John Straka
John Straka, aged 98, passed away in November of 2016. We remember John as not only a member of the Bedford Historical Society, but also as a driving force within the Maple Heights Historical Society. John was the author of a local news column, “The Way it Was” and was a true advocate for local history. John was the beloved husband of the late Helen E. (nee Rogers); loving father of Paula M.; dear son of the late John and Anna (nee Kinder); dearest brother of the late Mildred Kamencicky (Elmer), and Joseph Straka (Velma); beloved uncle, great uncle, and great uncle.

Rose Grossenbaugh
Rose Grossenbaugh, former first lady of Bedford, passed away in December of 2016. Rose will always be remembered by us as the sweet lady who helped sell raffle tickets during the Strawberry Festival. But, she was much more—she was a former Trustee and longtime friend of the Historical Society, and a staple at community events. Rose was the beloved wife of the late Donald (Former Mayor of the City of Bedford); loving mother of Donna (Bill) Germana, Deborah (Carl) Gray and Darlene (Jim) Flint; dearest grandmother of Melissa (Don) Grathwol, Jimmy and Jennifer Germana, Nicole (Ben) Teeters, Andrew Gray and Lauren Flint; dear great grandmother of Dominick, Ella and Lily; sister of Virginia Rushanan, Ida Russo, Dominic Boccuzzi, Marion Jablonski, Vito Boccuzzi (deceased) and Joseph Boccuzzi (deceased).

Doris Shriver
Doris Shriver, longtime member and volunteer, passed away in January of 2017. Doris spent many years as our Museum Store Manager along with member Laura Flaisig. When she and Laura decided to retire from the Store, Doris continued to volunteer and was a frequent docent, along with her niece Judy Magyar, at Open Houses. Doris was the Bedford beloved wife of the late Russell Charles Shriver, beloved mother of David (wife Gwendolyn) loving grandmother of Melissa (Don) Grathwol, Jimmy and Jennifer Germana, Nicole (Ben) Teeters, Andrew Gray and Lauren Flint; dear great grandmother of Dominick, Ella and Lily; sister of Virginia Rushanan, Ida Russo, Dominic Boccuzzi, Marie Jablonski, Vito Boccuzzi (deceased) and Joseph Boccuzzi (deceased).

Obituaries

We can help!
Does your child, grandchild or neighbor need help with a school history project? We can help! We have a Reference Library of over 12,000 books in addition to our Archive of maps and historical Township documents. Our staff is happy to help students of all ages. To schedule time in the library or archives, please call the Museum at 440-232-0796 or e-mail museum@bedfordohiohistory.org

Docent Training
Have you always wanted to lead tours of the museum? Are you able to volunteer a few hours during our large events or during our open hours occasionally? We need you! Our next docent training is scheduled for Wednesday, March 29th at 10am or at 7pm in the Town Hall Museum. All current docents are encouraged to attend one of the sessions. If you are interested in becoming a docent, please call the Museum at 440-232-0796.

New Hours in 2017!
A friendly reminder that hours have changed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>6:30pm—9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10am—4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>CLOSED; 6pm—9:30pm (June—August)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10am—4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th, Saturday</td>
<td>10am—2pm (April—October)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd, Sunday</td>
<td>2pm—5pm</td>
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Local History is at your fingertips in Downtown Historic Bedford
Bedford Historical Society
P.O. Box 46282
Bedford, OH 44146

aar Waiting for new members! We currently have two openings and are looking for 10 people that are interested in working with the committee to ensure our nest egg for the future. We typically have several meetings per year and are working on plans to increase our Endowment in the next few years through several methods. If you are interested in joining the committee or would like more information, please call the Museum at 440-232-0796 or e-mail museum@bedfordohiohistory.org.

Remember, you can always make donations to the Endowment Fund directly through the Cleveland Foundation or the Bedford Historical Society. Please call the Museum at 440-232-0796 or e-mail museum@bedfordohiohistory.org.

