

A Greeter's Script:

Welcome to the Job Lane House! My name is +++ and I am a volunteer guide here.

We're very glad to have you visit us today at Bedford's colonial museum. The plan is that the other guides and I will take you through the downstairs of the house and we'll talk to you about each room. Come back with your parents to see the rest of the house. But before we go in, let me take five minutes to introduce you to the House. Be quiet as you enter and leave.

Job Lane built this house about 1713, which makes it one of the oldest houses in Bedford. When he built it, it was smaller than it is now. He just built the east half of it – a main room downstairs, a kitchen behind it, a bedroom upstairs, and an attic. It's a puzzle why he built it so small, for he was a rich man, and had a large family, for such a tiny house.

Job Lane was not born in England, and he didn't come across the Atlantic like the Pilgrims. Job was born in America, on this farm, in a house his grandfather built. Let me tell you how the Lanes came to live here.

First, Long ago, before Bedford was here, this was an area of woods and hills, river, and swamp. The Great and General Court gave Massachusetts Governor John Winthrop 1500 acres here, and his Deputy Governor, Thomas Dudley, 1500 more. They canoed down the Concord River from Concord to see their land. They beached their canoe at a place where there were two huge boulders on the riverbank and used them to mark out the boundaries of their land. The two boulders are still there, and we call them the Two Brothers' Rocks. This is a picture of them.

Governor Winthrop's land was huge. But Winthrop never moved here or built anything on his land, and finally it got sold to Job Lane's grandfather, who was also named Job Lane. Grandfather Job did move here, and built himself a house – not this house, but one about half a mile to the south. (It isn't there anymore.) This land that became Bedford was very different then.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Grandfather Job had no neighbors. TRUE

Deer, bears, and wolves lived in the woods. TRUE

This road was a Native American trail. TRUE

The high school, the library, the churches, and all the houses down in Bedford Center didn't exist then. TRUE

Grandfather Job had a son named John who inherited the land when Grandfather Job died. When John died, his children divided the land, and that is when young Job Lane built his house here on the part he inherited. This very house.

He also built a barn very much like our new post and beam barn. He planted corn and raised pigs and cows and sheep. He and his wife and children lived here, and then his children's children, and then their children. Many generations of the Lane family lived here on this farm for more than a hundred-and-seventy-five years.

About 1825, a descendant of Job's decided to add more rooms to the house. He built a parlor and added to the kitchen downstairs and added another bedroom and a back stairway. When the addition was finished, the house looked about like it does now.

QUESTIONS