



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association
Belchertown, Massachusetts
1903—2016

September 2016

Volume 16, Issue 2

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

2016 Calendar

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

Belchertown Fair Booth September 23—25

Volunteers needed for the booth. Please call 323-4806 to let us know what hours you are available.

Living History Day October 1st

10—2 Join us on the Museum grounds for harvesting, archaeology exhibit and house tours.

Halloween Event October 30th

6—8 Watch for details*

Yuletide November 5th 10—3

We need craft items, themed baskets, homemade goodies and volunteers to work in shifts at the Stonehouse. And Visitors!! Pass the word to friends old and new!

Stone House Museum Open May through October

Saturday 2—5 pm
Admission: **FREE** for Members;
\$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 children

* Check out our Facebook page, StoneHouseMuseum.org and the local Belchertown Sentinel for announcements of ongoing Lecture Series and other upcoming events.

We have several volunteer opportunities—something for everyone, every age and every talent. Details at stonehousemuseum.org/volunteer Help us make history!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND!

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, **Erica Morrison-Brazitis** who headed up the bags, **Denise Smith** who rounded up volunteers, **Carol Mierzewski** who coordinated our crafters, and **Becki Smith** for all her work to make the grounds so beautiful. Many thanks to all!

A great time was had by all at our annual Members Only Cocktail Party as well. Many people went home with door prizes. Check out the pictures of all of our activities at our Facebook page!

We are pleased this year to have a new exhibit on local archaeology in our exhibit room; congratulations to **Lindsay Hoadley** for her fascinating display of artifacts from an archaeological dig at one local historic home, and the story it tells about the history of Belchertown. Many thanks are due to our dedicated Museum Committee for all their fine work throughout the house displaying our artifacts.

AROUND THE GROUNDS:

Many things have been happening around the Stone House this summer, and many thanks are due to **Becki Smith** and **Denise Smith** for the incredible amount of organizing they have done, especially in regards to the moving of the Remembrance Garden in preparation for the relocation to our grounds of the Washington District School House. We are particularly grateful to **Tom Ablicki** and **Liberty Orchard Landscaping**, who donated much time and talent to the moving of the garden. The moving of the living plants and creation of a new, beautiful and contemplative space will keep the memory of those who have gone before us alive on our grounds.

Special thanks are also due to **Peg and Lew Louraine** for the work they have done to bring historic gardening methods to life in our herb garden.

THIS ARTICLE WOULD BE INCOMPLETE without a preliminary and hopeful mention of the move of the Washington District Schoolhouse to our grounds. The Washington District Schoolhouse is the last



Thanks go out to **Marnie Henneman** and **Amy Moran** for representing the Belchertown Historical Association at the annual Memorial Day commemoration at the Quabbin Cemetery.

Continued on page 4

Bringing the House to Life: Harvest Activities in the 19th century New England Home.



The Museum Committee thanks Lindsey Hoadley for her fascinating archeological exhibit on display in the special exhibit room thru October.

The Belchertown Historical Association is proud to again offer Living History Days on **Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 10—2.**

For this year's event we are promoting 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, and youth education—pointing to the one-room school house which will be a future part of the museum experience.

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.

The Stone House will be open with a display of our nineteenth century farm equipment, our recreation 19th century garden and mini house tours. 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.**

The Museum Committee welcomes **David Cohen** and **Rita Dietrich** as new members and thanks it's wonderful group of interns: **Irene Gao, Ashley Chase Faulkner, Heather Hennessey** and **Kylie**. The museum has acquired a number of new artifacts—we will provide details in the next newsletter. Finally, the off-season lecture series will start up again this fall. Details will be posted on Facebook and on our website.



Demonstration Kitchen Garden By Peg and Lew Louraine

It's harvest and clean-up time in the Stone House Demonstration Kitchen garden. We have put the squash to bed, and are in the process of weeding (as usual) and cutting back the herb section of our garden. Herbs are still available for picking, so stop by and take a handful any time. We will replant lemon balm next year, move the tarragon, and probably eliminate some of the flowers.

Potatoes and garlic and onions have been brought in. We got a bumper crop of Green Mountain potatoes this year and the garlic did well, although we left it in the ground a bit too long. It's all home for drying now and what we don't actually use in the kitchen we will replant in September or October.

The drought was a problem for us, just as it was for everyone else. Crops were smaller for most plantings, and the spinach and early lettuce failed entirely. We have a late planting of lettuce and, if the rain does come, we may get a September crop. In 1827, this would have been difficult but not tragic for the family in the Stone House, but it could have been a disaster for families who depended on their kitchen garden for filling their cans and root cellars and getting through the hard winter months.

Thanks to the volunteers who helped with watering this summer (that's you, Erica!), and we will keep you posted on plans for next year's garden.





YULETIDE AT THE STONE HOUSE Saturday, November 5 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 Saturday, October 29, 9-11 am or Friday, November 4 3—6 pm. 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 this 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, November 4th from 3-6 or early on Saturday, November 5th. We can do the pricing if you do the packaging. Contact **Sally at 323-4239 or sallyshattuck@charter.**

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 5th 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! And buy raffle tickets for the beautiful Afghan—picture on page 6.

It has to be Level!

