



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association
Belchertown, Massachusetts
1903—2008

April 2008

Volume 8, Issue 2

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

DEDICATED TO THE MANY INDIVIDUALS WHO SUPPORT THE ASSOCIATION'S MISSION

2008 Calendar

Save the dates and share them with family, friends, neighbors!

Stone House Museum

Open May 10 through October

Wed. & Saturday, 2 to 5 pm

Admission: \$4 for adults, \$2 for children;
FREE for Members.

Annual Membership Meeting and Potluck Luncheon

Sunday, April 27 at 12:30

Pine Valley Plantation

Opening Day at the Museum Plant Sale and Old Bag Sale

Saturday, May 10 9 am—2 pm

Stone House Museum

Members Only Cocktail Party

Friday, June 27 6 to 8 pm

Stone House Museum

Living History Days: Windows, Wheels and Wilds

Garden Tour, Historic House Tour, Art Show, 5k Cannonball Run Race, antique carriages, cars and other vehicles.

The weekend of July 12th — 13th

Volunteers Needed! We have LOTS of opportunities to use your skills! Please consider volunteering your time and talents. We will work with your schedule and your interests!

For additional information on volunteering or questions about any of our events, contact the Stone House at 323-6573 or visit our website: www.stonehousemuseum.org.

Tents available to BHA members.

Contact Owen @ 323-5974 or Diane @ 283-6334

A "Welcome" Season!

TOM STOCKTON, PRESIDENT

With the sightings of the first robins of spring we pause to look back on all the important work members of the Association have been doing during the long winter months.

The Museum Committee, Finance Committee, and the Bylaws Committee have worked tirelessly in their respective areas to make sure that the museum will be on a firm footing for the coming season. To complete the windows project with historically appropriate shutters and hardware, we have submitted a Community Preservation Grant, which we hope will go a long way to helping us with this project, as our ordinary fundraising barely covers our annual expenses.

Of course, we have made time for a little fun too. Thanks to our Fundraising Committee, a wonderful time was had at the Third Annual February Dinner Theater and on the Third Annual Boston Flower Show Bus Trip. And March 26 saw the Education Committee sponsor a report on the progress of the "Bonnetts, Bodices & Brass Buttons" clothing inventory and assessment performed last Fall by UMass graduate students under the supervision of our Director and Curator. In partial support of expenses incurred by this project, our Director Laura Quinn has successfully applied for a \$1,000 grant from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities.

As spring rapidly approaches we begin to look forward to our traditional springtime

activities at the Stone House.

I hope to see a really great turnout at our **Annual Meeting on April 27 at Pine Valley** at 12:30. This is always a fun time to get together and take stock of all we have been doing as an Association, and enjoy each others' company and a potluck luncheon. Be sure to review the suggested **Bylaw revisions** in preparation for the business meeting.

Our annual **Opening Day Plant Sale and Old Bag Sale, Saturday, May 10** will be a wonderful day and an opportunity to shop for your garden while supporting your Association. **We still need plants**, so please read how you can help later on in the newsletter.

Plans are also underway for our annual **Members Only Cocktail Party, June 27th**, and our **Living History Days: Windows, Wheels and Wilds** event on July 12 - 13 will be a lot of fun, as well as a much-needed fundraiser. Events will include a **Garden Tour, Art Show, 5K Cannonball run race, and a "historic wheels" show, which will include antique carriages, cars, and other vehicles.** New this year will be a **Historic House Tour** on Sunday, featuring the ground floors of historic homes located in the Belchertown Historic District and around the Common.

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending these events!



WANTED

Old Bags

The "Old Bags" Need Your Help Again! The Belchertown Historical Association is seeking donations of new and *gently used* hand bags, totes, wallets, purses, etc. for the Fourth Annual "Old Bag Sale" to be held on Opening Day, May 10th on the grounds of The Stone House Museum at Maple St., in Belchertown. This annual fundraiser has proven to be very popular and we need to collect as many bags as possible. Now is a great time to clean out your closet and donate to a worthy cause at the same time. Remember that bag you just fell in love with and had to have...and have never used, well now is the time to give that bag a hand! New and *gently used* bags may be dropped off at the following Belchertown businesses:

Bell & Hudson Insurance Co., 19 North Main St.
Citizens Bank, 33 Main St.
Easthampton Saving Bank, at Routes 202 and 21
Jones-Bay Path Realty, 10 South Main St., and
Making Waves The Salon, 8 Jabish St. [behind the Laundromat] If you have a large amount of bags to donate Please call Cheryl Dutton @ 413-262-7890 to arrange for pick up. Remember the best excuse to get a new bag is because you got rid of an "Old Bag"!



