

The Bedford Bee.

Bedford Historical Society
PO Box 46282
Bedford OH 44146

June-August 2012
Issue 309
440 232-0796 bedfordohiohistory.org

Upcoming Events:

June 8, 9, 10- Annual Strawberry Festival

See you at the Festival! (Festival schedule is enclosed with this newsletter.)



June 18, 2012 noon; The town bell in the Old Church on the Square will be rung at noon to mark the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. Bells throughout the state will be ringing.

July 29, 2012 Noon Field trip (Details inside).

August 11, 2012 9am – 4pm Annual Flea Market on the Square.

Parties-in –the-Park start on Wednesday June 6th and end on August 29th. There will be no concert on Wednesday July 4th.

~~~~~



Big or small, don't forget to fly your flag on Flag Day. June 14<sup>th</sup> is the official day to honor our banner. The Second Continental Congress adopted the flag as our nation's standard in 1777. President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation in 1916 to mark the occasion. Pennsylvania is the only state to officially declare the day as an official holiday. In Ohio, one of the largest celebrations of Flag Day is in Findlay Ohio. Our flags will be flying at the Town Hall Museum.

If you don't have a flag and would like a small one, stop at the museum and pick one up. We'll give you one of ours.

## From the president

Our thanks to chair Betsy Lee and her committee for organizing another great Strawberry Festival and Car Show. Can you spare an hour or two to help? The festival takes many volunteers to help it run smoothly. Betsy and the committees work to produce a top notch event for visitors. We have people from all over Ohio and other states.

The festival gives us an opportunity to show off our landmark buildings, historic Public Square and the exhibits in our museums. For many, it is the first time to Bedford and we meet them on return visits.

This year, we mark historic milestones at the festival with historic figures from the past; we continue to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War. We learn about the War of 1812 from a seaman aboard the Niagara. And we'll mark the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Village of Bedford from early citizens.

See you at the festival! *Bob Schroeter*

## What's New at the Museum?

The artwork of Roger Fuhrmeyer is on exhibit through September 30<sup>th</sup> during regular hours and for the Strawberry Festival. One hundred people enjoyed the opening of the exhibit at the Spring Open House. Entitled 'A Life of Creativity', the collection includes watercolors, acrylics, wood carvings, linoleum block and ceramic created over a span of 60 years. The artist created four new panels marking the four seasons at Tinker's Creek. The panels hang in the first floor lobby.



Doris Shriver filled an exhibit case, pictured above, with a portion of her beautiful egg collection. Visitors enjoyed viewing various styles of decorative eggs including an ostrich egg, a basket of finch eggs, and one made from the ash of Mt. St. Helen. Doris makes and teaches the art of Ukraine style eggs. *Thanks, Doris!*

### Museum Store News



It's a sale! The museum store announces a sale on all of its hand-knit scarves. Stop in for a bargain.

A reminder that our newest book, *Images of America- Bedford and Bedford Township Ohio* is in stock and available during hours or download a form from the website and it will be mailed to you.

### Cemetery Data Base

Member Reggie Taussig has completed a database of burials at historic Bedford Cemetery. The database will allow cemetery personnel and the museum archives easier access to information about names, location of graves, interment dates and other data. This labor of love took many weeks to complete. Her next project is to photograph all of the headstones and monuments. She expects the project will take three years. Section One is completed. Thank you Reggie!



### A New Letter

Helen Pratt purchased the letter seen at the bottom left column for the society because of the interesting address. It reads: Wm. B. Young.

Bedford  
Near Cleveland  
Ohio

The September 20, 1838 letter is from a friend living in Cooksville. It is a newsy note with updates on neighbors and friends. The letter was delivered by a traveler and was originally closed with a red wax seal. It has a Buffalo NY postal cancellation.

It reads, with its original spelling and punctuation:



Cooksville, Sep 20/38

Salem House

Dear Friends,

This comes with all our respects, hoping it will find you all well, as it leaves us. I received a parcel of New Paper on 18 (?) I guess they came from you for which I thank you.

We all miss you very much and would be glad to see you back again to our soil; as this friendship sustains between us; we have plenty of work thank God, as it respects the political world, I cannot say anything, tho' I have access to a great many papers, as I have the post office in our new house. We have nearly got it complete we work in our new shop, it is a pleasant one our house please everyone, as we have plenty of room in it, we have eleven rooms. Father has been very sick, but he is got well again. The old village is still at the same place as you will see when you come, as we expect you over soon, hoping you will make our house your home. Mr. Oldfield is well he is at work at Churchville. He has nearly plastered our house. Sally is well. Mr. Thos. MaCartney was well a few days ago as I was up at your old home Mrs. and John and Margrate are well, old Mr. Austin has sold out his farm to Mr. Horning for 2,000 dollars John and Augustus and the old gentleman are going to Ioway Territory in the spring. We have had a very dry time no rain for 3 weeks. The farmers begin to dread the consequence. This letter will come by a Mr. Donoughoo who lives near Cincanattia Ohio; he came to visit his Father. I must conclude as paper is spent, all our respect to Mrs. Macartney Mary Ann Danil Geo John and wife James and wife and all of you.

Yours Respectfully----- Francis (?) B. Morley



*Ed Note: there is a Wm. Young buried in Bedford Cemetery. He was interred in 1856; this would fit the time period of the recipient of this letter. The cemetery deed book lists him as a veteran. We are not sure where Cooksville is located. There is a Cooksville Road in Somers CT which suggests that Cooksville might have been a small town in that area. In Somers history, it was part of Massachusetts until 1749 then annexed to Connecticut. OK history buffs... check it out for us*

