

# Friends of the Job Lane House, Inc.

## B R O A D S I D E

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June begins with our Yard Sale, held on the property on June 10 (rain date, June 17). There'll be even more tables this year than last – including, of course, one from the Bedford Historical Society and one from the Friends of the Job Lane House. If you're within driving distance, come and browse the merchandise! There are sure to be treasures!

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### 2017 Officers

President – Sharon McDonald

Vice President – Carol Hand

Secretary – Lee Yates

Treasurer – Betsey Anderson

Directors - Betsey Anderson, Judy Barber, Pat Pellegrini, John Linz, Ralph Hammond, Pat Leiby

Liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission - Don Corey

### MEMBER NEWS

Welcome back, Jane Dutton, Lexington,  
Life Members, Kathie and John Shutkin

### SPRING CLEANING DAY



Promptly at 9:00 on Saturday, May 6, thirteen members of Grace Chapel joined us to give the House its Spring Cleaning. It was a bustling and joyous morning! We thank them so much for making us one of their congregation's service projects.

### BOY SCOUTS TROOP #194

A number of members from the troop came to rake leaves, and children took up the task of pulling

the invasive garlic mustard. They filled three large black bags. Thank you!

### JOB LANE SCHOOL THIRD GRADE VISIT

They arrive every year in May, full of questions. "So, who was Job Lane?" one boy burst out, even before his whole class had found a spot to sit down. It's not easy to distill 300 years of history into a thirty-minute tour, but again this year, Monica Rogers, Jeannette Pothier and I did our best, while Judy Barber stood by the gate and juggled the nine classes in and out of the House.

Nine classes (202 students) stopped first in the kitchen with me, where they learned a bit about Job and Martha and their family, and then compared a colonial kitchen to their own. They were quite familiar with fireplace cookery and bringing water in from the well to the dry sink. ("And what do you do with the dirty water after you've washed the dishes?" "Throw it into the back yard!") This year, they had taken field trips to Plimouth Plantation and to Sturbridge Village. With these two benchmarks set, they could put our Museum in its place - about a hundred years after Plimouth and a hundred years before Sturbridge. They were less sure about when Bedford was founded (1726? 1920? 1948?) so we taught them that story, too.

Then it was time for the class to scoot into the Great Hall to hear Monica talk about what colonial children had for breakfast. Cake? Yes! She had even baked a Martha Washington Cake to show them, but, alas, it was not big enough for all 202 children to share, so I ate it after they all went home!)

With more classes on their heels by now, each group made their last stop in the Parlor, where Jeannette taught them the history of grains and bread in the Puritan period, and how they used corn, rye and wheat. She, too, had baked a bread for the children to see and smell. MMMM! She asked them to write to us and tell us how corn was ground for use.

While it is true that the Third Graders' Tour is an absolute whirlwind, after we've caught our breath we always recall it fondly, and look forward to next year's tours. Hooray for the Lieutenant Job Lane Elementary School!

~Sharon McDonald

## FROM THE CURATOR'S CORNER



Colonial kitchens were not always used to dine in. In our Museum house, the family eats at the beautiful old tavern table in the Great Hall. Yet there must be a

work table of some sort – the antecedent of the kitchen “island” so popular these days. Sharon McDonald has donated one that was hand made in Maine at least a hundred years ago and was in her own family's kitchen when she was a child. It holds the bread dough trough and the grain measures, ready for the weekly baking.

### **GRAVE RUBBING donated by Judith Ristow:**

The UPS truck delivered a wonderful gift to us recently! Lane descendant Judy Ristow sent us a framed grave rubbing she made of the stone marker for Job Lane IV – our Deacon Job's son – who lies buried in the Old Burying Ground in Bedford.

Making grave rubbings is no longer allowed, which makes it all the more precious. Judy did the rubbing many years ago when she visited Bedford. It has been hanging on her wall in Oshkosh, Wisconsin all this time, but wanted us to have it.



With it, she sent a framed copy of the Copley painting of George Washington, a framed copy of “Job Lane Builds a Barn,” she bought at our gift shop and a framed copy of Emerson's “Concord Hymn.” Thank you so much, Judy, for your lovely gift!

~Sharon McDonald

## PAINTING THE GREAT HALL

Work continues on the walls and woodwork in the Great Hall. The color approved for the walls is Hepplewhite Ivory, a historically correct paint by Benjamin Moore. Color Works did a great job in blending our color with the woodwork paint we



had previously used, VanCourtland blue also by Benjamin Moore.

Roy Kring applied the first wall color with a roller. On May 27, Rick Manley painted the walls with a brush and on June 3, put the blue tape on the woodwork and the floor and painted the north and east walls with a brush. Once the sanding is done on the cabinet, and fireplace, the rest of the woodwork can be painted. The color goes on light, but blends in to the exact color that is already there painted by the Minutemen when the museum was being readied to open. We selected a matte finish and the blend of the wall color with the blue is lovely. Rick's photo shows the colors on email.

