The Bedford Flag, the oldest existing flag in the United States. On view at the Bedford Library.

The Preservationist

Bedford Historical Society, Inc. - Bedford - Massachusetts

Founded in 1893

September 2014 *Published for anyone interested in our history* Volume 124, Number 1

Exciting Start of Our Program Series

Wednesday, September 24th

Congregational Church, 25 Great Road - **at 7:15**

"Renovation of the Bedford Passenger Depot"

The Historical Society's exciting 2014-15 season begins on Wednesday evening, Sept. 24th with a half-hour social period starting at 7:15 in Upper Fellowship Hall of the Congregational Church, during which Society members and guests may enjoy refreshments and conversation. After a brief business meeting at 7:45 pm, the lecture will begin around 8 pm.

Lynne Spencer, Principal, and Patrick Guthrie, Senior Associate, of the Spencer & Vogt Group, the preservation consultants retained by the Town of Bedford for renovation of the Bedford Passenger Depot, will provide a fascinating program describing the work being done on the current phase of the Depot renovation. The Spencer & Vogt architectural and planning team has had a long relationship with Bedford that began with the renovations of Old Town Hall and has included Town Center, the Job Lane House and multiple other projects.

August 21,2014

The Passenger Depot, located in the Bedford Depot National Register Historic District off South Road and Loomis Streets, was built in 1873 when the Middlesex Central Railroad extended service from Lexington through Bedford to Concord. It is now one of only two surviving passenger stations from that railroad line. Originally it was located on the north side of the railroad right-of-way -- west of South Road, but in the 1880s was moved to its present location at the former rail junction.

After the railroad sold the Depot in the 1960s, it was altered so as to be almost unrecognizable. Bedford has worked to improve the area surrounding the Depot Park Historic District ever since it became the

continued on pg 6

Welcome to a Bedford Historical Society's new season

As the summer season fades away, it's time to focus once again on ways that the Historical Society can best serve the Bedford community. Our immediate Past President, Jan van Steenwijk, did a great deal to promote this community outreach effort. I hope to expand and build on those outreach projects. Elsewhere in this newsletter are articles that touch on a few of those projects. The following provides an update on several of the Society's initiatives.

- Over the summer the Society has acquired many more personal papers and other interesting family documents from descendants of the Lane, Page, Clark, Loomis and Dutton families, as well as assorted family papers that the Library deaccessioned as it moves to the digital age;

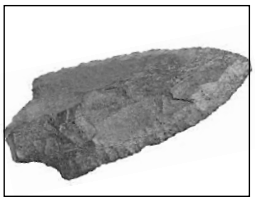
- The Society has become proactive in acquiring objects and documents, offered online through EBay and other sites, that are relevant to Bedford's history and/or that expand its holdings of various collections such as the town's historic shoe and dairy industries;

- The Town of Bedford has appointed an ad hoc Museum Study Committee to advise on how best to preserve and display its historic and cultural resources. The Society's museum had to be closed in the 1990s to accommodate the Police Department's move into the Stearns Memorial Building, and many of the artifacts have since been in storage. While the Historical Society has the most extensive collections of family, commercial, civic organization and other private objects, the Town also owns many interesting and valuable official public documents and other objects worthy of display. A recent Boston Globe article touched on the problems of many house museums. It is important to differentiate between those single-focus museums and Bedford's proposed museum that would span from prehistoric cultures which existed here following the last Ice Age to our current high tech world and would include a few permanent and many special exhibits that would be changed periodically. The displays would cover various themes of local interest, such as Bedford's casino and wild animal farm a century ago, the town's early involvement in social issues including women's suffrage, temperance, care of brain-injured veterans, and many others;

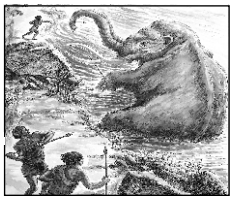
- In addition to a museum to physically display important historic and cultural resources, the Society has embarked on creating its own virtual museum. Many of the Lane family papers were scanned, transcribed, and provided with interpretive information several years ago and can be accessed on the Society's website home page. Currently the Society is testing a website where many of its photographic images will be displayed and can be viewed by individuals anywhere in the world. That test site can also be accessed by a link on the Society's website home page. We intend to expand on these initial efforts to provide increased access to the collections.

