Upcoming Events:

November 23, 2005 6:00pm: Dedication of the Ohio Historic Marker commemorating the listing of the Historic Business District on the National Register of Historic Places. This is in conjunction with the annual tree lighting on the Square.

December 10, 2005 Saturday Noon - 5:00pm: Annual Christmas Open House. We join forces with the Christmas in Bedford Falls Festival again this year. Bring the family to this popular event.

January 5, 2006 8:00pm: Lyceum - Revisit the Battle of Bed ford. Our storyteller, Lynn Jones retells the tale of one of Bedford’s most famous events. Travel back to 1921 and hear the story.

February 2, 2006 8:00pm: Lyceum - Diplomatic Practice; A Brief Overview of the U.S. Diplomatic Service; Ambassador Holsey G. Handyside discusses the ‘how’ & ‘why’ of our country’s diplomatic service. Learn how it has evolved from Washington’s time to today’s complex international scene.

March 2, 2006 8:00pm: Lyceum - Through the Lense of the Camera - the Photography of Jim Johnston; Join us as we honor Bedford resident, Jim Johnston. His artistic eye & attention to detail translate into photography that has brought national recognition to Jim. He shares his photography and tells how he captured some of his award-winning shots. A champagne reception follows.

March 4, 2006 6:00pm: Annual Reverse Raffle Obliged to entertain and hate the work involved? Consider purchasing an entire table or two at the Annual Reverse Raffle. Your invited friends will have a great time, you didn’t have to clean and cook and you are a hero because you helped a worthy cause! Mark your calendar - more news to follow!

From the President, Dave Beveridge…

Greetings fellow history buffs, members and friends of the Bedford Historical Society! Say, now that our beloved Cleveland Indians have ended their season and we fans yet once again must sing the refrain.. wait ’til next year… did you know that a Bedford boy once played for Cleveland and is now in Baseball’s Hall of Fame? Yes, Elmer Flick, born in Bedford in 1876, was inducted into Baseball’s shrine in 1963! All of you baseball fans will want to visit our Museum and learn more about this spectacular baseball player from Bedford! All Historical Society members, I know, join in congratulating the Historical Society Trustee, Don Saunders, on recently being named Citizen of the Year. Congratulations Don, an honor and recognition well deserved. Many of you have attended our reverse raffle, our Strawberry Festival and other annual fundraisers and we sincerely appreciate your help and support. This year, however, has been an especially difficult one for our society as utility costs continue to rise and everyone watches their spending, our fundraisers have fallen off expectations by over $5000. Your Trustees are working hard to cut and stretch our budget and are taking steps to increase our annual revenue. A committee is beginning to work with our cities and county, we are in the process of establishing an Endowment with the Cleveland Foundation, and members are attending meetings to learn more about securing grants for the Society. Your officers and trustees will continue to work hard to assure that our Historical Society will be able to navigate through these rough waters and with your continued help and support, we will succeed. Hope to see YOU at all of our events!
Special Oral History in honor of our 50th Anniversary.

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

Part IV

Dick Squire—The Author

“Anna Niver and her husband, Sam ran the Bedford Times. Anna got tired of writing the weekly column and asked me to try something. So “Around the Town” by the Village Observer, came out—I tried to keep it anonymous but that didn’t stay long. Pretty soon, everyone figured out who it was.

“I wrote every week for five or six years. Finally, I realized I was supposed to be getting the copy in by Monday noon and I would be sitting there in my big chair at midnight Sunday trying to figure what to write about. Actually, writing is very hard for me. It may look like it just flows out, but it doesn’t. I can sit there and start a sentence and can’t figure out how to finish it. Or, instead of writing the beginning, I will write something in the body of it. And go back to the start or eliminate the start entirely. But it is hard work. I wrote about reminiscences quite a bit. I gradually eased off writing the column a bit.

“Bedford Vignettes came out in 1982. It included every column in the same order in which they appeared in the Bedford Times. I also wrote Bedford Village Views in 1992. But I started to be selective and put the articles in groups or chapters.

“So far as writing the articles, the columns for the Times Register the ideas came from many sources. A lot of the ideas came right from the museum as I was going through old papers, the old township records and many other things.

“It was based right here in our Historical Society’s Archives. So there is no end to the possibilities here. Somebody else could go through these and write them in two more books and not touch anything I wrote about. There is so much here.

“One thing that I’m kind of sensitive about is the work of our main street here, Broadway. It used to be that it was Broadway and that was that. Now all you read about it is Broadway Avenue. You notice in the paper every reference; and you go through those books that we have at the Museum, you will probably find the word Broadway in several hundred times and not once is it Broadway AVENUE.”

