

The Bedford Bee.

Bedford Historical Society

P.O. Box 46282

Bedford, OH 44146

June – August 2015, Issue 321

(440) 232-0796

www.BedfordOhioHistory.org

Upcoming Events

Monday, May 25th- Memorial Day Parade

Begins at 10:15am

Friday, June 12th – Sunday, June 14th

51st Annual Strawberry Festival

Saturday, June 13th- 10th Annual Car Show

4pm – 10pm on Broadway in Downtown Bedford

Thursday, June 18, 2pm

Lyceum: Decorative Aluminum Giftware, Part 2

See inside for details

Saturday, August 8th, 9am – 3pm

Annual Flea Market on the Square

Sunday, August 9th, 1pm – 5pm

Strawberry

Festival News

Only a few more weeks until the

Festival! We have new entertainment, more vendors than ever before and the Local History Tent is coming back with a special exhibit on President Lincoln from the Smithsonian.

Plus, it's the 10th Anniversary of the Car Show! Please remember to sell your raffle tickets! This year, we are offering a \$600 grand prize plus a host of other fantastic prizes, including a beautiful hand-made afghan by member Helen Batko.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at (440) 232-0796. We are in need of help in several areas including the Museum Store table, strawberry shortcake sales and raffle ticket sales.

From the President

Dear Members,

Spring has sprung! After a long and cold winter, it's great to see the Sedlon and Herb Gardens in bloom! Be sure to out these spaces during the Summer and Fall seasons.

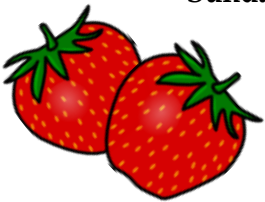
Last week, we held our 54th Annual Dinner. Our thanks to Volunteer of the Year, Barbara McDaniel, for her years of dedication and service to the Society. We also thank the following Trustees whose terms ended on May 7th for their service: Karen Pallat, Brian Melling, Phil Saunders and Marilyn Zolata. Thank you also to Dinah Mouat who is returning for a second term.

Please join me in welcoming our new Trustees: Chris Callender, Mary Brenner-Miller, Paula Mizensak, and Greg Betts. We also welcome Rechetta Jordan, who will be filling an unexpired term. We are sure that this new class of Trustees is up to the task and we welcome their energy and ideas as we start our next decade of service to the community.

Finally, the Festival is almost here! Thank you in advance to all of our volunteers that help to put on our biggest fundraiser of the year! Don't forget to come out and enjoy strawberry shortcake, live entertainment, the 10th Anniversary of the Car Show and more!

Sincerely,

Bob Schroeter, Sr.



Director's Corner

Dear Members,

Happy Spring! We have been busy getting ready for a number of events and upcoming programs. Thank you to the Victorian Maids under the leadership of Chris Sweet and Barb McDaniel this year. The food was delicious, as always, and a fun time was had by all. Special thanks to Ambassador Handyside for opening up his home for tours!

The Town Hall Museum received a bit of a makeover in the form of new paint for all of the windows! Thanks to Toth Painting for a job well done! Our landscaping was also refreshed by Turf World and is ready for new plants and flowers!

Finally, I'm happy to announce a new program in the works. Over the course of the next two years, we will be working with the School District to develop a new curriculum enhancement program that will focus local and Ohio history using the common core and state standards. We are very excited to begin this new endeavor and be able to provide this important resource to our next generation of historians.

Thank you, Life Members!

Kay Rossman, our membership secretary, says the following is a list of new life members: Tim & Cathy Taylor, Chris Sweet, Bob & Karen Pallat, Doris Shriver, Marian McCandless, Jonathan McCandless, Dwight & Marty Motsco, David & Michelle Paris.



Index Available

An expanded index for the *Images of America* book, *Bedford and Bedford Township Ohio* is available for people who purchased their book through bookstores or the

internet. (If you purchased your book through the museum's store, you have one inserted in the book.) You can stop and pick up the expanded index at the museum any time during hours. No charge. Sales of the book continue to generate funds for the Society. And, don't forget to stop by the Museum Store to take a look at all of the new items we have in stock!

