

It's our history. Preserve it.

Annual Report 2008 A Dream Becomes a Reality

Dear Members -

2008 highlighted a year of unprecedented accomplishments at the Bedford Historical Society. Most significant was the restoration and renovation of The Bedford Store. Our goal to make the Historical Society more visible and more accessible has been achieved. In this multi-purpose space, we are able to display artifacts, documents and photographs from our collections, provide information on Bedford's history as well as current events, host educational programs, and in the spirit of its original function as a general store, we sell Bedford souvenirs and penny candy.

The restoration of this wonderful old building has made the Bedford Historical Society significantly more accessible to the community and more effective in sharing Bedford's unique heritage. We celebrated our grand opening on September 7th with fun-filled activities on the Village Green including re-enactors, an architectural treasure hunt, and a family barbecue with live bluegrass music.

Another noted achievement was the renovation of the Bedford Museum on the second floor of the historic 1787 Court House. Museum professionals, along with our curator, interns and staff, removed all the artifacts, properly cleaned them of 35 years of dust and grime, painted the exhibit spaces and reinstalled the objects into refreshed exhibits with new interpretive panels that assist visitors in understanding how these artifacts were used and what their significance is in Bedford's history.

On November 14th, members gathered for cocktails at the 1787 Court House to visit the refreshed museum and to celebrate the publication of *Building Bedford – One Century at a Time: New Stories about an Old Village*, a hardcover volume complete with both historic and modern photographs of Bedford. This is our first publication since 2003. The book and the first in a series of brass landmark ornaments of Bedford's historic buildings are available for sale at the Bedford Store.

We continue to be strong and vocal advocates for historic preservation and our buildings demonstrate that commitment. We are proud to be able to represent your interests in our crucial efforts to protect Bedford's historic character through thoughtful and innovative planning. That said, we cannot survive without your financial support which remains essential to our mission, particularly in these uncertain times. Please give as generously as you can when our membership appeal arrives next month.

So much of what we love about living in Bedford – especially the way Bedford Village looks and feels – is a direct result of your membership in the Bedford Historical Society. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Peter T. Michaelis
President

Evelyne H. Ryan
Executive Director

Board and Leadership:

- ◆ We thanked Nancy Joyce, Walter McVicar, Jeff Tweedy, and Nancy Vincent for their many years of service on the Board.
- ◆ We welcomed Maureen Geiger, Erik Jacobsen, Rachel Ocken and Tricia Swift as new Board Members.
- ◆ Invited guests to “Satisfy your Curiosity” and learn more about our strategic plan for visibility on the Village Green and care of our museum collections.
- ◆ Developed a new logo and tagline.
- ◆ Clarified our mission statement.
- ◆ Moved our offices to the renovated Bedford Store.



The Bedford Store - new home of the Bedford Historical Society
Resource for the Bedford community

Properties Maintenance and Repair:

- ◆ Bedford General Store - Began restoration and renovation of structure in January and completed it in early June. Added flagstone handicapped accessible walkway on north side.
- ◆ Historical Hall - Repointed joints in stone front entrance steps.
- ◆ Court House - Supervised the painting of the east façade for the Town of Bedford.
- ◆ Post Office - Paved driveway and parking lot.
- ◆ Retained Ben Branch as our Properties Consultant to aid us in implementing the use of proper restoration methods and in more efficient planning for the maintenance and care of our buildings.
- ◆ Began a partnership with Building Conservation Associates of New York City for use of their proprietary Buildings Maintenance software program to be installed in 2009.



The Bedford Store under renovation

Collections:

- ◆ Completed the Collections Assessment Program Grant from Heritage Preservation.
- ◆ Continued inventory and cataloguing of collections with the help of interns from the Bard Graduate Center and SUNY Purchase.
- ◆ Assisted a graduate student in a website project, www.encounter-america.org which features the Maria Rogers letters in our collection.
- ◆ Worked with a graphic designer to create and install two interpretive panels at the School House.
- ◆ Worked with professional conservators, interns, and laborers to uninstall, properly clean and reinstall the collections at the Bedford Museum. This included interior painting of the museum and installation of light protective shades.
- ◆ Installed an exhibit of the artifacts unearthed during the renovation of the Bedford Store in our new exhibit cases.
- ◆ Reopened the Bedford Museum at the 1787 Court House with refreshed exhibits and new interpretive panels to enhance visitor experience.



Refreshed exhibits at the Museum



The Bedford Store reopens during the Bedford Village Treasure Hunt; The ribbon is cut by former Board members Peter Ehrlich, Jaclyn Farrell & Lloyd Cox

Membership & Community:

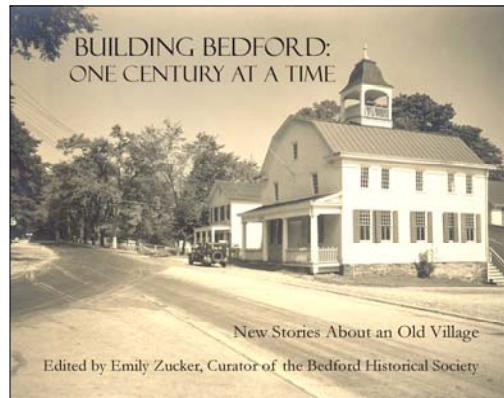
- ◆ Welcomed 66 new members.
- ◆ Co-Sponsored *All Westchester's Creatures Great & Small*, at Historical Hall, a photography show with the Westchester Land Trust.
- ◆ Hosted the Bedford Farmer's Club at the 1787 Court House for a lecture on the Kinkle Quarry.
- ◆ Participated in Bedford Village Business Association and the Community Organizations Committee.
- ◆ Continued to lease the Library for \$1 a year to the Bedford Free Library who assumes responsibility for all care and maintenance.
- ◆ Made Historical Hall available to local non-profit and community groups.