Dioramas on display

The Town Hall Museum had four dioramas about early life in Bedford on display in early summer. Grade school students Warren Franklin III, Kennady Crayne, Jariana DeJesus and Lindsay Wallace were the creators of these beautiful models. Thanks to Mrs. Johnson for arranging this.

(If you saw the documentary we made about the Dunham House Project on television, Warren and Jariana were the students who spoke so eloquently.)

Membership Renewal Time

Kathie Williams, our new membership secretary reminds everyone that it is renewal time. Your help is also needed to find the following: Wm Carrier, David Chambers, Glen & Olive Maley, Tom Advent, Helen Javorsky and Mildred Peters. These are members with no forwarding address. If you know anyone on this list, please call 440 232-0796.

Thanks to the Popcorn Crew!

Our thanks to the popcorn crew for popping during this summer’s parties-in-the-park. We made $372.93. The poppers: Jules & Alma Rhine, Therese Chapman, Elmer & Pearl Palinkas, Ralph Deeters, Pat Bosway, Rita Heintel, Jim & Marianne Bissler, Ev & Mike Sawastuk. Thanks to Chris Sweet for corn pick-up and Lynn Jones for lining up volunteers. Our sincere gratitude to Tom at Medic Drug for donating the hundreds of bags that are used to hold popcorn. Tom donates these each year, a real cost savings for us. When you are in Medic, tell him you are a member and ‘thanks’.

Sedlon Garden Update

Historical Society volunteers Gary Watts and Frank Caldwell cleared dozens of trees from the site in September. The city helped us by chipping the mountains of branches and covering the cost of a dumpster. Key Bank volunteers worked an entire afternoon as part of a community service project to clear debris and brush. This site clearance prepares the way for the creation of the Sedlon Art Garden when funding becomes available. Thanks to everyone who helped.

Field Trip was Interesting

Thanks to Lynn Jones for organizing the field trip to Gray’s Armory and Shaker Historical Society. The group traveled in the city’s van and had a great box lunch made by Lynn.
Fire up the Press!

The inaugural opening of the Lincoln Press Print Shop exhibit was well attended. The old ways of printing are a lost art in today’s computerized world. This exhibit has generated much interest. The Lincoln Press is the only working Print Shop exhibit in Northern Ohio. Central to the exhibit is the 1894 Chandler & Price Press. Other pieces of equipment include a large oak Hamilton Type case cabinet, a composing table (known as an imposing stone) with marble top, proof presses, a galley tray and other smaller pieces of equipment. Almost all of the equipment came from the shop of former museum director, Dick Squire. Dick purchased an interest in Mutual Printers in Bedford after WWII. He later bought out his partner and changed the name to The Lincoln Press.

It took four months to create this exhibit. The museum’s tool collections were relocated to a new room, the contents of a storage room were relocated and a non-essential wall was removed to enlarge the area. And, like all of our exhibits in the 1874 Town Hall Museum, we worked with the architectural features of this National Register building. Many people contributed to the creation of this permanent exhibit. Lester Pratt, who worked after high school at Dick’s shop, took responsibility for preparing the equipment for the exhibit. It was his determination and grit that got the press to operate. Joe Ross and Tim Grubb, home from college for summer cleaned and reset thousands of letters in the type trays. Lester traveled to Madison to collect missing peripheral pieces needed to demonstrate the art of printing. He and Roger Fuhrmeyer have supplemented missing parts of the collection. Wilson Roller Corporation, a Bedford company, stepped forward to advise and locate a company to replace the three rollers needed to transfer the ink and then paid for the restoration. Graphic World Printing donated a newer and safer solvent for cleaning ink.

The ‘Dungeon Crew’ worked with crowbars, hammers, shop vacs and paint brushes to prepare the area for the exhibit. The Curator’s committee included Faith Bartl, Frank Caldwell, Roger Fuhrmeyer, Tim Grubb, Emily Herston, Kevin Johns, Andy Jones, Bob Maruna, Caelie Orlosky, Shelby Orlosky, Helen Pratt, Lester Pratt, Joe Ross, Andrea Thompson, Gary Watts, and Angela Wiesenberger. Faith, Emily, Caelie and Shelby are grade-schoolers who arrived every Thursday and worked all afternoon with an energy and competency that awed and inspired some of us older folks. Dick’s great-granddaughter, Angela from Columbus, helped one evening while she was here visiting grandma. Mercury Movers, another Bedford company, rescued us again by moving the heavy equipment. Roger Fuhrmeyer and Helen Pratt assisted with educational signage. Roger donated one of the proof presses originally from Roger’s Display Company, Jack Wardley’s domain before retiring. Jerry Galvin retired Bedford High print teacher offered technical advice. Shirley Taussig, whose family owns Taussig Graphic Arts, donated additional items for the exhibit including a rare example of an early lithostone.

