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

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Holiday Party

to feature warmth, friendliness, and
'Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me That's Bedford History!'

Sunday, December 11, 3-6 pm

18 Crescent Avenue

Ever wonder how Bedford got a "casino" or why Bedford had the first Parent-Teachers Association (PTA) in the country?

Or why women could not vote back in the 1800s, but they could be U.S. Postmasters -- and several were in Bedford?

These interesting facts about Bedford may be part of the stories told for the "Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me That's Bedford History!" challenge that will be offered again this year at the Bedford Historical Society Holiday Party, when Society members and guests can try to guess the validity of several stories about Bedford's history. Some stories will be factual; others will not!

The names of those with the correct answers will be placed in a fish bowl and one or more "winners" will be chosen for prizes during the evening.

This is just one of the events that makes the annual Holiday Party an enjoyable experience. The main happening, however, is simply the act of Society members getting together for conviviality, sharing a glass of holiday cheer, and enjoying each other's company.

Party hosts Carol Amick and Bill Moonan have agreed to open their home at 18 Crescent Ave. again for this annual event, which draws a significant crowd each year. The date is Sunday, Dec. 11 from 3-6 pm, and there is no Patriots' game that afternoon!

Society members are asked to bring their holiday spirit and an appetizer to share; past parties have included a plethora of delightful hors d'oeuvres that have kept everyone satisfied.

The Society will provide various liquid refreshments. Past Society President and Board Member Marion Bryan will supply her famous (and unbelievably delicious) "nice" punch; the hosts will prepare an equally endearing (and enjoyable) "naughty" punch. Other refreshments will include wine (donated by the hosts), soft drinks and coffee.

Please mark your calendars for this party! Any Society member needing a ride should contact Don Corey or Carol Amick.

Presidents Message

With the holiday season upon us, we want to thank all of our Historical Society friends and express our great appreciation for your support. In recent years there has been a significant increase both in community outreach by the Society and in expansion of its collections through donations by friends, which otherwise would not be possible.

The Society will be participating with the ***Friends of Bedford Depot Park and the Bedford Minuteman Company in a Holiday Sale at the Bedford Depot Freight House on Saturday, December 3.*** All merchandise will be marked down 10% that day, and the proceeds will benefit the respective nonprofit organizations. Details are provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are especially grateful to Carol Amick and Bill Moonan who will again be hosting the ***Society's holiday party at their home on Sunday, December 11***. We look forward to a very pleasant afternoon with friends.

Don Corey

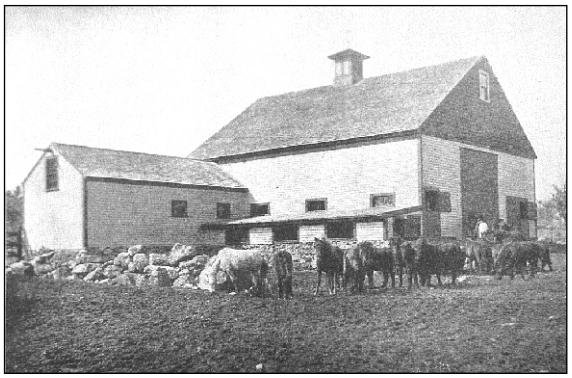
Discovery

Those of us who knew John Brown, Town Historian, appreciated his wry sense of humor, as illustrated in this story from his book, Remembered, (a nice holiday gift for yourself or a friend!)

"The Farm, Fremont, N.H. 1930-40s, age 11,
Dick and I liked to explore the barns and lofts where the remnants of ages past were stored. Old harnesses, machinery, rusty curry combs, and cow medications lay about and hung on nails together with the dust of decades.

Nothing had lived in the barns for many years but the adventure of discovery was still there. At one point we discovered a small door low on the wall in a stall on the main barn floor, opened it and found that it sloped down at an angle. Being uninhibited we climbed in to find out where it went and were surprised to discover we ended up in the cellar on top of a hayrick.

Running in to the house where Grandfather Brown was talking with our parents, we announced that we had discovered a secret passage in the barn and told of its position. All smiled politely and quietly except Grandfather Brown who spoke in a low voice, 'That's the manure chute'."



Instructions of how to make the replica Flags.

S.O.S. - Volunteers are needed!

The Flag needs your attention. For many years Jan van Steenwijk and his wife Barbara have produced more than 2000 (!) 12x12" Bedford Flags, complete with beautiful replicas of the flag's image with its silver fringe. Now we are looking for others to take over this task. The following description of the need is provided by Jan.

These flags provide a wonderful, profitable piece of merchandise for the Society, but they also bring the important history of the original flag to a larger audience. For example, Hanscom AFB personnel regularly purchase them for individuals moving to new duty stations or retiring.

The task includes the following steps:

- *buy the fabric, matching the original maroon color as much as possible to the original Bedford Flag*
- *Cut them to size, serge the four sides and sew the "staff" channel*
- *Deliver them to our silk screen printer who has the files in his computer*
- *The last part is to cut the fringe and glue it onto three sides.*

I will be happy to demonstrate this not so difficult job, but you can see most of the process illustrated on the pictures.

