Up Coming Events

September 8, 2005 Thursday 8:00pm: Lyceum – ‘Vocal Pipes & Organ Pipes’; Jerry Maddox fires up the restored 1912 Moeller pipe organ while soprano, Linda Burgess and tenor, Dennis Lange bring music to the historic sanctuary of the old 1893 church.

October 6, 2005 Thursday 8:00pm: Lyceum- ‘The Dunham House Project’; Brett & Becky Johnson, aka Hezekiah & Clarissa Dunham, will answer your questions about living in the 1850s. Several of the committee will be on hand to explain the ‘how & why’ of the Dunham House Project.

October 13, 2005 Thursday 1-4pm: Reception at the inaugural opening of ‘The Lincoln Press’ printing exhibit. Members and friends are invited to see the newest permanent exhibit in the Town Hall Museum. Chat with the volunteers who spent hours moving and setting up the exhibit. See a demonstration of the old Chandler & Price letterpress. Try some hands-on printing yourself.

November 3, 2005 Thursday 8:00pm: Lyceum- On the Trail with Lewis & Clark; South Euclid photographer, Karen Beck presents a photographic journey of her adventure tracing the famous trail.

Note from President Dave Beveridge:

Greetings fellow history buffs, members, and friends of the Bedford Historical Society. Our summer, as usual, began with our Annual Strawberry Festival and once again Betsy Lee and her many, many volunteers produced another incredible weekend. We hope YOU were able to attend and enjoy this special event.

As most of you know, our good friend, Bob Schroeter Sr, recently completed his tenure as President of our Society. Bob had agreed to an extra year as President to assure the satisfactory completion of one of the Society’s most challenging and demanding projects; the addition, with elevator, to our 1874 Town Hall. Thus opening this incredible museum to everyone regardless of any physical limitations.

To honor Bob, a plaque is being placed in the new addition recognizing him and his fifteen predecessors as President of our Historical Society. I know you all join me in extending sincere thanks to Bob and this special group of who have so honorably and nobly provided leadership to the Bedford Historical Society for 50 years!

New Officers

The Trustees have voted the following as officers for the next year: President Dave Beveridge; V. President Brian Melling; Secretary Kathie Rice; Membership Secretary Kathie Williams; Treasurer June Martin.

1800s Dinner Good Fun

Our first dinner was pretty tasty! The prep time stories made us appreciate our modern conveniences. Making butter and ice cream burned up any calories that we put on. We will put the recipes in a pamphlet when the series is over.
Special Oral History in honor of our 50th Anniversary.

Joanne Rose continues her four part series taken from the oral history of former director and founding member, Dick Squire.

Part III

How the Historical Society Began

"I had an interest in history and the Civil War and Lincoln while I was still in the service. Bill Jacka and I decided to start a historical society-, which we did in 1955. The first couple of years it barely survived. But then it started to take over.

"It all started in a little two shelf case in the window of my print shop. We started assembling Bedford High School yearbooks and Bedford city directories. Finally, we opened the first actual museum in a vacated classroom in the basement in Central School on Washington St. We were there for about five years.

"Then I started working on the councilmen to get the building we are now in. Every one of the councilmen, individually, was in favor of it. But not one of them would bring it up in a meeting. Finally, Mort Ake, who was city manager at the time, said I better go see my own councilman…so I did. That was Jeanette Flagg and she brought it up to council. We had a choice of either the Garlick House—or this present building, which was in much better shape and bigger.

"We acquired this building for a token payment of $10.00. We have gone from absolutely nothing, to this building with all of its contents and restoration, and the former Baptist Church. We always had a good group of volunteers.

"There have been a lot of funds from bequests and that sort of thing, and our own fund-raising activities. So we were able to purchase all these buildings.

"We are almost unique in the total area here to have our historical public square surrounded by all these historic buildings. This building was the Township Hall and when the township dissolved in 1951, it became Bedford Heights, Oakwood and Walton Hills, there was no more township. So the township just locked the door and walked out. Then for nine years, this was the Administrative offices of the city of Bedford. But the old township records are still here- in various places- So when we moved in, these records were still here.”

