Enjoy our Next Program

Sunday, November 12 - 2:00 PM
OLD TOWN HALL, 16 South Road
*A refreshment period from 2 - 2:30 will kick-off this event.*

100 Years since the Yankee Division in the Great War
Presented by Dan Leclerc

When the call went out for American boys to join the fight to save democracy in Europe in 1917, the Yankee Division was the first to be organized, the first to cross the ocean, and the first to take to the battle lines in World War I. Formed on July 18, 1917 and activated on August 22, 1917 at Camp Edwards, MA from units of the Massachusetts Army National Guard, the Yankee Division was the nickname of the 26th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army.

The Division's famous accomplishments will be described by historian Dan Leclerc at the Bedford Historical Society's Sunday, Nov. 12th program. Those include facing intense enemy attacks in French towns like Apremont and Seicheprey, where its members demonstrated their courage and fighting spirit in what was sometimes bayonet-to-bayonet combat, and earned a regimental "Croix-de-Guerre" (French military bronze medal). LeClerc also will discuss four subsequent larger offensives of the Division, in which its members faced the full force of stiff enemy resistance, costing many casualties.

Dan Leclerc is a frequent speaker to historical societies and currently teaches in the Beacon Hill Seminars and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes at UMASS Boston and Tufts University.

Carol Amick

The Preservationist
Bedford Historical Society, Inc. - Bedford - Massachusetts
Founded in 1893
Volume 127, Number 6

Presidents Message

As the Society's community outreach activities have increased, the time commitment by a few individuals has also necessarily increased. When our goal of re-establishment of a local historical museum is achieved, an even greater commitment of time and energy will be needed. With that in mind, we respectfully request additional involvement by members on an occasional basis as volunteers in order to help preserve Bedford's past for future generations.

Examples of areas where help would be greatly appreciated include:

- Meeting preparation activities (6 or 7 per year)
- Exhibits in town buildings (create new, set up & take down)
- Merchandise (inventory, re-stocking, Bedford Flag production)
- Grant writing or other fund raising activities
- Student mentoring
- Newsletter (7 per year, labeling, USPS coord.)

If you have another area of specific interest, we would be delighted to hear from you as well. Your volunteer hours can help people of all ages in our community to appreciate our unique heritage. Call or email the Society office.

Thank you for your consideration.

Don Corey

Enjoy Old & New Friends at the Society Holiday Party

Bedford Historical Society members Carol Amick and Bill Moonan are this year's hosts of the Society's annual Holiday Party. Their circa 1900s Victorian farmhouse at 18 Crescent Ave., Bedford, will be decorated for the occasion on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017. Society members coming to enjoy this party should bring their holiday spirit and an appetizer to share.

Besides enjoying the sociability of old friends and the chance to meet new Society members, participants may play Bill Moonan's version of “Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me: That's Bedford History” and win a prize for being chosen among the correct answers.

Two types of punch will be served: the hosts' “naughty” punch from the recipe of long-time Society members Mary and Fred Hafer, and Marion Bryan's famous “nice” punch. Other refreshments will include soft drinks and coffee.

All types of hors d'oeuvres are encouraged for this event, which is a popular Society social occasion.

The event will run from 3 – 6 pm, or whenever the last guest leaves!

Carol Amick
Charles Hodgman, early Bedford Photographer
continued from our October issue

It was a slow summer for Bedford related items on eBay, so we were thrilled when this Hodgman print of 2 dogs from the Shawshine Kennels popped up for sale. Then, in an odd coincidence, a week later this image of the setter relaxing on the porch was offered. These two photos represent the first Hodgman dog portraits that we know of, so the fact that they were posted by two unrelated sellers in different parts of the country, within a week of each other, is very odd, indeed!

Kara Kerwin

Bedford in World War I

With the signing of the Armistice on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the War To End All Wars was over. Regrettably, the peace terms laid some of the groundwork for World War 2 and on-going Middle East conflicts. However, at the time there were plenty of reasons to celebrate.