## Stained Glass Repair

Thanks to Lynn Beveridge, Lester Pratt, Frank Caldwell and Jim O'Neill for helping preserve the beautiful stained glass windows in the Old Church on the Square. The lead cambium was pressed into proper position on all of the panes, along with minor glass repair. The work helps preserve the original windows which were installed in 1892.

## Plaster Work Commences

The plaster in the sanctuary of the Old Church is being repaired with the help of Local Aerie Metropolitan #2122 of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Preservation of this historic landmark which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places is an important part of the Society's mission. Our thanks to local Eagles members for helping us preserve this landmark.

## A Sunday Field Trip

Members are invited to tour the *Museum of Sacred Statuary on Sunday July 29<sup>th</sup> at Noon*. This new museum is located in Lakewood Ohio. Doug McClung, founder and curator collects and restores sacred statuary from Catholic churches that have closed. These beautiful works of art were designed to enhance the worship experience; today they are exquisite examples of the sculptural art. The collection is in the former St. Hedwig Catholic Church, an architectural gem. Cost of the tour is \$8 per person. We can carpool or meet you there. Please call 440 232-0796 if you would like to attend so that we can notify the statuary museum of the number attending. The address and parking directions will be available for those attending.



## Annual Flea Market

Save the date- Saturday August 11<sup>th</sup> 9-4; it's the Annual Flea Market! To rent a table call Chris Sweet 440 439-7470. Can you donate something special for the Gift Shop table? Call the museum-440 232-0796. It is a fun day on the Square.

## Marking Milestones at the Strawberry Festival

The Strawberry Festival marks three milestones of the past. Re-enactors will present short vignettes throughout the festival about these histories. We continue to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great American Conflict-the Civil War. We also mark the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War of 1812. An 'able-bodied seaman' who served on the ship Niagara will be telling us about the causes of the war and the battle of Lake Erie. And lastly, it is the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Bedford. One of our 'early residents' will be telling the tale of life in early Bedford. Bring your camera; the re-enactors will pose with the kids and grandkids.

*(FYI: Millie McCarty, one of our favorite speakers, and son Lee will be presenting a Lyceum program about the War of 1812. Details about this and the other Lyceum programs will be in the next issue of the Bee.)*

## Memorial Day 1940

Member, Juanita Conway donated these photos of the 1940 Memorial Day Parade. The parade route used to start at the cemetery and travel up Disciple Hill into town; it is reversed today.





## Let's Get Poppin'!

Popcorn season is just around the corner. Can you help pop or sell bags of popcorn at the weekly Parties-in-the-Park? Once a summer, once a month or weekly- we'll fit you in. Call Lynn Jones 330 467-4338 or the museum to volunteer.

## Wanted: Help in the Archive

One of our key positions is archivist. Debbie Grubb, our archivist, is out of the country with her husband because of his work. Meanwhile, papers are backing up! If you can help while she is away please contact the museum office or stop in. A job description is available to see what is involved. You will be compensated for your time.

## Did You Know?

**Seventeen veterans of the War of 1812 are buried in Bedford Cemetery? They are:**

Enoch Allen  
Stanton Brown  
Abner Cleaveland  
Clarence Deady  
Wm. Dickey  
Hezekiah Dunham  
kHazen Harriman  
John H. Gardner  
Nathan Haines  
Enos Hollister  
James R. Kenyon  
Robert Parkinson  
Allan Robinette  
John Rorabeck  
Peter Robinson  
George Sheets  
Capt. Wm. Sill

We know some of these names from others documents. Enoch Allen and his partner Lee Lord operated a pail factory. Allan Robinette built a stone building on the banks of Tinkers Creek for use as a tannery. The early 1800s structure still stands as a residence today. Abner Cleaveland farmed in the southwest portion of the township. John Rorabeck farmed in the eastern part of the township. Nathan Haines and family lived in the center of the township, part of the village of Bedford. One of their ventures was beekeeping. Hezekiah Dunham was a successful builder and entrepreneur. We owe a debt of gratitude to him for donating the land used as Bedford Public Square.

Other names may be added as research is done.



## Obituaries-

*C. Dean Infield*; member Dean Infield died on March 2, 2012 in Lakeside Ohio where he had been living. Dean and his wife Marilyn were active in the Bedford area community for many years. He was named Citizen of the Year for his public service. Dean was retired from the Bedford City School district; he was a Psychologist. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn and daughters Beth and Jeanne. He will be missed by his many friends and colleagues.

*Sister Grace Verba*; Sister Grace, also known as Sister Mary Grace Levocha died on February 29, 2012. She taught for 40 years in the Greater Cleveland area. Sister was a longtime resident of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity where she lived since 1938. She and the other Vincentian Sisters moved to Cincinnati in 2005 after the order combined with the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati in 2004. Besides her sisters in service, she is survived by nieces and nephews.

*Virginia W. Tevis*; Member Virginia Tevis died on March 4, 2012. She was preceded in death by her husband Carl M. She is survived by her daughter Carol. Virginia will be missed by her friends at South Haven United Church of Christ.

*Caroline Cramer*; member Caroline Cramer died on April 5, 2012. Caroline, along with her parents, was active in many organizations including the Society. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ed and Betty (nee: Barton) Cramer. She will be missed by her nieces and nephews and dear friends Ed & Ginny Hrabak. The Endowment Fund of the Bedford Historical Society was suggested for remembrances in Caroline's name.

We extend our sympathy to member Kay Gary on the death of her Mother.

We extend our sympathy to member Donald DePompei on the death of his wife, Mary (nee: Berry).

Our sympathy to member Jack Wardley and family on the death of his son, John.