

The Bedford Bee.

Bedford Historical Society
PO Box 46282
Bedford OH 44146

March – May 2011
Issue 304
440 232-0796 bedfordohiohistory.org

Upcoming Events:

March 3, 2011 Thursday 7:00pm (note earlier start time) Lyceum- Life in Bedford Heights during the 60s & 70s. Gary Watts, Karen Pallat, Cindy and Phil Saunders share stories about life in the newly developed neighborhoods of Bedford Heights. This was a time of rapid growth for the community with young families. This evening's program is held at the Community Center at 5615 Perkins Road, Bedford Hts. Ohio.

 *March 5, 2011 Saturday **Annual Reverse Raffle**; It is all things Irish this year. Join us for a fun evening of great food, great entertainment and great company. (A flyer with the details is enclosed with this issue of the Bee.)*

April 7, 2011 Thursday 7:00pm. Lyceum- Through the years with the Ford Stamping Plant; Members Jean Kainsinger and Bill Deak are joined by John Collise to tell the story of how the Ford Motor Company built the Cleveland Stamping Plant in Walton Hills. It was the biggest construction project in this area since the days of McMyler Interstate. This program is held at the Walton Hills Village Hall 7595 Walton Rd. at the corner of Walton Rd. and Alexander Rd. (enter parking lot off Alexander Rd.)

*April – 2011 2:00pm Saturday; **High Tea** with a Tour of the historic Gates Handyside House and the Inaugural opening of the exhibit- *Dressed for Tea* Details enclosed.*

Mondays in April: The Old Ways School
Learn something new! Details enclosed.

*May 5, 2011 Thursday **Annual Dinner** Ohio Humanities Scholar Dr. James Bissland is our speaker. Dr. Bissland will discuss 'The War Nobody Knows- How Ohio Won the Civil War'. More detail inside this issue.*

From the president...

Good news; we ended last year in the black. Thank you all for your support. We now start our fun fundraisers to help us stay solvent and involved with our members and our communities. The Reverse Raffle is March 5th. Join us for corned beef and cabbage, chicken and more. The Irish band Ceud Mile Failte will entertain us and you might win some money.

The Strawberry Festival is June 10, 11, 12th. We'll note the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. We'll mark the 50th anniversary of Bedford Heights. Our firefighting departments will be on hand to demonstrate equipment in conjunction with a new exhibit on Bedford Township firefighting.

The flea market is August 13th. Come and sell your "trash" and find some "treasures".

A formal High Tea is planned for April 16th in conjunction with an exhibit of tea dresses from our collection plus a tour of the historic Gates Handyside House.

These fundraisers generate funds for our operating budget.

Our capital project this year is the restoration of masonry for the 1874 Town Hall. Never let it be said that a group of people can't make a difference. When Trustees asked for your help in raising funds for the project, members and friends stepped forward with donations. We still have a ways to reach the goal, but we are getting there. We are very grateful to those who have already donated toward the fund. Trustees continue to explore additional funding options in order to reach the amount needed for the project.

Our gratitude for your help

Betsy Lee



Stairwell Completed

The rear stairwell is now safer for visitors. Readers of the Bee may remember that the stairs (all 77 of them!) had new treads installed with volunteers from Key Bank and the society.

On December 4th the landings were completed by the following volunteers: Dave Kuhn, Dave Carson, Steve Salvi, Frank Caldwell, Tom Sweet, Bob Pallat and Bob Maruna. Our gratitude to them for donating their time.

A special note of gratitude to member Jim O'Neill for supervising the project. Jim custom cut and numbered each tile on each landing so that the installation could progress quickly.

Thank you to Lynn Jones for obtaining the main funding for the project from the Day Foundation. Additional funds were received from a bequest from A. P. Jones, Robert Hamilton and the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 2122.



Dr. James Bissland to Speak

Dr. James Bissland, author of the best selling book 'The War Nobody Knows- How Ohio Won the Civil War' will be the speaker on Thursday May 5, 2011 8:00pm. Dr. Bissland is professor emeritus at Bowling Green University. He will discuss the strategic importance of Ohio and Ohioans to the Civil War. The presentation is free and open to the public. It follows the annual dinner meeting and will be held at La Casa Bella Party Center. Details will be mailed to members about the meeting and dinner. Please help spread the word about the program. We are grateful to the Ohio Humanities Council for their support.

New Life Members

We have three new Life Members of the Bedford Historical Society. Larry Ruple, Verdabelle Spaulding and Madeline Timm have become life members. *Congratulations and thank you for your commitment to the society and its mission to preserve our history.*

Old Ways School

The Old Ways School begins in April. This is an opportunity to learn something new or improve a skill. The brochure is enclosed with this newsletter. Please spread the word about the classes. Extra brochures are available on line or at the museum.



