



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association
Belchertown, Massachusetts
1903—2014

February 2014
Volume 14, Issue 1

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

A Season of Expectation

2014 Calendar

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

Opening Day May 10, 2014

9-2 On the Grounds
Crafts, Plants, and "Old Bags"

Stone House Museum

Open May through October, Saturday 2-5
and by Appointment (323-6573)

Admission: FREE for Members;
\$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 children

Stone House Lecture Series

February 27 at 7 pm, Larry and Kitty Lowenthal will be presenting, *Trying to Do My Duty: The Civil War Letters of Frank and Rebecca Lincoln.*

March 20 at 7 pm, video and lecture about Enfield before the Quabbin.

April TBA Louise Butler will present a talk about farming in Belchertown.

Annual Meeting April TBA— watch the website and our local Sentinel newspaper for this and other upcoming 2014 events:

June Members-Only Cocktail Party

Garden Tour in July

Living History Days in the Fall

Yuletide at the Stone House

Volunteer Needed

The Board of Trustees is looking for a volunteer to write the occasional thank you note to acknowledge the museum's receipt of donations. If you are interested, please contact Tom Stockton at 323-7452 or through the website — stonehousemuseum.org/contact-bha-president

BY TOM STOCKTON, PRESIDENT

What a busy and event-filled winter it has been so far! The Stone House is truly a busy place, filled with momentum and activity in all aspects of our mission and it is exciting to be part of such a vibrant organization! A lot has been happening with regards to the maintenance and preservation of our Museum, our finances, and of course, the social life of the Association. With the coming of Groundhog Day we pause to look back on all the important work members of the Association have been doing during the long winter months and consider the current state of our Association.

Last fall, we participated in the Belchertown Fair and then celebrated our annual Living History Days event, with a New England Harvest Theme—another activity relevant to Belchertown's history. The event this year was **Bringing the House to Life: Harvest and Fall Activities in the 19th century New England Home.** Live reënactors, many dressed in period costumes, demonstrated and discussed the Fall and Harvest activities that might have occupied residents of a house such as the Stone House in 19th century New England. Demonstrations and Lecture topics included Herb Gardening; Historic Farm Implements; Local Archaeology; Preserving Herbs, Vegetables and Fruits; Candle Making; Outdoor Cooking; Spinning; Weaving; Cider Making; Corn Cob Dolls; Knitting; Broom Making; Quilting; Quilling; and other seasonal activities. The Stone House was open with a display of our nineteenth century farm equipment,

our re-creation 19th century garden and house tours from 10 to 2. This was a truly wonderful event: it was interesting, informative, entertaining, and very pertinent to our mission. We wish to thank our Gold Sponsor **Easthampton Savings Bank**, and our generous silver sponsors, **Bell & Hudson Insurance, Country Bank for Savings, Florence Savings Bank, McCarthy's Pub, and Small One's Farm**

for their cider pressing demonstration. We appreciate everyone's support, and hope more families will note the first Saturday in October 2014, for a new installment of this quality event. See you next year!

Following our Living History Event, it was time for our annual Yuletide Event, and many kudos are due to **Sally Shattuck, Denise Smith, Maureen Austin, Carol Mierzewski, Becki Smith, Millie Harrington** and the whole committee for bringing off this event so beautifully. Our many elegant baskets, wreaths, and traditional crafts were the talk of the town and all who attended. And as soon as Christmas was over it was off to New York with our annual NYC Bus trip! Thanks again to all who donated their time, talents, and treasure to make these last major events of 2013 a success.

Much work has been done during the winter months by the Museum Committee and Membership — all these committee members have worked



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OPENING DAY AT THE STONE HOUSE ~~ SATURDAY MAY 10th 9-2

Just in time for Mother's Day, tour the House and Grounds, and shop for Plants, Crafts and Old Bags!

This year we will again celebrate Opening Day for the Stone House Museum with history and creativity of Belchertown's past and present. Activities will run from 9 am —2 pm. Admission is free. And just in time for Mother's Day, we will offer a variety of shopping opportunities. Plan to celebrate the Museum Opening with us. All proceeds to benefit the Stone House Museum.