~ Jeannette Pothier

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

### **SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH:**

June 11 – Making Punched-Paper Baby Owls  
(hear a story about owls, too)

July 9 – Playing with Old Time Toys (no batteries!)

August 13 – Dairy Day (and showing how ice cream is made.)

September 10 – Dipping Candles (yes, real ones!)

## THE GRAPE ARBOR: Eagle Scout Project

On Sunday at noon, May 28, 2017, the scouts were ready to rebuild the arbor. Not just any arbor, but the Lillian Dutton Concord grape arbor.

Originally the arbor had been on the left of the front door, to hopefully go over the porch the Duttons had built. The grape had to be moved as the porch was taken down by the Friends, while preparing the house to become a museum. John Filios built the first arbor by cutting down the cedar tree that was there. In 2008 Kevin Harkins built an arbor for his Eagle Scout project giving us an authentic old post looking arbor.

The old arbor was broken and no longer able to support the large vines. Ryan Lobo, Troop #194, came to clean up last spring, and asked if he could build an arbor as his Eagle Scout project.

We designed it together, suggesting that it be larger 6 feet, but the same height of 7 ft., and 10 feet long as the old one. The end enclosures were shortened to just enclose the vines,

Funding was a major concern. It was in the Broadside but no funds were donated. Carl Hanson had pruned the grape vines in April, and sap was beginning to run, so it was a critical time of year. With mentoring help, Ryan went to see Home Depot in Waltham to price out material. After 3 visits to see the manager, Ryan was donated all the material he needed. The manager had been a scout, so he understood the importance of the project.

All that was left to do was schedule the work date. Memorial Day weekend worked for Ryan as he and his scout friends, Nathaniel (Buddy) Brown, and Jimmy McGinn, all work for New England Nurseries on Saturday. Sunday was the building date and at noon, demolition began. Their plan was to build the arbor then remove the main pieces. Nothing would disturb the young canes with that approach. Clever!

Work progressed quickly; the adults used the electric saw for them. With expert help, braces and 2 and 3 foot levels even Job Lane would have been proud of the even boards. Michael Porter, Jimmy Giaquinto, Cliff Lobo (Dad) and the scouts were determined to finish.

These scouts were very professional, worked extremely well together, and listened to suggestions

from the adults. They raked, cleaned and put away all the old arbor wood to the pile out behind the barn to be picked up by the Town. They also tried to hang from the arbor, to test its strength (I saw that). And at 6 pm they were done for the day.

Monday morning, with rain on the way, nailing the last boards took only two hours.



L-R: Nat (Buddy) Brown, Ryan Lobo, Jimmy McGinn.

We thank New England Nurseries for providing Maine Coastal mulch for the vines. The pressure treated wood will turn a lovely grey within a few years.



This was a very well planned job, well done with pride.

Thank you Home Depot! Thank you Buddy, Jimmy and Ryan and all the adults who provided guidance.

~ Jeannette Pothier

## BIG "PLANT" DIG

A 4 ft. deep trench was dug by DPW, to have a 4 inch water pipe comes into the house just under the cellar window for a fire suppression system to be installed later.

The Garden Club Lillian Dutton Memorial Herb Garden ladies worked to remove the plants in front of the house, Southwest corner up to the front door. The work started as we most often do, at 9 am, and we are so thankful to Adrienne St. John, the Town Engineer, for her foresight and the help she provided to us. Wayne Cropper, with DPW for 20 years this June, stepped up and asked where the two large plants were.



The Gas plant was Mrs. Lillian Dutton's and Jo Champney had found it near her garden shed, where Mrs. Dutton had a large garden.

Next was removing the Baptisia that Jo had from her Mother in law, Mrs. Champney given to her by Mrs. Edith Lane, who lived at the Victorian house at Willson Park, and was a neighbor of Mrs. Champney who lived at 1 the Great Road.

Five of us including Mr. Cropper had the gas plant on the tarp and hauled it under the lilac to be protected. The Baptisia was planted on the other side of the garden South East of the front door. That will not be moved.

The entire southwest garden plants had been moved. Sunday, a cool day, Bridget Clayton, my husband Rick Manley and I replanted the gas plant with a lot of additional soil and compost. Hauling the plant back up the little incline, and weighing over 200 pounds, was done with great determination.

Tuesday, May 30, five of us, and Rick, were the recipients of two large loads of black soil, again thanks to Adrienne St. John. Ending at 1 pm, we had the loads spread.

The apple tree that the Club had purchased nearly 30 years ago underwent a bit of damage having branches broken and split. Rick spent time cutting those out.



The entire lawn was reseeded and it needs to be watered. We asked for help, as the Garden Club is behind with the planting and we would like help with the watering, once the rain stops. It was hard work to spread the soil, but it was a good dark and moist soil. Below the lawn in front of the house.



The stones along North Road and at the Sugar grape arbor will be fixed. Thank you Adrienne!

~ Jeannette Pothier

*Friends of the Job Lane House*

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*June-July 2017*