

117 Years of Preserving Bedford's History...!

The Preservationist

A Special Edition

Bedford Historical Society, Inc.
M A S S A C H U S E T T S

Founded in 1893

www.bedfordmahistory.org

March 2010

Welcome to the past...

Welcome to this special edition of our newsletter, "The Preservationist." We hope to share with you the many incredible things that the Bedford Historical Society (BHS) does to preserve the rich legacy of our town. When Bedford was incorporated in 1729, the founders shared a specific vision: to build on the future, to be independent and to create their own town.

The Bedford Historical Society is lucky that many of our forefathers' records and artifacts have been preserved. Through fate and foresight, the materials were donated to us. We now have the awesome responsibility to keep this collection in a safe manner. Our shelves bend under the weight of thousands of pieces of our history. We would be substantially poorer without them.

Yesterday was history! When we think of history, usually our thoughts go back for many years. But what happened yesterday is, in reality, already history – we can't take it back or change it. That's why the BHS fulfills such an important role. We keep collecting objects from "yesterday" on an on-going basis to ensure that future generations can search for answers from the past.

The society has two overseeing boards: the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, each with the responsibility to keep "history alive."

But we can't do it alone. After reading just some of the basic programs described in this edition, we hope that you will consider becoming a member of BHS or a donor, which, in return, will help us continue our efforts to tell the story of Bedford's inherited past and to keep building on the future.

Our members have dreams, too. One of our important goals is to establish a heritage center. To provide the possibility to study and learn about our ancestors is a wonderful dream, one that, with your support, we can make happen.

I invite you to our periodic meetings where we offer plenty of interesting lectures and to our informal social events that you will surely enjoy.

*Jan van Steenwijk
President*

How it all started...

The Bedford Historical Society was established as an adjunct to the Bedford Free Public Library, which itself was organized in 1876. Library Trustees' minutes of March 8, 1893, record a vote 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."

The Society was officially organized on April 12, 1893, to collect and preserve objects and facts of local historical interest. We do not have names of the original members, but it was voted that Library Trustees were members of the Society "by virtue of their position." Town reports show that Trustee George Blinn served as President and Town Historian A.E. Brown as Secretary from the Society's founding for at least 15 years. Dudley L. Pickman, who owned a large estate along Dudley Road (then Chestnut Row), was almost certainly a member.



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 his land and were engraved by the Society during its first year of existence.

Don Corey

Building our future on the past...

The Bedford Historical Society continued its 1893 affiliation with the Bedford Free Public Library until the 1960s. When the W.A. Stearns Memorial Building was built as the town's new Library in 1951, construction funds from the town were



Once upon a time... we had tram service

augmented by gifts from private funds and donations from town residents. A gift from Edward and Dudley L. Pickman, Jr. ensured sufficient funds to build the Library, with the important provision that the Bedford Historical Society would have a permanent home there.

Huge population increases during the 1950s and 1960s quickly rendered the Stearns Library inadequate, and the present library opened in 1968. The Society remained in the Stearns Memorial Building, which now also houses the Bedford Police Department.

With the physical separation of the Society from the Library, legal separation of the Society soon followed, and the Society incorporated in November 1972. Old timers in Bedford may remember the Incorporators: John Abbott, Alice Thompson, Louise Brown, Dorothy Jensen, Virginia Wharton, Margaret Choate and Ted

continued pg. 5

What's in our archives...



A myriad of items line the walls

With your support, you too, can one day say that you were a part of the growth and protection of Bedford's heritage.

Please join us today. Thank you.

No, the picture here is not from your attic but rather the office interior and storage space for the Bedford Historical Society. It is a cramped room with not many square inches to move around in. And for every day that goes by, it is getting filled with more important memorabilia.

It is in this space that archiving new acquisitions, scanning photographs, filing documents, talking to visitors, maintaining our website and attending a myriad of other activities happens every day. There is not much room left to accept many of the invaluable items and boxes filled with photographs that people may (and hopefully so!) want to donate to the society.

But don't worry. We will always find an empty corner or top shelf to squeeze-in items from the past. When you find an item with a Bedford story attached to it, please bring it to us and we will evaluate it to see if it should be a part of our collection. If your family lived here for a long time, and you find that box with old photographs or grandmother's diaries, PLEASE bring it to us.

