

# The Bedford Bee.

BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 46282

Bedford, Ohio 44146

Founded 1955

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bedfordohio.com/history

Issue 272

## Up Coming Events

*March 1, 2003 6:30 pm: Annual Reverse Raffle.*

( see accompanying article )

*March 6, 2003 8:00 pm: Lyceum- Ohio History 101;* Kick off the Ohio Bicentennial with this refresher course in state history. Millie McCarty will enlighten us then we'll share a piece of Bicentennial Birthday Cake.

*April 3, 2003 8:00 pm: Lyceum- Looking Back, A View Through the Shutter;* Join us as we view a portion of the Historical Society's extensive slide collection. You may see yourself!

*April 13, 2003 2:00 – 5:00 pm: Annual Spring Open House.* ( see accompanying article )

*May 8, 2003 6:00 pm: Annual Dinner. “ A Visit with Western Reserve pioneer, Lorenzo Carter.”* ( Post card will be sent)

*May 10, 2003 10:00am – noon: A Bike Tour of Historic Bedford;* Clean up the bike and get in shape! Check the papers for details or call the Museum.

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***1892 Old Church on the Square  
is Listed on the  
National Register of Historic Places***

*We have received official notice: the old Baptist Church on the Square has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This is the fifth structure in Bedford to be placed on the prestigious list.*

## Reverse Raffle

Ready for a night out? Join us for the Annual Reverse Raffle. The date is March 1, 2003 at Catered Elegance. Phil, the caterer, promises prime rib done to perfection, plus an open bar, a DJ, good company and a chance to win a couple thousand. And if that isn't enough to arouse your interest, remember, it is a fund raiser for the Society!

Tickets are available at the Museum during hours or by calling Bob Schroeter Sr. , 440 232-3849 or the museum, 440 232-0796.

Tickets cost \$50 for dinner and a chance to win . If your partner is sharing a raffle ticket, an additional dinner ticket is \$35. If you want a lucky number, let us know soon.

( PS from the Pres.: “Is anyone willing to donate a bottle of cheer? It helps us keep the cost down and increase profits. ‘ will pick up at your house. Thanks in advance.”)

## More from the President....

The Bedford Historical Society continues to evolve into a better and stronger organization to serve the community and its members. Since last June, we have lost virtually all of our staff either through death or ill health. Janet Caldwell, who has been the curator, had consented to remain as Interim Director for another 6 months while we replace our key positions. Thank you for your extra effort financially and volunteer-wise. Your support is most appreciated.

## Oral Histories

From Joanne Rose.....

Dorothy Prestage Titterington  
1902 – 1977

*Dorothy was at one time a secretary for Dr. Moody, Supt. Of Bedford Schools. Her husband, Wilbur, taught in the High School.*

“ Growing up in Bedford leaves many happy memories. Most all yards had lawn swings, croquet sets, some had a tennis court. Our neighbors made ice cream every 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

I attended the old Central School on Washington St. as did my mother in the 1800s. There was no telephone in the old school, but there was one in the newer building next door.

At home we had an ice box. The ice, brought by the iceman once a week was in the top part of the icebox. We children would run to the wagon for pieces of ice. Once a week fish could be bought from fishermen selling fish by ringing a bell to attract customers. I remember Mother going to the wagon with a platter for the fish.

Peddlers came to the door selling such things as shoelaces, pins, needles, thread. Spang's Baker truck sold bread and pastries door to door.

Periodically tramps came to the door asking for something to eat. It was said they marked signs on the telephone poles near houses where they had been given food, a sign for others who followed them.

As teenagers we went sledding from the top of Union Street and slid down to Broadway. We ice skated and roller skated – skating down Woodrow to Broadway. We danced and picnicked at Bedford Glens. Mr. Day gave dancing lessons on Monday evenings. Our favorite dances were ‘the two-step waltz’ and a dance similar to the schottische.

Church was an important part of our lives. The best of times came from closeness with family and neighbors and life was not as complicated. Sanitation was bad. We did not have electric washing machines, dryers, vacuum cleaners – and so many other items to make our life easier, not necessarily happier.”

*(from the Bedford Historical Society archives)*

### Chris Jussell and Southeby's to Visit Bedford

The Bedford Historical Society is hosting an *Antique Appraisal Fair*. Chris Jussell, former host of the Antiques Road Show and three antique appraisers from Southeby's will be in Bedford on November 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Jussell and the appraisers, along with local appraisers, will be available to appraise your special antique. There will be enough to see & do even if you don't bring an antique!

