

## The Bullard Memorial Farm Association Newsletter



7 Bullard Lane  
Holliston, MA 01746  
Since 1658

Happy Fall, BMFA members!



It is hard to believe that autumn is once again upon us. "The seasons go 'round and

'round" (and faster and faster!).

This issue of the newsletter is primarily dedicated to the BMFA Centennial Celebration, which was a great success. Though the weather was incredibly hot, members gathered together to enjoy one another's company, catch up with extended family, and enjoy some fun activities. Please read on for a written and photographic recap of the activities that comprised the Centennial event.

Don't forget about the upcoming BMFA meeting on October 1. Please see page 6 for details. I hope to see you there!

As always, please feel free to send me any content for future newsletters at [cemacd@maine.rr.com](mailto:cemacd@maine.rr.com).

**Happy reading!**

## BMFA Centennial Celebration

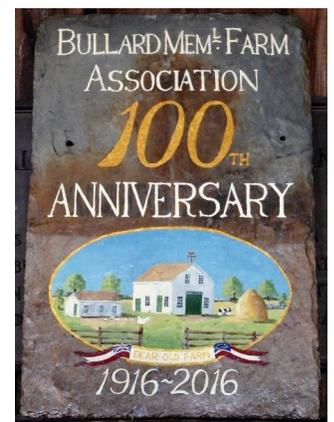
July 23, 2016

103 BMFA members and families of all ages from both near and far (such as Florida, Iowa, California and Washington!) attended all or a portion of the BMFA Centennial Celebration on July 23. Mother Nature blessed us with temperatures in the 90s, but everyone managed to have a great time, nonetheless.

The Farm looked great—between Tim's and Bridget's hard work prepping, and the service day jobs on the 22<sup>nd</sup> in which members participated, things were spruced up and the Farm looked great for the momentous occasion!

Caretaker Tim Sanders identified several projects volunteers could work on, including restoring the barn side door, painting, and landscaping, and helpers also worked on prepping for the big Centennial Celebration the next day. (Please see the photo collage on page 7.) The day wrapped up with a grilled chicken dinner and good conversation under the tent.

A **huge** thanks to: Melissa, Phil, Peter, and Gillian Audier, Sandy and Jim Tenaglia, Sam Otis, Al and Jean Hood, Joanne Hulbert, Kathy Adams and Ole Holter, Jim, Ginger, Jay, Caroline, and AJ Halverson, Karen Leenhouts, Pam and Chip Thurlow, Jennifer and Peter Hood, Liz and Jack Hathaway, James Hathaway,



Beautiful Centennial Celebration commemorative sign painted on slate by Caretaker Tim Sanders.

## Centennial Celebration Recap (cont'd)

Meredith Flynn, and Michael and Frances Adams, for their hard work on a steamy summer's day!

On Saturday, the 23rd, more members and extended family began arriving, bringing together folks ranging in age from 8 months to 91.

Attendees signed in and were given a Centennial branded goody bag stuffed with their BMFA Centennial branded t-shirt, stainless steel water bottle, program, and sweet treats.

A BBQ lunch was served under the tent, after which the group headed over to the lawn behind the cider house for the living family tree. Four generations of Bullards found their tree "branch", donned their Centennial t-shirts, and stood in their spots while a drone, supplied by Jack Hathaway, took aerial photographs of the living family tree and of the Farm.

Though the heat was oppressive, that didn't stop folks from tossing the Frisbee or playing Bean Bag Toss. The highlight of the afternoon was the Scavenger Hunt, organized by Chip Thurlow, that had groups hunting the Farm grounds for answers to tough Bullard history questions (see pages 9 and 10 for the Scavenger Hunt. If you'd like to play during your next visit to the Farm (or try your luck from a distance!), simply bring the Scavenger Hunt sheets with you, fill in the answers and return to Chip at 68 Thomas Leighton Blvd., Cumberland, RI 02864. Good luck!)

The evening was filled with an Italian food buffet dinner, followed by a BMFA birthday cake, topped off with a fun session of square dancing called by Ted Lizotte

[www.tedlizotte.com](http://www.tedlizotte.com).

It was great to see a few campers on site at the Farm—there were three different groups in tents and an R.V. Unfortunately, no campfires were allowed due to the hot, dry conditions, so the s'mores will have to wait!

A good time was had by all, and kudos and many thanks to the planning Committee: Tara Hathaway, Melissa, Audier, Pam Thur-



low, Jennifer MacDonald, Ginger Halverson, Jennifer Parramore, Jay McFarland, Liz Hathaway, Meredith Flynn, and Karen Leenhouts. The list of attendees can be found at the bottom of page 6, and please check out the photo collages from the Service Day and Centennial Celebration on pages 7 and 8.

