Up Coming Events

September 17, 2010 8:00PM, Friday Apollo’s Fire Concert Vivaldi & Friends. (See inside for details)

September 17 & 18- Weekend of the Pooka Festival

September 24th & 25th Cemetery Preservation Workshop. Details inside and on the website.

September 28, 2010 10:15 Tuesday; Field Trip to the Humphrey Popcorn company. (Details in side)

October 7, 2010 7:30PM Thursday; Lyceum The History of Mechanical Banks; Al Hancock presents the history of this American toy and shows the wide variety of styles over the years.

November 4, 2010 7:30PM Thursday Lyceum Sedlon Sayings- the Poetry of artist Richard Sedlon. Most people associate Richard Sedlon with the visual arts, but he was a prolific writer of verse. Member Vickie Michalek has compiled a book with selections of the artist’s poetry. She’ll share anecdotes and verse. Back by popular demand—there will be a meatloaf dinner prior to the program. See inside for details.

Four Mondays in October- Old Ways School

Strawberry Festival Update

The Festival takes all year to plan and it comes and goes in a flash! Thanks to everyone who volunteered time to make it a success. Thanks to all who sent in donations to help cover overhead expenses. Your extra donations enclosed with raffle tickets (or no tickets) were very helpful.

There were storms all around Bedford that weekend but we had a two-minute drizzle, the rest of the weekend was beautiful.

Raffle winners for this year: member LuAnne Smith’s beautiful quilt went to F. Kraus, Member Helen Batko’s beautiful Bedford afghan went to D. Soworowski. Additional winners were: C. Tevis, P. Mitzak, T. Rak, J. Eversole, M. Koci, B. Link, K. Fotta, B. McDaniel, C. Sweet, L. St John, R. Boldyreff, E. Albrecht, J. Oldenberg, J. Magyar, R. Sprenulli and J. Rhine.

Our gratitude to the businesses who donated prizes &/or cash. Special thanks to Ben Venue Laboratories who underwrote the entertainment so that attendees could enjoy great music.

Thank you, Volunteers!

From the president

The summer is winding down; it has been a hot one. Our Strawberry Festival and Car Show was a great success.

The income will help pay our operating expenses this year, but our wonderful building has some masonry problems and will need repairs soon. Trustees will be discussing funding sources for this work. Your ideas and donations are very much appreciated. We must keep our buildings in good repair to protect our holdings. See you at the museum and the Lyceums.

Your President
Betsy Lee
Tom Ramsay loaned the Town Hall Museum interesting artifacts from his collection about the War of 1812. Tom has framed a letter written by Admiral Perry, a piece of the ship Niagara and a beautiful sketch of the naval hero. He has allowed us to read a copy of The Weekly Register dated Saturday December 18, 1813. The paper is filled with accounts of various battles between the British and Indians against the young republic of the United States. It prints the toasts to the heroes of the battles. The Governor of Pennsylvania spoke of Perry, “As a prelude we refer with pride to the glorious victory on lake Erie, which if ever equaled was in naval warfare never excelled. A victory not less brilliant in its achievement than important in its effects, not less honorable to the nation, than to the highly distinguished Perry who commanded and to the brave officers and men who composed that heroic force.” Perry is quoted while at Albany to eulogize those lost in the war; of his admiration for the Kentucky Volunteers and the veteran Shelby, Perry is quoted saying “brave even to imprudence” as “Liberal, generous and humane, almost to a fault.”

An article in the paper lists the ‗American Prizes‘ from the war. Here are three of several: “Transport ship Canada, 12 guns, 100 soldiers and 42 horses, captured by the Paul Jones and ransomed for £3,000 stlg after disarming the men.” “Brig Three-Brothers, of Liverpool, from Malta, for that port: 12 guns, with a full cargo of sumac, sulphur, oil &c &c. valuable; sent to New York by the Dolphin of Baltimore.” “Sloop Mary Ann, of London, coppered, 4 guns, with gold dust, &c worth $28,000- cargo taken out and vessel burnt, on the coast of Africa by the Yankee privateer.”