The two day event will include a private dinner and lecture with Mr. Jussell, an Antique Alley with local dealers, mini-lectures on various subjects, a silent auction and delicious food service. We will keep you posted as details about prices and times become available. The event is shaping up to be good fun. If you are able to volunteer, please call the Museum, 440 232-0796 or Lisa Kropf, 440 735-0444 who is chairing the event. This is an additional fund raiser for the Society. Marketing will be for all of Northeast Ohio so we are hoping for a good turnout. Spread the word.

### Think Spring

Dot Schwende is day dreaming about warmer weather. She is lining up volunteers to help maintain the front and side gardens of the Dunham House. A couple hours of clean-up in Spring, a couple of hours in the Fall and an hour during the summer is all that is needed. Please call her if you are willing to help; 440 735-1344.

## **In Bedford's Neighborhoods**

Here is a little more on our continued exploration of Bedford's neighborhoods: Did you know...

The Willis Street area is one of the oldest. Later on it became known as Bedford's 'Little Italy' as hard working Italian immigrants settled in the area.

The Greencroft area is another section of fine older homes. The ABC Trolley line stopped at #14 ½ the corner of Greencroft and Broadway.

The Metropolitan Park Development included the streets off of Center Road such as Gould and Eldred and surrounding streets. Homes were mostly built in the 1920s. The Historical Society archives show full page advertisements depicting this area of fine homes.

The woods surrounding Rockside Road were known as Hubbell's Woods because the two Hubbell brothers built the first two homes in that area. ( The houses still stand, Harrison's is on Grand Blvd. and Ned's is on Bexley Dr.)

The little street called Wenso, now with beautiful homes, once lead down to a small industrial section along Tinker's Creek and the railroad tracks. One of the industries was a whiskey distillery.

The neighborhood south of Union St. and east of Northfield Rd. was affectionately known as Hungary Hill. Hungarian immigrants settled here to work in the McMyler-Interstate Plant. Much of the early housing was built by the company for its employees.

### **April 13, 2003-Spring Open House**

Another portion of our Bicentennial project involves the Annual Spring Open House. Historical Society member, Bill Allen ( that is Col. Wm. D. Allen jr., Retired) is trying to arrange a display of new military ordinance and equipment for our Spring Open House. The date is set for Sunday April 13, 2003 2:00 – 5:00pm. *(This is proving a bit difficult due to the situation with Iraq. Details will be in the local paper nearer the date.)*

## **What's New in the Museum.....**

The **Town Hall Museum** has two new displays on the first floor.

*Relics from the Dunham House* are on display. Included in the case are several bottles and jars spanning over a hundred years, an old shoe, a chandelier pendant, an earring, a piece of 1930s linoleum and many other items. Each piece tells part of the story of this historic house.

*"Greetings from Ohio"* Also on display is a portion of our post card collection. We have dozens of Ohio Postcards on display for the State's Bicentennial. Each post card is from a different part of the state. The earliest cards are almost 100 years old.

The second floor exhibit is currently being assembled. It will be completed in March thanks to help from Kyler Culver. It is entitled *"Protecting Our Freedom , Honoring Those Who Served."*

All of the military uniforms from our textile collection are on display. These have been donated over the years and include uniforms from all branches of the service and from WWI through Vietnam.

### **Joint History Project**

The Military Uniforms on display ties in with our Oral History Project. The Bedford Historical Society has arranged for Bedford Senior High School Advanced Placement History students to interview veterans from several wars. Mr. Robt. Rutkowski and Ms. Ginny Golden are coordinators for the school district. Mike and Joan Garvin have been working with the Joint Area Veterans associations . The Students and Veterans will be meeting each other to share lunch then they will pair off to discuss life as a soldier. With the publication of these memoirs, we will all see the cost of freedom and what individuals have had to give up to protect our country.

## Thanks for Making Christmas Merrier!

Our Hearty Thanks: to *Paula Mizsak and Bedford City Council* for donating the live poinsettias; to the *Bedford Garden Club* for trimming each floor plus the Dunham House; to *Helen Pratt* for the display of antique Christmas lighting; thanks to *Rose Grossenbaugh and Doris Pankratz* who loaned a portion of their doll collections for the doll and toy exhibit; And Thanks to our *Member Hosts and Hostesses* who served refreshments and greeted our visitors on each floor and in all of the buildings! The Holiday season brings many visitors to Bedford and we looked particularly festive for the crowds.

