

An Historic Gift for You

The Preservationist

Newsletter of the Bedford Historical Society, Inc.
Bedford - Massachusetts

Founded in 1893

September 2011

Volume 119, Number 4

*We welcome you to
our great lecture
series - and they are
free to all!*

Seven stimulating programs have been scheduled for the Historical Society's 2011-2012 season. Lectures are held on Wednesday evenings – the 4th Wednesday of the month, or Sunday afternoons, either in the Fellowship Hall of Bedford's First Church of Christ, Congregational, or the first floor Meeting Room of the Bedford Free Public Library. The public is invited to attend. (The Society always welcomes new members!)

*Mark your calendar
Wednesday, Sept. 28*

The first program, to be held Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 7:30 pm in the First Church of Christ, Congregational, will feature an expert on energy retrofits for historic homes.

Sally Zimmerman, Manager of Historic Preservation Services at Historic New England, will discuss the challenges of bringing energy efficiency to old homes without damaging or compromising the building's historic architecture and fabric.

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**For our full program - see
page 7**

How it all Started By: Don Corey

The Bedford Historical Society was established as an adjunct to the Bedford Free Public Library, which itself was organized in 1876. At its March 8, 1893, meeting, the Library Trustees voted to establish a committee to draft a constitution and bylaws for “an antiquarian and historical society which shall have as close a connection as possible with this Corporation and to which all suitable persons shall be eligible as members.” Two prominent citizens and Trustees, George R. Blinn and town historian Abram English Brown, were chosen as the committee.

The Society was officially organized on April 12, 1893, to collect and preserve objects and facts of local historical interest. The minutes of the first meeting list 20 of its initial members, including A.E. Brown as Secretary and Mrs. M.A. Fletcher as Treasurer. It was voted that Library Trustees were members of the Society “by virtue of their position.” Dues were set at \$1.00 to join, with \$0.50 per year thereafter, or \$25 for a lifetime membership. Town reports show that George Blinn served as President and A.E. Brown served as Secretary from the Society's founding for at least 15 years.

Some of the interesting programs during the first year included familiar topics: “Ye Choir of our Ancestors” by Mrs. Ernest Hosmer, illustrated using ancient instruments, (*see photos on next page*)

“Our Grandparent's Thanksgiving” by Mrs. M.A. Fletcher, followed by a “mammoth pumpkin pie that was freely sampled by all”

“Concord Old Line & Farm Bounds” by Charles W. Jenks

“African Slavery in New England” by A.E. Brown

“The Life of Major Thompson Maxwell-a Bedford boy” by Mrs. G.R. Blinn.

Over the years a few of the historical contributions made by the Society to the town include:

- The Two Brothers Rocks, marking the original 1637 land grants of John Winthrop (first Governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony) and Deputy Governor Thomas Dudley, were located on Dudley Pickman's land off of Chestnut Row (now Dudley Road) and were engraved

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Bedford's First Meeting House, 1729-1817 By: Bob Slechta

After considering the petitions from citizens of south Billerica and northeast Concord, the Great and General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony established the town of Bedford on Sept. 23, 1729.

Conditions were that the townspeople must, within three years, erect a meeting house for public gatherings, both secular and religious, engage a minister of “good conversation” and establish a school. In anticipation of a favorable decision by the Court, the meeting house was near completion by the date the town was founded.

The location of the building was to be at the geographical center of the town along the road to Concord (west) and Woburn (east). Citizens Andrew Watkins sold and Joseph Dean donated parcels totaling 15 acres which ran about 600' along the south edge of the old road at its northern boundary and extended southward about 1050' to the old Concord line. The land was very likely wooded as indicated in the early first official Town Seal. It was unbounded and free passage was permitted resulting in the formation of cart and foot paths, called “trodden paths”, over many years.



The first official Town Seal was put in use by the order of the State in 1898 and used until 1928. This is an idealized version of the First Meeting House as it might have appeared in 1729. (Drawing by A.E. Brown)

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by the Society during its first year of existence.

- The first publication issued by the Society was "The Flag of the Minute Men" in 1895.

- The Historical Society's celebration committee organized the Town's 175th anniversary celebration in 1904.

