



ISSUE 2017.12

WINTER 2017

Bedford Bee

The Bedford Historical Society Newsletter

Message from the President

by Betsy Squire

When I asked Betsy to contribute something to this issue of the Bedford Bee, I thought how appropriate it was that she chose a draft composed by her late father, the museum's founder and former director, Richard Squire, concerning the future. For with the hiring of a new director, renovations taking place at Community Hall, and the ongoing initiatives taking place at the Town Hall Museum, the future is certainly the topic at hand.

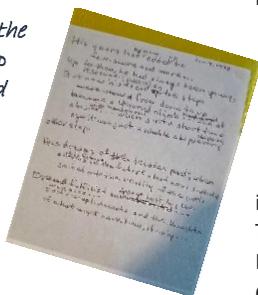
His years had by now added up to four-score and more...

Up to then, he had always been young, it seemed onto him

But now his tread up the steps from down to up becomes a labored climb... one at a time with hand on rail... when just a short time ago it was just a nimble skip, skipping every other step.

His dreams of decades past, when all was in the future, had now suddenly joined into the reality of the past.

Dreams fulfilled, and dreams lost by the wayside ... past accomplishments and the thoughts of what might have been, if only ...



Bedford Historical Society BHS Welcomes New Director

Elmer C Schulz, the new director for the Bedford Historical Society, began his new duties on 1 October.

Elmer has a BS in Secondary Social Studies Education from The Ohio State University and a Master of Arts from Kent State University in Public History. He has worked with numerous museums and professional organizations as an educator, researcher, docent, program director, event coordinator, archivist, manager, director of operations and museum consultant. After college he worked as an intern at Hale Farm and Village, a property of the Western Reserve Historical Society. After his internship, he was hired on in the building restoration and conservation department, eventually becoming the site's Manager of Interpretation. Elmer lives in Cuyahoga Falls with his wife, Amy. Their family includes four adult children and five grandchildren.

Please take a moment to stop by and welcome Elmer to the Bedford community!

Rungs from the Director's Chair

by Elmer Schulz

"The time has come," the Walrus said, to talk of many things; of shoes, ...and ships, ...and sealing-wax, ...of cabbages, ...and kings, ..." So, runs the poem, *The Walrus and the Carpenter*, by Lewis Carroll, from *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There*, 1872. I have always enjoyed this piece of classic literature, especially as a prelude to an introduction. As the new Director at the Bedford Historical Society (BHS) I look forward to meeting you.

Lately, as I take on my new responsibilities with BHS, I can't help but ponder a most important and fundamental question to the community, "Why do museums exist and why should we care?" Recently, I told someone, in a light-hearted manner, that I was in the memory business. In all seriousness, the museum, its collection, archives, and library exist to preserve and interpret the history of the original Bedford Township, whose communities include: Bedford, Bedford Heights, Maple Heights, Oakwood Village and Walton Hills, as well as offer portions of the Western Reserve. This is our mission. We serve the community to enrich the lives of our community members and those individuals interested in history through programming, exhibits and educational outreach to member communities and institutions. We are custodians of the artifacts and collection pieces in our care.

Consider now your part in the process, as we continue to grow and strive to meet the needs of our community. Become a member today, volunteer your time, donate. Like the Walrus, as the Bedford Historical Society moves forward, we will begin to discuss many things.

Bedford Historical Society Hours of Operation

Monday: 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Tuesday: 10:00am - 4:00pm

Thursday: 10:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday: 2:00pm - 5:00pm
(2nd Monthly)

Please remember that if our school district is closed due to inclement weather, we will be closed as well. Check your local news outlets to see if we are closed before venturing out.

Note, that the Bedford Historical Society will be closed for the season from **Monday, December 24** through **Friday, February 2**.

Nonetheless, staff will be available to answer inquiries and research questions, but our historic campus and its facilities will be closed to the public. Please contact us with any questions at 440-232-0796 or to make an appointment.

Cemetery Tours with a Twist!

For Halloween this year, we did a cemetery tour with a twist. Instead of a guide telling stories of notables in the cemetery, 10 characters in period dress told their own stories. The program was very well received, and the interpreters received plenty of accolades from the crowd.

Characters included an RMS Titanic survivor, a local hero who foiled a bank robbery, a survivor of the Civil War Steamboat Sultana disaster and many others. Cider and donuts were enjoyed by everyone on the tour. Scott Spencer and Reggie Taussig, who spent five years documenting Bedford Cemetery made making detailed maps, were on hand to answer questions. Mark your calendars for the next October if you missed it this year. We'll be reprising the tour and adding some more colorful characters!



Bedford Garden Club Gate Unveiling

The City of Bedford, nationally recognized on the Register of Historic Places and voted by Architectural Digest in 2017 as one of the prettiest Downtowns in the Country, added yet another attribute to its community.

