



Bedford Historical Society and Museum Newsletter

Elmer Flick

Message from the President

by Betsy Squire

Ah...Spring! And we have lots of exciting things going at the Bedford Historical Society and Museum. The newly renovated lower community hall at the Old Church on the Commons is completed, creating an exciting venue for new education and special event programming. The makeover is a part of a sizable expansion to develop a community cultural center for individuals and groups to showcase and share their skills, talents, and collective works. In time, the space will serve as a setting for lectures, recitals, exhibitions, theatrical productions, demonstrations, and movies.

As expected the lower hall will soon be available for rental space to small parties, once a

new price structure and a *For Use Guide* are complete. In addition, meeting space will be available, at a nominal fee, for social clubs and community organizations.

The Town Hall Museum is currently working on creating new exhibits and refreshing old ones. New spaces are being remodeled and updated. This includes the reinventing of our Museum Store; creating a new look, offering a better selection of related and original items, and providing a greater shopping experience for casual shoppers near the commons and along our historic down-town district.

So come and see for yourself all the exciting things going on at the museum. See you soon!

In This Issue

Upcoming Events

- A Celebration of Seuss Church on the Commons Community Room March 2 10:00AM - 2:00PM
- BHS Reverse Raffle "Fly Me to the Moon" La Casa Bella March 16 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
- An Irish Celebration Church on the Commons Community Room March 22 7:00 PM - 9:00PM
- Annual BHS Meeting La Casa Bella May 2 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
- Fannish! A Geek Thing BHS Museum Campus Friday May 10 & Saturday May 11 (more details inside)

Rungs from the Director's Chair

by Elmer C Schulz

"Let the wild rumpus start!"

Who among us doesn't enjoy a good rumpus? We know that any time we've gone more than a week or two without one; we start to suffer from rumpus withdrawal."

Wait a minute... what's a rumpus?

Well, it's any sort of loud commotion or disturbance, really, or as I like to describe it, a brouhaha or hullabaloo. Like a giddy group of grandchildren let loose from the dining room table with uncontrollable pent-up energy, like a mainspring in a clock set free from its fastening.

In *Where the Wild Things Are*, written by Maurice Sendak, a young boy named Max announces the start of the "wild rumpus," in which he and his new friends are about to get jiggy with it...in their own special way. There's a lot of stomping and bouncing around. It's not especially graceful, but they seem to be having fun with it, so...we won't judge.



Why do I have an affinity to quote from children's literature? In part it has to do with reading to my children at

bedtime and cultivating the wisdom found within. Besides famous lines from children's books tend to entrench themselves more firmly in our vernacular than do lines from adult books. Why? Maybe because we read them as kids ourselves, so they've been in our brains longer.

What does a rumpus have to do with the museum? Maybe it's the fresh smell of spring, or the crocuses blooming, or the songs of birds and the chatter of squirrels in the blossoming trees. Whatever it is, this stir among the staff and volunteers is very evident.

After a January hiatus, work is finally swirling in the museum. It's our own of type commotion as we bounce and stomp around in preparation for another exciting year of special events and enriching activities. Of course this requires the never-ending dusting, mopping and spring-cleaning and a fair amount of fuss to take care of overlooked repairs and indispensable maintenance that needs to be done. Even some recently renovated areas need an inspired touch to 'set it right.'

So, if winter's grip has kept you bound and you are suffering needlessly from rumpus withdrawal, then stomp on over to the Town Hall Museum for a wild adventure and a good rumpus with friendly people. We invite you to attend... we could use your help. Of course, like Max, dressing yourself in a wolf costume is not compulsory, but not unwelcome.

Upcoming Events

A Celebration of Seuss!

Join the Bedford Historical Society's Education Department and our Volunteer Corp as we let our inner Seuss loose and celebrate the legendary author's birthday on **Saturday, March 2** from **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM** in the **Community Room**, Old Church on the Commons.



This special event will include simple Seuss activities, party games, treats and reading Seuss books.

