

# The Bedford Bee.

Bedford Historical Society  
PO Box 46282  
Bedford OH 44146

September - November 2014  
Issue 318  
440 232-0796 BedfordOhioHistory.org

## Upcoming Events

**September 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>** *Weekend of the Pooka*

**September 17<sup>th</sup>, 12pm**

*Lyceum*, Old Church on the Square  
The Walhain-Saint-Paul Project in Belgium  
*Bring a lunch and get an update on this summer's excavation with our Director, Dana Best-Mizsak*

**September 20<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 11pm**

*Scrapbooking Mega Crop Fundraiser*  
Old Church on the Square, see enclosed flier for details

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30pm**

*Lyceum*, Old Church on the Square  
Ziyaret Tepe: An Archaeological Excavation in Southeastern Turkey.  
*A Middle Eastern-themed dinner will be served at 6pm. Reservations are required, please RSVP by 9/25. \$15 per person, space is limited.*

**Mondays in October**

*The Old Ways School*, See the enclosed brochure

**October 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am or 1pm**

*Churchmouse Lunch Fundraiser to benefit the Old Church on the Square*  
Old Church on the Square  
\$10 per person, see inside for details

**October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2 – 3pm**

*Notorious Bedford Walking Tour*, see inside for details

**October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 9am – 3:30pm**

*Scrap Your History with the Bedford Historical Society*  
\$10 per person, call for details *\*please note earlier end time*

**October 18<sup>th</sup>, 4 – 9pm**

*Night at the Museum Movie & Scavenger Hunt*  
\$7 adults, \$5 children; see inside for details

**October 25<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm – ?**

*Haunted Bedford Walking Tour*  
\$10 per person, see inside for details  
*Continued on page 2*

## From the President

Dear Members,

Summer is quickly coming to a close, and as you can see in left-hand column, we have a packed schedule for the Fall! Our 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Strawberry Festival was hit, but fell a bit short due to a rainy Sunday. So, we've added in a few new events to help make up the difference! And we are kicking off the Capital Campaign for the Old Church with two fundraisers! Please consider attending one or all of these fun and new events! There's something for everyone!

On a more unfortunate note, it is my responsibility to let you know about two acts of vandalism that occurred on our property this past July. Both our Town Hall Museum and Old Church on the Square were vandalized. Repairs to both buildings are underway, and although we are a bit rattled by these incidents, we are working on ways to improve our security. Any new measures taken will be out-of-budget for an already tight second half of the year, but are necessary to safeguard the history we've worked so hard to preserve over the past sixty years. Therefore, we are asking you, our generous supporters, to help us find a little extra funding to get this accomplished before the end of the year. We don't need to have security like Fort Knox, but new motion lights on the outside of the buildings and (possibly) cameras could go a long way in preventing future acts of vandalism or theft.

If you can spare a few dollars, please send them to the Historical Society marked "Security". We will keep you updated on any further developments.

*Bob Schroeter, Sr., President of the Board*



*History never looks like history  
when you are living through it.*

*-John W. Gardner*

## Director's Corner

Dear Members,

As Bob mentioned, we had two acts of vandalism over the summer to our buildings. This was especially troubling to me- because, although I doubt they are related, it brings to light a recent trend of destruction or vandalism on historic sites. In a matter of just ten weeks, there were at least ten incidents at historic sites around Northeast Ohio- and some of them were just a little too close to home.

So, my challenge to you this quarter is to help us remind our younger generations that *History Matters!* Destruction of any property is not an acceptable activity, but to see it happen to one or more of our local treasures is especially disheartening.

Now, I'm off my soapbox (for now) and I'm excited! We have an absolutely fantastic fall planned with events, activities and fundraisers! Please help support these new events as we continue to grow and reach new audiences.

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to call me at the Museum or send an e-mail to: [dbestmizsak@BedfordOhioHistory.org](mailto:dbestmizsak@BedfordOhioHistory.org)

*Dana Best-Mizsak, Director*



### *Upcoming Events, continued*

**October 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, during our normal business hours**  
***Trick or Treat at the Museum***

A family-friendly experience with Halloween crafts, a costume contest and treats!

**November 1<sup>st</sup>, 7pm**

***Reverse Raffle and Silent Auction to Benefit the Old Church on the Square***

\$100 per person/\$150 per couple, see inside for details

**November 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm**

***Lyceum, Old Church on the Square***

The History of Boomer Scientific Toys

**November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2 – 5pm**

***Veteran's Appreciation Day***

All Veteran's that stop by the museum will receive a small token of appreciation for their service. Refreshments will be served and tours highlighting our military collections will be available.

