

The Bedford Bee.

Bedford Historical Society
PO Box 46282
Bedford OH 44146

December 2014 – February 2015
Issue 319
440 232-0796 BedfordOhioHistory.org

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 26th, 6pm

Tree Lighting, Bedford Square

Saturday, December 13th, 12pm – 4pm

Christmas in Bedford Falls,

Downtown Historic Bedford

December 23rd – January 31st

Museum Closed (see inside for details)

**Thursday, January 8th, 7pm*, Southeast Branch Library
Lyceum- The Civilian Conservation Corps**

Started in 1933 as part of the “New Deal” by President Franklin Roosevelt, the CCC was responsible for recruiting thousands of unemployed young men to help protect our natural resources. Member Andrew Mizsak speaks to us about his family’s role in the CCC and how the CCC helped to establish and preserve our National Parks.

*Please note the earlier time and location,

**Thursday, February 5th, 7pm*, Maple Heights Library
Lyceum-The Historical Society turns 60!**

Happy Birthday to the BHS! Let’s remember where we’ve been in the past 60 years and where we’re going! We’ll reminisce about 1955 and the little society that has grown into one of the largest in the state with 800+ members and still growing!

Join us for a little birthday celebration of cake and ice cream!

*Please note the earlier time and location,

Thursday, March 5th, 7:30pm,

Old Church on the Square

Lyceum- Aluminum as Art

Member Aija Zirniz shares her research about the interesting 20th century use of aluminum in home decorating and fashion. Wendell August Forge was the most known but there were several artists and designers who made beautiful works. She shares her research and shows examples about this popular art form in today’s collectible market.

Saturday, March 7th, 7pm, La Casa Bella Party Center

Annual Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction

Save the Date—it’s a Night at the Movies!

From the President

Dear Members,

It’s time to close the books on another year! We had some highs and lows, but a good year nonetheless. Thanks to Dana and her team of staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication by bringing some new programming to our schedule as well as keeping the old favorites!

Thanks to all who contributed to the Security Fund, we were able to purchase an important upgrade to our system and we’re making plans for a few more upgrades in 2015.

I am proud to be the leader of this organization and a truly remarkable legacy. Thank you for your continued support. Please remember the Society in your end-of-year giving and have a Happy and Healthy New Year and Holiday Season!

Bob Schroeter, Sr., President of the Board



It’s that time of year again...

Membership Renewal!

We value each and every one of you as a member of the Society. Simply put, we can’t do what we do without you! So, please remember to send in your membership renewal promptly using the enclosed form. We currently mail to nearly 500 households and businesses five to six times a year and, with rising postage costs, this adds up! If you haven’t renewed in a while and don’t want to receive information from us, please let us know- we will be sad to see you go, but will be grateful for the savings. Membership dues are an important part of our yearly budget and we rely on them for our operations and programming. Your yearly donation of \$10-\$25 helps us remain free to the public, provide research and resources to the community and be active in our surrounding communities as a leader in historic preservation.



History with its flickering lamp stumbles along the trail of the past, trying to reconstruct its scenes, to revive its echoes, and kindle with pale gleams the passion of former days.

~Winston Churchill

Director's Corner

Dear Members,

As we close out 2014 and look forward to 2015, we had a great year—a few things could have gone a bit better and a few couldn't have been better! My heartfelt thanks to all those that participated in our programming and events during the past year. You are why we continue to serve the community and how we continue to exist.

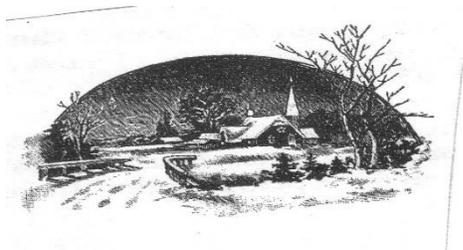
You may not be aware, but we are 100% privately funded and do not receive any type of tax revenue or assistance from the City or the other communities in the Township. Other than the occasional grants, our funding comes directly from fundraising, donations and various programs. We own three buildings and help maintain a fourth. This means that the bulk of our funds are devoted to building maintenance and preservation. Our professional staff is one of the most dedicated that I have ever seen or worked with and they are willing to be nearly volunteers because they believe that preserving our history is absolutely essential.

