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Friends of the Job Lane House, Inc.

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Greetings, Friends! Summer Sunday tours with our volunteers and interns has been in full swing and a lot of fun! October brings the Fall experience to Job Lane Farm Museum with cooler temps and colorful leaves. Plan to stop by for a pleasant visit and a Job Lane House Tour.
Celebrating Bedford history!
Yours, Julia Whiteneck and Carol Hand

2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Officers	Directors	
Carol Hand and Julia Whiteneck, Co-Presidents	Ralph Hammond	2027
Betsey Anderson, Treasurer	Kimberly Sweet	2027
Dorothy Africa, Secretary	Julia Whiteneck	2028
	Sharon McDonald	2028
Roy Kring, Operations Director	Carol Hand	2029
John Linz, HPC Representative	Dorothy Africa	2029
	Deborah Lee	2029

Bedford High School Class of 1976 Visits Job Lane during Bedford Day



They loved the house! Of course, it wasn't even open to the public yet when they were in High School!!

By Sharon McDonald

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Our JOB LANE FARM MUSEUM 2026 House Tour season is half over already. We had nice weather for both 2nd and 4th Sundays in July and August, attracting many visitors. Each House Tour Sunday requires participation by our volunteer docents to support our mandate to present the Job Lane House to the public. The many tasks include welcoming visitors, keeping a log of visitors and donations, staffing the gift shop, and guiding the tours. Tour guides learn the history of the house and its occupants over the past 300 years and know the details of each room and the antiques items and their function. Training of our three Student Museum Docents from Bedford High School is another important job. This year will be the fourth year for this program supported by the Bedford Cultural Council and has been very successful with many positive comments from our visitors. Kalia, Karen, and Sid are excellent student docents. Part of their museum docent program included a tour of the Orchard House in Concord where they followed a full-time museum docent and learned from her presentation skills and answers to their questions. We also are starting a new self-guided house tour option this season. Our visitors can use their smart phone to log on to Wi-Fi in the house, scan a QR code in each room, and listen to wonderful narrative talks by Job Lane member and Bedford Town Historian Sharon McDonald. Speakers have been added for those who don't have smart phones. Job Lane Farm Museum had an information booth at Bedford Day. I deeply appreciate the dedication of our regular docent staff who make the Job Lane Farm Museum a very appealing place to visit on a Sunday afternoon. Special thanks to Julia Whiteneck for her wonderful work improving the gift shop, and also Dorothy Africa for cleaning up the lilacs and getting rid of that nasty Pokeweed and Bittersweet.

Job Lane Bedford Day Booth

Thanks to Julia and June for telling our Bedford Day visitors all about Job Lane.



A LANE VISIT ~ 2025 Part 2 Linda Turner Visit

As a result of having Linda Turner tour our house and learn more about the Lane descendants that I met in 2025, it became clear to me that there was a relationship between the Lane descendants. Sharon McDonald and I gave a tour to six Lane descendants in the early Fall of 2022. They had planned a three-day visit, and they toured not only the house, but the Old Burial Ground here in Bedford and the old burial ground in Billerica. Some of our early Lanes are buried in Billerica, and some further out, in Amherst, NH. Bedford was incorporated in 1729, and our Deacon Job Lane who built the house on North Road, now our museum house, was one of the founding Town fathers as told to me by Mary Hafer.

As it turned out, Linda is of the exact same line as were Deena Gibson, her daughter Daneen, Cynthia Strock, and Barbara Cooper who came with their families in 2022. Linda is now a member of the DAR, as is Deena, who lives in Arizona. While doing the research to be a member of the DAR, Linda had contacted Deena, and unknown to either of them, they were from the exact same Ziba (pronounced Zeeba) Lane, from the line of Deacon Job Lane.

This has been a very exciting discovery not only did she discover that the Job Lane House was still here, but that she had cousins who also had visited the old house just a few years ago.

Linda said: "I'm wondering how I can help the museum?" Linda and her husband, Kelly, live in Utah but were at their summer home in upstate New York when they drove here.

Who is buried in Amherst, NH? The cemetery is called the Amherst Town Hall Burying Ground. PVC, Ziba Lane Sr., and his birth is July 5, 1756. He died at the age of 51, on August 25, 1807. And, I found this:

Maintained by:

Linda Quackenbush Turner

Originally Created by: Jackie Marshall

Added Nov 2, 2008

Find a Grave Memorial ID:31096445

I also found this:

Parents and Siblings



Ziba Lane Sr, Male, 1756–1807



Lydia Danforth, Female, 1753–1801

Siblings (6)

Hannah Lane, Female, 1778–1878

Josiah Lane, Male, 1780–1780



Who does this picture belong to? Deena and Cynthia used it to be part of the Calendar that they made for the year 2023, and used it for the January page.