Tony Trifone at
work on the Tre-
maine House



Painting the Fence

Volunteer Alan Gilson lent a hand at the Stone House museum earlier this year. He power washed the fence and painted it with the help of our own Becki Smith.

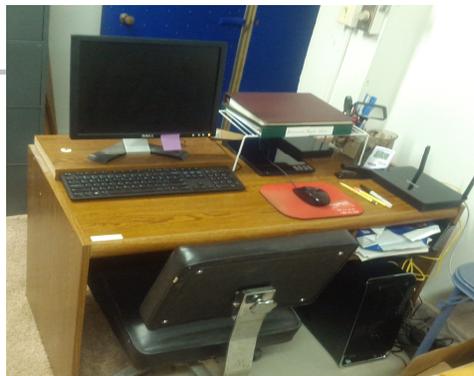


Dickinson Bequest Yields New Computers for Archives

By Cliff McCarthy

A bequest from the estate of the late **Doris Dickinson** has provided for the purchase of new computer equipment for the Stone House archives. Doris Dickinson was a long-time member of the Belchertown Historical Association and was the volunteer archivist for many years. In 2009, the Stone House archives was named in her honor.

The new purchase includes a new Dell desktop computer, an HP All-in-One printer/scanner, a new wireless router, a Seagate external hard-drive backup unit, and a Dell tablet device. The bequest also allowed the purchase of the PastPerfect software upgrade to version 5.0.



Message from our President Continued from Page 1

remaining one-room schoolhouse in town, and well worth our efforts to preserve it. Due to the beneficence of **Bell Properties** and **Andrey Korchevskiy** the schoolhouse has been donated to our Association, and we believe it will be a vital link in telling the story of Belchertown to future generations. Already we have learned much about the town and its residents by investigating the schoolhouse's history. SPECIAL MENTION here must be made of the tireless efforts of **Billy Austin**, who, as our Moving Coordinator, has surmounted MANY unexpected problems in arranging for the move. WE HOPE AND EXPECT that when you receive this newsletter, the schoolhouse will already have moved to our grounds, awaiting its new foundation. We will now need to begin the extensive process of fundraising in order to restore the schoolhouse. We are expecting that the INITIAL MOVE and foundation will cost around \$60,000—that would be \$35,000 more than the Community Preservation grant we received towards the cost of the move. Rest assured that you will be hearing more about this project from your trustees over the coming year(s).

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 this year include our annual "**Living History Days**", **October 1**. This event will be somewhat scaled down this year to accommodate the construction involved in the School House Project. But we do expect the House Tours, Peg and Lew harvesting in the garden, and archaeology exhibit (October is Archaeology Month) will help bring our history alive for this annual celebration.

Our **Yuletide event (November 5)** is one of our most important fundraisers and will conclude with our Quilt raffle drawing. 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. New this year will be a limited, high-end version of our "Old Bag" sale in the Silent Auction room. Our special Yuletide raffle this year is a queen-sized Granny-Square afghan hand-crafted by BHA Trustee **Sally Shattuck**. Check out the picture in this newsletter. Not to be missed!

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!

Schoolhouse Readied for Move

Recently the last “one room school house” was generously donated to the Belchertown Historical Association by Andrey Korchevskiy (Bell Properties.). Currently located near the intersection of Bardwell Street and South Washington Street, the school will be moved to the museum property at 20 Maple Street—where it will be used for lectures, educational programs and more.

The plans for this move have been long and complicated, and the Board of Trustees would like to say a big “Thank you” to Bill Austin for coordinating the project and having the patience to see it through. To make the move easier and more cost effective the roof was removed in mid-July. As we go to press, the actual move is scheduled for early morning, Thursday, September 8. Please follow our progress with its new foundation and restoration on Facebook

www.facebook.com/TheBelchertownStoneHouseMuseum, our website www.stonehousemuseum.org, and as you drive by The Stone House.



Please visit the Stone House Booth at the Fair (9/23 - 25) to see some of the latest photos of the Washington Street School as well as historic photos of it.

Not surprisingly, the cost of moving the school from south Belchertown to the Stone House property, the new foundation and the extensive renovations required to preserve the school and maintain it will require an outlay of several thousand dollars—necessitating the initiation of a capital campaign. We hope to have your help, cooperation, and maybe some willing hands to complete a project which is exciting and significant to the entire town.

Donations for the moving, restoration, maintenance, and continued use of the Washington Street School can be sent to the Belchertown Historical Association, P. O. Box 1211, Belchertown, MA 01007 or donate online at <https://www.razoo.com/us/story/Stone-House-Museum>.

New Memorial Garden is Complete!

The new Memorial Garden is complete. How will we ever thank **Tom Ablicki** and his crew for doing such an incredible job? The new garden area will be a lovely place to contemplate life and its blessings and to remember those that have gone before us. Please stop by and take a look.





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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Handcrafted Afghan is the Special Yuletide Raffle!

Please support our AFGHAN raffle! The beautiful QUEEN-SIZED GRANNY -SQUARE AFGHAN is handcrafted by BHA Trustee Sally Shattuck. Charming to behold and evocative of an earlier time in our town's history, this beautiful throw will also make the perfect place for you to snooze away during the coming winter months. 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!

Tickets are \$2, (or 3 for \$5), and the prize will be drawn at the end of our Yuletide event—just in time for the holidays!



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