

# The Bedford Bee.

Bedford Historical Society  
P.O. Box 46282  
Bedford, OH 44146

September – November 2015, Issue 322  
(440) 232-0796  
www.BedfordOhioHistory.org

*Explore. Dream. Discover.*

## Upcoming Events

- 9/10, 7:30pm Lyceum**  
*Letters Home- The Civil War Letters of Milo Barnum,*  
Old Church on the Square
- 9/11-9/13 Weekend of the Pooka,**  
Bedford Square
- 9/30, 12pm Lyceum**  
*The Walhain-Saint-Paul Project,*  
Southeast Branch Library
- 10/8, 7:30pm Lyceum**  
*The History of the Chelsea Milling Company,*  
Old Church on the Square
- 10/15, 7pm Capital Campaign Concert and Appetizer Reception**  
Old Church on the Square
- 10/28, 7:30 – 9:30pm Trick or Treat at the Museum,**  
Town Hall Museum
- 10/10, 10/16, 10/24 & 11/1, Haunted Bedford Tour**  
*Meet at Town Hall Museum (details inside)*
- 11/5, 7:30pm Lyceum**  
*A History of Model Making,*  
Old Church on the Square
- 11/11, 7:30-9pm Veteran's Day**  
*All Veteran's are invited to stop by the Town Hall Museum for a small token of our appreciation of your service.*
- 11/14 Teddy Bear Tea (details inside)**
- 11/20-11/21, Mega Crop Scrapbooking Fundraiser,**  
Old Church on the Square, *details inside*
- 12/12 Christmas in Bedford Falls & Open House**

## From the President

Thank you all who came out to support the Strawberry Festival and Car Show. We had great weather and a good time was had by those who attended. As we get ready for Fall, please remember to come to an event or program. Our staff and volunteers work hard to put these events together for our members and community and it's always good to see some new faces in the crowd! Plans will be underway soon for Phase II of our Capital Campaign – thanks to all who have supported this endeavor and thanks in advance to those who will support it. We are excited to continue this project in hopes of making the building a great space for the community to use for cultural and educational events.

A special note of thanks to Marian McCandless for the beautiful planters outside of the Town Hall Museum – what a great surprise!

Sincerely,

*Bob Schroeter, Sr., President*

## Strawberry Festival News

Thanks to our Festival Committee and all of the volunteers and staff who helped make this years festival a fun and memorable event. The weather held out and it was one of our best years on record!



## Teddy Bear Tea Fundraiser

Join us for a special tea on *November 14 at 11am*, for our youngest family members. Bring your favorite bear or doll for a fun afternoon of tea, story-telling and crafts. Make your reservations early, space is limited. Adults \$20, Kids 10 and under \$10. Call 440-232-0796 for reservations.

## Director's Corner

Dear Members,

Happy Fall! It's time for back to school and back to a busy schedule! We hope you'll take advantage of the many programs and events we have scheduled for the next few months. We value your participation and support as we try to come up with new and interesting activities for our members and communities. If you have any idea for a program you want to see, please let us know!

As the fall weather sets in, I urge you to take a stroll through our Downton Historic District. Did you know that Bedford has 4 buildings and a Historic District that are on the National Register of Historic Places – and all of them are within a few minutes of each other! Although, this isn't a unique phenomenon, it is rare and we are proud to be one of a few communities with multiple buildings that significantly contribute to the cultural history of our community.

*Dana Best-Mizsak, Director*

### *A Special Performance for the September Lyceum*

As requested by many, we are again presenting a reading of Civil War veteran, Milo Barnum's letters home. Ron Martin, Terry Kurtz and Tony Harwood have graciously agreed to present this interesting, fast-paced, slam-style, reading. *September 6, 2015 Thursday 7:30pm: Lyceum- A Civil War Slam-"We had a good breakfast for a soldier..."Letters Home* Bedford resident, Milo Barnum, served in the 103<sup>rd</sup> OVI during the Great Conflict. The Bedford Historical Society's archives include his letters home. Old Church on the Square 750 Broadway.

*(An Old-fashioned Pie Social follows the presentation.)*



## Haunted Bedford

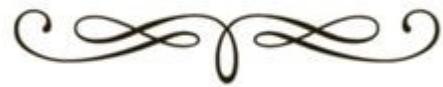


Have you ever wondered what spooky or questionable things have happened in Bedford? Join us for this fun tour on **October 10th, 16th, 24 or November 1 at 5:30pm** as we explore some of the stories throughout the history of Bedford and walk to some of the more notable spots including the cemetery! The cost is \$10 per person. Please RSVP at least one week before your preferred date as space is limited at 440-232-0796.