- When a balance remained in the treasury after the above celebration, the 1906 Town Report showed that the Society's celebration committee "expressed a preference for use of the balance in the erection of a suitable memorial near the 'Old Oak' [Willson Park], the rallying place of militia and

minute-men ... on the morning of April 19, 1775." In the Town Report the following year, the Society noted that the "long contemplated memorial to mark the rallying place of the citizen soldiery of '75 has been erected."

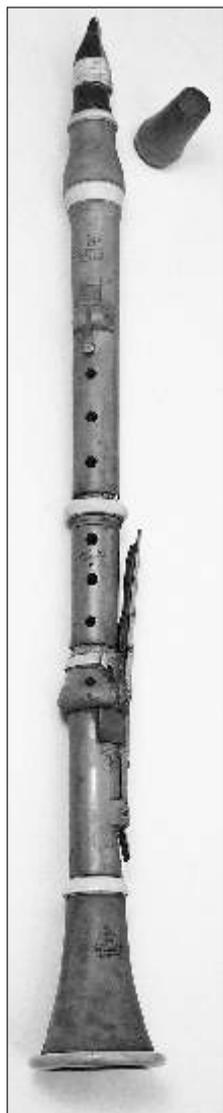
- The memorial plaque in Shawsheen Cemetery to Samuel Fitch, the first Town Clerk and prominent citizen in the Town's earliest days, was a gift of the Society.

- The Society led the campaign for the preservation of Old Town Hall in 1976.

- The Society conducted a survey of the Old Burying Ground in 1993-1995 and was responsible for research leading to the installation of the current plaque commemorating the Revolutionary soldiers buried there. It was directly involved in the extensive preservation and restoration work at the Old Burying Ground in 2004-2009.

- The Society organized and partially funded conservation of Bedford's original 1729 Charter. The Charter is held in the State Archives, but it had seriously deteriorated and the State had no funds for its preservation. After its conservation in 2005, photographic replicas of the Charter were made by the Society. A copy is displayed in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

The Bedford Historical Society continued its affiliation with the Bedford Free Public Library from its creation in 1893 until the 1960s. A bequest from Helen Stearns and gifts from private funds and town residents enabled the town to build the W.A. Stearns Memorial Building (now the Police Station) as the new



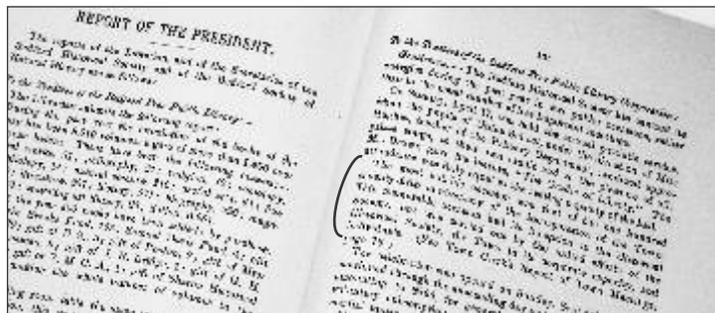
Clarinet by Astor & Co. London, 1837. Given to the BHS by Charles O'Dowd in 1937.

Library, which was dedicated in June 1952. A gift to the town from the Pickman family ensured that sufficient funds were available for completion of the Library, with the important provision that the Bedford Historical Society would have a permanent home there.

The tremendous population increase during the 1950s and 1960s quickly rendered the Stearns Library inadequate, and the present Library was built in 1967 and opened in 1968.

The Society remained in the Stearns Memorial Building when

the Library relocated across the street. With the physical separation of the Society from the Library, legal separation of the Society soon followed. The Society filed necessary documents with the State to incorporate in November 1972. Thereafter, the Internal Revenue Service recognized the Society as a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, allowing the Society to raise funds independently. Since then the Library and the Historical Society have followed different paths but continue to collaborate on various projects.



The BHS was in the news after it organized the celebration of Bedford's 175th anniversary in 1904.

When the building was converted to the new Police Station, the Society's museum on the lower level was closed to accommodate the requirements of the Police Department. Some of its museum collections are now displayed in various municipal buildings – Town Hall, Old Town Hall, Police Station, High School, Job Lane Farm Museum, etc.

