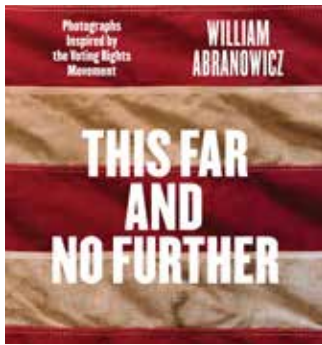




*preservation*



*education*



*community*

*You*  
make  
everything  
we do  
possible!

2020 Annual Report  
Bedford Historical Society

*The Historical Society has carried out our mission of preservation and education through the Great Depression, too many wars, numerous presidents, several terrorist attacks, the Great Recession and two pandemics*

Dear Members,

It often takes hindsight to recognize the significance of an event but 2020 left no doubt that all of us were experiencing history as it was happening. This year demanded flexibility, patience and hope from all of us as our lives came to a standstill. Like many small organizations, our priority was to keep our staff and buildings safe while preparing for lost income from rentals, fundraisers and membership.

Accepting our changed circumstances, we revised our budget to eliminate expenses wherever possible. Thanks to our proactive planning over the past years, the 10 buildings and landmarks we preserve are well-maintained. We were able to defer those projects that could wait but carried on with regular maintenance. When the Sutton Clock suffered unexpected damage, we were able to act with the help of the community. We applied for and received a PPP Loan that helped us cover payroll and ensure that staff was on hand to continue necessary work. We were able to cover some lost revenue by filing an insurance claim for business interruption due to the pandemic. All these actions enabled us to bridge the gap during this challenging year.

Recognizing the historic time we were living through, we reached out to the community for contributions of art, photos, and journals that would tell the story of our experience to future generations. We increased our *Bedford Stories*, social media and membership outreach to bring history to life during this unprecedented year. With our educational programs and events on hold, we dedicated ourselves to the long list of deferred tasks that any small organization has. We cleared out inboxes and old files, redesigned our website, and tackled the inventory of our collections archive in four storage areas and the museum.

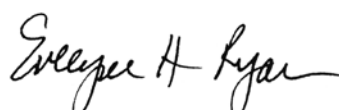
Over the summer, we were able to open the Court House Museum to visitors by appointment. The School of Rock Bedford made Historical Hall its second rehearsal area creating a win-win situation for the community. Kimberly House, our new tenant, moved into The Bedford Store in September as businesses began to reopen bringing Bedford back to life. On October 1st we had our first hybrid event at Historical Hall with William Abranowicz presenting his book of photographs inspired by the Voting Rights Movement.

While it was a year of real challenge for all of us, your continued support was an affirmation that this community continues to value its history. Thanks to our members, the tradition of preservation that makes Bedford special remains strong. You really do make everything we do possible.

With deep gratitude,

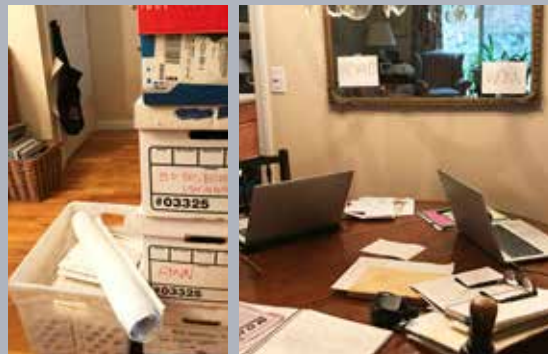


Peter Hennessy, President



Evelyne Ryan, Executive Director

## OUR COMMUNITY PERSEVERES



*Working from Home*



*Socially Distant Meetings*



*Masks, Gloves & Outdoor Dining*



*Virtual . . . Everything*

# - Board of Directors & Office -

Thank you to our Board for their time, energy and commitment to fulfilling our mission and to our Officers for their service to the Historical Society. We are particularly grateful to our Board this year for their exceptional generosity and fundraising assistance.

