# The Preservationist

Newsletter of the Bedford (Mass.) Historical Society

Founded in 1893

May 2010 Volume 117, Number 7

**At our March meeting we were delighted to honor Bedford High School students who won in the Massachusetts History Day contest. All will move on to the National History Day competition in June. Louisa won first place with her individual documentary on Robert Oppenheimer. Jake, Shreyas, Sean and Dylan collaborated on video on J.P. Morgan that won second place in the group documentary category.**

## Dinner and a show

We finish our annual lecture series with the finest potluck dinner in Bedford (note the groaning board above – and that's *before* the desserts came out), followed by a talk by Bedford's very own Mike Rosenberg. Whether you know him as a hard-working Selectman, as a writer of delightful profiles of Bedford people, as a colleague or as a friend, you know that Mike is always an engaging speaker. Mike will give us some of his thoughts on our favorite little town.

All are welcome. Please bring the dish of your choice with enough to serve 8. If you are not sure what to bring, just remember that it is always better to have too many main dishes than too many desserts. Questions? Call us at 781-275-7276. (We would like to thank the members of the telephone committee who will be phoning all our members about the party.)

**Wednesday, May 26, 2010, 6:30 PM**
**(not 7:30 as usual)**
**Congregational Church**
**25 The Great Road, Bedford**

Please visit our web site:
www.bedfordmahistory.org

Find us on Facebook

***The Preservationist*** is published seven times yearly for the purpose of sharing topics of interest for the education and enjoyment of the Society's members and the community in general. Comments, suggestions and contributions of relevant articles are welcome and should be addressed to: Editor, ***The Preservationist,*** 2 Mudge Way, Bedford MA 01730.

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**Bedford Historical Society, 2009-2010**

**Officers**

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

**Directors**

Marion Bryan ('10)
Marietta Ellis ('10)
Donald Jenkins ('10)
Joan Bowen ('11)
Neil Leary ('11)
Judie Toti ('11) - Board Secretary
Carol Amick ('12)
Norman Toti ('12)
Julie McCay Turner ('12) - Board Chair
Bea Brown ('13)
Joan Gicca ('13)
Frank Gicca ('13)

**Finance Committee**

Julie McCay Turner (Board Chair)
Don Corey (BHS Treasurer)
Neil Leary ('09)
Frank Gicca ('10)
Donald Jenkins ('11)
Jan van Steenwijk (BHS President)

# Archives hours

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 12 and 1 to 5**

**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 781-275-7276.

# In memoriam

They brought us freedom some 234 years ago. That's why we still watch the Minutemen every April when they reenact those historic events. One of those freedom fighters was a Bedford Minuteman, Neil Hill, who tragically passed away on April 19, 2010 while marching toward Concord as a Minuteman. A beautiful memorial service was held in his honor at the North Bridge, where family, friends, Minutemen and the BHS showed their respects. Neil was one of ours, a long-time member of the society, before he and his family moved away from Bedford.

*Jan van Steenwijk*

# Recent donations

Warmest thanks for recent contributions from our friends:

**The Bedford Garden Club**
**Norma Warner**
**Paul and Andrea Couvée**
**Gabriele and Angelo Colao**
**Shirley and Roy Kring**

We are also grateful to all those – too many to list here – who have purchased tickets to our Fitch Tavern party in June, the biggest fundraising event ever held by the Society. (And if you haven't got your tickets yet, please turn to page 3 for information.)

# New members join us

If you join the Bedford Historical Society nowadays you're guaranteed not to be the "new kid in school" very long. New memberships just keep on coming in. We gained the following members since last month's edition of *The Preservationist*:

**Anne Raffaelo**
**Stephen Ellen**
**Kara Kerwin and Geoff Charron**

A hearty welcome to them all!

# Another great season

THANK YOU!

Another great season for the Bedford Historical Society is closing. It has been an exciting year; we have grown with a considerable number of new members, and have created an invaluable awareness about our society. Members are the building stones who make all our programs possible. We also had an increased number of visitors enjoying our monthly lectures, which proves that historic tales and facts about our town have broad interest. On behalf of the BHS, I would like to thank all our members and anyone else who is excited by this old town for their continuing support.

Much of what we accomplish is made possible because of the numerous boards and committees who have daily control over many aspects of the Society - whether it is the Hospitality Committee members who make sure that "hot coffee and goodies" warmly welcome guests at our regular meetings or our Finance Committee whose members make sure that our money is wisely spent and our investments make a healthy return. As one can imagine, they all have a bit grayer hair from the financial turmoil the country has experienced during the last few years. "Invest or sell?" They deserve a standing ovation for keeping us afloat.