The Bedford Historical Society has welcomed a new staff member during the summer of 2015. Jenna Langa is an intern working in our archives department. Jenna is a 2015 graduate of Wittenberg University, with a major in history.

Jenna has been helping with a digital archive project on the B.L. Marble Chair Company. We are developing a database of chair information and descriptions and linking to scanned copies of the chair catalogs. The goal is to have a easily accessible source to answer inquires regarding chair age and characteristics. This project was begun by volunteer Oriann Crow and Jenna has been doing a great job seeing it to completion! We plan to have her continue working in the Archives on several other projects once this database is complete.



## Capital Campaign

Did you happen to notice the construction equipment around the Old Church in the Spring? We are happy to report that the waterproofing portion of the project has been completed!



The cost was approximately \$130,000.00. Special Thanks to the State of Ohio, Rep. John Barnes Jr., Doty & Miller Architects, Parallel Partners and CPK Construction for their work on this first phase of constructions. Plans will be underway soon to plan the next phase which will include renovations and upgrades to the upper and lower levels of the building.

Our next fundraising event will be on **Thursday, October 15th at 7pm** in the Old Church. We will have a concert and appetizer/wine reception afterwards with a silent auction. Tickets are \$25 per person. Stay tuned for more details via the website and social media. Please continue to support this important project to complete our efforts to make this building ADA-compliant and as a cultural asset for our community.

## FOOTNOTES FROM THE LIBRARY:

### Mark Twain & General Grant

By Paul Pojman

Ever read a book about one person and get directed to another book about someone else? This happened to yours truly recently. I had been listening to the audio version of *The Autobiography of Mark Twain* (published a few years ago). In that work Twain talks at length about his friendship with General (and former President) Ulysses S. Grant and his (and his nephew Charles') encouragement and assistance in getting the dying Grant's memoirs published.

It turns out that our library at the Historical Society Museum has a copy of the two-volume set as originally published by Charles Webster and Co. in 1885 and 1886. This was a publishing firm founded by Twain himself in 1884 with his nephew (Webster) in charge. (Charles Webster had married Twain's sister Pamela's daughter Annie Moffett in 1875.) The firm did well with its first two offerings--Grant's *Memoirs* and Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*--and a few later books but foundered later on.

Grant finished writing and proofreading his memoirs only several weeks before his death in July of 1885 of throat cancer and unfortunately didn't live to see the work appear in print. However, as Twain explains, the set sold very well and made a tidy fortune for Grant's family. This money saved the family from financial ruin, their trouble due to a former associate's thievery. The *Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant* ranks as one of the best military histories in American literature. The author relates a little of his early life, West Point years, service in the war with Mexico and afterwards, and beginnings of private life; but over three-fourths of the 1200+ pages gives a day-by-day glimpse into the exertions and privations of soldiers throughout the southern States during four years of conflict, 1861-1865. Grant had a prodigious memory for facts and dates and backed up his descriptions with copies of actual letters and dispatches, as well as a map of each major battle area. He also gives character sketches and relates anecdotes about many associates, from President Lincoln and Secretary of War Stanton down to generals and other officers in the field (both Union and Confederate). The final chapter is a summary of the rebellion and his views on the causes and repercussions of it--still very poignant when read against one's knowledge of current events.

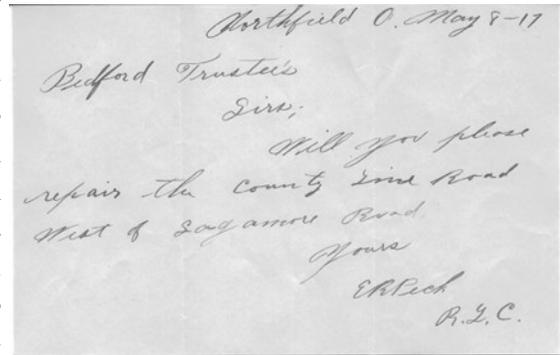
It's exciting to have such books in our collection, especially knowing their histories and connections to other famous people.

References: *Autobiography of Mark Twain*, edited by Harriet E. Smith and the other editors of the Mark Twain Project, read by Grover Gardner, Blackstone Audio c2010 (vol.1) and 2013 (vol.2); *Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant*, in two volumes, Charles L. Webster & Co. (New York), 1885-86; Charles L. Webster and Company at < <http://rnc.library.cornell.edu/twain/exhibition/webster/index.html> >; Mark Twain, Publisher at < <http://www.twainquotes.com/websterco.html> >; A Rare Interview with Charles Webster at < <http://www.twainquotes.com/interviews/WebsterInterview.html> >; Webster, Annie E. Moffett (1852-1950) at < [http://www.marktwainproject.org/biographies/bio\\_webster\\_annie.html](http://www.marktwainproject.org/biographies/bio_webster_annie.html) >.