Peter Hennessy, President • Nancy Markhoff, Vice President • Chris Pachios, Treasurer • Shawn Carmody, Secretary  
Christina Bresani • Jonathan Conner • Mimi Freund • Frank Geiger • Alison Gregory • Alexander Hamer • Anna Kenoff  
Jesse Randol • Steel Swift • H. Cutler Whitman • David Worby • Leslie Wortmann • John Stockbridge, Town Historian  
Evelyne Ryan, Executive Director • Sophia Bernier, Communications Director • Rich Carpino, Property Manager

## BEDFORD OAK LEGACY CIRCLE

We are grateful for the foresight and planning of two long time members for their generosity to the Historical Society during their lives and after.

Peter V. N. Philip made a generous gift to our Endowment Fund through a 2012 Gift Annuity when he passed away in 2020. Peter and Sabina Philip maintained their membership even after they moved to Vermont and continued to show an interest in the role the BHS played in preserving Bedford's heritage.

Worthington (Bill) Mayo-Smith made a substantial bequest to the Society's Endowment with the specific goal of digitizing our collections and archives as well as expanding our online educational programming. Bill had a long history of philanthropy in Bedford and his early contributions to our Capital Campaign encouraged others to support us and helped the Society reach our goal. He was also generous with his time in counseling us in all areas of fundraising.

Making a bequest or other legacy gift to the Historical Society is an effective way to support and remember a cause that matters to you. If you'd like to learn more about the Bedford Oak Legacy Circle, please contact us.



One of many items to be cataloged and digitized for our collections

## REMEMBERING BOARD MEMBER BILL PENCE



Bill Pence at the Burning of Bedford Commemoration wearing red trimmed colonial coat and setting the stage for the "burning"

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Bill Pence who passed away in September after a short illness. He joined our Board in 2018 and was every Executive Director's dream Board Member. Bill was proactive, committed, organized and positive. While he contributed his time and talents to many of our initiatives, it was his leadership in the Burning of Bedford Commemoration that earned him the Greater Hudson Heritage Network's "Excellence Award" in 2020. The award recognizes exceptional effort, creativity and vision preserving and interpreting history, culture and diversity in the region.

If there was an award for those who enrich our lives, Bill would have received that one as well. We were fortunate to have counted him as a friend, colleague and collaborator at the Historical Society.

## SOCIETY INTRODUCES NEW WEBSITE

The world's first website was created in 1991 but our first site wasn't published until 2002. Since then we've revamped and edited [www.bedfordhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bedfordhistoricalsociety.org) several times with our most recent and ambitious update this year.

Our new site is now mobile friendly and the staff can edit and add content as needed. We plan to offer an interactive "ID ME" page this year to allow the Society and community to post items, photos, etc. and ask for assistance with identification. If there's anything you'd like to see added, please let us know: [info@bhsny.org](mailto:info@bhsny.org).



# - Education -

## LEARNING DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN IN THE CLASSROOM

To adequately share Bedford's history, we keep one foot in the past and the other in the present. The Society gathers and researches history as it is occurring to better understand what we don't yet know. At the onset of the pandemic, we asked the community to document their experiences with photos, artwork, letters and diaries. Thanks to those who sent their stories and mementos, we can record history as it happens and share it with the community.

In 2020 as the nation began to again focus on social justice reform, we turned our attention to finding and filling the gaps in Bedford's unwritten black history. With the help of our valued intern, Henry Pence, we have begun this work to learn what we can about the African Americans who lived here. In 2021 we are collaborating with the Town's IDEA committee to expand our knowledge on the experiences of all minority groups. If you have any information to share, please call 914.234.9751 or email [info@bhsny.org](mailto:info@bhsny.org).



*Executive Director Lynn Ryan in colonial dress at The Bedford Store, home to the Historical Society*

## A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY INSPIRED BY THE VOTING RIGHTS MOVEMENT WITH ACCLAIMED PHOTOGRAPHER WILLIAM ABRANOWICZ



On Thursday, October 1st a "capacity crowd" joined us for an intimate, socially distant evening with William Abranowicz as he shared photographs, stories and the history of the Voting Rights Movement from his new book *This Far and No Further*. The talk was also live streamed and taped for the community.

Executive Director Lynn Ryan opened the evening with an update on how the Society was coping with lost income due to the pandemic and "our efforts to continue preservation of the 10 buildings we own and/or maintain." There was a live auction of a print donated by Bill Abranowicz from his new book and two planks handcrafted by Rich Carpino from a Bedford Oak limb drop.