**November 15<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 5pm**

***Scrap Your History with the Bedford Historical Society***

\$10 per person, call for details

**November 26<sup>th</sup>, 6pm**

***Annual Tree Lighting in Downtown Bedford***

## Capital Campaign



The Capital Campaign is officially off and running with the receipt of several donations in addition to our State Capital grant of \$100,000. Plans to repair the

foundation are underway and we hope to start construction in late September or early October. We are also applying for several grants to help with the rest of the project, which includes: making the building ADA accessible on both levels, upgraded wiring and restrooms, and renovating the lower level so that we can use more of the available space for programming.

We have two fundraisers planned for this Fall:

The first is a ***Churchmouse Lunch*** on **October 11<sup>th</sup>** in the lower level of the Old Church. There will be two seatings- at 11:30am and 1pm. Between the seatings, guests will be invited to tour the Church and hear the 1914 Moeller pipe organ in action! The cost is \$10 per person and the menu will include soup, sandwiches and dessert. Please RSVP by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The second is a ***Reverse Raffle & Art Auction*** on **Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>** at Catered Elegance. Included with your ticket is a chance to win a \$5,000 grand prize! The cost is \$100 per person or \$150 per couple. Sideboards and an art auction will also be part of the evening. Watch our website for more details in the coming weeks. Tickets will be available mid-September.

### ***Strawberry Festival***

A heartfelt *Thank You* to all of the volunteers that helped to make our 50<sup>th</sup> Strawberry Festival a success! Even though we fell a little short due to the rain, it was a smashing success! Betsy Squire Lee and her committee continue to do a spectacular job of putting on one of the best festivals around! We are already starting to plan for next year and it's shaping up to be a great event!



***Congratulations to all of our Raffle Winners!*** *There are too many to list them all, but we hope you enjoy your prizes and be sure to check out next year's festival for even more fabulous prizes to Celebrate History and the Society's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday! The sales from the raffle tickets help to meet our fundraising goals and we greatly appreciate your support! This year was one for the record books!*

## Footnotes from the Library

By Paul Pojman, Librarian

Orlo C. Mathews (1843-1897) is a name unrecognized by most Bedford-area people today. Yet he was a man of some renown in his day--a Civil War veteran, a survivor of the *Sultana* disaster, a "village smithy" until his untimely death. So it was with more than mild interest that this writer stumbled across his signature on the inside cover of a book entitled *Loss of the Sultana and Reminiscences of Survivors* by Rev. Chester D. Berry and published in 1892. The book is part of the Museum's Civil War library, and the author is himself a survivor like Mathews.

Though not included except for an entry on the "official list" of passengers, Mathews apparently read the book and put a check by names of some other Ohio veterans he probably knew. The ship's boiler exploded (or was sabotaged, say some observers) while transporting over 2,000 Union POWs back home in late April, 1865. Orlo Mathews had been captured in October, 1864, and had spent time at Andersonville in Georgia and later at Cahaba Prison in Mississippi. He was one of three men of the 41st O. V. I. on board the ill-fated ship; two of them survived. Mustered out of service on June 22, Orlo returned to his hometown of Bedford and took up blacksmithing. He owned and operated a shop on Dunham Street (now Woodrow Avenue). He died in January, 1897, while trying to shoe a skittish horse, which reportedly kicked him fatally. He lies in Bedford Cemetery.

The book in question has its own interesting history. Orlo Mathews inscribed it as a gift from someone named E. L. King in Osceola, Nebraska, in August of 1893. It passed to Orlo's son Vern (or Verne) and later was given by the son on January 2, 1951, to Harry Didham, whose signature appears as well. Didham (1876-1965) ran a men's clothing store in downtown Bedford for over forty years--much of that time with partner Fred Small. He donated the old book to the Historical Society on January 8, 1961. Side note: Robert and Elizabeth Didham donated funds for renovation of the Old Church community room in 1972, in memory of his parents, Harry and Iona Didham.

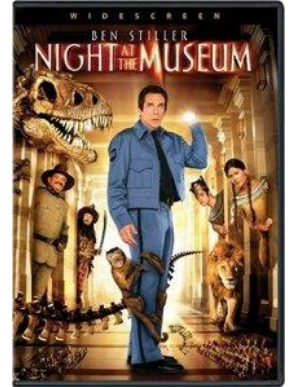
References: *Loss of the Sultana* (as referenced above); *Disaster on the Mississippi* by Gene E. Salecker, 1996; *Bedford Village Views* by Dick Squire, 1992; *Historical Articles about Bedford, Ohio* (1950-1954) by Maurice Denk and Ruth Fike, compiled under the direction of Florence Katona and Dick Squire, 1976; *Bedford Men in the Civil War*, compiled from existing archives by Oriann Crow, 2013; Janet Caldwell, Museum Curator.