Perennials

Our Opening Day at the Stone House, Saturday, May 10th, will once again offer a spectacular plant sale of perennials. We welcome donations of perennials from our members. It would be great if you could have them potted for us and get them to the Stone House before May 8th, so that we have time to get them labeled and priced. Our Opening Day Plant Sales have offered a wide variety of green foliage and beautiful flowers and they have been great fundraisers for our museum.



Local Crafters

Also on Opening Day May 10th, we will feature artists, craftspeople and culinary experts! Those interested in displaying and selling their products should contact Carol Mierzewski (323-4344) mierzewsk@aol.com or Gerri Amprimo (323-8633) gaamprimo@aol.com for info on participation fees and an application.

Living History Days Volunteers

Our summer event this year—Living History Days 2008—will feature a theme of "Lifestyles: Then & Now" and will be held the weekend of July 12 and 13. We are bringing back the garden tours, art exhibit and auto show that were so popular last year, and we're adding house tours of historical homes around the common. Committees are meeting to plan these events. If you are interested in helping, please call the Stone House and leave your name and number, or contact Sally Shattuck at 323-4239 or e-mail sallyshattuck@charter.net. We'll need **lots of help** from volunteers to make our biggest fundraiser of the year a successful event.



Artists

The Belchertown Historical Association will hold its second annual juried art show as part of Living History Days, Saturday and Sunday, July 12 & 13. This year's theme will be "Lifestyles Then and Now." Artists are encouraged to interpret our theme and will be allowed to sell their work. All forms of fine art including oil, watercolor, acrylic painting, charcoal, pen and ink, wash, sculpture, photography, and constructions will be accepted by the Art Committee. Interested artists should email Marianne Gambaro at margam323@aol.com for an application which will be available in late April. Artists who were accepted to last year's show will not need to resubmit samples.

Runners & Walkers

The 3rd Annual Cannonball Run will be held rain or shine on Sunday, July 13th. The 9:00 a.m. shot gun start will send runners and walkers off on a new 3.1 mile race course that takes advantage of the challenging hills of our historic town. This event is managed by professional race coordinators to ensure it is well organized and fun. Awards are given for overall fastest Man and Woman (\$100 cash); Females and Males in each age group will get Prizes and Gift Certificates. Pre-registration (by 7/3): \$12; Race Day Registration: \$15. All proceeds benefit the Stone House Museum. **Download a registration form** at www.stonehousemuseum.org or contact Elizabeth Taras 413.687.3144 ColdSprings@charter.net or Lisa Watts 413.323.6612 lisa.watts@gmail.com



Curator's Corner

By Starr M. Florio



Spring Roars into the Museum in the Form of Wild Cleaning Madness.

The following is just a sample of the lunacy occurring on just one occasion.... and if you thought that the museum just looks good naturally, think again, or better yet, join us and learn things about caring for your precious antiques the professional way.

Stone House Museum: Work report for Saturday, March 15 2008. Attendees included, Laura Quinn, Shirley Bock, Phyllis Ferriter, Millie Harrington, Sally Shattuck, Carol Mierzewski, June Henneman, Doris Dickinson and Starr Florio.

What we all did:

Working in the kitchen,

- We washed **all** of the pottery, crocks, lamps, **all** the wooden ware, red ware, yellow ware, tin ware, etc, etc, etc. Swept, dusted, polished, sorted, arranged and then covered it all with protective cotton cloths.

Working in the Dining room

- Laura and Sally moved the cherry highboy and the desk from the hall to the dining room, thoroughly cleaned all surfaces, and then vacuumed the drawers prior to (bee's) waxing. The Hall is now ready for signage and displays.
- Phyllis and Carol polished all the furniture with

- pure bee's wax under Starr's supervision.
- Sally Shattuck polished the Franklin stove with black stove wax, and waxed the hall banister with butchers wax. She also washed the stairs and the railings.
- Shirley and Starr worked with the dishes and pottery in the pantry. We also selected, washed, retired or brought out crocks for display.
- Shirley selected tea ware for the corner cabinet in the dining room and arrange them (Starr washed, dried).
- The floors in the dining room and the hall were vacuumed. Walls were dusted down.
- Starr repaired, cleaned and polished a Pier Mirror and re-hung it.
- We decided on which paintings to place in the dining room given the new loss of space from the furniture. The Dwrights will be moved to the Parlor over the forte piano and Lisa will move to the dining room.
- Laura discovered a great faux-oak chest in the attic that will serve as the greeting desk for the new visitor's center.