Every one attending the inaugural received a souvenir keepsake printed on the press. There were printing activities for adults and children to try. And, thanks to the best bakers in Bedford, the refreshments were tasty!


Only a Few Openings Left!

Actually, there are several openings left for ‘printer’s devils’. That is the term for apprentice printers charged with cleaning and resetting type. Lester Pratt invites everyone interested in learning and preserving the old ways of printing to stop in on Monday or Wednesday evenings 7:30 – 9:30 to learn the old ways. Perk- you can print your own creation.

Also in the Works

Roger Fuhrmeyer will offer a four-week art course on ‘Linoleum Block Carving and Printing’. Under his tutelage, you will be able to try your creative talent to design a block print that can then be printed on the press. Imagine the possibilities-your own stationary, a limited edition poster for framing, printing on textile. The course will be offered on Monday evenings in April. A nominal cost will be determined to cover materials. Call in if you have an interest in learning this art form. Members have first dibs on signing up.
Scrap booking

By Joyce Maruna, archivist & Paul Pojman librarian.

The current craze for “Scrapbooking” isn’t new. It may now be undergoing a new approach, involving more money, more organization and more networking of ideas, but making scrapbooks to preserve memories has been a popular pastime for over a century. The Bedford Historical Society has more than a hundred scrapbooks in its collection. Here is a glimpse into what’s there.

The parent-teacher groups of Bedford’s public schools have kept records and scrapbooks of their activities and we have many of them. They have been invaluable tools for research. Personal scrapbooks containing information of all kinds reflect the interest of the individual who put together each one. We have collections of poetry, news clippings of the World Wars, valentines and postcards, family vacations and trips to faraway places. Black & white photographs from the turn of the twentieth century up through the 1960s are wonderfully clear and well preserved (though sadly not often identified) in books of plain black paper.

A concern with these books, as with anything we have, is preservation. The search for the best way to keep our scrapbooks in the best condition possible has resulted in the use of plain cotton pillowcases in which we wrap each book. Indexing and cataloguing is an ongoing task as more and more of these treasures are donated to us and gathered in one place. Handling them is a ‘white glove’ issue. Reading this may remind you of an old scrapbook in the attic. Perhaps someday, should you decide you no longer wish to keep it, we can give it a new home with our collection. Meanwhile, keep your scrapbooks in temperature conditions that you normally live in. Avoid cooking odors and smoke. Protect from light and keep clean. And don’t forget to label.

Art Work on Display

Your Historical Society has two intermuseum loans through January. Paul Patton’s ‘Central School Memories’ is on display at the Beck Center on Detroit Rd. It is part of an exhibit by the Cleveland Artists Foundation entitled ‘Visual Tales’. Several of our watercolors by naturalist Joe Jesensky are on view at the Seiberling Nature Realm on Smith Rd in the Summit County Metroparks.

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Our sympathy to member Chuck Hinzman on the death of his wife, Ruth.

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From the archives…

War Claims Bedford’s Mayor: Wife to Be Red Cross Nurse

By Kate Carter

Bedford loses its mayor.

Dr. L. M. English, elected two years ago, will hand in his resignation early next week, as he may join the Officers’ Reserve Medical Corps at Fortress Mowry, Va.

Mrs. English will join a Red Cross unit for service in France.

They have sold their household goods and are ready to leave.

Mrs. English told me about it Friday.

“It will be our first separation from our marriage,” she said.

“We feel this is no more than our duty to the country, and no more than is to be expected of others. No sacrifice is too great at such times.”

Dr. English, age 44—exemplifies him from selective service. So does the fact that he is an elected city official.

But Dr. English says there is greater need of dental surgeons at the front in France than there is need for his services as mayor of Bedford.

Mrs. English told me about it Friday.

Bedford High School football team and has organized five companies of Boy Scouts.

Mrs. English will accompany her husband from Bedford and will join a Red Cross unit at Philadelphia.

People change from

duty to the country, and no more than is to be expected of others. No sacrifice is too great at such times.”

Bedford Historical Society archives- The Plain Dealer June 22, 1917

A recent news piece mentioned that there are fewer than 500 living veterans from WWI. Many reading this had a father or grandfather who served in the Great War. As history condenses itself to make room for historic events, will WWI become a war that is forgotten? The above news article shows the passion that surrounded the time.