

The Bullard Memorial Farm Association Newsletter



7 Bullard Lane
Holliston, MA 01746
Since 1658

Autumn Greetings!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and were able to enjoy the incredible weather that came with it. I, for one, wasn't excited to see it end and felt like it went from summer to fall overnight—there is actually now a chill in the air. But, the change of the seasons is inevitable, and fall is such a lovely season here in New England, so I shouldn't complain!

There are a few events coming up in October – the fall meeting on the 3rd, a Civil War band on the 4th and an Abe Lincoln impersonator on the 29th. Hoping you can attend one or all of these events!

We hope you are able to join us on October 3 for the fall Association meeting. Details are on page 2. If you are able to attend, don't forget to R.S.V.P. to Melissa Audier at bmfahouse@gmail.com.

This issue of the newsletter is being sent along with a very interesting historical essay, *Gentry in the Early Bullard Family of Yeomen*, written by Jack Kingsbury in 2013. These gems are so important, and should be required reading for all members. Enjoy this extra bit of interesting Bullard history, and enjoy this issue of the BMFA newsletter!

Cheers!

June Meeting & Picnic Recap

38 people attended the June 6 meeting and picnic/cookout. The meeting was called to order at 12:05pm by BMFA President Jack Hathaway, and a quorum was determined with 48 BMFA represented, including proxies,

including proxies (with 107 combined Gold and Silver voting members, 27 are required for a quorum).



Clerk Meredith Flynn reported that as of June 5, there are 86 Gold members, 21 Silver members, and 13 Bronze members. Meredith read introductions to new **Bronze members Jean and Roger Goff, Brent and Karin Sutter, Aidan MacDonald, and Duncan MacDonald**. Welcome to all!

Two new members were voted into the BMFA: **Silver member Ian McFarland**, and **Gold member Matthew Ferencz**. Welcome Ian and Matthew!

Meredith read the births and marriages. There were no deaths to report.

Births:

- **Dominic Aaron Kull**, born 12.20.2008 to Steven Kull
- **Chase Lee Cleary** born 2008 and Harley Morgan Cleary born 2010 to Heather Marie Lee (daughter of Marie Lee) and Jason Cleary
- **Meghan Lynne Burst** born 7.3.2010 and **Jack James Burst** born 11.7.2012 at 9:06am 11 lbs. 2 ounces, 22 1/2 long to Kathy Burst (daughter of Kathy Lynne Korneth Jensen)
- **William Korneth Hess** born 9.27.2012 to Matthew and LeighAnn Hess (baby boy #2 due in July)
- **Casey Nicholas Johnston** 5.20.2012 to Nicholas and Mary Johnston Walter

Frohman born 6.23.2014 to Elizabeth Bullard Frohman and Walter Frohman

- **Ruth Whitney Stevens** born 4.8.2011 and **Zaiah Cantwell Stevens** 9.10.2014 to Ellie Emslie Stevens and Dustin Daniel Stevens
- **Shaun Joseph Roberts** born 5.19.2015 to Carolyn and Ken Roberts 8lbs 1oz, 20 3/4in at 12:40am on Carolyn's birthday!

Marriages:

Brittany Rose Balfour (daughter of **Kristen Bullard Balfour**) married James Padgett on December 6th, 2014



Other meeting highlights:

- Director Chip Thurlow reported an update on the directors' choice to not renew Chapter 61/61A designation for forested property which had been in effect for the past 34 years. As a 501(c)3 Public Charity, the BMFA no longer needs the property tax reduction (main advantage). Directors voted at meeting in March to allow designation to expire. The Board will notify town hall as a courtesy. (Please see page 5 for an expanded explanation of this designation.)
- Jack Hathaway reported that Chip Thurlow has been working with Jack Kingsbury on obtaining the Bullard genealogy. Suzanne McFarland has been keeping track of births, deaths and marriages for the past 10 years, Meredith Flynn will continue to do so and will be trained to keep the database updated. Bullard descendants should continue to update the clerk with birth, death and marriage information. *[Editor's note: please see the notice on page 6 requesting a database manager for the genealogy project.]*
- The Board presented a plaque to Suzanne McFarland for over 30 years of service as director, 10 of which as Clerk. The Association expressed gratitude for all of her hard work over the years.