## Notorious Bedford!

October 12, 2014 2:00 – 3:00PM; Take a walk with curator Janet Caldwell to

the sites of some of Bedford's notorious incidents and disasters. Learn about the disastrous Glens fire, Bedford's unsolved murder on the tracks, the standoff with Federal agents over an escaped slave, and the Great Bank Robbery of 1920. RSVP 440 232-0796; Leave your contact name and phone number in case of cancellation due to weather.

Join us on **Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>** for a family-friendly evening! We will be showing the hit film "*Night at the Museum*" in the upper level of the Old Church with popcorn and water provided. After the movie, you're invited to the lower level for a pizza party dinner and then over to the Town Hall Museum for a scavenger



hunt! Who knows who you'll bump into on this adventure through the museum! The cost is \$7 per adult and \$5 per child. Your ticket includes the movie, dinner and museum experience. Please, children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. **RSVP by October 9<sup>th</sup>** to reserve your spot! Call the museum for details!

## Haunted Bedford

Have you ever wondered what spooky or questionable things have happened in

Bedford? Join Trustee Matt Stewart and Director Dana Best-Mizsak on **Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm** as we explore some of the stories throughout the history of Bedford and walk to some of the more notable spots including the cemetery! The cost is \$10 per person. Please RSVP by October 17<sup>th</sup> at 440-232-0796.

## Museum Store News

Start your holiday shopping early and stop by store or by our booth at Pagan Pride or the Weekend of the Pooka!

We'll have books, prints, handmade items and more for sale!



# Pookas at the Dunham House

The 1832 Hezekiah Dunham received special treatment from Key Bank volunteers on May 14, 2014.



These modern day pookas cleaned furniture, windows, light fixtures, floors and anything else that wasn't moving. Some of the volunteers planted annuals in the Sedlon Garden for some summer color. We are grateful to be chosen by Key Bank's Neighbors-Make-A-Difference Day. Over the years, they have helped us maintain our historic buildings for visitors to enjoy. This year's volunteers were Marc Emch, Steve Hilton, Jan Jardine, Jerry Jordan, Theresa Martin, Leara Mickey Monroe, Melanie Sarver, David Vasas and Carrie Visokaj.



The fund continues to steadily grow with your continued support. Remember, donations to the Endowment are tax deductible and can be made

any time during the year either by mailing it to us at our mailing address or by going online to the Cleveland Foundation website. ([www.clevelandfoundation.org](http://www.clevelandfoundation.org)) Additionally, planned giving through bequests can also be administered through the Foundation. These funds help us to continue our mission of collecting, preserving and interpreting this history of Bedford, Bedford Township and portions of the Western Reserve by making sure we can continue to serve our community.



[Facebook.com/BedfordOhioHistory](https://www.facebook.com/BedfordOhioHistory)



[Twitter.com/BedfordOhioHist](https://twitter.com/BedfordOhioHist)

The "Weekend of the Pooka" is coming!

Sept. 12 – 14<sup>th</sup>, Highlights include:

**Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**

**WIXY-1260** Live at Catered Elegance. Didn't get enough of them at the Strawberry Festival? Come hear them again! \$28 per person, includes food, dancing and entertainment. Call 440-232-1600 for tickets.

**Saturday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1-7pm &**

**Sunday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, 1-5pm Free Admission**

**Art Show & Sale-** Ohio artists exhibit original work in painting, pottery, metal sculpture, glass, photography, jewelry and more.

**Imagination Village-** Painting, crafts, poetry, sculpture, face painting, weaving, magic and more!

**Live Entertainment on the Gazebo-** Magic Mike Magic Show, Music School Settlement (Cool Jazz), Marina Strah, Blues on Fire, Cats on Holiday (Zydeco), Cleveland Contemporary Chinese Culture Assoc. Dancers, Spyder Stompers (Folk) and Gaetano;s Underworld Blues Band (Funk & Fusion)

**Historical Society- Sat & Sun 1-4pm-** The Town Hall Museum & Dunham House will be open with special exhibitions of local artist Richard Sedlon's work. We will also have a special exhibition in the Old Church to help promote the Capital Campaign. The Sedlon Garden will also be open with poetry readings, storytelling, music and more!



## Obituaries

**Rhine, Jules W.;** Society member, Jules Rhine died on June 1, 2014. Jules donated his time and talent as a photographer for many events. He took photos of the Town Hall building addition and did a photographic inventory of each exhibit area. He spent many months digitizing portions of our newspaper collection. Jules taught a photography course for the Old Ways School. He served his country in the Army during the Korean Conflict. Jules is survived by his wife Alma (nee: Sutter) and sons Wayne (Amy) and James and three grandchildren Matthew, Irene and Jeffrey.

*Our sympathy to the Mike Balach family on the loss of Mike's father Elmer.*

*Our sympathy to member Dan Kosko and his wife, Barbara, on the loss of their son Nicholas Daniel.*