Whew, if you got to this line, pat yourself on the back, or pat the "worker bee's" on the back for their hard work when you see them. They are all wonderful and *I can't thank them enough*. I hope to see you all at the opening May 10th if not before. Welcome Spring,
Your Curator,
Starr

Teaching American History and the Stone House

Two Belchertown High School history teachers have been awarded a grant which will allow them along with several of their students to use the archives of the Stone House Museum to develop a portrait of the Bridgman family of Belchertown. They will attempt to connect many significant national and international events in 19th century American history with the Belchertown family. Members of the family were involved with the California gold rush, the efforts to bring Christianity to China, Sylvester Graham's efforts to improve the American diet and the role a Bridgman played in leading black soldiers in the Civil war. With the help of Doris Dickinson and Cliff McCarthy from the Museum, the students will construct a website where documents relating to the Bridgman family will be available. In addition, the site will include pictures and text that will describe in detail stories of family members and their lives.

The project is part of the national Teaching American History program administered by the Hampshire Educational Collaborative and Five Colleges, Inc.

Bob Hansbury

Membership Drive Underway

Carol Mierzewski, Membership Chair

It is that time of year again when memberships come up for renewal. Our membership year is May 1-April 30. We have kept our present membership amounts to offer varied programs to a diverse community. You will soon receive your renewal forms in the mail; our goals are to maintain our present membership and to increase our numbers. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to become members in our organization. Membership forms can be downloaded from our web site at www.stonehousemuseum.org. The real benefit is a sense of belonging to an organization which is preserving our past for the future. The Belchertown Historical Museum exists primarily on income from your membership, event admissions, donations and bequests. This enables us to care for the Stone House Museum and its collections, and offer varied exhibits and programs to Members and the Community. The Stone House Museum is our Community Treasure. Consider renewing and make history with us.



Need another good reason to join BHA? We know how to have fun!!

Left: Trustee Denise Smith and friends have fun with the Medieval Theme of the February Dinner Theater. Right: Our models show off T-Shirts for sale on Opening Day: "The Best 'Old Bags' are in Belchertown"



MEMBERSHIP FORM -- May 1, 2008 thru April 30, 2009

Yes! I am pleased to support the Belchertown Historical Association and want to renew/join.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE (optional): _____ EMAIL (optional): _____

If a Gift Membership, please indicate whom the gift is from: _____

Indicate category of membership below and return the completed form with your tax deductible check **payable to Belchertown Historical Association**. Please consider moving up a level! Thank you very much for your support.

- ____ **Individual:** \$15 per person ____ **Family:** \$30 per family (children under 18)
- ____ **Student (under 18):** \$5 per person ____ **Friend:** \$50 ____ **Senior (65+):** \$8 per person ____ **Patron:** \$100 ____ **Benefactors:** \$250
- ____ **Additional Membership Donation \$** _____
- ____ **Membership Donation in Honor or Memory of** _____
- ____ **Corporate Matching Program:** Attach employer's corporate matching gift form

Would you like to be involved in activities of the Association? If so, please indicate your interests and skills, and the best time for us to contact you. **Please consider including the Belchertown Historical Association in your estate plans.**

Mail to: Belchertown Historical Association — 20 Maple St. PO Box 1211, Belchertown, MA 01007-1211

Celebrate Made in Belchertown's – Past and Present

This year's Opening Day for the Stone House Museum, May 10, will celebrate the creativity and ingenuity of Belchertown's past and present. Activities will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; admission is free. And just in time for Mother's Day, we will offer a variety of shopping opportunities!

The **Old Bags** will be back, matching evening bags, purses, handbags, beach bags and wallets to new owners. If you would like to donate that fuchsia evening bag that you bought to match the dress you gave away five years ago – or any other old bags cluttering your closet – contact Cheryl Dutton at 323-6210 or cdutton@charter.net.

Our **Plant Sale** will once again offer a spectacular selection of perennials. We welcome donations of perennials from our members. It would be great if you could have them potted, labeled, and priced for us and get them to the Stone House before May 8th.

Local Crafters will return featuring local artists, craftspeople and culinary experts who will be displaying and selling their products. If you or a friend would like to be part of this, contact Carol Mierzewski (323-4344, emierzewsk@aol.com) or Gerri Amprimo (323-8633, gaamprimo@aol.com) for information on participation fees and an application.

And don't forget – it IS opening day at the Stone House Museum, where Director Laura Quinn and Curator Starr Florio will be on hand to point out some of our proudest Made in Belchertown creations from the past in the museum and the out buildings. Stone House souvenirs and ephemera will be for sale. So come and celebrate, and bring a few friends to show your pride in things that are Made in Belchertown – Past and Present. Watch the Sentinel for more details as the day approaches.



REMEMBRANCE GARDEN UPDATE BY NANCY PRATT

Our Remembrance Garden book now has 759 mentions! And the garden itself has the most beautiful display of seasonal flowers ever, due to the exceptional artistry and loving care of **Millie Harrington** and **Becki Smith**. Be sure to check out the spring finery on opening day! To make a donation, contact either the Association or Nancy Pratt directly, at 289-1529.

