

**Bedford Minuteman Newspaper Photograph Collection**  
**Finding Aid**  
**Bedford Historical Society**

**Repository Identifier**

mbdhi

**Local Identifier**

2004.032

**Name and Location of Repository**

Bedford Historical Society  
16 South Road  
Bedford, MA 01730

**Title**

Bedford Minuteman Newspaper Photograph Collection

**Date**

circa 1958-1994

**Extent**

2 boxes, .75 linear feet

**Name of Creator**

The Bedford Minuteman Newspaper

**Historical Note**

The Bedford Minuteman began as a weekly newspaper on Thursday, October 31, 1957, and its final print edition was published on Thursday, May 5, 2022. The Minuteman still publishes content online at <https://www.wickedlocal.com/bedfordminuteman/>. Some content is available only with a subscription.

Before its publication, news of Bedford was covered by other newspapers in the area including the Lexington Minuteman newspaper, from which the Bedford Minuteman began as an offshoot. The impetus for this decision included the establishment of Bedford's first high school in 1955. Referring to the combined coverage of the two towns, an editorial in the first issue of the Bedford Minuteman states, "[t]his type of coverage started at a time when Lexington and Bedford were much smaller, and the children of Bedford citizens were spending four years in the Lexington High Schools. With both towns' activities thus combined, a combined news coverage proved satisfactory." As populations of both Bedford and Lexington experienced exceptional growth in the 1950s, the Lexington Minuteman made the decision to start a new newspaper devoted to Bedford to give the town of Bedford more adequate news coverage of its

own. Regarding the growth of the two communities the editorial states, “[o]f necessity the school systems were separated, and many former close ties have loosened. Due to the growth and other recent factors, it has been increasingly evident to us that our news coverage of Bedford has been inadequate.” This led to the decision to begin publishing a separate Bedford Minuteman newspaper. Alan G. Adams, of the Lexington Minuteman newspaper, was the Editor and Publisher when the newspaper was first published, with Mrs. Elmer G. Smith as Associate Editor and Leon A. Burke Jr. as Advertising Manager.

### **Scope and Content**

This photograph collection includes approximately 250 primarily black and white photographs which represent the variety of people and activities reported on by the Bedford Minuteman Newspaper during the mid-to-late-20th century. The photographs in the collection date from circa 1958-1994 and feature images of Bedford events, celebrations, organizations, schools, sports, businesses, government, and residents, along with notable people affiliated with the town. The photos often have identifying information on the back such as date, subject, photographer, and notes related to the context of the photos.

### **System of Arrangement**

Each photo has been given a unique identifying number. All photos are housed in plastic archival enclosures and are arranged in folders by subject.

### **Conditions Governing Access**

The photograph collection is open for research purposes by appointment. Please contact the Bedford Historical Society for more information at [info@bedfordmahistory.org](mailto:info@bedfordmahistory.org) or 781-275-7276

### **Physical Access**

No restrictions.

### **Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use**

Copyright restrictions may apply.

### **Languages and Scripts of the Material**

English

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

2004.32

### **Accruals**

The Historical Society may add materials to the Bedford Minuteman Newspaper Photograph Collection in the future.

### **Existence and Location of Originals**

Bedford Historical Society

**Related Materials**

The Bedford Free Public Library keeps hard bound copies of the newspaper from the years 1957-1980 in its Special Collections, as well as microfilm copies from 1957 to the present day.

**Description**

DACS-compliant Finding Aid created in April 2019 by Catherine Miller. Updated January 2023 by Patrick Morley.

**Bibliography**

"To Our Friends in Bedford." *Bedford Minuteman* (Bedford, MA), Oct. 31, 1957, page 1 & 24.

**Container List**

## Box 1

- Bedford Center Playground
- Businesses: A-Z
- Carleton-Willard Village
- Churches: First Church Congregational
- Churches: First Parish
- Churches: Lutheran Church
- Churches: St. Michael's Church
- Clubs and Organizations: American Legion
- Clubs and Organizations: Bedford Arts & Crafts Society
- Clubs and Organizations: Bedford Garden Club
- Clubs and Organizations: Bedford Rotary Club
- Clubs and Organizations: Bedford Social Club
- Clubs and Organizations: Chamber of Commerce
- Clubs and Organizations: General
- Clubs and Organizations: League of Women Voters
- Clubs and Organizations: Scouts
- Events and Activities: Bedford Day
- Events and Activities: General
- Events and Activities: July 4<sup>th</sup> Olde Yankee Craft Fair/Strawberry Festival
- Events and Activities: Memorial Day, Patriot's Day, Battle Road Race, Parades
- Events and Activities: Pole Capping
- Events and Activities: Spring Hill Marketplace
- Hanscom Airport (Laurence G. Hanscom Airport)
- Job Lane House
- Library
- Outdoor Maintenance
- People: A-M
- People: N-Z
- Recreation
- Schools: High School

- Schools: Lane and Davis
- Schools: Middle School/Junior High

Box 2

- Sports
- Springs Brook Park
- Town Departments: Council on Aging, Senior Activities
- Town Departments: Fire Department
- Town Departments: General
- Town Departments: Police
- Town Departments: Town Government
- Town Departments: Town Government-Environmentalists
- VA Hospital (Veterans Administration Hospital)