*We are so fortunate to have a community that is so supportive,  
especially when we are all struggling to try and figure out how to survive the new "normal."*

### With Gratitude

Christina Bresani & Mike Struble • Mimi Freund • Frank Geiger • Lisa & Peter Hennessy  
Maria Pence • Jesse & Jeremy Randol • Tricia & Steel Swift

The Abranowicz family for their continued support

Vesevo Beneventano Aglianico, Pranza Friuli Pinot Grigio and Ace Kicker Big Bet Blend  
O'Keefe Productions • Peter T. Michaelis Photography • Cutler Whitman Auctioneering  
Siemers Wines & Spirits • Bedford Gourmet • Thomas Fox & Sons

You can still purchase a copy of *This Far and No Further - Photographs Inspired By The Voting Rights Movement* and have it inscribed by the author. Visit us at [BHSNY.ORG](http://BHSNY.ORG). You can order the video by calling us at 914.234.9751.

## - Properties -

It's been said that good luck is the result of good planning! We were fortunate that our Properties Committee has prepared well and no major projects were necessary this year. While income was substantially decreased, we painted the exterior of The Bedford Store as planned, continued maintenance on the 10 landmarks and properties we preserve and handled the unexpected repairs on the Sutton Clock with the help of our community.



*Rich Carpino, our Properties Manager, fabricated and installed a custom built board and batten door for the rear entrance of the Court House where we also cleared and replaced damaged leaders and drains for the Town.*

In early October while one of Clock Winders was performing the weekly wind, the click didn't properly engage and in seconds seven teeth on the cast iron ratchet wheel were sheered off and fell to the floor, the handle spun out of control and the steel cable snapped sending the weight box filled with rocks plunging three stories to the floor. The Clock Winder avoided injury, but our beloved clock was not as lucky. After reviewing multiple bids, we selected Essence of Time in Lockport, NY to handle the extensive repairs. The clock is like new and should continue to chime for another 100 years.

If you know the story of the Clock and Tower, you'll know history repeated itself when, once again, our generous community stepped up and donated the funds necessary to repair the damaged works. A video of the repairs is on our website along with a *Bedford Story* about the Suttons and their clock. We are deeply grateful to all who donated, to head Clock Winder Vincent Morrow, former head Clock Winder Ben Branch, Property Manager Rich Carpino and all in the Clock Winder community who keep the clock in good working order!



### **C.1879 SUTTON CLOCK SUFFERS CATASTROPHIC DAMAGE - Community Comes to The Rescue**



*Clock frame & gear housing, broken ratchet wheel, snapped steel cable with hemp rope, damaged weight box, newly milled ratchet wheel & drum*

## - Events -

### **BEDFORD BINGO AT HISTORICAL HALL**



Pre-Pandemic 4th Annual Bedford Bingo night on February 28th. Pizza, prizes and a variety of Bingo games made for a fun family night. Many thanks to former Board Member Abby Gerry for organizing and sponsoring and to the many volunteers - especially Rupert Banner for his ear-catching number calling!

- you make everything

### **BEDFORD OAK CIRCLE**

*\$2,500 & above*

The Benefit Shop Foundation  
Christina Bresani & Michael Struble  
Estate of Worthington Mayo-Smith  
The Fleischer Family Gift Fund  
Mimi Freund  
Frank Geiger  
Abby & Lloyd Gerry  
Lisa & Peter Hennessy  
Sarah & David Kowitz  
Chris & Allyson Pachios  
Peter V. N. Philip  
Donna & Marvin Schwartz  
Melanie & David Worby  
Vic & Leslie Wortmann, Jr.

### **1680 SETTLERS CIRCLE**

*\$1,000 - \$2,499*

Abranowicz Family  
Whitney & Lee Brown  
Patty & Skip Carpenter  
Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan A. Conner  
Linda & Dan de Menocal  
Gregory & Melissa Fleming  
Peter Freund & Emily Stark  
Sandy & Kevin Gentzel  
Alison Gregory & Peter Knipp  
Patty & George Grunebaum  
Alexander N. Hamer  
Anna & Tony Hass  
Kate & Harold Hope  
Ed & Janet Kelly  
The Ralph & Ricky Lauren  
Family Foundation  
Michael & Nancy Markhoff  
Marsal Family Foundation  
Sarah Billingham Solomon  
& Howard Solomon  
Leslie K. Williams  
& James A. Attwood, Jr.