In recent years the Society has enjoyed a significant resurgence. In 1999 the Board of Directors voted to hire a professional part-time Archivist to organize the Society's extensive collection of documents, maps and photographs. This was the first paid position ever in the Society's history. In 2000 the Society received a \$100,000 Challenge Grant from a long-time member to help carry out its mission, subject to the requirement that a matching sum be raised from other sources. With the help of generous donations, a bequest from Virginia Wharton's estate of over \$35,000, and investment income, the Challenge Grant was matched early in 2006.

The Society has worked hard to expand its community outreach programs, and its efforts have been rewarded in various ways. Its membership has grown, individuals and

businesses have given generously, and in 2009 the Society became a beneficiary of the estate of Larry and Mina Kimball, including their First Period home (c. 1700). The Society just submitted to the Mass. Historical Commission a nomination form to list the house on the National Register of Historic

Places. While planning is still in progress, the Society is committed to ensuring the preservation of that wonderful historic resource.

With the support of many individuals and businesses, the Bedford Historical Society looks forward to its next century of service to the community.



Violin made by John Harrett at Ye Harp & Crown Piccardy, London c. 1720. Given to the BHS by Albert Bacon on his 91st Birthday August 24, 1893.

The Page Homestead was built in...?

The article below describes work being done on the Page Homestead this year by *This Old House* (TOH). Architectural historians hired by TOH stated that the framing is not consistent with the house's 1689 traditional construction date but rather dates to the early 1700s. This raises a question as to the builder.

Timothy Brooks first settled the site of the Page Homestead. Timothy Brooks came to Billerica from Woburn with Michael Bacon, and his children's births in Billerica are recorded from 1670 on. In 1673 he bought part of the Edward Oakes grant, a very large parcel along the Shawsheen River near the Old Concord Line and Cambridge Farms (now Lexington). Brooks built his homestead there adjacent to the old Concord-Woburn Road (now Page Road). Michael Bacon acquired the Mitchell grant immediately downstream and built his mill (ca. 1663) and home (ca. 1671) there. Timothy Brooks and Michael Bacon both escaped to Woburn in 1675 during King Philips War, when the Bacon Mill was burned. They returned in 1676, but Brooks' wife died in September 1680 and he moved to Swanzey, NH, with his children shortly thereafter.

George Grimes and Patrick Fassett arrived in Billerica by 1679. They bought Timothy Brooks' land, with Grimes acquiring the northern portion along Page Road and Fassett acquiring the southern portion bordering the Old Concord Line.

Nathaniel Page¹ subsequently settled in Billerica in 1688 after purchasing a 250-acre portion of George Grimes' land including the Brooks' homestead. The deed conveyed "a house, outhouses, barns, (?) buildings, mills, ponds, dams, ... which said tract of land was purchased by the said Grimes of one Timothy Brooks."

Family tradition was that Nathaniel¹ built the current house in 1689. He died in 1692, leaving his widow Joanna and 4 children (Nathaniel², 2 daughters & Christopher²). However, if the house framing does not date to that period but rather to the 1700s, the most probable builder would have been Nathaniel Page². He married in 1701, and his 5 children were born between 1702 and 1714. His widow mother, sisters and brother Christopher would have still been living in the old Brooks' homestead, which almost certainly could not have also accommodated his new family. There are a number of similar cases of homes being built by/for newlyweds (including the Job Lane House ca. 1713), so a construction date ca. 1701-1714 appears likely.

Don Corey

"This Old House" came to Bedford!

Among the charming homes in Bedford, Mass., stands a picturesque Colonial post-and-beam dating back to the early 1700s. The late First Period/Early Georgian, known to many as the Nathaniel Page Homestead, is the next project for the Emmy® Award-winning PBS home improvement series *This Old House*®. Over the course of 16 brand new episodes, the show's team of experts will renovate the 18th-century house, which is listed on National Register of Historic Places. Renovations include constructing two modest additions, appropriate to the style and period-feel of the home, while making necessary updates and repairs that will add functionality and improve the structure and safety of the home for the owners to live in for years to come.