Our archive, currently in the police station, is a perfectly safe location, but eventually we will need more space, not only to store objects, but also to exhibit them and to open the space for research.

Generous contributions benefit us all...

Here are but a few of the historical contributions made by the Society to the town over the years include:

- The Historical Society's celebration committee organized the 175th anniversary celebration of the Town 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



Willson Park Memorial donated by the BHS

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 Fitch Memorial in Shawsheen Cemetery

- More recently, 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.

Late 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 within a given time frame. With the help of generous donations from members, other interested residents and businesses, a bequest from Virginia Wharton's estate of over \$35,000, and investment income, the Challenge Grant was matched early in 2006.

During this time, 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 each year, and last year Cambridge Savings Bank awarded the Society a \$5,000 gift to help fulfill its mission. Most recently, the Society



Receiving a generous gift

was named a Beneficiary of the estate of Larry and Mina Kimball, including their First Period home (c. 1700) that is eligible for listing 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.



Mina & Larry Kimball

How you, too, can help...

To sustain the many activities we offer every year, we are asking for your help. There are many ways to support the Bedford Historical Society:

Become a member. For a yearly membership you will receive newsletters and invitations to our free lectures. Lectures range from local people sharing their childhood experiences in Bedford to stories they were told by their grandparents. Some lectures are by specialists in history, for example, colonial style and fashion 200-plus years ago, or how to conduct a genealogical search.

Donate items related to Bedford that help tell the story of our town and its inhabitants. These family's heirlooms insure that future generations can learn about our past.

Support us financially. Since we are a 501(c)(3) corporation it is, in most cases, deductible.

For information on how you can support us, please call our office at 781-275-7276.

The Bedford Flag is where it belongs...

The Bedford Historical Society received another wonderful gift. The Friends of the Bedford Flag was established in 1996, its goals to raise funds for the preservation of this extremely unique American treasure and to promote its existence to a larger audience.

When the Bedford Library was getting a new addition in 1967, it opened up the opportunity to remove the flag from its dark basement location and have specialists examine it. The Friends of the Bedford Flag supported this effort successfully. For a two-year period, the flag was held at the Lowell Textile Museum. Here specialists, under the leadership of Dierdre Windsor, examined every inch of the fragile silk with electronic microscopes. Returned to the Library, it received its own small room, and is now well protected from the environment. A small exhibition of the preservation process is on display.

Having fulfilled a large part of its mission, the Friends of the Bedford Flag have turned over all its assets and documentation to the Bedford Historical Society and its members can now help to promote this national treasure.

Jan van Steenwijk



VINCE AUT MORIRE - Conquer or Die
A unique piece of American history -
right here in Bedford.

The Page Family

For more than the last hundred years, the flag has been owned by the Town of Bedford, and hence it is known as the Bedford Flag. Cyrus Page presented the flag to the town on October 19, 1885, saying:

"I hold in my hand a flag whose history dates back towards a century before the incorporation of the Town of Bedford. In fact, we cannot give at this day the precise date of the origin of this banner--- It has been in the Page family for some generations. It was carried by a member of the family as the flag of the minute-men on the memorable 19th of April, 1775, and is a relic highly valued this day.

I have decided to give this flag to the Town of Bedford, with the understanding that it shall be in the custody of the trustees of the Library---. I now surrender it into the hands of the Chairman of the Selectmen."

Chairman Oliver J. Lane, Esq. replied,

"I accept this flag you have now presented us and assure you that we feel highly honored in being the recipients of so valuable a relic. We know the spirit which prompted you to thus favor us -- a spirit of pure patriotism and a love for your native town, and I assure you, that we, your fellow townsmen, will cherish and care for it, remembering that it has been borne by your ancestors through perilous times which tried men's souls---."

Cyrus is vague about the flag; "...we cannot give at this day the precise

date of the origin of this "banner," he says. It had been in his family for "some generations" and its history "dates back toward a century before the incorporation of the Town of Bedford, in 1729. Did Cyrus believe that the flag dated back into the 1660s? Clearly, that date is much too early. Yet Cyrus owned the document that commissioned his great grandfather a cornet in 1737. In his presentation speech, he repeats what that document says: that it was the flag of a Massachusetts regiment. That it



Visit the Bedford Library to view the original FLAG and the exhibition about the restoration.

was a militia flag, and not a private one, indicates that evidence for it could be found in public record. Had Cyrus wanted to research it, he could have read the Billerica Town Records of the late 1600s and early 1700s. His Page ancestors were mentioned in those times -- but the first record that connects them with the flag is dated 1720.