I urge all of you to consider attending one of our many fundraisers or free events in 2015. I promise that there will be a lot to choose from. We know that our communities and families are still dealing with the financial fallout from the past few years and we are lucky to be growing and not standing still. And, we are building a calendar for 2015 that will respect that—but, in order to continue these programs and bring on new programming, we need your support—even if you only come to one or two events!

In your membership renewal, you will see a short survey. Please take a minute to fill it out before you send in your dues. If you wish to remain anonymous, a link to an online version is listed where your name can be omitted. Your responses will help us plan activities, fundraisers, and programming for 2015 and beyond.

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

Dana Best-Mizsak, Director



*Have a Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*

*From the staff and volunteers at the Museums of the
Bedford Historical Society*



You will see a checkbox on your membership renewal form to receive this newsletter electronically, starting in 2015. In an effort to be a little more eco-friendly and cut postage costs, we are offering this new service. We will continue to publish the newsletter in paper form for anyone that does not check the box (don't forget to provide your e-mail address) and for pick-up in the Town Hall Museum.

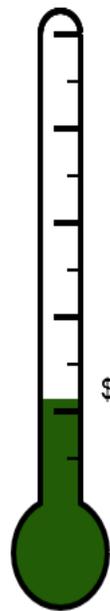
Capital Campaign

Thanks to the Victorian Maids and everyone who attended the Churchmouse Lunch! A good time was had by all and the concert on our 1914



Moeller Pipe Organ was spectacular! Stay tuned for the next event!

Target: \$600,000



10 years ago the Historical Society completed our first ADA accessibility project that made all of the floors in the Town Hall Museum completely accessible to all people- with and without disabilities.

Last year, we opened the Sedlon Garden behind the Dunham House. This project helped to make the first floor of the House accessible for the first time in its 180-year history. The Garden also has a walking path and several memorial benches to use and enjoy this peaceful space. The Garden remains open to the public as a community green space.

This year, we decided to take the final step in making our campus **truly accessible to all** by beginning a project to restore and renovate the Old Church on the Square. Currently, neither level is easy to access by those with disabilities. The building is in need of considerable upgrades and repairs to the foundation, electrical & plumbing. With the help of a fund already established to aid in repairs to the building and a State Capital Grant for \$100k, the first phase of work will begin at the end of this year or early next. The total project is expected to cost approximately \$500-600k. **But, we need your help!** In order to receive grant funding and meet our fundraising goals, we need community support. We will be hosting fundraising events to engage the community, showcase the building and promote awareness on the importance of historic preservation.

Museum Store News

Start your holiday shopping early and stop by store! We have books, prints, handmade items and more for sale!

Remember- we can ship directly to you and we accept cash, checks and all major credit cards.



Christmas Special—Purchase Bedford and Bedford Township for just \$18.00 inc. tax! That's a savings of 25% of the regular price!



2014 Christmas Card

This year's Holiday Card features a photo from the archives. Taken in 1932, the image shows local merchants helping clear snow off of Broadway. In

the distance an interurban trolley heads north toward Cleveland. The cards are printed in black & white and are note-card size. Season's Greetings is printed inside; the back of the card describes the scene and lets folks know that you are a supporter of the Bedford Historical. Stop by or call the Museum at 440-232-0796 to get yours! Supplies are limited!



Congratulations to the Bedford Bearcats and their 10-0 regular season. Best of luck in the playoffs!

As in most years, we will be shut down for our normal business hours from just before Christmas through the end of January. Staff will still be available to answer inquires and research questions, but we will be closed to the public. Private tours can be arranged with some notice. Please contact us with any questions at 440-232-0796.



UPDATE



2014 saw the addition of several pieces of technology to our Museum. We added internet and

WiFi service to the Town Hall Museum. This service is available to staff and researchers working in the building. The Old Church also has WiFi service on a limited basis.

Thanks to generous donations we were able to add a new DVR recording system to our security system as well as purchase a new high-power digital camera and book scanner to help with our archival and curatorial needs.

WHAT CAN I DO?