We ask for a few volunteers to get various parts of this job done. The BHS will, of course, pay for all the material costs.

Please contact me or the office at 781-275-7276 to get more details. We will also provide you with a finished flag to keep as an example of the finished product.

Be a part of our history.

Thank you! Jan van Steenwijk

More on Bedford's Name

The article last month on the source of Bedford's name prompted a little research by others. Among Concord's original settlers in 1635-1640, more appeared to have come from Bedfordshire than from any other location, and a number of their Hartwell and Wheeler descendants lived in the area that became part of Bedford.

Many of Billerica's settlers arrived in the 1650s (after England's Civil War), and we know less about their origins. However, Brian Oulighan found that Obed Abbott, who settled on Springs Road in Billerica and was prominent in forming the town of Bedford, was a descendant of George Abbott, another Bedfordshire ancestor. It seems likely that there were many more.

Hayden Memorial Fountain 100th Anniversary

Alethea "Lee" Yates reminded us that the Hayden Memorial Fountain at the intersection of The Great Road and Springs Road is now 100 years old. The following is reprinted from the Bedford Enterprise, Nov. 15, 1916.

"A beautiful ornamental fountain has been presented to the town by Mrs. William R. Hayden, of Bedford Springs, in memory of her husband, William Richardson Hayden, a prominent citizen and at one time an official of the town. The fountain occupies a conspicuous place in the center of town.

The fountain is fitted for man, beast and automobile. It has three large circular bubbling drinking troughs for horses, insuring a clean drink free from all chance of disease common to animals. At the foot of the fountain on either side are small troughs for dogs and other smaller animals, and on one side water can be drawn for automobiles. A step from the sidewalk in the rear of the fountain is a bubbling drinking fountain for human beings,

Surmounting the fountain is an ornamental light, the iron work being very attractive and the light being hung in Colonial lantern style. The lower part is of granite, the troughs being cut from solid block and the base being dished out so that a driver can approach with a double hitch and both animals can drink at the same time."

The Hayden Fountain on Great Road. The ornamental post and top are currently being restored

Our supporters help keeping history alive!

Thank You!

Dononations: Emily O'Hara, Allen Buswell, David Allen Fitch

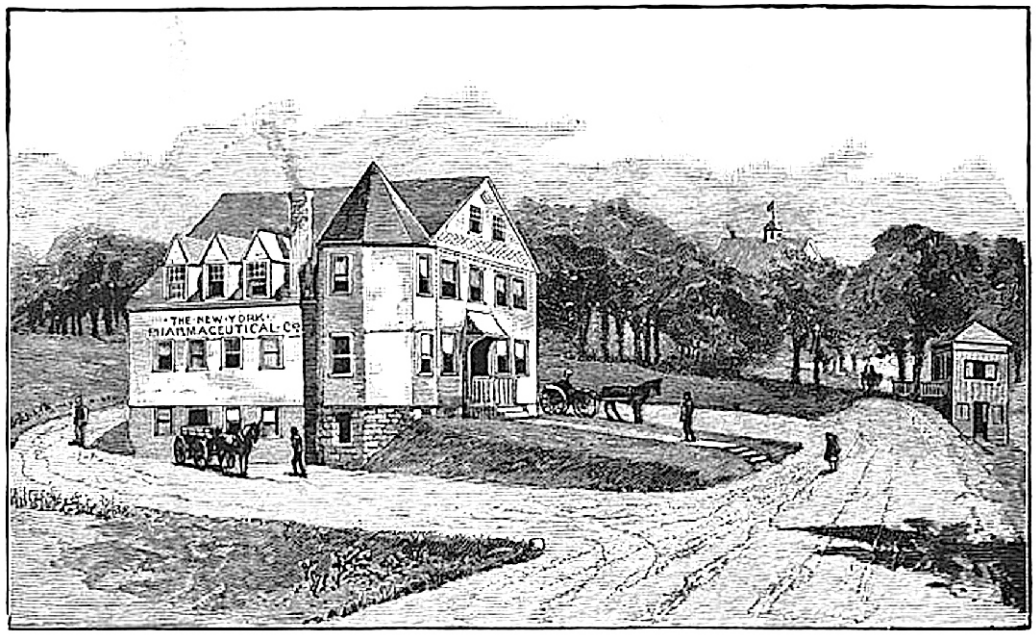
New Members and Renewals: Mervi Fantasia, Anthony Reed, Margaret Button, Dan Smythe & Gaye Carpenter, Maggie Debbie & Vito LaMura, Mark Levine, Chris Weisz, Kim Borshay, Jean Dirks, James & Judith Brunner, Bud Koor, David Fitch, Ned & Susan Leeming, Paul & Andrea Couvee, Janet Collins, Frans van Berkhout, William Deen, Timothy and Karen Kalil Brown