Going Green

One of the eye catching appeals of historic structures is the architectural beauty of the original windows. The National Trust is concerned that the current epidemic of window replacement threatens the integrity of historic homes and buildings. Sadly, studies indicate that the newer windows have a short life span. When a seal breaks down, the whole window must be replaced. That is more in the landfill. According to studies, 'repairing older windows can be actually cheaper and more energy efficient'. Want to support the green movement? Then consider repairing your architecturally correct windows. Do it yourself or hire a knowledgeable contractor. Easy steps include; caulk the exterior and interior of the frame, add weather stripping to the sash, install storm windows (there are inside and outside varieties and some offer a tax credit) and use insulating soft-goods such as drapes, blinds or shades.

The *Cleveland Restoration Society* can supply additional information locally. An excellent website is < savethewindows.org>. Nobody takes vacation time and spends hard earned money to visit historic areas to see replacement windows; why would we expect anything less for our own homes?

Our Movie Winner

Part of our *Bedford and the Movies* exhibit last year was a whimsical creation by Roger Fuhrmeyer. Roger posted profiles of several notable film stars. Visitors tried to guess as many as possible and placed their guesses in a box for a drawing for cinema passes. The winner was Emily a young lady from Lake County. Her mom said Emily was quite pleased to have guessed the most profiles.

Society Receives Grants

The society is grateful for the support of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Local Aerie 2122. Their support of the society in past years has allowed us to complete many preservation projects.

We are grateful to the Day Family Foundation for their support this year with a donation to the masonry restoration fund.

From the librarian....

Treasures in the Museum Library

The "Lincoln and Civil War Room" of the Library has over 2,000 volumes, along with periodicals and pamphlets, on the 16th President and the War Between the States. Much of this is from Dick Squire's personal collection; many other titles have come from families well-known in Bedford's history--Burns, Dunham, and Hubbell among them. There are biographies of Lincoln published immediately after his death and at intervals over the next 140 years; similarly, there are histories of the War which appeared upon the heels of the events they narrate and then again in later years. One can see, when perusing these books, how descriptions and attitudes change over time. This is especially evident when comparing a book written in the North with that of one written in the South. It's also a delight to discover little-known facts of history. For example, a little book entitled *Six Months at the White House with Abraham Lincoln*, by Francis B. Carpenter, tells the story of how the author came to paint "Lincoln Reading the Emancipation Proclamation to His Cabinet" in 1864. The surprise comes in realizing that the Historical Society owns a print of this painting which has a prominent place on the first floor of the Museum.

The Library is a non-circulating, research library. It's open during the same hours as the Museum and available to anyone interested in browsing or searching for particular books for reading and study. *Enjoy the Bedford Historical Society Library!*
Paul Pojman

Mystery Solved-the Boxwell-Patterson Law

Several months ago we corresponded with a relative of one of the superintendents of the Bedford Rural School District. She had a question; what was a 'Patterson graduate'? Not one to back down from a challenge, Paul, our librarian, found the answer in the Ohio Educational Monthly January 1906 issue; 'The Boxwell-Patterson law provides for free high school education to all children of the rural districts, children who have so applied themselves to their elementary studies, that they can pass successfully the examination prepared and sent out by the state school commissioner.' We believe 'Patterson graduate' is used in connection with this law.

There were two Bedford School districts 100 years ago. Bedford Village Schools and Bedford Rural School District which served the outlying township children. Rural children in Bedford Township could attend the village high school.

From Joyce Maruna...

The Diary of Charles Dowman

Helen Pratt is always on the lookout for historical information about Bedford and Bedford Township. The Pratts recently purchased for the archives "A Farmer's Twenty Year Record", published by C.C. Williams & Co. It was meant to be a 'Complete Record of All Transactions' Compiled to meet the wants of Every Practical Farmer'. Intended to be a ledger, Mr. Dowman made the empty pages a diary of his Bedford Township family and how life was lived on his farm in rural Bedford Township. The property was part of what would be the Village of Oakwood. Mr. Dowman wrote an entry for all but a few days in the years of 1904 and 1905. After reading how hard he worked some days, we had to marvel that he had the energy left to make these notes. In addition to his notes, he sometimes glued newspaper articles that printed household hints and recipes. One was 'How to Make Balogna using 60 lbs of corned beef and 40 lbs of pork' also "How to cure Diphtheria". Nothing in the diary indicated that he ever had to refer to either of these hints. His handwriting is legible and the spelling easy to decipher even though some words were not spelled as we do today. Examples of oddly spelled words include 'halled' for hauled, 'mebby' for maybe, 'shure' for sure and 'trinch' for trench.