You may be asking—what can I do to help? You might say: “I don’t have time to volunteer” or “I don’t have extra money to donate” or “I don’t know the first thing about history, but I like what you do!” We have a number of initiatives that need your help in 2015 and beyond and we want everyone to feel like they can participate and contribute. So, here are a few ways you can help:

DONATE your time! We need help at all of our events—big and small. You can volunteer for just one event or several. We’ll provide the training, you provide the smile! We also need help in the following areas:

- **Social Media-** do you like to blog, hang out on Facebook and Twitter? We need a few enthusiastic individuals to help write content and keep our pages updated and relevant.
- **Museum Docents & Volunteers-** if you're looking for something to fill some time, consider being a docent or volunteering to help staff the museum during events.
- **Research & Programming Development-** Is there a topic that you've been wanting to research or an idea for a new program? Stop by and chat with us! We're always looking for new ideas for future exhibits, articles and programming.
- **Fundraising-** we know, everyone hates to ask others for money—but let's make it fun! We need energetic people to help plan some new fundraisers to help us continue to grow but also to maintain what have sworn to protect.

SUPPORT a specific project or initiative. Your support of programs like Cemetery Restoration, the Sedlon Garden and our current Capital Campaign have allowed us to take on larger projects that would normally be outside of our budget and impossible for us to afford without your support. We have several grant applications out for funding in 2015 including one for an Oral History project that need matching funds. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please mark “Project Support” or a specific project on your donation. These donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

PLAN a legacy gift or make a memorial gift to our Endowment Fund. The fund continues to steadily grow with your continued support. Donations 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) 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.



*Thank you for
your support!
Restoration
Continues at
Bedford Cemetery*



Restoration of gravestones continues thanks to your donations for this project. This year the team of restorers worked on stones from Civil War soldiers.



The sequence of photos below shows the stone of Safford Grant as it went through the process. Many years ago, cement was used

to encase the base which further damaged the stone. Below: #1 shows the stone before repair and cleaning. #2 the cement has been removed and the correct process begins #3 the stone is lowered into its base using a tripod and straps #4 the stone has its proper base and is cleaned.



(More about Safford Grant is in the Bee issue #289)



Facebook.com/BedfordOhioHistory
Twitter.com/BedfordOhioHist

From the Archives... 2 lbs Brown Sugar 21 cents



A recent donation to the society included a statement of account from George S. Smith's grocery store. Ned Hubbell in his book, *Life in Bedford 1813-1970*, recalls that George's store was located on Main St. just south of the Guild Building. That would be part of the Hains building, 660 Broadway. A 1910 photo of the site shows B.W. Fromant Grocery in the same location. The statement of account is dated July 2, 1903. Mrs. S. Hammond was the customer. Other items purchased with the costs: 2lbs granulated sugar 13 cents, 1 qt berries 10 cents, cheese 8 cents, butter 22 cents, lemons 5 cents, lard 11 cents, cucumbers 6 cents, oatmeal 16 cents and soup 5 cents. The amount totaled \$3.92. There is a notation that it was paid.



Obituaries

Ronald H. Martin; Member Ron Martin died on September 12, 2014. He was born in Bedford and graduated from Bedford High School. Ron served his country in the U.S. Army. Ron loved to read and discuss history and was a frequent visitor to the museum. He is survived by his wife Susan (nee: Morgan) and was the loving father of Kelly (Rodger) Swanson-Nagy, Kathleen (Aaron) Andreas and Ronald (Molly) Martin Jr. He was a loving grandfather. Also surviving is his sister June Martin. Donations in memory of Ron may be made to the Bedford Historical Society.

Lavonn E. Bell; Member Lavonn Bell died on September 25, 2014. Lavonn was born in Bedford but moved to Winston-Salem NC with her family. She is survived by her parents, Richard and Evalyn, her brothers Gordon and Kenneth and extended family.

Joseph G. Jancsurak; Friend of the Society, Joe Jancsurak died on October 7, 2014. Joe was a supporter of the Society through the Strawberry Festival. He always had a donation for the raffle and worked the booths during the festival weekend. He was active in many organizations in Bedford. He was preceded in death by his wife, Madeleine H. Lamb. He leaves a loving family including his daughter Carol (Ed) Mrak and son Joe (Debbie).