



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association
Belchertown, Massachusetts
1903—2024

January 2024

Volume 24, Issue 1

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

2024 Calendar

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

Murder Mystery Dinner

Saturday February 3 @

Tony & Penny's in Ludlow MA

Tickets: **Cold Spring Discount Liquor Belchertown on the Common**

BHA Annual Meeting—April

The date for this important meeting will be published on the museum Facebook and Website pages, and sent by postal mail with the Annual Membership letter.

SAVE THE DATE:

Opening Day at the Museum

Saturday May 11 @ 9 - 2 FREE

Join us on the Museum grounds for mini house tours, Old Bags, Crafts/Artists, and Plant sales—just in time for Mother's Day!

Stone House Museum

Open May through October

Saturday @ 2 - 5 pm

Admission: **FREE** for Members;
\$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 children
Call us to arrange private tours.

Volunteers needed:

The Museum Committee is looking for new members. Please contact Sally Shattuck (sallyshattuck54@gmail.com, 413-230-2022). We are also looking for cleaners, dusters, house-sitters and docents for the museum; green-thumb assistance with the gardens and grounds of the museum; individuals with experience in fundraising and development; and communication specialists to help us expand membership.

If you have some time and interest, we can find a good match for you! Email: Info@stonehousemuseum.org

2024 WISHES FOR ABUNDANCE!

Greetings, friends!

Well, the Winter Solstice has happened so this must be our "New England snowy winter!" Or not! But this is still a good time to catch up on what has been happening around the Stone House and to look forward to what's ahead!

On July 23rd of last year, the board of trustees hosted its 2nd annual ice cream social on the grounds of the museum. Reminiscent of times past, guests gathered on the lawn under the shade of our maple trees and tents to enjoy the sweet, creamy ice cream and listen to music performed by Belchertown resident Jacque Hooten as he played his guitar and to many favorite songs. Many thanks to Rondeau's for providing the ice cream and freezer Pictures at www.stonehousemuseum.org/ice-cream-social/

The Belchertown Fair was unfortunately rainy, but it was still an exciting time to see friends and make some new acquaintances, and we were glad the Belchertown Stingrays were able to have their parking in our parking lot. Although our planned-for Halloween Graveyard tours were rained out, it was soon time to plan for our annual Yuletide Event, and that was a successful event and a lot of fun. The baskets were beautiful, the Old Bags were very popular, and the baked items were as delicious as always. Next year we are hoping to have a tree with a limited number of the always-enjoyed handmade ornaments.



Around the Stone House we have been working to repair our humidity-control system, and are relieved that the chimney repairs have ended. The new movable shelving is a great addition to our archives, and the computer and work station have been moved to the work room upstairs. A change in our internet provider should save us a considerable amount of money, and many thanks to **Maureen Austin** for investigating all the possibilities.

We are working to complete the repairs to the molding around the top of the house and the windows in preparation for a long-needed paint job in the spring; many thanks to **Sally Shattuck** for collecting bids for this important project. And work continues inside the Schoolhouse, where we will have stairs to access the cellar, and the new electrical work will be completed. As always, we are grateful to **Bill Austin** for his tireless efforts!

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MUSEUM NEWS



“One Horse Open Sleigh Returns Home to Belchertown”

The Trustees of the Belchertown Historical Association are pleased to announce the acquisition of a 19th century “One horse open sleigh” that was built in Belchertown by the firm of Hawks and Smith. The beautiful sleigh, in very good original condition and paint, has returned “home” just in time for the holidays, and has been moved to the Ford Annex carriage barn at Belchertown’s Stone House Museum.

We are so excited about our new acquisition! Many thanks to **Steve Boyko** for alerting us to the sale of this sleigh, to **Jim and Donna Boyko** for their very generous donation towards the purchase of the sleigh, and to **Steve Whitlock** for picking it up and transporting it for us!

1852 Hampshire County Map

We are also pleased to have acquired a Map of Hampshire County which, published in 1852, is earlier than the other maps we have. and has a detail of the center of Belchertown and several towns which are now under the Quabbin. It will likely be displayed in the Schoolhouse for all to see.



“Uncle Sam Wants You”

Work has been completed by the New England Document Conservation Center, on our historic “Uncle Sam Wants You” WWI poster. We remember and thank the generosity of **Eleanor Schmidt**, as income from her trust has contributed toward these valuable additions to our collection.

We are so very grateful for the continued interest and support of our members! We hope that all of these items will be on public display during the coming year!

President's Message continued from page 1

Exciting news from our Museum is the new acquisition of two treasures:

An 1852 Map of Hampshire County. The map was published several years before the one we have in the Stone House, and has a detail of the center of Belchertown and several towns which are now under the Quabbin.

A 19th century one-horse open sleigh, made in Belchertown by Hawks, Smith & Company. The sleigh is an important survivor of Belchertown's thriving carriage industry. Many thanks to **Steve Boyko** for alerting us to the sale of the sleigh, and to **Steve Whitlock** for picking it up and transporting it for us! We continue to try to build our collection with important artifacts that will help us tell the story of Belchertown's past.

The board of trustees offers its thanks to all the members of the museum committee that spend many hours cleaning the house, setting up displays, cataloging new acquisitions, and giving tours to the public. These tasks require many hours of preparation and quite a bit of muscle power and energy in order to get the museum exhibits looking their best. The museum committee is looking for new members. If you are interested in helping with the exhibits or if you think you would enjoy volunteering to give tours, please contact **Sally Shattuck** (sallyshattuck54@gmail.com, 413-230-2022).

Going forward, we are excitedly looking forward to our first event of 2024, the ANNUAL MURDER MYSTERY DINNER. This year the play will be FOUL PLAY on the FAIRWAY by Paula Hilton. The show will be on Saturday, February 3, at Tony & Penny's in Ludlow, and tickets will be available at **Cold Spring Discount Liquors, on the Belchertown Common.**

Please watch for upcoming news, as we are already planning for our Annual Meeting and Opening Day, which will be on May 11, 2024! Come to Opening Day and see both the "new" sleigh and the 1852 Map!



Yuletide 2023

On Saturday, November 4th, the Stone House Museum opened its doors to the public to come join in its annual Yuletide Bazaar. The house was beautifully decorated for the season, inside and out. Shoppers were delighted with the assortment of raffle baskets for all occasions. The smells emanating from the kitchen combined the amazing aroma of hot mulled cider and home baked cookies, cakes and pies. The sales room was filled with lovely used pocketbooks and purses that lucky shoppers were scooping up.



The board wishes to thank all those members who were able to donate time, baskets or baked goods to help with the success of this year's event. Thanks also to the many visitors who joined us on this special day.



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Murder Mystery Dinner—February 3rd

The Belchertown Historical Association will be hosting its annual MURDER MYSTERY DINNER on Saturday, February 3 at 6:00 PM (show starts at 7:00) at Tony and Penny's Restaurant in Ludlow. This is a new venue for us this year and we look forward to sharing this exciting evening with all of you.

Our actor/friends from the BUCC'S PLAYHOUSE, will once again be ready to entertain us with murder and mayhem. **Foul Play on the Fairway** is the theme this year. This event will serve as a fundraiser for the Historical Association and the Belchertown United Church of Christ, as well as providing revenue to a local business.



The tickets are \$43 and include the show and a buffet chicken, haddock filets, pot roast and a vegetarian option of Pasta Primavera along with a soup, salad and dessert. Tickets are available at Cold Spring Discount Liquors (on the Common), or for more information people can call Sally Shattuck at 413-230-2022.

I hope to see you all in February!

**Annual Membership Renewal and
 Spring Fundraising Form inside**

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