The event is geared to families with children 10 years old and younger. **Children must be accompanied with a parent or adult guardian** (18-years of older). **Admission is FREE.**

Reverse Raffle

It's Out of This World

Join us for an out of this world experience, benefiting the Bedford Historical Society and Museum. The much-anticipated Reverse Raffle and Silent Auction are scheduled for **Saturday, March 16** at the **La Casa Bella Party Center in Oakwood Village, 26383 Broadway Avenue**. This year's theme is "**Fly Me to the Moon.**" So, dust off your best dinner jack or rocket jet pack.

A **\$1500 Cash Grand Prize** will be offered! \$5, \$3, \$2 Sideboards will be available. Silent Auction items will be donated by society members and local businesses.

Doors will open at **6:00 PM**. A cash bar serving wine and Irish beer will begin at that time. Dinner will be served at **7:00 PM**.

A \$60 donation includes 1 dinner and 1 raffle ticket. A \$90 donation includes 2 dinners sharing 1 raffle ticket. A \$35 donation includes 1 dinner.

The buffet menu will include chicken marsala and pork loin w/bourbon sauce, roasted redskin potatoes, mixed vegetables, garden or California salad, roll and butter, cookies and brownies.

Tickets, courtesy of Johnson-Romito Funeral Homes, are now on sale in the Town Hall Museum. For more information contact museum@BedfordOhioHistory.org

An Irish Celebration

Put Your Irish On!

With the renovation of the Community Hall complete in the Old Church on the Commons, the historical society plans to provide entertaining as well as educational experiences for the Bedford community.

To help support such events the historical society will begin offering Friday-night themed benefits in the spring and fall. These monthly appeals will offer some type of enjoyment

with some lite fair for a nominal cover charge.

We kick off our first campaign with an Irish Celebration. Join us on **Friday, March 22** from **7-9:00 PM**. Enjoy folk songs by Moonshine Country Music and a small complementary bowl of potato soup, bread, Irish coffee, tea or water. Reservations requested **\$10** at the door. Soup is an additional **\$10** donation.

Annual BHS Meeting

Mark Your Calendar!

The Annual BHS Meeting will be **Thursday, May 2** at **La Casa Bella Party Center, 26383 Broadway** in **Oakwood Village**. Doors will open at **6:00 PM**. A cash bar will begin at that time. Dinner will be served at **7:00 PM**.

The buffet menu will include chicken marsala and pork loin w/bourbon sauce, roasted redskin potatoes, mixed vegetables, garden or California salad, roll and butter, cookies and brownies.

Cost of the dinner and the evening's entertainment is **\$25**. Please join us for fellowship and fun as the Society honors our Volunteer of the Year!

Fannish!

It's A Geek Thing

Wwhhhaaaattttt?! Fannish is defined as relating to a fan; especially to fandom; behavior consistent with being a fan. So whether you are into DC and Marvel Super heroes and villains, Star Wars or Star Trek,

Dr. Who, or Harry Potter, rejoice! Have we got an event for you?

Working in collaboration with **JC Comics & Cards**, the Bedford Historical Society is presenting a family friendly event for all ages to unleash their inner-hero.



On **Friday May 10, 7-9:00 PM** come hear Cleveland Plain Dealer entertainment journalist **Michael Sangiacomo** discuss the history of comic books. This BHS fundraiser will raffle an original piece of graphic artwork by as well as baskets donated from community businesses. **Admission** is **\$10** at the door. Museum parking is limited, but additional parking is available in the city lot behind the Train Depot on the City's Commons.

On **Saturday May 11, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM** come enjoy a **FREE** outing involving merchandise, authors, artists, activities, and games, including trivia,

scavenger hunts, and costume contests.

Museum parking will not be accessible for this event due to event activities taking place in-between the buildings, but additional parking is available in the city's lot behind the Train Depot on the Commons. Like to volunteer? Call **440-232-0796** for more information.

Strawberry Festival/ Car & Motorcycle Show

Mark your calendars; **June 7, 8, and 9...** the Strawberry Festival is fast approaching! Plans are currently being finalized. We have a great lineup of live entertainment and vendors on hand!