Reenactors drill participants on the Village Green At the Bedford Village Treasure Hunt

Education & Events:

- ◆ Welcomed Eugene Boesch through the New York Council of the Humanities to speak on *Domestic Archaeology* at our Annual Meeting.
- ◆ Celebrated the grand opening of the Bedford Store with the second *Bedford Village Treasure Hunt* including re-enactors, family activities and a barbeque on the Village Green.
- ◆ Hosted the Greater Hudson Historic Network Annual meeting in Historical Hall
- ◆ Celebrated the reopening of the Bedford Museum and the publication of "Building Bedford" at the Bedford Court House.
- ◆ Offered five interactive tours to local school children from first to fourth grade.
- ◆ Hosted Bedford Village Fifth Grade for Law Day.



Our new book premiered on November 15, 2008 along with the reopening of the Bedford Museum at the 1787 Bedford Court House

Special Thanks To:

- ◆ Perennial Gardens for the installation of the new planting in front of the Bedford Store
- ◆ Board Member Melissa Fleming for planning and planting by the Post Office and Lounsbery Buildings
- ◆ Interns: Genevieve Courtinovic, Christa DeFaber, Charlotte Ryan, Sarah Sassoon & Emily Zinman
- ◆ Jeff Henschel, Architect and Daniel Grgecic & P.J. Lloyd of S. G. Homebuilders for their work on the Bedford Store.

Historical Hall Rentals:

- ◆ Rented for 105 days and used by the Bedford Historical Society for 3 days.
- ◆ 22 local non-profit groups used the Hall at reduced rates for 45 days.
- ◆ There were 20 private parties and 5 commercial rentals.

Board of Directors

Peter T. Michaelis, *President*
Kirtley H. Cameron, *Vice President*
Robyn F. McCree, *Secretary*
Dina L. Clason, *Treasurer*
Stacy Albanese
Shirley L. Bianco
Roy L. M. Boe, Jr.
Paula M. Desperito
Melissa S. Fleming
Maureen C. Geiger
Timothy M. Ghriskey
Ann G. Hoffman
Erik P. Jacobsen
Frederick E. Jones, III
Keith R. Kroeger
Rachel A. Ocken
Eric S. Reimer
Tricia Swift

Lloyd B. Cox, Jr.
Director Emeritus

Advisory Board

Linda S. de Menocal
Mary E. Farley
Maureen C. Geiger
James B. Renwick
John P. Renwick, Jr.
Susan Weber Soros
John Stockbridge, *Town Historian*

Evelyne H. Ryan
Executive Director

Properties of the Bedford Historical Society

Historical Hall (1806)
Bedford Free Library (1807)
School House (1829)
General Store (c.1838)
Post Office (c.1838)
Jackson House (c.1857)
Lounsbery Building (1906)
Two Acres behind the Bedford Oak

Town of Bedford Properties Managed and Maintained by the Bedford Historical Society

1787 Court House
Sutton Clock (c.1890)
and Tower (c.1930)

OPERATING STATEMENT

Revenue

<i>Membership Dues & Contributions</i>	65,624
<i>Tenants' Leases</i>	223,155
<i>Daily Rentals of Historical Hall</i>	56,060
<i>Educational Programs & Events</i>	30,775
<i>Interest, Gift Shop & Miscellaneous</i>	14,762
<i>Total Revenue:</i>	390,376

Expenses

<i>Property Maintenance & Insurance</i>	125,514
<i>Capital Improvements</i>	11,182
<i>Property Taxes on leased buildings</i>	19,305
<i>Educational Programs & Events</i>	35,941
<i>Museum Collections Management</i>	75,846
<i>Court House Museum Renovation</i>	24,473
<i>Administration & Office Expenses</i>	76,292
<i>Other Expenses</i>	27,824
<i>Total Expenses</i>	396,377

Net (6,001)

Bedford Store Project

<i>Building Renovation & Improvements</i>	(359,578)
<i>Properties Capital Fund transfer</i>	45,239
<i>Contributions as of 12-31-2008</i>	94,935
<i>Project Net</i>	(219,404)
TD Bank Loan outstanding	200,000

The Society's assets other than land, buildings and contents consist of six restricted funds. The Properties Capital Fund is currently unfunded as those funds were used in the renovation of the Bedford Store. A campaign to pay off the outstanding Line of Credit and to replenish this fund is underway. To make a contribution or to help with the campaign, please call the office. Thank you.

<i>Properties Capital Fund</i>	0
<i>Educational Programs & Publications</i>	48,096
<i>Properties Endowment</i>	24,996
<i>Historic Easements Protection</i>	28,768
<i>Museum Renovation & Collections Care</i>	7,352
<i>Bedford Oak Fund</i>	7,312
<i>Total:</i>	\$ 116,524