

The Bedford Bee.

Bedford Historical Society
PO Box 46282
Bedford OH 44146

June- August 2008
Issue 293
440 232-0796 bedfordohiohistory.org

Up Coming Events:

Memorial Day Parade; May 26th 10:15 am.

"They lived and died, but not in vain, for they paused with us on their way to immortality...and our world is a better place for their pausing." (from the Memorial Day program.)

Annual Strawberry Festival; June 13, 14 & 15(see enclosed flyer for details).

Annual Strawberry Festival Car Show; June 14th Saturday evening.

Annual Flea Market; Saturday August 9th 9-4. (details inside)

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Greetings from your President

It's finally spring and the Annual Dinner was wonderful and very well attended. We have many fun and labor intensive events coming in the next few months. We are open every Wednesday during the summer parties in the park and we have the best popcorn in the area. Our biggest and best fundraiser, the Annual Strawberry Festival and Car Show will be June 13, 14, 15. It keeps getting bigger and better. The Flea Market, where we can find treasures that we can't find anywhere else, is August 9.

Thank you all for your support! These events could not be a success without your continuing support. Volunteer to help if you can. Buy raffle tickets if you can. But most important - attend these events to support your Historical Society and have a great time. See you at these events and at the Museum. We always have something new and interesting.

Betsy Lee

## Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner was held on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Members and guests enjoyed good food, good company, an interesting program and an update on the activities of the society. The annual report was distributed at the meeting. Jules and Alma Rhine were honored for their years of volunteer service to the society. Alma has worked with students during school visits and other events. She has accessioned objects into the museum's collections for over eight years. Jules has been our main photographer for the past several years. He recently photographed fragile newspapers onto CDs and is currently working on the cemetery project.

Six citizens were elected to serve as Trustees for the term ending 2011. Betsy Lee, Kathie Williams, Phil Saunders and Ralph King consented to a second three-year term as allowed in the by-laws. Rose Grossenbaugh and John Whittaker were elected for first terms. Rose served as a trustee a few years ago and helped raise funds for the new addition. She is active in community events and has had the honor of serving as first lady when her husband Donald served as mayor of Bedford. John Whittaker, owner of Non-Ferrous Heat Treating, has been active in community events and other organizations for many years. This is his first term as a trustee for the society. We welcome these citizens and thank them for serving on the Board of Trustees.

Tim Taylor, Northeast Ohio's most trusted news anchor, was our speaker. He retired in 2006 after 40 years in broadcasting. Tim spoke about his years growing up in Bedford and how he became a TV news anchor. He shared amusing anecdotes and gave us an insider's view of the world of broadcasting.

Those attending received custom-made note cards from the society's collection of antique cuts. Lester Pratt, Katie and Gary Butzback printed the beautiful stationary on the museum's 1894-letter press. One hundred people attended the evening.

*Part of an earring was found after the Annual Dinner. If you lost this piece of jewelry, please call the museum office.*

## **Thanks to the Old Ways School Teachers!**

Thanks to the instructors who shared their time and talent, we offered Letterpress Printing, Knitting & Crocheting, Old Tool Workshop and The Use of Pastels. Mary Sleeman, Linda Sleeman, Lester Pratt, Andy Jones and Roger Fuhrmeyer instructed students for the courses. Our farthest students came from Lorain County.

### **Spring Open House**

The Spring Open House on April 13<sup>th</sup> was well attended. All floors of the Town Hall Museum were open for visitors but the inauguration of the Walker China Exhibit caught the attention of many. We met many people who worked at the old china plant or had fond memories of a relative who worked there. Guests had the opportunity to record their remembrances in a notebook. Visiting children (and a few adults) had fun in the children's corner shaping pottery or designing their own plate.

Stephanie Schmidt, a Bedford High graduate who attends Hiram College, demonstrated clay turning on a pottery wheel. Visitors were awed at the process of shaping a lump of clay into a beautiful vessel. Our thanks to Bedford High instructor Dagmar Clements for arranging this.

Lynn Jones headed up a special Walker China Café for refreshments. Servers dressed in 50's café uniforms to represent the era of diners and lunch counters. These were places that served on Walker vitrified china. The servers were so good; they made \$39 in tips!