"Dear Sirs, Will you please repair....."

Out of town members may recall that Sagamore Rd. separating Summit and Cuyahoga counties on our southern border has been in need of repair for many years. A recent donation to the archive is a letter dated May 8, 1917, to Bedford Township Trustees written by Northfield Township resident E.R. Peck requesting that the township officials repair their portion of the road. We're happy to report that it is being repaired this summer.



### Our Fall Scrapbooking

**Mega-Crop** will be Friday November 20—Saturday, November 21. The cost is \$75 for both days, \$50 for Saturday only. Check out Facebook and the website for more details!



## WHAT'S NEW AT THE MUSEUM?

The History of Photography and Photo Gallery remains in place until the end of September. Visitors have enjoyed viewing the photos and equipment. Beginning in November, a new exhibit will be about models. It will include the museum's collection of models- hobby models by generations of past hobbyists, model buildings, a model chair and patent models to name a few. In conjunction with this exhibit, Al Fenton, of Al's Trains and Hobbies, will present a Lyceum program on the history of modeling.

A case display this summer has showcased some of the museum's beaded clutch purses with a history of these items. A new case display will feature the museum's collection of men's grooming aids with a history of shaving devices.

Our women's hats were on display at the Southeast Library for a few weeks. We occasionally do an exhibit in the lobby.



## Painting the Old Town Hall Windows

The inside windows in the 1874 Town Hall received a fresh coat of paint in May thanks to a generous donation from a private donor. The logistics were boggling—three floors, 37 windows, the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> floor windows measure 37 inches x 12 feet. Exhibits, shades and curtains all had to be moved. It took 3 workers 1 ½ weeks to complete the project.

[Members, the outside of those windows and the tower will need paint in a year or two. Start saving



## Historic Business District

Another business owner has made efforts to restore the façade of a commercial block building in the Historic Business District. It is the Guild Building, 656 & 658 Broadway. F. W. Guild was the first building owner to rebuild in brick after the Great Fire of 1893. The building has a unique footprint— the rear façade is aligned with angled Willis St. making it a trapezium in geometric terms. At one time, there was a balcony on the rear façade. F. W. Guild owned a footwear store on one side and rented the other side to F. S. Curtis who operated a cigar factory and tobacco shop. The building has had several businesses over its 120 year history including Didham & Small Men's Wear then Edward White's Men's & Boys Wear and Bennett's Paint and Wall Paper. Vern Cooper used part of the building for his Bedford Dental Lab, a profession that he learned during the war. Other businesses in recent years included a Candle Shop, a Tack Shop, two donut shops and a hair salon. The new owners have restored several architectural features. It is now Guys Pizza. The Society is supplying historic photos of the area for the walls. We are grateful to our building and business owners in the Historic District for helping preserve an essential part of our local history. Let them know you support their efforts.



## Can You Guess?



Bedford and its Township neighbors have little gems of history tucked away in the corners. Can you guess the object and its location? Send your guess to Mystery History, PO Box 46282 Bedford OH 44146. The first correct answer will receive a copy of our book, *Bedford and Bedford Township Ohio*.

(The answer will be in the next issue of the Bee.)

## Pooka Festival Exhibit

We will be open two days, September 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> for the Arts & Culture Pooka Festival with additional Sedlon works. Member, Retchetta Jordan has been researching details from the Sedlon manuscripts to give visitors insight on the artist's work. A new Sedlon addition is a hand-carved and painted chest.



## Obituaries

*Elizabeth J. (nee: Osborn) MacAlonan*; Member Betty MacAlonan died on May 12, 2015. Betty was born and raised in Bedford and was active in the life of the Bedford community. She and sister Ellen Byers were known as the accordion duet The Osborn Sisters. The sisters played for many events including the Strawberry Festival. Later in life, Betty continued to provide the gift of music for her new church in Aurora. She is preceded in death by her husband Arnold MacAlonan and her sons Robert and James. She is survived by her daughters Shirley (Otto) Koth and Kay (Burt) Almy Jr. She will be missed by her eight grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren and eleven great-great-grandchildren.

*Mary (Gerba) Sleeman*; Member Mary Sleeman died on August 15, 2015. Mary and her daughter Linda introduced many people to the joys of knitting and other needle arts through the Old Ways School. Her patience and skill made the novices comfortable; her expertise introduced experienced needle workers to new skills. Her kindness extended to those around her. Late in life, she made room in her home and heart for a rescued pooch. Mary was preceded in death by her husband Paul and a daughter Sandra Swyrydenko. She leaves a loving family—sons Robert (Mary), Gary (Donna) and daughter Linda. She will be missed by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The family suggests donations in memory of Mary to the Endowment Fund of the Bedford Historical Society.