As always, we need VOLUNTEERS to help with this year's grand fundraiser. There is something to do to meet just about every skill set and interest including, serving strawberries and ice cream, kitchen preparation, and ticket sales. Help is also required to setup and tear down program areas. And don't forget about the museum; docents are needed to handle visitor traffic and conduct tours.

In addition, the Car & Motorcycle Show rolls in on Saturday afternoon. Participants will meet at 3:15 PM at the Bedford High School and will leave at 3:45 PM to cruise downtown! The show will be from 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM with Awards at 8:30 PM. Volunteers are needed to help direct vehicles into their places. For

more information call **440-232-0796**.

Museum News

New Hours of Operation

To be more family friendly and student focused, the Bedford Historical Society will change its hours of operation. Starting February 1, the museum will be open **Tuesday** and **Thursday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM** and **Wednesday 2:00 to 8:00 PM**. Wednesday hours will expand to 9:00 PM during the months of June, July and August for Parties in the Park. In addition, the museum will be open the second **Saturday** of each month from **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. In addition, the museum will also be open the fourth Saturday of each month during the summer months of June, July, and August, from **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**.

During special event weekends the museum will be open on Sundays to accommodate such events as the Strawberry Festival and Weekend of the Pooka.

As always, the museum will accommodate special group tours for a nominal donation. Simply make reservations by calling **440-232-0796** to speak to a staff member.

Community Hall Complete

Although the renovation is complete, much work remains to be done, including updating and remodeling the warming kitchen, installing new interior and exterior doors, building a

retractable wall, installing new lighting, installation of a multimedia projection system, and a new heating system.

We are also looking to put in an elevator to make the sanctuary and lower church hall ADA accessible.

Please consider a legacy gift or make a memorial gift to our endowment fund. All donations are tax deductible and can be made anytime during the year by mailing it to us at **Bedford Historical Society, PO Box 46282, Bedford, OH 44146** or by going online to the Cleveland Foundation website at **www.Clevelandfoundation.org**.

Membership

Did You Renew?

To keep pace with the rising expense of maintaining three historic structures and presenting new education programming, the historical society has restructured its membership levels. The museum has added the following annual levels: **Senior/Student Membership** at **\$10**. The **Individual Membership** rate has increased to **\$15**. Likewise, the **Family Membership** amount has increased to **\$25**. In addition, two new values have been added for members that wish to make more than a nominal gift, a **Contributing Membership** for **\$50** and a **Friend of the Museum** price for **\$150**. All membership levels are annual and include a membership card and the quarterly newsletter. Levels over \$50 include discounts at

the museum store and reduced admission to museum events and programming.

Annual business, corporate, and institutional levels have also been adopted. Local establishments can help support the museum by purchasing a **Bronze \$100, Silver \$250, Gold \$500, Platinum \$1000, or Titanium \$5000** level charitable gift. These commercial memberships are annual and include a certificate, the quarterly newsletter, and their business logo proudly displayed on BHS website.

Volunteers Wanted:

Publisher/Graphic Artists,
Receptionists, Web-
master, Seamstress &
Program Volunteers

We're growing! If you are looking for some volunteer community engagement what better place to start than the Bedford Historical Society. Currently we need a lobby receptionist on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday to answer the telephone, take messages, and greet patrons. Involvement is flexible to meet your schedule. Mornings or afternoons, one day or three, 2, 4, or 6-hour arrangements are available. If you enjoy meeting people and have a few hours to spare this is the place for you

We are also looking for someone to administer our webpage and a graphic artist or someone familiar with Word Publisher to help create flyers,

posters and other promotional material.

Finally, we need volunteers to help support the staff in running programs and daily department work assignments. This involves assisting the curator, archivist, librarian, and museum store manager. Tasks would include, stacking, filing, organizing, light cleaning, and giving tours. Call **440-232-0796** for more information.

Join the V Corps!

