Who are We?

The Bedford Historical Society was founded in 1955 to collect, preserve and interpret the history of the original Bedford Township, whose communities include: Bedford, Bedford Heights, Maple Heights, Oakwood Village and Walton Hills, as well as portions of the Western Reserve. We serve to enrich the lives of our community members and those individuals interested in history through programming, exhibits and educational outreach to our member communities and institutions.

**Hours of operation**
- Monday 6:30-9 pm
- Tuesday 10 am-4 pm
- Wednesday 6-9:30 pm (June-August)
- Thursday 10 am-4 pm
- Friday Closed
- Saturday 10 am-2pm 4th monthly
- Sunday 2 pm-5 pm 2nd monthly

Are you interested in volunteering?

Our Volunteer Coordinator, Louise Novak, is compiling a list of people interested in any one of the following: being a docent (we will train you), working on the Welcome Desk at the Museum during our hours of operation, helping with our big events such as the Strawberry Festival, the Flea Market, the Weekend of the Pooka and helping us keep the Museum presentable for our visitors.

If you want to volunteer, please contact Louise at 440-439-6150 or by email at novak.louise@gmail.com.

Consider helping us out – you are needed!!!!

If you haven’t done so yet, check out our Facebook page. Emily Griffith is hosting live feeds spotlighting various exhibits within the Museum. She usually posts on Wednesdays.
**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

As most of you are aware, we parted ways with our previous Director this year. We are currently searching for a replacement and hope to have someone in place by the end of September.

On a happier note, the summer of 2017 has been exciting. Our annual Strawberry Festival in June was a great way to begin the summer! Visitors were able to see and talk to many vendors, were eligible for prizes and able to enjoy strawberries in a variety of ways. We are grateful to our volunteers who made the weekend a successful one!!!!

In August we conducted a moving Flag Retirement Ceremony. (See additional information on page 4)

Also in August we had a very successful Flea Market.

The Weekend of the Pooka will take place Friday, September 8th through Sunday, September 10th. The weekend will begin with a Murder Mystery dinner at Ellenwood Recreation Center on Friday. There will different artists, artisans, crafters, music and various activities on the Square on Saturday and Sunday,

The second floor of the Museum has been refreshed with displays updated. Come visit our buildings, see interesting displays, get involved and volunteer. You too can be part of history!

Betsy Squire Lee

---

**Footnotes from the Library**

The Civil War and Lincoln Room at the Museum

The Civil War/Lincoln Room contains artifacts relating to the 16th President and the Civil War era in American history. (There are also a few things related to the War of 1812 and other eras, as well as some political memorabilia.) The artifacts include books, magazines, articles, photographs and prints, dioramas, statuary, models, glassware, and war-related ordnance and soldiers’ gear. Much of the printed material and Lincoln artifacts are from the collection of Dick Squire, the BHS founding Director. Many other donors over the years (since the founding in 1955) have contributed to the items in this room.

The Lincoln book collection from Dick Squire numbers 646 volumes, listed in a book catalog in order by author. The large wooden cabinet holding most of these books came with the building. The Squire collection also includes periodicals and articles, not currently cataloged.

Many of the Civil War books are also from Squire and are cataloged into the BHS library, along with other books (and other Lincoln books) and printed matter donated by others. One of the most interesting aspects of the Civil War collection is the inclusion of histories of the War written from both northern and southern viewpoints and from different times--during and right after the conflict itself, 50 years later, 100 years later, and so on. We also have several DVDs about the War. The collection includes a 12-volume “official roster” of Ohio’s Civil War veterans. Currently, an index is being prepared for this set.

There are photographs of Lincoln and some statuary (including busts) from various stages of his life and career, as well as a plaster life mask and both of his hands from

(cont on Page 3)
Genealogy Searches

I am the Volunteer at the Bedford Historical Society who generally answers genealogy requests.

The directories, obituary collection, cemetery records, yearbooks, genealogy collections, family reference and military collections are the places where I begin the search for the requested information. Other references for tracking families are the Memorial to the Pioneer Women of the Western Reserve by Wickman and Van Rensselae. The History of Cuyahoga County in 3 Parts compiled by Cresfield Johnson 1879, part 3 is history of townships has a Bedford chapter. These can be viewed in Google books.

