Upcoming Events:

December 9, 2006 Noon - 4:00pm Saturday Annual Open House. Refreshments, carriage rides, music and visits with Santa are scheduled for the big day. A book signing by Harold George will be held on the first floor of the Town Hall. (See accompanying article).

January 4, 2007 8:00pm; Lyceum- Cleveland’s Civil War Heroes; Marjorie Wilson presents an interesting evening about the area’s fallen heroes.

February 1, 2007 8:00pm; The Taylor Chair Company- Then & Now; Lynn Jones presents interesting facts about this Bedford company.

March 3, 2007 Saturday evening; Annual Reverse Raffle- It is a Luau this year! Get the Hula skirts and floral shirts ready. (See accompanying article)

From the President  
Brian Melling

We hope you were able to attend many of the events sponsored by the Bedford Historical Society this year. Our attendance continues to increase. Our permanent exhibits and temporary exhibits such as the Amateur Sports in Bedford Township attracted regulars and new visitors.

We have been operating with a limited budget and Trustees continue to pursue new ways to find additional funding so that we can continue to serve the communities in our area and educate visitors. Our gratitude to those of you who were able to donate additional funds to help offset the deficit. By contributing a little extra, we close the gap as the end of the fiscal year approaches.

Our gratitude to the many members and friends who contributed thousands of volunteer hours this year. From helping with a fundraising event or helping weekly with exhibits, library or archives, we appreciate your time and talent.

What is New at the Museum?

The first floor of the Town Hall continues to receive attention. The ceiling has been painted. Those of you who have visited the museum know that the ceiling in question is about 14 feet high. Frost Construction, who tackled the project wrapped and draped everything in plastic sheeting to protect the items from damage. New carpeting is installed. Visitors will notice changes in our efforts to better utilize space. Lunch on Thursdays required more space for volunteers. By moving files to another room, we made room for a larger table. The Gift Shop has been moved to a cozy niche in the front of the building. It allows for more display space and frees space for a gathering area for group tours.

Book Signing

Local Northeast Ohio researcher and lecturer, Harold George has published a new book about Ohio’s Civil War Monuments. The hardbound beautifully photographed book is available at the Museum Gift Shop. Mr. George will be available on December 9th to sign the book and discuss his research on the topic. A special discount is available for that day. He will be in the Civil War Room at the Town Hall Museum.

Membership Renewal

Time to renew your membership. If you are renewing a membership for someone or purchasing a new membership for a friend or family member, we will send a gift notice and a special bookmark printed on the 1894 C&P Press. The membership roster is enclosed with this newsletter. Please review it and let us know of any corrections.

Last day to purchase from the Museum Gift Shop is Thursday December 21st. The Museum will be closed Dec. 23rd to January 2nd.
For our readers in the winter climates...

Dr John King’s compendium New American Family Physician © 1860, 1873 offers the following advice to keep folks well during the winter months.

**Winter Rules**

1. Never go to bed with cold or damp feet; but always toast them by a fire for some ten or fifteen minutes before going to bed.
2. Be very careful never to sleep with the head or chest exposed to the draft of an open window or door.
3. Have enough covering on the bed to feel comfortably warm, with rather more over the feet and lower part of the legs. Have some extra covering at hand in case of a sudden change to colder weather during the night.
4. When going from a warm atmosphere into a colder one, keep the mouth closed, so that the air may be warmed by its passage through the nose, ere it reaches the lungs. A neglect of this matter, by suddenly chilling the air vessels, has caused Pleurisy, Inflammation of the Lungs etc.
5. Never stand still in cold weather, especially after having taken even a slight degree of exercise. And always avoid standing upon ice or snow or where the person is exposed to a cold wind. Keep moving all the time.
6. After exercise of any kind, and however slight it may be, never ride in an open carriage, nor near the open window of a car or other vehicle for a moment; it is dangerous to health and even life.
7. On commencing a journey, always wear an old boot or shoe at first.
8. India rubbers should never be worn, only to protect the feet from wet. When worn too much they dispose to Colds, Coughs, Rheumatism, etc.
9. When traveling in the face of an extremely cold wind, wear a handkerchief over the nose and mouth, so as to avoid the chilling influence of the cold upon the lungs.
10. Merely warm the back by a fire or stove, and never continue keeping the back exposed to the heat, after it has been comfortably warmed. To do otherwise is debilitating.
11. Never begin a journey until the breakfast has been eaten.
12. When hoarse, speak as little as possible until it is recovered from, else the voice may be permanently lost, or difficulties of the throat be produced.
13. In leaving a warm room, always dress warmly, putting on gloves, cloak etc before leaving the room. A neglect of this rule may prove serious.
14. Keep the back well covered, especially between the shoulder blades. This can be done by having the vest and coat lined with cotton batting.

