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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Join Our Excursion

SUNDAY, OCT. 14, from 2pm-4pm

Step Back in Time... a Tour of Job Lane House & Gradens

⟶ 295 North Road ⟵

Come step back into time via a tour of the Job Lane House, from 2-4 pm on Oct. 14 and learn about this circa 1713 house with its period antiques and the Lane Family, one of Bedford's founding families.

While members of the Friends of the Job Lane House will be dressed up in colonial attire and situated throughout the house to answer questions about the house and each beautifully-restored room, the Historical Society will provide refreshments in the adjacent barn.

This event is free and open to the public, so bring your family or a neighbor to learn more about Bedford's early history. The original house, which was half the size of the present-day home, was built by Deacon Job Lane around 1713. It was a wood-frame saltbox containing three small rooms on the first floor and two upstairs: a bedchamber and a "garret" or small attic.

Various members of the Lane family lived in or rented the house over a century. The final Lane to live in the house was Oliver Abbott (1800-1842), who was responsible for building on the additions, making it the size it is today. Abbott also remodeled all the fireplaces and commissioned the murals in the parlor, believed to be painted by Rufus Porter of (1792-1884), a famous painter, inventor and founder of Scientific American magazine.

A later owner of the house, the Dutton family, used the herb garden for its mail-order herb business. The garden has been preserved for tourists to see, and is maintained by the Bedford Garden Club.

To safeguard this historic gem, the Town of Bedford purchased the house in 1973 and arranged to have it placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the U.S. government's official list of buildings, sites and structures deemed worthy of preservation for their historical significance. The Friends of the Job Lane House was established to operate the Job Lane house as a "house museum" and to keep stories of the house and the Lane family alive.

Carol Amick

Photo: JvS

The parlor is decorated with famous Rufus Porter murals.

Presidents message

We decided to replace our usual October meeting and program speaker with this visit to the Job Lane House on what we hope will be a splendid Fall day. Several factors contributed to this decision.

- *The house is an important historic resource of Bedford that was acquired by Town Meeting action in 1973 to preserve it for future generations. It was built ca.1713 by Deacon Job Lane, grandson of the original settler Job Lane, who had built his original homestead further down North Road.*
- *After its acquisition by the town, many local service organizations and families participated in rehabilitation of the Job Lane House. The Bedford Historical Society restored the Parlor, which contains wall murals attributed to Rufus Porter. He was an important artist in that medium during the early 1800s.*
- *Furnishings of the home and barn (built in 1993) are provided by the Friends of the Job Lane House. Many displayed articles and pieces of furniture are in fact owned by the Historical Society and are on loan in order to contribute to an accurate interpretation and better understanding of life in Bedford in that earlier time.*
- *Until a town museum is re-established, a number of the Historical Society's artifacts are necessarily being stored in the barn. They include substantial parts of the dairy industry collection and the cottage shoe industry collection. Some portions of those and other collections will be out for viewing in the barn that day.*

This should be a wonderful opportunity for Historical Society members that have not been to the Job Lane House for a long time (or ever) to come and get re-acquainted with some of our heritage.

Don Corey

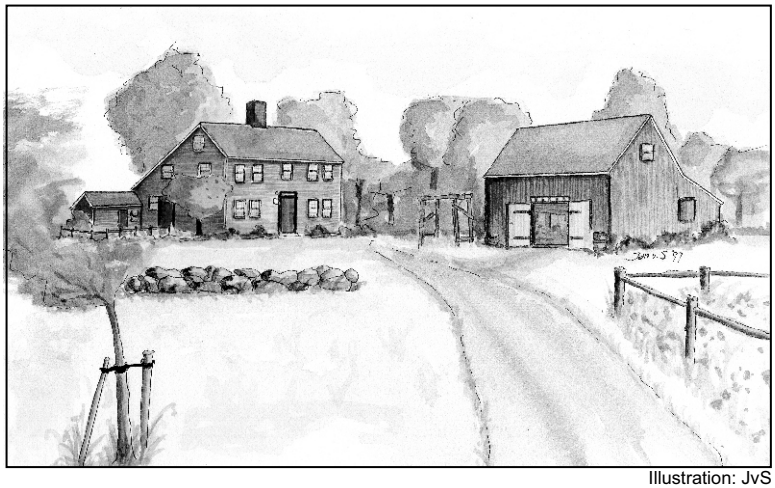


Illustration: JvS

This article is a continuation from our September issue:

A slice of History: Bedford Springs, the New York Pharmaceutical Company, and the Hayden House

By Julie McCay Turner for the Bedford Citizen *Reprinted with permission*

Arthur Holden Hayden
Image © Bachrach

Arthur and Ellen Hayden

After his father's death, William Richardson Hayden, Jr., Dr. Hayden's son and namesake, took an active role at the New York Pharmaceutical Company until his own death in 1923. To entice Arthur Holden Hayden, her second son, to return to Bedford and take his brother's place in the company, Sarah Holden Hayden hired prominent Boston architect Ernest Parsons of the firm Parsons and Wait to design the house that stands at One Fawn Circle.

Set on just over five acres of land in 1926, the original address was 100 Sweetwater Avenue. With extensive frontage on Springs Road and access to North Road via Sweetwater Avenue, the 18-room house was built in classic English Tudor style by Custance Brothers of Lexington, at a cost of approximately $73,000 -- what would be just over a million dollars today.

Standing on "Marriage Rock" a flat stone promontory at the eastern edge of Fawn Lake, Arthur Holden Hayden married Ellen Krook, his second wife, on April 11, 1934. The rock lies on the Springs Road side of the lake, just past what was then a full-fledged magnolia orchard, of which only four trees remain.

Arthur Hayden served on many corporate, county, and town boards, serving as a Bedford Selectman for many years. Born in Bedford in 1894, he loved his town. He died of a massive coronary in May 1970, at the end of his driveway, coming home after collecting his mail and newspaper in Bedford Center.

Ellen Hayden survived her husband by 23 years. A self-taught woman with a strong interest in science, she traveled on the nuclear-powered merchant ship NS Savannah as 'First Passenger' on its inaugural transatlantic crossing. She is still remembered by local youth who fished or jogged around Fawn Lake. Her daughter is clear, however, that her mother despised guns so their tales of 'being shot at' by Mrs. Hayden are apocryphal. Many long-time residents recall Mrs. Hayden and her dogs, driving through Bedford in her Land Rover.

The Hayden House

The Hayden House

Even without the property's compelling history, the Hayden house is, quite simply, romantic.

Current owner Laura Bullock first saw the house more than 25 years ago, before the Leighton family brought it up to modern standards. "I'll live in this house one day," Bullock remembers saying. And so she has, for the past 12 years, hosting parties, events, and as a stop on Bedford's 2009 and 2014 Holiday House Tours. "It's a great house for entertaining," she claims, pointing to the spacious first floor with its handsome living room, comfortable family room, butler's pantry, multiple fireplaces, a dumbwaiter, and even a pub. After a trip to London, John Bullock created an authentic English pub in the original library.

Arthur Hayden's daughter Marna concurs that the house is great for parties. She visited in 2016 and recalled that each Christmas Eve, every light in every room would be turned on so that the house "simply glowed." Her family's Thanksgiving traditions included everyone, "the old aunts and young cousins alike," running laps around the house after dinner.