Excerpt from the book:
"The Bedford Flag Unfurled" by Sharon L. McDonald

The Discoveries

Moving to Bedford in 1989, I heard about an amazingly old flag, carried by Colonials during the outbreak of the War for Independence that then resided in the town's library. Known as The Bedford Flag, it was one of many historic treasures that helped chronicle the story of our town. A drawing of a similar-looking flag was held in the British Library, so the Bedford Minutemen widely believed that this was their flag, ordered by the Colonies in the late 1600s.

How old was the flag? Where was it

appeared to be a more compelling emblematic antecedent of the Bedford Flag.

Hopefully, the textile curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London could shed some light on the flag's origins. Reviewing detailed photographs of the flag's woven silk damask, its distinctive pomegranate and leaf design and its overall dimensions, the curator concluded that the silk fabric could only have been made on a drawloom in China between 1700 and 1710.

Correspondence with the Admiral's Original Flag Loft in Chatham, Kent, England revealed that it had been making flags for more than 200 years when the Bedford Flag was made.

The Colonies, under British rule, were required by law to have their flags made in England. It is quite likely that the Flag Loft made the Bedford Flag, but it moved in 1732 and many of its records, unfortunately, did not survive this transition.

Are there definitive answers to the many questions that surround the Bedford Flag? Yes, but some remain a mystery. It is clear, however, that the flag itself has survived and flourished. It is a revered, well-preserved and protected relic of our shared past, a testament to the concern of everyday citizens who take pride in the symbols of their town's history.

made? Perhaps the British Library would hold the key. Miss. Porter, curator of the library's Manuscript Saloon, showed the herald painter's book of heraldry with its sketch of a cavalry flag. Indeed, there were similarities to ours, but there was room for doubt. Moreover, the Arms Museum in the Netherlands, had a drawing of a Dutch military flag, dating from 1557. It also featured an image of an armor-clad "arm of God" protruding from clouds, coupled with a brandished sword and Latin motto. This flag

By Barbara Hitchcock, author of:
"The Bedford Flag - a national treasure"

A few highlights of our activities..!

We ...

- Gave history walking tours of Old Bedford Center, the Old Burying Ground, Shawsheen Cemetery, the Two Brothers Rocks, Dudley Road, and Bedford Springs.
 - Participated annually in the Walk of Bedford History Day for the town's 3rd-graders, with talks at our Archives and at the Old Burying Ground.
 - Contributed several programs to Bedford TV: Videos of the speakers at our meetings, a Bedford Springs slide show, and displays of vintage photos.
 - Published regular newsletters with vintage photos and articles on Bedford's history.
 - Sent three Bedford Tellers to the Three Apples Storytelling Festival in 2008, with talks on Bedford's Paleo-Indians, Town Historian John Dodge, and the experiences of a Bedford woman in the Civil War.
 - Held a History Scavenger Hunt as part of the 2009 Bedford Families Unplugged program.
 - Sent speakers to the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Old Burying Ground, Shawsheen Cemetery, and the World War I monument on the Common.
 - Set up our booth at Bedford Day, the Bedford Farmers' Market, Fourth of July celebrations, the Plant Fair on the Common, and the Job Lane Craft Faire.
-
- We have a booth at Bedford Day
- Created exhibits in the Stearns Building, Town Hall, Old Town Hall, Library, High School, Job Lane House.
 - Had Old Town Line signs installed to mark the original dividing line between Concord and Billerica.
 - Held open house on Pole Capping Day and Bedford Day.
 - Donated books to the Bedford Library and to Carleton-Willard Village.
 - Re-published books on Bedford's history: *Bedford in the World War*, *An Awesome Century* by C. W. Farrington; *Bedford Center in the 1800s* by Ina and Larry Mansur; and *Historic Properties and Neighborhoods of Bedford* by K. Kelly-Broomer.
 - Provided research to the Bedford Historic Preservation Commission for the Bedford Depot Park, Old Billerica Road, Shawsheen Cemetery, and Dudley Road-Two Brothers Rocks to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

- Gave history talks at the Council on Aging, Carleton-Willard Village, and Whole Foods.
- Provided support for the parlor at the Job Lane House, including restoration of Rufus Porter murals.
- Gave awards to Bedford High School students who won honors in the National History Day competitions, 2007.
- Opened a gift shop in the Blake Block for Christmas 2008.



