Up Coming Events:

September 6, 2007 7:30 pm; Lyceum- A concert by the Monroe Street Strings. A finger-snappin’ toe-tappin’ evening of old time string band music with a history lesson of this art form to boot! Bring your friends and family for a fun evening. In the sanctuary of the historic Old Church on the Square. Free and open to everyone with refreshments following the program.

October 4, 2007 7:30 pm; Lyceum- The Way it Was An evening with our long-time Bedford area residents. Learn about life in Bedford and Bedford Township from those who have lived here for many years. Roger Fuhrmeyer will serve as moderator for this evening of remembrances. This is a joint project with Bedford City Schools.

October 6, 2007 10:00am – 2:00pm; A Fall Harvest Festival. Our buildings will be open along with special events on the Square and throughout the historic district. A fun family event.

November 1, 2007 7:30 pm; Lyceum- A History of the Hungarian Revolution: Society members and Bedford residents, Endre Szentkiralyi and his wife Eszti Pigniczky recently journeyed to Hungary to trace their roots and learn the impact of the 1956 Hungarian revolution. They will share their story and the resulting documentary that was filmed about their journey.

November 2 & 3, 2007 Friday & Saturday 9am – 4pm – An Antique Appraisal Fair; (details inside).

Please note that the Lyceum programs have a new starting time. We will begin at 7:30 pm.

From the President-
Greetings from your president. I am honored to be involved with this organization, it’s in my blood. Thank you, Brian Melling for serving as president last year and for your continued involvement. I am looking forward to an exciting year with another Appraisal Fair in November, wonderful Lyceum programs beginning in September and other events where we can get together and enjoy our wonderful museums. Come visit our museums and see exciting exhibits and improvements to protect and preserve our history.

Betsy Lee

It was a Great Strawberry Festival

Congratulations to Betsy Lee and her committee for a successful Strawberry Festival. It takes many members and friends to set up, operate and take down a three-day festival. Ralph King and committee produced a Festival Classic Car Show that brought many appreciative visitors.

Thanks to hosts and docents, we were able to keep all of our buildings open on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Seems like just about everyone in town took a turn dishing out berries & ice cream.

Winner of the pie-eating contest: Tyler Brockman!


Please remember to support our sponsors; their support helps this event to be successful. We have listed them here and they will be listed on our website for your future reference. Time Warner Cable, Auto Mart-Cox Auto Trader, S&G Auto Sales, LaGra Jewelers, Al’s Trains & Hobby, Bedford Auto Trim, Ohio Public School Employees Local 136, All-Star Martial Arts, Designer Fragrance Bar, Aarken Art Glass, D&S Cleaners, Star Glass & Fine Art, Spirit Apothecary, St. John Funeral Home, Dan Pociek for Mayor Committee, Bedford Floral, Non-Ferrous Heat Treating, Bedford Quick Print, DJ George Kostel, Giant Eagle, Realty One, Coffee Cup Family Restaurant, Leroy Vlk Florist, Carol James Florist, Cuyahoga Valley Railroad, Dial Cleaners, Kaczur Meats, Applebee’s, Bedford Autocare, Complete Lawn Care, Heritage Care, Jay Honda, Liberty Ford, Main St. Café, Nick’s Gyros, Turney Auto Parts, Twinsburg Brake & Tire & Arabica Cafe.

We had perfect weather for this family friendly event. Unofficial figures indicate that we made $17K! The Strawberry Festival is our main source of revenue for the operating budget.
Designing Our Town

Your historical society offers many tours for children throughout the year. We have groups such as Scouts, home-schoolers, day care centers to school district tours and special class projects. Sometimes, summer poses a problem when the temperature is 90 degrees; the main museum building is hot, too hot to take visitors to the upper floors. A recent tour solved the problem; we stayed outside and looked at the built environment of our town.

