



“THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM”

Belchertown Historical Association  
Belchertown, Massachusetts  
1903—2017

September 2017

Volume 17, Issue 2

# MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

## 2017 Calendar

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

### Stone House Museum

Open May through October

Saturday 2—5 pm

Admission: **FREE** for Members;

\$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 children

### Belchertown Fair Booth

September 22—24

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

### Living History Day October 14

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

### Yuletide November 4th 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!

### Yuletide Drawing:

Tickets are \$5 (or 6 for \$20). 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!

### Lecture Series—will return this fall!

Watch for details in the Sentinel and on our Facebook and Website pages

### We have several volunteer opportunities—Details at

stonehousemuseum.org/volunteer

## HARVEST HAPPENINGS AHEAD!



### 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 recognition 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. There were particularly many positive comments about the new location of the Remembrance Garden, as this was the first time many people had seen it. Many thanks to all!

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

The usual great time was had by all at our annual Members Only Cocktail Party and many people went home with door prizes. Check out the pictures on our website.

We are pleased this year to have a new exhibit on WWI posters, to coincide with the anniversary of that Great War. Many thanks are due to our dedicated Museum Committee for all their fine work throughout the house displaying our artifacts.

Many things have been happening around the Stone House this summer, and special thanks are due to **Becki Smith** for the way that the Remembrance Garden has flourished in its new location. 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 its new foundation, which is expected to happen by the end of August. The Washington District Schoolhouse is the last 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; we continue to learn 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 this complicated project. WE HOPE AND EXPECT that when you receive this newsletter, the schoolhouse will already have moved to its new foundation. We are now beginning the extensive process of fundraising in order to restore the schoolhouse. By our current accounting the move and repair of the structure and foundation work has cost \$36,000 MORE than the Community res-

Continued on page 3

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

The Belchertown Historical Association is proud to again offer Living History Days on **Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 10—2**. Please help us promote this opportunity to go back in time and experience life as it was in the 1800's.

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; 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 2.

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, and see (from the outside only) the Washington District School on its new foundation!



## Demonstration Kitchen Garden

By Peg and Lew Louraine

We have had a good garden summer, with rain followed by sun regularly all summer! We have harvested onions, carrots, potatoes, and garlic so far (and rutabaga, but we are not sure what to do with that!). The herb garden is happy and prolific and we reissue our invitation to all members to help themselves!



We failed utterly with cucumber and parsnips this year, and we hear we are not alone in that respect. We continue to drop by every couple of days and to spend at least an hour every Saturday - in hopes of visiting with members and others who come during museum hours. Suggestions for additions to the garden are always welcome and thanks so much to Becki Smith for her gift of Borage this summer. Borage is both a medicinal herb and a cuisinal one. We expect to do more research on that before next season. Come see us!

## Remembrance Garden

By Becki Smith

The Remembrance Garden, started in 2001, was originally created to honor Mr & Mrs William H. Smith, my parents, and their love of nature. I thought the town should have a beautiful place where people could go and recall their loved ones or celebrate special events of loved ones. A Remembrance Book with hundreds of names is kept and displayed in the Stone House Museum for donations made in memory of and in honor of people and special occasions. Please stop by and experience this peaceful oasis. Anyone wanting to make a contribution to the Remembrance Garden, and have a card sent to the recipient, can send a check made out to "Belchertown Historical Association" with the words "remembrance garden" in the memo section of the check. Mail to BHA, PO Box 1211, Belchertown MA 01007



**Message from our President Continued from Page 1**

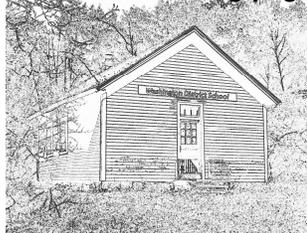
ervation grant we received towards the cost of the move. We are now beginning to work toward the restoration of the EXTERIOR of the building, in order to stabilize it for future years. We thank trustee **Tony Trifone** for his work on this project, and **Rob Hislop** for his help with estimating costs. You will be hearing more about this project from your trustees.

Please note also that the **Tremaine House**, next door to the Stone House, is getting a much-needed facelift this year. We will soon be repainting it with the same long-lasting "miracle paint" that has been used on other historic structures in town, but once the old paint was off we found many rotten boards etc. that needed to be replaced! But soon the elegant old home will again be looking its best on Maple Street.