Don Corey, president

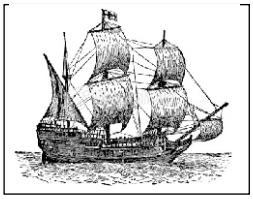
A Brief Bedford Timeline



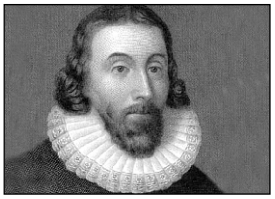
12,000-10,000 BC. Paleo Indians in Bedford



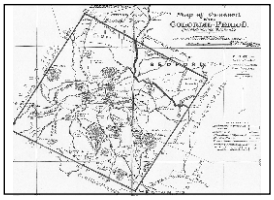
10,000 BC-1600 AD. Stone tools found in Bedford



1620 Pilgrims arrive in Plymouth



1630 John Winthrop & Thomas Dudley est. Mass Bay Colony



1635 Town of Concord formed, incl. south Bedford

Educational Outreach

Over the past few years, the Society has fielded an increasing number of requests from local schools to provide artifacts, materials and programs designed to enrich history education for Bedford's students.

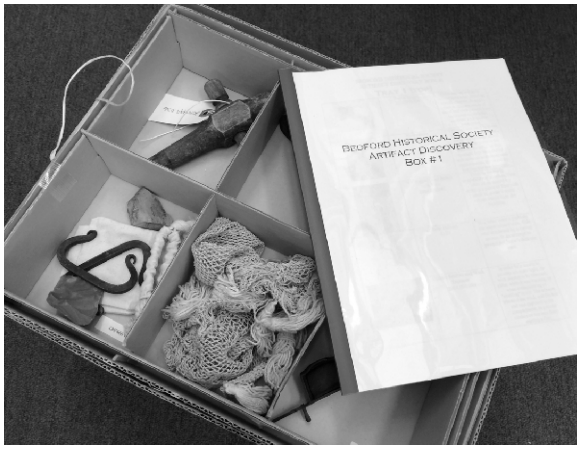
The Bedford Cub Scouts have become regular annual visitors. Bedford's Cubs, in order to earn a badge in their progress to full-fledged Boy Scouts, meet with our volunteers to explore what life was like during Bedford's past.

A Montessori teacher from Bedford Children's Center reached out to us this summer, asking for some artifacts and lessons to help introduce Bedford History to their young students, who are excitedly looking forward to Bedford Day. Along with a brief slideshow of photos, students will be able to play with reproductions of vintage toys, color maps of Bedford, and touch a display of Native American stone tools and other items from Bedford's past.

The winners of the 2013 National History Day

Each year the Society recognizes our National History Day award winners; they are invited to our meetings to present their projects and receive an award to recognize their achievements. The Society has also provided materials to several teachers at the high school to supplement their curriculum. This has included materials related to Bedford's architecture, as well as reports and documents used to teach a unit on the scope and impact of W.P.A. projects during the Great Depression.

For several years now, the Lane School has reached out to the Society to ask for supplemental materials for their history students. In 2012, a group of students visited the archives to research the history of Bedford Springs and Fawn Lake. They reviewed documents associated with that resort, the New York Pharmaceuticals Co, and the Narrow Gauge Railroad, and produced an informational website, complete with timeline, available at http://historical.wordpress.bedford.k12.ma.us/bedford-springs-timeline/ . Also, each September, 5th and 3rd grade teachers have reached out to the Society, asking for artifacts and information to supplement their curriculum. This summer, the Society has put together two separate lesson boxes, with a combination of existing artifacts and newer acquisitions. One box contains mystery items not commonly found in households today. Students will examine each item and make guesses about their purpose, leading to a discussion of the items' real uses, and what this revealed about life in the past. The second box contains a variety of artifacts chosen to help students understand how daily life has changed in Bedford over the years.