BMFA President, Jack Hathaway, presents Suzanne McFarland with a plaque recognizing her 30+ years of service to the BMFA. Thank you, Suzanne!

Holliston Farms Day

The fifth annual Holliston Farms Day took place on Sunday, September 13, and once again, the Bullard Memorial Farm participated with several activities for the public to partake in. A recap of the event wasn't quite ready at press time, so it will be included in the next issue of the newsletter. In the meantime, here is a sneak peak of the event:



BMFA Fall 2015 Meeting

We hope you can join us on **Saturday, October 3**, for the fall meeting and pot luck lunch:

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|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 9:00a.m. | Directors' Meeting |
| 12:00p.m. | Lunch in the barn |
| 1:00p.m. | Association Meeting in the barn |

Please bring a hearty casserole, soup/stew in a crockpot, a side dish such as baked beans, or artisan bread to share. Apple cider will be provided and members are permitted to bring beer or wine, if so desired. The House Committee will warm items needed—please label with oven temperature and length of time to reheat.

If you haven't already done so, please R.S.V.P. a.s.a.p. to Melissa Audier at bmfahouse@gmail.com.

Hardtacks: Folk Songs of the Civil War Era

Join us on **Sunday, October 4 at 2:00pm** to hear some great music! Musicians/educators Woody Pringle and Marek Bennett lead participatory concerts featuring the music & voices of the Civil War era in a unique combination of period music, visual materials, & primary source texts.



This beautiful slate sign was painted by Farm Manager, Tim Sanders, who will paint signs for all of the buildings at the Farm.

BMFA Long Term Planning Committee—Preliminary Report

In 2014, the Board of Directors of the BMFA appointed a Committee to undertake formulation of a long term plan for the Association and the Farm. The Committee was made up of George Bollenbacher, Chair, Daphne Stevens, Phil Audier and Skip Spurway.

Approach

Early in its deliberations, the Committee recognized that there are two major constituencies to a long term plan: the Association members (made up almost entirely of family) and the public (in the form of individuals and political or educational organizations). These two constituencies have different views of the Farm and may have different objectives. Balancing the needs of the two constituencies, and maximizing the value of the farm to both of them, represented the Committee's biggest challenge.

The SWOT¹ Analysis

The Committee's first order of business was to create a SWOT analysis for the Farm, both from

the members' and the public's viewpoint. In the analysis, which is available by email, we needed to differentiate between the farm as a site and the family as a group. This is because, while the history of the family is of interest to family members, it is of only marginal interest to the public. On the other hand, while the Farm as a place appears to have gradually declining support by the family, it is of more interest to the community. The analysis, and this report, will focus on the Farm as a site. In summary, here are the weaknesses of the current situation from both constituencies, in rough priority order:

- The dispersal of the family and its gradually declining involvement in the Farm
- A lack of public involvement in the Farm
- A heavy reliance on the endowment for funding
- A lack of membership expertise in historic preservation
- A lack of property tax revenues (from the public's viewpoint)

Here are the threats:

- Eventually there will be too few family members interested enough or local enough to care for the Farm
- The endowment income will become insufficient to maintain the Farm, let alone embark on any preservation projects
- The Farm becomes an orphan, with no group or entity prepared or able to care for it
- A decision would be taken by the BMFA to sell some of the land for development
- The physical condition of the buildings and artifacts deteriorates
- Vandalism or natural disaster

Here are the strengths:

- 150 acres of relatively undeveloped land in a Boston suburb, possibly available for recreation
- The Farm's availability for members to visit overnight
- The artifacts and records of family life throughout the period of the Farm's existence, as well as Jack Kingsbury's books and pamphlets

¹ Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats

- The endowment, now valued at over \$3,000,000
- A network of members worldwide who continue to have an interest in the Farm

Before moving on to opportunities, it is appropriate to set out the Committee's initial conclusions from this part of the analysis. Since this analysis relates to the Farm as a site, and the artifacts there, the Committee believes that, as the family disperses, without some changes the Farm will have less and less value to the BMFA's far-flung members. This erosion may not be rapid, but the Committee recognizes that it will be inexorable. Thus the Committee shifted its attention to increasing the value to the public as much as to the family. In fact, the Committee has concluded that any long term plan must include significant participation by the public.

