

# The Bedford Bee.

Bedford Historical Society  
PO Box 46282  
Bedford OH 44146

March 2015 – May 2015  
Issue 320  
440 232-0796 BedfordOhioHistory.org

## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm,  
Old Church on the Square**

### *Lyceum- Aluminum as Art*

Member Aija Zirnis shares her research about the interesting 20<sup>th</sup> century use of aluminum in home decorating and fashion. Wendell August Forge was the most known but there were several artists and designers who made beautiful works. She shares her research and shows examples about this popular art form in today's collectible market.

**Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, La Casa Bella Party Center**  
**Annual Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction Fundraiser**  
*See inside for details!*

**Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, noon, Maple Hts. Library**  
**Encore! Lunch & Lyceum- The Civilian Conservation Corps.**

Started in 1933 as part of the "New Deal" by President Franklin Roosevelt, the CCC was responsible for recruiting thousands of unemployed young men to help protect our natural resources. Member Andrew Mizsak speaks to us about his family's role in the CCC and how the CCC helped to establish and preserve our National Parks.

**Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, Old Church on the Square**  
**A Concert to Support the Old Church on the Square**  
*See inside for details!*

**Friday & Saturday, April 17 & 18, Old Church on the Square: Spring Scrapbooking Sleepover**  
*See inside for details*

**Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, La Casa Bella Party Center**  
**Annual Dinner, Business Meeting & Presentation**  
*Save the Date- Invitations will be mailed in March*

**Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, Gates-Handyside House**  
**Victorian Tea & Tour** *See inside for details!*

## From the President

Dear Members,

Happy New Year and Happy Birthday to the Society! As we turn 60 years young this year, we're taking time to remember all that we've achieved over the past six decades and where we're headed in the next decade. The team has a number of new and exciting activities as well as new fundraisers and some new items for the Museum Store to help celebrate this milestone accomplishment.

Remember- we can't do it without you! So, please attend an activity or program, renew your membership and attend a fundraiser or two. Don't forget to show your support by shopping at the Museum Store! And, the 51<sup>st</sup> Strawberry Festival and 10<sup>th</sup> Car Show are right around the corner!

*Bob Schroeter, Sr., President of the Board*

***In the event that our local school districts are closed, the Town Hall Museum may be closed as well. Please call before you venture out to visit us during the winter weather!***



## Membership News

A big thank you to all who renewed their membership for 2015! And, a big thanks to those that have elected to receive their newsletter electronically. Due to space constraints, we will recognize our new lifetime members in an upcoming newsletter—there are a lot! We are working through the rather large stack of renewals and new membership cards will be mailed out over the next few weeks.

In other membership news, we have made the decision to trim our membership list. Those who have not stayed current with their dues will be contacted via postcard and phone call in the next few months. If we're not able to reach you, we will not be able to continue mailing the newsletter to you. We hate to take these steps, but with rising postage costs, it's necessary to try and save where we can. Please call us at 440-232-0796 if you're not sure of your membership status.

## Director's Corner

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday! It's hard to believe that I'm starting my third year here—what a journey it's been!

We've stayed busy during our month off with building repairs, grant writing, program development and more! One big that happened is that we have partnered with Amazon Smile. If you select us as your charity of choice on Amazon.com, they will donate a small percentage of your purchase to the Historical Society! So, if you're an online shopper, I would encourage you to check it out.

I will be traveling to both Washington D.C. and Columbus to meet with our elected officials at the end of February and early March to tell them our story. More importantly, I want to tell your stories—why the Historical Society is important to you and why you continue to support us. If you have something to share with our officials, please contact me at the museum!

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to call me at the Museum or send an e-mail to:

[dbestmizsak@BedfordOhioHistory.org](mailto:dbestmizsak@BedfordOhioHistory.org)

*Dana Best-Mizsak, Director*

## Capital Campaign

**Target: \$600,000** Final paperwork has been submitted to the State of Ohio for the approval of our project. This is necessary because the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and because of our grant from the State for the first phase of work. With any luck, we will be under construction before Spring starts! We do not anticipate any impact to the use of the building during Phase I of construction.

In order to keep the public informed, a series of short informational presentations will be offered. The first of these will be during our Annual Meeting in May.

Our first fundraiser of 2015 for the Capital Campaign will be on **Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.** It will feature

a concert by the Cleveland Institute of Music and following it will be a silent auction and wine & cheese reception in the Old Church on the Square. Tickets are \$25 per person and can be purchased at the Town Hall Museum or by contacting us at 440-232-0796.



## Night at the Movies Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction

Join us for "A Night at the Movies" Reverse Raffle and Silent Auction to benefit the Bedford Historical Society.