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, and, thanks to **Randi Shenkman**, we expect a new historic coloring activity for children. 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!

October is a busy time this year, and we invite all to come to our October activities, which this year include our annual

Schoolhouse coloring page



"Living History Days", October 14. This event will be somewhat scaled down this year to accommodate the construction involved in the School House Project, but we do expect that the House Tours, Peg and Lew harvesting in the garden, demonstrations of some traditional fall activities, and an archaeology exhibit (October is Archaeology Month) will help bring our history alive for this annual celebration.

Our Yuletide event (November 4) is one of our most important fundraisers and will conclude with our 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. Again this year will be a limited, high-end version of our "Old Bag" sale in the Silent Auction room.

**YULETIDE RAFFLE:** Our drawing this year features items related to our current great project of PRESERVING THE WASHINGTON DISTRICT SCHOOL. Our first prize features a framed photograph of the school by award-winning photographer and trustee Randi Shenkman, surrounded by MA scratch lottery tickets. Our second prize will be a hand-made "Schoolhouse Birdhouse," created by trustee Tony Trifone, and our third prize will be our TWO Cat's Meows (Stagecoach and Schoolhouse) and our new Schoolhouse T-shirt. Tickets are \$5 (or 6 for \$20), and the prizes will be drawn at the end of our Yuletide event—just in time for the holidays!

**The annual meeting for the membership of the Belchertown Historical Association** was held in the dining room of Hope Methodist Church on Sunday, April 30, 2017 at 2:00 in the afternoon.

Highlights of the treasurer's report were the deposit of \$175,000, from the sale of our Holland Glen property and the establishment of a savings account for the schoolhouse project.

Tom Stockton, president of the Association, shared some of the successful projects the board of trustees has worked on during the past year. The memory garden was moved to a new location centered between the Sentinel building and the Ford Annex in preparation for the addition of the Washington District schoolhouse to our museum compound. The schoolhouse was moved in the fall and is waiting for a foundation to be poured this summer. Outdoor lighting at the museum was repaired, the cellar was sprayed to kill powder post beetles, repairs are ongoing at the Tremaine house in preparation for it to be painted. This included rebuilding the back section of the Tremaine House to be used as a secure storage area for items in our collection.

Tom went on to thank all the members who have given generously of their time, talents and monetary donations at our fundraisers this past year. A special mention was given to Linda Baron for her past years of service to the association. She is moving out of the state to be near her family. We will all miss her.

The board of trustees proposed some minor changes to the by-laws involving the number of members present to begin the annual meeting and committee decision making processes. The membership then elected Randi, Amy and Peg for new 3 year terms and Erica for a 2 year term to finish Darren Chevalier's term. They elected Tom Stockton as president, Denise Smith and Randi Shenkman as vice-presidents, Maureen Austin as treasurer and Sally Shattuck as secretary.

# Belchertown and World War I

The Stone House is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the US entry into World War I with a special exhibit. The museum's collection of WWI uniforms worn by Belchertown's soldiers during the war and particularly our outstanding collection of WWI posters are on display in our special exhibit room. This exhibit will remain until the end of the 2018 season to coincide with the time the US participated in and helped end the war. The photo to the right offers a glimpse of the posters and exhibits, while the newspaper clippings commemorate a few of Belchertown's sons who sacrificed their lives in this, "the war to end all wars" (H.G. Wells).

**HANNUM'S BODY ARRIVES**  
 Orchard Member of 104th Killed in Action in France.  
 Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Hannum of 119 Berkshire Street, Indian Orchard, have received word that the body of their son, Priv. George W. Hannum, who



**Priv. GEORGE W. HANNUM**, was killed in action in France, has arrived in New York. The body will be taken to Belchertown, where he was born and spent his early life, for military funeral and burial.

Priv. Hannum was a member of D Co., 104th Infantry. He enlisted in the Holyoke company June 4, 1917, was in training at Camp Bartlett, Westfield, until October, 1917, when he went to France. In July he was wounded and was in a hospital until September, when he returned to the front. He saw service at Chateau Thierry and St. Mihiel. On Sept. 13 he was killed in action.

three months, 5c copy

**Dies in the Service**

News was received on Monday, of the death from pneumonia October 7th, of Warren Wright of Dwight, who entered the service July 15. Where he died the dispatch from Washington did not state.