### **1776 PATRIOTS CIRCLE**

*\$500 - \$999*

The Ahmad Family  
Chris & John Beach  
Bedford Ace Hardware  
Bedford Village Lions Club  
Bedford Wine Merchants  
George Bianco  
Black Widow Termite  
& Pest Control  
Margot & Jerry Bogert  
Dort & Betsy Cameron  
Shawn & Gail Carmody  
Vanessa Diebold  
Edmund & Nancy Dunst  
Craig Gilkes  
& Susanne Quattrochi  
Debbie & Will Gourd

Randy & Tim Hall  
Kelly & Andre Hunter  
Mark Ladner & Julie Ross  
Chris & Kathleen Mara Family  
The Menzies  
Kim & John Morris  
Melinda Papp  
Yvonne Pollack  
The Randol Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank E. Richardson  
Michael Rosenbaum  
Rusticus Garden Club  
Denise & Camillo Santomero  
Skinner Family  
John & Anita Stockbridge  
Tricia & Steel Swift  
Marcy Swingle & Daryn Swanson  
Thomas Fox & Son  
Nancy & Roger Vincent  
Michael & Jenny Weisburger  
Steven & Maggie Wieting  
Cecilia & Ira Wolfson

### **1806 FARMERS CIRCLE**

*\$250 - \$499*

Stacy Albanese & Todd Noonan  
Brian & Barbara Barrett  
Bedford Garden Club  
Skip & Michaela Beitzel  
Susan & Robert Benjamin  
Laura Blau & Michael Citro  
Ross & Alexandra Burbank  
Chris & Illyria Burdick  
Kirtley & Seth Cameron  
Alison Cape & James Fenimore  
Sally Casey & David Parry  
Ellis & Alison Cousins  
Scott & Antonia Davis  
Jamie & Judi Edgar  
John & Mary Eschen  
Olivia & John Farr  
Govind Friedland  
Donald & Susan Greenwald  
Sue & Joe Handelman  
Kathryn Hoenig  
& Douglas Maynard  
Nancy & Tim Joyce  
Laura & Joel Kaplan  
Anna & Jeff Kenoff  
Angela & Richard Kessel  
John & Elizabeth Kilgallon  
Heather & Tony Langham  
Sandra Ludwig  
Caroline & Gordon MacGill  
Annika K. Martin  
John & Gilda McGarry  
Michele & Matthew Miller  
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Bryce & Samantha O'Brien  
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Alexandra & Chris Padden  
Amy Parsons & Paul Bird

Maria & Bill Pence  
Tyler & Schuyler Perry  
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Jason Rockland  
Robert H. Saunders &  
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Rick & Kathy Sheppard  
Siemers Wines & Spirits  
Ann & Richard Solomon  
Louise & Had Talbot  
Holly Taylor & Gene Pope  
Taylor & Aaron Taylor  
Melissa Vail & Norman Selby  
John & Caroline Walker  
Libby & Cutler Whitman  
Twink & Jim Wood

### **1916 FOUNDERS CIRCLE**

*\$100- \$249*

Kathy & Peter Abramson  
M. & R. Ahrens  
Roone Arledge, Jr.  
Whitney & Stephen Barbera  
Anthony & Grace Bardinelli  
Bedford Tax Management  
Robert & Hope Black  
Marilyn & Ian Blackley  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Boe  
Candy & Steve Borner  
Philip & Suzanne Bowers  
Kathleen & Andrew Brenner  
Charles & Meredith Brown  
Gaby & Jerry Burns  
Peter Canby & Anne Putnam  
Neil J. Capolongo & Gina Lodolini  
Nathan Clark Corser  
Eleanor Cox  
Mary & Jeff Cox  
Lisa Cribari & Raymond Infarinato  
Dr. Jennifer Daddino  
& Mr. Michael Tognino  
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Kim & Greg Gaynor  
Timothy & Lisa Ghriskey  
John & JoAnne Greenwood  
Carolyn Harting  
Lauren Locke Hayduk  
Lindsay & Tyler Hearon  
Susie Heller  
Karyn & G.F. Henschel  
Helene L. Hoffecker  
Aaron B Hoffman  
Deming P. Holleran  
Gail & Mark Imowitz  
William & Lauren Kager  
Larry Kennedy III  
Jodi Kimmel

