The Seasons First Lecture
Wednesday, September 19, at 7:30
Congregational Church, 25 Great Road
This lecture will feature two distinct topics.
Six Bedford High School students competed in the National History Day competition last June at the University of Maryland. Five of the students: Laurel Barken, Sevan Dulgarian, Alisa Grananda, Amanda Luniewicz, and Lori Merlo presented their topic, “The Salt Satyagraha: Reforming the Violent Reaction to Peaceful Revolution” about Mohatma Gandhi’s philosophy of nonviolence and passion for independence. In addition, a second History Day competitor, Leah Hamilton, will speak on her individual performance competing in the website category with a website that addresses the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Next will be Don Corey, who has been conducting significant research on the Civil War activities presents “A Sense of Duty: Bedford's Role in the Civil War.” His talk will be a poignant story of the staggering sacrifices made by many of Bedford's citizens in this war fought over the secession of 11 Confederate states.

Don Corey is a long-time Bedford resident and Society member. In recent years he has become one of the town's storytellers, recalling various tales of Bedford's history. He is one of the Society's annual participants in the School Department's Walk of Historic Bedford for 3rd graders and in Memorial Day observances at the Civil War monument in Shawsheen Cemetery. Serving for many years as the Society's Treasurer, he also has given talks at Carleton-Willard Village, Bright View assisted living facility, the Bedford Council on Aging, and for other observances (Veterans Day, Arbor Day, etc.) on a range of topics from Bedford's rich historic past.

Don currently serves on Bedford's Historic Preservation Commission and Community Preservation Committee and is a Director of the Historical Society and Friends of the Job Lane House. He was previously a Selectman and Planning Board member.

Please join - it’s free!

Bedford Day
The Town of Bedford will be celebrating its 283rd birthday on Saturday, September 15. Highlights of the morning parade will be the Citizen of the Year riding in the parade, followed by the Historical Society’s Bedford Flag float. The enormous flag measures 10 feet by 10 feet.

The Historical Society will also have its booth set up containing flags, books, sweatshirts, T-shirts, maps and other memorabilia for sale. The usual museum displays in the Police Station meeting room will not be set up, due to Police Academy training being conducted there on that day. Instead, the Society plans to have a variety of interesting displays of historic artifacts at its booth - weather permitting!

The Bedford Flag - an Update
In October, 1998, a Bedford Police car halted in front of the Bedford Library. That day Officer Jeff Wardwell had an unusual task before him. Because a long-needed addition would soon begin, the library faced closure and months of construction. Removing the Bedford Flag from its storage vault in the Library's basement was necessary, thus presenting a perfect opportunity to conserve and simultaneously safeguard the town's iconic artifact at the American Textile History Museum in Lowell.

Tucked into the back seat, the flag arrives safely in Lowell

Bedford in the Civil War
The nation is observing the 150th anniversary of its 1861-1865 Civil War in many ways, including Ken Burns' and other television documentaries, ceremonies at military cemeteries, new books and articles recounting that era, and other means. While people tend to associate Bedford and its neighboring towns with the Revolutionary War, Bedford was in fact very heavily involved the Civil War. It lost as many lives in that war as in all wars before and since.

Before the outbreak of the Civil War, Bedford had enjoyed considerable prosperity. Its population had grown to almost 1,000, what we now call Old Bedford Center grew up. Shawsheen Cemetery was dedicated in 1849, and Old Town Hall was built in 1857. After the shelling of Fort Sumter by Confederate forces in April 1861 that started the war, within a month many young men volunteered enthusiastically and enlisted for three years.
The Bedford Flag - an Update: continued

The flag was sandwiched between two sheets of glass held within a wooden frame. When the frame was removed, Deirdre feared that areas of the painted illustrations on both sides of the flag might stick to the glass. Fortunately, this did not happen and the flag was safely removed. She, however, discovered mildew on the glass and frame. Then a microscope revealed dead insects and an egg casing on the silk damask ground. Micro-samples of paint and ground were sent to conservation scientists who viewed them under diverse high-powered microscopes. One of the most interesting developments, helpful in dating the flag’s age, was detecting a particle of Prussian Blue, a pigment that was discovered in Germany about 1704/10. This scientific evidence supports my view—derived from research at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London—that the Bedford Flag could not have been made before 1700 - 1710.