Experts date the historic Nathaniel Page Homestead back to 1720, although the Page family had established a farm there as early as the 1680s. Former resident and namesake Nathaniel Page was flag bearer for the Bedford militia during the Revolutionary Battle of Concord in 1775. The flag he carried there, known as the Bedford Flag, is thought to be one of the oldest existing flags in the United States and is still carefully preserved in the town library. The features of the property reflect nearly 300 years of history and modifications by former owners: the addition of a back ell in the late 1700s, the relocation of the house in the late 1800s, a Colonial Revival-era renovation done in the early 20th century, and a modern addition with accessibility ramp added in 2004.

"This home has a long history and some great stories to tell," says *This Old House* host Kevin O'Connor. "It's the second oldest project we've ever worked on. You never know what you'll find when you dig into a house that's almost 300 years old, but that's part of the fun."

Avid renovation enthusiasts, homeowners Rebecca and Joe Titlow love the rustic and imperfect parts of the house, but want to expand to make room for their daughter and two dogs, and to have enough space for extended family visits. Working with a realistic but modest budget, the couple hired local architect Dan Quaile, of Lincoln Architects LLC, and together they developed a



The old Page Homestead undergoing renovation by "This Old House".

plan to add 640 square feet to the home over two small additions. The first is a new family room with a raised brick hearth and gas fireplace that will be open to a totally renovated kitchen featuring a walk-in pantry, center island, and built-in eating area. The second is a more welcoming day-to-day entrance that also will add a first-floor powder room and mudroom to provide the family with ample space for organization.

"We've been watching the show for years and are so excited to have the chance to work with Tom Silva and the whole *This Old House* team," says Joe.

"We really want to keep the period charm of the home, but it definitely needs updates for functionality and safety," adds Rebecca. "It will be exciting to see how it all turns out!"

General contractor Tom Silva and the *This Old House* team will



"This Old House" continued

address the leaking front parlor fireplace, and they'll carefully restore that room's floors. Outside, full restoration will be necessary for the existing windows, and the rotting clapboards on the oldest part of the house will need to be replaced. In keeping with the period feel of the home, the original front door will be restored and the ramp and front landing will be removed.

The Bedford Project episodes also will feature side stories highlighting talented local craftspeople and sharing the history of the town and surrounding areas. In addition to a story on the legendary Bedford Flag, side trips include a trip back to Acton, Mass., the site of the oldest project ever tackled by This Old House. Seventeen years after the renovation, master carpenter Norm Abram reunites with the homeowners to see how the addition is holding up.

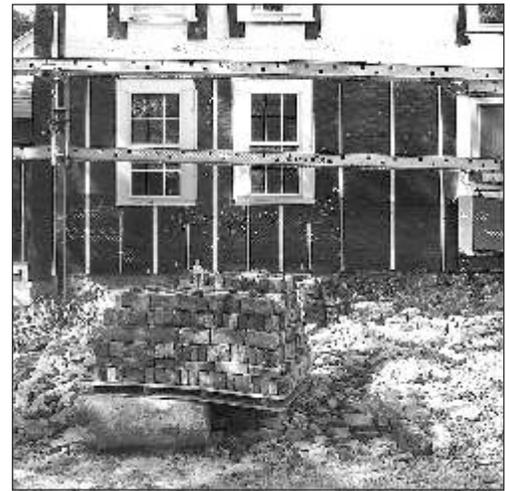
Another local trip finds the crew in Peabody, Mass., at the historic window restoration shop of Alison Hardy, "Window Woman" of New England. Alison is restoring 14 windows for the Bedford Project house, stripping away many layers of paint and caulk through an involved process of steaming, repairing, glazing and painting.

And, master carpenter Norm Abram has the opportunity to visit Barrett's Farm in Concord, Mass., currently being renovated by Save Our Heritage. The property holds historical significance to the American Revolution and to our project, as it was the objective of British troops back in 1775 and homeowner Col. Barrett, who led the Middlesex Militia, would have been Nathaniel Page's superior.

To see the Bedford Project renovation, with these side stories and many more, tune into the new season of This Old House, premiering nationally on PBS Thursday, October 6, 2011 (check <http://www.thisoldhouse.com/tvschedule> or your local listings).

Article submitted by This Old House.

To check in on live, 24/7 progress of the Bedford Project, visit: <http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/tv/current-house-project/webcam/> <http://thisoldhouse.com/webcams>.



Hand made bricks - more than 300 year old?

The Boy Scouts did it...