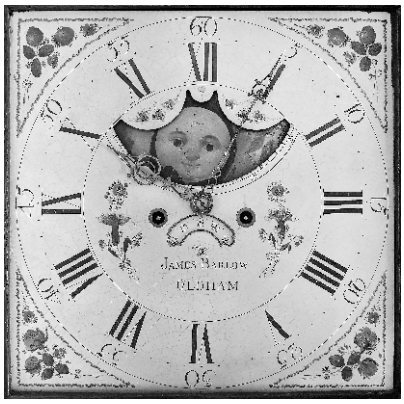
She shared childhood memories of rambling through the Hayden land across Springs Road, exploring the old sheep pasture where homes now stand on Gould Road. She fished for pickerel, sunfish, and bass or skated and watched Boston Bruins' scrimmages on Fawn Lake. The woods held interesting flora and fauna. One summer she and her mother, an accomplished mycologist, collected over 100 varieties of mushrooms and toadstools though most of them were both colorful and poisonous.

Marna Hayden remembers growing up in a happy home. "I only learned from the good things my parents taught my sister Dagmar and me," she said. "If there was negativity, I let it go, and have always felt rich whether I've had money or not."

Antique Grandfather Clock

A James Barlow Longcase Clock has been loaned by its owners to the Bedford Historical Society for long-term display here. The clock is located in the Great Room at Old Town Hall, where it contributes to the historic character of that large room. The clock had initially been offered to the Friends of the Job Lane House, but the low ceiling height in that house prevented its location there.

James Barlow of Oldham, England, was one of a prominent family of clockmakers during the 18th and 19th Centuries. One of his ancestors is believed to have been the inventor of repeating clocks and watches. James Barlow died in 1788, and this clock is believed to be one of his later works.



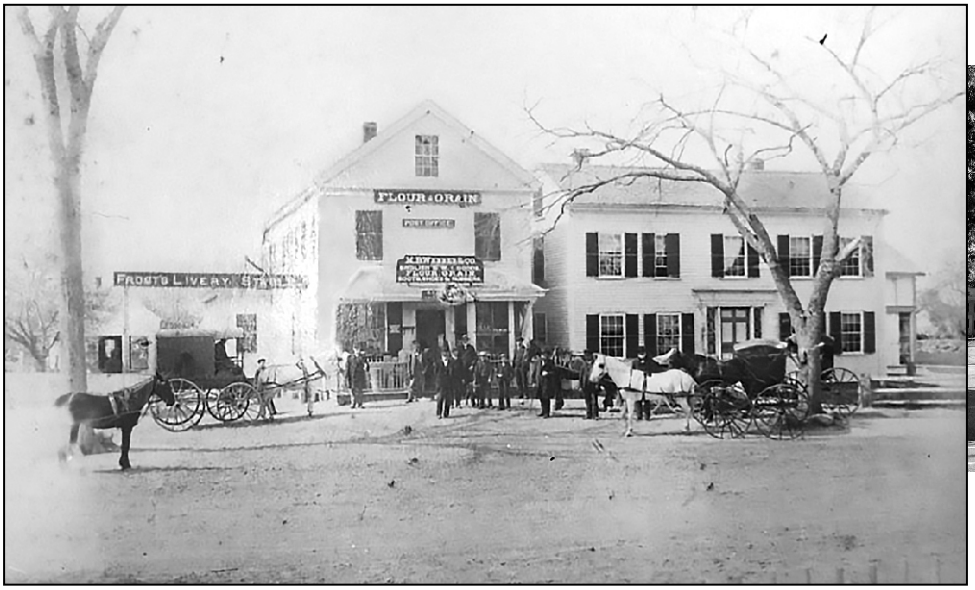
The beautiful clock face

The clock has been in the Taylor family, now living in Concord MA, for generations. Joseph Taylor (1825-1875) and his son Daniel Taylor (b.1845) lived in Oldham, England, where the clock was made. Daniel Taylor came to the United Stated with his family in the early 1870s, and brought the clock with them. How and when Joseph or Daniel Taylor originally acquired the clock is still not clear despite extensive family research.

Then & Now

This block in Bedford's historic district mirrors the many changes that have occurred in Bedford Center over the last 2 centuries.