Our Thanks to the Following:

Lester Pratt for the beautiful Hosta Garden along the east side of the Town Hall. Each hosta is labeled so that visitors can learn to identify the variety. A portion of the garden is miniature varieties displayed in a small rock garden.

Lynn Jones for the beautiful seasonal planting at the front of the Town Hall.

Steve Angyal for the beautiful Canna display at the Dunham House and Town Hall.

Strawberry Festival Docents: Jean Offutt, John Straka, Ralph Deevers, Steve & Helen Batko, Helen Hurtuk, Marg Keene, Judy Magyar, Doris Shriver, Doris Pankratz, Iris Dawson, Eva Labuski, Kim Balach, Diane Balach, Millie McCarty, Elmer Palinkas, Andy Jones, Don Navratil, Wayne & Amy Rhine, Roy & Sharon Naylor

Strawberry Festival Committee chair-Betsy Lee sub-chairs: Raffle- St. Johns; Beer Sales-Don Saunders; Purchasing-Ron Lisy; Bursar-Alma Rhine; Kitchen – Pat Papish; Food relay-Mike Sims; Serving- Chris Sweet; Grounds- Rich Ganofsky; Entertainment- George Kostel; Vendors- Randy Starnoni; Crafters- Dot Schwende; Publicity- Frank Caldwell & Lisa Kropf; Bingo- Post 1082 VFW; Games of chance- Joanne Harwood & Bedford Lion’s; Ticket sales- Wayne Rhine. There were dozens of volunteers working in shifts helping in each of these categories. Without the help of everyone, the Strawberry Festival could not happen. The total netted: app $14K! Our thanks to all.

AND THANK YOU FOR PURCHASING RAFFLE TICKETS!

Thanks to Flea Market chair Chris Sweet and Lynn Jones for the Society’s table.

School docents: Jim & Kathie Rice, Alma Rhine, Dave Beveridge, Sherry Petkovsek, Paul & Merry Anne Hilty, Marianne Bissler, Jeanette Heston, Wallace Murray, Pat Preston, Angela Pevarski, Janet Curran, Betsy Lee, Al & Pat Roseman, Ruth Miller and Jim & LaVonne Miller.

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Our gratitude to Randy Starnoni for his years of service on the Strawberry Festival Committee. He steps down as coordinator of the vendors after 12 years. Thanks, Randy

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More about the Sterns Letter

‘O we are heartily sick of this Ohio & wish we were at the east where there is some honesty amongst the people.’ Henry Sterns

In the last issue of the Bee, excerpts from the 1837 Sterns letter were printed. The letter told of the young couple’s struggle to live in Bedford, a newly formed village. Helen Pratt was able to trace two other letters from the couple that went for sale on E-Bay. While we were not able to bid on these, we were able to read copies of the letters. Helen Batko has traced the trail of the Sterns. We are sad to report that the couple had a series of set backs living here. They moved out of their newly built house on Dunham St (now Woodrow, the house still stands). Mr. Sterns tailoring business had a few set backs due to unscrupulous customers. In 1839, the couple had moved to Cuyahoga Falls where they eventually had two children. Once again, hard times beset the family. One letter tells how the family cow fell 12 feet into the Cuyahoga River. It survived with a few broken ribs. Eventually, the family moved back to New England. There they had 5 more children. They are buried in Massachusetts.

Excerpts from the letters:

Martha, the wife writes “Henry says if business in Bedford gets good enough again so that he can get a living there he thinks we had better go back again rather than be obliged to pay rent. But we had rather live in Sodom than among infidels.”