The 2 O'clock Gang

So-called by our own Lead Interpreter Joyce Maruna, the 2 o'clock gang refers to the regular band of dedicated volunteers that assemble on Thursday afternoons from 2:00 – 4:00 PM to help support the staff through simple projects and tasks throughout the museum.

Assignments might include setting up a display or developing an exhibit, helping in the museum store, library or archive, planning education activities or special event programming, or general cleaning or dusting, giving tours, or running errands. Many hands make light work, that's the maxim of the 2 O'clock Gang! There is no long-term commitment, just a desire to help and support the museum as your schedule suits. So, come join the fun and sociability. Call **440-232-0796** for more information.

The Guy's Club

Retired? Are you handy with tools or a paint brush? Are you

a DIY kind of guy that knows his way around Lowes, Home Depot, or Menards and has a deep-seated need to stay busy? Do you miss Bob Villa, Craftsman tools, and a hearty Tim the 'Tool-Man' Taylor grunt! Well, welcome to the Guy's Club.

Join the BHS Director and 'Big Mike' Thompson during the week for a hot swill of joe and manly comradery while engaging in some simple but challenging "fixer upper" tasks and job-jar projects on our historic buildings and large-scale exhibits. We need framers, carpenters, painters, plasterers, electricians, and plumbers. All trades are welcome! Simply call **440-232-0796** for more information.

Dust Busters!

The Bedford Historical Society is offering up a new hands-on opportunity to work directly with the collection and gain a greater appreciation for Bedford history.

We offer individuals, families, social clubs, school classes, local businesses and corporate entities an intimate experience with our artifacts and exhibit spaces.

Supporters of the museum are invited to select an exhibit space or room to sponsor. For example, the Elmer Flick display case, or the Lincoln Room, or maybe one of several exhibit vignettes located on the second floor.

Each backer will volunteer their time to care for their space

and the artifacts within it, regularly cleaning and maintaining their portion of the museum under the supervision and direction of our curator. Supporters will be provided with cleaning materials and collection care instructions on how to properly care for items under their attention. If interested, please call **440-232-0796**.

Docent Training

Do you like to teach? Do you enjoy history and meeting people? Do you have a gift for gab...err storytelling and enjoy explaining things to others? If so, our next docent training is scheduled for **Saturday, April 13** from **11:00 AM to 2:00 PM** in the **Town Hall Museum**.

We are looking for young adults and adult volunteers willing to work Wednesday afternoon or evenings or one Saturday a month. If you are interested in becoming a museum educator, please contact us at **440-232-0796**.

Charitable Giving

AmazonSmile

Do you shop on Amazon.com? If so, consider shopping through Amazon Smile and designating the Bedford Historical Society as your charity of choice. We will receive a small percentage of your purchases!

3rd Floor Window

Restoration Complete

Add the Town Hall Museum to the Old Church on the

Common to your preservation list. We are in desperate need of corporate and community support to save both these iconic structures along Bedford's downtown historic district. Over 20-years of harsh Northeastern Ohio weather has finally taken its toll!

Recently it was discovered that four windows on the third floor of the Town Hall Museum need immediate attention. Restoration costs will amount to over \$11,000. And that only covers the windows on the western side of the building. Currently the third floor houses special exhibits, and artifacts of the Taylor and Marble chair companies as well as the Bedford Fire Department. All are in jeopardy unless private donators, friends of the museum, and corporate supporters step forward to preserve Bedford's history.

This is in addition to the work that continues with the Old Baptist Church. Recently a second \$100,000 OFCC grant enabled the historical society to inspect the roof, tuck-point and seal the masonry, and water seal the exterior of the building. It is the goal that both stately structures will continue to be a part of the Bedford landscape for years to come, but we need your help. The OFCC grant did not cover the exterior repairs. The Society needs to recoup \$12,000 to pay for these expenditures.

