

The Bedford Bee.

Bedford Historical Society
PO Box 46282
Bedford OH 44146

March -May 2009
Issue 296
440 232-0796 bedfordohiohistory.org

Upcoming events

March 5, 2009 7:30pm Lyceum: Meet the artist-Linda Sleeman; Mild-mannered librarian by day, right-wicked textile artist by night. Join us as we celebrate the inspiring works of Linda Sleeman. Linda's textile creations are known nationally, she has received many awards for her works in juried shows. A champagne reception follows her presentation.

March 7, 2009 Annual Reverse Raffle: 'Cabin Fever' good fun, great food, live entertainment and a worthwhile cause. Join us!

April 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2009 The Old Ways School Spring session. (Details inside)

April 2, 2009 7:30pm Lyceum; What's Cookin'-Remembering the Old Meat Markets of Bedford Township; John Malone & Helen Pratt & friends reminisce about the old markets and then demonstrate their old family recipes for sausage making. We will have a sausage tasting! Join us for a fun evening of remembering and tasty food.

*April 5, 2009 2:00pm – 5:00pm, Sunday: **Annual Spring Open House*** – Bring the family and share some memories.

April 12, 2009 – The museum will be closed today in observance of Easter.

*May 7, 2009 Thursday **Annual Dinner*** – An Evening with Mr. Lincoln. In celebration of the 200th birthday of our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln joins us with his wisdom. The program is based on his recorded writings and quotes.



From the president.....

Here it is the middle of winter and we all have a bit of cabin fever. We here at the Bedford Historical Society, are having the same cabin fever and the same financial issues (high gas bills, snow plowing, etc) as you are. One way to beat cabin fever and support your Bedford Historical Society is to attend the reverse raffle on March 7, 2009. The support you give us through fundraisers, membership dues and your donations are what keeps us in business. Please support our reverse raffle. We need your support and you can have a fun evening at the same time. Keep warm this winter and I'll see you at the Reverse Raffle and at the Museum.

Thank you for your support. Betsy Lee

Historical Society Receives Funding

The Society extends its gratitude to the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Aerie #2122 for their financial support for the upcoming year. This is the third year that the lodge has been able to help us serve our communities as the keeper of history.

Our gratitude to the Day Foundation for their continued support of our programs and Endowment.

We gratefully received contributions from private donors for operations and special projects.

These donations along with your membership dues help us continue.

Membership Update

We have two new life members: Luverne Skillicorn and Leroy Vlk. Our thanks to these members for their extra efforts. Marge Keene, membership secretary, continues to process the year end renewals and new gift memberships. Please check your records to make sure you are current.

SUPPORT THE REVERSE RAFFLE-
MARCH 7, 2009

Dinner, entertainment and good fun. \$45.
Call 440 232-0796 for tickets.

From the archives

Gone to the Baptists

One of the recent acquisitions into the archives has been material from the Church of Christ. This stalwart institution was one of the original founding churches in the Bedford Township area. Also known as the Disciple Church, the original building was at the top of the hill on the main road in town, Broadway. Locals still call it Disciple Hill. In the early 1920s, the church built another edifice at the corner of Center Rd. and Blaine. Sadly, it sold the building in 2007 when the church roster diminished to a critical level and the building could not be maintained adequately.

The church ledger, now in the care of our archives, details the lives and history of members in the early years. Some are one line entries marking immersion (baptism) dates. Other entries indicate moving out of the area 'gone to California' or switching church affiliation 'gone to the Baptists' and 'gone to the Shakers'. There are entries indicating when the member withdrew his or her letter of membership. A letter indicated that the person was a member in good standing of the church.

Other entries tell us about the social mores of the times: 'neglect of Christian duties', 'ground of avowed infidelity', 'loose conduct', 'insubordination', 'for disorderly walk', 'drunkenness' and 'parting from husband and running him into debt'. These were serious infractions of behavior. There are several entries simply marked 'for dancing'. An 1870 entry is marked 'indifference to the cause'. While the cause is not indicated, it is presumed to be the intemperance movement. Few people wanted to receive a letter from their church such as " This decision is made in consequence of your unfaithfulness in the Christian profession."

Even Bedford's notable Dr. Theodatus Garlick, a member in good standing of the church, must have been questioned because he did not have a letter of transfer from his church in Youngstown. His letter reads in its entirety:

To the Church of Christ in Bedford O.

