

The Bullard Memorial Farm Association Newsletter

The Bullard Homestead
7 Bullard Lane
Holliston, MA 01746
Since 1658



Happy Holidays!

I hope you all had a pleasant Thanksgiving and Christmas, and here's to a very happy and healthy 2014! This is a busy time of year, but I find that spending time with family and friends is tonic for the soul, and wouldn't trade the hectic time for anything.

The fall meeting took place on a gorgeous Indian summer day, September 28. The lunch and meeting were preceded by a memorial service for Alvan H. Bullard, Jr.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter, and remember, it is your newsletter. Please continue to submit material, as we are always looking for new and interesting content. Send me your news, photos, etc., that you would like to see included in the BMFA Newsletter.

Happy reading, and may your holidays be happy, healthy, and safe. We'll see you in 2014.

Cheers!

Holliston Farms Day
September 8, 2013
Submitted by Tara Hathaway

[As promised in the last issue of the newsletter, we bring you the recap of the annual Holliston Farms Day.]



This was the third year the BMF participated in Holliston Farms Day. This year Charlie and Ned Kingsbury prepared a very interesting and educational presentation on their treadmill/cider press project. Visitors learned a great deal and were very impressed.



Treadmill/cider mill excavation/reparation project on display during Holliston Farms Day.

Daphne Stevens gave demonstrations on the hand apple press, which is always a big hit, and, in the barn, period games, crafts and a bake sale could be enjoyed by visitors.

Rob Lyon, a blacksmith from Old Sturbridge Village, was our special guest this year. He had a portable forge set up and gave hands-on demonstrations all day. Children and adults alike enjoyed making nails and learning about blacksmithing. He was set up just outside the blacksmith shop so guests could go into the shop and view the large forge and bellows.



Rob Lyon's portable blacksmith's forge set up just outside the blacksmith shop.

The museum was open for tours, and games were out on the lawn in front of the barn.

Fall Meeting and Alvan Bullard Memorial Service September 28, 2013

As mentioned in my opening greeting on page one, Saturday, September 28, was a beautiful Indian summer day. Members from far and wide gathered for the fall meeting.



Relatives of Alvan H. Bullard, Jr., gather in front of the Stewartia tree planted in his memory.

Prior to the meeting, folks gathered in front of the Stewartia tree that was planted in honor of Alvan H. Bullard, Jr. The service was an informal affair, with his cousins, sisters, nieces and nephews sharing memories of Alvan. We think it was exactly what Uncle Alvie would have wanted. Next time you are at the BMF, take a look at the plaque and tree that is planted near the stone wall and to the right of the barn (as you are facing it). In addition, six blueberry bushes were planted in his memory, after the memorial service.

Chip Thurlow, past President of the BMFA, wrote the following tribute to Alvan shortly after he died, and asked that it be shared in the newsletter:

A Tribute to Alvan Bullard

The Directors want to take this opportunity to share the significant role he played in establishing the Investment Portfolio that is critical to our current financial stability.

When the BMFA was established in 1909, John Anson Bullard created the JAB Trust that would provide financial support for the BMFA upon his death, which occurred in 1916. For the next 90 years, the JAB Trust was the primary basis for the financial stability of the BMFA. The Trust provided important income for many members of the BMFA who, in turn, made contributions

to the BMFA for our operating expenses. The Trust also directly provided monthly income to the BMFA.

Fortunately, prior to the Trust termination, Alvan advocated strongly for distribution of some of the assets from the Trust to the BMFA. A petition was filed by the JAB Trust representative, Joel Sherman from Goulston and Storrs, and was approved by the Probate Court. Without Alvan's advocacy, it is possible that those funds from the Trust would not have been awarded to the BMFA.

When the last "measuring Bullard", Helen Wiles, passed away in January 2005, the Trust terminated and the assets were eventually distributed to the surviving heirs. Subsequently, some members made generous contributions to the BMFA from their inheritance to the BMFA Investment Portfolio. Of course, the BMFA still relies on annual contributions from the members to meet our annual expenses.

Thus, because of Alvan's tenacity, the BMFA is much more financially stable than if he had not been such a strong advocate. We, the members and Directors of the BMFA, are extremely grateful for his vision, persistence and dedication to the BMFA and the Bullard Memorial Farm.

Thank you Alvan. We are blessed for your important role in providing for the long term stability of the BMFA.

Fall Meeting Highlights

61 members were in attendance at the fall meeting. Following tradition, a pot luck lunch was shared by all at 1:00, with some delicious dishes, followed by the meeting at 2:00pm.

Some of Alvan Bullard's creations were on display in the barn during the meeting, as well as photos of him for members to view before and after the meeting.