If this were not enough, we are still looking for individual supporters and corporate sponsors to help repair the

stained-glass windows on the north of the church. But much work needs to be completed to preserve all the stained-glass windows of the church. Please consider a legacy gift or make a memorial gift to our endowment fund. All donations are tax deductible and can be made anytime during the year by mailing it to us at **Bedford Historical Society, PO Box 46282, Bedford, OH 44146** or by going online to the Cleveland Foundation website at www.Clevelandfoundation.org

Archive Unloaded

Dr. Campbell Visit

by Deborah Grubb

The Bedford Historical Society holds archives for many Bedford businesses and individuals. These documents provide an important resource for academic as well as personal research. On Saturday, December 1, 2018 our museum was visited by Dr. and Mrs. Tracy Campbell. Dr. Campbell is the E. Vernon Smith and Eloise C. Smith Professor of American History at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Campbell is writing a book about the American home front in 1942. His research led him to references to the Jack & Heintz Company and he was interested in studying our collection. Dr. Campbell was pleased by the scope and quality of our Jack & Heintz Collection and spent a fruitful day reviewing company documents, photographs, and issues of the JAHCO News. The Bedford Historical Society is pleased to be able to provide

information for those interested in the history of Bedford.

Education Primer

We could use your help. The Education Department is busy developing special events and programs for pre-school and school age students. If you are a stay at home mom or dad with an interest in reading, crafts, creative play or STEM or STEAM, please consider volunteering with the BHS education department. An Elmer Flick Day, Comic Book Hero Event, and monthly events are being planned. Call **440-232-0796** to speak to a staff member for more details.

Domestic Sideboard

Bedford's Culinary Past

by Amy Schulz

The Village of Bedford was a busy community in the 1870s. A study of census records from 1870 and 1880 reveals citizens who had immigrated from at least 13 different countries and 17 states. Throughout the century, people had moved and settled in as contributing members of their new community. While most purchased property and became farmers, imagine ordering a new cabinet from the German cabinetmaker; buying flour from the Scot who owns a local mill; working beside the Welshman in the rolling mill; or living next to the family from the Isle of Man or Bohemia. Ireland, Prussia, Bavaria, France, Canada, England, Switzerland and Holland were also represented in 1870s Bedford. When you go

to the local stores do you hear the accents as your neighbors ask the shopkeepers for goods like the ones they could buy back home?

Bedford's 1870 census also included citizens who had moved to Ohio from other states. Of the 37 US States in 1870, 17 were represented in Bedford. Almost all were farmers but their number also included blacksmiths, chair makers, a station agent, carpenter, school teacher, carriage maker, grocer, milliner and machinist. The only black citizens listed in the census were working as servants and had moved here from New York and Alabama.

Then, as now, women shared recipes with their neighbors and purchased ethnic and regional cookbooks containing new ideas for preparing food. Let's take a look at what might have been cooking in Bedford kitchens given the variety of geographical regions represented.

The transplanted housewife from Indiana or Iowa may be cooking something from the pages of *The Great Western Cookbook*. Published by the Utopian community in New Harmony, Indiana in 1857, it included recipes for "ladies of the West" - at least, the "West" of 1857. Perhaps our Bedford housewife prepares "Sausage - Hoosier Fashion" which combined potatoes, sausages and ham with a buttery sauce and toasted crumbs on top.

The residents originally from France may have turned to the pages of *Handbook of Practical Cookery* or *What to Eat and How to Cook It*, both by Pierre Blot. Blot, a native of France, was the owner of the first French cooking school in New York and greeted by crowds of people when he toured. Our neighbor might choose to make a vol-au-vent for a dinner party. A vol-au-vent is made of puff pastry and filled with either a savory (chicken, oysters, etc.) or sweet (fruit, jelly, sweetmeats) filling.

A hearty breakfast for those from the Isle of Man might include porridge, fried ham or a boiled egg, along with soda or barley bread. Porridge was not typically a dish found on breakfast tables in the United States until later in the century. Barley bread would have been considered an oddity by the neighbors of the Isle of Man family as well. For dinner, our neighbor might enjoy a bowl of rabbit and sausage stew - a traditional Isle of Man dish.