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The Kothari Family  
Keith & Susan Kroeger  
Rocky & Sarah Kurita  
Jon Lazarus & Pat Healy  
Ronald & Susan Lifton  
Susie Lodge  
Loriann & Timothy Low  
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Maguire  
Alan K. Maher  
Doug & Jane Mannel  
Marcy & Drew Marchiano  
John & Keelin McCormack  
Robyn & David McCree  
Maureen & Patrick McManus  
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Evelyn Paltrow  
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Nan & Oscar Pollock  
Mary Prehn & John Scacchia  
Cynthia & Justin Puccio  
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Allyson Delorenzo Reuben  
Mary Ann & Christopher Robinson  
Rodetis Family  
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Laurel & Ronald Schlifftman  
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Gail M. Stoddart  
Scott & Jennifer Strasser  
Jeri & Stewart Strauss  
Pat & Tony Suppa  
John & Adele Talty  
Richard Ten Dyke  
Geraldine & Stephen Tortorella  
Anne J. Travalia  
Pamela & Laurence Turner  
Mr. & Mrs. Jean-Paul Valles  
Nancy Newcomer Vick  
Gerard & Stacey Virga  
Vogler Brothers, Inc.  
Stephen & Meredith Wallace  
Walter & June Weissinger

*we do possible -*

Tom & Carolina White  
Alexandra & Nulty White  
Aimee Whitman  
Susan & Marc Wollin  
Joy & Bill Zegras  
Catherine Ziegler

**FRIENDS**  
to \$99

Simon Abranowicz  
Zander Abranowicz  
Alyssa Arce  
Rachel Asher  
Wallace & Mary Ellen Baker  
Diane Bamford  
Suzanne Beatty  
Bill & Robin Bedford  
Carol R. Best  
Ellen Calves  
Brett & Miles Cameron  
Candido Family  
Marcia & Bryon Carlson  
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Lynn Chester  
Sue Pittoni Coan  
Margaret & Donald Coe  
Kelly & David Crummy  
Laura Cushing  
Elizabeth Dalrymple  
Demartino Family  
Katie & Beanie Durfee  
Selby Ehrlich  
Mrs. Edward A. Farley  
Patricia Ferguson  
Margot & Ben Fooshee  
Jean Forte  
Peter Frank  
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Sheila Garelik  
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Ralou Family  
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Matthew & Heather Trotta  
Tim Tynan  
Roger van Loveren & Karen Lau  
Susan West  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard S. Wilson  
Coco Wittenberg

**IN MEMORIAM**

in loving memory of  
Edward Farley  
in memory of  
Geri Glasser Ludwig Feinstein  
in memory of Bill Pence

**MATCHING GIFTS**

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BNY Mellon  
Goldman, Sachs & Co  
IBM  
MBIA  
PepsiCo  
Pfizer  
William Blair & Company

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**SUTTON CLOCK DONORS**

The Ahmad Family  
Chris & John Beach  
Carol R. Best  
Bradsell Painting & Carpentry  
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Dort & Betsy Cameron  
Sally Casey & David Parry  
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Mrs. Calvin A. Thompson  
Geraldine & Stephen Tortorella  
Edith Tuckerman  
Tim Tynan  
Nancy & Roger Vincent  
John & Caroline Walker

*Thank you for your membership  
which is valid for one year  
from the date you renew.*

*Our apologies if your name was  
omitted or spelled incorrectly.  
Please call us with corrections:  
(914) 234-9751.*

*- Thank you -  
volunteers & support*

John Stockbridge & Christina  
Rae at the Town Historian's  
office - research and support.

Peter T. Michaelis -  
professional photography  
services at our events.

Diane Bamford & Judith  
Culbreth - research and writing  
on Bedford history.