Prior to the Association meeting, members presented Chip Thurlow with a plaque and cake thanking him for his long service as President of the BMFA (nearly 20 years!).



Chip Thurlow is presented with a plaque and cake for his dedicated service to the BMFA.

HPM Partners: George Bollenbacher introduced HPM Partners Lorraine George-Harik from New York City and Steve Schoneman from Chicago. Lorraine is head of Marketing, and Steve manages the BMFA portfolio. They provided a bit history of themselves and HPM. In a nutshell, "HPM is a registered investment advisor, providing investment advisory and consulting, wealth planning, and tax and private capital finance services. HPM is partners with the Milstein family, widely acknowledged for their success over three generations in investing, real estate, banking, manufacturing, energy and international business." Steve stressed they offer advice and service, not products. HPM has managed the endowment account since January, 2013. For more info about Lorraine and Steve, please refer to the BMFA Association Meeting minutes.

Pending Vote: George Bollenbacher described how the majority of the Board of Directors had reached their decision to pursue a Conservation Restriction Agreement with the Town of Holliston. Much discussion around this issue took place, with many questions being answered by the Board. Concerns were raised, and in order for the motion (as moved by George Bollenbacher and seconded by Jack Hathaway) to pass, 83 of the 124 eligible members would need to vote in the affirmative. Members filled out the paper ballot, which were tallied by Suzanne McFarland and Doug Hathaway. The results of the vote were 81 in favor, 21 opposed, and 22 non-votes. Therefore, the CR did not pass.

However, because there were 22 non-votes (i.e. no proxies representing those 22 members), a special Meeting was called to

revisit the vote. It was held on November 10, and, as stated in the minutes provided by the Clerk: *The meeting was called to order by President Jack Hathaway at 10:45am. The Clerk determined there was a quorum, as the eligible voting membership was 127 members when the Call to Meeting went out. According to the Association Bylaws, one-fourth must be present in person or by proxy, which equals 32 members. The Clerk determined that we had 77 proxies and 12 members present, clearly constituting a quorum. Members present at the Meeting were Phil Audier, George Bollenbacher, Suzanne McFarland, Jack Hathaway, Chip Thurlow, Daphne Stevens, Tara Hathaway, Skip Spurway, Melissa Audier, Rob Emslie, Suzanne Schaffer and Scott Hills.*

The only item on the agenda was the Conservation Restriction Agreement vote. Phil Audier moved to authorize the Directors of the BMFA to enter into a Conservation Restriction Agreement (CR) with the town of Holliston, George Bollenbacher seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued for approximately one hour. At 11:40 the vote was called and the members filled out the necessary paperwork (ballots with proxies recorded). Suzanne McFarland collected all the ballots and proxies. George Bollenbacher was instructed to help Suzanne tally and collate all the paperwork. At 12:15 Suzanne McFarland announced the results. 90 voted for, 12 against and 25 members neither submitted a ballot nor gave a proxy to a member. The number needed to pass was 85 being 2/3rds of the 127 eligible voting members. Therefore, the authorization for the BMFA Directors to enter into a Conservation Restriction Agreement (CR) with the town of Holliston passed.

[For those who have any questions about the CRA, please reach out to the BMFA Board of Directors.]

Births: **Eliza Brooks Kreyling**, born June 20, 2013, in West Columbia, SC to Eric and Joanna Jensen Kreyling; and, **Aurora Whitney Schmergel**, born on September 20, 2013, to Joanna and Greg Schmergel, of Lincoln, MA.

Marriages: **Justine C. Lomax Dean** to **Frederick (Rick) George Leach** in Pacific Grove, CA on July 27, 2013; **Christopher Adams Holden** to

Caila J. (CJ) Myers, Toronto, Ontario, on September 7, 2013.



Members of the Holden Family at Christopher's wedding on September 7, 2013: Scott, Ann, CJ, Christopher, Greg.

Deaths: [All obituaries were read during the Meeting, and sent out separately, afterwards.]

Alvan H. Bullard, Jr., passed away on June 3, 2013; **Priscilla Fletcher** passed away on June 30, 2013; **Beverly Ann Gussen Hood**, wife of John Elkins Hood, passed away on July 4, 2013; **Doris Baird Peck Spurway**, passed away on July 30, 2013; and **Arthur Lewis Whinston** passed away on September 4, 2013.

New Members: **Andrew Burton Leenhouts** and **Brian Andrew Flynn** were both voted into the BMFA.

2014 Association Meetings: Members agreed to the 2014 calendar, with the spring meeting scheduled for **Saturday, June 7**, and the fall meeting scheduled for **Saturday, October 4**. Mark your calendars!