Since he sailed for France no word has been received from him, so his whereabouts were unknown.

Mr. Wright was born July 3, 1893 and was the son of Lucius and Minerva Wright. The family came to Dwight from Chiopea some six or seven years ago. When Mr. Wright entered the service he took a twelve week's course in mechanical engineering at the Rhode Island State College, after which he was transferred to Fort Adams, Newport. Before sailing, he was assigned to Battery F, 73rd Div.

He was a member of Vernon Lodge F. and A. M.

Mr. Wright was the first Belchertown boy having his residence here at the time of entering the service who has given his life for his country.



## New Acquisitions

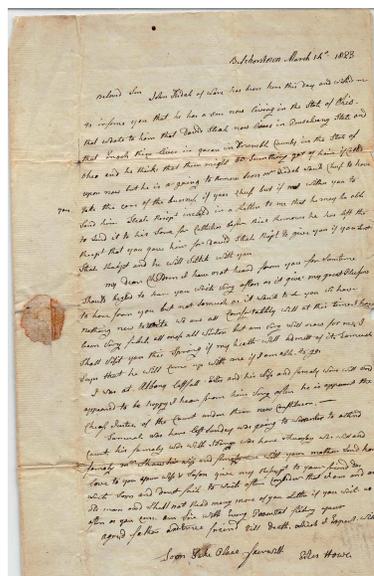
The museum is very fortunate to have many Belchertown residents who think of it and our local history when they have historic papers, books, clothing, furniture and art that are part of our history. This year, amongst other things, we received a cash register from Jackson's general store from John McCaughy of Westfield, MA. We also received three Belchertown school desks from assorted Belchertown one-room schoolhouses. One of them was just left on the front porch of the museum, the other came from Springfield and the third was from the school house on Federal St.



## Our Mission

The Belchertown Historical Association exists to preserve historical artifacts pertaining to the Town of Belchertown; to maintain the Stone House Museum; and to foster knowledge of and interest in the history of Belchertown by opening the Museum to the public and by offering educational programs, lectures and events.

Another source of some very interesting acquisitions is possible because every year we "earn" a grant from the Eleanor Schmidt Foundation by participating in the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Quabbin Cemetery. We are always keeping our eye on auctions, including Ebay, looking for items that are about or by Belchertown residents. Tom Stockton, our association president, has been particularly good at finding choice items. This year he has purchased some very interesting things: 1) a Belchertown person's autograph book from 1879; 2) a pay order from 1777 to carry supplies for the war, the American Revolution; and 3) a letter from Dr. Estes Howe (a painting of him is above the fireplace in the best parlor) to his son, from 1823.



## "Get on the Bus" for the Washington District School Restoration



By the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox, the **Washington District School** building should be sitting on its new foundation. Much work was done this summer to make the late August move happen. More repairs were needed on the school, the grounds had to be cleared, a cellar hole was dug, and a foundation was poured. Once again, the Board is indebted to **Bill Austin** for his hours of phone calls, meetings, planning, engineering, and labor. Without his vision and direction, this historic project would not have happened.

As we move forward with the restoration of Washington District School, we cannot ignore the huge fundraising task ahead of us. Once again we would like to thank all those who have donated to this project and acknowledge our most recent donors: **June Allen, Maureen Austin, Virginia Ayers, Louise Barrett, Linda Barron, Pat Barry, Nancy Bell, Donna Buxton, Marjorie Cavanaugh, David and Anne Cohen, Anna Donovan, Ryan Dillon, Jennifer Faulkner, Charlene & Michael Forgue, Heidi Gutekenst, Mary Helen Habicht, Loy Harris, William Hauswirth, June Henneman, Martha Henneman, Sam Joyal, Mary Knight, Art & Diane Lemire, Peg & Lou Louraine, Michael Madden Family, Dorothy Malone, Anne Marona, Constance McCarthy-Angel, Erica Morrison-Brazitis, Rick & Natalie Owen, Joanna Page, Judy Roberts, Barbara Schaffer-Bacon, Susan Shellenberger, Kathy Austin Scherpa, Sally Shattuck, Tim & Carol Shay, Randi Shenkman, Linda & George Smith, Linda Snow, Tom Stockton, Tony Trifone, F. Knowlton Utley, Jocelyn Walker, Pat Warner, Meredith Weiss.**



Won't you join us in this important and exciting endeavor?