## **BMFA Artifacts and Collections Committee**

*Submitted by Chip Thurlow and Suzanne McFarland*

The BMFA Artifacts and Collections Committee members have been working very hard to document the over 6,000 items owned by the BMFA. We received extensive training from the staff of the Museum and Collector Resource (MCR), an agency that specializes in training and documenting historic artifacts for collections of many sizes.

A software program, laptop and archival supplies were purchased for this project and detailed floor plans were developed to identify the location of the items entered into the database. A BMFA office was created. The West Parlor (near the flag pole), Front Hall and parts of the East Parlor have been documented and labeled. The committee members have spent extensive time working on the Blue Willow china collection. Feel free to ask a committee member about this col-



*Some of the many artifacts the committee is working on archiving, including glass and ceramic bowls, textiles, and furniture. Image at lower left is a detail from underneath the rush seat of the ladder-back chair.*

lection and the entire process.

The BMFA has a wide variety of artifacts that need attention - textiles, ceramics, kitchenware, glassware, farm implements, portraits, furniture, photographs and much more. We are excited about the progress we have made so far, but recognize that this is a time consuming process

and will require considerable effort, not only from our current Artifacts and Collections Committee members, but also from additional volunteers. We are exploring having unpaid graduate student interns be assigned to our Committee to assist us in the work. However, we are especially interested in having additional BMFA members join us in this exciting effort.

The end result will be a better understanding of the range of items in our collections – some of considerable historic value. We will be better able to care for those items as well as educate the public on the lifestyle of a historic New England farming family. The end result will also reinforce our mandate as a non-profit organization to share that story with the public.

Artifacts and Collections committee:

Suzanne McFarland , Chair

Chip and Pam Thurlow

Betsy Bollenbacher

Karen Leenhouts

Suzanne Schaffer

**If interested in helping with this project, contact us at [BMFA.inventoryproject@gmail.com](mailto:BMFA.inventoryproject@gmail.com)**

## **Long Range Planning Committee Preliminary Report**

*Submitted by George Bollenbacher, June, 2016*

In 2014 the Board of Directors of the BMFA appointed a Committee to undertake formulation of a long range plan for the Association and the Farm. The Committee was made up of George Bollenbacher, Chair, Daphne Stevens, Philip Audier and Skip Spurway. In 2015 Daphne retired from the LRPC and we added two new members, George Fiske and Brent Sutter.

### **Approach**

Early in its deliberations, the Committee recognized that there are two major constituencies to a long range plan, the Association membership (currently made up almost entirely of family) and the public (in the form of individuals and political or educational organizations). Those two constituencies have different views of the Farm and may have

different objectives. Balancing the needs of those two constituencies, and maximizing the value of the farm to both of them, represented the Committee's biggest challenge.

### The SWOT Analysis

The Committee's first order of business was to create a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) for the Farm, both from the members' and the public's viewpoint. We began with weaknesses and threats, and then moved to strengths and opportunities. The analysis focused on the farm as a site.

In summary, here are the **weaknesses** of the current situation for both constituencies, in rough priority order:

- The dispersal of the family and its 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

Here are the **threats**:

- There may be too few family members interested enough or local enough to care for the farm
- The endowment income may become insufficient to maintain the farm, let alone embark on any preservation projects
- The farm may become an orphan, with no group or entity prepared or able to care for it
- A decision may be taken by the BMFA to sell some of the land for development
- The physical condition of the buildings and artifacts may be allowed to deteriorate
- The Farm may be subject to 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
- The endowment, now valued at approximately \$3,000,000
- A network of members worldwide who continue to have an interest in the farm

With regard to the **opportunities**, the Committee ranked its objectives as (in priority order): 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.

- 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 for 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.

## Recent Meetings

The Committee last met at the Farm on Thursday, September 3, 2015. Its members were asked to visualize what they thought the Farm should be in the year 2050, and the consensus was that it should be working in some way, as opposed to essentially unoccupied, and that the neighbors and surrounding towns should have an active role in its administration. Among the specific uses, highest priority was given to apple farming and cider/vinegar production, historic farming, community garden, and as a venue for various occasions.

The Committee was cognizant that any such uses had several implications: 1) possible significant upfront cost and manpower requirements; 2) ongoing manpower requirements beyond the caretakers; 3) increased wear and tear on the buildings; and, 4) competition from other farms.

## Next Steps

The Committee has begun to do additional research. In particular:

- Mr. Fiske is contacting various historical and community organizations to determine what resources might be available;
- Mr. Sutter is researching nearby farms, such as Lookout Farm and Natick Community Organic Farm in Natick, Tangerini's Farm in

- Millis, and Outpost Farm in Holliston to determine the competitive situation;
- Mr. Spurway is preparing a brief questionnaire for the membership, which will be distributed shortly; and
- Mr. Bollenbacher is researching New England institutions of higher learning to see if an alliance there is feasible.