We gave walking tours of historic places

...and we will continue to provide our community with information about our precious history. Join us and experience the rich past.
Lee Yates

You're invited to a great evening

March is always the time for our Show and Tell meeting, when we give some Bedford folks the chance to tell us about the things they've done for love of Bedford's history.

We will hear from Bedford High School students who took part in the National History Day competition in 2009. Louisa Bauer's entry in the Individual Documentary was titled *J. Robert Oppenheimer: Nuclear Conflict*, for which she placed first in the state. Four students- Jake Bograd-Denton, Sean Green, Dylan Koundakjian, and Shreyas Rabi - submitted their entry in the Group Documentary Category, *J.P. Morgan: Inspiration for the Federal Reserve*. They placed first in the regional competition and second at state.

Then we will hear about the genealogy of some local folks. (Any genealogy buffs out there?) Sharon McDonald, Roy Kring, Bea Brown and Don Corey will share stories about some of their celebrated (and not so celebrated) ancestors. This should be a fun event.

The Bedford Historical Society is in the business of keeping history alive. We hope to hear stories from other members in coming programs.

Wednesday, March 24
Congregational Church
25 The Great Road

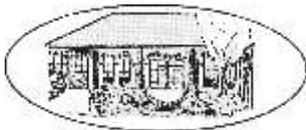
Refreshments at 7:30, lecture begins at 8:00 PM.
Free and open to all. Please bring your friends!

DALYA'S

american & mediterranean cuisine

Lunch

Monday - Friday
11:30 - 2:00



Dinner

Monday - Saturday
5:30 - 9:00

Bring this ad and receive a 20% discount at lunch and dinner
(regular menus only and when seated at the bar)
Valid through March 31, 2010

www.dalyas.com

at Bedford Farms - 20 North Road - Bedford MA

Cambridge Savings is proud to be a part of the Bedford community.

181 Great Road, Bedford
cambridgesavings.com • (888) 418-5626

Cambridge Savings Bank

Member FDIC

Member DIF

My Town... Recollections

Bedford's Town Historian,
John Dodge reflects on the past



I have lived in this town for 85 years. One of my earliest play things was a kiddie car propelled by foot power. It was broken when a big, fat kid tried to ride it down the street. We had a sandbox in which I played, making sand castles and pushing little toy cars through the sand. A forgotten toy car was ruined by the rain.

Our favorite game was marbles. Every kid carried a marble bag with him. And Mr. Whittaker—who lived on the Great Road—would go into Boston from time to time, buying hundreds of marbles to toss to the Bedford kids who gathered on the Common. Great fun was coasting our Flexible Flyer sleds down Crescent Avenue, the unpaved Pine Hill Road and ice skating at Bedford Springs. One year, when a Town truck was clearing the ice for hockey, the truck went through the ice and had to be hauled out. Mike Winchenbaugh, a friend who lived down the street, was an enterprising youngster. Mrs. Stacey, his neighbor, loved cats and owned several. Over time, Mike would kidnap one of her cats and take it home for a few days. Then he would call her, claiming that he had found her precious cat. He would return it and collect a reward from this grateful lady.

Growing up, I remember the house-to-house peddlers—the ice man, rag man and the coal delivery man who dumped coal down the shoot into the cellar's coal bin. Around 1930, the Economy grocery store, Stefanelli's, Tom Poleo's barber shop and John Pinkham's cobbler shop thrived in the town. Across from the Fire Station, Connie, the barber, played the violin between customers. He charged 25 cents for a haircut, nothing for the solo.

One of my favorite local stories dates to the Landon vs. Roosevelt presidential campaign. Landon, a Republican from Kansas, lost to Roosevelt. The next day, the Chair of the Town Democratic Committee, marched back and forth past the home of the Chair of the Town Republican Committee, carrying a large, dead sunflower—the Landon symbol—over his shoulder.