The Bacon-Fitch-Clark Mill Site was mentioned in an article in the April, 2011 "Preservationist." It is the spot where Michael Bacon III built a corn mill, on the banks of the Shawsheen River, in 1663. Around 1730, the mill was bought from the Bacon family by Benjamin Fitch. During the King Philip's War, the original mill was destroyed, but was rebuilt soon after. Herbert Clark, who eventually received the mill, transferred it to the Town of Bedford, in 1947. The mill was demolished and the dam dynamited, to improve the drainage area. The site is important to the town because it is one of the first mills in New England, and the US for that matter, and it was standing until 1947.

In early July this year, I completed my service project toward my Eagle Scout Rank. My project established a clear entrance, with two rock cairns, and over 200 feet of trail to the Bacon-Fitch-Clark Mill Site which is located on Old Billerica Road across from the Carleton-Willard residences.

I began my project in August of 2010, in association with

the Historic Preservation Commission at the Mill Site. My Eagle project includes a new trail that has been established among the trees to the mill's foundation. Working with 12-15 volunteers from the Boy Scout Troop in town and members of the High School Environmental Club, we were able to complete this service project. The trail is designed with natural materials and covered with wood chips, to create the designated path and to deter plant growth on the path. In the construction of the path, I carefully planned its location, so it would have little impact on the environment.



Jeremy Poe at the Bacon-Fitch Mill Site

I invite everyone to come and visit the Mill Site and learn a little about our Bedford history.

Jeremy Poe



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The town engaged experienced housewrights Joseph Fitch from the Billerica side and Richard Wheeler (whose home still exists at 445 Concord Rd.) from the Concord side to build the meeting house at the northwest corner of the common land (where, today, Elm St. intersects The Great Rd.) along "the highway" and facing south. The building was to be approximately 50' x 35' in dimensions and of two levels to accommodate 350 people and would cost 560 pounds. The shell was just about completed by Sept. of 1729, but the interior was not completed until 1733. It had, in the middle of the north wall, a high pulpit with a spiral staircase on the left. Pews were to be installed for the minister's family and the deacons on either side.

The south or front side was to have, on the lower level, a central doorway flanked on either side by two windows with five windows at the upper level. The west and east walls would also each have a central door flanked on each side by one window at the lower level and three windows on the upper level. (See picture on right)

The first level of the building would eventually contain pews (6'8"x4'7") on each side of the pulpit and along all other walls. In the central area would be two sections with rows of benches, one for men and one for women, separated by a middle aisle. Two of these benches, one marked 1728, have been preserved and are still in use by Bedford's First Parish Church. (See picture on lower right).

Separate stairways for men and women extended from the front corners of the building to the second level where a gallery, open to the first level, extended around the east, west and south (front) sides. On the front side, there was seating for the choir and, along each side, benches for mostly single men and Negroes.

In Jan. of 1729, a committee was formed to oversee the assignment of pews. In order to pay for the meeting house a "meeting raitt" (tax) was levied upon all citizens according to their assessed wealth and only the wealthier were then able to have pews.

The first meeting was held in the First Meeting House on Sept. 26, 1729 led by Jonathan Bacon, a son of Michael Bacon who originally owned the Bacon-Fitch Mill and plans to acquire a minister were discussed. On Jan... 22, 1730, the town voted to call Rev. Nicholas Bowes, a recent graduate of Harvard, and he accepted. He was ordained on July 15, 1730 and on that day the church was organized as a New England Congregational Church, the popular Puritan-based religion of the time originally established in Salem in

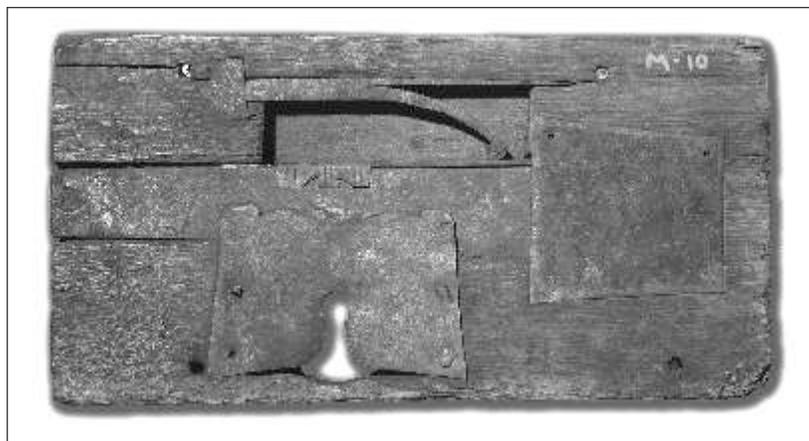
1629. It was founded by 24 families, 12 from each Billerica and Concord, on Aug. 4, 1730 and the first two deacons, Israel Putnam from Billerica and Nathaniel Merriam from Concord, were appointed.

