

# The Bedford Bee.

Bedford Historical Society  
PO Box 46282  
Bedford OH 44146

June - August 2013  
Issue 313  
440 232-0796 BedfordOhioHistory.org

## Upcoming Events

**Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>**

Memorial Day Parade begins at 10:15am at City Hall

**Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**

49<sup>th</sup> Annual Strawberry Festival on  
Bedford Public Square

**Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 4 - 9pm**

Strawberry Festival Car Show

**Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>**

Cemetery Preservation Workshop (details enclosed)

**Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>**

Flea Market on Bedford Public Square

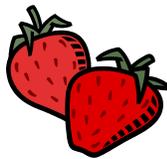
**Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 10am**

A walking tour of Bedford Cemetery Section 5 & 6;  
tour is limited, rsvp 440-232-0796

**Wednesday Evenings in June, July & August**

Party in the Park on the Square

**The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Strawberry Festival** is upon us! A big THANK YOU in advance to everyone involved. This event is our main fundraiser and we can't do it without



the volunteers that tirelessly run it year after year. Can you spend a few hours to help out? Each year the Festival takes many volunteers to help it run smoothly and it's a great way to show off our historic buildings, Public Square and our museum exhibits.



Don't forget to remember our Veterans this Memorial Day! Our Public Square is an excellent example of memorials throughout Bedford's history. Our community has sent numerous men and women to help serve our country bravely and selflessly.

## From the President

Hi Members,

As we look forward to summer, let's remember the tremendous year we've had so far! We've come into 2013 with a roar and have no plans of slowing down. Janet and her team have constructed a wonderful new exhibit "Giants of Industry" on the third floor that officially opened during the Spring Open House. Please stop by and check out their hard work. The Open House was a great success—thanks to all who attended, worked and provided the delicious desserts! We heard a lot of positive comments from those that attended. Finally, for those of you that haven't heard, Janet has officially retired from her duties as Director. She is continuing in her role as Curator as well as lending a helping hand to Dana Best-Mizsak, our new Director. We wish Janet the best and are lucky to have her continue on with us as Curator. Be sure to stop by and meet Dana at any of our upcoming events or at the Town Hall Museum.

*Bob Schroeter*



## What does Historic Bedford mean to you?

If you've been to the museum or a FriDates concert in the past few weeks, you may have heard about our new project—*What does Historic Bedford mean to you?* We are looking for your perspectives—people, buildings, events or a story about something in Bedford that highlights its history. You can submit your answer at the Town Hall Museum, on the website or on our Facebook Page. The data collected will be used in a future project, but watch the Newsletter or the Facebook page for a few teasers!

## From the Director

Dear Members,

As I wrap up my first two months on the job, I am amazed at the truly incredible group of volunteers we have. This organization really is its membership. I am impressed every day by the work that has been and continues to be done. I am excited to be a part of the Historical Society and am looking forward to a bright (and busy) future! Thank you to the Trustees and Janet Caldwell for putting their faith in me to help shepherd us into the next stage of our mission—to collect, preserve and interpret the history of Bedford Township and the Western Reserve. Last year, we had over 3,000 visitors to the museum and this year is shaping up to be even better! Please feel free to stop by the museum or e-mail me at [dbestmizsak@BedfordOhioHistory.org](mailto:dbestmizsak@BedfordOhioHistory.org) if you have any questions or just to say hi!

*Dana Best-Mizsak*

## What was it?

If you attended the Open House on April 14<sup>th</sup>, you may have noticed a couple of curious artifacts out for identification. After many attempts, we had two visitors that guessed correctly—Helen Pratt and Jeff Hlavach. Both won a \$5.00 gift certificate to use in the Museum Store. The correct answer is: a dice retriever for table games. Other guesses included: a backscratcher and a window blind pull.



After 5 years of hard work and dedication, Laura Flaisig and Doris Shriver have decided to retire from the Museum Store.

The store has thrived through their hard work. Thank you Doris and Laura!

We are looking for 1 or 2 volunteers to continue their work. Please call Dana for more details.



**The Museum Store** has a new look and a Sale to Celebrate Spring! Stop by to check it out and get a great deal on handmade items, Walker China and the Cat's Meow! Right now you can save 10% on all Cat's Meow, 25% on handmade scarves and 25% on all Walker China plates. We are looking for some new stock of handmade items. If you knit, crochet, quilt, craft or sew and could donate a few of your homemade creations, contact the Museum Store for more information.



## Sedlon Garden Update

As many of you know, the Sedlon Garden project has progressed with the lawn being seeded and the cement for the winding path poured. We are happy to report that we met with the contractor to begin plans for Phase II which will include adding an ADA compliant door to the back of the Dunham House—making it partially handicap accessible. We are thrilled to be able to share the first floor of the house with all of our visitors. We are hoping that Phase II will be completed by the end of summer and we will be able to enjoy the garden during the Fall.



## Flea Market

The Flea Market is around the corner! Once again, the Historical Society will have a table of items for sale. We are looking for donated items to sell. All proceeds will go to the Historical Society. Please bring donations to the Town Hall Museum between Monday July 22<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday August 7<sup>th</sup> so we have enough time to inventory and price items before the sale! Call for more details!



# New at the Museum

Spring is here...which means new exhibits! Thanks to all of our volunteers and members that helped to sponsor, in particular, two new exhibits.

## Scouting Memorabilia



Bob Pallat and Glyn Gary have created a display of scouting items. The exhibit includes items from the 1950s & 60's. It includes Boy Scout, Camp Fire Girls and Sea Scout items. Bob and his wife, Karen, are active in the Sea Scout Program on Lake Erie.