Many years since I publicly withdrew from the church at Youngstown O giving as a reason for such action that the church at Youngstown was proslavery and sustained that abominable institution by its action. I now wish to unite to the Church of Christ (known as the Disciples). It may be possible that my act of withdrawal was an act of insubordination, if this is really so I am sorry for it. No immoral act was ever brought against me at Youngstown or elsewhere.

Theodatus Garlick Bedford Ohio March 14, 1881

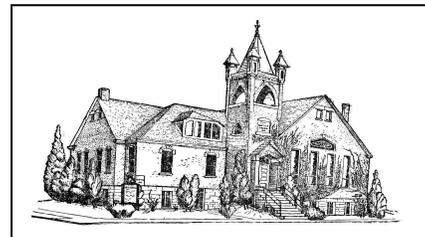
I was baptized in the Church of Baltimore and united with the church there in the winter of 1833-34 and was one of the first members of the church at Youngstown. T.G.

Thanks Thanks

Word has been received from the Cleveland Foundation that our fledgling Endowment Fund has reached \$50,000. Our gratitude for your additional support of this fund. Our members and friends have been generous with financial support for the general operating budget and specific projects, such as the 2003 Town Hall addition and the church roof. Donations to the Endowment Fund are *in addition* to this and address future funding needs. On toward the next goal- \$100,000!

Changes for the Community Hall

In an effort to tighten the budget and remain fiscally healthy, Trustees for the Society voted to close the Old Church/ Community Hall during the cold months of November, and January to April. December will remain available for hall rentals, plus the warmer months.



Old Church Community Building Rental Update

After serving over 10 years as Building Coordinator, Evelyn Sawastuk submitted her retirement resignation. Trustees extended their gratitude for her efforts on December 13th.

On January 2nd, member Chris Sweet, assumed the duties of Building Coordinator for the Old Church/ Community Hall. If you are interested in renting the sanctuary or hall, she can be reached at 440 439-7470.

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*Our thanks to Trustee Phil Saunders for setting up the Christmas Village during the holiday. Thanks to Bob Pallat for the HO layout.*



## They Moved It

The Bedford Historical Society has been compiling a list of buildings that have been moved to new locations within the Bedford Township communities.

There are many reasons for moving a structure. It was quite common in the 'old days' to appreciate the workmanship, materials and labor involved in building a structure. One of the largest buildings to be moved in the Greater Cleveland area was the 1970s move of Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital on the University Hospital's campus. This allowed the hospital to continue to serve while a newer facility was built on the old site. The old hospital was several stories high.

Moving a structure involved disconnecting it from the foundation and utilities, jacking it up and placing it on some movable surface. Large logs were used to roll the structure along to a new site. Today, greater distances involve flatbed trucks. Even barges have been used to move structures.

Long time member, Marian Cervený helped research some of these moves. She recalls her grandparent's house was nestled in *Walton Hills* up a long dirt drive. Today it faces Alexander Rd as a stately Queen Anne Victorian with new porch and additions.

Don Sazima, before he passed away, recalled watching 591 *Broadway* being moved. It was originally across the street as part of the Holmes Bronze Foundry. The large two-story structure caused quite a stir when it was rolled across the street. Today the two-story commercial building is a veterinary clinic with apartments upstairs.

Two of the oldest structures in Bedford were moved and still serve useful lives today: When *Wm. O. Taylor* moved his chair factory from Libby Road to the end of Willis Street, there was a two-story frame home on the site. As the company expanded its facilities, the house was moved down the hill to its present site at the corner of Taylor Rd. and Union St. Today, it can be seen as part of the Moonglow Tavern.

52 *Center Road* is a noted architectural gem listed in architectural digests as a prime example of Western Reserve architecture. The home was originally located at the corner of Center and Columbus, at 6 Center. It was built in 1840 by Phinamber Benedict, the son of Daniel Benedict who gave Bedford its name. Locally, it is known as the Hoopes House.

22 Woodrow-The Strathdee House was a prime example of Italianate architecture that many residents recall as the first house on Woodrow, on the southside east of Broadway. The house was originally the widow Tarbell's house and stood on the corner of Woodrow and Broadway. Dr. & Mrs. Tarbell were one of our earliest residents. The house was moved a few yards east and became the residence of Jack Strathdee and his family. The home was razed several years ago.

Jack Strathdee also used a moved building for his blacksmith shop. One of the old churches in town was moved to Washington St and used as a school. When a new school was built, Jack Strathdee purchased the old wooden building and moved it beside his residence at 22 Woodrow. There it served for his metal fabricating and iron work business.