When analyzing the flag, Irene Good, a textile consultant from the Center for the Study of Ancient Textiles who worked on the project, observed that “a small fragment of a plied silk and metallic thread attached the inside edge of the pole sleeve….” She further explains, “Of interest then is that what held the fringe in place was an identical thread to what was used to hold the original pole sleeve together.” This was a significant revelation as it indicated that silver fringe had been sewn on all four sides of the flag when it was originally manufactured.

Conserving the Bedford Flag was a meticulous, lengthy, multifaceted process. Following visual and microscopic examination, the flag was cleaned with low-suction micro attachments and an aspirator. The next step was to remove the early attempts to repair the flag as they were “poorly executed, visually disruptive and distorting to the ground fabric.” Detaching the silk patches and strips adhered to the flag’s surface with gum adhesive freed the fabric to be humidified with an ultrasonic mist and then flattened. During the three-years that the flag remained at the museum, many additional tasks were undertaken in order to preserve it. To document the various phases of its treatment, Jan van Steenwijk, then President of the Friends of the Bedford Flag, photographed these conservation efforts on a regular basis.

Prepared for display and storage by the conservators, the mounted flag was packed by art handlers and trucked—with its requisite Bedford Police escort—back to Bedford in October, 2001. Awaiting it was a state-of-the art-dedicated room and display/storage case designed by William Twombly whose work was informed by encasements manufactured for the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. The library was well equipped to protect the flag from high temperature, high and/or fluctuating levels of relative humidity and to provide appropriate light levels for viewing and darkness for storage. You can now see the conserved Bedford Flag ensconced in its home at the Bedford Library along with a pictorial exhibition with accompanying text that describes its journey to archival stability and safe stewardship.

Barbara Hitchcock, author of “The Bedford Flag: a national treasure”

Deirdre Windsor working on preserving the famous Bedford Flag
Bedford, 1840: An Imagined Interview with Mary Ann Abbott
by Sharon McDonald

“I woke at dawn. Even if I hadn't had chores, the baby would have waked me. Little Benjamin Franklin Abbott is almost three years old, but fussy because of his cough. I'm getting very little sleep these days – my husband, Oliver, has a cough, too. I just pray it is not consumption. Oliver's first wife died of that horrid disease just a month after their wedding...

But I haven't introduced myself. I am Mary Ann Abbott, married these fourteen years to Oliver Reed Abbott and mother to our five children. My husband is an important man in Bedford: he recently served as selectman, and it is rumored that soon he will be elected Representative to the Great and General Court. I also come from a family of stature: it was my great uncle, Colonel John Buttrick, who commanded the provincials in Concord on April 19, 1775.

We live on a farm in the northern part of Bedford. The original part of our house was built by Job Lane, one of Bedford's founders, over a hundred years ago, but when the house became ours, Oliver enlarged it to twice its size. Now it has a larger kitchen, a second bedroom, and there's a fine parlor with murals painted on the walls by a local artist named Rufus Porter, but I haven't much time for sitting.

Today is baking day. I've lit the fire inside the oven already; it takes several hours to heat the bricks hot enough to bake the bread that is rising here on the table. When the interior is 'hot enough (as they say) to singe the hair on the baker's arm,' I will rake out the coals and push in the loaves. A pot of beans and molasses will go in, too. I'll make enough bread to last the week – even with my daughter helping, it is a big job and I don't have time to do it more often.

Bedford has become a busy place since I moved here as a young girl. Cattle, pigs, and carts full of produce pass through on their way from New Hampshire to the Boston markets. All along the main street, shoemakers have set up workshops beside their homes that often employ several workers. (They boast that Bedford women's and children's shoes are the finest in New England, due in part to a machine that our clever townsman, Jonathan Bacon, designed.) A number of young women are employed making bandboxes, and there is a factory that produces iron sash fasteners (another invention of our Mr. Bacon). There's also a new paper mill replacing Wilson's corn mill on the Vine Brook that employs a large number of men. Many Irish immigrants are coming to Bedford to find work. If only the railroad were laid out to run through Bedford, we would grow into a prosperous town instead of a bustling village... But Bedford is a special place, for all that.