We will visit portions of the diary over the next few issues of the Bee. Our gratitude to the Pratt family for purchasing this interesting piece of history.



What is New at the Museum

We are working on two exhibits scheduled to open this spring. *Dressed for Tea*-The second floor will display a portion of the society's collection of dresses dating from the late 1800s to the 1950s. These are examples of dresses that would have been chosen for an afternoon tea. Four tables will be set for high tea to complement the dresses.



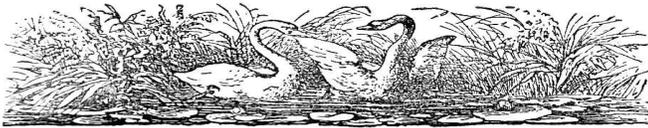
We are working with our area fire departments to develop a *History of Firefighting* in the communities that made up Bedford Township. There will be photos of spectacular fires, a comparison of fire fighting equipment from the past, a memorial to fallen firefighters, activities for kids and demonstrations of modern equipment on Sunday during the Strawberry Festival. The exhibits will run through January 2012.

A Note to Out of Town Members

Genealogy has become one of the fastest growing hobbies. Some would dispute it is a hobby; it is more of an addiction. When you find one ancestor it will usually lead to 2 more. We have had people as far as China, Salt Lake City and as near as next door come to look up ancestors. The family index, cemetery listings and military records are a few of the holdings in the museum that assist in research. There is a book of obituaries from local newspapers that are collected by members. A recent article in the *Ohio Genealogy News* related the collecting of obituaries in other cities and states. It would be a great addition to the obituary collection if out of town members sent a copy of a Bedford connected obituary. Please mark the date and name of the newspaper.

If you have a genealogy of your family, it could be added to the collection and preserved and used in genealogy research.

From Helen Pratt



Vickie Rae Lutz; The society recently learned of the passing of member Vickie Rae Lutz several months ago. We extend our sympathy to her family on the loss. Vickie was a strong supporter of the society and its mission to preserve the history of Bedford and the region.

Jerome Boers; The society received notice that member Jerry Boers passed away last year on May 13, 2010. Jerry was active in the Bedford community and served his country in the U. S. Marine Corps. He was preceded in death by his daughter Suzanne. He is survived by his children Cheryl (Dan) Mormile, Timothy, Sandra Lee (Mark) Evans. He was a loving grandfather.

John C. "Jack" Wise; the society has learned that member Jack Wise passed away several months ago on July 27, 2010. Surviving are his wife Margaret (nee Gid-dens); and children Kenneth (Diana) Wise, Sharon (Michael) Good and Scott (Elizabeth) Wise; he will be missed by his grandchildren Jonathan, Arthur, Kortney Maria and Zachary. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. Jack was active in the Bedford community in many service projects.

Claude E. Weagraff; Member Claude Weagraff passed away on January 12, 2011. Claude was a graduate of Bedford High School and returned to serve as an educator with the Bedford City School District. Upon his retirement as a principal, Claude was elected to the board of education to continue his service to our communities. He was an active member of the Bedford Historical Society including serving as a Trustee and President of the Society. He was named Citizen of the Year in 2000. Claude was preceded in death by his wife Carol (nee Schneuring). He will be missed by his children Wendy (Thomas) Stuhldreher, Rebecca (Robert) Lindahl, Robert (Lisa). He was loved by his grandchildren Thomas, Timothy, Peter, Abigail, Logan, Carl, Christopher and Katherine. He was a great grandfather. Claude served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during W.W. II. He was a beloved teacher and administrator in the Bedford School system for many years.

Edward L.Thellmman, Member Ed Thellman died January 13, 2011. Ed was a public servant who served as the mayor of Walton Hills. Beloved husband of Catherine (nee McCarthy) and the late Elizabeth (nee Smith); dear father of Ken (Lisa), Kim Beth (Ronnie) Greco, Mark (Charlene), Leah Blessed and Robert (Victoria) Fee; he was a loving grandfather and great-grandfather. Ed served his country in the United States Navy.

Our sympathy to member Norman Kostyo and his family on the loss of his wife, Janet.

Our sympathy to the family of Sandy Benicci who passed away in December. Sandy donated his racing equipment to the Sportsman's Park exhibit for visitors to enjoy and reminisce.

Friend of the society, *Del Conery* passed away on January 21, 2011. Del was a frequent visitor to the museum. His vivid memory of life in Bedford when he was a kid provided much information. Del always had a small copy of the *Constitution of the United States* in his shirt pocket at all times. It worked as good as a handgun permit; we never challenged a thing he said. Not one to waste a smile on trivial things, Del had a heart of gold and a deep affection for Bedford. We will miss his visits. Our sympathy to Laverne and the family.