## Battle of Lake Erie, 1813



Thank you to Mayor Dan Pock for building this spectacular model of the Battle of Lake Erie. The commemorative activities of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle will be held during the weekend of September 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> at the Perry Victory Monument on Put-in-Bay by the National Park Service. The model can be seen in the Town Hall Museum Library room.

**Note: School Tours are being rescheduled for the Fall due to curriculum changes by the State Board of Education.**

## Giants of Industry



Jack & Heintz, McMyler Interstate, Stalwart Rubber and many, many more... What do these names mean to you? To many, they represent the career their grandparents, their parents or they had. To others, they are familiar names of community businesses through stories and events. To local historians, they represent a tremendous impact that helped to shape not only Bedford Township, but also the Western Reserve during a period of high industry and growth. The Bedford Historical Society's new exhibit, "*Giants of Industry*," highlights these companies as well as the industrial period that helped to shape them.

Jack & Heintz, founded in 1940, experienced tremendous growth—growing from just 56 employees in 1940 to more than 8,700 by 1944 thanks to World War II and its design and manufacturing of airplane parts and motors. This growth was short-lived and by 1961, a series of acquisitions started. Today, the site is a railroad inter-modal facility.

McMyler Interstate, organized from several businesses in 1910, became the largest manufacturing facility in Bedford and included 50 buildings on 43 acres of land. McMyler produced 59 types of cranes, gaining worldwide recognition in the 1910s and 1920s. In 1919, the US Navy commissioned McMyler to build, at the time, the largest crane in the world—standing 245 feet high and weighing 350 tons.

Stalwart Rubber was founded in by Herman Osborn in 1921. The company originally made rubber heels for high-heeled shoes. By the 1940s, it had expanded to 150 employees and was known as one of the largest industries in Bedford Township. In 1953, Stalwart Rubber acquired Jasper Rubber in Georgia. Business boomed, and Stalwart was manufacturing in multiple fields including automotive, appliance, aircraft and electronics. After 60 years in business, the company was sold and left Bedford in 1980.

## Home Sweet Home



A recent Lyceum program about architectural housing styles in Bedford

Township caught the interest of one of our members. Olive Troutman visited the museum with information about her home which she and her husband built. The home was ordered from the Aladdin Company in Bay City, Michigan. Aladdin was a pioneer in pre-fabricated housing. Founded by the Sovereign brothers prior to WWI, the company was one of the largest manufacturers of pre-fabricated homes. Aladdin also offered garages and out buildings for sale. Much of the company's sales volume depended on communities where large scale industrial complexes were being built. Several communities in the U.S. and England have neighborhoods of Aladdin houses that supplied homes for workers. In the 1950s, the sale of pre-fabricated houses slacked off but the company remained viable until 1987. Housing styles included two-story homes, cape cods and ranches. The first photo shows the artist's concept of a ranch home offered by Aladdin. This is the style that the Troutmans chose to build in the 1950s. Their home is seen in the second photo. Olive brought in the instruction book that arrived with the pre-cut lumber and materials. By following the instructions in the book, the homeowner completed each section of the house much the same as following a cooking recipe. The Troutmans raised four children in their beautiful home. Thanks, Olive, for sharing a piece of history.



We have launched our Facebook and Twitter pages! Be sure to "Like" or "Follow" us if you already use these social media outlets. We will have pictures, updates, events and more as the year continues and our following grows. Also planned to launch in the next few weeks will be a blog with content written by volunteers and staff on interesting artifacts, Bedford historic figures and much, much more! So, stay tuned!

[www.facebook.com/BedfordOhioHistory](http://www.facebook.com/BedfordOhioHistory)

[www.twitter.com/BedfordOhioHist](http://www.twitter.com/BedfordOhioHist)



## Obituaries

*Wendell C. Milz*; Long time member Wendell Milz died on March 24, 2013. Wendell graduated from Bedford High and Hiram College. He was a research chemist for Alcoa at their facility in Western Pennsylvania. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Ruth ( nee: Schuller), his children Deborah (Richard) Simpson, Cynthia ( Charles) Yerrick and the Rev. Paul M. Milz. He will be missed by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Wendell was the brother of longtime member Luverne Skillicorn.

*Verdabelle (nee: Abbott) Spaulding*; Member Verdabelle Spaulding died April 20, 2013. Verdabelle was an active member of the society for many years including serving 10 years as librarian. She was an educator and librarian in the Bedford City School district. Verdabelle was an accomplished musician and taught private lessons to many students. She was preceded in death by her husband Sterling. She will be missed by her nephews and nieces and their families. She will also be missed by her many friends from several area clubs. Members may send a donation in her memory to the Bedford Historical Society.

*Virginia Louise Ake*; Member Virginia Louise (nee: Malone) Ake died on May 1, 2013. She joined the Society in 1959 and held the membership card with the lowest issued number. Virginia and husband Sam, Sr., were active members both serving on the board of trustees over the years. Virginia helped cut the ribbon to the new museum addition in 2004. She is preceded in death by her husband Samuel, Sr. and daughter Sue Ake Balogh. She is survived by her son Sam, Jr., her brother John Malone, grandchildren and extended family.

Our sympathy to members Bob and Helen Hurtuk and family on the death of their daughter, Helen Antoinette DiFonzo.

Our sympathy to member Endre Szentkiralyi and family on the death of his mother, Melinda.