Plants—

Contact **Sally Shattuck** 323-4239 / sallyshattuck@charter.net

Calling all Green Thumbs from near and far! Spring is a great time to dig up your perennials and split them so they can be moved around. Set some of them aside for the plant sale on Mother's Day weekend. If you have perennials in your yard that you can dig up and pot, please bring them to the Stone House and leave them by the Print Shop. We would like all the donations by **Sunday May 4.**

If you have perennials to donate, but you would like someone to come dig and pot them for you, contact us and we will arrange a time to come to your home and get the plants. If you would like to donate your time, we will need volunteers to help dig, pot, sort plants and set up tables on Friday afternoon, and sell on Saturday, May 10. If you know someone that has perennials in their garden, please pass the word!



Crafts—

Carol Mierzewski
323-4344 / emierzewsk@aol.com
Gerri Amprimo
323-8633 / gaamprimo@aol.com

Craftspeople and local artists will again display and sell their products. If you or a friend would like to be part of this, contact us for information on participation fees and an application.



"Old Bags" —

Start cleaning out those closets and collecting those "Old Bags". Ask your neighbors for donations. We have shoppers who come just for the bags. Remember the best excuse to buy a new bag is because you got rid of an "Old Bag". Thanks for your help.





Message from our President *Continued from Page 1*

tirelessly in their respective areas to make sure that the museum will be on a firm footing for the coming season. **FOR A COMPLETE UPDATE I URGE YOU ALL TO COME TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING.** We will soon be announcing the date and location. Again this year, our meeting will be an afternoon tea and desert followed by our annual meeting. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

In the Stone House we are beginning work on implementing our Community Preservation grant, addressing certain structural issues inside the museum, and will be working to move the gate in the fence to match up with our new Goshen Stone walk. The new walk is much more even and safer, and we are grateful for the proceeds of the Eleanor Schmidt fund, which have made this improvement possible.

Of course, we have made time for a little fun this winter too, and thanks to our Fundraising Committee a wonderful time was had at the Ninth Annual February Dinner Theater held at the Villa Rose in Ludlow, with the actors from BUCC's Playhouse. More than 135 people attended this fun-filled evening, helping us to pay our bills during this trying (and long) winter season.

Even though the 250th town anniversary is past, this is still a great year to be involved in local history, and the trustees and museum committee have been involved in too many projects to fully mention here. We still hope that this year will see an increase in attendance at the museum—and please don't forget that we are always looking for cleaners, dusters, house-sitters and docents during the summer months. If you have time during the week or on Saturdays and an interest in becoming more involved with our museum please contact me at 323-0946.

As spring progresses we begin to look forward to our traditional springtime activities at the Stone House. Don't miss our Annual Meeting this year! This is always a fun time to get together and take stock of all we have been doing as an Association, and enjoy each other's company and wonderful deserts. Also, our annual Opening Day Plant Sale and Old Bag Sale, Saturday May 10th 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 in June, our semi-annual GARDEN TOUR in July, and plans are underway for another installment of our Fall Living History Days event which will celebrate harvest-time activities and traditional New England crafting. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending these events—and I hope to see a really great turnout at our annual meeting!

Please visit us on Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/
 TheBelchertownStoneHouseMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/TheBelchertownStoneHouseMuseum)
 and at our updated website:
www.stonehousemuseum.org

Get up-to-the minute news and announcements like information on our upcoming events. Check out pictures of interest in and around the museum.



Facebook and the website are just two more ways the Belchertown Historical Association keeps in touch with its members!

**Garden Tour 2014 —
 Show off your treasure!**

We are hoping to host a garden tour this summer. The proposed date will be Saturday, July 12th. In past years we have showcased dozens of Belchertown's gardens, ranging from charming and peaceful to lush and spectacular.



Each year we strive to present an interesting variety of gardens, including full-sun, shade, and woodland with unique, eye-catching features. The tour committee is currently looking for gardens. If you are interested in having the committee come and look at your gardens this spring, or if you know someone else who might be interested, please contact **Sally Shattuck**, 323-4239.

SPEAKER SERIES continues in 2014



Come learn about your town's history and the role it played in national events. The Speaker Series sponsored by the Belchertown Historical Association started last fall and has started back up this year. Each lecture has been well attended and enjoyed by all. The talks are held at the Stone House Museum.