A group of 29 children explored our historic town. They learned what was important to an early Western Reserve village and how our buildings serve those needs. Then the group was allowed to design their ‘own’ Bedford. These future architects designed a beautiful and functional town. Our savvy visitors figured out that the blacksmith shop needed lots of open space and places for horses to be tied, the milliner wanted large windows for her shop to show off pretty hats, the railroad stationmaster wanted his building alongside the tracks. Our town doctor and dentist wanted some advertising on their buildings. One young architect designed a print shop. Not any print shop but one here in Bedford-Bedford Printquick. When asked how she knew the shop looked that way, she replied that she lived nearby and remembered how it looked. Kids do not miss a thing!

A few of the kids let us keep their designs; they are posted at the museum if you would like to see them.

School Tours

Our large school district tours are only possible with the help of many volunteers. Many of these folks are retired teachers who enjoy interacting with the children. Our thanks to Jim and Kathie Rice for coordinating the tours and to all of our school volunteers.

Want to help?

What is the difference between a building host and a docent? Our hosts are friendly greeters who help during large tours. Docents attend training sessions. They learn how to handle crowd situations, safety issues like evacuating a group in severe weather. Docents read and learn about our history and about our collections so that they can share that knowledge with visitors. If you would like to be a host or have time to learn more and be a docent, please call the museum 440 232-0796. If a training session does not fit your schedule, we will fit our session around your schedule. Building Host or Docent- these are very important people in the Bedford Historical Society!

Endowment Update

The Cleveland Foundation informs us that our fledgling Endowment fund is generating interest. The fund is at $30,000. In the future, we will be able to utilize portions of the earned interest to help our yearly budget. Money or other assets can be donated to the fund at anytime during the year. Many people are unaware of the tax advantages available when donations are made to the fund. Assets such as old insurance policies can be transferred to the Endowment Fund.

The Endowment committee is arranging for a Planned Giving Specialist from the Cleveland Foundation to come to Bedford and answer questions that members may have on the tax advantages of helping the Endowment. A luncheon is being planned in conjunction with this program. Please call the museum office 440 232-0796 if you would like to be informed of the date when it is set for the luncheon.

Congratulations to Doty & Miller

We extend our congratulations to architects Bill Doty and Chuck Miller and their staff for receiving the prestigious National Gold LEED Certification from the US Green Builders Council. Their adaptive use of the old 1934 post office for their headquarters demonstrates “the compatibility between reuse of a historic building and implementation of “Green Building” principles.

A Light on the Flag

Our thanks to our friends at Bedford VFW Post 1082 for providing a light to illuminate our flagpole in the evening. They donated the funds for the project including the cost of the electrical work to install the light and timer.

Drivers for Lyceum

Some of our members do not like to drive in the evenings but still want to attend the popular Lyceum series. If you can offer a ride to one of your fellow members or friends, please let us know. We will match you with someone close-by. Thank you.
Bedford Cemetery Update

The Bedford Cemetery project discussed in the last issue of the Bee continues to be a topic of much interest. The purpose of the project is multifaceted- raise awareness of this historic treasure entrusted to the residents of Bedford, produce a condition survey of the older memorials and stones, help generate funding for restoration of damaged stones, offer legislative assistance to protect the cemetery based on national standards, make available information on the cemetery and the national cemetery movement. Several people have started photographing and recording data from section one. The goal is to document the older sections over the next few years.

A small publication will be available about Bedford Cemetery. Money from this project will be placed in an account for restoration purposes. Many descendents of those resting there are not living in the area to help tend the graves. As an active cemetery, personnel have, as their main task, the preparation of graves for current burials and keeping the grounds neat and safe. Restoration of the damaged stones is a meticulous procedure with exacting standards. Amateur efforts result in even more damage; some of those are damaged beyond repair.

Our cemetery is one of the prettiest places in town. Many visitors come to walk the paths and enjoy the quiet reverence of this hallowed place. The stones tell a story, we just need to be their voice.