Henry writes in a June 9, 1839 letter from Cuyahoga Falls, “On the 15th day of the present month-June- there arrived in this Buckeye State-Ohio- in the very pleasant village of Cuyahoga Falls an individual who claims to be no less a personage than a grandson of Othniel Hannam of So Deerfield Mass- he calls his name Sterns- -his given name Wallace Henry. In short we have got one of the finest boys there in the state he is a genuine down-easter- a real Yankee there is not a particle of Buckeye about him.”

In two of the letters, there is mention of writing on the margin of newspapers to communicate news home to Mass. The practice involved writing with skim milk, which was invisible. The newspaper was then sent home at a cheaper rate than a first class letter. The recipient of the newspaper could then heat the newspaper margin over a warm stove or flame and the skim milk writing would appear.

Our thanks to the Pratts for the purchase of the original and Thanks to Helen Batko for tracing the genealogy of the family.

The Sedlon Art Garden

The restoration of the Sedlon Art Garden is getting off to a slow start due to time restraints and funding. Recently, the City expressed an interest in helping with the project. The garden, located at the rear of the historic Dunham House, was a showcase and meeting place for Cleveland area artists. The garden contained statuary, murals and whimsical Sedlon birdhouses. It had a wandering Poet’s Path where inspired writers could write a few lines and post them.

Several months ago, community leaders stepped forward to form a Bedford Arts Initiative. The society looks forward to their, and the city’s guidance and support.

A Little More on the History of Chocolate

Our Lyceum program on the History of Chocolate and Chocolate Tasting last winter reminded member Elvin Judd of the following: ‘When chocolate was introduced in Prussia, beer sales went down to the point that the king forbade the drinking of chocolate saying it was bad for the health. The king owned or collected fees from the Breweries!’ Thanks, Elvin.
FYI—Can We Help You?

The Bedford Historical Society Library and Archives is here to help you. We have information on Bedford, Bedford Township, Cuyahoga County, Ohio and limited information about life in America. Your cooperation in handling these important documents is most appreciated. Please ask for help from the staff. Society personnel know where to find your document and how to handle the fragile material. Here are some pointers:

1. Wear gloves. You will be given a pair of white cotton gloves to wear. This protects the documents for years to come. Please turn the pages carefully and do not lean on the document surface.
2. Need a copy? If possible, we will copy the page that you request.
3. Material that is to be used for publication in any media must be acknowledged ‘from the archives of the Bedford Historical Society’. You will be asked to sign a form.
4. Original documents are not permitted to leave the building.

The Bedford Historical Society Library and Archives are a treasure left to us from the past. Thank you for your cooperation in helping protect these historical investments.

Oscar Time

Lynn Jones and Betsy Lee participated in nine school assemblies portraying the ‘old School Marm and a New Parent’. Thank you!

A documentary was produced about the Dunham House Project. It is running on cable BCSTV. We have a tape of the production at the museum and will show it at the October Lyceum. Classic Teleproductions did the work. It was a wonderful opportunity to present Bedford’s history.

Thanks from the Students...

Ed Note: during the Dunham House Project, over 200 Bedford City School Students toured our buildings. These are excerpts.

‘I had fun in the old church. Today my church looked better.’
‘Thank you for inviting us to the museum. The best part was when we played games.’
‘It was fun to learn what games they used to play with their friends. The best part was when my team played marbles. Thanks for letting us use the ink to write our names.’
‘I really liked the Dunham House, the church and the train depot. Thanks for letting us write with quills. That was very nice of you.’
‘I am so happy I got to come to the museum. I liked the Dunhams. Their home was beautiful. I loved it there. And Mrs. Rice: you were the Best.’
‘Thanks for telling all about Bedford Ohio. I enjoyed learning about the Civil War. I liked the games they played long ago.’
‘I really liked the paintings. What I really liked the most was all the old things you had.’
‘I hope to see you again.’
We hope to see the students again!

Obituaries

Roland Bondono: Member, Roland Bondono passed away on June 5, 2005 in Utica MI where he and his wife had moved to be closer to family. He is survived by his loving wife, Olivia (nee: Fogoros), daughter Amy (Carl) Goodwin and son Jeffrey. Roland served his country in the U.S. Army Air Force.