During the Depression, many of our neighbors raised chickens and had vegetable gardens. Dad left \$1.00 each day to cover the day's groceries. From 1939 to 1956, Dad served as Bedford's Volunteer Fire Chief for which he was paid the grand amount of \$100 a year. One day in the late 1930s, Douglas' pig farm caught on fire with the loss of 45 hogs. When Dad came home for lunch that day, Ma had cooked pork chops. He didn't eat that day.

In the 1920s, Dinny Martin, a farmer who lived near Crosby Drive, left home by horse and wagon to go to the coal and grain store near the railroad to

replenish his supply of oats. Passing by a friend's home on the way, he was waved to a stop. His friend, Mr. Hunt, had just gotten a new telephone, so he suggested that Dinny come in to call ahead, so his order would be ready when he arrived. Mr. Hunt made the connection, turning the phone over to Dinny. The supplier assured him he would have it ready and asked him, "Who is it for?" Dinny answered "you damn fool; it's for my horses!"

John Dodge

Building our future *continued from pg. 1*

Koon. Their contributions to the town as well as to the Society were substantial. Thereafter, the IRS recognized the Society as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit charitable organization, allowing it to raise funds independently.

Dues and occasional donations sustained the Society for the next several decades, which primarily held six annual membership meetings and maintained a small museum in the Stearns Building's lower level. However, with the conversion to the new Police Station, the Society was assigned a room it could use as a business office but not as a museum. Some of the Society's museum collections are now on display in other municipal buildings: the Town Hall, Old Town Hall, Police Station, High School, Library, and Job Lane House.

Over the past decade, 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. To fund increased expenses, it held its first Annual Giving Campaign. In 2000, the Society received a \$100,000 Challenge Grant from a long-time member, subject to the requirement that a matching sum be raised within 10 years. With the help of generous donations from members, residents and businesses, a bequest of over \$35,000 from Virginia Wharton's estate, and investment income, the Challenge Grant was matched early in 2006.

Don Corey

Planned Giving Confers a Touch of Immortality

Your bequest will help to assure the Bedford Historical Society's vitality as the future unfolds. Please remember the Society when your family makes its financial plans.

Beyond the tax advantage, there's the lovely glow that even a small gift will shine on your memory.

The Bedford Historical Society - 1893 to 2010 and beyond.



BROWN & BROWN, P.C.
COUNSELLORS- AT-LAW
110 GREAT ROAD BEDFORD, MA 01730
781-275-7267

Since 1925

Zoning & Land Use • Permitting • Real Estate
Bankruptcy • Litigation • Business Formation
Wills, Trusts & Estates • Elder Law

WWW.BROWN-BROWN-PC.COM



**Continuing
the Legacy.**

 *Life's calling.*

CARLETON-WILLARD VILLAGE
100 OLD BILLERICA ROAD • BEDFORD, MA 01730
781.275.8700 • WWW.CARLETONWILLARD.ORG

We are not alone... *There are several groups in Bedford that provide invaluable sources of history.*

Friends of the Depot Park

The arrival of the railroad in 1873 did much to transform Bedford from the small agricultural community it once was. Rail transportation sparked the creation of light industry, local jobs, and new housing to accommodate an influx of people.

Consider this! Townspeople climbed aboard coaches for trips to Boston, Concord, Lowell. Each weekday, a steam locomotive delivered freight cars of newspapers from Boston, home appliances ordered through the Sears catalog, and mail. We had 18 daily trains at the peak of service.

The railroad departed Bedford 30 years ago but left behind remnants of its former glory. Some are tangible: the Freight House and Depot buildings, the roadbeds now used as trails for biking and walking, and a restored Budd Car. Other reminders are oral histories shared by people who had experience with the Bedford Branch of the Boston & Maine Railroad, either as employees or patrons.

Friends of Bedford Depot Park was established in 1995 to honor and preserve our local railroad history and to help establish Depot Park at the Minuteman Bikeway terminus on South Road. In addition to providing information and snacks to bikeway users, the Freight House offers unique merchandise from Bedford's history-related nonprofit groups.

The Depot is open from April through October.

Jim Shea



The newly restored Depot Park

Minuteman Company

The modern Bedford Minuteman Company was reactivated as a historical marching group by proclamation of the Town Selectmen on September 23, 1964, "as a means of honoring the Bedford Flag, commemorating events of April 19th, and stimulating an interest in our American heritage."