How can you help? Volunteer to record or photograph portions of the lots. Contribute to the cemetery restoration fund. Educate yourself and others about the importance of cemetery preservation. Books are available for reading in the Society’s library.

As Requested…

Those of you who attend the Lyceum series know we have great bakers. Jean Offutt is parting with her Easy Turtle recipe. It was one of our most requested recipes this past year. Thanks, Jean.

Easy Turtles
Bag of small pretzels (the pretzel shaped kind)
Bag of chocolate-covered caramels (Rollos)
Pecan halves
Place an unwrapped candy on top of each pretzel. Melt in 200˚ oven until soft, about 2 minutes. Remove from oven and press a pecan half on top of each one. Chill to set.

Window Treatments with a Mission

We are using a portion of the Bedford Eagles Lodge grant for conservation of the archives and library. The east and west windows of the Town Hall Museum first floor are being protected with a film that will cut UV light by 99% and solar heat by 47%. One-inch blinds will be installed to further control the amount of light and heat. This is a major project- our east and west side windows are 36 inches by 12 feet! There are 14 of them!

The coating material is used by many museums; however, our building is also a National Register building with additional restrictions. The coating will meet these restrictions. Another dilemma posed was in the selection of the blinds. Plastic blinds were cheaper but plastic produces a phenomenon known as out-gassing; that is not good for the documents. Metal blinds, a bit more in cost, eliminated this hazard so we chose them.

We are fortunate that the Eagles gave us the funding for this preservation work.

Forbes Woods

The Society continues to work with the City of Bedford Heights and Cleveland Metroparks on the development of the Forbes Woods project. We are conducting a survey of area colleges, universities and organizations with an interest in archaeology & anthropology to determine if portions of the area would provide a field excavation site for students. Work on the trail is commencing this summer. Educational signage on the history of the area is an additional part of the project.

A dedication ceremony is scheduled in late September. Check the local papers for the exact date when it is chosen.

Thanks to Heather Alexander, Kay Gary, Joyce Maruna, Roger Fuhrmeyer, Jim Magyar and Frank Caldwell for serving on the advisory committee.

Save the Date - Nov 2nd & November 3rd

Steve Salvi has been working hard to make the Antique Jewelry & Toy Appraisal Fair a memorable event. The day will include specific appraisal times to expedite your time in line for appraisals, seminars on history and care of antiques, a fair and show featuring local antique dealers and food by Arabica Café with service and decorating touches by our famous Victorian Maids. Spend the day browsing, attending informative seminars and watching the action as expert appraisers place values and tell the history of treasured items. Thanks for your support.
Our Good Neighbor Passes On

John Piazza, our good neighbor on the other side of the tracks passed away in July. John looked after the society grounds and occupants with parental zeal. His admonishing words were “If you need something, don’t buy it before you check with me; I probably have it already!” Most of the time, John did have what we needed to fix or repair anything. He always had a smile and a pocket of candy; he readily shared both with anyone willing to smile back or pass along good wishes to the next person.

Known for his steadfast, sometimes stubborn, ways, John had a soft spot for any of God’s critters. He had one of the most productive grape arbors in town; but the raccoons, ‘possums and birds were the beneficiaries of the bounty. Walking with John in his yard entailed stepping over beams, old tools, piles of wood and an assortment of lawn furniture; and then he would stop and proudly show off a patch of prize parsley that he babied from seed.

Because of his kindness and generosity, we overlooked his eccentricities. John picked up trash off the Square because it was his Square, he would give someone the shirt off his back if it was needed and he had a story for every item that he collected. He requested donations to the Bedford Historical Society instead of flowers. And donations have been arriving from people who remember the man who gave them candy and lifted their spirits with a smile.

We will miss him.