Little else is known about the actual appearance of the First Meeting House, but Rev. William Stearns, son of Rev. Samuels Stearns, fourth minister of Bedford, wrote in a speech delivered in 1868, that, as a boy: "I remember it as being sided with shingles with dirty yellow paint (Bedford Yellow) half worn off with no bell, steeple or cupola, no heat, a foundation of loose fieldstones, and with a horse block at each of the three doors for ladies alighting from horses or carriages..."

Bob Slechta is seated on one of two original benches from the First Meeting House, dated 1728



Possible external appearance of the First Meeting House, 1729. From A.E. Brown's History of Bedford, 1891.



The Bedford Historical Society is pleased to have a fragment of one of the door latches from the First Meeting House.

In about 1814, after 85 years of hard use, the meeting house was in bad need of extensive repairs and discussion of possible replacement began. In 1815, there was a severe storm which felled many large trees on the common land and it was decided to build a new meeting house with this potential lumber. The 2nd Meeting House was built in 1816-17 and both the new lumber from tree falls and the salvageable lumber from the 1st Meeting House were used in its construction.

Do You Remember...?



This was the view of the Sheldon/Blake block on Patriots Day 2011 - look at page seven to see what's there today.

What the Society did on Summer Vacation

The Annual Meeting closed the Society's 2010-2011 program year with a talk on Rufus Porter by Prof. David Jaffee of Bard College. The program was supported in part by a grant from the Bedford Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

While the tempo in the Society's office may have slowed a little during summer, the beat went on thanks to our very able Administrative Assistant, Kara Kerwin, and to various other members. A sampling of what the Society did, and is able to do, follows.

- We assisted a descendant of Jennie Willson in finding historical information on her. She was active in the Grange and was a founding member of the Bedford Lodge of the New England Order of Protection.
- The Society made a donation in support of the Bedford High School's History Day Program, through the generosity of long-time Society members Don and Lois Jenkins.
- We responded to a descendant of Simeon Blodgett regarding his grave in Shawsheen Cemetery. Simeon was the son of a Lexington soldier who served under Capt. John Parker at Battle Green on April 19, 1775. Kara Kerwin and Bob Slechta located the grave, photographed it and emailed a copy of the photo to the descendant.
- We provided a number of photographs to BCAT in support of its wonderful oral history project. For one of the programs, Don Corey interviewed long-time resident Paul Little, who reminisced about the good old days.
- A Ford "Model A" enthusiast was provided with copies of photographs from the Society's collection that featured such vehicles.
- A descendant of Orin Fiske, owner of Clifton Farm, inherited a painting of the farm. It was located at the sharp bends on Old Billerica Road in the mid 1800s. She was assisted in providing information to her about the farm.
- A woman sought information regarding her half brother, a descendant of the Johansen family of Cummings Road (who knows where that is?) We were able to not only provide her with genealogical information but were able to put her in touch locally with her half brother's first cousin.
- Sharon McDonald and Don Corey appeared on BCAT with Julie McCay Turner and Ron Cordes to talk about the Bedford Flag and the Page Homestead. This was prompted by the current This Old House project at the Page Homestead.
- A tour was given of the displays in the Police Station to children who were part of the Middlesex County Sheriff's Association camp.
- Don Corey gave a talk at Carleton-Willard Village about Bedford's railroad history and the town's restoration work at Depot Park.
- The Society initiated a new oral history project at Carleton-Willard Village. Jan van Steenwijk is filming a number of residents recalling their experiences during World War II.
- We made preparations for a gigantic Bedford Flag float in the Bedford Day parade this fall. Helpers will be needed on that day to prevent it from blowing away to Lexington or beyond!
What can we do for you – or you do for us?