Ziba Lane Jr, Male, 1782–1866

Lydia Lane, Female, 1784–1801

Francis Bowman Lane, Male, 1787–1849

Who were Francis Lane b. 1750 parents? By Jeannette Pothier

Job Lane, Jr. Revolutionary War Hero

JOB LANE, Jr. Sept. 27, 1718 ` June 11, 1796
Job, son of Deacon Job Lane and Martha Ruggles, was born Sept. 27, 1718; m. Jan. 29, 1747, Susanna Fassett, dau. Of Capt. Josiah Fassett, who d. Mar. 24, 1775; married 2d, Jan 15, 1777, Elizabeth Stickney; was wounded at Concord April 19, 1775, was pensioned by the government, and received consideration from the town. He died. June 11, 1796. (Brown's History of Bedford)
Lane genealogies (Chapman & Fitts):
JOB LANE, JR.4 (Job3, John2, Job1), 1718-1796, b. 27 Sept. 1718; subscribed towards building the meeting house in Bedford, Jan. 20, 1730, was taxed in the North Part, 1748.

Mr. Lane left home at the midnight alarm Apr. 19, 1775, and joined the Minute Men under Capt. Jonathan Willson in front of the Jeremiah Fitch tavern. After refreshments, the brave captain said to his men: "We give you a cold breakfast, boys, but will give the British a hot dinner; we will have every dog of them before night." They were joined by the militia company under Capt. John Moore. Seventy-seven Bedford men were among the first on the ground at Concord. They engaged in removing the military stores and were in the fight at the old North Bridge. In pursuit of the British across the Great Fields past Merriam's Corner toward Lexington, Capt. Willson was killed near Brook's Tavern, and Mr. Lane was severely wounded. The ball entered his side and lodged in his hip, where it remained, causing lameness during his life. Lord Percy said: "We never saw anything equal to the intrepidity of the New England minute men." Return of Minute Men, May 15, 1775: "Job Lane, Jr., wounded at Concord, April 19 .... in service one day." Return of Militia Co. under Capt. John Moore, Apr. 3, 1776: "Job Lane, Jr., wounded at Concord, travelled ten miles, in service one day." The town of Bedford voted Jan. 1779, "to abate half of Job Lane's war rates in consideration of his wounds received at Concord fight;" and in 1780, voted "to abate Job Lane's poll rates for every year since the war began." Again Jan. 22, 1782, "voted Job Lane, Jr., fourteen pounds in specie for his services in the army in 1776."

Job Lane, Jr., m. first, 29 Jan., 1746-7, by Rev. Nicholas Bowes, SUSANNA, dau. of Capt. Josiah and Joannah (Page) FASSETT, who was b. 29 Mar., 1725, and d. 24 Mar., 1775, ae. 50 years; m. second, 15 Jan., 1777, by Rev. Joseph Penniman, ELIZABETH STICKNEY of Bedford. He d. 11 June, 1796, ae. 78 years.

Bedford births: LANE, Job, ch. Lt. Job and Martha, Sept. 27, 1718, "before Bedford was nown." (It was part of Billerica at the time.)

Bedford marriages:

1. LANE, Job and Susana Fasset, Jan. 29, 1746-7. [Susanna, C.R. M.R.]
2. LANE, Job and Mrs. Elizabeth Stickney, Jan. 15, 1777.
Bedford deaths: LANE, Job, June 11, 1796, a. 79. ["suddenly with cramp in his stomach," aT. 78. CR]

JONATHAN MILLER LANE'S VISIT ON AUGUST 4, 2026



It was a normal workday for us who are part of the Bedford Garden Club. Each Wednesday morning, we work at the Job Lane House gardens. I saw a man quietly walking past our raised beds and asked if I could help him. He said he was just looking at the house. I said we were open the next Sunday, but he said that he lived in Vermont and would not be able to come. The next question I asked was his name, and he said Jonathan Lane. I did not need to know much more as I knew I would be able to show him the house and barn. He had been in Bedford the day before and had seen the Bedford Flag. He had a purpose for being here, beyond our history, and I asked him to write what he was researching.

But first, he is related to Alfred Church Lane, (AC Lane) his great grandfather, and his wife Susanne Lauiat. The final line ends with him. He had a son, Lauriat, and a second son, Frederic Chapin Lane (his grandfather), as well as a daughter named Harriet (his wonderful, great Aunt). Frederic had a son, George Mirick Lane (his father), and a second son Jonathan and a daughter Alfreda. What is nice about the attached is that it explains both the direct line to Job Lane as well as Nathaniel Page.