Well, you must excuse me. The oven is ready and the baby is crying and soon my husband will want his dinner. I hope to talk to you again sometime – goodbye!”

Mary Ann Abbott lived at the “Job Lane House” from 1827 to 1842, when both her husband and her son died of consumption. Later in the decade, the invention of a machine that stitched shoes put the Bedford cordwainers out of business, and in 1846, the paper mill burned. The railroad did eventually come to Bedford, but it was more than a hundred years before Bedford could be called a “prosperous town.” But it is ever and always a very special place.

(Sharon McDonald is a Children Librarian and involved with the Job Lane House Museum)

Bedford’s William F. Gragg... A Historic Navy Career
By Carl E. Hanson

Overview

William Francis Gragg (1810 – 1864) lived in Bedford, Massachusetts, along with his wife Maria (Cloutman) and family. Where the family lived in Bedford is the subject of continuing research. Many families with the name of Gragg appear in Bedford's history, including farmers, shoemakers, harness makers, soldiers, sailors and merchant ship captains, but the history of William F. Gragg is worth further note.

We do not know where Gragg was born and reared, but records show that his father was Stephen Gragg, from Exeter, NH, and his mother was Maria Munion Gragg, from Bridgewater, MA. He married Maria Cloutman on 28 March 1830 in First Church, Boston. They had four children, George William (b. 1832), William F., Jr. (b. 1834), Mary M. (b.1841), and Maria E. (b.1851).

The first official mention of the William F. Gragg family in Bedford appears in the Bedford Census of 1855.
By war's end virtually every Bedford household must have been directly involved. With repeated calls for more troops for the Union army, Bedford was credited with 90 men who served in the army and 6 who served in the navy – virtually all of Bedford's young men plus others who enlisted here and were credited to Bedford. Officers and doctors were in addition to the above totals, and some current and many former residents enlisted elsewhere. Individuals like Martha Sage were simply not counted; she left her infant child with its grandmother to go to Washington, where her husband Samuel was gravely ill in a hospital, and then spent months there as a volunteer nurse tending the sick and wounded. The actual number credited to or with Bedford roots was well over 100.

Bedford men served in a number of different units, but many of the units were part of the Union's Army of the Potomac so were in the same battles. For one example, the Second Battle of Bull Run, VA, took place in August 1862, almost exactly 150 years ago. At least a dozen Bedford men fought in that battle, and the following men died or were wounded in that single day:

- Ovando Cone - NY 101st Infantry Regiment - killed (age 36), leaving a widow in Bedford
- William Edwards - 12th MA Infantry Regiment - wounded (age 19)
- Charles Goodwin - 16th MA Infantry Regiment - killed (age 20)
- Joseph Peirce - 1st MA Regiment - wounded (age 19)
- John A. Peirce - 12th MA Infantry Regiment - wounded (age 21)

Bedford's Civil War monument in Shawsheen Cemetery lists the names of 16 men who served and died in that war. Many more suffered wounds. Bedford lost almost 20% of its population by war's end - down to 820 - and didn't recover until the end of the century. Few homes were built here for a decade, until the railroad finally arrived here in the 1870s. The entire country was exhausted by that war, and an entire generation of young men suffered terrible losses.

This year the Bedford Historical Society intends to remind residents of the contributions of Bedford people in that war in several ways, including:

- This issue of The Preservationist includes an article about William F. Gragg, who served in the Navy and whose name is inscribed on the Civil War monument. Other articles are planned in the future.
- At the Society's general meeting on September 26, 2012, the program will include Don Corey talking about Bedford's participation in the Civil War, as noted in the programs elsewhere in this issue.
- The exhibits in the display case in the High School lobby are being changed this fall to highlight Civil War artifacts from the Historical Society's collections, including Albert Sampson’s sword (see photo).

