This 1922 leaflet and other materials concerning the Red-Rock Poultry Yards of Bedford were recently donated to us by Dick and June Axtell. Can any of our readers tell us something about this company?

Society’s Christmas party

Ho, ho, ho! It’s time for our annual get-together to make merry and drive the winter chill away. This year the Society will provide all the refreshments so there’s no need for you to do any cooking or make any preparations. Just drop in and stay for a little while or a long while, however you please, and do bring a friend or two. We’re also inviting everyone at the Council on Aging and Carleton-Willard, many of whom turned out when Bob Slechta and Don Corey stopped by to give a talk about Bedford history. Now, that’s our kind of folks.

Sunday, December 16, 4-7 p.m.
New England Nurseries, 216 Concord Rd., Bedford
Please bring your friends!

Annual Giving drive begins

In this season of giving we turn to our friends and neighbors to ask for financial support. You should already have received a letter from us to ask for your donation to help us continue our work.

There’s so much that we do for Bedford. We maintain the largest existing collection of Bedford memorabilia; put on an annual lecture series; give tours of Bedford for adults and children; answer research requests from people all over; and more. In short, we gather and share the stories of Bedford and its people. We’ll keep those memories alive for all time so that future generations will always know what a special place Bedford was and continues to be. People like you make it possible. We couldn’t do it without your help. Please give what you can. Thank you!

Please visit our web site: www.bedfordmahistory.org
Temporary address for Mimi Adler

Longtime Society member Miriam Frost Adler, known to us all as Mimi, recently let us know that she’ll be staying for a few more months at the following address:

Sunrise of Burlington #224
24 Burlington Mall Road
Burlington MA 01803
978-764-2248

Santa visits a gathering of the Bedford Garden Club to reward them for all the work they do to beautify Bedford

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 1

After the first of the year we’ll be open for an additional half day each week:

Wednesday, 9 to 1

Other times by appointment.

It’s best to phone ahead before you stop by. (We do step out for errands now and then.) Please call 781-275-1212 x 140. Our phone is answered by our “roommates,” the Bedford police; just ask for our extension. Please don’t hesitate to call.
Bedford, 1932

Rural, Republican, and struggling with the Depression – that was the Bedford of 75 years ago, as illustrated by the annual Town Report.

The population was then about 2600, with 449 pupils in the schools. There were 23 marriages, 29 births, and 47 deaths, 10 of which were at the U.S. Veterans’ Hospital.

Town officers included three Selectmen – Francis J. Kelley, Stillman G. Whittaker, and Herbert L. Clark. The only regular police officer, Chief Frederick H. Sullivan, was aided at times by 19 Special Police. There were still an Inspector of Animals, a Field Driver, a Pound Keeper, a Milk Inspector, and an Inspector of Slaughtering.

In the State Primary on September 20, 484 ballots were cast, 437 for Republicans and 47 for Democrats. Democrats fared better in the State Election but Republicans still swept every office. Candidates for each state office also included members of Socialist Labor, the Communist Party, and the Socialist Party, but these received few or no votes in Bedford.

The Depression was not directly mentioned but one section of the Town Report is particularly telling. For a number of years the Town Report customarily included a section on uncollected property and excise taxes, with the names of delinquents and amounts owed. In a typical year there might be a half dozen names. In 1932 the list ran to more than 10 pages. The names of many of the most respected citizens and businesses appeared next to sometimes sizable, sometimes small amounts owed.

Another indicator of the economic climate is the report on building permits issued for the year. Among the total of 59 were just 7 dwellings, but there were permits for 11 henhouses and sheds, 2 barns, 3 roadside stands, and 1 “choppers’ shanty” on Davis Road. Perhaps a number of townspeople hoped to supplement their incomes by raising some chickens or vegetables at home.

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: $ __________

Total enclosed: $ __________________

Bedford Historical Society, Inc.
2 Mudge Way, Bedford MA 01730
781-275-1212, extension 140
bedford-history@usa.net
Are your dues up to date? Please check the mailing label for your membership status

Young cherubs, Wise Men, the Holy Family and assorted citizens of Bethlehem take part in Christmas pageants in Mrs. Yost’s kindergarten classes in the Civic Club building on Loomis Street