Melissa Fleming - donation  
and care of plantings and the  
gardens at the Post Office and  
Lounsbery Buildings.

Aimee Whitman - help with  
membership mailings.

The Bedford Garden Club -  
caring for the Court House  
garden and wreath donations.

The Rusticus Garden Club -  
donation of holiday wreaths.

Hopp Ground Garden  
Club - donations of holiday  
decorations inside and outside  
of the Post Office.

Robert Sour - maintenance of  
the postings on the Post Office  
Community Bulletin Board.

Clock Winders - dedication to  
winding the Sutton Clock.

O'Brien family - electricity and  
lawn care for the Sutton Clock  
& Tower.

Morrow family - painting the  
fence surrounding the Sutton  
Clock & Tower.

Gary and Joyce Corrigan - ten  
years of service winding the  
clock - recently "retired."

Doug Koziak of RK Irrigation  
- donation of services at the  
Post Office and Lounsbery  
gardens.

John Stockbridge - donation of  
souvenir pens.

Elsa Gomez and staff - cleaning  
and care of our buildings.

The Record Review - editorial  
support.

*- Save the Date -*

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25
29	30		

**Saturday, September 25th**  
**HOPPFEST XL**  
**SAVE THE ENTIRE DAY!**

**Event Schedule**  
Dates to be determined - Please visit our website  
for info: [bedfordhistoricalsociety.org](http://bedfordhistoricalsociety.org)  
or call us at 914.234.9751

*- Members & Community -*

- Published *Bedford Stories*, our monthly history email.
- Participated in the Bedford Village Business Association. Helped organize and participated in Sidewalk Sale Days, Jingle Pass Weekend, Shine Bright Bedford and Tree Lighting on the Green.
- Coordinated the Geraldine Lanfair Scholarship for future elementary educators.
- Participated in, and members of, the Greater Hudson Heritage Network, the Museum Association of New York, the Association of State and Local History and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
- Provided display panels to St. Matthew's Church for Art Show Bedford.

*- Collections -*

- Continued extensive inventory and cataloging of our museum collections and archives.

*- Acquisitions -*

- Assortment of women's and children's clothing and accessories including a c.1850 cloth doll with porcelain head, doll clothes, and scrapbooks. Gift from Marcia Thomas.
- Framed Bedford Themed Quilt style collage print created by Carol Bouyoucos, gift of Andrea Raisfeld & William Abranowicz.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

REVENUE

Membership Dues & Contributions	\$83,602
Tenants' Leases & Daily Rentals	\$304,441
Fundraising Events	\$24,493
Interest, Gift Shop & Miscellaneous	\$18,967
<b>TOTAL REVENUE:</b>	<b>\$431,503</b>

EXPENSES

Property Renewal & Annual Maintenance	\$118,851
Property Taxes & Insurance	\$50,274
Education Programs & Events	\$13,130
Museum Collections Management	\$50,734
Fundraising & Development	\$68,276
Administration & Office	\$95,974
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE:</b>	<b>\$397,239</b>

SUTTON CLOCK REPAIR

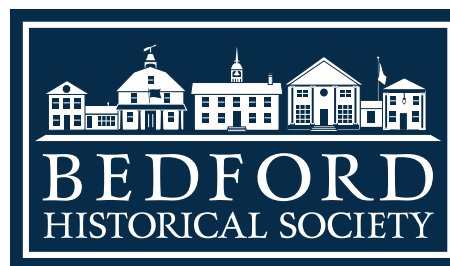
Donations	\$19,415
Expenses	\$15,948
Held for Future Maintenance/Repair	\$3,467

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN INCOME \$64,064

INSURANCE CLAIM \$27,302

CAPITAL FUNDS AS OF 12/31/2020

Historic Easements Protection	\$101,082
Education & Collections	\$183,472
Properties Reserve	\$480,468
Properties Acquisition & Preservation	\$1,501,595
Endowment	\$773,306
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3,039,923</b>



*Bringing history to life*

at The Bedford Store - 612 Old Post Road  
Bedford, NY 10506 - 914.234.9751  
[bedfordhistoricalsociety.org](http://bedfordhistoricalsociety.org)