That participation could come from two sources: 1) local residents, either independently or via the surrounding towns, and 2) historical bodies, either academic or public. This would require participation in the decision-making, meaning that the exclusive control by the family will have to change. Recognition of this by the family is essential in any long term plan.

As a result, the Committee has concluded that: 1) the public will need to have an increasing say in the administration of the Farm, including membership on the Board of Directors, and 2) the Farm will have to have increased public usage, albeit in ways that preserve its physical and historic nature. The Committee recognizes that these changes are significant, and may not be popular with some members, but it does not see a better long term plan.

With regard to the opportunities, in terms of priorities, the Committee ranked them as: 1) increased involvement (both public and family), 2) increased revenue, 3) preservation (least wear and tear), 4) efficiency (lowest up-front cost and/or resource usage), and 5) historical authenticity.

We have divided the opportunities into two categories: primarily local and primarily historical. We note that more than one of these opportunities could be pursued at the same

time. In the SWOT report, we have listed the pros and cons for each opportunity. As part of further study, we may find there are additional opportunities.

Primarily local opportunities

- Active farming and cider production – This opportunity involves planting and tending many more apple trees in the orchard and the field west of the orchard, and pursuing the arrangement with Christine Oberli and Frank Bobe, who approached us about the artisanal cider/vinegar production.
- Sustainable haying practices – Actively farm the hay fields by working with a local farmer. Research and use best sustainable haying practices. Once-a-year have a program to share knowledge about haying.
- Community garden - Provide community garden space, not to exceed two acres, for local organization(s) to grow vegetables for food banks, local soup kitchens and food pantries.
- Passive tree program – Continuation of managing the woods with a forestry plan.
- Public usage of the land north of Central – This opportunity involves making the forested and meadow areas north of Central into a more heavily-used recreational area, under the assumption that more usage will generate more public involvement in the Farm.
- Venue for appropriate gatherings – *This opportunity would use the barn and grounds as venues for appropriate gatherings, including historical, recreational, and celebratory events.*

Primarily historical opportunities

- Historical farm – This opportunity involves undertaking farming activities in the way they would have been done at various times in the past. Because the Farm was in continuous use for about 250 years, it may be in a unique position to showcase the evolution of farming methods from the 1650s to the 1900s.
- Living family history – This opportunity involves telling the story of the family

over the same period as above. It would involve bringing past family members to life through their writings, and possibly portrayals, and having artifacts organized and displayed so as to tell a continuous story.

Any of these options, as well as any others not presented here, will have to be weighed as to benefit, for both the Farm and various groups, against cost, investment, and wear and tear.

Next Steps

At their February 2015 meeting, the Directors discussed the SWOT findings, and requested this preliminary report. Now there must be an in-depth discussion of the SWOT findings by the membership at the June and October 2015 meetings. If the membership generally agrees with these findings, at the February 2016 Board meeting the Committee will present a more complete plan, with authorized steps, timelines, and assigned responsibilities. If the Board approves that plan, it will be presented to the membership at the June 2016 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

The Long Term Planning Committee:
George Bollenbacher (Chair), Daphne Stevens, Philip Audier, Skip Spurway

May, 2015



This photo of a "bee tree" (a.k.a. Korean Golden Rain Tree) was sent in early July by Farm Managers, Bridgett and Tim Sanders, who said "it fairly hums with between 20,000 – 40,000 bees." This is encouraging to hear, given all the news coverage of bees' uncertain future on this planet due to pesticides.

Bullard Memorial Farm Association Memorandum

To: The Members of the BMFA

From: the Directors of the BMFA

Date: June, 2015

Subject: Discontinuance of Chapter 61/61A designation for our forested property

For the past few decades (since 1981) the BMFA has chosen to accept Chapter 61 ("Intended for landowners interested in long-term, active forest management") and 61A ("Intended for landowners engaged in agricultural or horticultural use.") approval for our forested and hay field property – about 137 acres of our 150 acre property. When we voluntarily applied (there is no state mandate for membership) and received approval for this designation, we received a modest property tax benefit and we implemented periodic ten-year Massachusetts approved Forestry plans. The primary benefit, according to the statute, was the property tax reduction. The Chapter 61 designation also requires a right of first refusal by the Town in which the property is located to purchase the property when it is offered for sale. We continue to manage our forested property with a state certified forester who supervises our woodlands and authorizes periodic timber harvests.

