

Ask us your questions

Whether you're a homeowner curious about the history of your house, a person with Bedford ancestors to add to your family tree, a writer or historian with a research request, a hobbyist with a keen interest in the Revolution, railroads, architecture, antiques, or "the good old days," or just someone who'd like to learn more about Bedford's past, come to us. We'll do our best to answer your questions.

What's in your attic?

Do you, your family, or your organization have letters, photographs, documents, memorabilia, or other items related to Bedford's history, past or present? Please consider adding them to Bedford's attic. We are always looking to expand our collections.

Contact us for details. Donations made to the Society are tax-deductible.

Principal BHS officers

Alethea Yates, President
781-275-3294

Jan van Steenwijk, Vice President
Phyllis Cooke, Secretary
Don Corey, Treasurer
Cecile Walker, Program Chair



Help us make history!

A long-time member has given the Society a \$100,000 **challenge gift** toward a permanent endowment. Please consider a donation toward matching this generous gift.

There's so much we could do with additional funding:

- Strengthen outreach to the public schools and the community
- Create a web site for online displays
- Keep the Archives open several additional hours per week
- Conserve and restore our most fragile documents and photographs
- Develop a Management Information System (MIS) to inventory our museum objects and create additional displays
- Support an oral history project with transcription services and supplies
- Publish new local history titles and expand our merchandise offerings
- Hire a part-time museum curator
- Add to our collections as items related to Bedford history become available for purchase
- Develop a space needs plan with the hope of establishing a Heritage Center in the future

The Bedford Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

Membership Application Come and join us!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Dues

__ Student:	\$3.00
__ Single:	\$10.00
__ Couple or Family:	\$15.00
__ Supporting or Business:	\$50.00
__ Patron:	\$250.00
__ Life – Single:	\$150.00
__ Life – Couple:	\$200.00

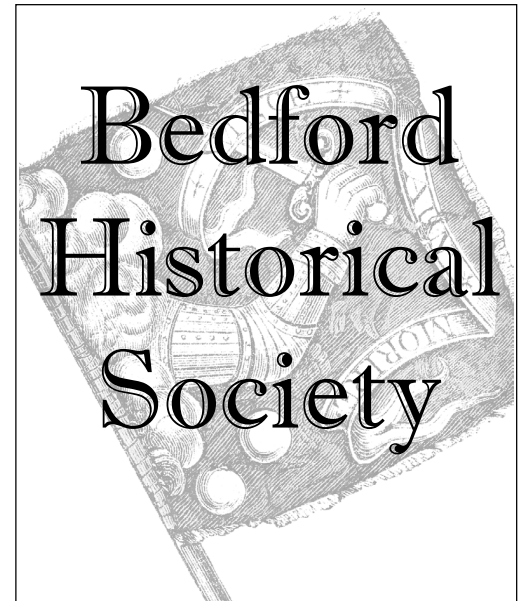
Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Bedford Historical Society, Inc.

2 Mudge Way
Bedford MA 01730

781-275-1212 ext. 140

Please note: We share a building with the Bedford Police Department and the phone is answered by the police. Just ask for extension 140 and you'll be connected with us.



Bedford,
Massachusetts

*Collecting and sharing
the stories of Bedford
and its people*





The Bedford Historical Society: What we do

For more than 100 years the Bedford Historical Society, with the aid of its hard-working volunteers and the benefit of many generous charitable donations, has been very active in the community.

We **collect and preserve** all things Bedford. We own an extensive array of letters, photographs, family Bibles, maps, official documents, household belongings, postcards, records of social organizations, newspaper clippings, souvenirs of important events, family collections of letters and pictures, business records, children's toys and books, and much, much more.

We offer a wide selection of **books on Bedford history** and other **Bedford-related merchandise** at our sales booth on the Fourth of July, Bedford Day, and other occasions.

We offer **6 meetings a year** featuring lectures by experts on a variety of local history topics.

We conduct **tours** of historic Bedford.

We participate in the **Historic Bedford program** for the town's schoolchildren.

We answer **research requests** from the public.

We publish an informative **newsletter**.

We **open our collections** to the public on Bedford Day and by appointment throughout the year. Just give us a call!

Our archives: Bedford's attic

Since 1893 our archives have served as Bedford's community attic. We now have the largest collection of private historical documents, museum artifacts, and photographs in Bedford.

Our documents date back to 1651, our collection of more than 3,000 photographs goes back to the mid-1800s (you see a few of them here), and our collection of objects begins with prehistoric arrowheads and continues through colonial days into the present. That's a lot of history!

Our archives and office are located in the Stearns Building at 2 Mudge Way, which we share with the Police Department. The Stearns building, originally constructed to house the Bedford Free Public Library and the Bedford Historical Society, has provided a permanent home for our collections.

Where to see us

We don't have a museum of our own, but that doesn't stop us! You can see some of our treasures displayed throughout the town. Here are just a few of our offerings:

- Early **children's toys and games** at the Bedford Public Library
- A display on **Bedford's firefighters** of the past – photographs, log books, and other memorabilia at the Town Hall Auditorium
- Part of a **Rufus Porter mural** at the Town Hall Auditorium
- The **Davis Family spinning wheel, housewares, and other antiques** at the Job Lane House on North Road
- The original **oak case that long housed the Bedford Flag** (now replaced with a photographic replica) at Town Hall
- Displays on **Bedford industries, farming, Native Americans, prominent citizens, law and order organizations, four centuries of architecture, the Bedford Springs health resort**, and more at the Stearns building (the police station)