Friday, March 3rd, 6:30pm
Annual Reverse Raffle & Silent Auction
Mediterranean Party Center, Bedford Hts.
Join us for “An Evening on the Emerald Isle.”
More information inside.

Friday, April 21st—Sunday, April 23rd
Spring Scrapbooking Sleepover
Old Church on the Square
More information inside.

Sunday, April 9th, 3—5pm
Annual Spring Open Houses
Town Hall Museum

Saturday, April 29th, 10am—4pm
Northeast Ohio Local History Fair
Ellenwood Recreation Center

Thursday, May 4th, 7pm
Annual Dinner
Mediterranean Party Center, Bedford Hts.

Saturday, May 20th, 10:30am—2pm
Victorian Tea
Old Church on the Square
More information inside.

Friday, June 9th—Saturday, June 11th
54th Annual Strawberry Festival & 12th Annual Car Show
Bedford Commons

Dear Members,
Happy New Year! We are happy to open again for the new year and begin an exciting time within the organization. The board and staff have been busy working on several projects that will enhance our capabilities and streamline our operations in the coming years. Many thanks to all of the committee members that been working hard on these projects.

There are so many exciting and new things happening! Please take the time to visit the museum or one of these new events or programs this year. Your attendance and support is invaluable and we rely on your feedback when creating new programs and events. This year’s Strawberry Festival promises to be quite the event, with many new things in the works to bring our community together for a fun-filled weekend that will have something for everyone! Mark your calendars— you won’t want to miss out!

We also welcome new volunteers and staff to our organization. Please join me in welcoming Trustee Reggie Taussig as Treasurer and Louise Novak as Volunteer Coordinator. I hope to see you around the Museum or around our community enjoying our history.

Sincerely,
Betsy Squire Lee, President

Upcoming Events
Thursday, March 2nd, 7-30pm
Lyceum: Heritage Under Fire*
The Old Church on the Square
Director Dana Best-Mizsak takes a global to local look at our world’s heritage and the impact current events have had in their protection. We will look at UNESCO World Heritage sites around the world and the National Register of Historic Places here in the US and right here in the Bedford Township.
*Please note the change in topic.

From the President

Join us Saturday, April 29th, 2017 for the Northeast Ohio Local History Fair! We are busy planning for this year’s event and we already have several history organizations committed to returning. Visit our special event website for more information or visit www.NEOLocalHistoryFair.com. Information will be added soon for our 2nd annual event!
Dear Members,

We have a fantastic year in store for you and our community. We will be introducing some new programming in the Fall that will reach our youngest members as well and we will be retooling some old favorites that are in need of a update. But, the really exciting news is that over the past two years, we have been participating in a program, STEPs, through the American Association of State and Local History. The purpose of the program is bring our standards and practices in line with the national standards. Thanks to the work done by Janet and the staff over the years, we started off in a great place! At our last board meeting, some of that hard work came to fruition with the passing of a new policy manual and a mission statement, vision statement and set of core values. We have enclosed these statements in the insert. Our next goal is present a strategic plan to the membership at the Annual Meeting in May that will take us through 2018, with a second plan to be developed later that will take us into the 2020’s. We are excited to begin this next evolution of the organization and we welcome you to contact us with any questions, concerns or ideas.

Dana Best-Miszak, Director

Director’s Corner

Thank you to Gregory Betts, who is retiring as Treasurer of the Society. We appreciate his service during the past two years and wish him well.

We are pleased to announce that Trustee Reggie Tausig has assumed the duties of Treasurer effective January 1st. We have also upgraded to Quick Books which will no doubt enhance our reporting capabilities and help to streamline our fundraising and operational efforts.

We are also pleased to announce the hiring of Louise Novak. Louise joins us as a Volunteer Coordinator and she will be in charge of scheduling most of the volunteers needed for all of our events. Please consider filling out and returning the enclosed volunteer form if you are able to donate a few hours here or there.

A reminder that if our local school district is closed due to weather, we may be closed as well. Please call ahead to make sure that we’re in!