An interesting article about the blockade of the Delaware between Philadelphia and the sea includes the letter sent to the magistrate of Lewistown Delaware; His Britannic majesty’s ship Poictiers, In the mouth of the Delaware, March 16

“Sir- As soon as you receive this, I must request you will send 20 live bullocks, with a proportionate quantity of vegetables and hay to the Poictiers, for the use of his Britannic majesty’s squadron now at anchorage, which will be immediately paid for at the Philadelphia prices. If you refuse to comply with the request, I shall be under the necessity of destroying your town.

I have the honor to be, &c
J.P. Berresford, commodore and commander of the British squadron in the mouth of the Delaware”

The article continues to relate that the townspeople refused the request because it would be considered high treason. The commander later apologized. The paper notes that perhaps a better reason the commander refuted his request was when he saw the number of people assembled on the landing. The Poictier continued to turn back ships with the exception of a ship from Lisbon which was short on provisions and had a sick captain.

Thanks, Tom for sharing a piece of history with us. The Niagara visited Cleveland harbor this summer along with other tall ships.

Third Grade Local History Tours

Inserted in this newsletter are thank you notes written by third graders from Central and Glendale Elementary Schools. The students toured our buildings in May.

Our thanks to these volunteers who shared their time and knowledge to educate our young citizens: Lynn Beveridge, Merry Anne Hilty, Marge Keene, Joyce Maruna, Diane Balach , Kim Balach, Karen Landolph, Ron Scheff, Terri Scheff, Jim Miller, Lavonne Miller, Betsy Lee, Sherry Petkovsek, Sandy Pittaway, Helen Pratt, Alma Rhine, Wayne Rhine, Jim Rice, John Roborecki and Jeanette Rue. Special thanks to Kathie Rice for coordinating volunteers and schedules.

We also hosted middle school students from Twinsburg City School District. These young people studied the Underground Railroad and the events leading up to the Civil War. Bedford was a strong supporter of the Union Cause and the UGRR. The students met ‘Mr. Abraham Lincoln’ (Phil Williamson) who told them of the troubles and hard decisions that he made. They also met a private in the Ohio Volunteer Infantry who showed them the soldier’s gear and told about life in the Union Army.

Trustees elected

Trustees voted for the following officers for this year: President Betsy Lee, Vice President Robert Schroeter, Sr., Recording Secretary Kathie Rice, Membership Secretary Margaret Keene and Treasurer Leigh Hamilton. We thank these people for serving as officers for the Society.

At the Annual Dinner, the following members were elected to serve as Trustees for the term expiring 2013: Consenting to serve a second three-year term: Shirley Taussig, Bob Schroeter, Sr., Deborah Turner and Joyce Tuskes.

Meatloaf Dinner

Remember that great meatloaf dinner a couple of years ago? Apparently a lot of you do so we will do it again. Our caterers Patrick and Jeff will prepare their famous meatloaf, garlic mashed potatoes, green beans and salad. Served on genuine Walker china! We will serve dessert after the Lyceum. Cost is $12. Send check to hold your RSVP by October 26th. PO Box 46282 Bedford OH 44146.
New Addition to the Website

Those members who have access to the internet are invited to review the ‘exhibit’ section to see the hard work of talented honor students at Chamberlain Middle School. They were invited to research items on display in our Civil War Room. The students wrote informational reports about these and our webmaster, Wayne Rhine, posted them on our site. Now visitors to the website can learn more about some of our holdings. Members Steve Angyal and Helen Pratt took photos to complement the essays.

Next year marks the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The students’ project was one way to remember the occasion. Last year, we dedicated a painting of Lincoln’s visit to Bedford painted by Roger Fuhrmeyer.

2010 Christmas Card

This year’s Christmas Card features a winter day along Main Street in Bedford. Thanks to the artistic talent of Rick Backo and the generosity of the Jones family, we are able to offer cards with this beautiful watercolor. This commissioned work was recently donated to the museum for everyone to enjoy. The card will be app. 4” x5” and printed in color with a simple Season’s Greetings inside. 15/$10 plus tax. They will be ready by mid October, let us know if you need them earlier.

Taylor Chair Trip

The field trip to Taylor Chair followed the trail from raw wood to finished product with educational narrative from our Taylor guide. After the factory tour, the group visited the private Taylor Museum to view early chairs, documents and photos. Some of our members recalled family stories of their relatives who worked at Taylor many years ago. Our thanks to Bob Schroeter, Jr. for helping set up the tour and to our able guide, Tom Palicka who knew every step in the process.