In 1870, ninety-nine year old Sarah Walton, a transplant from Pennsylvania, might be teaching her neighbor how to make stuffed cabbage, pickle lily or shoo fly pie - all things remembered from her childhood in Pennsylvania and still associated with the Keystone State. The *Cumberland Valley Cook Book* of 1881 contained recipes for all three dishes. For the stuffed cabbage 'hash together equal parts of meat and potatoes, season well with pepper and salt; hollow out a head of

cabbage, and fill in the meat and potatoes, tie together and boil one hour."

Bedford residents originally from Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Michigan would be pleased to be living in Bedford as local maple trees would have been tapped here just as in their home states. The sugar or syrup would have been used as an ingredient in sweet sauces, cakes, pies and cookies as a substitute for the more expensive white sugar. A local "sugaring off party" would include the simple treat made by pouring the hot maple syrup over fresh snow for a taffy-like candy only available at maple sugaring time.

The pages of *Housekeeping in Old Virginia, 1879*, contain recipes that Bedford's Virginia housewife would be familiar with. You might find her preparing a "Breakfast Dish" in the morning for her family. She would "take the remnant of any cold meats, either boiled or roasted. Prepare it, as if for chicken salad, in fine shreds. Mix with potatoes mashed fine, and add two well beaten eggs. Then season with butter, pepper, and other spices if you like. Make it into a loaf and bake it brown, or fry it in cakes if preferred."

The local Blacksmith originally hailing from the Empire State might be treated to a sweet dessert familiar to him from 'back home.' His wife may be using a well-loved copy of the

Ladies Indispensable Assistant published in New York in 1852. Following is the recipe for New York Cup Cake – made much tastier than most popular "cupcake" recipes by the addition of spices and wine. The updated amounts for one half the original are in parenthesis; mix as directed in original instructions and bake in a small rectangular or 8" square pan at 350 degrees until done.

Original directions: "Take four eggs (2), four tumblers of sifted flour (2 cups), three tumblers of powdered white sugar (1 ½ cups), one tumbler of butter (1/2 cup), one tumbler of rich milk (1/2 cup), one glass of white wine (2 T), a grated nutmeg (1 t), a teaspoonful of powdered cinnamon (1/2 t), and a small teaspoonful of saleratus (1/2 t). Warm the milk and put in the butter, keeping it by the fire till the butter is melted; stir into the milk the eggs beaten very light, in turn with the flour and the spice and wine, and lastly, the saleratus dissolved in a little vinegar (1 T); stir all very hard; butter small tin pans, half fill them, and bake in a moderate oven of equal heat throughout."

Obituaries

Mike Sawastuk

Mike Sawastuk, age 92 of Stow, formally of Bedford, OH, passed away Monday, November 12, 2018. Mike was the beloved husband of the late Evelyn (nee Mayor)

Sawastuk, dear father of Linda (Jeff Salzman) Darby, Caxixi (Richard) Holsworth, Beverly (Jim) Mutagh, Vicki McSherry and Jeffrey Sawastuk, loving grandfather of Rosie Murtagh, brother of the late Mary Yanke, Wasil Sawastuk, Margaret Nelson and Helen Prochaska. Mike served in the US Army during WWII and was a Bindery Supervisor in the printing industry. He was a member of the Southeast YMCA, Y's Men club and the Bedford Historical Society and Museum. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Heartland Hospice, www.heartlandhospicefund.org.

Julius S. Kerekes

Julius S. Kerekes, age 96 of Walton Hills, OH passed away Sunday, November 18, 2018. Julius was the beloved husband of Grace J. (nee Layer), loving father of Kenneth D. Kerekes and Linda Harms, dear grandfather of Brett Harms, loving brother of the late Mary Kontur, Margaret Maloney, Clara Keri, Joe Kerekes, Edward Kerekes, Anna Novak and William Kerekes, brother-in-law of Edwin (Virginia) Layer Jr. and Joyce (Raymond) Tinter. Julius proudly served his country in the US Army. Julius was a graduate of Bedford High School and he and his wife were longtime members of St Mary Church and members of the Bedford Historical Society and Museum. They were also avid square dancers and ballroom dancers. In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial contributions may be made to the church.