Norfolk Hunt Club at BMF November 19

Approximately 40 fox hunters and horses arrived at the Farm on Tuesday, November 19. They arrived around 7am, parked in the golf course area, rode down the driveway and across the street to ride on the trails, through the hayfield and connect to some trails in Sherborn. Tim reported that the event went very well, the turnout was much higher than expected for a mid-week event, and they loved the Farm and the ride. Below are some photos of the event.



Another Bullard "Snippet": Women's Rights By Jack Kingsbury

Popular belief today is that wives had little recognition as independent individuals under American colonial law. The Bullard record sheds light on that belief.

It is true that no individual woman has owned the ancestral Bullard Farm from inception to now, some ten generations, but ownership became "diffuse" with the death of Henry Bullard who had inherited a half interest in the property with his only brother, John Anson Bullard from their father Titus. On his death in 1906, Henry's half interest was divided equally among his children, including several females (my grandmother among them), but with their approval John Anson then occupied and ran the farm itself until his death in 1916, aged 94. Before his death, John Anson and his nieces and nephews had gotten together and formed a not-for-profit corporation under Massachusetts law to own the property free and clear, its present ownership today. Individual females have thus been legally part owners only briefly, collectively, and recently.

Some events in the lives of the first three generations of immigrant Bullards and their neighbors, however, broaden this picture of early ownership of property by women. They relate to Association ancestor Robert and his brothers George and John Bullard and took place in an immigrant English society already well provided with laws of inheritance and legal rights, which were adopted and largely prevailed even on this side of the Atlantic. For women, this included specific dower rights (generally up to one-third of an estate) which could be enforced by government no matter what a (male) will said.

Robert and wife Ann Martin Bullard were married in England, had a son Benjamin and two daughters, and settled in Watertown before 1635. Robert died prematurely only a

few years after arrival with his young family. Son Benjamin was then sent to live in Dedham with his Uncle John's family (John's wife also was Ann's sister), and with two small daughters to care for, his mother Ann remarried quickly, to a Henry Thorpe, just widowed. He brought an infant daughter into that marriage. On Robert's death, Ann Bullard inherited full ownership of the Robert Bullard Watertown property. With her approval, Henry Thorpe and daughter moved from Cambridge to live in Robert's Watertown home, but Ann first required him to sign a paper acknowledging her ownership of the entire property and her act before the second marriage of deeding the property to her Bullard children equally on her death, specifically with nothing going to Henry or his daughter.

Of the two, Ann died first, and the daughters having married and left, Henry Thorpe became sole occupant of the Watertown property for many following years. In later years he required public help (caretaking) to stay there, and the town provided it, thinking that the property would revert to town ownership on his death, and thus by its sale pay back some of their caretaking costs. In that event, however, Benjamin and his two sisters showed up and demanded recognition of their ownership of the property, which they had had legal title to since the time of their mother's death. The town of Watertown had to accept Ann Thorpe's ownership and right of bequest of the Bullard property, and reluctantly did. Benjamin and his sisters made good money on its sale.

Another story, this abstracted from the Bullard *Episodes* book: The first death recorded in Watertown, that of John Pickrum in 1630, left his widow Esther husbandless. The Pickrum property was next door to the homestead of George Bullard. The normal Puritan practice, as exemplified above, was a remarriage within a few months or a year. Esther did not remarry. She was older than most widows and had already lost two adult children, her daughter Joan, aged 20, buried three days after her husband John's burial, and her son John, Jr., buried in 1639. There was at least one additional son in Esther's family, George Pickrum, and from land records it is evident that George and his mother continued to occupy the family homestead for many years after

father John Pickrum's death in 1630. With a grown son around willing to work the home farm, and no small children, Esther did not have to remarry. This suggests that muscle, not ownership rights, was what was involved in a quick second marriage of a widow. Just harnessing a skittish opinionated mare to a simple two-wheeled carriage for a trip to the general store would have been physically challenging for most females of middle age (as well as being considered unseemly by the neighbors).

In the civic organization of Watertown, widow Esther Pickrum, sole owner of the Pickrum homestead, was treated equally with the men in the subsequent awarding of common lands. She retained personal title to the homestead after her husband's death, and received at least six additional land grants from Watertown's common lands over several years as these grants were handed out. The largest under a town act of 1642, was a farm of 99 acres. In total, Esther Pickrum is recorded as having had possession of more than 150 acres of land in her name alone. She became a truly wealthy woman.



The 2013 Robert W. Bullard Award

Marlene McIntosh recently sent the letter from Indiana University announcing the 2013 recipient of the Robert W. Bullard Award.

The letter was from John B. Watkins III, Ph.D., Assistant Dean and Director, Professor of Pharmacology & Toxicology at the university. The award was presented to Andrew Pfaff for his outstanding achievements in Physiology.

