

Friends of the Job Lane House, Inc.

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Greetings, Friends! Carol Hand and I look forward to summer Sunday tours with our volunteers and interns! Someone usually brings a treat, so stop by and get a tour and a treat! We are planning some parties for the membership and some fun events. If you have a quilt you are willing to display, let us know! We would love to add it to our showcase in July.

Celebrating Bedford history!

Yours, Julia Whiteneck

2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Directors</u>	
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

Welcoming new members 2026

Kay and Kevin Aubrey	Meaghan and Samuel Lane
Sarah Castricum	Deborah and Stephen Lee
Nancy and David Dillon	Anna and Michael Quadri
	Iana and Ethan Strominger



OPERATIONS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Our JOB LANE FARM MUSEUM 2026 House Tour season is in full swing. We had nice weather for both 2nd and 4th Sundays in May, 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. 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. As Operations Director, 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.

Job Lane House Self-Guided Audio Tour

Great Hall

ved as a dining room, room. It would have b n children, although c

ged over the years. J on, Job Lane's grandso ster and woodwork an

ob Lane built was half px" had one room up, one room down, tic. Nearly 100 years later another Lane est side of the house adding 4 more rooms.

rged the original big colonial fireplaces (ordized) which warmed the rooms better.

Wi-Fi
Connect to available n manage settings for joining networks and nearby hotspots. [Learn more...](#)

Wi-Fi

Job Lane House Tours ⓘ

Password: joblanehouse

Scan the QR code in the upper right corner of the information sign in each room.

As you enter the house, log on to Wi-Fi.

Scan the QR code with your smart phone, the Job Lane app will open, then click the play arrow to hear the audio.

Click the play arrow to hear the audio.

12:31

[https://joblanefarmmuseum.org/...](https://joblanefarmmuseum.org/)

JOB LANE FARM MUSEUM
c. 1713

The Parlor

The Parlor is part of the "new" side of the house. This room, a bed chamber above it, and a small room behind were added by descendant Oliver Abbott in 1713. He was Deacon Job Lane's step great grandson.

Lt Job Lane Elementary School Third Grade Job Lane House Tour



“True or False,” I asked them. “Job Lane was a Pilgrim who came over on the Mayflower.” “FALSE!!!!” they (almost) all shouted. And so their tours of the Job Lane House began – 150 third graders and their teachers and chaperones in a whirlwind June morning.

It’s so vital that Bedford kids learn about their town’s history! They were surprised and pleased to know that Lane School and all the ground they had walked on during their hike down Sweetwater Avenue was once part of Job’s farm. Who was Job? Why was he important to us? What was it like, the colonial life he and his family lived? House docents – some long-time volunteers, some doing it for the first time – love retelling the story.

But I’ll admit, afterwards I went right home for a long nap!!!

Sharon McDonald

THE VISIT OF SAMUEL AND MEAGHAN LANE, MAY 25, 2026

We were so pleased to meet the Samuel Lane family on the holiday.

It gives us great pleasure to have people throughout the country find us and come for a deep



feeling for our house here in Bedford. We explain about it being built in 1713 by Deacon Job Lane, that was then in Billerica. The church on the Common holds a dear place for the Lanes also, as it was where Job was a Deacon. Now, we have a document presented at our Annual Meeting in 2026, by Sarah Castricum on Job Lane and the Church. This shows our Job's life as he lived it, as told by Sarah.

They wrote: "We had an amazing time. The kids got in the car and couldn't stop talking about how nice you both were. Our visit was a special day for our family. We had the incredible opportunity to visit the home of my 9th great-grandfather and walk through a place that holds so much of our family's history.

Standing where generations before us lived was a powerful reminder of where we come from and the legacy that has been passed down through the years. It was amazing to share this experience together as a family, connecting the past with the present and creating memories that we'll never forget.

