The brochure is enclosed with this newsletter.

Bedford History:

The Addition That Never Was....

The image to the right is from the front page of the Bedford Times. It shows the familiar late gothic style Bedford Baptist Church on the Square and an addition attached to it. The original structure was the second church building built by the Baptists. It was designed by Jacob Snyder, an Akron architect, known for a unique interior floor plan that included Sunday School space incorporated into the building. Until that time, children's bible study was in the home. This Akron Plan, as it became known, was popular at the height of the Protestant Sunday School movement in the late 1800s and early 1900s. This was the last building designed by Snyder who died before its completion in 1893.

By the 1920s, the Baptists needed more space. From the Times article, we learn that the addition was to cost \$60,000. Interior upgrades to the older portion would be included in the cost, according to Pastor J.P. Hendershot.

Competition for souls in Bedford was big business at that time. In efforts to serve the community, the top three Protestant churches had building projects in the 20s. The Disciple Church moved into new quarters at the corner of Center Rd and Blaine in 1923. The Methodists were building a new structure across the street at Center Rd and Grace St. It was completed in 1927. The Baptists planned to build the above addition and renovate the 1893 portion.

The renovation part of the project was completed. Part of the renovation included larger windows installed in the hall and a new door to the left of the main door. The building was upgraded with a central heating system.

The new addition, however, was never built. Instead, the Baptists saved their money and built their current church at the corner of Turney Rd. and Glendale in 1968.

The Old Church on the Square is currently owned by the Bedford Historical Society. We listed it on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. That is a bit of history about one of Bedford's landmark historic buildings and the addition that never was.

BEDFORD, OHIO, FEBRUARY 26, 1926

Here is How New Baptist Addition Will Look



Did You Work at Bedford's Walker China Company?

If you worked at Walker China or know someone who did, please give us a call. We are looking for employees of this Bedford company so that they can be invited to the Walker China Exhibit grand opening on Sunday April 13th.

Perhaps you would like to leave a gift to the future by recording your memories of working at the china plant. These oral histories are being captured so that future generations can read about one of Bedford's famous companies. Give the museum a call at 440 232-0796 if you would consider being interviewed.

March Lyceum- It's Child's Play

Our member and friend, Fred Schuld presents an interesting program on children at play. Fred has collected comics from the papers in the early 1900s showing children at play. His presentation shows these comics and discusses how play patterns have changed over the years.

April Lyceum- A Passion for Strings

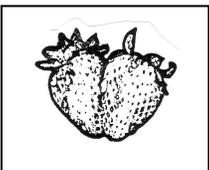
You may have heard about Joel Ferren, now meet him as we honor his accomplishments as a master violinmaker and teacher. Many people come to Bedford seeking Mr. Ferren's expertise. Join us as we learn about this interesting topic. We will share champagne and special refreshments after the program.

Salute to our Long Distance Members!

An extra *thank you* to our long distance members who pay their dues and support the society's efforts but cannot enjoy some of the benefits of membership because of the distance. Your dues and additional donations are truly appreciated in helping preserve our heritage. Hope to see you on vacation!

Docent Training

Calling all active docents, inactive docents and would-be docents. Time to review the basics about the history of this area so that our visitors can enjoy their visit. We will also review our safety procedures. Then we will tour the newest permanent exhibit that is scheduled to open on April 13th about Walker China. We will supply dessert and beverages so call in and RSVP your attendance on *Wednesday April 2nd at 7:30pm*. Thank you for your continued efforts to help keep our buildings open.



Strawberry Festival Help

The berries are not growing yet but it is time to think about helping at the

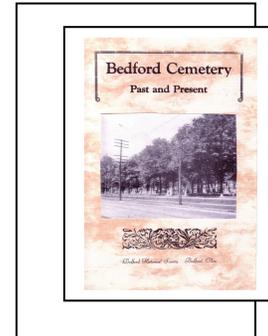
Strawberry Festival. The dates for the festival, our biggest fundraiser, are June 13, 14 & 15. We need help setting up and taking down, servers, docents, ticket sellers and raffle item donors.

The Old Dish Barrel- In past times, quantities of china were packed in wooden barrels. Barrels, made by coopers, were strong and could be tipped and rolled to a new position without too much effort. Today, we still use the term 'dish barrel' but the barrels are reinforced corrugated cardboard boxes.

If you have a dish barrel in the basement or attic, would you be willing to loan it for the Walker China Open House on April 13th? Call the museum if you can help us.

Bedford Cemetery Book is Ready

Bedford Cemetery Past and Present is ready for release. Learn about this historic area and gain an appreciation of the stonemason's art while you support the restoration project. Proceeds from the purchase of this book will be used to restore the most fragile stones in Bedford Cemetery. Many people worked to make this project successful. The book would make a great gift for someone. An order form is enclosed with this newsletter, \$7.00 inc tax.



A Health Check-up

Even museums get a check-up now and then. In February, our operations and facilities are in the process of being evaluated by one of our peers from the Ohio Historical Society. We continue to reach for that lofty goal- best practice in the museum field. Our last evaluation was five years ago. The evaluation helps us see how far we have come. It allows us to see where we need to improve. We have a public trust to do our best.



Obituary

Nelson, Martha; Word has been received that member, Martha (Patterson) Nelson passed away on August 15, 07. Martha was a member since 1987 and supported many programs of the society. As a descendent of the Dunham, Wheelock and Hubbell families, she generously donated her research to the archives. Her husband of 53 years, A. Wayne, her daughter Catherine and grandson Cory will miss her.

Our sympathy to member Jimmie Dimora and his family on the loss of his Father.