

The Bullard Memorial Farm Association Newsletter



7 Bullard Lane
Holliston, MA 01746
Since 1658



Greetings, BMFA members!

After a chilly and wet May and somewhat chilly June, we are happy that summer is here!

I hope you enjoy reading about highlights from the spring meeting and some of the exciting things that have taken place at the BMF since the last issue, as well as news from California! Please feel free to send me content for future newsletters at cemacd@maine.rr.com.

Happy reading!

BMFA Spring Meeting Recap

June 3, 2017

Twenty three BMFA members attended the spring meeting on June 3, and, along with their in-hand proxies, a total of 85 voting members was represented, which constituted a quorum. The meeting was followed by a cookout with burgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs, several salad side dishes and yummy brownies, pies, and cookies (with the ice cream side-kick, of course!).

Below are a couple of highlights from the meeting. Please refer to the Clerk's minutes sent on June 20 for further meeting details:

- The Association voted on whether or not to approve the motion to authorize the expenditure of a sum of money, not to exceed \$300,000, by the Bullard Memorial Farm Association, under the direction of the Board of Directors, to construct a building to be located at the Bullard Memorial Farm as designed by Shannon Taylor Scarlett Architects, as well as all related costs thereto. The source of said funds to be from previously donated money, current commitments, future donations, and an amount not to exceed \$125,000 from the Association's investments.
 - ♦ With 85 approval votes and 0 non-approval votes from the 107 voting members of the Association, the motion passed.
- With the freestanding barn addition project moving forward, the Capital Campaign Committee is looking for members who are willing to help with fundraising. Please contact Jay McFarland (jmcfarland@hamptonford.com) to contribute your ideas or time to the fundraising effort.

Timekeeping in Early New England

Submitted by Chip Thurlow

On Thursday, March 16, 2017, in the main room of the house at the Bullard Memorial Farm, Bob Frishman presented “**Timekeeping in Early New England**”. Bob is a horologist; horology is the study and measurement of time and the art of making clocks and watches.

Bob is the founder of Bell-Time Clocks in Andover, MA, and a specialist in evaluating antique timekeeping practices and in repairing and evaluating antique time pieces. Bob has repaired 7,000 clocks and sold more than 1,700 vintage timepieces, and writes and lectures about the history, culture, and science of horology. He is a Fellow of the National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors, and a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers in London, UK.

Bob began his presentation describing how people lived when there were no mechanical clocks. Of course they used the daylight as a crude timekeeper. But since the length of a day varies during the year, there was no reliable and accurate method of knowing what time it was.

For centuries, people used variously accurate sundials, dripping water clocks, and sand



glasses that had to be rotated periodically.

The accuracy of the sundials depended on the time of year and

the distance from the equator. For the sand glasses, the rotation required a careful attention to the end of the sand flow.

Apparently on ships at sea, the sand glass was sometimes turned ahead of time to end a watch earlier than was scheduled! In a “time”



of informal lifestyles, variability was not much of a problem.

As industries developed, the workers and owners required a more accurate way of knowing when employees needed to show up for work. Thus, a mill bell would be rung in a village or mill area to announce the time that workers should report for work. Later, churches were eager to let parishioners know when to attend worship services, so they often installed clocks and bells in their steeples as a “call to worship”.

The Salisbury Cathedral in Salisbury England has the world's oldest working clock (1386). Later, in the Palace of Westminster in London, chimes were added to the hourly ringing of the bells for “Big Ben”. If you don't know what the Westminster chimes sound like, Google it on Youtube!



The first pendulum clocks had no hands, just ringing bells. Later, only an hour hand was added. Minute hands weren't necessary, as precise calculations weren't that important. Pendulum clocks used hanging weights, which were the primary source of energy. In grandfather clocks with 3-foot pendula, the pendulum ticks once each second; 3,600 times per hour; 86,400 times per day and 31,536,000 times per year!

Clocks were symbols of affluence and sophistication. The wealthy owned valuable clocks - tall case and mantle - as displays of their prestige. Apparently “classy” men added pocket watches as one symbol of their status, and to know what time it was for lunch and dinner.



Waltham Train Pocket Watch

Gradually more precise calculations of time was necessary, such as in keeping track of train schedules. Some single track lines required trains to pull over to a side rail so the other train could pass. Failure to accurately be on a side rail did cause catastrophic collisions! In addition, passengers needed to know when trains would arrive and depart from the station. Railroad conductors and engineers had watches that had to be inspected and serviced regularly, and carry a certificate of that verification.