15. Never lean with the back upon anything that is cold; rather sit up erect.
16. Never take warm drinks and then immediately go out into the cold air.
17. After having been exposed to the cold air and ‘chilled through’, as for instance after a sleigh ride, never enter a warm room immediately, but get warmed first by throwing the arms about, jumping, and other exercises; and if you are to go again into the cold air for a time, drink cold instead of warm beverages. By this means, many severe and even fatal diseases may be avoided.

**The Sick Room**

Before the days of antibiotics, home care of the invalid involved a complex set of standards. Nutrition, room temperature, handling the bedfast patient and preventing the spread of disease were the skills that many young girls and women learned in Home Economics and from books and periodicals of the day. The Gates bedroom in the Town Hall Museum is a sickroom this winter. Our ‘patient’ is reclining in her grand Victorian bed with a recently accessioned backrest from that era. She is wearing warm flannel. A pan for soaking her feet is nearby and several recipes for the sick will offer her comfort for the flu or common cold. On view is an invalid nurser, used to feed broth and gruel. Our patient will be receiving visitors from early December through mid April.

Early training to prevent the spread of colds started with the young child. An early childhood song has the following lyrics: ‘Kerchoo! Kerchoo! I have a bad cold. Kerchoo! Kerchoo! My kerchief I’ll hold, right over my mouth, when I kerchoo, and then I won’t give my bad cold to you!’

**Recipe for Invalids**

**Gruel**- Mix well 2 tablespoons of coarse oatmeal with ½ pint of milk (or water), strain, not through a sieve, but through a strainer into a saucepan. Place on fire and stir frequently, boiling for about fifteen minutes. Add salt or sugar to taste.

(Sunlight Yearbook, 1898)

**A Modern Medical Marvel**

At the December Open House on Saturday December 9th, there will be a demonstration of the AED, electric defibrillation devices that are now available in airports, schools etc.

Our sickly Victorian maiden and her attending physician never would have imagined that such a device would exist.
The Endowment

The Bedford Historical Society Endowment appeal is enclosed with this newsletter. The endowment is an opportunity for our members and friends to help stabilize our future finances. A donation to the Endowment is in addition to your regular donations to the Society. Your donation will gain interest in funds managed by the Cleveland Foundation.


New Legislation Helps the Historical Society

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows donors to make a tax-free transfer from a traditional IRA or a Roth IRA to the Bedford Historical Society. The transfers are only permitted for 2006 & 2007. You must be 70 ½ yrs or older at the time of transfer. Gifts must not exceed $100,000 per year. Funds must be transferred directly from the IRA to the Society’s Endowment Fund.

Speak with your tax counsel, attorney or to the Cleveland Foundation for details. The tax advantage is very beneficial. This is a wonderful chance to help the Bedford Historical Society continue its service to the community.

Geocache Update

We have a site! Readers of the Bee may recall that our preferred site to place a cache was on our own historic property. Nearby caches prevented us from doing this. The committee, headed by John Straka, approached the Metroparks about placing a historical society Geocache in nearby Viaduct Park, the site of the stone railway trestle, the old stone arch and ruins of the mill sites. The Park system agreed. Within 12 hours of posting the coordinates of the cache on line, we had visitors to the site.

Want to see what is in our cache? Call John Straka and he will meet you at the park. You can use his GPS device for the coordinates and have the fun of finding it yourself. Several of our members have GPS devices if you are interested in going on a hunt. Call John Straka 216 662-2851 or the museum 440 232-0796.

Annual Reverse Raffle

Saturday, March 3rd seems like a long way off but please reserve the date for our Annual Reverse Raffle hosted by the Society’s Trustees. It is a fun theme this year- a colorful Luau complete with island favorites and music. Phil will be roasting a pig on a spit for the event. Don’t know what to buy the family for Christmas? How about purchasing a table for the Luau? We will supply an appropriate announcement for under the tree including leis in a gift-wrapped box.

