

Friends of the Job Lane House, Inc.

B R O A D S I D E

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This was a difficult fall for me, and I appreciate Jeannette and all who covered for me while I was away. I am so grateful to the Friends of Job Lane for honoring my mother with a donation to the Hope Hospice in Florida that took such good care of her during her last year.

It was a loving and generous thing to do. --Sharon McDonald

2009-2010 Officers

President & Curator- Sharon McDonald

Secretary - Pat Pellegrini

Hostess, Membership Chair, Barn Director, and Tour Guide Director - Jeannette Pothier

Furniture Committee Chair - Bob Slechta

DIRECTORS: Judith Barber (Chair), April McDaniel (Secretary), Lee Yates (Historic Preservation Commission Representative), Pat Leiby, Julia Whiteneck, Bob Slechta and Don Corey.

Vice President - Carol Hand

Treasurer - Rick Manley

Publications - Lee Yates

IN MEMORIAM:

We are sad to relate that Bob Lane, a Lane descendant from North Brookfield, MA who has been an active Friend for many years, died on October 20th after a very short illness. Though he lived at a distance from Bedford, he would turn up at his ancestor Job's house every once in a while with a cheery smile and a greeting. We'll miss that smile. We shall keep Muriel and her family in our thoughts.

PUTTING JOB'S HOUSE TO BED:

With the October 25 Open House, the 2009 season came to an end, and it was time to close up the house. We modern folks fear the indoor plumbing might freeze in spots, so first we shut off the water. The new Afghan rug was gently gone over with the new vacuum cleaner. (We had much discussion about whether it would fade in the winter sun but Barbara Marshall assures us that the natural red dye hasn't faded in a hundred years and we mustn't worry!) The beds and chairs were pulled away from the baseboard heaters and ghostly dust covers were spread over all. Up in the east bedchamber, it

took three of us to detach the bed canopy and fold it into its winter origami. The Gift Shop was taken down and all of the products brought into the house in hopes that the barn mice wouldn't follow and the house mice wouldn't be interested. Curtains drawn, doors locked - one or the other of us drops in now and again to be sure all is well, but mostly the house is left to the care of a red-tailed hawk who has volunteered to oversee the property from her perch atop the barn roof. Have a good winter, Hawk. Have a good winter, House.

THE SOUND OF HAMMERING:

If you've heard hammering from the Barn of late, don't be alarmed. It wasn't woodpeckers! It was Art Smith, a friend, architect and carpenter. During the month of October he fixed the Memory Lane Gift Shop South outside door and installed a new lock; stabilized the ladder to the loft with a hefty peg; made a new shelf in the file room; and installed three new storm windows in the lean-to. He also plans to install a small cover above the light by the door to help it weather snow and rain. Thank you, Art!

THANK YOU:

John Lane, Bob Lane's brother, has sent a donation for postage in his brother's name. Angelo Colao also sent us a donation for postage. Doris (Mickey) Weber has sent a lovely donation spurred by the fact that our Craft Faire was rained out again this year as did the Laughton Family of Hudson, Mass; Donald and Susan Corey gave us a nice donation because of a small gift of wooden eggs, Grape Jam and Quince Jelly. Joyce Tracey, a friend of Chuck French, donated a glass punch bowl and cups, with a very beautifully designed ladle and the tea pot. Thank you all very much.



Photo by Sharon McDonald, November 2009

MEMBERS' NEWS:

Our new member, also named Robert Lane, from S. Ozone Park, New York, sent Jeannette a copy of a note that had been written to his uncle early in the last century. It reads:

Bedford, September 6th, 1922.

Mr. Charles N. Currier,

Dear Sir: Sept. 9th, and Nov. 1st 1918 you wrote the Historical Society of Bedford concerning a post-card of the old Job Lane house in Bedford. At that time I was unable to obtain one for you, but recently they have been reprinted and I take pleasure in sending two to you and trust they are what you desired. This "Old Garrison House" was built 1664 on the Winthrop farm by Job Lane. The house now standing is the original homestead. It is believed that from one of the windows

of this house Mary Lane fired and killed an Indian.

Yours truly, Charles W. Jenks

Charles Jenks lived in the Fitch Tavern and was secretary of the Bedford Historical Society. He was passing on the conventional wisdom of the time. However, research done in the 1970s found that it was not that first Job's house at all. Our museum house was built by Job's grandson, who we call Job (2), about 1713. What of the 1664 homestead, the one garrisoned during the Indian Wars, from whose upstairs window Job (2)'s sister Mary fired the gun? It is long gone, but in a recent Broadside we reported exciting news as to its whereabouts. Working meticulously with old deeds and maps, our member Don Corey places it along North Road just south of Pine Hill Road. You can see its approximate location at 130 North Road, the site of the new Habitat for Humanity houses. Mr. Jenks would have been astounded!

TO AN OLD HOUSE

Working in the Ina Mansur papers at the Bedford Library, I came across this poem written in 1897 by Frederick A. Laws:

To an Old House

*The grim old house, with red undaunted front,
Stands toward the south, loop-holed and buttressed
strong:*

*Touched by the moon, the clinging vine along
Glints a silver tracery. To the brunt
Of the north wind, faces the wide-arched shed,
Pale and shadowed under the sky; deep black
Within, where stands the birches store in stock,
And th' inspiriting cider, russet fed –
From the small-paned window shines ruddy light;
Methinks I see the old brick hearth, brushed clean,
The strong oak chair, the irons' burnished white,
The pop-corn – and the polished pippins keen,
The sweet-faced woman –*

Thus an outward coat

Of chilling frost, holds love and cheer in moat.

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BROADSIDE, November 2009