In 1806 Joshua Page built an inn, the Bedford House, (not shown but just left of old photo) adjacent to this property. It also served as his residence until 1822, when he built his new home seen on the right in this old photo. After his death in 1842, the Greek Revival style store seen on the left in the old photo was built in 1844. It became the commercial center of Bedford for a time, with the Post Office and General Store located in it and the Bedford House inn right next door. In the late 1880s, Joshua Page's house was moved back from The Great Road and is now located at 13 School Avenue. In its place a huge Victorian structure was added on the right side of the store. The building is now 47-51 The Great Road and is home to Yoga Nova on the left and Barrett-Sothebys Realty on the right. The adjacent Bedford House was demolished and replaced in 1948 by the Fire Station.



Main Street, Bedford - mid 1800's

Same block, Great Road, Sept 2018

With your support Bedford's past can be accessed in the future!

WANTED
Bedford Memorabilia

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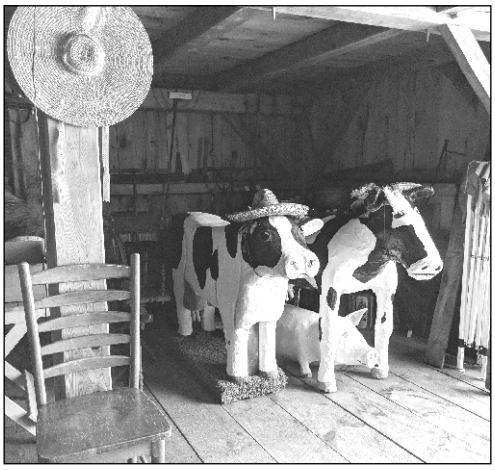
"We Don't Make History...
We Keep It Alive..!"

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

Treasures in the Job Lane Barn

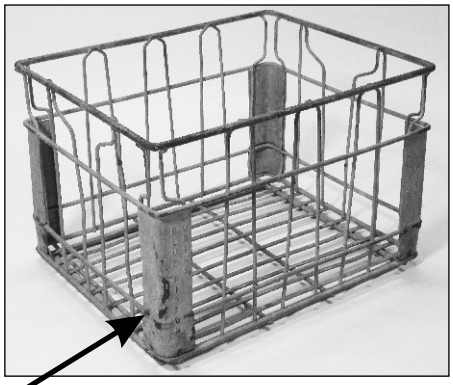
The Barn at the Job Lane House is necessarily the storage repository for some of the Historical Society's artifacts until a town museum is re-established. It includes much of the dairy industry collection, which we continue to add to. Shown here are several recent additions.

The pig and cows kept in the barn by the Friends of the Job Lane House are friendly reminders of the time when they outnumbered people in Bedford.

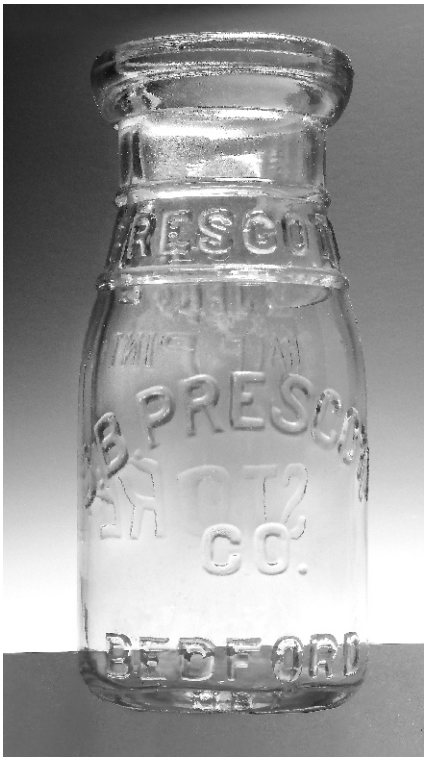


The "Watch" Cows and Pig at Job Lane House

Close-up of corner



Blue Ribbon Dairy Steel Crate for Milk Delivery



Half Pint Prescott Dairy Cream Bottle - donated by Ralph Hammond