President's Message

This newsletter and our program series are two ways by which the Society works to fulfill its mission of preserving Bedford's history and sharing it to educate and ignite the curiosity of our friends. The Society also collaborates with the Friends of Bedford Depot Park and Friends of the Job Lane House to jointly achieve our missions. In addition, we work with others - veteran's organizations, the public schools, groups serving special needs individuals – to assist them in a variety of ways. Finally, our volunteers respond to every inquiry to the Society – emails, letters and telephone requests – as best we can. The balance of this newsletter provides a glimpse at some of these community outreach activities. The Society would deeply appreciate your financial support of our work.

Don Corey, president

Wednesday Evening, September 28
7:15 pm at OLD TOWN HALL
16 South Road

The Bedford Historical Society's 2016-2017 season opens on Wednesday evening, September 28, at Old Town Hall, with an interesting program. The Society's programs are free and open to the public; membership in the Society is not necessary to participate in these programs. The public is invited to come and learn a bit of history.

“Parkers Revenge:”
Revealing the Past Through Modern Archaeology

The Minute Man National Historical Park (MMNHP) recently conducted a project that investigated Parker's Revenge, a skirmish during which Capt. John Parker and the Lexington militia faced a much larger force on April 19, 1775, for a second time that day. Jim Hollister, Education Coordinator at MMNHP, will share some of the findings from that remarkable project. He will discuss the cutting-edge archaeological methods used and describe some of the artifacts found that were witness to that encounter.

Information about the Minuteman National Historical Park and its programs will be available at the meeting.

The Historical Society will also honor Bedford High School students who participated in the 2016 National History Day competitions. The 2016 History Day theme was “Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History.” Bedford students will briefly describe their projects and receive small gifts from the Society.

Historical Society Joins in Bedford Green Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

This summer the Society was privileged to be invited to participate in dedicating the new housing facility for formerly homeless veterans at the Bedford VA Medical Center. The Society donated gifts for welcome baskets that were given to each of the veterans, and Society President Don Corey was invited to speak on behalf of Bedford at the ribbon cutting ceremony. He briefly described Bedford's involvement in the opening battles of the Revolution on April 19, 1775, and reminded those present of Bedford's long commitment to those in need. When the VA needed to build a hospital to care for brain-injured veterans returning from the First World War, other communities were reluctant to have land taken from their property tax base. However, at the end of a public meeting Bedford voted unanimously to invite the VA, and the hospital was built here.

Historical Society President Don Corey offered a brief welcoming statement at the Bedford Green ribbon cutting.
Nashoba Learning Group

Last year, the Nashoba Learning Group sent out a request to local organizations for opportunities to provide community involvement and meaningful work experience for their students. The Nashoba Learning Group is a school that was founded to provide “a different life trajectory” for severely impaired students with Autism. The Historical Society was delighted to help, and several projects are now underway. Not only do NLG students assist with the time-consuming task of preparing Society mailings, like our monthly newsletter, but over the summer, two very special students have begun working on a much-needed scrapbook indexing project.

This hardworking pair of students work together with job coaches and Society volunteers to identify people, places and other items of interests on the pages of these vintage scrapbooks, so that this information can be compiled into a searchable index. These indexes will allow people to quickly and efficiently locate information which, up to this point, was hidden away in these treasured old books. The students love the work, and we are delighted to have the help!

Historical Displays Around Bedford

Re-establishment of a museum remains a top priority of the Society, but in the interim it has worked to make some of its historic artifacts accessible to the community. Numerous photos and documents can be seen at its virtual museum, which is readily accessed through our website — www.bedfordmahistory.org. The Society also has displays of a few of its collections located in a number of municipal buildings. A sampling of some of those displays can be seen in this newsletter.

In cooperation with the Friends of the Job Lane House, the Society has a wide array of historic household objects and furniture displayed at the Job Lane House, including this pewter plate and spoon mold (left) and a 17th Century Webber family cradle.

Vintaged railroad memorabilia owned by the Friends of Bedford Depot Park surround a Society display case in the Budd Car tracing the history of some of the businesses and industries that grew up around the Depot. Society merchandise is also sold by the Friends at the Freight House.

