

# The Bedford Bee.

Bedford Historical Society  
PO Box 46282  
Bedford OH 44146

September – November 2011  
Issue 306  
440 232-0796 [bedfordohiohistory.org](http://bedfordohiohistory.org)

## Up Coming Events

*September 16, 2011 8:00pm Friday The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra in conjunction with the Pooka Festival. (Details inside.)*

*October 6, 2011 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. Tony Harwood, Ron Martin and Terry Kurtz will read excerpts from these historic letters. Old Church on the Square 750 Broadway. (more details inside)*

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

*November 3, 2011 Thursday 7:30pm: Lyceum – Firefighting Then and Now. A panel of retired and present firefighters from Bedford Township communities compares firefighting methods of yesterday and today. They'll share their most memorable fires and rescues, the ones that were successful and the ones that broke their hearts. Old Church on the Square 750 Broadway Bedford*

*(There will be a Firehouse Chili and Cornbread dinner with salad, dessert and beverage prior to the lecture. RSVP October 26<sup>th</sup>. Donation for meal \$12. Check payable to Bedford Historical Society; PO Box 46282 Bedford OH 44146)*

*From the president:*

I am honored to represent the Bedford Historical Society as president again. Many years ago, my father Ralph Deevers also served the society as president. He instilled in us the importance of our collective history and our obligation to protect it for future generations.

We are still locked into tight economic times and that hurts non-profit organizations such as ours. We face tough decisions ahead on our ability to serve in the capacity that we do. We will continue to tighten our budget and be financially responsible. We have come this far because we recognize the importance of what we do. With your support, we will continue to serve.

Bob Schroeter, Sr

## Annual Dinner Update

On May 5<sup>th</sup> members elected the following six people to serve a three year term as trustees: Lynn Beveridge, Elaine Gaither, Rose Grossenbaugh, Michael Hulett, Kathleen Rice and William Starkey.

Lynn is retired from the Bedford School system and has helped with the Local History school tours at the museum. Elaine currently serves on Oakwood Village council, Rose is a volunteer for special events and has just completed her first term as a trustee, Mike is a business and building owner in the historic district and lives in one of Bedford's historic homes which he restored, Kathie has been long-time recording secretary for the trustees of the society and Bill serves as Senior Coordinator for the City of Bedford Heights. We welcome these new trustees and thank all of our 18 member board who review, advise and advocate for the society.

The society thanked Betsy Lee for her service as President for the past four years. Betsy rotated off of the board due to term limits. She will continue to serve as chairman of the Strawberry Festival, our largest fundraiser for general operating funds. Betsy also represents the society on the Bedford Arts and Culture Board and is one of our voting delegates to the Northeast Ohio Inter-museum Council, a consortium of over 80 area museums. Betsy is pictured below with a gift from the society, a whimsical birdbath. Jack, the cat, inspects it too.



## New Officers

Officers of the Bedford Historical Society for this year are: President-Robert Schroeter, Sr., Vice President- Kay Gary, Secretary- Kathie Rice, Membership Secretary- Marge Keene and Treasurer- Helen Hurtuk.

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*Ed note: this is the third in a series from the diary of farmer Charles Dowman. The Dowman farm was located in Bedford Township, the portion now known as Oakwood.*  
*By Joyce Maruna*

## The Diary of Charles Dowman

Two topics dominate each entry in the Dowman Diary. Weather and Labor. Work is and always has been, never ending for a farmer. Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 30, 1905, Charles notes "went out after dinner to buy nails and boots" and then went to work on his corn crib. The holiday didn't interfere with his usual routine. The weather often did. He planned his workday around the conditions outside. And this would be the first thing he wrote about.

Illness was wide spread before vaccines. Typical entries: "measles thick in Bedford", "mumps all over town" and he sadly reported on Sept. 04 that his daughter's illness was typhoid fever. The doctor was at the house each day, sometimes twice. Accidents were common, both at home and work. "Lady in red house was burned, taken to hospital in ambulance" Workplace mishaps were often fatal. A few labor problems-on Oct. 17, a team of workers on the crusher quit because they were not happy working 9 hours each day and "they were quickly replaced by a team happy for the work".

Least written about but noted each week were the times they gathered with family and friends for a purely social occasion. Almost every Sunday they shared dinner or met for a few hands of cards.

Weather, work, sickness, fellowship; our lives are different today only in how we deal with these daily occurrences.

## Key Bank Volunteers Help Society

The society was fortunate to have the help of Key Bank employees this spring. Ludmila Sorin, Kimberly King, Phillip Pike, Lori Blackwell, James Spearman and Paula Brewer worked at the Dunham House and Railroad Depot. Furniture was polished, floors washed, carpets vacuumed and artifacts dusted and repositioned. We are grateful to have their help again. If there is a real version of magical Pookas, Key volunteers are it!