Don Corey, Director of the Bedford Historical Society

### Carleton-Willard Village 30th Anniversary

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the merger of Llewesac Lodge (officially Frances E. Willard Homes) in Bedford with the Elizabeth Carleton House of Boston. These early non-profit organizations, Elizabeth Carleton House and Llewesac Lodge, provided a variety of housing, nursing and social services to the elderly for nearly 100 years. Caroline Caswell had been an admirer of Frances E. Willard, an early advocate of women's suffrage, temperance and social services for the needy. Llewesac (Caswell spelled backwards) Lodge was started by Ms. Caswell to provide a rest home for middle-aged working women who were exhausted from overwork, convalescing from illness, or out of work and that needed a helping hand.

Over the years it evolved into a retirement home for women. The successor Carleton-Willard Village in 1988 became the first accredited continuing care community in Massachusetts, providing apartments, townhouses, assisted living units, and levels I through IV nursing and custodial care.

The town's history is full of stories of interesting people that had lived in the Village's neighborhood on Old Billerica Road and of events that occurred there. On Thursday morning, September 13, 2002, the Historical Society's Don Corey will be at Carleton-Willard Village to relate a few of those neighborhood stories, from early Colonial times through earlier social ventures to the Village's opening in 1982.
Robert Biggio’s Gun Collection is donated to the Society

Many of you will remember Robert Biggio. He was a charter member of the Bedford Minuteman Company, which was reactivated when our country's Bicentennial was approaching, and he was Captain of the Company several years. He was also responsible in 1979 for coordinating Bedford's extensive 250th anniversary celebrations.

His widow, Mary Biggio, recently contacted the Historical Society in order to donate his gun collection and various Minuteman Company memorabilia to the Society. The Society is extremely pleased to add Robert Biggio's collection to its holdings. Included are Mr. Biggio's musket, sword, pistol, powder horn and canteen that were carried in Bedford Minuteman Company parades and reenactments. A World War II Japanese rifle with bayonet is also in the collection; Mr. Biggio served on a US Navy communications ship that was stationed in Japan immediately following the war's end, and he obtained the rifle in exchange for clothing and/or food for which the former Japanese soldier had a much greater need. The collection also includes a 19th century percussion cap musket and other items.

We anticipate creating a display in the relatively near future highlighting Robert Biggio's collection and a number of related Bedford Minuteman Company artifacts. The Society has an extensive Minuteman Company collection that has grown in recent years, and we anticipate that the display will be of interest to many Bedford residents.

Human Relations Council of Bedford

The Human Relations Council of Bedford (HRCB) evolved out of two groups that formed in 1963 to address fair housing and civil rights issues in Bedford. At that time only 12 non-white families lived here. Over the years the group's members worked to address a number of social issues in Bedford, a few of which included:

- Fair housing
- Prejudice in public schools
- Racism and discrimination against Black Americans
- Hate crimes and hate incidents.
- Diversity in business and politics.

HRCB was very active in supporting METCO, which was approved by the town in 1974 and began operating here in 1975. It also supported minority recruiting in local schools, with some members sitting on recruiting/hiring committees. It worked with and supported the work of the Concerned Black Citizens of Bedford and the Bedford Jewish Committee and co-sponsored meetings in order to raise public awareness on these issues.

Former presidents of the organization include: Milton Hopkins, LeRoy Wingood, Harold Russell, Nancy Moore, Theresa Theobald, Lois Pulliam, Carol Root, and Millie Seaborn. After other town-sponsored and private organizations became deeply involved in these social issues, HRCB suspended its active operations several years ago. It continued to be represented in the No Place for Hate campaign, and its former members stand ready to revive/reactivate the Council should the need ever arise.