Kimball House Nominated to National Register

The house owned by Larry and Mina Kimball on North Road until their deaths is one of the very oldest in Bedford, dating to around 1700. It was owned by Job Lane, Sr., (a nephew of our early settler Job Lane), later by Christopher Page when the town was formed in 1729 and later still by Revolutionary soldier Benjamin Hutchinson. It has been in the Kimball family since the early 20th century. The adjacent barn was used to raise chickens initially, but was converted in the 1920s to the production and sale of hand-made Red Feather candy. After World War II the barn was converted to apartments.

This year the Bedford Historical Society initiated action to have the house listed on the National Register of Historic Places. After the Massachusetts Historic Commission (MHC) declared the house to be potentially eligible, a lengthy nomination form was prepared by a consultant, which was recently submitted to the MHC by the Society. Upon approval of the nomination by the MHC, it will then be forwarded to the National Park Service for consideration and hopefully for listing of the house on their Register.



What's it?

We keep discovering these interesting items in our archives. What was this used for? It has a wooden handle and an iron hook. Please send us a note if you have the answer.

Our condolences

The Society extends its condolences to the families of Life member Margaret Leary and of member Jay Samoylenko, who passed away this summer.

Margaret Leary was a long-time member of the Society as well as being involved in other community activities. Her husband Neil just stepped down as a Society Director in May after years of valued service on that Board, but continues on the Finance Committee.

Jay Samoylenko and his wife Lisa purchased the historic Eleazer Davis Farm (1705) on Davis Road from a descendant of the Clark family. Over the last 20 years they worked diligently on preservation and restoration of the home and barn.

With more and more homeowners choosing to remain in their old homes, Ms. Zimmerman will speak about traditional fixes for energy conservation that are both cost-effective and often reversible. She will describe ways that homeowners can evaluate current information available on energy conservation and retrofitting as it relates to the possible significance or age of the structure.

Her talk will provide an historic preservation perspective on insulation, window repair, air sealing, and renewable energy options for the historic and old home. She will bring some samples of available products that are historically accurate, such as those for weather stripping. Following her 45-minute talk, she will take questions from the audience.

A Lexington resident, Sally Zimmerman joined Historic New England in 2006. She manages Historic New England's Historic Homeowner membership program, which supports homeowners with best practices preservation advice. Sally is a co-author of "Painting Historic Exteriors: Colors, Application, and Regulation." Her background includes serving as an Adjunct Professor of Preservation Studies for Boston University, a Preservation Planner for the Cambridge Historical Commission and Director of Preservation Planning for the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Note: All programs will begin with refreshments at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First Church of Christ, Congregational, 25 The Great Road, Bedford, unless otherwise noted.

A special Issue for Those who Care about our Heritage

The Bedford Historical Society's 119th season has begun. We hope that you will join us for the exciting lectures and other programs that we offer. This year's Bedford Day will be special, because we will participate in the parade. A few years ago, a 10 feet by 10 feet Bedford Flag was produced, and we will showcase it in the parade and at our booth.

I think that we all share the feeling that time goes by too fast. What happened last week is almost already forgotten. Well, the Bedford Historical Society has a very good memory base. Since 1893, it has collected important memorabilia that members have found and others have donated to us. This way we can offer a glimpse into the history of Bedford to anyone interested. Our archives is used by scholars and by someone who want to know where a particular person lived, how old that house on the corner might be, or what the town looked like in the 16th century. Our office answers many questions from people from all over the US.

We have an extensive data base of photos, letters, documents - such as deeds - histories of specific houses, and maps from the past as well as hundreds of artifacts showing what useful tools looked like long before we were born.

We welcome anyone interested in the history of our beautiful town to contact us if you are seeking information about Bedford.

Feel free to check out our website, reach us via email or open Facebook which is regularly updated; here you will find photographs of many of the merchandise we have available for sale.

I look forward to welcoming you soon to the first event of the season.

Jan van Steenwijk

Our 2011-2012 Lecture Series.

Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2011 at 7:30 pm, First Church of Christ, Congregational (Fellowship Hall): Sally Zimmerman of Historic New England will speak on energy conservation and retrofitting old houses. Title: "Energy Retrofits and the Historic Home: Weighing Risks and Opportunities."

