We offered traditional toys at our booth at the Plant and Craft Fair on the Common this month. Left, tips from a big brother on how to make a Jacob’s Ladder go. Right, victory in the Cup and Ball game brings a smile.

**Annual Meeting and Potluck**

We do it only once a year, so it has to be good! We end the program year in May with our Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner. Think scrumptious, think homemade, think of tables groaning under the load of our favorite entrees, side dishes, salads, and ever so many desserts... Then we’ll sit back and enjoy the music of the bell ringers of the Congregational Church.

Please bring whatever you like best, with enough to serve 8. If you aren’t sure what to bring, just remember that it’s better to have too many main dishes than too many desserts.

**Wednesday, May 28, 6:30 PM (NOT 7:30 PM as usual)**
First Church of Christ, Congregational
25 The Great Road, Bedford

**Annual dues and you**

If you’re one of annual members, it’s time to renew your dues. It will probably be the smallest check you’ll write all year but it means a lot to us. Please bring your check to the Annual Dinner on May 28 or mail it to us at 2 Mudge Way, Bedford MA 01730. Not sure about your membership? Just check the address label on the back of this newsletter for your membership status and expiration date. See Page 5 for a renewal form. While you’re at it, won’t you consider upgrading your membership to the Supporting or Patron level? Thank you.

**Welcome to our new readers**

With this issue we welcome readers that we’ve added to our mailing list because they visited our Open House, donated something to us, or otherwise showed an interest in Bedford’s history. If you’re one of these folks, you’ll see “Complimentary” on your mailing label. We hope you’ll enjoy our newsletter.

Please visit our web site: www.bedfordmahistory.org
New Archives volunteers

We are delighted to welcome two new volunteers to our Archives. Kara Kerwin, her husband Jeff and their son Tyler moved to Bedford not long ago and are settling into their new house on Davis Road. Katie Neff is a college student who is devoting some of her free time to us during her summer vacation. Welcome, Kara and Katie!

Reprints of Remembered

Several people have recently asked to buy copies of John Brown’s book, Remembered in Bedford, Mass. They are currently out of stock but we are ordering a new printing and expect to have it in 2-3 weeks. If you would like to reserve a copy, please call 781-275-7276 or email us at bedford-history@usa.net.

See us on TV at home

We’ve made video recordings of our last two programs – “Knox and the Rocks” in March, and “A Magnificent History of New England Stone Walls” in April. Our thanks go to Madeleine Altmann of Bedford Community Access TV for her strong support and encouragement (okay, there was some prodding, but we needed it) and for showing these two programs on BCAT. For members who don’t have access to BCAT, we have made DVD copies of both programs and are willing to lend them to you. Just call our office at 781-275-7276. If you can’t get to our office and live in Bedford we’ll be happy to deliver them to you.

Extended Archives hours

Our office hours have been extended as of the first of the year. Our room in the Stearns building (a.k.a. the Police Station building) at 2 Mudge Way is usually open at the following times:

- **Monday,** 9 to 12 and 1 to 5
- **Tuesday,** 9 to 1
- **Wednesday,** 9 to 1

Other times by appointment.

It’s best to phone ahead before you stop by because we do step out for errands now and then. Please call our NEW PHONE NUMBER, 781-275-7276.
Memorial fund launches work at Old Burying Ground

The Bedford Historical Society has made a gift to the Town of Bedford of the memorial funds received from the many friends of the late Town Historian, John F. Brown. Following discussions with John’s widow, Miriam “Bea” Brown, and with the recommendation of the Society’s Board of Directors, the Society’s members agreed to contribute the funds to the town for work at the Old Burying Ground on Springs Road.

John had a great appreciation of this historic resource and had spent many hours over a number of years working with others to complete an accurate survey and map of the surviving gravestones and to record the epitaphs that are still decipherable. The Old Burying Ground dates to the town’s incorporation in 1729 and is a major contributing element to the Old Bedford Center National Register Historic District and to the local Bedford Historic District. We believe that over 1,400 of the town’s earliest settlers, leaders and other citizens were buried in this one-acre parcel in the 160 years that interments took place, but only 392 markers and 14 tombs survive. Among the citizens known to be buried here are 43 soldiers of the American Revolution (including three black soldiers), of whom 34 were members of the Bedford Minutemen and Militia and fought in the opening battle at Concord on April 19, 1775.

Earlier this month the Society transferred over $4,000 to from the memorial fund to a gift account for the town. The town used these funds to hire Line and Stone, Inc., a company that specializes in monument and architectural restoration. Kevin Duffy, the principal in Line and Stone, is a former Bedford resident who grew up near this site and can appreciate its historic significance. He will set all remaining gravestones that were out of the ground, and reset over 65 gravestones that are tilting badly or are set improperly. The work will reduce the danger of further damage to these gravestones and will go a long way toward restoring the site as John wished to see it.

