



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association
Belchertown, Massachusetts
1903—2014

September 2014

Volume 14, Issue 3

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

2014 Calendar

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

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

LIVING HISTORY DAYS

Bringing the House to Life

Saturday Oct. 4th 10am-3pm
Showcase fall activities in the 19th century.

October 16, 2014 7pm "Belchertown's Boys in Blue"

As the nation wraps up the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, we will remember that Belchertown sent more than 250 soldiers to that conflict. Stone House Archivist **Cliff McCarthy** will tell the histories of some of these young men.

Halloween Cemetery Tours, on Sunday October 26 in the Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Yuletide event

November 8 9am—3pm
Themed Baskets, Craft Sale, Bake Sale—one of our most important fundraisers will conclude with our Outhouse raffle. Volunteers needed!!
Please don't wait to be asked.

For up-to-date information, please visit our Facebook and web pages!



BY TOM STOCKTON, PRESIDENT

What a busy and event-filled summer it has been and fall looks even busier!

Our Opening Day celebration was a success with better weather this year. There were "Made In Belchertown" crafters, our "Old Bag" sale (where many found bargains), a raffle and sales table, a terrific plant sale, and, of course, tours of the Stone House Museum. How can we give enough thanks to the volunteers who worked tirelessly to bring off the separate elements that made this such a wonderful day for our organization. Special thanks are due to **Sally Shattuck** who headed up our Plant Sale, **Marnie Henneman** who headed up the bags, **Carol Mierzewski** who rounded up volunteers and worked on the raffle and sales table, and **Becki Smith** for all her work to make the grounds so beautiful. Many thanks to all!

We also thank **Marnie Henneman** and **Louise Butler** for representing the Belchertown Historical Association at the annual Memorial Day commemoration at the Quabbin Cemetery.

A great time was had by all at our annual Members Only Cocktail Party and many people went home with door prizes. We are pleased this year to have new material in our exhibit room: "Made In Belchertown" - in concert with the Pioneer Valley History Network theme of celebrating

local history in Western Massachusetts. Many thanks to our dedicated Museum Committee for all their fine work throughout the house displaying our artifacts.

Our summer garden tour was a huge success this year. Our last tour was in 2011 when we highlighted some of Belchertown's farms. This past summer we showcased 9 gardens of assorted sizes. We had several gardens from previous tours that had exciting changes to share, and some new gardens that boasted bright colors, unique layouts and humorous decorations. One hundred and nineteen visitors toured our gardens, praising the gardeners and the Stone House for providing the opportunity to see what can be done in a backyard garden and to gather ideas for their own gardens. The Board of Trustees is considering a tour for next summer, pending applications. We want to thank **Easthampton Savings Bank and Country Bank for Savings** for their generous sponsorships that helped make our tour successful.

AROUND THE GROUNDS: Many things have been happening around the Stone House this summer, and many thanks are due to **Becki Smith** for the incredible amount of organizing she has done. Thanks are also due to our Remembrance Garden volunteers who have kept this portion of our grounds looking fresh and lovely during a hot summer, and to **Peg and Lew Louraine** for the work they have done to bring historic gardening methods to life in our herb garden.

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Yuletide Fair: Saturday November 8th



The yuletide event is our major fundraiser of the year and we could not do it without your help. **This year's Yuletide Fair will be held on Saturday, November 8 from 9:00-3:00 at the Stone House.** Save the date on your calendar and invite family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to do the same!

As we approach the big day, many hands are needed. We have had enthusiastic support in years past and are hoping that this year we can count on your help again. If you are able to volunteer or help in any way please call **Sally Shattuck (323-4239)** or email her at **sallyshattuck@charter.net**.



Theme Baskets: Please consider donating a themed basket. Put together a collection of items around a theme of your choice. We are asking that all the baskets be delivered already assembled. Please include your name on the basket so that we can properly thank you.



Crafters: Your donations of wonderful, handcrafted items have stocked our sales room and enticed many visitors to pull out their wallets. Our reputation for beautiful and varied crafts has grown over the years and many people like to start their holiday shopping at this event. We look forward to increasing our sales and showcasing even more of your crafts. A small group of our "member elves" have been busy making holiday ornaments, both historical and traditional. We have décor for the homes, crocheted and knitted articles, sewn articles and gifting. We welcome all of you to donate your crafts to make this year better than ever.

Bakers: Visitors come in and search out your homemade delights at our Yuletide Bake Sale! You can start baking now and put things in the freezer or wait until the holiday spirit fills you with inspiration. Whatever it takes, please keep our bake sale in mind and bring your tasty items to the Stone House. We can do the packaging and pricing for you, but it is appreciated if you can do the packaging at home.



Drop Off Times: Baskets, baked goods and crafts can be dropped off at the Stone House on Saturday, Nov. 1 from 9-2, Wednesday, Nov. 5 from 5-7 or Friday, Nov. 7 from 4-6.

Volunteers: Last but not least, your volunteer time is crucial to this event. We will be calling to organize our volunteers in the coming weeks and **we hope we can count on you joining us for a few hours on Saturday, November 8th. PLEASE DON'T WAIT TO BE CALLED.** Call us and volunteer, you won't be disappointed.