One of the recent requests I received was from Ruth A. Litke, a Minnesota resident, regarding Spencer Sawyer’s family. It was of particular interest to me as his wife, Sarah Virginia Tate, is a direct family ancestor. Spencer was born in 1842 and Sarah in 1852, both in Bedford. Spencer grew up on Dunham Road with his friend, Royal Dunham. Both served in the Civil War. They were in Co D, 41st Regiment OVI. Royal Dunham died at Pickett’s Mill, Georgia on May 27, 1865, 3 months after enlisting. The GAR in Bedford was named in his honor. Spencer named his first son after his deceased friend. The Sawyers moved to Iowa in the 1880’s and raised their family of 12 children there.

While researching Spencer, his father and mother became a focus of my search. They were both very early residents of Bedford, 1820’s. The area they lived was referred to as Independence and South Newburgh. Other family members resided on the eastern boundary of Solon and Bedford. The road they lived on bore their name, Sawyer Road, which is now Miles Road.

Spencer’s father, Noah, was a canal boat builder and worked on the canal. Spencer’s mother was Olivia King. They raised 7 children in Bedford.

Mrs. Litke and I shared our references and data for over a month and only skimmed the surface of this pioneer family. A copy of her genealogy research was shared and will be in the genealogy section at the museum.

Helen Pratt

Flag Retirement Ceremony

Representatives of the Bedford Historical Society participated, along with Boy Scout Troop 233 in the annual Flag Retirement Ceremony on August 13, 2017. 100 flags were retired including 2 garrison-sized flags (30 ft x 60 ft). The Scouts in the above picture are shown disassembling a flag. As the Scouts cut each stripe, President Betsy Squire Lee read a inspirational quote. The flag burning, an important part of the ceremony, was done by Ernie Walker of Peninsula, Ohio.

Footnotes from the Library (continued from page 2)

1860. (It is unclear at this time whether these casts are original or later copies.) One of the busts was made recently from clay by local artist Roger Fuhrmeyer, who also did a sepia painting depicting an imagined meeting between Abe Lincoln and the Tibbs family.

This room also contains: an original lantern and pole from one of Lincoln’s presidential campaigns; a G.A.R. uniform; an assortment of G.A.R. medals and other souvenirs; a whittled-wood frame made by a prisoner at Andersonville, Georgia; a set (scaled-down and modern) of Confederate flags; a few “Cat’s Meow” pieces related to Lincoln and a couple models of his birth cabin; a model (HO scale) of Lincoln’s funeral car; a diorama of the “railroad cut skirmish” at Gettysburg on 1 July 1863 and a second diorama of the Battle of Lake Erie in September 1813 (both handcrafted by Daniel Pocek of Bedford); a photo collage of gravesites of War of 1812 veterans in Bedford Cemetery; Civil War rifles and sabers; ammunition; canteens and other gear; and many other items of interest.

Historical Society staff are happy to assist visitors in visiting and viewing the books and artifacts in this room.

Submitted by Paul Pojman, Librarian
ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST, in a recent issue, named downtown Bedford on their list of “The 15 Most Beautiful Main Streets Across America”. Bedford ranked #8. The author included a picture of downtown with the following caption: “This suburb of Cleveland was founded in 1823 as settlers began building mills along the waterfall-lined Tinkers Creek. Broadway Avenue is the hub of Bedford’s historic district, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.”

The newly installed HVAC system at the Town Hall Museum was recently vandalized. The perpetrators were after the copper piping on the units. As a result, the Bedford Historical Society will need to erect protective fencing. This will be done as part of a project by the Bedford Garden Club to install decorative fencing around the gardens located on the grounds of the Museum. Visit us throughout the fall to watch this beautification (and protective) fencing become a reality.

Betsy Squire Lee, current President of the Board of Trustees, is the daughter of Dick Squire, the man whose idea, vision and dream became the reality known as The Bedford Historical Society.

If you missed the Weekend of the Pooka in September, you can learn about Richard Sedlon, one of our local artists, by visiting the Town Hall Museum, by walking through the Sedlon Gardens or by touring the Dunham House to see the illustrations on the second floor of the House. The Pookas have rich history in Irish folklore as well as in the art of Mr. Sedlon.

You can contact us in any of the following ways:

Phone: 440-232-0796
E-mail: museum@BedfordOhioHistory.org
Mail: PO. Box 46282  Bedford, OH 44146
Web: www.BedfordOhioHistory.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/BedfordOhioHistory
Twitter: www.twitter.com/BedfordOhioHist