On **Sunday, November 5** at **2:00pm**, The Bedford Garden Club, in recognition of its 90th Anniversary unveiled an art installation that was built in and around the garden behind the Bedford Town Hall Museum.

This wrought iron work of art was created by Ken Roby, of The Village Blacksmith Inc., and included handiwork by Brian Migchelbrink and Students of Bedford Senior High School.

We wish to thank the donors and contributors that made this art installation a

reality. Including Garden Know How, the Ohio Arts Council, Mr. T's Painting & Sandblasting, Inc, Coventry Steel Company, the Art Department of Bedford City Schools under the direction of Ms. Rebecca Genao, and Students of Bedford High School.

Halloween at the Museum

Trick or Treat was a Spooktacular success at the Town Hall Museum celebrated All Hallows Eve on **Tuesday, October 31**.

Scarecrows, pirates, bumble-bees, clowns, gypsies and even the Great Pumpkin haunted the floors of the museum handing out candy and gifts to over 200 children and adults during this popular annual event.



Wanted: Receptionists Many Hands Make Light Work

Come join the fun! Please consider volunteering for the Bedford Historical Society. Schedules are flexible to suit your routine. Currently, our Volunteer Coordinator, Louise Novak, is compiling a list of individuals interested in volunteering throughout the museum campus. Whether your interest is gardening, cleaning, research, fund-raising, research, social media, data entry, community out-reach, education, programming, theatre, or becoming a docent, we have something to suit your interests. Presently, we have a great need for a **Welcome Desk Receptionist** during our hours of operation.

If you are a student, retired, or someone with a desire to meet people and work in a fun environment, contact **Louise** at **440-439-6150** or novak.louise@gmail.com or call 440-232-0796 to speak to one of our staff about possible opportunities.

Tis the Season Charitable Giving

BHS Christmas Giving Tree

Please stop by the Town Hall Museum and visit our Giving Tree. We are collecting children's hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves. Hang your purchases on the tree. These items will be donated to a local charitable group for those who are in need.



Amazon Smile

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!

Membership Renewal

Enclosed in this newsletter is your membership renewal. Please remember to return it with your 2018 dues.

Thank you for your continued support! We could not continue to strengthen our community engagement, collections, and programming without you.

Preserve Our History

The Old Church on the Square in downtown Bedford has provided communities of Bedford, Bedford Heights, Oakwood Village and Walton Hills with a venue for music, art, lectures, worship and entertainment for 122 years. It is our goal that this stately structure will continue to do so for future generations.

The Bedford Historical Society has started a capital campaign with the help of a \$100,000 grant to restore and repair the foundation, improve plumbing and electricity throughout the building, enhance the building's use by making it ADA accessible, and renovate the community room to enhance and expand usage for activities such as banquets, expositions, education forums, lyceums, public meetings, theatre productions, musical performances, dance recitals, art exhibits, cinematic presentations, and much more.

As this work continues, we are looking for an individual supporter to help us repair the stain glass transom on the north side of the church. Currently the window has been shored up by the Cleveland Restoration Society. This is a temporary fix until we can begin work to repair the stain glass interface. A large contribution today can help us kick off the project.



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

Additionally, planned to give 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.

Upcoming Events

Bedford Christmas Tree Lighting

Join the City of Bedford for our Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony! The Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on **Wednesday, November 22 at 6:00 p.m.** sharp marking the beginning of the holiday season in northeastern Ohio. Afterwards come visit the Town Hall Museum.

Christmas in Bedford Falls

Bedford is preparing for its annual holiday celebration on **Saturday, December 9, from 12:00p.m. until 4:00p.m.** "Christmas in Bedford Falls" is the theme for this event and

is based on the holiday classic, "It's a Wonderful Life!".

This year the Hezekiah Dunham House will be open along with the Town Hall Museum. Come join the festivities and learn about the origins of our Christmas traditions.

What's New at the Museum?

Painting the Old Church

Painting of all wooden structures surrounding the exterior of the Old Baptist Church has been completed, including the entrance of Community Hall and the Lion's Den.



Look for two new exterior doors on the north side to be installed in the coming months.

New Exhibit Timeline

Periodicals along the entrance hall are being removed and stored in archival boxes for temporary storage until their status can be ascertained. These magazines include, *Readers Digest*, *Life*, *American Heritage* and *National Geographic Magazine*. This will make way for new exhibit space and a virtual timeline of Bedford that can be installed down the main hallway off the Welcome Center. We have a great need for volunteers who like making phone calls and doing light research.

Welcome Center

Re-furnishing and decorating of the Town Hall Museum Welcome Center has begun to make it a warmer and more inviting setting for visitors and guests to the museum complex. Volunteers with a background in interior design and decorating are welcome to assist us in this makeover.

Collection Storage

The creation and development of Art, Archival, and Collection storage space on the second and third floor of the Town Hall Museum is continuing. This process is long overdue and will free up valuable space in the museum, providing proper care for our precious works. Because some assembly is required, volunteers with light construction experience are always welcome.