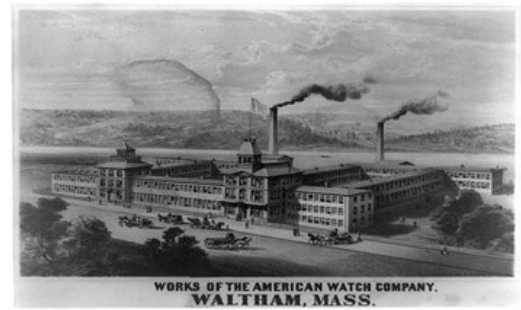
The marine industry also needed to more accurately calculate their position at sea. A pendulum clock couldn't work with the pitching of the ship so new inventions had to be created to calculate time accurately on board ship. The Longitude Act enacted in 1714 by the British Government offered, by Act of Parliament, £20,000 for a solution to the problem. Several recipients received portions of the award for their various contributions to create accurate marine chronometers for use at sea. Check out the efforts on Google!

The first American coin minted after the Revolution was the one cent Fuigo in 1787. It displayed a sundial and the words: "mind your business" reportedly selected by Ben Franklin. Ben was apparently eager to promote a productive society of independent Americans.



Eventually coiled springs were designed to provide the necessary power to operate the clock movement. The necessity for precision was required. Brass gears were expensive and time-consuming to make by hand. The Waltham Clock Company outside Boston, founded in

the 1850s, perfected mass-produced watch parts and reportedly originated many mass-production precision manufacturing techniques.



Knowing how to calculate time passing was one challenge. Knowing what time it was around the world was another. Prior to the 1880s there were thousands of local time zones around the world. A standardized time zone map was created, and revised periodically, to provide consistency. In 1883, four time zones were created in the United States to assist in this standardization. Daylight savings time was added in 1918 during World War I in an attempt to save resources by shifting one hour of daylight to the evening.



Following the presentation, Bob answered questions about whether to refinish an antique clock (depends on the clock, but not as taboo, as some believe); how to care for a wind up clock when going on prolonged vacation (let it run down part way then stop

it manually—don't let it unwind all of the way), and the devotion he and others have for cherishing and preserving antique time pieces.

Bullard Voices of the Past: Dr. James Hovey Bullard's Journals

In 2015, James Hovey Bullard's great grandson, Andy Alison, donated to the Anaheim Heritage Center a treasure trove of more than 40 personal diaries and medical journals that the doctor kept, as well as photographs, film, and other keepsakes. These fascinating historical documents capture insights about life in Anaheim in the 1880s.

The diaries also offer a glimpse into the previous generation that founded Anaheim in 1857, the Schmidts, whose daughter, Frances Emily Schmidt, married James Hovey Bullard. To quote Andy, "...when I read these diaries, it's almost like I'm having a conversation with them. The more I read, I'm getting to know them better and learning about their personal history as well as the history of Orange County."

The goal is for the Center to digitize the documents so they are readily available on their website. For now, they are offered as reference documents only.

It appears that the Bullard Family and their ancestors are generating a lot of local interest throughout Southern California!

[Click here to read the article](#); you won't be sorry!



Members of the Artifacts Committee spent two days cleaning and inventorying items in the East Parlor corner cabinet. Does this photo bring back memories?

Please send them to the Artifacts Committee!

bmfa.inventoryproject@gmail.com

Mrs. Bullard's Watsonias

Submitted by Andy Alison

One of my favorite stories regarding Frances Bullard happen in 1994 when I purchased my home in Laguna Beach and wanted to see if I could plant some Watsonia bulbs similar to those that Frances had hybridized back in the early 1920s. I visited our local Nurseryland garden store and asked the clerk where I might find Watsonia bulbs to plant in my new garden.



The clerk showed me where the bulbs were displayed. The only Watsonia bulbs they had were of the white Watsonia variety. Much to my surprise, the cover of display box of bulbs read "Califlora WATSONIA Mrs. Bullard's White". And this is nearly 80 years later!

Below is a photo of Frances Bullard's display of Watsonias at a horticultural show in Los Angeles, circa 1920s.



New shelving in the sitting room closet was installed by Tim, using hand-forged nails he had forged in PA.

Book Brigade!



Directly following the meeting on June 3, a team of 14 volunteers comprised a book brigade to move approximately 400 books from the Library to the Cider Mill building. Thanks to all who participated !