The Society’s Quilts

On October 7th, the Town Hall Museum displayed its collection of quilts during the Fall Harvest Festival. It was a nice opportunity to display these beautiful works of art that are normally kept in safe storage. We had quilting demonstrations during the show. Thanks to Alma Rhine and Betsy Lee, our young visitors tried some simple quilting activities.

The museum’s quilt collection is protected from dust and light. They are readily accessible for viewing if requested. They are not normally kept exposed for public view but are rotated in exhibits.

By definition, a quilt is ‘a bed coverlet of two layers of cloth filled with wool, cotton or down and held in place by stitched designs.’ (Webster’s Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary) Never has such a simple definition been interpreted in so many ways. The quilt transcends the basic need for protection from the cold. It has been an artistic outlet for generations of needle workers. Quilts protect from more than a chilly night, they help ward off the nightmares of childhood. Quilts were used to map safe passage along the Underground Railroad. At their purest level, quilts offer loving reminders to someone miles away. A quilt passed down through generations is a link with the past. They are a loving hug for those in the future. They validate someone’s existence. You can almost hear them whisper ‘I have been where you are today.’
2006 Christmas Cards are Here!
The Gift Shop has two choices this year, both printed on the 1894 C&P Letterpress. Roger Fuhrmeyer has designed 'Greetings from the Town Hall'; it is 1st in a series that he is creating. The second card is an antique printing cut entitled 'Christmas Eve'. Cards are reasonably priced at $10 + .75 tax. You can mix or match either design.

From the archives...
Christmas greetings from the Lincoln Press 1954. The flyer used 42 font styles or sizes of type.

Merry Christmas

Raffle Winners

Our thanks to Kathie Williams for serving as Membership Secretary for the past year.

Thanks to Pat Papish, Phyllis Dobson, Millie McCarty, Helen Pratt, Dot Schwende, Lynn & Andy Jones, Steve & Helen Batko for helping set up and take down the Quilt display.

Our Thanks to Bob Paulson for the use of his truck. To the following: Steve Salvi, Frank Caldwell, Gary Watts, Lester Pratt, Joe Ross, Don Cronin, Bob Maruna, Al Korzenko and Joe Korzenko for moving the Hammond organ for September's concert. And Thanks to Jim Stanton for a wonderful evening of music and history.

Thanks to Ev & Mike Sawastuk for purchasing a larger table.

Obituaries:

Dr. Robert Hoffman; The Society lost a friend on July 28, 2006. Dr. Hoffman was a career dental surgeon in the US Military. He served his country for 28 years. He is survived by his loving wife, Barbara, son Lewis and daughter Caroline, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be missed by his extended family and friends.

Judy Saunders; We extend our sympathy to Trustee Don Saunders on the loss of his wife, Judy (nee: Dinehart) on August 6th. Judy attended many events sponsored by the Bedford Historical Society. She was the loving mother of Amy Dinehart, Brahem and Justin Raya and Matthew and Andrew Saunders. She was the loving grandmother of Ava Vavquez.

Irene J. Sitarz; Our member, Irene J. (nee Struzenski) Sitarz passed away on October 6th. She leaves a loving husband, Thaddeus and children Linda (Kenneth) Chad, Stephen and Robert (Mary). Irene was a beloved grandmother.

Olive G. Maley; Olive (nee: Glover) Maley passed away on October 14th in West Chester Ohio. She had moved from Bedford to be closer to her grandson and his family. Olive was an active member of the society along with her late husband Glenn and late son Ron. She and Glenn were lifelong residents of Bedford. She was a loving grandmother of Brian (Teresa) and great-grandmother of Matthew, Mary Kathryn and Grace.

E.J. Romito; Our sympathy to Ed Romito (Bea) on the loss of his father, EJ on October 23rd. He was preceded in death by his wife Mary (Melnick) and son Fred. He was a loving grandfather and great grandfather. EJ was a long time Bedford resident. He served his country in the Coast Guard during WWII and the Korean Conflict. The family suggests donations in his name to the Endowment of the Bedford Historical Society.