### Historic Bike Trip

Join us on Saturday May 11, 2003 for a *Bike Trip through Historic Bedford*. We will meet at 9:30 am at the back of the Coffee Cup Family restaurant, 444 Broadway. The route will be suitable for bikers of all levels and a Support Vehicle will tag along with first aid, water and supplies. Coffee Cup owners, Carol and John Richings, are enthusiastic bicyclists who bike the Great Ohio Bike Tour each year. After our tour, they are offering a brown bag lunch for us to enjoy in the parking lot. Cost of the lunch will be \$4.00. Call the museum at 232-0796 or stop into the Coffee Cup to sign up for the trip and lunch. Join us for a great time!

### Don't Forget the Berries

One of our four fund raisers for Bedford Historical Society operating expenses is the Annual Strawberry Festival. The Festival will be held on Friday evening, June 13<sup>th</sup>, Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday June 15<sup>th</sup>. This 'grand-daddy' event will be highlighting the Ohio Bicentennial. The committee has already met and are planning events to make it the best Festival ever. There will be more activities for children and we have increased the entertainment schedule. *And we are planning to decorate the State's biggest Bicentennial Birthday Cake!*

The next newsletter will have the details. Meanwhile, your help is most appreciated. If we all pitch in, the job gets done! Call the Museum 440 232-0796 or chairman, Betsy Lee 735-0135 to help.

## Gift Shop News

The Bedford Historical Society is the place to order OHIO BICENTENNIAL merchandise. We have the Bicentennial logo or most can be ordered with our Bedford logo too. Show your state pride with the following:

|                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Sweatshirt navy or gray</i> | <i>\$15.00</i> |
| <i>2X &amp; larger</i>         | <i>\$18.00</i> |
| <i>T-shirt navy or white</i>   | <i>\$10.00</i> |
| <i>2X &amp; larger</i>         | <i>\$12.00</i> |
| <i>Baseball Cap</i>            | <i>\$6.00</i>  |
| <i>Tote Bags</i>               | <i>\$10.00</i> |
| <i>Lapel Pin</i>               | <i>\$3.00</i>  |
| <i>Kitchen Towel</i>           | <i>\$5.50</i>  |
| <i>Pot Holder</i>              | <i>\$2.00</i>  |

As you can see, prices are very reasonable and a purchase from our Gift Shop helps the Bedford Historical Society!

*To order* : Mark the particulars of each item you are ordering and send along the list with a check for the total plus \$3.00 shipping and handling for each item. ( \$1.00 for lapel pin.) Send to:

Bedford Historical Society  
PO Box 46282  
Bedford OH 44146

Visit the Museum Gift Shop and see all of the new items on display. We have some wonderful handmade items from members and a few pieces of Walker China.

## Obituaries

**Donald W. Miller;** A memorial service for member, Donald Miller was held on December 8, 2002. A Maple Heights resident, Mr. Miller is survived by his wife, Diane R. ( Hackenberg) and children; Alycen ( Thomas) Robinson, Dr. Matthew Miller ( Terry) and Catherine ( Bud) Cogar. He was a loving grandfather. He was the brother of Richard Miller and Martha Cross. He was a member since 1998.

**Lois Wardley;** Long time Bedford resident Lois Wardley (nee: Leach) passed away on December 11, 2002. Lois was an active member of the Bedford Historical Society. She served as president of the Board of Trustees. Through her efforts, the second floor displays of fine furnishings were developed. She then turned her efforts to the furnishing of the Hezekiah Dunham House. She and husband, Jack, were named Bedford Citizens of the Year. She was a Bedford High School 1930 graduate.

Surviving are her husband, Jack; son, John and loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Also surviving are a brother and sister.

**Mark A. Peters;** Member Mark Peters died on December 26, 2002 at the age of 83. Surviving is his wife, Mildred ( nee Hodous). They were married for 56 years. Also surviving are sons Robert ( Mary) and William ( Kajia) and daughter Jean ( David) Ray. He was a loving grandfather , great- grandfather and brother.

Besides being a member of the Bedford Historical Society, he was a life-time member of the Bedford Chamber of Commerce and the Cuyahoga County Republican Party.

