Up Coming Events:

December 13, 2008 Noon – 4:00pm. Annual Christmas Open House in conjunction with the Christmas in Bedford Falls Festival. The halls will be decked for you and your family. Lots of activities on the Square and throughout town. Sleigh or carriage rides, bonfires for marshmallows, treats at many of the merchants. The Town Hall Museum will feature Phil Saunders’ Christmas Village and Bob Pallat’s train layout to add to the festivities. The Golden Tones Choir will be caroling. Story time will be in the old school room. Of course, the world’s best bakers will have tasty refreshments.

January 8, 2009 7:30pm: Lyceum A Historical Look at Aeronautics; Our friends at the NASA Glenn Research Center present an interesting overview of the history of aeronautics. The field of aviation has come a long way from the 1916 B. L. Marble propellers that are on display in the Town Hall Museum.

February 5, 2009 7:30 pm Lyceum Transportation from another era- The Ohio Erie Canal; Mildred McCarty tells us the facts, figures and interesting stories about the famous Ohio Erie Canal, our neighbor down the hill. Did you know Bedford had an important role in the construction? Join us for an interesting evening.

Citizen of the Year - Salute!

Congratulations to Chris Sweet on being named Citizen of the Year. An honor well deserved.

Hover House Tour

Lynn and Andy Jones organized a tour of the Hower House in September. Members and guests toured this magnificent home on the University of Akron campus and enjoyed lunch at the Martin Center.

Thank you

Our gratitude to the teachers who offered classes for the Old Ways School. Without their commitment, we could not offer these courses.

From the president......

Fall is here and our Lyceum programs are in full swing. Join us for these wonderful programs on the first Thursday of every month through April.

Our annual Reverse Raffle is March 7, 2009! The economy has made it difficult for many of us; therefore some changes are being made this year. The main prizes will be $1000 and there will be a cash bar, this will allow us to reduce the cost to $45 so that more of us can join in the fun. We have live music this year - The Monroe Street Strings playing old fashioned, toe tapping string music. Our theme this year is Cabin Fever. So get out of the house and have a good time with your Historical Society friends. A ticket to the Reverse Raffle would be an excellent Christmas gift, one that you and the recipient (s) could enjoy together. Or treat yourself and allow us to seat you with good company. Tickets will be available at the museum or from Trustees.

The end of the year is the time to consider making a contribution to the Bedford Historical Society Endowment Fund. This tax-deductible contribution will help keep our museums and educational programs going into the future. See you at the Museum and at the Reverse Raffle.

Betsy Lee

Thanks to Our Popcorn Poppers!

Our gratitude to the following for helping pop popcorn at last summer’s Parties-in-the-Park- Jane Backo, Jeanette & Ron Rue, Jules & Alma Rhine, Wayne & Amy Rhine, Mathew, Jeffrey and Irene Rhine, Patti Sirna, Barb & Lee Aldridge, Laura Flaisig, Rose Grossenbaugh, Gwyn Orchard, Theresa Chapman, Elmer Palinkas, Pete & Connie Dickson, Marge Keene and Helen Hurtuk. Thanks to Lester Pratt for helping move the popcorn machine in and out. Thanks to Chris Sweet for delivering the popcorn kernels and to Lynn Jones for coordinating volunteers. Everyone pitched in to help!
**Preservation- Roof Replacement**

The society’s Trustees voted to replace the roof on the 1892 Old Church. This National Register building sustained additional damage during a recent summer storm. Since it was at the end of its roofing life, Trustees felt it was prudent to protect the interior. Maintaining our National Register buildings is the largest expense that the Bedford Historical Society incurs.

Funds continue to be sought for the project so that we do not entirely deplete the capital fund for this building. Our gratitude to those of you who have contributed. A significant donation was received in memory of member Stanley Morgan. A lovely way to remember someone who cared about our historic buildings.

**Cemetery Restoration**

Phase II of stone restoration at Bedford Cemetery took place in mid September. The restorer worked for another week to repair the most fragile stones. Thanks to all of our members and friends who support this project through donations and the purchase of the new cemetery book. The book continues to be a popular item in the gift shop.

**New Exhibit in the Town Hall**

Volunteers have been putting the finishing touches on ‘Fish Tales and Hunting Stories’. The exhibit features examples of early fishing gear and hunting equipment. Roger Furhmeyer has created an Ohio woodland mural to showcase the taxidermy of Joe Kulis. Joe, a Bedford icon, is known around the world for his hunting and fishing expertise. Part of the exhibit displays a biography of his interesting life. The artwork of Hudson artist, Joel Rogers is on display. Joel is the Duck Stamp artist of the year.

There is a kiosk with local hunting and fishing stories. Member Sister Mary Ann Rechka recounts one of the Great Fox Hunts that occurred in Bedford Township, now the Oakwood Village portion. Industrialist Cyrus Eaton led these hunts from his nearby estate. If you have a tale to tell, we will post it on the kiosk for visitors to read.

There will be handouts from the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources and the Ohio EPA. Children and the young at heart can try ‘fishing’. (We are looking for a fly-fishing expert to demonstrate this skill at the December 13th Open House.)