Discovery box with mystery artifacts

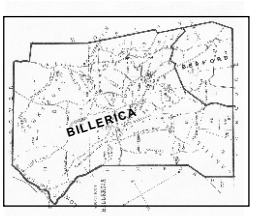
Of course, one of the most anticipated and enjoyed events is the annual "Walk of Bedford," where our local third graders tour historic sites in the Town Center each spring. The Society provides volunteers who lead tours of the Old Burying Ground, show students the Bedford Flag in the library and present a brief program that provides an overview of town history, including an opportunity to view some of our most popular photos and artifacts (hosted in various meeting spaces, due to our lack of a more permanent home).

The Society is delighted to have these opportunities to engage with our students, and we continue to encourage the community to contact us with any requests for educational materials, presentations and research.

Kara Kerwin

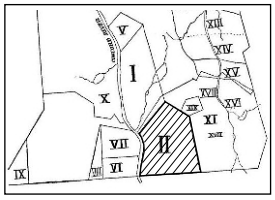
1638 Two Brothers Rocks, first Bedford Landmark

1642 Shawshin House Indian Trading post



1655 Town of Billerica formed incl. north Bedford

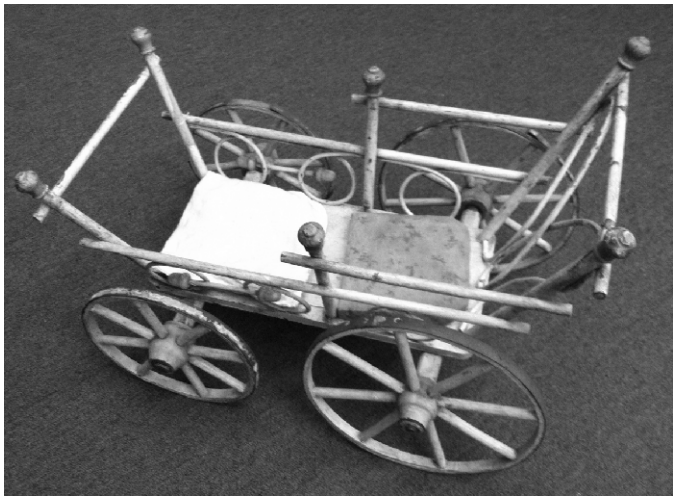
1663 Bacon Mill est. on Shawsheen River



1664 Job Lane purchased Winthrop land grant

Recent Acquisitions

Since January 2014, we have been monitoring Ebay, local yard & estate sales, as well as antique stores, to acquire items that either have a direct connection to Bedford or are representative of items that would have been used by our past residents. Many items were chosen for use in our educational programs and will be shared with local school children to provide a more tangible way to explore the town's past. Although a small budget was established to fund these acquisitions, due the sale of several deaccessioned items (duplicates or items with no local connection) we are happy to report that our acquisition fund is actually larger than when we started, in spite of all this activity.



A wicker doll carriage.

Additional items were purchased to complement existing collections. Our dairy collection, already boasting an extensive array of local milk bottles and crates, now includes a metal Prescott Farms jug, authentic cowbell (very loud!) and a large Delaval cream separator (a generous donation, which necessitated the purchase of a few additional parts). We have also added several vintage Hanscom Air Show Programs, including one from 1946! An LP of a Sacred Concert performed by local musicians on April 7th, 1968 at the First Congregational Church was acquired earlier this spring; we have yet to hear it due to lack of a stereo with turntable. Our collections of antique clothing was expanded to include a collapsible top hat (pardon the pun). A yard sale yielded an original Boy Scout rucksack, used by a Bedford scout in the 1960's. *(see more photos on pg. 8)*

Many generous donations have, as always, been welcomed. Our President donated, among other things, an adorable wicker doll carriage, used by generations of girls in his family. The Bedford Girl Scouts, in celebration of their 100th anniversary, produced two movies to document the history of Girl Scouting in Bedford and donated copies of those DVDs to add to our Community Organizations collection. That collection was also enriched when the Bedford Arts and Crafts Society trusted the Society to preserve several decades of their organizational records. A descendent of the Bedford Hartwells gave us a Revolutionary War era bed frame, along with navy jumpers, which appear to be mid-20th century. Finally, the Lane and the Dutton/Nolin families (coincidentally both residents of our beloved Job Lane House) have recently offered treasured family photos, correspondence and artifacts to the Society for preservation. These items have been handed down through these old Bedford families and we are honored that they thought of us when it came time to pass them on.