RAFFLE:

Our raffle this year is an OUTHOUSE! The quaint Garden Shed/Outhouse is handcrafted by BHA Trustee Darren Chevalier, and measures 2' X 2' X 5' tall. Charming to behold and evocative of an earlier time in our town's history, this functional shed will also make the perfect place for you to store those essential tools that you are always needing in your yard or garden.

Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5, and the prize will be drawn at the end of our Yuletide event—just in time for the holidays! We are hoping very much that proceeds from this event will help balance our annual operating budget.

ASKING A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR TO BUY ONE TICKET IS A GREAT WAY TO INITIATE A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION AND OUR MISSION! ONE TICKET TUCKED INTO A CARD MAKES A GREAT GIFT!



LIVING HISTORY DAYS: Bringing the House to Life ~ Saturday October 4th ~ Harvest and Fall Activities in 19th Century New England

The Belchertown Historical Association is proud to again offer Living History Days on Saturday, October 4th. For this year's Living History event we are pleased to promote interest in Belchertown's History by combining our Living History Day with a special focus on archaeology in town, in honor of October, which is archaeology month.

Live reënactors, many dressed in period costumes, will demonstrate and discuss many of the Fall and Harvest activities that might have occupied residents of a house such as the Stone House in 19th century New England. We plan to present demonstrations and lecture topics that will include Herb Gardening; Historic Farm Implements; Preserving Herbs, Vegetables and Fruits; Soap Making; Candle Making; Outdoor Cooking; Spinning; Weaving; Corn Cob Dolls; Knitting; Broom Making; Quilting; Quilling; and other seasonal activities.



The Stone House will be open with a display of our nineteenth century farm equipment, our re-creation 19th century garden and house tours from 10 to 3. In addition, we will also present displays of the results of in-town archeological excavations and provide age-appropriate archaeological activities for children. **The Living History event will be a lot of fun, as well as a much-needed fundraiser. Please join us to celebrate this continuing link with our past.**

Message from our President Continued from Page 1

If you've been to the Stone House recently, I hope you've noticed the beautiful new gate that leads to our new Goshen Stone walk, both of which have been installed with a bequest from the Eleanor Schmidt fund—money that can only be used for the upkeep of the museum. When the stone walkway was installed last year, it was moved farther away from the house to avoid snow falling from the roof onto the walkway and blocking the entrance. The old gate did not line up with the new opening at the sidewalk. Fitzgerald Fence of Northampton came and installed our new gate last month. It is a double gate, to accommodate the wider stones. A special thanks to **Becki Smith** for getting it painted so quickly. This gate greatly improves the look of our museum, and, more importantly, accessibility to the walk throughout the year.



We are busy planning for our annual presence at the BELCHERTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION BOOTH at the Belchertown Fair where we will present a photo display from the archives from fairs gone by. We will offer the traditional "straws" game and sell raffle tickets and gift items. Many thanks to **Becki Smith** for the painted decorations for the booth! And although the Stage Coach will not be in the Parade this year, Cat's Meow figures of the Stagecoach are still for sale at the Stone House.

October is a busy time this year, and we invite all to come to our October activities, which include our annual "Living History Days" (See separate article), a lecture October 16th on "Belchertown's Boys in Blue" at the Stonehouse, and our planned Halloween Cemetery Tours, on Sunday October 26 in the Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Our Yuletide event (November 8) is one of our most important fundraisers and will conclude with our Outhouse raffle drawing (See separate article). Equally as important, it is a great time to come visit and renew friendships at the beginning of the New England holiday season. We are still looking for CRAFTERS and people to donate THEME BASKETS. If you have a hobby and can help, please call Tom Stockton (323-0946). Our baskets are considered by many to be the nicest and most elegant of all the Yuletide events in town, so we can use your help keeping up our holiday tradition. We appreciate everyone's continued interest and support, and look forward to seeing you all this fall. And remember: for friends, new neighbors, and "old townies" who have moved to distant cities, Gift Memberships make great holiday presents, are a wonderful way to stay connected, and hardly cost more than a "store-bought" card! See you soon!

Belchertown Historical Association
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Visit us at the Stone House, call us at
413-323-6573 or email us at
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Assistant Curator: Shirley Bock
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Board of Trustees 2014—2015
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Members Newsletter and the museum website edited by:
Mary F. Knight mfknight@crocker.com
Comments, suggestions are welcomed.

FRAGMENTS OF HISTORY

The Past Comes to the Surface

October is Archaeology Month! This year's Living History Days (October 4th 10am—3pm) will include a display of some significant dated examples of early life in Belchertown found on the dig site of the Lauren Shumway Homestead (c. 1840) on South Main Street. Examples to be on display range from a variety of period ceramics, potteries, and porcelains to wrought iron strap hinges and sleigh parts. There is a black powder gun hammer, clay tavern pipes, buttons, buckles, jewelry pieces, sleigh bells, and even a few Native American artifacts found on the site.



Artifacts

Children will be able to try their hand at archaeological digging during a mock dig, digging for actual shards found at the Loren Shumway dig site, which can be traded in for a toy. Homeowner, **Lindsay Hoadley**, will be on hand to discuss the excitement of digging for history in your own back yard!

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