Below is a recap of donations received most recently.

In Honor of:

Roxanne Towne Austin	Kathy Elizabeth Austin	June Sanford Henneman	Robert & Sheila Austin Rosazza
Ryan Lewis Butler	Kathryn Sanford Henneman	Charles & Rita Spencer	Nurses on OBS Harrington Hospital, Southbridge
Toni Riola	Becki Smith	Amelia Harrington	Louise Butler
Barbara Rosazza	Lorraine Zatyрка	Eileen Claire Austin Bernash	Maryanne Domian
Josephine S. Vassallo	Jane Gabbie	Nora J. Austin	Charles & Kathleen Scherpa
Sheila Austin Rosazza	Eileen Austin & Ronald Bernash	Linda Simonds	2007 Red Sox World Series Champions
Gabrielle Kathleen Riola	Michael L. Rossen, M.D.	Joanne Guernsey	Bishop Emeritus Joseph F. Maguire
Ralph Riola	Sofia Kathleen Cofone	Ann Kimball	3rd Floor staff Wing Memorial Hospital
Charles E. Cavagnaro, III, M.D.	Johanne E. Dillon, M.D.		

In Memory of:

Lois Aaronel Shiro	Mary Real	Gilda Cofone	Daniel J. Meder	Lawrence Brennan
Rose S. Adorno	Rose Mary Masucci	Elaine A. Tovet	Normand A. Beaulieu	Stanley Dudek
Kathleen A. Reilly	Rev. Mr. Edward Tenczar	Phyllis Simonetti	Maurice and Barbara Farrell	Richard D. Miller
Iola Miller	Lois A. White	George N. Dudley	Lucille M. Webster Thresher	George N. Dudley
Norris J. Quinn	Edward Lofland	Pauline Tucker	Eileen Keroack Keegan	Thomas & Suzanne Sullivan
General Jack Pershing	Cheryl Owen Opalenik	Terry Ann Campbell	Clifford Morcum, D.V.M.	Keith Patrick O'Connor
Sonya Hawkins	Erie Shane Auclair	Richard Andrews	William F. Kimball, Jr.	Anna Amlaw
Mary M. Hogan	Angelo A. Arlotta	Dr. Dominick Pecora	Army Sp. Kenneth J. Iwasinski	Roger Gaughan
Mary Stolar	Lawrence Lyon	Rick Bowers	Sebastian E. Dudek	Peter Roth, J.D.
Robert Gengenbach	Raymond Gengenbach	Joan M. Higgins	Mary I. Krupovchin	Kenneth J. Thayer

**BELCHERTOWN HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 1211
BELCHERTOWN, MA 01007**

Visit us at the Stone House, view us at www.stonehousemuseum.org, or call us at 413 323-6573

Director: **Laura L. Quinn, Ph.D.**
Curator: **Starr M. Florio**
Assistant Curator: **Shirley Bock**
Archivist: **Doris Dickinson**
Assistant Archivist: **Cliff McCarthy**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES '07-'08

President: **Thomas Stockton**
Vice President: **Cheryl Dutton**
Vice President: **Carol Mierzewski**
Secretary: **Lisa Watts**
Treasurer: **Linda Barron**

William Barnett James Chevalier
Phyllis Ferriter Marianne Gambaro
Joy McCarron Florine Neggers
Sally Shattuck Denise Smith
Kenneth Snow Elizabeth Taras
Brian Walker (filling term for Shannon Materka)

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER —

Editor: **Mary Knight**, mknight@collaborative.org

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Ron Pobieglo, btowncc@charter.net

**REMINDER: ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING AND POTLUCK LUNCHEON
SUNDAY, APRIL 27 AT 12:30
PINE VALLEY PLANTATION**

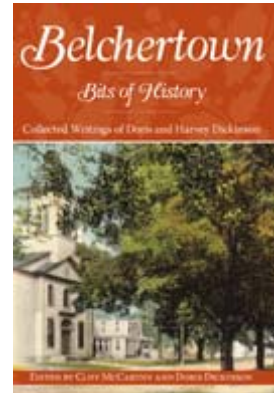


Belchertown: "Bits of History"

Edited by Cliff McCarthy and Doris Dickinson

The fifty stories in this charming collection mark the events, places and people that have made Belchertown special. Drawn from the writings of beloved local fixtures **Doris and Harvey Dickinson**, these tales show how Belchertown holds firm to its New England Yankee traditions in the heart of the Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts.

Profits from the sale of this book are being donated to the Belchertown Historical Society. Get an autographed copy at many of our events. Also available at the Stone House Museum, Clapp Memorial Library, Lawrence Memorial Hall in the Town Clerk's office, Belchertown Copy Center and Collective Copies.



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