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After he returned home, he forwarded the Lane family genealogy he has for his family. It is a handwritten Poster, and with the help of Linda (Lane) Turner who was here the month before for the second time, she was able to make it clearer. It is a large poster, and it is a picture, so it is small penmanship.

This is his research: Regarding the project: AC Lane was a very well-known Tufts Professor of Geology and the former state geologist of Michigan. He and one other Tufts professor refused to sign the Massachusetts Loyalty Oath that was being pushed by the legislature in 1935. He resigned rather than sign it in an effort to make the point that teaching in a democratic society must be free of compulsion from the state (at the time it gained quite a bit of attention). As a long time, civics teacher and professor, I couldn't agree more! I am working on telling that story and placing it in a larger context of the need for civic education in schools as well as public learning spaces, such as public libraries, that are open to broad thought and reflection

He thanked me for being so welcoming and said, "The visit is one I will treasure." I invited him to come with his family next time.

~ Jeannette Pothier

JULIE MAINVILLE FAMILY VISIT FROM NORTH CAROLINA



Julie contacted us and we scheduled the tour for her family along with friends, on Saturday, September 5, with Julie and her husband, Joshua, and their son Josh with friends Tiffany and Maxim from Arizona. Julie's connection is with Job Lane Jr., the son of our Deacon Job. He, the son, was the patriot who on April 19th, 1775, went to the Fitch Tavern early that morning, and marched to Concord with the troops. He was with our Bedford captain, Jonathan Willson, when he was shot. They encountered British troops. *Copied from Find a Grave, "at the Great Fields past Merriam's Corner toward Lexington, Capt. Wilson was killed near Brook's Tavern, and Mr. Lane was severely wounded. The ball entered his side and lodged in his hip, where it remained, causing lameness during his life.*

In reading further in the Lane papers, I found that Deacon Job gave his son a house on Carlisle Road. Job Jr. is buried at the Old Burial Ground, on Springs Road, in Bedford Center, and his tombstone is a large rock with a plaque acknowledging he was a Patriot who fought at Concord.

We loved meeting the family and enjoyed the sons' many questions. Julie wanted to see where her descendants had walked and lived. We hope to see them again. We look forward to learning more about her line of Lanes.

~Sharon McDonald and Jeannette Pothier

DONNA ARGON MEMORIES



Upon Donna's death, I sent sympathy cards to her children, except for one living in Turkey. But, we also included a painting of what we believed was Donna's Grandmother.

How did we acquire this painting? It is a long story, but to the best of our knowledge and memory, here it goes. As membership chair, I always reach out to families especially siblings when I am notified of ones passing. At the time Donna was alive and had sold her house on Wildwood. Ellen Michaud lived across the street and had the painting and this is how she got it. Her daughter Virginia (Ginny) Michaud rescued it. Stopping at Ellen's I saw the painting and asked who it was of. So, knowing that I would like Donna to have it, I saved it and put it in the Job Lane House loft. Covid came about that time, and Donna was at Carlton Willard and they were closed to all viitors at that time.

After Donna's passing, I sent sympathy cards, and Cemal replied. Of course he would like the painting as it was his great grandmother. Donna's mother had died the day she was born, and this grandmother had cared for Donna and Cemal recognized her. He now has the painting.

~~Jeannnette Pothier

Mini-Forest Proposal

The Bedford Mothers Out Front presented a proposal to have a mini-forest planted on the Job Lane Farm Museum grounds. The proposal was reviewed by the Friends of Job Lane House and the Historic Preservation Commission. Although the mini-forest would have been a nice addition, the proposal was ultimately denied because the Friends of Job Lane House does not have volunteers to maintain the mini-forest. The Mothers Out Front group was advised to form a non-profit organization with volunteers to care for the mini-forest.



Job Lane Bear



Last year we had Phil the groundhog visit Job Lane farm. This year we have Job the bear. Look closely and you can see him hiding on the other side of our fence.

JOB LANE FARM MUSEUM 2026 ACTIVITIES

Sunday Open Hours 2 – 4 pm	2026 Events
Sunday, March 29, 2 – 4 pm	Annual Meeting, Old Town Hall
Saturday, April 25, 9 am	Yard Clean-up Day
Saturday, May 2, 9 am	House/Barn Clean-up Day
May 10	House Tours
May 24	House Tours
Wednesday, June 10	Job Lane School 3rd Grade Tours
June 14	House Tours
June 28	House Tours
July 12	House Tours
July 26	House Tours / Children's Activities
August 9	House Tours
August 23	House Tours
September 13	House Tours
September 19	Bedford Day – Town Hall Area
September 27	House Tours – Job Lane Friends Day
October 11	House Tours
October 25	Last House Tour of the Season
October 31	Closing the House for Winter
March 2027	Annual Meeting