*The Historical Society is extremely pleased that the Council, through Lois and Brown Pulliam, has donated its records to the Society, preserving the legacy of this important civic organization for future generations.*
All members of the family are listed, and his occupation was “laborer.” However, by 1857 William F. had joined the U.S. Navy. He served on the US steam frigate Mississippi during its second cruise to Japan and China between 1857 and 1860. After returning from that voyage, he was back in Bedford as a “porter” according to the census of 1860. He then re-enlisted in the U.S. Navy in June of 1862, serving on multiple ships during the Civil War. His service ended when he was mustered out upon his death from typhoid fever on December 24, 1864. Gragg is buried in Shawsheen Cemetery along with his wife, three of his children and other members of the family.

**Military Service**

William F. Gragg had two stints in the U.S. Navy. The first was on the U.S.S. Mississippi for its voyage to China and Japan between 1857 and 1860. The second was during the Civil War on board three ships involved in supplying the Union troops, conveying wounded soldiers to hospitals, and transporting prisoners as part of the blockade of the coast of the Confederate states.

**The Cruise to China and Japan, 1857 to 1860**

Gragg served as a Surgeon’s Steward on the historic cruise of the U.S. steam frigate Mississippi to China and Japan from July 1857 to February 1860. During this eventful voyage, Gragg maintained a log with important eyewitness documentation of life on a US Navy war ship. His account was published in 1860.

An original copy of the book is in the Harvard College library, a gift of Richard Henry Dana, who is well known as author of the book Two Years Before the Mast. Gragg's book was scanned as part of Google's Book Search and is available on-line as well as in both hard cover and paperback versions from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Gragg's log was very well written and provides a good read for those interested in mid-eighteenth century history. He covers a wide range of topics associated with life on a Navy cruise including lists of officers, complement of sailors, inventories of stores and coal, events such as court martial trials for petty and criminal offenses, gun salutes (what kind and how many) for dignitaries, and shipboard drills to ready the crew for military action if needed. In addition to the drills, other distractions were conducted to counter boredom on long periods of inaction. A theater group was formed and plays were put on for the crew as well as for visiting dignitaries. During holidays, all hands were called to “splice the main brace,” which was to take a tot of whiskey at government expense! He documented the dates of arrival at each port visited by the ship along with the average daily distance covered, thereby providing a measure of speed attained by the Mississippi.

Perhaps the highlight of Gragg's book is his description of such historic events as the English and French assaults on Chinese forts during the Second Opium War, the installation of the first U.S. Minister to Japan, and his personal experience of being among the first Americans allowed to overnight in the Jeddoo (Tokyo) imperial district. His descriptions of the ports of call throughout the cruise and of the associated military and government protocols during the ship's visits provide a colorful account of the period. Among the ports he described in detail were Madeira, St. Helena, Capetown, Singapore, Hong Kong, Macao, Manila, Peiho, Shanghai, Shimoda, Hakodate, Nagasaki, Ningbo, Canton, Tokyo, Penang, Barbados, and St. Thomas, before the ship finally arrived back home in Boston in February 1860.

**Civil War Service, 1862 to 1864**

After his cruise and the publication of his log, Gragg returned for a time to his home in Bedford. In June 1862, he re-enlisted and continued his military career during the Civil War as Surgeon's Steward on the Housatonic, Canandaigua, and Circassian, all ships that were involved in the blockade of the Southern US shoreline. His service on the USS Housatonic must have been interesting; it was torpedoed and sunk by a submarine of the Confederate Navy, the first successful sinking of a war ship by a submarine. The Circassian was in the US Navy's West Gulf Blocking Squadron, supporting the Union cause by supplying the troops, bringing wounded soldiers to hospitals in New York and Boston, and moving Confederate prisoners to secure locations. U.S. Navy records document the movements of the ship from Boston to New York to Virginia and all the way to the coast of Texas. The record shows that the Circassian arrived at the Boston Navy Yard needing repairs on 14 December 1864. Boston was his last port of call.

Gragg died soon afterwards on 24 December at home in Bedford of typhoid fever, a disease he presumably contracted during his service.