The uniform of the Bedford Minuteman is one based on the regiment-of-the-line uniform worn by men of the Continental Army during the American Revolution and utilizing the colors of the Bedford Flag: a gray wescott with red facing, black leggings, white cross belts, and brown tricorin hat over an unbleached muslin shirt, black neck stock, and brown pants.

The Company participates in parades and ceremonies throughout New England and New York, and in various annual events in Bedford: Opening of Annual Town Meeting; the Liberty Pole Capping, a July 4th Strawberry Festival; a Change-of-Command ceremony held at the Bedford's Citizen of the Year celebration; and in town parades on Memorial Day and Veterans' Day.

The Company also participates annually in April 19th events in Lexington and Concord, and has made appearances at Minute Man National Historic Park in Concord and in battle reenactments at various locations.

Peter Secar



Reenactment on April 4.

Job Lane House Museum

The Job Lane Farm Museum is part of an early land grant that the Great and General Court of Massachusetts made to Governor John Winthrop and his Deputy, Thomas Dudley. In 1637, the two canoed down the Concord River to survey their land, now marked by Brothers Rocks.

Job (Laine) Lane was originally from Rickmansworth, England and acquired the farm land in 1664. Until now, the location of the original homestead had never been located until Don Corey discovered it. We now know that it was by a brook at 130 North Road.

The house was built by Job Lane the 3rd in 1713, and bought by the Duttons in 1843. The barn was built in 1993, with the support of the Bedford Rotary Club, and donations from friends. The house and barn are owned by the Town of Bedford, and managed by the Bedford Historic Preservation Commission. All events are maintained by volunteers. The Bedford Garden Club maintains the Lillian Dutton Memorial herb garden.

The Friends of the Job Lane House, Inc. is a non-profit organization. The Job Lane House/Barn is a memorial to the character of the American colonists of Bedford, Massachusetts, and the site of continuing historical interest. The Friends hold house tours, a 3rd grade tour for the Lane School, a craft faire in September, and many special events.

Jeanette Pothier



The Job Lane House and barn

C&D CARLTON & DURAN Certified Public Accountants

- Audit & Accounting Services
- Tax Preparation & Planning
- Small Business Consulting
- Personal Financial Planning

Lawrence H. Carlton, CPA, MST
Charles E. Duran, Jr., CPA

Tel 781-275-7520 www.carltonduran.com

110 Great Road, Bedford, MA 01730

Bedford
Pizza
781-275-8264

Check out our new menu at
www.wholefoods.com/bedford



Open 8am - 9pm every day
170 Great Road, Bedford MA

Every Tuesday
\$2 Off
Every Pizza!

PARTY TIME... June 19, 2010



Once upon a time it was a farm; once it was a school. During our Colonial history, it was a tavern and served as the rallying point for the Bedford Minutemen before they marched to the North Bridge in Concord on April 19, 1775 after being served hot coffee.

Today, the house at 12 The Great Road known as the Fitch Tavern is a private home celebrating its 300th anniversary and its rich and colorful history. The homeowners, Lea Ann and Michael Knight, have graciously offered to host a lavish fundraiser for the Bedford Historical Society on Saturday, June 19.

The spectacular event will begin at 6 p.m. with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and tours of the historic first floor conducted by Lea Ann Knight. A fabulous, catered, multi-course dinner planned by Michael Knight will follow for guests to enjoy under tents in the side yard, while



listening to music provided by members of the Lexington Symphony Orchestra. Dress will be black tie or equivalent, or, appropriately, Colonial attire.

Tickets are \$125 or \$110 if purchased before May 19 by contacting the Society (781-275-7276 or info@bedfordmahistory.org), any Officer or Director (see back page), or by mailing the coupon below.

The Fitch Tavern, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was built by Benjamin Kidder in 1710 and sold to Jeremiah Fitch in 1766. Mr. Fitch served in the Bedford Militia Company before the War for Independence, and participated in the battles in Concord on April 19, 1775.

Tours of the Tavern will reveal the old kitchen with fireplace, beehive oven, wood paneling and ceiling, all original. The Knight's dining room was the original tap room, where the Bedford Minutemen likely ate their "cold breakfast" before marching to Concord on April 19, 1775. The Knight's charming living room was at one time used as a schoolroom "for young ladies of the town."