For many months, the Bylaw Committee has worked hard to update the Society's bylaws, while the ad hoc Dues Committee has been working tirelessly on our dues structure. Although it is with great reluctance, we are advocating a modest increase to cover the ever-rising costs to run our office and the archives. We are also working on a long term strategic plan for the society. This is a work in progress that can be updated as needed, and it will help us to work on specific goals for the future.

A number of challenges lie ahead. We all have a dream to one day open the doors of a modest museum in order to display some of the thousands of the ever-growing number of historic relics now in storage.

On June 19th, we will hold the society's first major fundraising event. The owners of the famous Fitch Tavern will open their home to the BHS to host a grand party, just one more great occasion presented by your society.

Finally, we hope soon to bring the Friends of the Bedford Flag under the umbrella of the BHS. This will give us the opportunity to help promote the oldest existing flag in the United States. It will also add some exciting merchandise to our already large collection of products for sale.

Whether we work together on a daily basis or we only meet occasionally, I thank all of you. You are all exceedingly important to the Bedford Historical Society!

*Jan van Steenwijk*

# Fitch Tavern party tickets going quickly

As *The Preservationist* goes to press, a few tickets remain for our lavish fundraiser at the Fitch Tavern on June 19. Don't miss this fabulous party! Price per person, $125. The absolute limit of guests is 65. Tickets will be reserved in the order in which checks are received. *The Bedford Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*

Please reserve ___ tickets @ $125 per person

Additional donation: $_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip:_____

Phone: _____ Email:_____

I enclose a check (payable to Bedford Historical Society) for $_____

*Please send to Bedford Historical Society, 2 Mudge Way, Bedford MA 01730-2138. Thank you!*

# Votes on the agenda for our Annual Meeting

Following the Potluck Supper, the May 26th Annual Meeting will consider three important topics as part of a brief business meeting.

## Elections

Members will be asked to vote on the Nominating Committee's slate of Officers for the 2010-2011 program year: Jan van Steenwijk for President; Julia Whiteneck for Vice President; Phyllis Cooke for Secretary, and Don Corey for Treasurer. Votes also will be sought confirming the Nominating Committee's candidates for Directors to serve through 2014: Marion Bryan, Donald Jenkins, and Robert Slechta.

## Bylaws updates

Minor changes to the Society's bylaws have been identified over the course of this year. A summary of the proposed updates appears on page 7. The ad-hoc Bylaws Committee will respond to any questions (c/o Judie Como Toti, jntot@verizon.net, or 781.275.3120).

## Dues increase

The ad-hoc Dues Committee has reviewed the dues amounts which have remained constant since 2000. During this same period Society income has increased modestly and expenses have increased considerably. Current annual dues income of about $3,500 covers less than 10% of Society expenses (over $36,000). The Committee recommends the following dues increase effective September 1, 2010:

| Category | Current | Proposed |
|---|---|---|
| Student | $3 | $15 |
| Individual | $10 | $25 |
| Couple/Family | $15 | $45 |
| Supporting/Business | $50 | Three tiers:<br>$100<br>$175<br>$300 |
| Patron | $250 | N/A |
| Life, Individual | $150 | $250 |
| Life, Couple/Family | $200 | $450 |

Along with aggressive fundraising undertaken by the Society's leadership team, the Society's investment income, and donations to the Society (bequests, memorial gifts, etc.), the new dues levels will help to lower the annual funding shortfall. The committee recommends delaying the dues increase until September 1, 2010 to provide sufficient time for Society members to renew at the current dues rates. Questions? Contact our Treasurer, Don Corey (cmcofficeuse@aol.com or 781.275.6225).

# It's spring! Dues are due

If you are an Annual member, your dues are due by the end of May. You may clip the form on page 9 and send it to us with your check or bring a check to our Annual Meeting on May 26.

Not sure how you stand with your dues? Check the mailing label on the back of this newsletter. It will tell you when your current dues expire. *Several of our members have paid more than a year in advance, so check the expiration date carefully. You might not owe any dues for another year.*

Questions? Please don't hesitate to phone our office. We will gladly look up your account for you.

Thank you for your payment! Our dues are very modest but very important to us. We appreciate the support of our many wonderful members.