### **Dish Barrel Update**

Thanks to member, George Green, we have two dish barrels on display. The barrels belonged to the family and stored china until recently. Members Hope & Paul Mueller obtained straw for the barrels that served as packing material. Syracuse China Company, still making china in Syracuse New York, sent us a few seconds of footage from a 1926 employee training film showing barrels being packed for shipping.

## **Do You Remember?**

If you can remember Snake Hill, Hungary Hill, White's Curve, Sommer's Curve, North Street, Broad St. or the Twinsburg Road.... You have lived in the Bedford area a long time! Snake Hill was part of Dunham Road descending into Little Egypt from Maple Hts. Hungary Hill is the Union St- Northfield Road area. It was named because of our Hungarian immigrants who settled there in the early 1900s. White's Curve and Sommer's Curve are the two curves along Broadway, so named because of the farms in the area. North St. is now Center Road, or Warrensville Center Road. Its name is usually attributed to the compass since the road runs north. However, there was a North family farm on the early maps in that area. Broad Street is now Northfield Road, State Route 8. The Twinsburg Road is the southeast portion of Broadway, State Route 14 towards Twinsburg.

### **The Modern Military Uniform**

Thanks to the efforts of member, Millie McCarty, we have obtained the uniform of an active military member who served in Iraq. The uniform belongs to Brian McCarty, who is currently stateside. The museum has a collection of military uniforms spanning the Civil War to Vietnam. This loaned item allows visitors a chance to see and compare the new materials.

### **Bedford School's Hall of Fame**

Congratulations to member, Roger Fuhrmeyer, for being selected into the Bedford High School Hall of Fame. Roger's public service to the community is extensive. The Historical Society is fortunate to be the recipient of Roger's generosity. He is currently working on two paintings for the Town Hall Museum.

### **Book Sales Healthy**

Thanks to our members and friends, the Bedford Cemetery Book is generating revenues for the restoration of fragile stones in the cemetery. Funding from the sales pays for the cemetery restoration project.

## Exhibit Help Needed

Now that we have launched the Walker exhibit, the next exhibit is in the works. Can you help? We will be dismantling the Taylor Chair exhibit the end of June to make way for 'The Sporting Life' an over view of hunting and fishing in the Bedford Township and surrounding areas. Do you have a favorite hunting or fishing story? Can we borrow your favorite lure or reel? The exhibit will give us a chance to display our decoy collection. We will be showcasing one of Bedford's famous living residents- Joe Kulis. Joe's television shows, his remarkable taxidermy and interesting collection will be part of the exhibit. A brainstorming session is scheduled for Monday June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm. If you cannot attend but have an idea or something that you can loan, please call the museum 440 232-0796.

## Thanks

Our thanks to Helen Batko for donating another beautiful Bedford afghan for this year's Strawberry Festival. Her creation includes the names of streets and roads worked into the design.



## Parade Season!

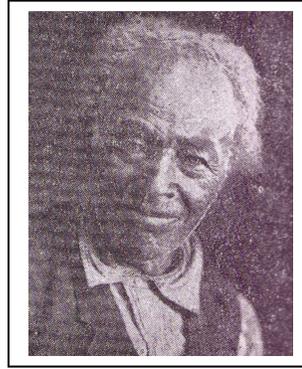


Like parades? How about marching with our historic flags? Maybe a child or grandchild would like to be part of the fun. Call Chris, 440 439-7470 if you would like to help.

## New Landscaping Dedication

The newly installed landscaping between the Town Hall Museum and Old Church will be dedicated during the Strawberry Festival. The day and time is not decided yet but will be posted when plans are set. The project is dedicated in memory of Mayor Don Grossenbaugh and John Piazza, honorary mayor of the Square. The granite markers join the markers of Sam Niver and Mike Bucur. Four people who made a difference in the life of the town.

## Mr. & Mrs. Tibbs Meet Mr. Lincoln



One of Bedford's prominent citizens of the 1800s was Julius Caesar Tibbs. Tibbs, born in Virginia in 1812, was an escaped slave. He was discovered at the Burns farm along the south portion of Bedford Township.