**Family Follow-up**

Gragg's widow, Maria, applied for state aid from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a result of his death during service. It took until March 1889 for the General Court of Massachusetts to approve her petition. Their sons also served in the military. George served in Company K, 6th Massachusetts, United States Volunteers for the nine month campaign in 1862-1863 and after being discharged, re-enlisted in the US Navy to serve on the same ship (USS Circassian) as his father in the same role as Surgeon's Steward. William F., Jr. served on several US Navy ships in the North Atlantic Squadron, ending up in command of the USS Delta in Virginia. Daughter Mary M. married Henry W. Davis, a farmer in Grafton, MA in 1867. The youngest daughter Maria married George Lucas. They and their two children are also buried in Shawsheen Cemetery.

Carl is a retired acoustical engineer who has lived in Bedford with his wife Signe since 1967. After moving to their home on Springs Rd. in 1973, they became interested in the history of the antique house and property. Researching the deeds, they found the names of first home owners, William and Mary Gragg. Carl's research provided the background for the story in this issue.
Exciting Programs Planned for Historical Society’s 2012-2013 Season

Wed., Oct 24, 2012, 7:30 pm
The October lecture – to be held in the Bedford Library Meeting Room -- will begin a two-part series honoring Bedford's veterans of World War II. “Oral Histories from World War II Veterans” will be presented by the Society's President; Jan van Steenwijk who was asked to put the oral histories into video form after a group of Carlton-Willard Village veterans decided they wanted to get their stories recorded for posterity.

BHS President van Steenwijk, always mindful of the historical aspects of such stories, donated his time to tape the veterans – some individually, and some in groups – and edit each documentary as well. “The stories they tell are so important for future audiences,” van Steenwijk said. “We can all learn from these brave and dedicated people; history must not be forgotten.”

Because not all of the oral histories can be presented, van Steenwijk will select one or two that can fit into the lecture series time frame. “It is going to be difficult to choose only a few of the videos,” he said, “because they all are so interesting.” Many of the stories reminded van Steenwijk of his own family's war stories, which made him enjoy the project that much more. It is hoped that some of the veterans, or their spouses, will be on hand to answer questions.

Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012, 2 pm
The last of the two-part series on World War II veterans will be presented on Sunday, Nov. 11th – Veterans Day. Starting at 2 pm with a social period in the Fellowship Hall of the First Church of Christ, Congregational, the presentation will include more video oral history presented by Society President Jan van Steenwijk on his taping of veterans living at Carlton-Willard Village, as well as portions of a film about World War II cemeteries provided by Society Board Member Don Jenkins. “Hallowed Grounds” is a 2009 PBS documentary directed by Robert Uth and narrated by Peter Thomas.

Veterans organizations from Bedford and surrounding towns are invited to attend and participate in this moving program.

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2012, 3 pm
The Society's annual Holiday Party will be held from 3-6 pm on Sunday, Dec. 15 at the home of Society Board Member Carol Amick and her husband, Society member and Selectman Bill Moonan, 18 Crescent Ave. This event is open to Society members and their guests, and has in previous years drawn large crowds, who enjoy the sociability of the event as well as various entertaining contests (like guessing the use for the hundreds of antique tools in Bill Moonan's collection!)

Want to attend but not a Society member? It's easy to join the Society and get more involved in Bedford's fascinating history! See the membership information elsewhere in this Preservationist!

Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013, 2 pm
On Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013, the Fellowship Hall of the First Church of Christ, Congregational, will once again be the site for a lecture timed with the recognition of Presidents Day. History teacher and historical lecturer Christopher Daley will present “Lincoln’s Assassination.”

Beginning with the backdrop of the Civil War, it examines the plot to kidnap Lincoln and explains how that plot developed into a plan to assassinate our 16th President. Utilizing photographs of the period and modern photographs, the assassination is recounted in stunning detail. The escape and capture of Booth is fully documented. Photographs and video footage of where he hid and was killed are included. The lecture concludes with a vivid description of the trial and execution of the conspirators to the assassination: Mary Surratt, Lewis Powell, David Herold and George Atzerodt.

Wed., March 27, 2013, 7:30 pm
Society Board Member and Past President Robert Slechta will present “Joshua Page: Builder of Bedford's Center,” at the First Church of Christ, Congregational Fellowship Hall.