Doors open at 6:30pm with music by the Cleveland Institute of Music, sideboards, silent auction and a cash bar. There is a **grand prize of \$2,000** for the Reverse Raffle! Dinner will be: Carved beef & demi-glaze with vegetable, potato and dessert. Plus, appetizers and a popcorn bar sponsored by Crazy But True in Hudson! Tickets are: \$55 per person (includes 1 raffle ticket + dinner), \$80 per couple (includes 1 raffle ticket + 2 dinners), \$30 dinner only.

We accept all major credit cards, checks or cash. Tickets must be purchased by **Monday, March 2nd.**

Call 440-232-0796 or e-mail us at: [dbestmizsak@bedfordohiohistory.org](mailto:dbestmizsak@bedfordohiohistory.org) for details or to purchase tickets. You can also find details on our Events Tab on Facebook.



## Victorian Tea

Back by popular demand! Our Victorian Tea will be held on **Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>** at 10am. in the Old Church on the Square. Guests will be treated to a tour of the Gates-Handyside House, the Hezekiah Dunham House and the Town Hall Museum. Tickets are \$40 per person and include a delicious lunch & tea plus all three tours. Space is limited (and we do tend to sell out)—please reserve your spot no later than **Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.**



**We've been nominated for the 2015 Cleveland Hot List in the Best Museum Category!**

At press time, we were ranked #3 out of 26. Show your support and help get us to #1! Check us out at:

<http://cleveland.cityvoter.com/bedford-historical-society/biz/679986>

## Spring Scrapbooking Sleepover

Join us for a Scrapbooking extravaganza on April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>! Space is limited! \$75 for both days, \$50 for Saturday only. See the enclosed flyer for details! New crafter? - No problem! We have a few talented veteran croppers to assist you!

## Museum Store News



You've asked for it and we heard you- show your support with new gear from the Museum Store! We have t-shirts, sweatshirts, bags, hats and more. An order form is enclosed with the newsletter, but we have more more in stock at the store. All items will be available (in limited quantities) at fundraisers and events in 2015. You can place a an order by calling us, mailing in the order form or by e-mail. Orders placed by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month will typically be available by the 8<sup>th</sup> of the following for pick-up or shipping.



## Footnotes from the Library

by Paul Pojman

Relatively few historical figures, perhaps even none to us Americans, provoke as much sentiment and awe as Abraham Lincoln, the subject of a whole exhibit-filled room in the Bedford Historical Society Museum. However, our principal figure in this article is someone whose fame is forever attached to "Abe." That person is Francis Bicknell Carpenter (1830-1900). Obscure to us today, except to art historians, he gave to us one of the most famous of American paintings, at least during the last few decades of the 19th century. The painting called *The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation Before the Cabinet* came to be by Carpenter's own efforts, with help from friends and approval from the President himself.

The original idea came to him in late 1863; by early February he began a six-month sojourn at the White House to sketch and paint. At his first private meeting with the President, Lincoln told him, "Well, Mr. Carpenter, we will turn you in loose here, and try to give you a good chance to work out your idea." The artist learned in detail the history behind the Proclamation from initial discussions with the Cabinet to its official issuance on September 22, 1862, to its taking effect on January 1, 1863. Starting in the mansion's library, but later moving to the State Dining Room (with more beneficial light), Carpenter spent nearly every waking hour on this monumental work (about 14 feet long and 9 feet high), while occasional visitors stood to gawk or offer comments.

About July 22, 1864, as the Civil War raged on and the fall elections loomed, Carpenter completed his work and gave the President and his Cabinet a special viewing. On display in the East Room for a couple of days, the painting drew thousands of visitors. Before taking his leave, the artist and the President studied the work for the last time. Recommending one change--the color of a particular book against a chair leg--Lincoln said, "It is as good as it can

be made." He further stated: "Carpenter, I believe I am about as glad over the success of this work as you are!" After this it began a tour of various cities, beginning in New York and Boston. It graced the Capitol rotunda back in Washington DC for Lincoln's second inauguration on March 4, 1865. It happened to be in Pittsburgh when news of Lincoln's assassination and attempt on Seward's life caused such a crush of people that the exhibit hall had to be closed for a time.

The Bedford Historical Society has a copy of an engraving of the painting hanging in its Civil War room. The 3 by 2-foot copy was donated in the fall of 1967 by W. M. Jacka (President of Bedford Advertising Co.), W. J. Olds (President of Franklin Oil Corp.), and Ralph Wunderlich (President of Wunderlich Fabricating Co.). The engraver was New York artist Alexander Hay Ritchie (1822-1895), well-known in his time. Ritchie was called upon to make the 33x21-inch engraving from a same-sized copy of the painting done by Carpenter. The copy was destroyed in a fire a year later; fortunately, the engraving (completed in 1866) was saved and prints of it made the original painting very well-known.