## Gardening 'Pookas'

We have our own gardening 'Pookas' too. Our grounds are cared for by the following members: Sue Garland, Ann White, Lester Pratt, Jim O'Neill, Tom Sweet, Barb McDaniel, and Lynn Jones. And a big Thanks to the Bedford Garden Club for maintaining their beautiful garden at the rear of the Town Hall Museum.

## Strawberry Festival update

A big 'salute!' to Betsy Lee, all of the committee chairs and volunteers who worked to make the 1 Strawberry Festival a success. The Saturday evening Car Show had some real beauties. On Sunday afternoon, the Fire Departments of Oakwood, Bedford Hts., Maple Hts. and Bedford brought their equipment for visitors to inspect and see demonstrations of rescues and safety tips. Firefighters greeted visitors on the third floor at the Fire Fighting exhibit. On Sunday at noon, several members and dignitaries rededicated the Civil War monument on the square. Our gratitude to everyone who helped make the weekend special.

*Winners of the raffle:* LuAnn Smith's handmade quilt was won by L. Beveridge, Helen Batko's handmade afghan was won by M. Zolata, Other winners included- H. Pratt, L. Kaliszewski, G. Chatham, M. Kunkel, M. Hilty, B. Astalos, S. Vimr, M. Caldwell, V. Michalek, I. Dawson, J. Harwood, G. Kerekes, J. Matz and B. Hoffman. *Car Show raffle winners:* T. Karabowicz, M. Hupcey, M. Caonicek, R. Novak, S. Porter, J. Dubar, A. Matteo, L. Greathouse, K. Bemus, D.Konicek, D. Depew, J. Walter, J.Tretera, E. Jones, L. Weinand, M. Matteo and R. Morjanti L.Pfeffer, C. Hehaffey, A.McGroarty, D.Novak, J.Mislosky.

## Museum Store Request

Doris has a request for any left-over cotton fabric in any shade or pattern of green. She needs it for a Christmas project for the Museum Store. Please drop off your donations at the museum. Thanks.

### *The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra*

Our historic 1892 Old Church on the Square is the perfect setting for an evening of great jazz. Attend the concert and plan to stay after for a *Post-concert Champagne Hors d'oeuvres Reception by Catered Elegance of Bedford*.  
*Reservations required \$20 Concert only \$35 Concert and Champagne Reception*

Proceeds will help support reconstruction of the Sedlon Garden and the Children's Art activities. For more information phone: (440) 232-1155 or order by mail.

#### **Make check payable to:**

The City of Bedford Arts & Culture Board

#### **Mail check and name, address & # of tickets to**

Bedford Arts & Culture Board City Of Bedford 165  
Center Road Bedford, OH 44146 *Tickets will be sent by return mail.*

### *A Raffle for the Benefit of the Sedlon Garden*

Mike McEnroe, a local northeast Ohio artist, has donated a beautiful 27 x 32 matted and framed watercolor of the historic Hezekiah Dunham House. Proceeds will benefit the Sedlon Garden Restoration Fund. The picture is on display at the Town Hall Museum. Tickets are for sale at the museum 1 for \$3 or three for \$10. Out of town members can send a check and we'll send you the stubs for your tickets. They will also be sold during the Pooka Festival. Our gratitude to Mr. McEnroe for his donation. His works can be seen at Gallery West in Chardon. The raffle will be held September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Pooka Festival.

### **A Walk with the Past**

A guided walking tour through historic Bedford Cemetery is planned for Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup> 10:00 - 11:30am. To sign up please call the museum 440 232-0796.

### **Lyceum Programs Start In October**

We have some great programs in place for this season's Lyceum. The topics cover a wide range of historical interest. The full schedule is enclosed with this newsletter. We hope you will attend all of the programs. *Your attendance is most appreciated.*

## What is a Civil War Slam?

Our Lyceum for October 6<sup>th</sup> focuses on the letters of Milo Barnum who served for four years in the 103<sup>rd</sup> OVI Union Army. Barnum wrote home as a daily diary of his activities as a soldier. Interesting portions of his letters will be read at the Lyceum. What is the *SLAM* part? It is a rapid-fire reading style with several readers participating. It takes a special voice to read this 'slam-style' text and we are fortunate to have three thespians with local theater experience to read at this event. Join us for an interesting and insightful glimpse into the life of this Civil War soldier.

## Fire Fighting Remembrances

In conjunction with our exhibit—"Fire Fighting in our Bedford Township Communities", the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Lyceum is a panel discussion with retired and current firefighters from our communities of old Bedford Township. They will share their stories and compare firefighting techniques from the past to today. In conjunction with this program, a Firehouse Chili and Cornbread Dinner will be served prior to the program. Your donation of \$12 includes chili with toppings, cornbread, salad, beverage and dessert. Mail to: Bedford Historical Society; PO Box 46282; Bedford OH 44146.