Way back, Fanny Willis offered the fledgling Methodists a building if they would move it. They did, from her property on Willis to the corner of Washington and Columbus Rd.

When the Baptists purchased Dr. Hubbard's property at the corner of Broadway and South Park St., someone moved the small wooden Italianate building to the north side of Washington St. between Tarbell and Woodrow.

In Maple Hts, 16422 Maple Hts. Blvd was moved and became 5320 Clement Ave. This made way for the new Maple Hts City Hall in 1951.

Marion recalls that 1295 Broadway was moved from 297 Union.

24 Ellenwood moved from 390 Lamson.

32 ½ E. Grace, a small structure at the rear of 32, moved to 26 E. Grace.



One of the oddest items to be moved is in Oakwood Village.

Two stone edifices at the corner of Broadway and Bedford Macedonia Road served as an entrance to a cemetery that never was developed. General Connelly, real estate developer and war hero, developed the property in hopes that it would be a cemetery or memorial park. About three years ago, the property was sold and a new manufacturing company opened this past spring on the property. The stone pillars were carefully moved to the side and stand until they can be utilized.

Do you remember other buildings that have been moved? Please let us know.

## Sportsman's Park Update

Memorial money given in memory of racer Jim Moore has allowed us to improve the lighting and update wiring in the Sportsman's Park exhibit area. As funds became available, we have improved other aspects of the area including better photographic display. Our thanks to Andy Jones for handling this project from start to finish.



### The Old Ways School

Want to learn something new? Step out on four Monday evenings in April for the Old Ways School. The offerings include letterpress printing, quilting, knitting and crocheting and use of old hand tools. A brochure is enclosed with this newsletter or on line with the details. Please help spread the word about this offering to the community.

### A Reminder of Who We Are and What We Do

Our mission has been and continues to be to 'collect, preserve and interpret the history of Bedford, Bedford Township and portions of the Western Reserve'. As a 501 (c) 3 non-profit, we serve our communities in this mission to the best of our ability. Last year's review of our operations by an expert from the Ohio Historical Society revealed that we are a 'true jewel not only in Northeast Ohio but sets the model or example for all Ohio historical societies'. The assessment showed our strengths and our weaknesses and offered direction for the future.

Subject to audit, the finances of the Society appear to be in excellent order. The 2008 year has ended in the black despite these recessionary times. The financial records are open to the public at any time and your advice and counsel on ways we can save are welcome. June Martin has been our treasurer for the past few years. The society uses a bookkeeping company for external tracking plus a yearly audit by a CPA to keep us accountable. June's efforts to organize our financial transactions have been commended both by the bookkeeper and the auditor.

**Your continued support through volunteerism, donations of historic items and financial contributions are the key to our ability to serve the public.**

## Can You help with School Tours?

One of the ways we tell 'history's stories' is the annual Bedford City School tours. These local history lessons involve the efforts of many volunteers as over 400 third graders visit our facilities. Can you help? We need interpreters (we'll train) and chaperones. Please call the office for details.

### Docent Training

Want to learn more about Bedford area history? Want to learn how to handle groups through our buildings? How about tours in the community? All docents, volunteers and those who may consider this, are asked to join us for refreshments and a review of important issues to become better guides for our visitors. Docent training is set for two dates, both are identical in content, Wednesday evening 7:00 April 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday afternoon 2:00 April 16<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP so that refreshments can be planned.



### Obituaries

Sister Elisabeth Ann Rechka; Sister Elisabeth Ann (Veronica Agnes Rechka) died on October 16, 2008. She was raised in Bedford Township, the portion known as Oakwood Village, and had keen memories of her childhood. Sister was an avid history buff and shared her photos and memories with the society for the archives. Her memory of the great Cyrus Eaton Fox Hunt is part of our current hunting and fishing exhibit. As a Vincentian Sister of Charity, she served as an elementary teacher and principal at several parochial schools in northeast Ohio. Sister then became an administrator of an elder care facility. Besides her Sisters of Charity, she is survived by a sister Marian Ainsworth and a nephew.

Albert E. Kadlowec; Curator Emeritus, Al Kadlowec died on December 11, 2008. Al was an active member of the society where he worked tirelessly to preserve and repair items for exhibit at the museum. Al was a veteran of WWII where he earned Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart. He was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy (Shipherd). He is survived by his sons Kurt (Mary Kay) and Kim (Sue). He will be missed by grandchildren, great grandchildren and many friends.