**From the Archives…**

The last issue of the Bedford Times Register had a story written by Editor Mike Lesko after he saw an exhibit at the Museum. We are displaying a dozen menus from our collection and one that caught his eye features photos of team members of the Cleveland Browns on their 10th anniversary. The restaurant was Clarks in Cleveland. The display can only hold a tiny sample of the many menus our members have donated over the years. We viewed it again after a donation from Betsy Lee which included some ‘at sea’ menus from the Queen Mary, and are dated 1936. One highlights a painting of the ship on the cover and Mr. Lesko liked it so much he featured it with his story. Many of our menus have original art by notable artists who created them for this purpose. It is a treat to view them and also be reminded of how inexpensive we find the prices to be. The most expensive item at The Post House in New Orleans is a Grilled Baby Beef T-Bone Steak at $1.75 on their October 28, 1957 menu.

Having a meal away from home is commonplace today and we do love that! These menus bring back a time when it was quite special to hold a menu, discuss the choices and anticipate the meal to come.  

*Joyce Maruna, archivist*

**The Last Issue of the BTR**

Sadly we report that the Bedford Times Register ceased publishing on August 28, 2008. The first issue of the Bedford News Register was published in November 27, 1891 by C.P. Smith. The Times was founded by Ralph W. Bell and began on February 19, 1926. The two papers merged into the Bedford Times Register in May of 1938. One hundred and seven years of hometown news.
Introducing This Year’s Christmas Card

Fans of Roger Fuhrmeyer’s artwork and those who love all things railroad or Bedford will enjoy sending this year’s Christmas card. It depicts the Wheeling & Lake Erie Depot decked out in holiday finery with merry folks gathered on the deck. All proceeds benefit the historical society.

Merry Christmas Members!

Last Day to shop in the Museum Gift Shop: December 18. The Museum will be closed the week of December 22 & December 29.

Christmas in Years Past

One of the gems in the historical society’s archives is the history of the Jack & Heintz Company. Wm Jack and Ralph Heintz founded the company in Palo Alto CA in 1940. By November of that year, they moved to the Bedford Ohio area and began wartime production of electrical and mechanical items including gyroscopes and aircraft instrumentation. The company’s reputation for treating employees fairly and paying well for work done well is the stuff of legends. After the war, production faltered and a series of mergers resulted.

The archives contains the JAHCO News, a monthly publication that bolstered moral, kept track of those in the service and offered safety and saving tips during the war years. The Santa cover is from the December 1944 JAHCO NEWS:

Memories of the war were slow to fade. This advertisement from the 1946 Women’s Day, a ladies magazine, offers Christmas suggestions to make for boys from salvaged scrap materials.
‘New Home’ Pricing

Chuck Miller, principle partner at Doty & Miller Architects, recently spoke about the energy saving techniques in Victorian architecture. Our group then toured the Old Church and the Gates Handyside House.

One of publications in our archives is Victorian home designs with a price list for construction. Here are some price quotes:

- Ordinary plumbing, including water into house, with wrought steel sink, properly sewered and trapped, and with gas pipes laid throughout the house, without fixtures, would cost from $50 to $75.
- Hot water about $40 extra.
- Bath and toilet room about $50 extra.
- Gas fixtures would vary from $25 to $100.
- An ordinary furnace from $125 to $200 complete.
- Steam or hot water heaters from $225 to $450.
- Slate roofs from $50 to $150 extra.
- Stained glass from $1.50 per square foot up to most any price.
- Cesspool can be built for about $10 - $20.
- Masoned well can be built for about $1.50 per foot all complete.

The price list continues with:

- Excavations, per cubic yard $0.25
- Plastering, per yard- $0.18 - $0.22
- Doors, 5 panels, moulded both sides, 2ft8in by 7ft by 1/8 in each $2.60 each.
- Labor-Carpenters’ labor, per day $2.50 - $3.00
- Masons’ and plasterers’, per day $3.00 - $3.50

Town Hall Conservation Project

Thanks to a grant from the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie Lodge 2122, we were able to install solar coating on the second, third and lower level windows. Special blinds were also installed on the second and third floor windows. This protects all of our artifacts in the main building from UV light and radiant heat. This was the second year that the lodge helped us with this important project. We are grateful to have the Lodge as a partner to protect our communities’ treasures.

Membership FAQs

When is my membership due? Bedford Historical Society membership is from January to December.

What if I join during the year? If you are a new member joining after July, we prorate your membership to include the following year. For example, if you joined in August of 08, your dues are paid through December of 09.

Can I pay anytime? Yes, we send a general reminder with the end of the year newsletter but you can pay earlier if you want.

I am a life member, why do I still get a reminder? We send a reminder to everyone. You may ignore it or do as some of our life members and use it as a reminder to make an end of the year gift to the Endowment, a special project or the general fund.

Obituaries

Stephanie Tubbs Jones; Congresswoman Tubbs Jones passed away on August 20, 2008. She was a supporter of the society’s projects and events. Our Congresswoman had an appreciation for preservation and historical initiatives. She will be missed by many organizations whose endeavors continue to preserve America’s past. She is survived by a son Mervyn II and her sister, Barbara Walker.