Slechta, whose passion for history has led him to volunteer in numerous capacities in Bedford, will describe the talents of the early 1800s builder, Joshua Page. Among the buildings still standing that Page constructed is the Lewis P. Gleason homestead at 27 The Great Road – better known today as the Parsonage for the First Church of Christ, Congregational. The parsonage was originally a duplex, and Page was thought to have introduced the two-family-home concept to Bedford in the early 1800s. A number of his two-family homes still stand in the Town Center area.

Besides researching local historical topics, Slechta has performed countless volunteer services on behalf of uncovering Bedford history and town government – which led to his selection, in 2010, as Bedford's Citizen of the Year. A couple examples of his work include: He provided the leadership necessary for the Two Brothers Rocks historic site to be named to the National Register of Historic Places. Fascinated by the Town's Old Burying Ground, he led a group of residents in a survey and mapping of the cemetery and verified the Revolutionary War services of those buried there – leading to a bronze plaque erected in their honor.

Wed., April 24, 2013, 7:30 pm
The April program will feature a special guest: Henry David Thoreau (portrayed by Concordian Richard Smith). This program will be in the Meeting Room of the Bedford Public Library.

Richard Smith is an historical interpreter who has portrayed Thoreau for more than a decade. For almost 15 years he has studied the life of Henry Thoreau, and since moving to Concord in 1999, has successfully performed as Thoreau throughout New England and around the country.

Wed., May 22, 2013, 6:30 pm
The final program of the Society's 2012-2013 season will be the Annual Meeting. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm with appetizers and refreshments in the First Church of Christ, Congregational. Painter and illustrator Joe McKendry will present, “Beneath the Streets of Boston: Building America's First Subway.”

McKendry graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design. In 2005 he authored a book with the same title as his lecture, which analyzes the traffic problems that plagued Boston’s maze of streets during the late 1800s and prompted the development of an alternative form of public transportation.

NOTE: All program contents will be described in detail in following issues of the “Preservationist.” Stay tuned!
The Preservationist
Bedford Historical Society, Inc.
2 Mudge Way
bedford, MA 01730-1238

“We Don’t Make History... We keep It Alive..!”

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

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Brown Pulliam, Vice President
Phyllis Cooke, Secretary
Pat Leiby, Treasurer

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Marion Bryan (’14)
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Robert Slechta (’14)
Don Corey (’15)
Atty. Paul Dick (’15)

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Frank O’Hara - Treasurer
Donald Jenkins
Neil Leary
Don Corey
Jan van Steenwijk - Pres.

**Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2012:** First Church of Christ, Congregational Fellowship Hall, 7:30 pm
Guest speakers:
* Bedford’s History Day Students
* Don Corey: “A Sense of Duty: Bedford’s Role in the Civil War”

**Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012:** Library Meeting Room, 7:15 pm
* Jan van Steenwijk: “Oral Histories of World War II Veterans” (part one)

**Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012:** First Church of Christ, Congregational Fellowship Hall, 2 pm
* Jan van Steenwijk: “Oral Histories of World War II Veterans” (part two)
* Clips from “Hallowed Grounds,” a PBS documentary on WW II cemeteries

**Sunday, Dec. 15, 2012:** 18 Crescent Avenue, Bedford, 3-6 pm
Holiday Party (Members only); (Society members bring appetizers to share)

**Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013:** First Church of Christ, Congregational Fellowship Hall, 2 pm
* Christopher Daley: “Lincoln’s Assassination”

**Wednesday, March 27, 2013:** First Church of Christ, Congregational Fellowship Hall, 7:30 pm

**Wednesday, April 24, 2013:** Library Meeting Room, 7:15 pm
* Richard Smith: “An Evening with Henry David Thoreau”

**Wednesday, May 22, 2013:** First Church of Christ, Congregational Fellowship Hall, 6:30 pm
Pot Luck Dinner, Annual Meeting, and Guest Speaker Joe McKenry: “Beneath the Streets of Boston: Building America’s First Subway”

**Membership Application**

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**Please send check to:**
Bedford Historical Society, Inc. - 2 Mudge Way - Bedford, MA 01730-2138