Moments like these make me grateful for our roots, our heritage, and the family we have today. We are extremely grateful for Jeannette and Sharon for taking time out of their day, to give us a private tour. A day we will never forget."

We have invited them to come again and bring other family members. Sam and Meaghan and their children, Dillon, Aubree and Sophie live in Cuddebackville, NY, a distance from Bedford, but while visiting here they were able to come and see their ties to the Lane family.

By Jeannette Pothier

A LANE DECENDANT VISIT

I contacted Linda Turner who was coming. I asked and they said they would come by 1 pm. They had planned to come arriving at 2 PM on Sunday as they were driving from near Scotia, New York, a 3 1/2-hour drive. Dorothy Africa could not be there at that time and being the Curator she wanted to be there. I asked and they said they would come by 1 pm. They came at 12:30 - Linda, Kelly, her husband, his brother Rick and his wife Rhea. Linda looked forward to meeting us, *"to go on the tour and learning about everything!! A dream comes true!"* to quote Linda.

We spoke in the house before the tour. I was happy to give the tour, as I have knowledge of the house being built by our Deacon Job Lane when he married Martha in 1713 or so we believe that to be the date. Behind the house we can see the roof line, and it does look like a Salt box.

The west side of the house was added by Olive Reed Abbott, a Lane descendant, in the early 1800's.

Linda is related to Ziba Lane Sr., the son of John Lane and Ruth Bowman and John's father was Deacon Job Lane. Linda said *"I'm over the moon excited to meet everyone and learn about everything!! When you research your family tree for years and hope to find records . . . and then this deluge appears!! To learn their home and property still exist . . . it's a miracle!!"*

Roy was called upon to film the tour. I could not list the children of the Lanes during the tour, as we had spoken about them in early history beginning with Winthrop and Dudley. Job, the first, was able to acquire land that was John Winthrop land portion.

We looked at the Family tree and discussed the first Lanes prior to the tour, as we waited for the museum to open at 2 pm when Roy was then free to start the filming.

Some picture taking took place after the tour, and I took the picture of the four of them in front of the house.



By 5 pm, we were ready to close the house with a promise that they would come and visit us again. I drove Linda to the center of Bedford, stopping at the Church on the common. That was the site of the first meeting house and the place where church services were held. Our Job, the grandson, was a Deacon there. But I left Linda at the Old Burial Ground, on Springs Road and after we saw the gravestones of Martha and Job, I bid farewell to her. Then I thought what a strange ending to leave her there, alone with all the Lanes, but she was happy. Her husband picked her up shortly after.

The next day, human instinct as I drove past, I looked over as if she would still be there! Silly, but we had a Great visit.

There is a lot more to be written for another Broadside.

By Jeannette Pothier, Tour Guide. Lanes always call the house theirs, and that's fine with us.

THE JOY OF LIVING: JO CHAMPNEY TURNS 105



Our friend, gardener Jo, loved seeing her gardening friends on her 105th Birthday. She started the design and planned the raised herb beds at the Job Lane House with Bedford Garden Club members, while the house was being prepared to open.

Research was not easy then; gardeners had to visit gardens and consult books, since computers were not yet part of everyday life. Today, we can simply Google herb names. Jo found some of the herbs in the field, and some at friend's gardens. We have kept true to the colonial period herbs in the four raised beds since 1978.

The bench that sits under the apple tree is in her honor upon her 100th birthday. She loves it and thanks us for it.

By Jeannette Pothier

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 3 rd 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

VISIT THE JOB LANE FARM MUSEUM THIS SEASON!! BRING YOUR FAMILY FOR A HOUSE TOUR, NEW DISPLAYS, ACTIVITIES, AND HISTORY OF DEACON JOB LANE AND THE FOUNDING OF BEDFORD IN 1729. BRING A PICNIC LUNCH! HAVE FUN BEING A JOB LANE VOLUNTEER!! PLEASE NOTE: There will not be a Family Field Day event this summer.