*The exhibit continues through January 31, 2012.*

## The Genealogy of Two Soldiers

Helen Batko and Helen Pratt, with help from long-distance member, Susan Potter, researched the genealogy of Milo Barnum and Safford Grant who both served in the Union forces during the Civil War. Their genealogy charts are on display with supportive materials for visitors to see. Barnum was distantly related to PT Barnum, the entrepreneur. Grant was a distant cousin of U.S. Grant. These two Bedford soldiers were part of 208 local men who served in the Union Army.

### **Road Work 139 Year Ago**

Be it resolved that each able-bodied citizen (not exempt by law) residing within the boundaries of said incorporated village of Bedford resolved that all citizens 21-55 years are hereby required to perform two days of labor each and every year.

## Masonry Restoration Update

Work started in early May and continued to the end of June. High power lines near the west side resulted in a work stoppage. City Manager Hank De Angelo interceded on our behalf to negotiate with the electric company. They will move the lines permanently this fall and work will be completed. This allows us to continue to raise the last of the funds.

**THANK YOU!** Our gratitude to the following for helping with the masonry restoration project:

|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Richard & Evalyn Bell      | Jack Ulman              |
| Hugo Cipriani              | June Martin             |
| Shirley Taussig            | Virginia Collins        |
| Wm. & Margaret Lee         | Cleaster & Flora Fowler |
| Fraternal Orders of Eagles | Al & Sue Sutton         |
| Aerie 2122                 | Robert Fischietto       |
| M. Ann Swann               | Venezuela Robinson      |
| Steven Salvi               | Eleanor Lautanen        |
| Ruth Miller                | Al & Doris Pankratz     |
| Day Foundation             | Barbara Diczhazy        |
| Barbara Palumbo            | Mary Caldwell           |
| Mary Helen Bouchard        | Jim & Judy Magyar       |
| June Brott                 | Roman Boldyreff         |
| Leigh Hamilton             | Eloise Morgan           |
| Louise Soltis              | Frank & Janet Caldwell  |
| John Dennis                | Tony & Debbie Ambris    |
| Evelyn Albrecht            | Anonymous               |
| Ronald & Susan Martin      | Ladimer Vitu            |
| Wallace Murray             | Domonick Casale         |
| Joyce Tuskes               | Terry Stahurski         |
| Ted Bartleheim             | Edna Larkin             |
| Barbara Hoffman            | Robert & Pat Huston     |
| Doris Shriver              | St John Funeral Home    |
| Roger Fuhrmeyer            | Wesley Titterington     |
| Robert Skillicorn          | Josephine Jedinak       |
| Kathleen Donato            | Vern & Carol Cooper     |

### *New donors:* from May 2011

Jim & Cathy O'Neill  
 Steve & Linda Angyal  
 Robert Hamilton.  
 Barbara Hoffmann  
 Ruth Miller  
 Mary Kay Dessoffy  
 Richard & Evalyn Bell  
 Daniel Pocek  
 Holsey Gates Handyside.  
 Lutheran Church of the Master- community mission project  
 Mary Helen Bouchard-in memory of Mary Ann Bromley Hayes  
 Mary Helen Bouchard-in memory of James Alexander Jones  
 Lynn Jones -in memory of Mary Ann Bromley Hayes



*Maryanne (nee: Bromley) Hayes;* Long time member Maryanne Hayes passed away on May 11, 2011 in Spartanburg SC where she had lived for several years. Maryanne was preceded in death by her husband Dale and son David; she is survived by her daughter Donna Evans (Bruce) and son Roger. Maryanne and Dale were active in the Methodist Church and activities in Bedford for many years.

*Emory "Harold" Fleming;* Harold Fleming passed away on June 17, 2011. He is survived by his wife Charlotte, children Crystal Zivny (David and Stephanie Dolejs (Russ) and loving grandchildren. Harold was a postal employee in Bedford for 38 years. He was a Navy veteran of the Korean War.

*Grover Cleveland Foster;* Longtime supporter, Grover Foster, passed away on May 9, 2011 in Lantana Florida where he had been living. He was preceded in death by his wife Christiane. He is survived by his children and their families: Christian, Carol, Cedric, Stephen and Patrick. The family requests memorial donations to the Bedford Historical Society in memory of their father.

*Eloise Morgan;* Member Eloise Morgan passed away on July. 10, 2011. She and her husband Stanley were supportive of the society's effort to preserve landmark buildings and the history of this area. She is preceded in death by Stanley L. She is survived by her daughters Susan (Ronald) Martin, Patricia (Chip) Kulp and Ann (Dwight Bawers). She leaves loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We extend our sincere sympathy to member James Hukill on the death of his mother, Sally Hukill Lacy.