The Committee welcomes any and all input from the BMFA members.

George Bollenbacher, Chair  
Philip Audier  
Skip Spurway  
George Fiske  
Brent Sutter

**\*Editor's note:** *the questionnaire mentioned above has been distributed to the BMFA membership. If you haven't done so, please complete and email it to: [bmfa-lrpc@gmail.com](mailto:bmfa-lrpc@gmail.com).*

## Holliston Farms Day

*Submitted by Melissa Audier*

Holliston Farms Day started hot and muggy with a heavy rain storm that ended by 11am and cooled things off and we ended up with a beautiful, sunny day.

There were two demonstrations: one by Tim splitting wood and building a split rail fence,



and the other by Bridgett making brooms out of corn straw. Phil Audier ran museum and Blacksmith shop tours with assistance from his tour guide-in-training Henry Sutter (Brent Sutter's son).

In the barn, Sandy Tenaglia and Gillian Audier ran the lemonade and bake sale; Melissa Audier, Meredith Flynn and Brent Sutter helped at the three activity tables: one for kids to create whirly-gigs, another with

## BMFA Fall Meeting: October 1, 2016

materials to make clove apples, to try out two stereoscopes, and to view a slideshow of old Farm photos, and a third with an assortment of old fashioned toys with which to play.



The early rain-storm probably kept a few people away but those who came enjoyed learning about the activities of the 1800s and the hands-on crafts.



### Bullard Relatives Meet by Chance Atop Mt. Katahdin

This past Saturday, September 24, my son, Duncan, and I hiked the Abol Trail on Mt. Katahdin in Baxter State Park, Maine. After an incredibly difficult ascent to the summit, we were looking up at the Katahdin sign and saw a familiar face looking down at us. That face belonged to none other than Tyler McFarland, eldest son of Suzanne and Jay McFarland!

What are the odds of that happening, I wonder?



Join us for the Bullard Memorial Farm Association Fall meeting and potluck lunch!

**9:00am:** Directors' meeting in the main house

**12:00pm:** Lunch in the barn

**1:00pm:** 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 and wine if desired. The House committee will warm items if needed: please label with oven temperature and length of time.

Please **RSVP** to house committee chairperson Melissa Audier: [bmfahouse@gmail.com](mailto:bmfahouse@gmail.com)

Please send the Clerk any birth, death or marriage announcements as well as new member forms and any other news to share with the Association.

Voting members (Silver and Gold) who are not able to attend the association meeting are encouraged to fill out the attached proxy form and send it with a Silver or Gold association member to represent them.

**Centennial Celebration Attendees:** Kathy Adams and Ole Holter; Michael and Frances Adams; Melissa, Phil, Peter, and Gillian Audier; George and Betsy Bollenbacher; Bev Carney and Richard Grimm; Tania Chandler; Hannah, Teal, and Rowan Chandler; Kate, Theo, and Roza Chandler; Margaret Emslie; Rob Emslie and Maryann Doiron; Meredith, Brian, Rory and Liam Flynn; Jean and Roger Goff; Jim, Ginger, Jay, Caroline, and AJ Halverson; Doug, Tara, Raeburn, and James Hathaway; Jack and Liz Hathaway; Scott and Leslie Hills; Joanna Hills; Dean Holden; Greg and Anne Holden; Al and Jean Hood; Jennifer Parramore, Peter, and Joanna Hood; Tim, Carrie and Jack Hood; Stephen, Claire, and Claudia Hood; Warren, Denise, Jessica and Brandon Hood; Joanne Hulbert; Meredith and Bill Johnston; Nicholas, Mary, Lucy, Sara and Casey Johnston; Ned, Nancy, and Frances Kingsbury; Jack and Louise Kingsbury; Amy, Allan, JR and Ethan Kreuzburg; Doug and Karen Leenhouts; Jennifer, Peter, Aidan and Duncan MacDonald; Jay, Suzanne, Ian and Tyler McFarland; Roger and Karen Moulton; Sam Otis; Carolyn, Ken, and Shaun Roberts; Joanna and David Smith; Skip Spurway; Daphne Stevens; Sandra and Jim Tenaglia; Chip and Pam Thurlow; Rob and Lucy Wood.