The Society’s displays at the Public Library include a number of interesting historic documents, including these with original John Hancock signatures.
See You on Bedford Day!

The Historical Society will once again join in celebrating Bedford Day on Saturday, September 17, 2016. Festivities will commence with the parade down The Great Road from Loomis Street to Mudge Way. Keep a sharp eye out for the Society’s BIG Bedford Flag float following close behind Bedford’s Citizen of the Year.

The Society will also again have a booth at the municipal campus with the many other local service organizations. Visitors may be surprised with the planned displays of some of the Society’s seldom-seen collections of historic artifacts. A wide variety of merchandise, including Bedford Flags, T-shirts, caps, books, maps and other merchandise will also be available for purchase at the booth.

Museum Pieces

The Stearns Memorial Building (now Police Station) once housed the museum and still provides office and storage space for the Society. Displays in the Meeting Room include prehistoric stone tools (top left), Minuteman Nathaniel Page’s musket and other Revolutionary weaponry (top right), treasures found while dismantling the 1720s Joseph Fitch house (bottom left) and photos taken by John Hodgman, an early and prominent Bedford photographer (bottom right).

Join Us! Clip and Mail:

Member Application

Annual Membership Dues:
- Individual: $25.00
- Couple/Family: $45.00
- Contribution: $100.00
- Patron: $175.00
- Benefactor: $300.00

Name: ___________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: __________________ State: __________ Zip: _______
Phone: __________________ Email: _______________________

Return this with your check to:
Bedford Historical Society
2 Mudge Way
Bedford, MA 01730

Wish to pay by credit card?
Please visit our website at:
www.bedfordmahistory.org
Look for the PayPal “Donate” button on the bottom left of our page.

Officers
Donald Corey, President
Merri Lee Johnson, Vice President
Brown Pulliam, Secretary
Patricia Leiby, Treasurer

Board of Directors
Frank Gicca (’17) Chair Judie Toti (’19)
Bea Brown (’17) Atty. Paul Dick (’19)
Joan Gicca (’17) Paul Purchia (’19)
Richard LeSchack (’18) Julie McCay Turner (’20)
Sharon McDonald (’18) Carol Amick (’20)
Lea Ann Knight (’18) Lee Vorderer (’20)

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

THANK YOU!

Donations:
Stephen & Susan Tutko, Emily (Paddy) Wade

Membership Renewals/new Members:
Luisa Granitto & Wendell Smith, Philip Stone, Charles Huxsaw & Susan Sjostrom, Doris Smith, Susan & Michael Wingfield, James Sullivan, Priscilla McGrath, Cynthia & Charles Schwepppe, Kate Reynolds
Amy Lloyd & John Weidy, Lisa Cimino, Joanne Glover, Carleton Willard Village
Attn: Bedford High School Students…!

The Bedford Historical Society is happy to offer opportunities for Community Service to high school students. Our office, conveniently located in the Police Station, is open after school until 5:30. Project options include updating collections inventory, archiving artifacts using our museum software program, or collecting and organizing information on topics related to Bedford’s history. Please contact our office for additional details!

Society’s Support of Bedford’s Schools

The Historical Society has worked to support the public school programs in a variety of ways. It has annually presented awards to High School students that participated in the National History Day competition. Last spring the regional competition was held right here in Bedford. This year’s competitors will be recognized at the Society's September meeting. Winners of the prior year's awards are seen in the adjacent photo.

The Walk of Historic Bedford by all 3rd grade classes has been a tradition for many years, and the Society has been deeply committed to sharing information on Bedford’s history and to providing “hands on” access to many artifacts. It has also overseen that portion of the Walk in the Old Burying Ground, where the classes get some sense of the importance of that site and the information that can be found there. The curriculum is presently being revised by the School Department to move the Walk to a higher grade, so there was a hiatus in having the Walk this Spring.

The Society has also provided “Discovery” boxes to the Lane School 5th grade classes in recent years. The boxes contain an array of tools, implements and other objects that were common everyday items in days gone by. The objects have stimulated discussions of what they could have been used for and possibly provided some appreciation for the “not-so-good” old days. The Society continues to explore opportunities to further support our schools.

The Society encourage all our readers to submit comments, suggestions, articles or historic artifacts, for us to share with others.