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2011 at 7:30 pm, Bedford Library (Meeting Room): Bedford High School students who participated in the State Competition for History Day will describe their Projects; and "What is It? Unusual and Interesting Objects from the Society's Archives."

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011 at 2 pm, First Church of Christ, Congregational (Fellowship Hall): Veterans from the War for Independence to the Iraq/Afghanistan conflict: "A History of Bedford Veterans."

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2012 at 7:30 pm, Bedford Library (Meeting Room): Dr. Gary Hylander, "Masters of Enterprise: Henry Ford" with photos and memories from Town Historian John Dodge, whose father owned a local Ford dealership in the early 1900s.

Sunday, April 1, 2012 at 2 pm, First Church of Christ, Congregational (Fellowship Hall): Christopher Daley, "Lizzie Borden: The Mystery Continues!"

Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at 7:30 pm, Bedford Library (Meeting Room): Gill Solomon, Chief Sachem of the Massachusetts Ponkapoag Tribal Council, "The Time Before Now."

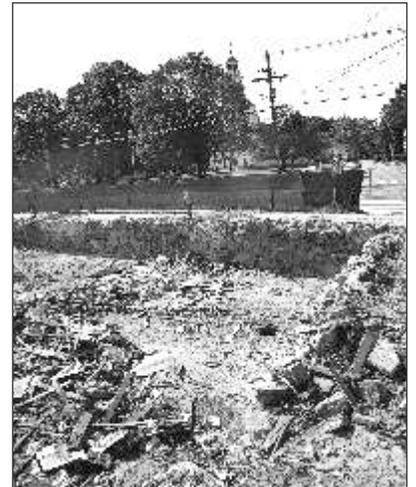
Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at 6:30 pm, First Church of Christ, Congregational (Fellowship Hall): Potluck Dinner and Annual Meeting to elect new Officers. Speaker will be Christopher Klein, "A History of Boston Sports: From Playful Puritans to Football Patriots."

In addition to the Society's lecture series, a Holiday Party has been scheduled in December at the home of Selectman William Moonan and his wife, former State Senator Carol Amick.

*Do you remember?
continued from pg. 1*

August 2011.
Only rubble and an old boulder foundation is left. By mid 2012 we will not be able to see the church from this vanishing point.

Did you know...
If you are interested in Bedford images, maps or photographs from our vast archive, please contact us, and for a small fee, we can provide you with copies.



Continuing the Legacy.



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The Preservationist

Bedford Historical Society
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The Bedford Historical Society was founded in 1893 - Our Website: www.bedfordmahistory.org



The big party program -
April 1844



Come and see us at Bedford Day



Before the motorized snow plow, circa 1935

Officers

Jan van Steenwijk, *President*
Brown Pulliam, *Vice President*
Phyllis Cooke, *Secretary*
Frank O'Hara, *Treasurer*

Directors

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Judie Toti - *Board Clerk*
Carol Amick (2012)
Barbara Clifford (2012)
Julie McCay Turner (2012)
Bea Brown (2013)
Joan Gicca - 2013)
Marion Bryan (2014)
Donald Jenkins (2014)
Robert Slechta (2014)
Don Corey (2015)
Atty. Paul Dick (2015)

Finance Committee

Frank Gicca - *Chair, Board of Directors*
Frank O'Hara - *Treasurer*
Donald Jenkins
Neil Leary
Robert Schlechta
Jan van Steenwijk - *President*

Come and see us. Visit our website. Visit our FaceBook page.
Write us a note. Call us if you want more info.

Web site: www.bedfordmahistory.org
email: info@bedfordmahistory.org

781-275-7276

The Bedford Historical Society, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

*Support your Heritage. Please become a Member and
receive all the benefits plus this newsletter seven times a year!*

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Dues

- Student: \$ 15.00
- Single: \$ 25.00
- Couple or Family: \$ 45.00
- Life - Single: \$250.00
- Life - Couple: \$450.00

Supporting or Business:

- Contributing: \$100.00
- Patron: \$175.00
- Benefactor: \$300.00
- Donation: \$

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please send check to:

Bedford Historical Society, Inc. - 2 Mudge Way - Bedford, MA 01730-2138