Order of the Eagles and the Day Foundation.

City of Bedford, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, the Fraternal and is sponsored by: The Bedford Historical Society, the

Research? Stop by our Genealogy Help Center and talk

Harrison. Plus, do you need help with your own family

President Grant, President & Mrs. Garfield, Eliza Bryant,

from Ohio History including: President & Mrs. Lincoln,

development and manufacture of ore and coal handling equipment and cranes. McMyler built the famed League Island crane which was considered the largest crane in the world. It was located at the Philadelphia Navy Shipyard. During WWI, the plant manufactured huge gun turrets and ordnance for the Navy. When the plant closed, several companies used portions of the large industrial complex including S.E. Mighton Co. Stalwart Rubber and Ben Venue Laboratories.

Today a metal recycler uses part of the complex. To view the rockets at the entrance, turn west off Northfield Road onto W. Interstate St. The rockets are down the street on the left.

Vintage photos of the plant’s WWI manufacturing will be on view during the upcoming WWII exhibit.

Northeast Ohio Local History Fair Join us Saturday, April 30th at Ellenwood Rec Center for a fun-filled day of local history exhibits from around Northeast Ohio, music, presentations by historical figures from Ohio History including: President & Mrs. Lincoln, President Grant, President & Mrs. Garfield, Eliza Bryant, Mrs. Dunham, Annie Oakley and First Lady Caroline Harrison. Plus, do you need help with your own family research? Stop by our Genealogy Help Center and talk to our researchers! Find out more information about the day at www.NEOLocalHistoryFair.com

This is a free event for our Northeast Ohio community and is sponsored by: The Bedford Historical Society, the City of Bedford, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, the Fraternal Order of the Eagles and the Day Foundation.

Joanne Rose; Member Joanne [nee: Ramsey] Rose died on November 16, 2015 in Charlottesville VA where she and her husband James have been residing. Joanne was an enthusiastic volunteer for the Society for many years. She organized the oral history program and recorded many interviews of older residents. She purchased books on genealogy for the museum library. Joanne leaves her husband Jim and son Tim (Margaret) and grandchildren William and Matthew.

Ruth M. Kotila; Member Ruth [nee: Wilson] Kotila died on November 29, 2015. Ruth was active in the Society and in many groups in the local community through her years as a teacher in Bedford City Schools and as co-founder of Kids on Broadway. She was an inspiration to many. She is survived by her children Richard and Mark, grandson Joel and brothers Paul (Louise) Wilson and Dick (Patsy) Wilson. Ruth will be missed by many friends.

Shirley A. Taussig; Member Shirley [nee: Wells] Taussig died on January 11, 2016. Shirley was a Trustee of the Society and involved with many projects. She had a keen interest in preserving our historic buildings, particularly the 1874 Town Hall Museum and the Society’s restoration efforts at Bedford Cemetery. She helped create the Bedford Historical Society Endowment Fund. She helped plan the Town Hall building addition which made the museum accessible to everyone. Shirley was preceded in death by her husband Daniel. She is survived by her children Jeff (Reggie), Bob (Charlotte), Brian (Diana), Cindy, and Dan (Amy). She will be missed by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and many friends.

Our sympathy to member Gail Chambers on the loss of her husband David.

Our sympathy to member Jim Magyar on the death of his brother John.
Director's Corner

Dear Members,

Wow, does time fly! It’s hard to believe that I have been with the Historical Society for three years already! It’s been an amazing ride and I’m excited to see where we’re going in 2016! As Bob said, we are packed with great things to do this Spring — including the Northeast Ohio Local History Fair!

2016 also marks the 50th anniversary of the Historic Preservation Act. As you may know, all our buildings as well as downtown Bedford are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, meaning that they are good examples of different periods of history.

As always, we want to hear from you! Thank you to all those who completed the membership survey — we are working on compiling all of the data and learning what you, our members, like, don’t like and what you want to see.

Dana Best-Mizsak, Director

The View from Here

Considering replacing your windows as a spring project? Think again. A recent release from the National Trust reminds home owners that original windows add ‘beauty and character’ to the home. The Cleveland Restoration Society has a list of excellent window refinishers. The Heritage Home Windows’ By Julia Rocchi. January 2016.

Flea Market

The Flea Market will be held on Saturday, August 13th. If you have items to donate to the Historical Society table, please bring them to the Town Hall Museum during our normal business hours. All proceeds from this table benefit the society.

Security Update

Unfortunately, we had a fourth incident of vandalism to our property in 2015. On December 23rd, a young man tried to gain access to a private event in the Old Church. When he was denied access, he became belligerent and ultimately did about $1,000 in damages to one of the windows in the Church. Thankfully, the Bedford Police Department responded quickly and he was apprehended the following day! We are pleased to report that a plea arrangement has been reached. We are pleased with the outcome and extend our thanks to the Police Department and Prosecutor John Montello for getting us the best result possible, given the circumstances.

For more specifics on the case, please contact Director Dana Best-Mizsak.

Ftontotes from the Library

Just what is an almanac anyway? According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, it is (1) “a publication containing astronomical and meteorological data for a given year and often including a miscellany of other information” and (2) “a usual-ly annual publication containing statistical, tabular, and gen-eral information.” The dictionary traces the word origin to Middle English, through earlier Latin and Arabic.

An almanac of sorts was known to the ancient Romans and, in expanded form, to literate classes of medieval Europe. Our “modern” publication began to emerge in the 1600s and flowered in the 18th and 19th centuries, as the scientific and factual replaced the astrological and mythological. Two of the more famous examples from this period are Benjamin Franklin’s Poor Richard’s Almanack (1732-1758) and Farmer’s Almanac (1818 to present). Today, the almanac is an ubiquitous reference work, appearing in both general and specific-subject formats. The general type is perhaps best exemplified by World Almanac and Book of Facts. Subject-oriented works include those devoted to States, cities, sports and entertainment, science, and occupations. Some almanacs publish editions for youth. Recent years have seen many “almanac” sites on the Internet. Most people have at least some familiarity with almanacs and have mined them for facts at school and at home.

The Bedford Historical Society owns copies of the above examples, as well as others tucked away in recesses of the museum library. There are at least sixteen different almanacs from a dozen or more publishers. The collection also includes almanac “cousins” like statistical abstracts, historical yearbooks, and street directories.

Some older publications contain interesting advertising, some for products no longer sold. This leads to another way of using almanacs — comparing the presentation of information (and therefore the viewpoints of the times) as the years proceed.

Footnotes from the Library

By Paul Pajman, Librarian

Alma—what?

Spring has Sprung! It’s time for our annual Victorian Tea. This year, our tea will be on Saturday, April 23rd. Our Victorian Maids are ready to prepare a wonderful lunch. This year’s tea will include a special store of the memor-iums on the Bedford Square, the Hezekiah Durham House & Sedlon Garden and the Gates-Handyside House. Space is limited, your donation of $40 per person helps to support the Society. Call 440-232-0796 to make your reservation.

Museum Store News

The Museum store will be launching a special WW1 line of merchandise in honor of our new exhibit! We will have poppy items, t-shirts, model planes, jewelry, books and more. Items will be available in time for the Spring Open House as well as online.

Notes on Politics and History

The historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people... the preservation of this irreplaceable heritage is in the public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Americans.”

— National Historic Preservation Act, 1966

The historian has been the hearth at which the soul of the country has been kept alive.”

—John Morley, Notes on Politics and History