On February 27 at 7pm Larry and Kitty Lowenthal will be presenting **Trying to Do My Duty: The Civil War Letters of Frank and Rebecca Lincoln**. This dramatic reading illustrates both the military and domestic sides of the war to save the Union. It promises to be an entertaining and enlightening look at life during that war.

On March 20 at 7 pm there will be a video and lecture about Enfield before the Quabbin. The video includes vintage footage from the first film made in the Valley of 1916 Enfield.

Coming in April, date to be set, at the annual Belchertown Historical Association meeting, to which all members are invited, Louise Butler will be presenting a talk about farming in Belchertown.

All lectures are free and refreshments are served. Come and join us for an interesting, informative and fun time.

Yuletide a Great Success

It was a great day for Yuletide at the Stone House. Many visitors came and enjoyed the beautifully decorated rooms and took advantage of some early Holiday shopping.

The Board of Trustees thanks all who helped to make this year's Yuletide a success. Members who donated themed baskets, the cooks and bakers who filled our kitchen with a variety of goodies, the members who donated their handicrafts to our sales room, our member photographers (Les Campbell, Elaine Darr-Morton, and Jim Gambaro) who donated their framed works, our volunteers who worked the day and those who sponsored our event with monetary donations.

It takes a Membership.
Thank you all for your continued support.

Special thanks to **Carol Merzewski** for her photography skills!
Many more pictures available at stonehousemuseum.org



Membership Update

By Carol Mierzewski, Chair
emierzewski@aol.com 323-4344

Thank you to all who have supported the Belchertown Historical Association this past Membership year. Your tax-deductible membership and business sponsorships help us to care for the Stone House Museum and all its collections and to present exhibits and programs that ensure that Belchertown's heritage will be preserved for future generations.

Membership renewal letters will be mailed out in April. Our Membership year is May 1-April 30. We hope that we can once again count on your support.

New Members:

Jessica Hanson	Cynthia Hardaker
Christie Hester-Moore	Vicki McAndrew
Patricia Mitchell	Steve Nelson

Donations received:

Irene Miller In memory of **Roland C. Miller**
Mary Avery In memory of **Jack Avery**
Alfred Roccanti In memory of **Dorothy Roccanti**
June Allen In memory of **Clayton Allen**
Rita Owczarski In memory of **"Boots" Owczarski**
Doris Dickinson In honor of **Tom Stockton**
Suewilla Woodfork In Honor of **Jane Gabbie**
Clark & Joyce Bridgman
 In Memory of the **Belchertown Bridgmans**
Anthony Trifone & Jean Aldrich
 In Loving Memory of **William Aldrich & George A. Aldrich**

Belchertown Historical Association

MEMBERSHIP FORM – May 1, 2014 thru April 30, 2015

I am pleased to support the Stone House Museum and the Belchertown Historical Association and want to renew / join!



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

Membership Category:

- Individual \$20 Student (<18) \$5 Senior (>64) \$10 Family \$35 (adult and children <18)
- Friend \$50 Patron \$100 Benefactor \$250 Additional donation: \$_____

Membership Donation in honor in memory of _____

Eligible for Corporate Matching Program (attach employer's corporate matching gift form)

I am interested in getting involved with BHA. Best way/time to contact me: _____

Total enclosed: \$_____ Send completed form and tax-deductible check (payable to Belchertown Historical Association) to
The Belchertown Historical Association PO Box 1211, Belchertown, MA 01007-1211

Belchertown Historical Association
20 Maple Street
Belchertown MA 01007-1211
Visit us at the Stone House, call us at
413-323-6573 or email us at
info@stonehousemuseum.org

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Archivist: Cliff McCarthy

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Members Newsletter—
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Volunteers Ready the Stone House for the Holidays

The Stone House looked very festive this holiday season due to the hard work of some special volunteers. The Carriage Barn and Print Shop and fencing were festooned with pine garlands and wreaths. Thank you **Millie Harrington, Phyllis Ferriter, Helen Towne, Becki Smith, Tom Stockton**

and Denise Smith for making the House and grounds look spectacular.



Please welcome our newest Board Member

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that Darren Chevalier has graciously agreed to complete his father's (James Chevalier) term on the Board.

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