The Society has continued to receive memorial gifts, bringing the total to almost $4,500. This will be used to reset additional gravestones. We anticipate that most of the work will be completed in time for Memorial Day, May 26. Town ceremonies on that day will include a program at the Old Burying Ground at 10:00 AM.

Donations are still being accepted and may be sent to the Bedford Historical Society, 2 Mudge Way, Bedford MA 01730-2138.

Books proposed for deaccession

In the last few years we have been working to identify items in our collection that do not fit our policy of collecting items related to Bedford’s history. Recently we have set aside about 75 books and pamphlets that we propose to remove in order to make room for more appropriate items. These publications appear to have no connection to Bedford and are unlikely to have relevance to any studies or research involving local individuals, organizations or other events.

We have a formal policy for deaccessioning items. First, our Directors review and approve the plan. Next, we notify our members in advance. Finally, we have a vote of the members at one of our meetings. This is what we plan to do with the 75 books at our May meeting. Archives volunteer Kara Kerwin has prepared a list; copies are available on request. Members are also welcome to visit the Archives to see the books. Any member who feels that we should keep a particular book is welcome to give notice, either before our May meeting or as soon as possible thereafter. The remaining books will be offered to an antiquarian book dealer; any that the dealer does not purchase will be offered for sale at our booth during town events.

Movie mystery solved

Last month we were asked to come up with the name of a certain movie said to have been filmed in Bedford. Three people have provided an answer. Carol Haines of the Concord Museum writes, “I believe the movie he refers to is ‘Never Too Late’ starring Paul Ford, Maureen O’Hara and Connie Stevens. It was made in 1965 and I know it was filmed in Concord, Massachusetts. I am not sure if there were also scenes filmed in Bedford. We referred to the movie recently in one of the Concord Museum’s walking tours of the Milldam, as some of the scenes were filmed there.” The Internet Movie Database, www.imdb.com, confirms that the movie was filmed in Concord but does not say if any filming was done in Bedford. Has anyone out there seen the movie, and do you remember any Bedford scenes?
The Great War and Bedford

Soon it will be Memorial Day, a time to remember all those who have served in our nation's military. This year’s observances will include a stop at the World War I memorial on the Common.

We are fortunate to have copies of Bedford in the Great War, a book about Bedford people who served in the military as well as those who toiled on the home front. Published as a supplement to the 1927 annual town report and as a stand-alone book, it is an invaluable record of an extraordinary time in Bedford’s history. It is filled with tales that should never be forgotten. Following are just a few.

Three Bedford men never returned home from the war. Stanley Anthony and 20 others died when their ship, the U.S.S. Chauncey, collided with another. Hugh Hunt died in action in France and was buried there; he was only 19. William Hamilton, a career Marine, was also killed in action in France.

Several family names appear repeatedly on the Honor Roll. There were Stanley Anthony and his three brothers; four Loomis brothers; five Parkers – Frederic, Sr., both of his sons, and both of his nephews; two Bierenbroodspots; the two Hayden brothers, and other family groups.

Two women’s names appear. Joanna McMahan began as a Red Cross Nurse and was transferred to the Army Nurse Corps. Abigail Bacon was a Reconstruction Aid, working to rehabilitate wounded soldiers.

At least 17 Bedford men served in France. Among them was Clifford Day, who was injured but went AWOL from his hospital to return to the fighting. Another was Ralph Loomis, who sailed to France to enlist in the French Air Service and was later transferred to the U.S. Navy Flying Corps.

One particular horror of the Great War was the use of poison gas as a weapon. Stephen Tackney was among its victims.

Many worked on the home front. Bedford ladies knitted and sewed thousands of garments, both for the military and for French and Belgian refugees.

Grateful Bedford residents celebrated the announcement of the Armistice with a ringing of the church bell, a children’s parade, a peace rally, another parade with torches and flags, a community sing, three cheers for the Allied Nations and their leaders, and finally a parade to the Union School, where a “tremendous bonfire” burned the Kaiser in effigy.
**BEDFORD’S HONOR ROLL**

In Memory of
THE MEN OF BEDFORD
who gave their lives in the World War
and in appreciation of all those who served
to the credit of their town, state, and country

*Stanley Thomas Anthony
Alexander Robert Anthony
Lionel Reginald Anthony
Vernon Richard Anthony
Abigail Bacon
Albert Bierembrodspot
Andrew Cornelius Bierembrodspot, Jr.
Howard Drown Brawn
Charles Elmer Brock
Thomas Stanley Butler
Franklin Harwood Canlett
Arthur Everett Carson
Herman Emil Christensen
William James Crier
Frank Bellows Davis
Howard Fairfield Davis
Clifford Lewis Day, Jr.
William Joseph Durkin
Michael Lawrence English
John Stephen Fanning
Basil Edward Fletcher
Milton Currant Ford
Benjamin Charles Freeman
Nicholas Genetti
Edward Loren Goulding
Numan Peter Hanson
Arthur Holden Hayden