**Visitors from the 18th through the 21st centuries mobbed our Open House on Pole Capping Day last month. Above, Don Corey answers a militiaman's questions about Bedford's history as others look on or view the exhibits.**

# The Lanes and their transatlantic trade

*Note: This is the second of a series on the Society's collection of Lane Family Papers, now available on our web site, www.bedfordmahistory.org.*

Among the most noteworthy of the Lane Family Papers are those documenting their transatlantic trade. Beginning the Job 1* Lane, the immigrant from England, and continuing through his great-grandsons Job 4 and John 4 Lane, the family received rents from an inherited property in England. Rather than having the rent sent to them in cash, they arranged for their agents in England to use the money to buy goods, usually various types of fabric, and have them shipped to Boston.

Listed below are the items that were sent. Many of the fabrics are of types unknown today. Definitions (in italics) for some have been taken from *Every Day Life in the Massachusetts Bay Colony*, by George Francis Dow, originally published in 1935 by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Reprinted in 1988 by Dover Publications, Inc.

Other than fabrics, the only items listed are Bibles and the last two volumes of a book by Matthew Henry, his *Commentary on the Whole Bible*. Presumably, only volumes 5 and 6 are requested because they are for a person who already owns the first four volumes. Would this be intended for one of the Lanes, or were the ordered for someone else? We will never know.

On occasion, the Papers mention that some of the fabrics are intended for use by the Lanes but for the most part they seem to have been intended for sale at a shop in Boston. Orders placed by Job 3 and John 3, and by Job 4 and John 4, specifically mention that the goods are to be left with a Boston merchant named Henry Deering and later with Thomas Deering, presumably Henry's son.

After the 1780s, none of the Papers mention the transatlantic trade. This is perhaps explained by a letter written to Job 4 and John 4 by the rental agent in 1792: "Charles Fisher the Tenant at Edstone was with me yesterday and informs me that by the carelessness of his Opposite Neighbor throwing some hot Ashes upon the Dunghill which set fire to the straw and communicating with the Beast House Barn & they were soon reduced to a heap of ruins Four cows a stirk & 7 pigs were destroyed and the wind blowing hard from the south carried the fire across the street to Ch. Fishers House which was soon burnt to the ground with the stable and buildings by which misfortune he lost about 50 Quarters of oats some wheat and most of his Household Furniture and is now destitute of Harbour for himself and family… I apprehend it will cost about £200 to repair this loss." The house and outbuildings on their rental property, which brought an annual rent of about £20, had burned down and replacements would cost about ten years' rent. There would be no more profits to spend on the transatlantic trade.

## Goods shipped to Job 1 Lane, 1678-1698

- Carsey/kersey of various colors and types: red, "partrigg," "sad coloured brown," white gray, "sad gray," Devonshire. *A coarse, narrow cloth, woven from long wool and originally ribbed. Used for petticoats and men's clothing.*
- Hillings and coverlet hillings
- Broadcloth and fine broadcloth
- Partridge callers (collars)
- Camlet. *A fabric made originally of silk and camel's hair; later silk and wool.*
- Dowlas. *A coarse linen, originally made in Brittany.*
- Canvas. *A strong or coarse unbleached cotton cloth made of hemp or flax, formerly used for clothing.*
- Alamode. *A thin, light, glossy black silk.*
- Kenting. *Fine linen cloth, originally made in Kent.*
- Holland and fine Holland. *A linen fabric, originally made in Holland.*
- "New fashion stuffs"
- Double damask
- Lane
- Serge
- "A Bible of a good large print in quarto"

## Goods shipped to John 2 Lane, 1699-1701

- Double damask and half silk damask
- Lanes/lawns
- Holland, fine Holland
- Carsey/Kersey, Devonshire kersey
- Broadcloth
- Allamode
- Serge
- Doulace/dowlas

* A number between a person's first and last name designates the *generation* of that person, beginning with Job 1 Lane, the first of his family in America.