New York Pharmaceutical Laboratory

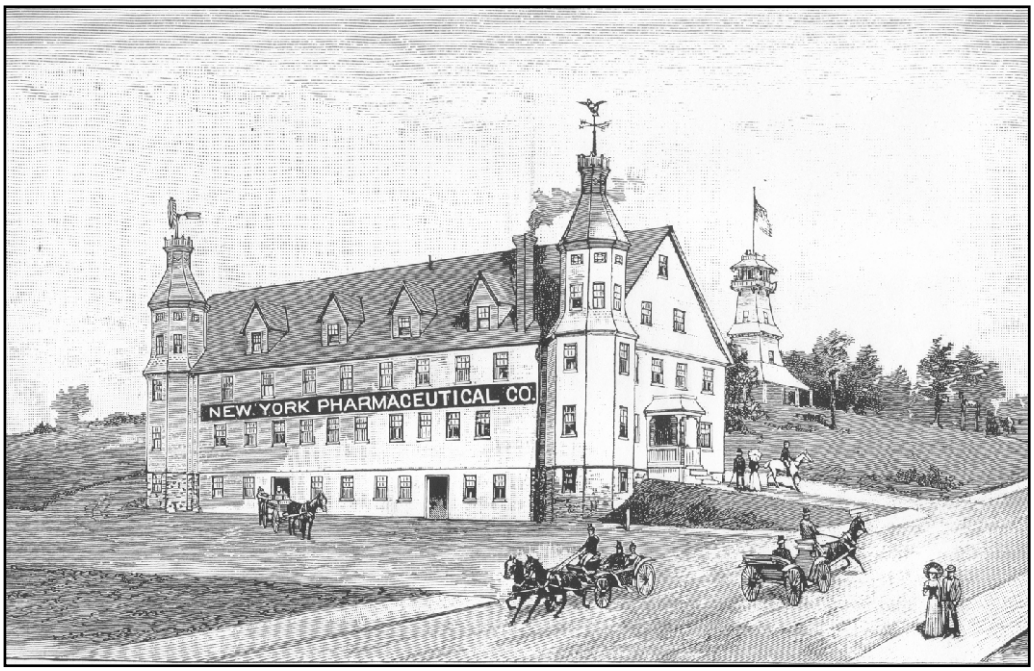
A "new" old drawing was recently discovered by Brian Oulighan that sheds additional light on the development of Bedford Springs. The N.Y. Pharmaceutical Laboratory (now condominiums at 96 Sweetwater Avenue) was built in 1892 according to available records. However, the "new" drawing shows that the building was actually constructed in two stages, with only the most southerly portion of the building completed and in operation originally.

Drawings of the original and final laboratory are shown below. The "new" drawing appears to have come from a publication printed before 1892, so the original portion was probably built by 1890-91 and then enlarged in 1892.

The Condominiums as they look today.



Approximately 1890



Approximately 1892

Member Application

Annual Membership Dues:

_ Individual: $25.00
_ Couple/Family: $45.00
_ Contributing: $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.

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"We Don't Make History...
We Keep It Alive..!"

The Preservationist.
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Contributing writers ; Carol Amick, Don Corey, Kara Kerwin, Brian Oulighan & Sharon McDonald

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

HOLIDAY SALE!

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016 – 10AM to 4 PM
Freight House – Depot Park - 120 South Road

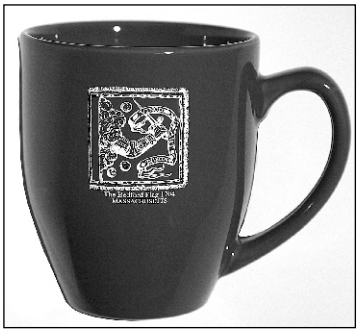
On Saturday, December 3, a giant Holiday Sale will take place in the Freight House at Depot Park. That day is recognized as "Small Business Saturday", when shoppers are encouraged to support their local stores.

All merchandise will be *discounted by 10%* on that day by the Friends of Bedford Depot Park, Bedford Historical Society and Bedford Minuteman Company, who all encourage you to come and find historic Bedford gifts for your family and friends. Visitors to the Freight House will find a wide variety of Bedford-related merchandise that is sold by the sponsoring organizations - *Flags, clothing, DVD's, books, maps, toys, etc.*

Society items include:

- Unbreakable bright red ***Christmas ornaments*** decorated with the Bedford Flag logo, packaged in individual boxes; and,
- ***Coffee mugs***, 16 oz., maroon and also decorated with the Bedford Flag.
- Many ***books*** and ***maps*** on Bedford's History.
- Bedford ***T-shirts & Caps***

Our popular beautiful RED ORNAMENT



Also popular: a 16 oz Coffee Mug

Visitors can also enjoy free coffee on that day. The Freight House, at 120 South Road, will be open from 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday.

This is a once-a-year opportunity for real bargains that you won't want to miss!

If you are unable to visit in person, shop the online store - www.BedfordDepot.org/store - and enter this code for the discount savings: ***"Holiday Sale 201***6."

Don Corey, president

And don't forget: we have the 12x12" Bedford Flag - a perfect gift for anyone!