Andrew, currently a second year medical student, was born and raised in West Lafayette, IN, and attended DePauw University, majoring in biochemistry with a minor in Spanish. Attached to the letter from Dr. Watkins was a note from Dr. Bruce Martin,

Professor of Physiology, Medical Sciences Program, in which he sang Andrew's praises:

Andrew Pfaff was our most outstanding Physiology student in the first year-year medical class of 2012-2013. He scored in the top 10% of the class in hourly exams, and scored in the 96th percentile on the Medical Examiners Physiology national exam, ranking him in the top 4% of medical physiology students nationwide.

A leader both academically and personally, with promise both for medical practice and for scholarly work in medical research, Andrew is a superb choice to receive the Bullard Award.

The award was established after Bob Bullard died while on a climbing expedition on Mt. McKinley (Denali), Alaska, in 1971. Bob was on the faculty at Indiana University's School of Medicine.

Bob was the husband of Marlene, the father of Kristen Balfour, Carolyn Bullard, and Alicia Van Ooyen, son of Alvan and Florence, and brother of Alvan Bullard, Joanna Hills, and Ann Tomlinson.

LAST Reminder: Bullard Farm Brides & Grooms:

Melissa Audier has received many photos of weddings that took place at the farm, and is planning on putting them together in a photo book of weddings. HOWEVER, she would like to give everyone a little more time to send or e-mail photos to her before she prints the book. If you have a photo you would be willing to share, you can either e-mail the scanned photo to Melissa (audier@verizon.net) or mail a copy of the photo to her at 275 Haverhill St. North Reading, MA 01864. Please include the name of the bride (with maiden name, if applicable) and groom and the date of the wedding. The deadline for sending in photos is March 31, 2014. Thank you!

Daphne's Green Tips

"Report Reveals Fragrance Allergies on the Rise" by Seventh Generation. I have long talked in these tips about fragrance being a toxin. This new report comes from the group Women's Voices for the Earth who have found that "allergic reaction and sensitivity is more

widespread than previously thought." One example is that allergens hiding in scented products are affecting tens of millions of people in the U.S. Another example notes that children are experiencing more allergic contact dermatitis which used to be rare. Eczema has increased worldwide. Girls and women are more affected than men, as they use more products with fragrances. There is no law in the U.S. that forces companies to list the fragrances on their products, though there is in Europe. If you see fragrance listed on any product, vote with your wallet—don't buy it. Since fragrance allergens are in over 90% of shampoo, antiperspirants and shaving products, finding ones without will be a bit difficult. To find safe products, visit www.ewg.org or www.womensvoices.org.

Upcoming Events

January 30, 2014: Cookbook authors **Keith Stavelly** and **Kathleen Fitzgerald** will present an illustrated 50-60 minute talk based on their book, ***Northern Hospitality: Cooking by the Book in New England***. The book is a collection of historic recipes, drawn from the English and American cookbooks known to be particularly popular and influential in New England from the early seventeenth century to the early twentieth century.

February/March (dates TBC): Speaker **Paul LaCroix** will present the Bogastow Farms Stone House Archaeological Investigation, in a two part series, as follows:

Part I

1. The Indians of Bogastow Farms (seven minute narrated slide presentation).
2. The Mystery of the Millis Earthworks (go on-line for more info on the 'Millis Earthworks'; six minute narrated slide presentation).
3. Early Colonial Exploration of the Charles River (five minute narrated video).
4. Contact Period Trade (11 minute narrated slide presentation).
5. The Bogastow Farms Ironworks (twenty minute narrated slide presentation).

Part II

6. Artifacts from the Dig (twenty minute narrated slide presentation).

7. Architectural Details of Structural Remains (ten minute narrated slide presentation followed by 30 minute dig site video).

The Educational Programs Committee welcomes any suggestions or requests for future events that members/guests would like to see happening. Please send any ideas and suggestions to Tara Hathaway at: tph322@verizon.net.

2014 Membership Drive

It's time again to renew your membership. On December 19, Clerk Suzanne McFarland sent out the forms and information to renew your membership and make a donation. Please refer to the letter and form that were sent, complete the form, and send it and the dues for gold, silver or bronze membership to Treasurer Phil Audier. Again, please consider making an additional donation to the Farm when sending in your dues.

Thank you.

Wish List

The **House Committee** is (still) looking for the following items:

- Bath towel sets
- Kitchen Knives
- Spatulas
- Plug-in flashlights
- White fitted sheets for double beds

*Please consider donating something on the list.
Thank you.*

Calling All Bullards

Reminder: 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!*

Visit our 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