Bedford had strong feelings about the anti-slavery movement; it was a well-known stop along the Underground Railroad. The Burns family provided for Tibbs and eventually, his wife Clarissa and children moved to the center of Bedford. They lived in their own home on North Street. Julius and Clarissa became a respected part of the life of Bedford. An old photo of Bedford's prominent citizens posing for Founder's Day shows Mr. & Mrs. Tibbs along with other notable Bedfordites such as Wm O. Taylor, founder of Taylor Chair. When Tibbs died, the Plain Dealer ran a lengthy obituary about his life and contributions.

Another piece of Bedford history is the February 15, 1861 visit of Abraham Lincoln on his way to Washington DC as part of the inaugural celebration. Lincoln is reported to have stepped onto the train's rear platform at the old C&P Depot to acknowledge the cheering crowd.

Artist Roger Fuhrmeyer imagines that Julius & Clarissa Tibbs were part of that cheering crowd to greet the Great Emancipator. To commemorate these bits of Bedford history, he has been painting the scene as he imagines it.

On Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00, we will commemorate the event and dedicate the painting, which will hang in the Town Hall Museum. Our friends at Midwest Rail Preservation Society are parking a caboose alongside the museum for the Festival. At 1:00, Walton Hills resident and Lincoln impersonator, Phil Williamson will present a few remarks to the crowd. Join us at the Strawberry Festival for this special event.



## *Obituaries*

*Audrey Featherstun*; Member Audrey Featherstun passed away on November 30, 2007. She was a member since 1985. Audrey was the wife of the late Walter M. II, the loving mother of Richard (Patricia), Merrilyn (Richard) Lehosit and the late Walter M. III. She was a loving grandmother, great grandmother and sister.

*Ruth Elrick*; Member Ruth Elrick, nee: Wynhoff) passed away on November 30, 2007. She was the wife of Douglas and the loving mother of Mark. She was the sister of Henry, Ann Lauby and Cora SantAmour. She was a member since 1989.

*Natalie Stadler*; Member Natalie Stadler, nee: Nyerges, passed away on November 15, 2007. Natalie was the wife of the late Clarence Sr. and the loving mother of Patricia (Sterling) Minke, Clarence Jr. (Patricia) and Peggy (Angelo) Vespucci. She was a grandmother and great grandmother. She was preceded in death by her siblings, Ann Sedlon, Magdaline Slavik, Frank and Napoleon Nyerges. She was a member since 1974.

*William E. Dengate*; Bill Dengate passed away on March 5, 2008. Bill was a member since 1980. He leaves his loving wife, June and children David (Linda), Debra (Donald) Kostar and many grandchildren. His son Dale preceded him in death.

*Charles E. Spencer*; Chuck Spencer passed away on March 11, 2008. He was a member since 1995. Chuck was preceded in death by his wife Marjorie (nee Dennis) and leaves a loving family including son Charles, Sandra (Harry) Cooper, Timothy and Kevin. He was a father and great-grandfather. Chuck served in the Navy during WWII.

*Pearl Palinkas*; Member Pearl Palinkas passed away on March 26, 2008. Pearl was a member since 1985 and served as a docent at many of our events. She will be missed by husband Elmer and sons Jeffrey Szulinski and Dennis (Marie) Szulinski and her granddaughter Diane Szulinski.

*Dale Virginia Tevis*; Virginia Tevis passed away on March 27, 2008. She was a member since 1988. Virginia was preceded in death by her husband Leslie and children Arlene Vasuta-Meyer, Marilyn McElroy, Jacqueline Tevis and Kathleen Remy-Wischmeier. She will be missed by many loving grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

*Rex B. Collins*; A memorial service was held for member Rex Collins on April 14, 2008, he passed away on February 15. Rex was an active member of our volunteer corps who shared his knowledge with many visitors at museum events. He leaves his loving wife, Mary Lou (nee: Bail) and children Carole A (Timothy) Colley, Rex B. and Colleen J. He was a loving grandfather. He leaves his sisters Barbara Skinner & Alice Jenkins.

Our sympathy to the family of *Jim Moore*. Jim and brother John had a long legacy of racing in Northeast Ohio. The family suggests memorial donations to the Bedford Historical Society in memory of Jim.

Our sympathy to member Jim Harding and his family on the loss of his father.

Our sympathy to Bob Sanderson on the loss of his wife, Barbara.