FLEA MARKET

We are now accepting donations of items to sell at our table during our Annual Flea Market. All pro-

ceeds benefit the Historical Society. Please bring your donations to the Town Hall Museum during our normal hours between now and Monday, August 3rd. Don't forget to come out and shop on Saturday, August 8th from 9am-3pm!



Capital Campaign

Thanks to all that came out for our "Concert, Wine & Cheese Reception and Art Auction" to benefit the



Capital Campaign! The music, by students from the Cleveland Institute of Music, was fantastic and a good time was had by all. More fundraisers are being planned for the Fall to help support this important project.

Phase I of the project is nearly complete! You may have noticed the work being done over the past few weeks. The entire foundation of the building was reinforced and waterproofed. Hopefully, this will be the end of the water leaks. Special thanks to Doty & Miller Architects and CPK Construction for making this project a reality!

We now shift our focus to Phase II of the campaign, which includes updated electric and plumbing inside the building, new restrooms, classroom space and a new look for the Lower Level. We will discuss this project to get member and public input at our Fall Lyceum programs.

Don't forget, you can donate directly to the project by putting "Capital Campaign" in the memo line of your check.

FOOTNOTES FROM THE LIBRARY:

The Family Bible

By Paul Pojman

Lots of books, especially *old ones*, grace our Museum Library. One subject that often gets overlooked is religion, and a core element of that collection are an accumulation of Bibles. We have many versions, dating back to the early 1800s. Some deserve the term "family Bible." What does this mean?

The typical "family Bible" in our collection is a tome about 12 by 10 inches and around 4 inches thick, with a leather cover often embossed and trimmed in gold. It includes both Old and New Testaments with black-and-white engravings of key events. It is a "King James" version from the mid to late 19th-century, with an elaborate title page. Between the Old and New Testaments is a section of pages to record marriages, births, deaths, and other family information very useful to genealogists.

Thanks to many donors we have quite a few Bibles with valuable genealogical data. One of the most treasured is that published in 1867 and once belonging to the Willards. It was bought at an estate sale in 1999 by the late Richard Squire. Its family record shows the names of Bedford native Archibald Willard and his wife Nellie (married in 1864) and their children. The penmanship is very artistic. Particularly intriguing are photographs, including a heretofore unknown one of Archibald as a young man, perhaps not long before he painted his famous *Spirit of '76*.

Bibles with genealogies include those of families who once lived in the "Western Reserve." One Bible came to us via a Bedford woman in 1970; the others, like so many of our books, have "unknown" donors. Several other Bibles, with or without family data, were once owned by Bedford people, among them famous names from the City's past. The flyleaves have signatures and/or inscriptions of one or more family members. We also have a few Bibles (along with hymnals and church histories) from the old Bedford Christian Church. For those of us with an affinity for history, it's almost a sacred thing (no pun intended) to hold a book held (and held in reverence) by other men and women of long ago.

"Books tell a story," says an old adage. This indeed rings true in examining our old Bibles. One has some flowers delicately pressed between pages (and still showing their colors). Another book is appended with newspaper clippings. Then there's a worn New Testament carried by a soldier during World War II. Lots of conversation starters lie between the covers, not to mention the Scripture itself and the family records. If only books could talk!

In a recent article about the family Bible, Christian essayist Heather King writes: "For many families, this tradition has long fallen by the wayside, no longer practiced or valued." She goes on to encourage parents, especially mothers, to continue this time-honored tradition. "It's a wonderful way to treasure family and pass on stories and family faith from one generation to another." Amen!

Reference: "The Traditional Handing Down of the Family Bible" (2008) by Heather King, at www.myfrienddebbie.com/article_master.php?id=1111, accessed 4/20/15. For more facts about this subject, see links at www.genealogy.about.com/od/bibles/ or <http://churchm.ag/genealogy-family-bible-project/>. Also, Facebook has a page for "Family Bibles - Genealogy."