J. Caldwell

Obituaries:

Warren Smith; Warren Smith, a member since 1972 passed away on April 1, 2007. Warren, a life long resident of Bedford, spent many hours on restoration projects at the Dunham House and the Old Church/Community Building. He served his country in WWII in the Army Air Corp. Our sympathy to daughter Louise. He was a loving grandfather and great-grandfather.

Merle Jane Bobo; Word was received that member Jane (nee:Aldridge) Bobo passed away on December 7, 2006. She was a member since 1969. Jane was preceded in death by her husband John P. She was the mother of Velda Jean Bobo and Jerry (Heath Leigh) and a loving grandmother. She was the sister of Lee Aldridge, Velda Lind and Florence Turner (see next death notice).

Florence H. Turner; Member Florence Turner (nee Aldridge) passed away on May 1, 2007. She was a member since 1984. She was preceded in death by her husband, John ‘Jack’, and sons William A. and John S.; she was the sister of Lee Aldridge and Velda Lind and the late M. Jane Bobo. Surviving are her daughter Gail Chambers and loving grandchildren. Contributions are being received at the Society in memory of Florence. She had a love and knowledge about Bedford history.

Merril J. Cermak; Member Merril Cermak passed away on May 9, 2007. Merril was a volunteer at society events. Surviving are his wife Carol (nee Cowan) and children Wayne, Cheryl, Dawn and Robert and their families. Merril was the brother of Carol (Charles) and the late Joseph and Tillie.

John C. Piazza; Member John Piazza passed away on July 3, 2007. He took part in many projects of the society. He was the father of Pam, Paula and the late Deborah. He was the husband of the late Delores (Knox). He was a loving grandfather and dear brother to a large family. The family suggests memorial contributions to the Bedford Historical Society.

Andrew James Daunch; Member, Jim Daunch passed away on July 6, 2007. He worked with the garden club on the beautiful garden at the rear of the Town Hall Museum. He served his country in the U.S. Navy. Surviving are his wife Joyce (Babkowski) and children Tim (Jeannie), Susan (Paul), Elizabeth, William (Ghada) and David and loving grandchildren. Donations to the Garden Club, in Jim’s name, will go toward flowers at the Town Hall Garden.

Helen Schwende; Member, Helen Schwende (nee: Rechter) passed away on July 19, 2007. She was a member since 1998. Even with failing health in the last few years, Helen kept an active interest in the society and its activities. She will be missed by her family and friends including her daughter Dot and son Frank (Kathryn). She was a loving grandmother to Karl. She was preceded in death by her husband Joseph, a grandson Peter and two brothers.

Our condolences to the family of James Turle who passed away in May. Jim was an auxiliary police officer who looked after us during the Strawberry Festival and other events.

Our condolences to member, Stephanie Tubbs Jones on the loss of her father Andrew in May 2007.
The Museum Store

Roger Fuhrmeyer has designed the second in a series of Christmas cards. ‘Greeting from the Old Church’ joins last year’s ‘Greetings from the Town Hall’ as a Bedford tradition. The linoleum block print complements last year’s card, which some people matted and framed. The print shop is inked and ready to produce the cards. These limited addition cards are reasonably priced at 15 for $10, plus .75 tax. Call in an order to guarantee availability.

An order form for Christmas shopping will be in the next issue of the Bee or check the web site.

The Old Ways School

Thanks to the generosity of many talented teachers, we again offer an opportunity for members and residents to learn or improve upon a skill. The Old Ways School will be offered this fall on four Monday Evenings, September 10, 17, 24 and October 1. Please spread the word about the Old Ways School. Classes are held in the Old Town Hall. Deadline for registration is September 1st.

The Lyceum

Enclosed with this newsletter is the schedule for the 2007-08 Lyceum. We hope you will attend these wonderful programs and invite your friends and neighbors to enjoy the programs. The program time has changed this year- we will start promptly at 7:30 pm. We are always looking for ideas for future programs; please call the museum office 440 232-0796 if you have a recommendation.