*William Walter Hamilton
William Richardson Hayden
Gunnar Hemmingsen
Edward Ams Hurnewell
William James Hunt
Henry Clare Isnor
William Jackson
David Theodore Kasy
Francis Joseph Kelley
Henrick Hans Johnan Larson
Hubert Hillhouse Loomis
Ralph Lane Loomis
Samuel Loomis
William Fitch Loomis
Francis Colin MacDonald
Walter Francis Manning
Johanna Elizabeth McMahan

*Hugh Irwin Hunt
Martin Francis McMahan
Philip Edward McMahan
Alice Frances Murray
John Martin Nelson
Edward Joseph O' Dowd
Philip Stephen O'Dowd
Frederic Parker
Frederic Parker, Jr.
Henry McBurney Parker
John Stanley Parker
William Amory Parker
George Henry Petersen
Jessie Holladay Philbin
Fred Andrew Proctor
Paul Rhoderick Raymond
John Harold Riese
Nicholo Silverstone
Everett Snyder
Peter Snyder
Frederick Henry Sullivan
Stephen Evans Tackney
James Joseph Welsh
John Walsh, Jr.
Arthur Stanley Wheelock
William Albert Wilkins
Harold Edward Wilson

List of Bedford service members published in Bedford’s Annual Report of 1927

A curious item in our collection is this World War I souvenir doughboy doll, made by a son of Mrs. A. M. Dubrouillet while at Verdun. (He died in France.)

Bedford’s WWI memorial in 1927. Residents had the huge boulder moved to the Common, affixed a plaque, raised a flagpole and installed a floodlight.
BHS calendar

Our May meeting will be the last until September, but we’re planning a busy summer.

**Monday, May 26: Memorial Day.** As part of Bedford’s Memorial Day observances, three of our members will be giving talks: Don Corey at the Shawsheen Cemetery, Bob Slechta at the Old Burying Ground, and Lee Yates at the World War I memorial on the Common. Please join us as we remember Bedford people who served our country over the years. Program: 8:30, walk to Shawsheen Cemetery; 10:00, arrive at the Old Burying Ground at Springs Road; 10:30 gather at Mudge Way for parade: 11:00, march to the Common; 11:15, arrive at Memorial Park for speeches and awards.

**Saturday, June 14: Two Brothers Rocks tour.** Society member Bob Slechta leads a walk to the Two Brothers Rocks historic site. See the Rocks and learn about this historic part of town. Walkers will meet at 10 AM on Dudley Road opposite Emery Road.

**Monday, June 16: Bedford Farmers’ Market.** Join us for the opening day of the new Bedford Farmers’ Market. We’ll set up shop at the Community Table with a full selection of our Bedford books, maps, Bedford Flag stamps, and memorabilia. Other vendors will offer an array of fresh, local produce. Monday, 6/16, 2-6:30 PM, Bedford Depot Park, at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and South Road. See www.bedfordmarket.org for details.

**Independence Day, July 4: Celebrations at Springs Brook Park.** We’ll be there with our booth to join in the fun. Watch the Bedford Minuteman for details.

The Bedford Flag (yes, the real thing) in an Armistice Day parade in Bedford, accompanied by Bedford veterans of World War I. Photo from *Bedford in the Great War.*
Society members Lois Jenkins (left) and Betty Slechta at the Plant and Craft Fair, May 2008

Oak display case joins Archives

We are very grateful to Society member Larry Prugnarola for donating a beautiful oak display case to our Archives. The tall, locked case will be perfect for displaying some of our gowns and other vintage clothing that we were unable to show in the past because we had no suitable storage for these precious items. If you visit our office, please take note of the case and gown at the end of the hallway.

Our new display case

Membership Application and Renewal Form

This is (please check one):
___ A new membership
___ A renewal
___ A gift subscription

Name:____________________________________
Address:__________________________________
________________________________________
City: _____________________________________
State:_______________________  Zip: _________
Phone: ___________________________________
Email:____________________________________

Dues (please check one):
__ Student: $3.00
__ Individual: $10.00
__ Couple or Family: $15.00
__ Supporting or Business: $50.00
__ Patron: $250.00
__ Life - Individual: $150.00
__ Life - Couple: $200.00

Donation
I would like to contribute the following amount to aid the Society: $ __________________
I would like to contribute the following amount to the John F. Brown Memorial Fund for the Old Burying Ground: $ __________________

Total enclosed: $ _______________________

Bedford Historical Society, Inc.
2 Mudge Way, Bedford MA 01730-2138
781-275-7276
bedford-history@usa.net
Are your dues up to date? Please check the mailing label for your membership status

For our annual members, ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE! Please see Page 1

The four Loomis brothers of Bedford and their cousin Henry all served in World War I. See Page 4.