This year, our ten-year Chapter 61/61A designation is set to expire. The Directors carefully explored whether or not extending the designation would be in the best interests of the BMFA and responsible forestry management practices. We discussed the options with experts in land management, such as the New England Forestry Foundation and the Massachusetts Forestry Alliance.

Since we became an approved 501(c)(3) Public Charity in 2009, we have not had to pay any property taxes on any of our 150 acre property since 2011 (taxable year 2010). Thus, the benefit of reduced property taxes for Chapter 61/61A no longer applies. In addition, as stated above, having a Chapter 61/61A designation gives the Town of Holliston the right of first refusal should we decide to sell any of our forested property (an extremely unlikely event). Allowing the designation to expire

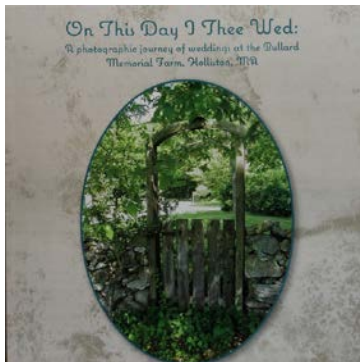
removes that option for Holliston officials. We also do not have to incur the task of completing the paperwork and the expense of paying the \$50 filing fee.

We intend to continue our ten-year forestry plans with a Massachusetts state certified forester. We do not need Chapter 61/61A designation to do so. Forestry plans identify the varieties of timber stands on our property and the periodic harvests necessary for proper management. The plans also include inspection of our trees for invasive plant and insect species – such as the Asian Longhorn Beetle. The current forestry plan also expires at the end of this year so we are working on an extension.

Thus, the Directors of the BMFA voted to discontinue membership in the Massachusetts Chapter 61 program when it expires at the end of 2015.

If you have any questions about this decision, please feel free to contact the Director of your choice.

Now Available: *On This Day I Thee Wed*



Melissa Audier has completed compilation of the book *On This Day I Thee Wed*, A photographic journey of weddings at the Bullard Memorial Farm, Holliston, MA. There will be three (3) on hand for purchase at the fall meeting, and they can also be ordered by contacting Melissa, who will provide you with the Mixbook website link to order it directly. Hardcover is \$40 (including tax and delivery); softcover is \$30 (including tax and delivery). Melissa may be reached at bmfa-house@gmail.com. Thank you.

Save the Date: Centennial Celebration!



Please save the date for the BMFA Centennial Celebration: **July 23rd, 2016**. Contact Tara Hathaway at tph322@verizon.net for more information and to join the planning committee.

Formal Save-the-Date to follow.

Genealogy Database Manager Needed

Recently, Jack Kingsbury, past President and Clerk of the BMFA, turned over to the Association a genealogical database of the Bullard Ancestors that he had spent many years creating and that requires further maintenance.

The Association has purchased RootsMagic, a database management program, and has loaded Jack's database into it. Now we need someone to maintain the genealogy database going forward. The ideal person would have some working knowledge of databases, such as how records are structured, how records are appended, and how reports are generated. If you are comfortable working with databases, and have an interest in managing the Bullard genealogy, please contact either Chip Thurlow (thurlowcp@aol.com) or Meredith Flynn (bmfaclerk@gmail.com). We can forward to you copies of the program and the database. Thank you in advance for your help.

BMFA Committee Openings

Appreciation Committee

Responsible for thanking people and organizations who contribute to our goals by donating time, effort, or money to the BMFA. Contact: Meredith Flynn, bmfaclerk@gmail.com

Centennial Celebration Planning Committee

Responsible for planning activities for the BMFA 100th anniversary celebration, scheduled for July 23, 2016. Contact: Tara Hathaway, bmfaprograms@gmail.com

Educational Programs Committee

Responsible for planning and hosting educational programs at the farm. Contact: Tara Hathaway, bmfaprograms@gmail.com

If you are interested in joining these or any of the BMFA committees, please contact the person indicated above or the director of your choice.

*In accordance with BMFA by-laws, members at any level (Bronze, Silver, Gold) are eligible to participate in committees.

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



These photos were taken by Melissa Audier when she was Farm sitting this summer.