Kara Kerwin

Membership Application

Name:_____
Address:_____

City/Town:_____Zip:_____
Phone:_____
Email:_____

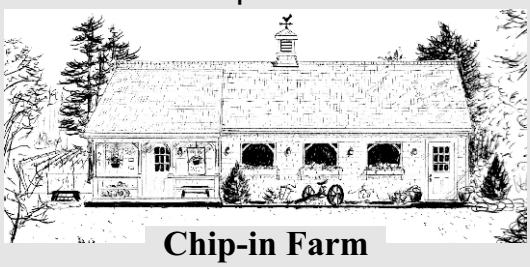
Dues

_ Student:	$ 15.00
_ Single:	$ 25.00
_ Couple or Family:	$ 45.00
_ Life - Single:	$250.00
_ Life - Couple:	$450.00
Supporting or Business:	
_Contributing:	$100.00
_ Patron:	$175.00
_ Benefactor:	$300.00

Amount enclosed: $_____

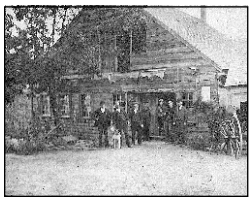
Please send check to:
Bedford Historical Society, Inc. - 2 Mudge Way - Bedford, MA 01730-2138

www.chipinfarm.com



Chip-in Farm
201 Hartwell Road, Bedford, MA - 781-275-2545
Celebrating 70 years of selling the freshest eggs in Bedford!

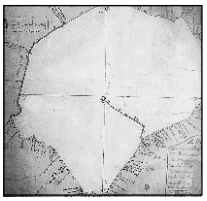
1671 Michael Bacon settles on Old Billerica Rd.



1676 Wilson Mill est. on Vine Brook

1704 Bedford Flag made in England

1713 Job Lane House built



1729 Bedford Incorporated

To be continued in our October issue

THE PICKMAN FAMILY IN BEDFORD

The Pickman family was one of Bedford's very prominent families from the late 19th Century until recent years. The original family immigrants came from England to Salem in 1639, and the Pickmans became a Salem merchant dynasty related to other prominent Salem families such as the Derbys, the Pickerings, Saltonstalls, Rogers and Crowninshields. Their business was extensive, and their vessels (brigs and clipper ships) made voyages to all quarters of the world. They were among the first to engage in trade with Zanzibar and Madagascar, but their principal business was with Sumatra, Java and the Philippine Islands.

Dudley Leavitt Pickman was born in 1851 in Salem, son of William Dudley Pickman and Caroline Silsbee. After graduation from Harvard in 1873, he became a lawyer and worked with his father at the Boston law firm of Silsbee, Pickman and Allen. In 1884 he married Ellen Rodman Motley, daughter of Edward Motley and Ellen Rodman. They settled in Boston at the Hotel Agassiz on Commonweath Ave. In the same year that they were married, the Pickmans acquired their first parcels of land in Bedford, which included 228 Dudley Rd. and the old Stearns mill site on Mill Brook at the Billerica line. Bedford became their second home, although they never became permanent residents here. In 1885, Dudley Leavitt Pickman Jr. was born, and Edward Motley Pickman was born in 1886.