Carol Amick



Before marching to Concord, the Bedford Minutemen met at the Fitch Tavern

SIGN UP TODAY

The absolute limit of guests is 65. Don't wait until the last minute - sold out is - well, sold out. Fill out the coupon below and insure an unforgettable evening with wonderful music, great food and drinks. It's not every day one can dress up for such a unique event, at such a unique place.

Can you imagine - a party in a 300 year old home where the Bedford Minutemen met before they marched to the Concord Bridge on that famous day - April 19, 1775.

This is the Bedford Society's largest fund-raiser event ever. Since most of the costs for the outstanding, fun-filled party are donated by generous members and businesses, and volunteers help, all proceeds will be used for the society's continuing efforts to preserve and protect Bedford's history.

Please join us and help us provide on-going programs for people like you!

Return this coupon with your payment, and reserve your space.
Feel free to make a copy if you prefer to keep this newsletter intact.

The Bedford Historical Society's Fitch Tavern Party - June 19, 2010

Price per person: \$125.00. Early birds - before May 19: \$110.00

YES, please reserve ____ tickets

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I enclose a check \$ _____

We will send you a receipt, and confirmation.

Please write check to: Bedford Historical Society
Mail to: Bedford Historical Society, 2 Mudge Way, Bedford, MA 01730
Mark check: Fitch Tavern Party

Remember space is limited to 65 people, so make sure not to miss this fabulous party!

The Bedford Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.
At least \$90 per ticket will be tax deductible; please confirm with your financial adviser.

BEDFORD
FAMILY & LASER DENTISTRY
Mayada Najim D.M.D.

We strive daily to make "history" with our patient care and pride ourselves with long term patient relationships. At Bedford Family and Laser Dentistry, we understand preserving history. Come visit our General Dentistry office built in 1820

Latex Free* Mercury free fillings* Non-surgical LASER Periodontal Therapy
Root Canal Therapy* Early Orthodontic Intervention for children* Crown & Bridge
Implants* LASER and take home whitening* Extractions* Partials & Dentures

143 Great Road, Bedford, MA 01730 Tel: (781) 275.6349 - Fax: (781) 275.8406

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

Postal Paid
Bedford, MA 01730
Permit No. 30

Residential
Postal Customer
Bedford, MA 01730

Things you might not know about us...

Read about a few of our accomplishments for the last 117 years,
then join to learn about the rest...

This newsletter is a special issue to introduce the Bedford Historical Society, its mission and its broad range of activities to protect and promote the rich history of Bedford.

Bedford Historical Society, Inc.
2 Mudge Way, Bedford, MA 01730
781-275-7276

Executive Director
Alethea "Lee" Yates

Office hours: Monday, 9-12 and 1-5
Tuesday, 9-12 and 1-5
Wednesday, 9-1

Officers

Jan van Steenwijk, President
Robert Slechta, Vice President
Phyllis Cooke, Secretary
Don Corey, Treasurer

Directors

Julie McCay Turner (Board Chair)
Carol Amick
Joan Bowen
Bea Brown
Marion Bryan
Frank Cicca
Joan Cicca
Marietta Ellis
Donald Jenkins

Neil Leary

Judie Toti

Norman Toti

Finance Committee

Julie McCay Turner - Board Director
Frank Cicca
Don Corey - Treasurer
Donald Jenkins
Neil Leary
Jan van Steenwijk - President

Please enjoy this special issue of our regular newsletter, The Preservationist, to inform you about the incredible work performed by BHS members. We would like to hear your comments.

Contact the Bedford Historical Society by calling 781-275-7276 or by emailing us at info@bedfordmahistory.org

Produced by: Design Photo - 781-275-7488
Edited by:
Carol Amick and Barbara Hitchcock.



Look inside to read
about our unique party!

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.

Membership Application

Please join us - and support our heritage!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Dues	
Student:	\$ 3.00
Single:	\$10.00
Couple or Family	\$15.00
Supporting:	\$50.00
Business:	\$250.00
Patron:	\$150.00
Life - Single:	\$150.00
Life - Couple:	\$200.00

Amount enclosed:
\$ _____

Please send check to:

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

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