Dean Thomas: Dean Seidel Thomas passed away on June 23, 2005. He was a member since 1971. Dean was the loving husband of Nancy (nee: Dugger) and the father of George (Anita), Hank (Dayna) and Molly (Cash) Hoyt. He was a loving grandfather. Dean served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and was a science teacher for the Bedford City School District.

An Idea for Grandparents

Here is an idea from an 1891 baby album in our archives: An autograph page. Ask your grandchild to sign each year from age 4 to 21. Use a good acid-free paper so it lasts the ages.

The society extends its sincere sympathy to Bob Schroeter Jr. and his family in the loss of their son, Bobby. Bobby was the grandson of past president, Bob Schroeter Sr. and the great-grandson of member, Ralph Deevers.

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Members Ron & Sue Martin send this picture of grandson Jack with the pumpkin he grew. Grandma and Jack attended the historical society’s Grandparent/child Tea in the spring of 2004. We gave the guests seeds to grow.

**From the Newspaper**

While researching the 100th Anniversary of Central School, Margaret Bierman found a May 20, 1905 article in the Plain Dealer about Bedford Township voting to remain “dry”. The election was called for by the “wets”. The vote was 154 to 73.

**Society Receives Award**

On July 22nd the Bedford Historical Society received an award from LEAP (Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential, a local ADA affiliate). The Award was presented at a luncheon in Cleveland honoring the society for making the Town Hall Museum handicapped accessible. Past president, Bob Schroeter, Sr. and current president, Dave Beveridge accepted the honors for the society. LEAP officials were helpful as we planned the addition and exhibit areas.

**Gift Shop on Line**

Wayne Rhine is working with Betsy Lee to set up the historical society’s gift shop on our web site. When it is completed, shoppers can review our gift shop items, print an order form and send it and a check to make an order.

**Building Addition Dedication Update**

The one-year anniversary is approaching marking the completion of the addition to the Town Hall Museum. Additions and corrections to the memorial booklet and lobby plaques are being drafted. If you wish to make a donation in honor or memory of a loved one, there is still time to do so. Please call the office to discuss your request. The additional sheets will be available in late fall.

**Stamp Album Update**

Your continued interest has helped the Society’s stamp collection continue to grow. Thank you for sending correspondence with a beautiful array of US postage stamps.

**Society Receives Archives of Jack & Heintz**

The Bedford Historical Society became the official archivist of one of Bedford’s most famous companies, Jack & Heintz. The records were delivered to the Society in June and are being processed into the archives. They had been held by all of the companies that owned the company over the past 50 years.

It was necessary to purchase additional archival shelving for the collection. We thank members, Myrtle Ake and John Dennis for timely donations that were used to cover this. Evelyn Sawastuk and Doris Pankratz have started to sort and process the information. If you have time to help with this, please call our archivist Joyce Maruna.

**The Lincoln Press Print Shop**

Our big project this summer is taking place in the lower level of the Town Hall museum. A partition wall was removed, hundreds of stored objects were relocated and our tool collections were placed in a new ‘Tool Room’. Now we are creating a new exhibit ‘The Lincoln Press’. We have had a great team of volunteers tackle the job. Our youngest volunteers are 12, our oldest volunteers, well we won’t tell. It has been grubby work but fun. We contracted with Jim and Mercury Movers to move the big equipment. It took 50 minutes to move the 100-year-old Chandler & Price letterpress into place. Reserve the date October 13th for the Grand Opening reception.
You are invited

TO ATTEND

THE OPENING RECEPTION

OF

“THE LINCOLN PRESS”

A PRINT SHOP FROM YESTERDAY

Thursday October 13, 2005

1:00 – 4:00

Town Hall Museum
30 South Park (Squire Place)

Demonstrations - Hands on activities for all ages - Refreshments
Remembrances of the Lincoln Press - See the new Tool Room