- Stuff
- Kenting
- Allamode
- Scotch cloaths (cloth). *Fabric with a texture resembling lawn, but cheaper, said to have been made of nettle fibre… much used for bed linens and window curtains*

## Goods shipped to Job 3 and John 3 Lane, 1721-1754

- Broad cloth
- Shalloon. *A closely woven woolen material used for linings.*
- "Plain shifts"
- "Six large quarto Bibles," "one large Bible, one Bible in quarto," 1 Bible
- Kersey
- Garlix. *Linen made in Gorlitz, Prussian Silesia.*
- Satin
- Duroy. *A coarse woolen fabric formerly manufactured in the west of England.*
- Camblett/camlet
- Cheney, "cheney for curtains." *A worsted or woolen stuff.*
- Russell. *A woolen fabric formerly used for clothing, esp. in the sixteenth century.*
- Cambric
- Volumes 5 and 6 of Matthew Henry's *Commentary on the Whole Bible*
- Kenting
- Germ (German?) serge

## Goods shipped to Job 4 and John 4 Lane

- Lutestring. *A glossy silk fabric.*
- Satin
- Romall. *A silk or cotton square or handkerchief sometimes with a pattern.*
- Irish linen
- "Fine scarlet cloth, fine sky blue cloth"
- Russell
- Four quarto Bibles
- "Brown hair bine[?] (Difficult to read)
- Callico. *Originally a general name for all kinds of cotton cloth imported from Callicut, India and from the East.*
- "Gro" (Is this an abbreviation for Grogram/grosgram? *A coarse fabric of silk, of mohair and wool, or these mixed with silk; often stiffened with gum.*)
- Chints/chintz (ordered but not sent)
- Lawn. *A kind of fine linen, resembling cambric.*
- Wrapper

The Lane Family Papers can be seen online at www.bedfordmahistory.org/Lane%20Family%20Papers/lane-browse-name.htm. The ID numbers of the documents referenced here are as follows: 10-12, 16, 22, 57, 59-62, 118, 124, 132, 134, 136, 137, 139, 142, 143, 158, 187, 192, 196.

**This February's cold wave brought a rare sight: Skaters on the Concord River. The ice was about six inches thick when this picture was taken.**

**The BEST/PTO Carnival, shown here, is becoming a Bedford tradition. The High School gymnasium was ringed with games for all ages. This year we represented the Society by operating the Plinko table. "Everyone wins at Plinko!"**

# Proposed Updates to the Bedford Historical Society Bylaws

| Article, Section | Current Wording | Proposed Wording | Rationale for Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| N/A (title) | The Bedford Historical Society | The Bedford Historical Society, Inc. 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) | To be consistent with Article 1 and reflect non-profit status. |
| Art. 4, Sec. 2 | Six Society general membership meetings shall be held from Sept. through May … | At least six Society general membership meetings shall be held from September through May … | To allow more than six general membership meetings per year. |
| Art. 5, Sec. 3 | The Vice-President shall also act as parliamentarian. | The Vice-President may also act as parliamentarian. | To allow someone other than the VP to be parliamentarian. |
| Art. 5, Sec. 4 | The Secretary shall be responsible for notifying all members of all general membership and special meetings … | The Secretary shall ensure that all members are notified of all general membership and special meetings … | To allow notification through other means not controlled by the Secretary (e.g., *The Preservationist*). |
| Art. 5, Sec. 4 (add to section) | N/A | The Secretary shall ensure that the Corporation Annual Report is prepared and submitted to the Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth. | Sentence moved from Art. 10, Sec 4b to this section, since this is the responsibility of the Society Secretary not the Board of Directors Clerk. |
| Art. 5, Sec. 5 | The Treasurer shall keep records of the respective budgets, income, and expenditure accounts of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, and shall seek guidance from the Finance Committee in accounting and administration of Society funds … | The Treasurer shall prepare the Society annual budget and present it to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for approval. The Treasurer shall seek guidance from the Finance Committee in accounting and administration of Society funds … | To formalize the requirement for an annual Society budget and the method for approving it. |
| Art. 5, Sec. 6 (new section) | N/A | Should a vacancy occur, a replacement shall be appointed immediately by the remaining Officers to fill out the remainder of the term. Upon request, the nominating committee shall assist in identifying candidates. | To define the method for filling a vacancy in an Officer position. |
| Art. 6, Sec. 4 | The Executive Director shall be responsible to the Board of Directors for the business management of the Society, the proper use of Society resources for the education of its members and all people interested in the history of Bedford, and for the conscientious preservation and supervision of the Society's properties and | The Executive Director shall be responsible to the President for the business management of the Society and proper use of Society resources for the education of its members and all people interested in the history of Bedford. The Executive Director shall be responsible to the Board of Directors for the conscientious preservation and supervision of the Society's | To clarify the relationship between the Executive Director and the President, and between the Executive Director and the Board of Directors. |