The Pickman meadows ca.1884

In the 1889 Town Report we find the following announcement:

> "Engraving of the Brother's Rocks - The Winthrop and Dudley boulders, natural monuments that date back to Colonial times in Massachusetts and remind us of its eminent first governor, have been suitably marked through the public spirit of Mr. Dudley L. Pickman, the present owner of the spot where Winthrop and Dudley landed in 1638 and located their farms.
> ABRAM ENGLISH BROWN, Secretary GEORGE R. BLINN, President"

The family established that Dudley L. Pickman was in fact descended from Deputy Governor (later Governor) Thomas Dudley, on whose original grant they had settled.

By 1899, Dudley Pickman purchased a gravel pit from the Town, built and installed a stone crusher and began improving Dudley Road (then Huckins Street) as well as other roads through his woods. The road was only a small lane connecting 4 farms – the Chester Barnes farm (formerly Huckins), Berry Farm, Duane Carpenter's, and the Old Farm (1798 Abner Stearns House at 141 Dudley Road across the brook in Billerica). The son Edward and his wife Hester later made their home at the Old Farm and had 6 children -Anthony, Margaret (Daisy), Jane, David, Martha and Deborah.

Dudley Pickman helped the town with other roadwork. The 1906 Town Report contains the entry:

> "The special appropriation of one thousand dollars for the North Road was expended near the intersection of Dudley Road where there was urgent demand for thorough repairs. A good portion of the material for subgrade was given by Mr. Pickman and Mr. Hooper. While these gentlemen were not thereby impoverished, it made it possible to build more feet than otherwise could have been done."

Again in 1912 the Town Report showed that Dudley L. Pickman was paid $9.00 for stone to repair the North Highway and also was paid $317.00 for stone to repair Carlisle Road. This was taken from the gravel pit he had purchased from the Town in 1899 or made with his stone crusher.

In 1917 a severe infestation of gypsy moths caused great damage to vegetation and actually caused the town to establish a Gypsy Moth Department. Dudley L. Pickman was paid $713.00 for work done with the Gypsy Moth Department.

After the First World War, in 1920 the following report was made: "Through the munificence of Mr. Dudley L. Pickman, who for years has been so good a friend to the town, although not one of our citizens, it is our pleasure to report that a fund has been created for the aid of those Bedford boys and girls who were in the service of the United States during the World War, and of other worthy persons. This fund has been given by Mr. Pickman in memory of Oliver J. Lane, who, for many years, was a real town father, holding from time to time practically all the offices in the gift of the town. The fund is called the "Oliver J. Lane Memorial Fund."

The Pickmans gradually acquired more land along Dudley Road and the Concord River. By 1921, they owned 518 acres of land. Photographs in the Society's collections refer to it as Deep Winter Farm. In the wetlands adjacent to the Concord River, Dudley L. Pickman established a bog garden with exotic plantings for which he was awarded a Silver Medal in 1932 by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

In 1935 the town accepted Dudley Road as a public way and paved it. According to Earl Sorenson (son of the Pickman's caretaker for years), "The Dudley Road kids really enjoyed riding their bikes on the new pavement."

After World War II, the Pickmans donated much of their land along the Concord River to the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Later, the remaining land was sold and the Huckins Farm Condominiums were built there, with bridal paths and extensive wildlife corridors throughout.

Dudley Pickman's older son, Dudley Jr., and his wife Vivian (Cochrane) Pickman had their primary residence at 303 Commonwealth Avenue in Boston by 1932. Their lifestyle was a little extravagant for proper Bostonians. Cleveland Amory describes the "coming out" parties for Nancy and Lucy Cochrane, Vivian Cochrane's children by her first marriage:

"Mrs. Pickman gave her balls right on Commonwealth Avenue, but her version of the Boston at-home debut was some distance from the traditional. For Nancy's ball the Pickman house was entirely transformed into a Paris street scene, complete with sidewalk cafés, lampposts and twinkling stars. For Lucy's ball two years later, the home became almost equally unrecognizable, the entrance hall being transformed by a vigorous array of potted trees and plants into a garden scene and the dining room being hung from top to bottom with gold satin, looped up mountain laurel and hemlock boughs." Lucy Cochrane later became an actress and author under the name C. Z. Guest.