Field Trip-

Christmas in August

A field trip is in the works for 10:00 am Friday August 14, 2015 to Castle Noel in Medina Ohio. Mark Klaus is brainchild of Castle Noel; his life-long love of all things Christmas evolved into this magical collection of Christmas related memories. Remember the slide in *The Christmas Story* movie? Castle Noel has it. The Grinch's Sleigh in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*? It is there as is the beater RV from *National Lampoon's Christmas*. There are beautiful window displays from NY department store windows. These are just part of the massive collection of Christmas related memorabilia that Mr. Klaus has assembled for the public's enjoyment. The Castle is located at 260 South Court St just off Medina Public Square. Society members and friends can meet at the site. Need a ride? Can you provide a ride? Let us know so we can arrange carpooling. Carpoolers will meet at the Town Hall museum at 9:00am. Cost of the private tour is a discount rate of \$14/pp; If there is interest, the group will have lunch

Cuban Jacket

Member Steve Salvi has loaned an interesting item for visitors to view. Steve lived in Florida for many years and found a military jacket inside a beached boat. The boat brought Cuban nationals ashore hoping to find a better life in the US. Visitors can view the jacket and read about this segment of American history at the Town Hall Museum. It will be on display through the summer.



Decorative Aluminum Giftware, Part II

The March Lyceum about the history of decorative hammered aluminum giftware was a popular program. Many attendees wanted to know more about their specific pieces. Member and friends are invited to learn more about specific items with Aija Zirnig on *Thursday June 18th at 2:00PM in the Old Church*. You are welcome to bring items from your collection or come just to learn more.



Photography Exhibit

The photography exhibit opened at the Spring Open House and will remain through September 30th. Thanks to member, Jim Rhine, visitors were able to have their family portraits

taken. Thanks to member, Cleaster Fowler, visitors can view a rare glass plate contact printer manufactured in 1909.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the curator visited students in two classes at Glendale School. Students learned how cameras worked. They inspected older cameras from the museum's collection. The young 'history detectives' examined vintage photos to learn about the past. Then, they took photos of their classroom which are posted in the exhibit for museum visitors to view. It was nice to have help from these 'junior curators.'

[The following members helped with this exhibit- *Frank Caldwell, Oriann Crow, Kathy Donato, Cleaster & Flora Fowler, Debra Grubb, Joyce Maruna, Jim O'Neill, Bob Pallat, Paul Pojman, Tom Rafferty, The Rhine Family, The Taussig Family, Olive Troutman, and Gary Watts.*

Thanks! Janet Caldwell]



Sportsman's Park Question

Recent donations to the Society include 16 beautifully painted models of midget race cars that raced at Sportsman's Park. The donor's father purchased the models for \$1.25 each and brought them home for his son after race days. It is not known who assembled and painted these models. Does anyone recall the name of the model maker?



Obituaries

Rita M. Heintel; Member Rita Heintel (nee: Nemeth) died on November 16, 2014. Rita was a volunteer and supported many society events. She was preceded in death by her husband John. She will be missed by her children James (Deborah), Raymond (Katherine), Helen (John) Parch, Adele (Edward) Sekerak, John (Terry) and Susan (James) Busta. She was a dear grandmother and great-grandmother.

Marian B. Toaz; Member Marian (nee: Horton) Toaz died on February 28, 2015. Marian was a longtime member of the Bedford community. She was preceded in death by her husband Milton W. She will be missed by her children Todd (Peggy), Terrell (Lisa) and Tracy (Troy) Selzer and her grandchildren. She was the sister of member Ruth Miller and the late Margaret Horton.

Donald A. DePompei; Member Don DePompei died on April 2, 2015. He served his country in the US Army during WWII. Don was a long time member of the Bedford community. He was preceded in death by his wife Mary (nee: Berry). He is survived by his children Mary Beth Leon and James (Susan). He will be missed by his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Patricia A. Papish; Member Pat (Byrnes) Papish died on April 9, 2015. Pat was a registered nurse for 50 years including head of nursing at Bedford Hospital. In retirements, she was active at her church and with the Bedford Historical Society. Pat spent the entire Strawberry Festival in the kitchen prepping the berries and preparing the whipped cream and biscuits. She was one of our chief do-cents at the historic Dunham House during hours. She was preceded in death by her husband Thomas. She is survived by her children Terri Jones, Tommy (Allison), Trac and Tami (Andy) Drotleff and grandchildren. She will be missed by her many friends. Memorial contributions in Pat's name may be made to the Bedford Historical Society.

Our sympathy to member Jean Vavra on the loss of her husband, James.