- We are looking for volunteers to serve on a development committee focused on raising capital. 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. **Contact Tom at 413-323-0946 or email us your contact information at [info@stonehousemuseum.org](mailto:info@stonehousemuseum.org)**
- 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 - please specify Schoolhouse in the memo line of your check... or donate online at **[www.razoo.com/us/story/Stone-House-Museum](http://www.razoo.com/us/story/Stone-House-Museum)**.
- In addition to donations, we also need your memories, stories, and (if we are very lucky) your pictures of yourselves and/or your family members who attended this or other schools in Belchertown. BCTV is partnering with us to tape and preserve these stories for sharing with the entire community. Watch for some of these shows on BCTV, and feel free to offer ideas and names of others you think we should talk with, so special memories are not lost. Contact **Peg at [plouraine3124@charter.net](mailto:plouraine3124@charter.net)**

You can also follow our progress with its new foundation and restoration on Facebook [www.facebook.com/TheBelchertownStoneHouseMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/TheBelchertownStoneHouseMuseum), our website [www.stonehousemuseum.org](http://www.stonehousemuseum.org), and as you drive by The Stone House.

Questions can be directed to our president, **Tom Stockton [ttstockton@earthlink.net](mailto:ttstockton@earthlink.net)**, or to any member of the Board of Trustees.

Donations have been received in Memoriam or in Honor of the following individuals:

**J. Ferriter  
 "Our Angel" Sadie  
 Family of Shirley Cowles  
 Clare Oberly  
 Robert Donovan  
 Alice May Hussey (Peden)  
 Tom Stockton  
 Michael Madden  
 Roland C. Miller  
 June Henneman  
 Harvey and Doris Dickinson  
 Michael Madore  
 Shawn Patrick Bresnahan  
 Cliff McCarthy  
 Shirley Snow Schmidt**

**Belchertown Historical Association 2017 Drawing**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to **BHA** P.O. Box 1211  
Belchertown MA 01007

**Belchertown Historical Association 2017 Drawing**  
Donation appreciated ~ \$5 / 6 for \$20 to Belchertown Historical Association

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize:** Framed photo of the Washington District School surrounded by MA scratch lottery tickets
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:** Hand-crafted "Schoolhouse Birdhouse"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:** Two Cat's Meows (Stagecoach and Schoolhouse) and our new Schoolhouse T-shirt

**Drawing 11/4/2017 at 3pm. Winners do not need to be present.**

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ONE TICKET TUCKED INTO A CARD MAKES A GREAT GIFT!

Cut these tickets out, print off from the website or get a book of tickets from any of the Board Members. Your support is appreciated!



BELCHERTOWN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
 20 MAPLE ST  
 BELCHERTOWN, MA 01007-1211  
 VISIT US AT THE STONE HOUSE, CALL US  
 AT 413 323-6573 OR EMAIL US AT  
 INFO@STONEHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG

ASSISTANT CURATOR: SHIRLEY BOCK  
 ARCHIVIST: CLIFF MCCARTHY

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MEMBERS NEWSLETTER AND MUSEUM  
 WEBSITE EDITOR: MARY F. KNIGHT,  
 MFKNIGHT@CROCKER.COM



## Yuletide—Saturday November 4th

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! There is less than 2 months until our annual Yuletide event. This year, Yuletide will be held on Saturday, November 4th. Yuletide is one of our best attended, highest earning and beautiful

events on our fundraising calendar.

**We need EVERYONE'S help to fill our rooms and tables with crafts, baked goods and raffle baskets or items.** We know that some of you excel at baking, knitting, sewing, and crafts. For those of you that excel at shopping, you can join the fun by looking for items around a theme (winter, cooking, reading, decorating...) and put together a few items that will make a fun basket for our raffle room.



The Stone House will be open for you to bring in your donations on Saturday, October 28 from 10:00-12:00, Wednesday, November 1 from 4:00-6:00 and Friday, November 3 from 4:00-6:00.

We look forward to seeing what surprises you have for us this year and hope you'll visit on Saturday to see the transformation of the museum into a holiday wonderland.

BELCHERTOWN HISTORICAL  
 ASSOCIATION  
 20 MAPLE STREET  
 PO BOX 1211  
 BELCHERTOWN, MA  
 01007-1211