**Virginia Kirkcaldy;** Services for Virginia Kirkcaldy (nee: Miller) were held on January 2, 2003. She passed away on December 25, 2002. She was a member of the Bedford Methodist Church and a member of the Bedford Historical Society since 1971. She was the wife of the late Andrew G., mother of the late Mary Kaloz and Andrew G, II ; sister of the late Marjorie Miller. She leaves loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Georgia Louise Smith ( nee: Sohm);** Services for Georgia Smith were held on January 3, 2003, she passed away on December 29, 2002. She and her husband were long time supporters of the Bedford Historical Society, she joined in 1972. She was a member of the 1937 Bedford High School graduating class. Surviving are her husband, Warren P., and a daughter, Louise ( Robert) and loving grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Edward and Lloyd.

**Barbara Galloway;** Services for long time resident, Barbara Galloway were held on January 13, 2003. She passed away on January 10, 2003. Barbara was a member of the Historical Society since 1972. She was also a member of the Bedford Hospital Guild. Surviving are her husband Jack and sons, Lynn V. Culver, Richard and John. She leaves loving grandchildren and a great-grandchild. She is preceded in death by a daughter, Elizabeth Norton.

**Margaret Gould;** Bedford resident Margaret ( nee: Jackson) Gould died on January 14, 2003. She was a member of the Historical Society since 1985 and was a frequent visitor to the museum. She was a 1948 Bedford High School graduate. Surviving are her husband, Eugene and children; Janelle, John ( Kathy) and daughter-in-law Bev. She was a loving grandmother. She was the sister of Florence Blanock and Orville Jackson, Jr. She is preceded in death by a son, Michael. The family suggests memorials to the Bedford Historical Society in her memory.

**Luke R. Yaeger;** Luke Yaeger passed away on December 28, 2002 at 79 years of age. He was the beloved husband of Doris ( Irvin) and brother of James ( Joan) and the late William. He was an uncle and great uncle. He was a member of the Bedford Historical Society since 1990 and was an active volunteer since that time. In his capacity as archivist, he was responsible for organizing and cataloguing the archives of the Bedford Historical Society.

### **Have You Paid Your Membership Dues?**

You should have received your 2003 membership card in the mail. If you haven't, please make sure that you sent in your dues and let us know if we are in error. Thank you.

### **Health Update**

Marion Henderson, our long time membership chairman, has a new residence: Friends may send her cards at Grand Pavilion, 24613 Broadway Ave., Oakwood OH 44146.

Our Treasurer, Alice Weisenbach, is recovering at Aurora Manor, 101 S. Bissell Road, Aurora OH 44202.

John Piazza, our 'keep- us- going,- fix-anything' man, is recovering at Grand Pavilion, 24613 Broadway Ave., Oakwood OH 44146.

### **Stepping Up to the Plate**

The governing body of the Bedford Historical Society is currently made up of 18 Trustees. Each Trustee serves a three year term and may serve another three year term before rotating off. The Board consists of members and community leaders who are willing to add input and direction to our organization. Meetings are held 6 times a year on a week night, usually a Monday.

Trustees are elected by the members at the May Annual Meeting. A nominating committee is formed at the February Board meeting to accept nominations. If you would like to be considered for a term as a Trustee of the Bedford Historical Society, please call President, Bob Schroeter Sr.. He will pass your name along to the nominating committee. There are usually 3 places open.

Trustees come from all backgrounds and are all ages but they have one thing in common: They are people who like history

and wish to serve the community by protecting and preserving the history of Bedford and Bedford Township. Thank you for your consideration.

### **Photo Project Underway**

Tom and Cindy Lowe have developed the format to be used in cataloging the Bedford Historical Society photograph collection. The project will take many months to complete. If you can spare an hour or two to help with the project, please call the Museum, 440 232-0796. You can choose your own time. The form being used is simple to use, all that is needed is good eyesight, a pencil and time!

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Readers of the Bee will notice the name of Luke Yaeger in the Obituary section of this issue. Luke was the Archivist for the Bedford Historical Society.

### *Remembering Luke.....*

*Working with Luke Yaeger was both a privilege and a pleasure. Luke steadily organized portions of the Historical Society archives, a daunting task. He was thoroughly knowledgeable and steadfastly devoted to the Bedford Historical Society. For a few years he lived in North Olmsted, This was quite a drive from Bedford but he still reported for duty on Thursdays at the Museum.*

*Luke was a highly organized man. The word 'organized' was not a word in Dick Squire's repertoire. There were times when these two came to loggerheads. Both would back off, recollect their thoughts and find a compromise. Both were gentlemen, both set fine examples of how people could work together. If there are historic papers in Heaven, Dick will find them and Luke will figure a way to organize them!*

*Luke said, " History is yesterday."*

*and*

*"A community is defined by its clubs and organizations."*

*That wisdom will be missed.*

*Janet C.*