Please support this year’s Lyceum series through your attendance and by inviting a friend or neighbor. This public service series is an opportunity to entertain and educate.

Fall Field Trip

Members are invited to tour the famous Humphrey Popcorn Company on Tuesday September 28 at 10:15. We will learn the history of the company and its association with Euclid Beach, see how the corn is popped, how popcorn balls and candy kisses are made. Everyone receives a tasty gift after the tour. There is a $5 fee for this tour. Please send in your check made out to Bedford Historical Society by Sept 20th. Call the museum 232-0796 for details. The factory is located in nearby N. Randall at 20810 Miles across from the mall.

Old Ways School

Tired of the ‘same old-same old’? Try something new one evening a week at the Old Ways School in October. Thanks to the generosity of our teachers, we are able to offer several courses. Classes are held in the 1874 Town Hall Museum. The schedule is enclosed with this newsletter.

Super Heroes

Pictured above are some of Key Bank volunteers who came to the rescue on May 25th. The team leader for the bank was Bedford resident Donna Knickerson (on the right in photo). One team helped Society volunteers lay stair treads in the rear stairwell. Another group inventoried the art storage room and reorganized it for better access. We are grateful for their service to community through the Society. Thanks to Society members, Jim O’Neill, Frank Caldwell, Betsy Lee, Bob Maruna and Steve Salvi.
Cemetery Workshop

The schedule for the Cemetery Workshop is listed here for readers who want to attend all or just the Friday evening sessions. The complete form is posted on the Society’s website or call and we will send a brochure.

Schedule

Friday:
6:30pm – 9:30pm
Introduction and brief overview of Bedford’s Grassroots Cemetery Preservation program.

Ohio Cemetery Laws- Ted Hornyak, Ohio Dept. of Commerce Cemetery Resolution Board, explains Ohio laws that govern the operation of cemeteries.

Funerary Symbolism -Katie Karrick, The Cemetery Lady’ an expert on interpretation of tombstone art, will offer an overview of funerary art through the ages and what genealogical information is revealed from the stones.

Introduction of John Walters and his staff who will lead Saturday’s workshop.

Saturday:
8:30 am – 11:30 am on-site workshop basics demonstration and hands-on application of basic cleaning techniques.

11:30am – 12:30pm lunch

12:30pm – 4:30pm on-site demonstration of intermediate stone correction -leveling, technique and correct materials for resetting marker, die and base, tablet stone resetting with slot fabrication.

Advanced demonstration of stone repair-spalling, slaking, piecing broken stones.

Masonry Work

The Society is receiving quotes for corrective masonry work on the chimneys of the 1874 Town Hall and minor repair elsewhere. As the keeper of our cultural heritage for the region, our objects, books and archives are housed in the Town Hall. These are treasures which are entrusted to us. In order to protect them, we will need to get the work done. The building has a small capital CD, not enough to cover the estimates. All other funding for this building was used several years ago for the building addition so that we didn’t incur debt. Please contact the museum office or Betsy Lee, president of Trustees, 440 735-0135, if you have a funding idea.

Pookas Are Coming!

Save the date…The Pookas, those cute little gnome-like characters created by Richard Sedlon, are coming to the Bedford Commons on September 17th and 18th during the “Weekend of the Pooka.”

The Festivities will ignite on Friday night with a concert by internationally renown, Apollo’s Fire, followed by a fun-filled Saturday of all things art; an invitational art show, poetry, storytelling, musical and dance performances.

For more details, take a look at the new website, www.bedfordpooka.org, proceeds will go toward the event and restoring the Sedlon Gardens.

Please Check Your Photos

The Society’s archives contain an extensive collection of photos but we don’t have the following. Perhaps you can help. We have had a request for a class photo of the third grade at Aurora School, the 1975/76 school year. If you or your child has a photo of this class, please call so that we can scan it. Thank you.

Obituaries

Our condolences to supporter Ruth Handyside Yusko on the death of her husband Joseph.

Our condolences to member Bea Romito on the death of her father, William Monarchino.

Our condolences to member Joe Uleszewski on the death of his mother, Agnes.