Pickman Homestead at 228 Dudley Road

Over the years, the Pickman family donated about 283 items to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Dudley was also Chairman and a Trustee of the museum for many years.

Brian Oulighan

Officers
Donald Corey, President
Phyllis Cooke, Vice President
Brown Pulliam, Secretary
Patricia Leiby, Treasurer

Board of Directors
Frank Gicca ('17) Chair
Judie Toti ('15) Clerk
Atty. Paul Dick ('15)
Paul Purchia ('15)
Julie McCay Turner ('16)
Carol Amick ('16)
Lee Vorderer ('16)
Bea Brown ('17)
Joan Gicca ('17)
Richard LeSchack ('18)
Sharon McDonald ('18)
Lea Ann Knight ('18)

Finance Committee
Frank Gicca, Board Chair
Donald Corey, President
Patricia Leiby, Treasurer (non-voting)
Jan van Steenwijk, Past President
Don Jenkins
Atty. Paul Dick
Brown Pulliam

Proposed By-Law Amendments

According to our current By-Laws, when an elected President of the Society retires, often after years of service, that former President is no longer a member of the Board of Directors, nor any other Committees – such as the Finance Committee. This abrupt change eliminates the President's knowledge from these activities. The Society's Board of Directors have recommended and approved changes to our By-Laws that would allow the most recent President to be appointed to serve on these bodies. Amendments to the Bylaws requires written notice to members (provided here), announcement of the intention to amend a ta general membership meeting (Sept. 24) and followed by a vote at the next meeting (Oct. 22).

The proposed changes are: *(Additions are in underlined* **BOLD***, Deletions* ~~striked~~*)*

Article 5. Officers

Section 1. The **elected** officers shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Officers shall serve for a term of one year, and are nominated pursuant to the provisions of Article 11.

Section 2. The most recent former President may serve in an advisory role.
(Former Article 5 - Sections 2 through 6 are renamed Sections 3 to 7 respectively)

Article 10. Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers of the Bedford Historical Society (the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) and 12 **elected** Directors. Each such Director shall be elected for a period of four years and so elected that each year three members shall either wish to be considered for either re-election or replacement. ~~Board Members~~ **Directors** shall be nominated pursuant to the provisions of Article 8 and elected pursuant to Article 11. **In addition, the most-recent former President may, by a majority vote of the Board, be a Director with full voting rights and shall serve for a term of one year - unless previously or subsequently elected as an Officer or Director pursuant to Article 11.**

Section 3. Vacancies ~~on the Board~~ of **the** Directors occurring during the year **(except for the most-recent former President)** may be filled by outside replacements appointed by the remaining Directors to serve until the next Annual meeting.

Article 7. Finance Committee

Section 1. The Finance Committee shall be comprised of **up to six** ~~five~~ voting members - two of whom shall be the **current** President and the Chair of the Board of Directors. ~~The~~ **Three** ~~remaining~~ members shall be members in good standing**,** ~~who are qualified to provide guidance in investments and financial matters,~~ **and the most-recent former President - if so appointed in Section 2.** The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio (without voting powers) member of the Finance Committee.

Section 2. The President and the Chair of the Board of Directors shall serve on the Finance Committee for the duration of their terms of office. ~~The other three~~ **Three** members will be appointed by the President and the Chair of the Board of Directors for a three year term, with one new member replacing one retiring member each year**.** In the event of a vacancy, the President and Chair of the Board of Directors shall appoint a replacement for the unexpired term. **The President and Chair may also appoint the most-recent former President to be a full voting member, for a term of one year.**

September lecture continued from pg. 1

terminus of the popular Minuteman Bikeway. The Town acquired the Depot and the Freight House in1996 and almost $3 million in Federal, State and local Community Preservation funds have been invested in revitalizing the Depot area. Extensive site work has been completed, including landscaping, a new parking lot, realignment of the South Road/Loomis Street intersection, new sidewalks, road repaving, and utilities moved underground. The Freight House, Rail Diesel Car RDC 6211 and Railway Express baggage cart have been completely restored. The only remaining major project is the restoration of the Passenger Depot. ■