# Centennial Celebration Farm Service Day , 7/22/16



# BMFA Centennial Celebration, 7/23/16



THANK YOU to those who helped sponsor  
the BMFA Centennial Celebration  
and donated above and beyond their registration

Michael Adams	Kathy Adams + Ole Hal
Janina Chandler	Margaret Emslie
The Halverson Family	Doug + Tara Hathaway
Jack + Liz Hathaway	Al + Jean Hood
Doug + Karen Leenhouts	Jay + Suzanne McFarland
Pam Otis	Chip + Pam Thurlow
Bob + Lucy Wood	

THANK YOU Tim and  
Bridgett for all of your  
efforts in keeping the  
farm running beautifully!

The BMFA Centennial Celebration Committee  
Melissa Audier, Meredith Flynn, Jennifer Halverson  
Liz Hathaway, Tara Hathaway, Jennifer McDonald  
Jay McFarland, Jennifer Barramond, Pam Thurlow

# BULLARD MEMORIAL FARM ASSOCIATION

## Centennial Celebration Scavenger Hunt

This Scavenger Hunt is designed for fans of the Bullard Memorial Farm of all ages. Some of the questions are challenging and some are much easier to solve. Some answers will require you to search your memory for information that might have been shared in passing many years ago and some answers will be right there in front of you.

This scavenger hunt is designed to promote a renewed fascination and appreciation for the challenging and comprehensive tasks that the settlers of the Bullard Memorial Farm had to endure on a daily, weekly, yearly and generational basis. Imagine living with no electricity, no central heat, no or minimal indoor plumbing and no neighborhood store to buy food or supplies on a regular basis. You and your family had to make do with what you had or could create or do without. Every day involved problem solving skills that allowed you to eat, have adequate clothing and have adequate shelter in all seasonal conditions.

Enjoy the adventure.

Participants (Name and age): \_\_\_\_\_

### Main House:

Challenge	Point Value	Points Earned
What is the original name of the Bullard Memorial Farm?	2	
When and how did Bullards purchase the property?	2	
What is the date of the construction back portion (ell) of the Main House?	1	
What is the date of the front portion of the main house?	1	
<b>First Floor</b>		
Of what material are the two kitchen sinks made?	2	
According to the sign in the summer kitchen what beer manufacturer made beer?	2	
In what country was this beer brewed?	2	
What is unique about the construction of the long trestle table in the main room?	2	
About when was the long trestle table made?	2	
What is the date carved on the oldest piece of furniture in the main house?	1	
What initials are carved on that piece of furniture?	1	
Of what material is the Secretary made?	2	
What energy source powers the main doorbell?	2	
What is the name of the type of glass installed over the front door?	1	
How many fire buckets are in the East parlor?	1	
<b>Second Floor</b>		
What President's portrait is on the wall over the main room stairs?	2	
How many children did Henry and Bethia Wheeler Bullard have?	2	
What are their full (including married) names?	1 each (7)	
Why are the front posts on the four posted beds different from the back posts?	2	
Why is the Pig Room called the pig room?	1	
What originally held up the mattresses on the four posted beds?	2	
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>40</b>	

## Out Buildings:

Challenge	Point Value	Points Earned
<b>Cider Building</b>		
What is the date of the construction of the Cider Building?	1	
Why is the Cider Building called the Cider building?	1	
What is the horse power of the horse treadmill?	2	
<b>Library</b>		
What is the date of the Library?	1	
What was the original purpose for this building?	2	
Why is the Library built on stones?	2	
What is unusual about the procedure to open the safe?	2	
<b>Vinegar Building</b>		
What is the date of the Vinegar Building?	1	
Why is the Vinegar Building called the Vinegar building?	2	
What is the rope made out of in the pulley system?	2	
What is the name for the type of piano in the Museum?	2	
When was it purchased and how much did it cost?	2 pts ea.	
<b>Blacksmith Shop</b>		
What is the date of the Blacksmith Shop?	1	
How was the hearth fed oxygen to make the fire hotter?	2	
<b>Barn</b>		
What is the date of the Barn?		
Who carved his name in one of the windows and on what date did he do it?	2 pts. ea.	
Did he get into trouble for doing this?	1	
What is the name of the tall wooden case in the barn by the loft?	2	
<b>Locker Building</b>		
What was the original purpose for the locker buildings?	2	
Was the shower water hot or cold?	2	
How did the toilet work?	2	
Why is the men's area larger than the women's area?	2	
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>40</b>

## Grounds

Challenge	Point Value	Points Earned
What three clubs were used to play on the golf course?	1 each	
What is the name of the two tall trees in the front yard?	1	
From what country were they (the seeds) imported?	1	
What is the botanical name for these two trees?	5	
What fruit trees did the Bullards grow?	1	
About how many acres is the Bullard Memorial Farm?	1	
What type of nut trees did the Bullard Farm grow in past years?	2 points each	
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>20</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>100</b>