And what became of F. B. Carpenter's great work? The artist kept it in his possession until a New York City woman named Elizabeth Thompson bought it in 1877 for \$25,000, then donated it to the country. Congress officially accepted it the following February 12. The artist attended, and Rep. James A. Garfield of Ohio gave one of the tributes. The painting now hangs in its original frame in the Senate wing of the Capitol.

References: *Six Months at the White House with Abraham Lincoln; the Story of a Picture*, by F. B. Carpenter (1866); *The Picture and the Men*, compiled by Fred. B. Perkins (1867); *The Life and Public Services of Abraham Lincoln*, by Henry J. Raymond (1865); website [http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/art/artifact/Painting\\_33\\_00005.htm](http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/art/artifact/Painting_33_00005.htm), accessed 10-30-14.



## Thank You Floral Friends!

As a community, we get things done. As we planned Christmas exhibits this year, we asked our local florists for help in creating period wreaths for a 'Doors of Bedford' exhibit. Everyone said an enthusiastic 'Yes!' Please remember these talented people when you order flowers for a special occasion or just to brighten the table. We extend our gratitude to:

**Bedford Floral Shoppe, 691 Broadway; Carol James Florist; 451 Broadway; Novak's Flower Shoppe, 6149 Dunham Rd; Flowerama, 5271 Warrensville Center Rd. and Affordable Flowers, 9783 Ravenna Rd on Twinsburg Square.**

Over 500 visitors toured the Town Hall Museum during the Christmas in Bedford Falls festival.

Does anyone have a photo or information on the **Pure Oil/Spaggs Auto** business on the NE corner of Broadway at Flora? This is near the Maple Hts. border. Also, does anyone have a photo of **Star Bakery** in Oakwood Village? Please contact us 440-232-0796 if you can help. Thank you.



## Bedford Birth and Death Certificates

The City of Bedford no longer issues birth and death certificates. The records have been moved to the City of Cleveland, 601 Lakeside Ave Room 122. Phone contact is 216 664-2315. Cost is \$25 plus an additional fee for credit card processing.



## Handyside Project

The Society has completed its project to film the architectural features of the historic Gates Handyside House, 762 Broadway. Mr. Holsey Handyside, grandson

of the first residents leads the descriptive tour. The DVD was filmed and edited by Bartlett Video Productions and underwritten by the Bedford Rotary Club. The DVD will be archived at the museum. We express our gratitude to Mr. Handyside and the Bedford Rotary for recognizing the importance of this project. And thanks to Bartlett Video Productions for the exceptional filming and editing.



## Obituaries

*Evelyn Sawastuk*; Member, Evelyn Jane (nee: Mayor) Sawastuk died on December 24, 2014. Evelyn was active in the Bedford community through many organizations and her church. She served on the Bedford School Board for 12 years from 1969-1981. The Bedford Historical Society was fortunate to have Evelyn volunteer as a docent, Lyceum presenter and for many fund raising projects. For several years, she was the building manager for the Old Church on the Square. On her own time, she and her husband Mike, painted walls, planted flowers and shrubs and did many additional chores that helped preserve the building and beautify the grounds. She was named 2012 Bedford Citizen of the Year and is in the Bedford High School Distinguished Hall of Fame. Ev is survived by her husband Mike, and children Lin (Jeff Salzman) Darby, Caxixi (Richard) Holsworth, Beverly (James) Murtagh, Vicki McSherry and Jeff Sawastuk (Steven Gorecki). She was a loving part of her grandchildren's lives and will be missed by them. She leaves many friends who have fond memories of her kindness and loyal friendship.

*Roger W. Adams*; Friend of the Bedford Historical Society, Roger Adams died on December 24, 2014. Roger was an early advocate for the preservation of historic landmarks within the Bedford Historic District. He purchased the Franklin House and restored the integrity of its important architectural features. He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Marjorie. He will be missed by his sons Dale (Josie), Dana and daughter Judy (Jim) and their families.

We extend our sympathy to John and Debbie Grubb and family on the loss of John's mother.

## Society Helps

### Chinese Television Project

Over the years readers of the Bee know that we have helped researchers in the far corners of the globe. We were recently contacted by television producers in China about one of our holdings, that of Bedford Missionary Lillian Collins. A stateside researcher flew to Bedford and museum staff spent the day helping comb through letters and photos for information. Miss Collins family, and Society members graciously helped with additional information. If you have a special memory of Lillian, please let us know. The project is still looking for some additional information!



**PLAN** a legacy gift or make a memorial gift to our Endowment Fund. The fund continues to steadily grow with your continued support. Donations are tax deductible and can be made any time during the year either by mailing it to us at our mailing address or by going online to the Cleveland Foundation website. ([www.clevelandfoundation.org](http://www.clevelandfoundation.org)) Additionally, planned giving through bequests can also be administered through the Foundation. These funds help us to continue our mission of collecting, preserving and interpreting this history of Bedford, Bedford Township and portions of the Western Reserve by making sure we can continue to serve our community.