Summer Memberships and Renewals

New Members: **June 2014**: Bob Wakeham;
Renewals: **July 2014:** Marion & Ray Bryan; **June 2014:** Katherine Graff, **May 2014:** Emily O'Hara, Allen Marshall & Anne Bickford, Donald Brown; **April 2014:** Zoe & Ed Pierce, Kimberlie Sweet, Luisa Granitto & Wendell Smith, Phyllis Cooke, Jaci Edwards, William Warren, Richard Davidson, Ruth Beauschesne
Cash Donations: **July 2014:** Gary & Olga Feldman; **June 2014:** Doris Webber, Suzanne Newton, Carol Amick & William Moonan, B.E.S.T. PTO; **May 2014:** Emily Wade; **April 2014:** Phyllis Cooke, Sue & Thomas Crowther

Exciting programs for Society's 2014-15 season

The Bedford Historical Society's new program year is guaranteed to be an exciting one, full of interesting and thought-provoking talks, a joint program with another community group, a special dinner and two tours!

All events will be held in the First Church of Christ, Congregational's Upper Fellowship Hall, 25 The Great Rd., starting at 7:15 pm with refreshments (and brief announcements at 7:45 pm with the guest speaker to follow) **unless otherwise noted.** Please mark your calendars and watch for more information in the 2014-15 Yearbook:

Wednesday evening, Sept. 24, 2014: Lynne Spencer and Patrick Guthrie of Spencer & Vogt, architects and preservation specialists will speak on the Bedford Depot restoration project.

Wednesday evening, Oct. 22, 2014, 6 pm: Joint **dinner** meeting with the Bedford Garden Club. John Forti, Curator of Historic Landscapes at Strawbery Banke Museum in Portsmouth, NH will speak on "Historic Landscapes – Creating a Sense of Time and Place**."** A joint tour with the Garden Club to the Strawbery Banke Museum houses and gardens is being arranged for June, 2015, date TBD.

December, 2014 Holiday Party: Date and location TBD.

Wednesday evening, Feb. 25, 2015: Ron McAdow, former Executive Director of Sudbury Valley Trustees, will present: "The History of our Landscape: Massachusetts' Land and Wildlife."

Wednesday evening, March 25, 2015: Lincoln historian and author Rick Wiggin will talk on "Embattled Farmers: Campaign and Profiles of Revolutionary Soldiers from Lincoln who also have ties to Bedford."

Sunday afternoon, April 26, 2015, Old Town Hall meeting room, 2 pm: Historical Society and Conservation Commission member Lori Eggert on Bedford's Old Burying Ground. Tour to follow to the cemetery. Walk from Old Town Hall or park in Santander/Sovereign Bank lot.

Tuesday evening, May 26, 6 pm: Note: This event will be on TUESDAY! Pot luck supper starting with punch and appetizers at 6 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm. Bedford Historical Society Annual Meeting at 7:30. Speaker to follow: Anthony Amore, Director of Security at Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and author of Stealing Rembrandts on famous art thefts.

See you on Bedford Day!

On Bedford Day, Saturday, September 20, 2014, the Bedford Historical Society will once again join in celebrating Bedford's birthday! If anyone's counting, the town is now 285 years old.

