



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association
Belchertown, Massachusetts
1903—2015

October 2015

Volume 15, Issue 2

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

A Bountiful Year at the Museum

2015 Calendar
Save the dates and share them with family, friends, neighbors!

Fall/Winter Lecture Series
October 29, at 7 pm.
Jane Crutchfield will talk about making quilts and the culture they illustrate and foster. This free presentation will be held at the museum. Refreshments will be served.

Yuletide Event
November 7 9am—3pm
Themed Baskets, Crafts for sale, Baked Goods and Canned Goods
One of our most important Fund-raisers of the year!

Check out our Facebook page, StoneHouseMuseum.org and the local Belchertown Sentinel for announcements of ongoing Lecture Series and other events planned during the Fall and Winter months. Contact Tom at 323-0946 if you don't want to be left out.

Stone House Museum
Open May through October
Saturday 2—5 pm
Admission: **FREE** for Members; \$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 children
While we are closed for the season, we are still open by appointment.
Call 413-323-6573

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 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 & Geri Amprimo** who rounded up crafters, 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; the weather was reasonably pleasant, and we are glad that so many could take this opportunity to re-connect with friends before the summer became too hectic.

In the museum many thanks are due to our dedicated Museum Committee for all their fine work throughout the house displaying our artifacts; their attention to detail and



efforts to "keep things fresh" are always appreciated.

AROUND THE GROUNDS: Many things have been happening around the Stone House this summer. First, 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 the summer months, and to **Peg** and **Lew Louraine** for the work they have done to bring historic gardening methods to life in our herb garden.

IN THE MUSEUM: Work in the museum was of a less glamorous but very important nature: we have installed a new mini-split heat pump in the Doris Dickinson archives that will help us maintain the proper humidity levels for this important part of our museum. Purchased and in-

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YULETIDE AT THE STONE HOUSE Saturday, November 7 9-3

The annual Yuletide event is our major fundraiser of the year and we couldn't do it without your help. We have had enthusiastic member support in the past and are hoping that this year we can count on your help again.

GOT A THEME?

Please consider donating a themed basket. We are asking that all baskets be delivered assembled. They can be dropped off at the Stone House Friday, October 23, 1-4; Saturday, October 24 from 9 am to noon and October 30 and 31st from 1-4pm. Please include your name on your basket so that we can properly thank you. Contact **Sally at 323-4239 or sallyshattuck@charter** with any questions.



CRAFTERS—YOU ARE IN DEMAND!

Your donations of the wonderful handcrafted items that stock our sales room entice most of the day's 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 his year's sales and craft room and to have more varied options to entice our shoppers. A small group of our Member elves have been busy making historic quilled and beaded snowflake ornaments, holiday ornaments and décor for the home, crocheted and knitted articles, sewn articles for home and gifting. We welcome crafters to donate their items to make this year a unique one. Contact person for

crafts and sales is **Carol Mierzewski 323-4344**.



CALLING ALL BAKERS, PRESERVERS, CANNERS....

Visitors come in search of 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. But, whatever it takes, please keep our bake sale in mind and bring your tasty items to the Stone House on Friday evening, November 6th from 5-7 or early on Saturday, November 7th. We can do the pricing if you do the packaging.

Contact **Sally at 323-4239 or sallyshattuck@charter**.

YULETIDE RAFFLE: Our raffle this year is a SCRATCH TICKET raffle! The SCRATCH TICKETS are arranged for your viewing in a picture frame and feature \$130 worth of Massachusetts scratch tickets, suitable for tons of family fun and perhaps funding your retirement! Tickets are \$1, or 6 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. **ONE TICKET TUCKED INTO A CARD MAKES A GREAT GIFT!**



YOU—YOUR FAMILY—YOUR FRIENDS— YOUR NEIGHBORS—CO-WORKERS

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 hope to have you join us for a few hours on Saturday, November 7th But you don't have to wait to be called!

Please tell your friends and relatives to visit our beautifully decorated museum during the Yuletide event!

Museum Committee Tidbits

The Museum Committee hosted the Hazen Family Reunion at the Stone House. Twenty family members enjoyed tours and scrutinized family archival material.

The “Incredible Clovers” and the “Coding Clovers” 4-H members toured the museum with passes as end-of-the-year gifts from the club leaders. The Committee is pleased to offer special group rates and can arrange private tours for school classes, civic and other groups.

Tours have been very well attended this season. Over 50 guests from MA, CA, IL, NY, CT and Korea have toured the museum.

A special thanks to Irene, our summer intern, who has been an invaluable help to our docents.

A South Korean company filmed the Stone House as a part of a documentary on Belchertown’s Mary Scranton Benton, who was a missionary to Korea. She established a

girls’ school there in 1866 which is still operating and highly regarded in that country.

The organization of photos of houses and other buildings of the town in the 1960’s is almost complete and soon will be available on our website.

Recent acquisitions include: a bowl and bib from the State School; a 100 year old striped brown, home spun dress with crystal buttons; a seed catalogue from the Pansy Park resort; and a WWI poster.

We hope you had a chance to visit the BHA Booth at the Fair. On Sunday “Climb Your Family Tree” offered genealogical research assistance from 12 to 4.

The Living History Day on Saturday October 3rd included mini-tours and demonstrations of domestic activities of the 1800’s.

The Lecture Series will begin again this Fall. Check our Facebook page and website for details.

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stalled in large part with funds from the Eleanor Schmidt trust, this climate system will help maintain the proper humidity levels in the archives; previously, the humidity levels could only be regulated by gauges in the main part of the museum. We are also excited by new additions to our archival collection; an 1894 seed catalogue from Pansy Park has been purchased with funds from the Schmidt fund, and a 1917 post-WWI poster from a Belchertown event has also been obtained. The seed catalogue is particularly exciting because we have few artifacts from Pansy Park, a major agricultural industry in North Belchertown from around 1900. (Please note that, at the time, when you were through with your catalogues, they likely went to the outhouse! Few of these publications survive.)

We were “busy as bees” planning for our annual presence at the BELCHERTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION BOOTH at the Belchertown Fair where we presented a photo display from the archives from fairs gone by. The traditional “straws” game was its usual success, and we sold raffle tickets and gift items. Many thanks to **Peg Louraine, Randi Shenkman, and Denise Smith** for decorations for the booth! And although the Stage Coach was

not 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 are proud of our October activities, which this year included our annual “Living History Day.” (Please see separate article.)

Our Yuletide event (November 7) is one of our most important fundraisers and will conclude with our “Scratch Ticket” raffle drawing. Equally 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 at our various events. 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!



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 VISIT US AT THE STONE HOUSE, CALL US
 AT 413 323-6573 OR EMAIL US AT
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 ARCHIVIST: CLIFF MCCARTHY

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BRINGING THE HOUSE TO LIFE: HARVEST AND FALL ACTIVITIES IN THE 19TH CENTURY NEW ENGLAND HOME



The Belchertown Historical Association was proud to again offer Living History Days on Saturday, October 3, 2015. For this year's Living History Days event we were pleased to provide another activity relevant to Belchertown's history.

Live reënactors, many dressed in period costumes, demonstrated and discussed 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. Demonstrations and Lecture topics included Herb Gardening; Historic Farm Implements; Preserving Herbs, Vegetables and Fruits; Corn Cob Dolls; Knitting; Quilting; 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. The Living History event was a lot of fun, as well as a much-needed fundraiser. We are very grateful to our sponsors: Easthampton Savings Bank, Country Band for Savings, McCarthy's Pub, Bell & Hudson Insurance, and Florence Savings Bank.

For pictures of the event visit our FaceBook page.

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