From the Bedford Enterprise

"BEDFORD CELEBRATED"

The signing of peace was suitably celebrated in this town. A Peace rally was held on Monday evening, which was attended by practically everyone in the town. A parade was held starting at the town hall and proceeding down South St., Loomis St., and up Main St. to Willson Park, and back to the Town Hall. Torches and flags were carried by the participants. All gathered in the hall afterwards for a community sing. The meeting was led by Geo. R. Blinn, chairman of the Public Safety committee.... Three rousing cheers were given for the Allied Nations and their leaders, ending with America and President Wilson. At the close of the meeting the Kaiser was escorted through the hall by several pallbearers, and another parade formed which marched to the schoolhouse, where the Kaiser was cremated in an enormous bonfire.

BEDFORD CHURCH BELLS RING FOR RETURNED SERVICE MEN

A novel method of welcoming home the returning men of the army and navy has been adopted in this town. Just as soon as it becomes known that a soldier or sailor has returned, the church bells are rung and a salute given on the fire alarm. Thus far several have returned home from duty and all have been greeted in this manner."

Don Corey

THANK YOU!
The Bedford Historical Society appreciates your support

Renewals:
Vernon Rivet, Jr., Lawrence Graff, Margaret Button

New Members:
Robert Avakian, Dot Bergin, Donna Little

Donations:
John Gibbons, Margaret Button, James Burton

“A generous donation by the First Parish in Bedford from the Meetinghouse 200th Anniversary Celebration is also gratefully acknowledged.”
Bedford Minuteman Company Uniform Donation

Through the generosity of a former Captain of the Bedford Minuteman Company, Stephen Tutko, and his wife Susan, now residing in Florida, we have received the uniform he wore during the 1975-1976 Bicentennial Celebration of the American Revolution.

The modern Bedford Minuteman Company was reactivated by proclamation of the Board of Selectmen on September 23, 1964, as a means of honoring the Bedford Flag, commemorating events of April 19, and stimulating an interest in our heritage. Since then the Company has participated in parades, ceremonies, re-enactments and other celebrations. Its annual Liberty Pole Capping Day at Willson Park is typically the initial event in April 19 Patriots Day celebrations in Middlesex County.

Captain Tutko's uniform is a replica of those worn by our Minutemen during the Revolutionary War---dark brown trousers, black leggings, unbleached muslin shirt, black stock, flintlock gray waistcoat with red facings, white cross belts, brown tricorn hat, brown greatcoat with red facings and gold buttons, and other accoutrements.

The Society has acquired a mannequin so that the uniform, along with Captain Tutko's sword and other accessories, can be displayed outside the Historical Society's office in the Stearns Building (Police Station). In time it will be a prominent feature of a Minuteman Company display in our planned Bedford Historical Museum.

The Society thanks Captain Tutko for his thoughtful donation.

The Minuteman Company made Bedford Flag commemorative medals and reproduction copies of the Bedford Flag for presentations. This copy of President Gerald Ford's thank-you letter to Captain Tutko is in the Company's archival collection, which is preserved by the Bedford Historical Society.

![Image of Captain Stephen D. Tutko and his wife Susan at the Patriots' Ball in 1975](image)

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Dining in Bedford - revisited!

The "Dining in Bedford" program at the October meeting provided an opportunity for those attending to share their memories of many of Bedford's eating and drinking establishments that have come and gone. It resulted in discovering one important omission.

The Bedford House, Sweetwater Hotel and Lexington Park all ceased operations in the decade during and following the First World War, but they were quickly followed by new businesses. The Society has information on no less than three dozen eating or drinking establishments that opened from the mid-1920s into the 1960s, which were noted in the talk. However, following the talk I was reminded that Bedford Farms Ice Cream wasn't mentioned. How could I have forgotten them?

Bedford Farms Dairy began manufacturing ice cream in 1952 as an offshoot of its dairy business. When the company was sold and local dairy operations ceased in 1967, Glenn Simm, Jr., bought the specialty ice cream business and continued to operate the ice cream manufacturing facilities, the stand, and wholesale operations. In 1984 Joe Venuti acquired Bedford Farms Ice Cream, and the business remains a local favorite.

It is without question the oldest eating establishment in Bedford (outside of the air base) at present. All of the other favorite eating and drinking spots from the 1920s to the 1960s are long gone.

Bedford people clearly have good taste!

Don Corey

Bedford Farms Ice Cream

Photo: Jan van Steenwijk