Capital Campaign

The Capital Campaign is pleased to announce that we have a new chair! Dr. Christopher Agnew joins us a new and dynamic voice on the committee. Dr. Agnew is a graduate of Bedford High School and is committed to the preservation and accessibility of our campus!

Save the Date – July, 17th

We are pleased to present “An Evening with General Grant.” Dr. Kurt Fields portrays General Ulysses S. Grant with the group Lincoln’s Generals. He will be our special guest for a VIP dinner ($50 per person) and for a free public program on the Bedford Square.

Security Update

Hello Everyone,

- The RPO’s would like to remind you to please observe the entrance closures on our buildings and grounds during the winter months.
- When visiting our campus, please make sure your vehicle is secured, and valuables are stored in your trunk.
- When visiting our campus, please refrain from bringing large bags or backpacks into the museum.
- We are pleased to report that the vandalism case from last year has progressed! Nearly half of the restitution owed has been paid and we are hopeful that the case will come to a conclusion soon.

Did you remember to return your membership form and dues? Your contribution plays a vital role in our continuing operations and we appreciate your support!

Our membership secretary will be working to process all of the renewals that have been received and membership cards will be mailed out soon.

Victorian Tea

Spring will be coming soon (we hope)! It’s time for our annual Victorian Tea. This year, our tea will be on Saturday, May 20th. Our Victorian Maids are ready to prepare a wonderful lunch. This year’s tea will include a special store of the monuments on the Bedford Square, the Hezekiah Dunham we will be viewing the film made by the Society and Holsen Gates Handside about the Gates-Handsied House. $30.00 per person helps to support the Society. Call 440-232-0796 to make your reservation.

Museum Store News

Don’t forget, you can shop anytime online at www.BedfordOhioHistoryStore.org

HVAC Project

Thanks to generous donor, we will be installing a brand new heating and cooling system in the Town Hall Museum. The new system will help to ensure that preservation standards of temperature and humidity will continue to be met and will provide additional comfort for our visitors, volunteers and staff. Please be aware that all floors may not be open during the construction. We expect work to begin in the next few weeks and take approximately 4 to 6 weeks to complete.

Strawberry Festival

Our biggest event is just around the corner! Raffle tickets will be sent out in the next newsletter as well as more information on some BIG additions to the weekend! But, to wet your whistle—we’ve got the Chardon Polka Band booked, an expanded Car Show to include a kid’s division and motorcycles, a scavenger hunt that earns a prize and much more!

Annual Dinner & Membership Meeting

Invitations to our Annual Dinner and Meeting on May 4th will be sent to all members in March. This year’s meeting will include our Annual Report from 2016 as well as our Strategic Plan for 2017-2018. We are also pleased to announce that we will welcome a speaker from the Ohio Humanities Council Speaker’s Bureau.

Susan Talbot Stanaway will speak to us in keeping with our World War 1 commemoration:

World War 1 on the Ohio Home Front: “Your Country Calls!”

From 1917 through 1919, thousands of Ohio men and women engaged in the battles of the “Great War.” At home, in community organizations, on the farm, and in the workplace, Ohioans were exposed to new roles, new beliefs, and a new sense of national unity. People, young or old, were urged to support the families of soldiers, to purchase war bonds and stamps, to dig and tend Victory Gardens, to undergo the hardships of rationing, and to report spies and hate the “ Hun.” Ohio women, many of whom were already suffragettes, entered the workplace for the first time, supported wartime charities, and joined organizations like the Women’s Land Army. Ohio manufacturers and their employees, shifted to producing munitions, drastically increased their work forces; some actively recruited African Americans from the South to operate assembly lines. Immigrants from overseas were exposed to programs that would “Americanize” them. This presentation will explore how Ohioans participated in the Great War and how participation shaped important social and political changes.

Advocacy

For the past few year we have engaged in advocating for history and museums in both Washington DC and Columbus. While we can’t advocate or endorse a particular candidate, we do work with our museum colleagues to encourage funding for many agencies, programs and initiatives that benefit the public and the museum community including: charitable giving, education, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. If you would like more information about our efforts, don’t hesitate to ask!