A Special Evening in October

Ever wonder about that building on your corner? What a family did for fun before TV? How long was the school day? Well, you can ask those questions and more at the October 4th Lyceum. In a joint project with Bedford City Schools, we are honored to have several of our long-time Bedford area residents join us for a panel discussion about ‘Life in Bedford’ before most of us arrived. We will be joined by a few select chosen Bedford High students who will bring questions from their classmates. The evening will be taped and edited as an educational program. We are very grateful that our panel is willing to join us and share Bedford’s early stories. The program starts at 7:30 and will last app. 40 minutes. Special refreshments will be served. Hope you can join us for this special evening.

A Super Flea

Special thanks to Chris Sweet for organizing the August 11th Flea Market. Thanks to Lynn Jones and her pricing committee for handling our own table.

And our special gratitude to all of our members and neighbors who donated items for our table. Many people attend just to see what our members and friends donate. The tally on what we made will be in the next issue of the Bee.

Tom Ramsay enhanced this issue’s mailing envelope. He sketched the top of the 1874 Town Hall.

School Days-1919 & 1943

The photo below shows children outside a one-room schoolhouse. The photo is part of a collection recently donated by the estate of Dorothy Case. Miss Case had Bedford connections however; we believe she attended school in the Lorain County area.

The school is architecturally similar to many rural schools of this time. Note that the girls cluster together near the teacher while the boys stay on the perimeter.

Also in this edition of the Bee is the front page of the Bedford High School publication ‘The Echo’ from October 1, 1943. The article discusses the mid-year graduation of some students. Ten students accelerated their classes to graduate early. Some went into the armed forces; some were needed on the home front to work in the war effort.

We recently received a collection of The Echo from the mid-1940s. The student editor during a part of that time was Doris (nee: Bielfelt) Shriver.
THE CLASS OF 1943

Ten fellow students, some of whom were nearing the military age and others who wished to obtain work in the war effort, attended summer school classes. This enabled the group to earn their remaining credits necessary for graduation. English, Refresher Math, and the Defense Course furnished these.

It was the first class of its kind in Bedford High School history. Officers elected by the class were:

President—Betty Hajduk
Vice President—Porter Way
Secretary—Vera Faragher
Treasurer—Charles Romanik

Mrs. Moran was their faculty adviser.

Baccalaureate Services were held July 28, 1943, at the First Methodist Church, with Dr. David Scott giving the address. Graduation exercises were held in the High School Auditorium on Thursday evening, August 5, 1943.

The stage was beautifully decorated with flowers and the class colors—red, white, and blue. It was a lovely and impressive service. Highlights of the evening were: three selections by the High School Choir under the direction of Miss DeBats; the guest speaker, Rev. Frank M. Baker of Goodwill Industries, Cleveland;

and the presentation of Diplomas by Mr. Stewart. The class wore caps and gowns. Mrs. Moran presented each with a red rose.

Those receiving diplomas included five boys and five girls. They were: Ben Cernik, Al Galambos, Frank Palumbo, Charles Romanik, Porter Way, Vera Faragher, Betty Hajduk, June Keary, Emma Lewis, and Betty Jane Pierce.

The class officers wish to include in this article their thanks to Dr. Loody, The School Board, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Moran, Miss Jenkin, Miss DeBats and the choir, Dr. Scott, Gizella Wasik, Lena Ronito and Frances Drokopil for their help in making the class a success.

At the present time the class members are in varied places and at various jobs. Ben Cernik, Charles Romanik and Al Galambos are working in Cleveland war plants; Frank Palumbo is attending Ohio State; and Porter Way plans to leave in October for the Army Paratroops. The girls are likewise busy. Betty Jane Pierce is now a WAVE, Betty Hajduk is a telephone operator. June Keary is married and living in Kentucky, Vera Faragher is employed by the Cleveland Trust Company, and Emma Lewis is doing war work in a Cleveland Defense plant.

M.E.B.