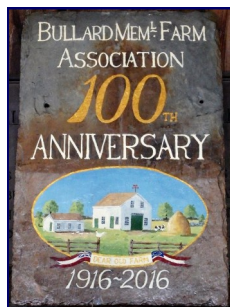


Drop Leaf Table

Suzanne McFarland sent these photos and details about the drop leaf table in the west parlor that Tim fixed and refinished. "Tim said the base is Honduras mahogany and the top is African mahogany. It's gorgeous and it is impossible to tell where the leaf was broken. The lamps that sit atop the table look smashing with the new lampshades donated by Betsy and George Boltenbacher!"



Centennial Anniversary Sign



As announced in the winter issue of the newsletter, Al and Jean Hood were the winners of Tim's hand-painted Centennial commemorative slate sign that was raffled off for the BMFA fundraiser.

You will all be happy to hear that Al and Jean donated it back to the Farm, where it is on display in the barn. Thank you, Al and Jean!

New England Museum Association and the American Association of State and Local History

Submitted by Chip Thurlow

As captured in the BMFA Clerk's email with the June 3 meeting minutes, the BMFA belongs to two professional organizations: the New England Museum Association (NEMA) and the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH). As a member of the BMFA, you are welcome to take advantage of the information and opportunities provided by these two organizations.

Below are membership information and links for upcoming workshops. Interested members can go to these organizations' websites to find information on the workshops and how to register.

The BMFA (and the editor of this newsletter!) would love for any member who attends a workshop or webinar to share the information they learned with the Association. Contact Chip Thurlow at thur-lowcp@aol.com with any questions.

New England Museum Association (NEMA):

<https://www.nemanet.org/conference-events/events-calendar/>

Membership Number: 8472; Membership Type: Institutional

Some of the upcoming events:

July 26, 2017, Lunch w/ NEMA

Drive Traffic to Your Site & Convert Visitors to Supporters. Seth Worby, founder, Champ Internet Solutions

October 25-27, 2017, Falmouth, MA

2017 Annual Conference

Truth & Trust: Museums in a Polarized Society
(continued next page...)

American Association of state and Local History (AASLH):

<http://learn.aaslh.org/calendar/category/webinar/>

AASLH: Membership No: 410576; Category: Institutional Contributing

July 25

Instagram for Museums and Historic Sites \$40 - \$65

Increasingly, Instagram connects artists, photographers, and influences around shared locations, interests, and hobbies. Museums and historic sites are well-positioned to use Instagram to increase awareness of their institution, further their mission, engage their audience online, and inspire new and existing audiences to visit.

August 8

Interpreting Anniversaries and Milestones at Museums and Historic Sites \$40 - \$65

This Interpreting Anniversaries and Milestones at Museums and Historic Sites webinar will provide a wealth of ideas to jump start your anniversary planning. Learn from what others have already accomplished in their own communities. This webinar will discuss why people are drawn to celebrating and commemorating anniversaries in their own lives and in their communities, as well as the institutional benefits of planning this type of programming.

American Chestnut Seedling Update

Submitted by Chip Thurlow

Prior to our recent Bullard Memorial Farm Association meeting I captured the progress of our five American Chestnut seedlings that were planted last fall. They survived the winter in great shape. The rainy weather has also assisted the leaf production, and the wire cages provide added protection from local wildlife.



Bullard Descendants' Thanksgiving Rotation:

2017: Lewis Henry Bullard line

2018: Harriet Bullard Rice line

2019: Collateral cousins line

2020: James Hovey Bullard line

2021: Frances Joanna Bullard Kingsbury line

2022: Albert Wheeler Bullard line

2023: Ellen Bullard Adams line

Mark your calendars!

By a vote of the membership at the June meeting, the fall, 2017 Farm Meeting was rescheduled for:

Saturday, October 14

We hope to see you there!!

Join the Programs Committee for Holliston Farms Day on Sunday, September 10! If interested, please reach out to Tara Hathaway at tph322@verizon.net

Calling all Bullards

Reminder: As always, please send any and all member news items and photos to Jean Hood. Be sure to include a date. She will include them in the BMFA scrapbooks. Jean's address is: 1 Oaknoll Court, Iowa City, Iowa 52246. *Thank you!*

BMF website

Be sure to take some time to visit our website:

www.bullardmemorialfarm.org. Ken Wood updates the website frequently and encourages and welcomes any feedback to improve the site.

If you have any news items, photographs, etc., please submit them directly to Ken at: woodk@norwalkps.org