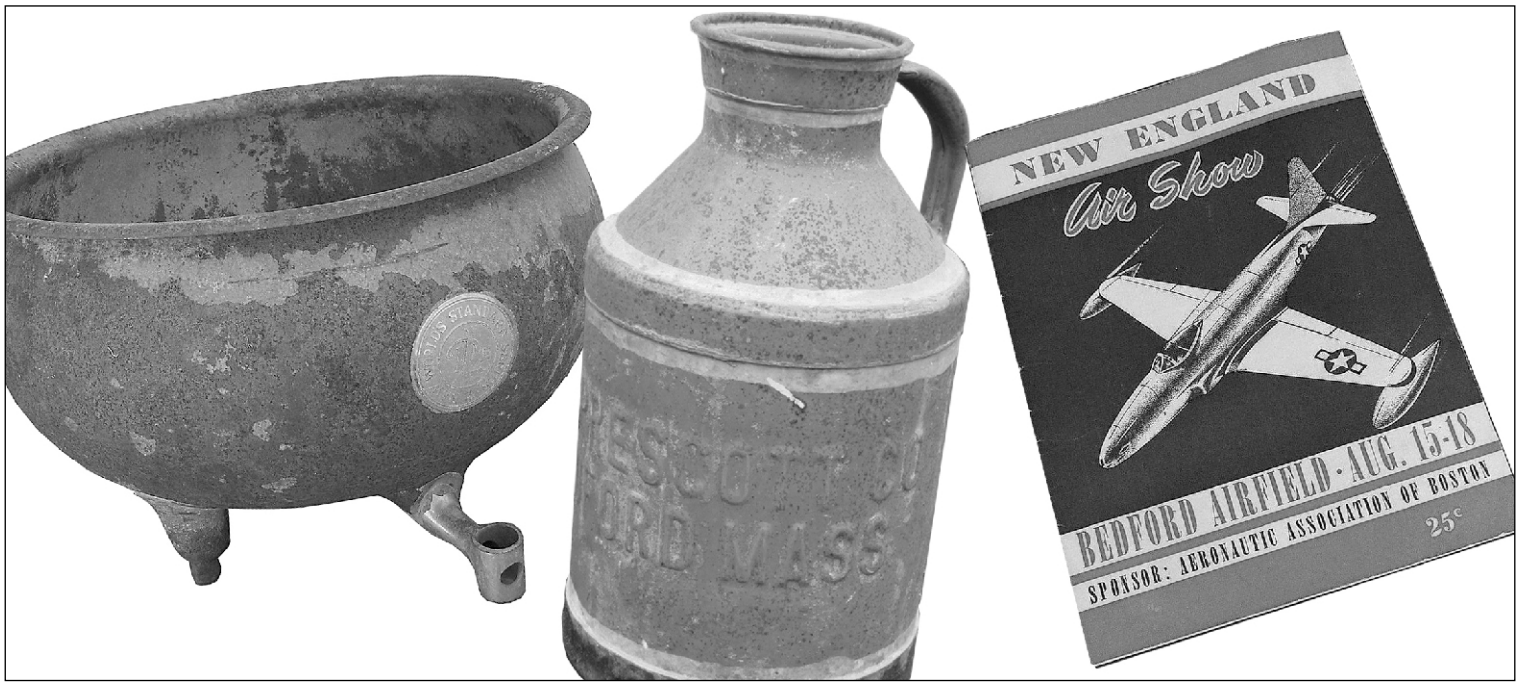
Festivities will commence with the parade down The Great Road from Loomis Street to Mudge Way. Be sure to keep a sharp eye out for the Society's BIG Bedford Flag float in the parade. Action will then shift to the Municipal Campus along Mudge Way where booths representing a host of local service organizations will be scattered throughout the area. At the Society's booth will be a wide variety of Bedford Flags, tee shirts, caps, books, maps and other merchandise that may be purchased. A display of finds from an archaeological dig at the Job Lane House will also be on view at the booth.

Watch the large Bedford Flag in the September parade

As in recent years the Society will have historic objects of local significance on display near the Bedford Flag float for the public's interest and enjoyment. This year some historic artifacts from Bedford's former thriving dairy industry that have been donated to the Society will be exhibited. They will include items from the J.B. Prescott Dairy - later Bedford Farms Dairy - as well as other interesting objects unique to that industry. The J.B. Prescott/Bedford Farms Dairy operated for many decades on North Road where Dalya's Restaurant and Bedford Farms Ice Cream are now located.

Support the Bedford Historical Society, and visit our booth.

A few of the many new acquisitions we received - see article on page 3



Cream Separator Top Bowl *Prescott Farms Jug* *1946 Air Show Poster*

If you have objects, pictures or documents related to Bedford - old or new, please show them to us. We are always looking to expand the contents of our archives with the history of Bedford

Reading the Preservationist?

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