| Article, Section | Current Wording | Proposed Wording | Rationale for Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| | collections. | properties and collections. | |
| Art. 7, Sec. 4 (new section) | N/A | The minutes of the Finance Committee shall become a permanent record of the Society. | To be consistent with other records of the Society. |
| Art. 8, Sec. 2b | Three Directors for four years, plus additional Directors to fill any vacancies that may have occurred during the year. | Three Directors for four years, plus additional Directors to fill any unexpired vacancies that may have occurred during the year. | To clarify the phrase "additional Directors". |
| Art. 9, Sec. 3 | The President shall appoint sufficient members to insure … | The President shall appoint sufficient members to ensure … | Spelling correction. |
| Art. 9, Sec. 5 | The Executive Committee shall establish its annual budget, support the work of its subcommittees, and interface with the Officers and the Board of Directors. | The Executive Committee shall review and approve the Society annual budget, support the work of its subcommittees, and interface with the Officers and the Board of Directors. Expenditures for non-budgeted and/ or discretionary items in excess of $250 shall require prior approval of the President, Treasurer, and Chair of the Board of Directors or their designees. | To formalize the method for approving the Society annual budget. To formalize the method for approving expenditures that are not part of the annual budget. |
| Art. 10, Sec. 3 | Vacancies on the Board of Directors occurring during the year shall not be refilled unless the number of Directors drops to less than nine, in which case the Board shall be brought up to full strength by the Board of Directors to serve until the next annual meeting. | Vacancies on the Board of Directors occurring during the year may be filled by the remaining Directors to serve until the next annual meeting. | To allow the Directors to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors. |
| Art. 10, Sec. 4b | The Clerk shall record the minutes of the Board meetings, and shall submit them as a permanent record of the Society. The Clerk shall prepare and submit the Corporation Annual Report to the Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth. | The Clerk shall record the minutes of the Board meetings, and shall submit them as a permanent record of the Society. The Clerk may also act as parliamentarian. | To provide for the role of a parliamentarian for the Board of Directors. [Deleted sentence is moved to Art. 5, Sec. 4, since this is the responsibility of the Society Secretary not the Board of Directors Clerk.] |
| Art. 10, Sec. 5 | Action of the Board of Directors shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors currently holding office. | Seven members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. Action of the Board of Directors shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors currently holding office. | To specify the number of Directors that constitutes a quorum. |
| Art. 10, Sec. 6g (new section) | N/A | g. review and approve the Society annual budget. | To formalize the method for approving the annual budget. |

# Community outreach

We've recently opened our doors for several community events.

Our Open House on Pole Capping Day, April 10, brought us an estimated 60-80 eager visitors.

On May 11, Society member Bob Slechta conducted a tour of the Old Burying Ground for the Bedford Garden Club as they honored their outgoing president, Theresa Bluhm. Our thanks to Bob for doing the tour, and for donating his honorarium.

During April vacation week we held a Colonial Crafts afternoon for the kids. The room quickly filled with little folks, parents, and grandparents. Cloves were pressed into oranges for pomander balls. Bedford Flags were colored with crayons and markers. Aluminum foil was wrapped around paper plates and decorated to make "pewter" plates. Silhouettes were traced. Mob caps were cut and gathered with ribbons. Jamestown Plantation action figures endured massacres at the hands of little boys. Never mind the kids—we had a marvelous time!

**John Dodge with some young Colonial Crafters**

## Colonial Crafts at the Job Lane House, June 13, 2-4 PM

We had so much fun at our Colonial Crafts afternoon in April that we've decided to do it again. This time we're partnering with the Friends of the Job Lane House. From 2 to 4 in the afternoon of Sunday, June 13, while costumed guides conduct tours of the house, we'll offer Colonial Crafts in the barn.

The crafts event is free and open to all. House tours are $2 per person or $5 per family. The Job Lane House at 295 North Road offers plenty of parking. Gift shop in the barn.

# Membership Application and Renewal Form

## 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 |

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

## Donation

I would like to contribute the following amount to aid the Society: $ _____

Total enclosed: $ _____

**Bedford Historical Society, Inc.**
2 Mudge Way, Bedford MA 01730-2138
781-275-7276
info@bedfordmahistory.org

The Preservationist
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2 Mudge Way
Bedford MA 01730-2138

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**Annual dues are due!**

**Are your dues up to date?** Please check the mailing label for your membership status

**Domine Manse at 110 The Great Road has been through several incarnations in its long history. For a number of years it was a restaurant, as seen in this postcard.**