



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association  
Belchertown, Massachusetts  
1903—2024

Fall 2024

Volume 24, Issue 2

# MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

**2024 Calendar**  
Please share!

**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.

**Living History Day at the Museum**  
Saturday September 14th—9:30-4:00  
**Volunteers needed to help with a number of small jobs. Please call Caren Harrington 413-668-4507.**

**Belchertown Fair—Sept 20-22**  
Come visit our Booth!  
**Volunteers needed to spend a couple hours in the booth welcoming visitors to view the historic photos of the fair and participate in our annual "straw raffle". If you are able to join us please contact Denise Smith, 413-537-3030 or dsmith39@charter.net.**

**Halloween 'n History—October 27**

**Yuletide—**  
**November 2**  
10 AM—3 PM  
**Please consider donating a themed basket, handmade items (especially tree ornaments), or baked goods. We will be getting the rooms ready the week of October 28. If you can help us, please call, or text Sally Shattuck at 413-230-2022. We also need volunteers to work on November 2nd for a two hour shift. If you can help us, please call or text Denise Smith at 413-537-3030.**  
**Drop off dates for donations are:**  
Monday, October 28, 4-6 PM  
Tuesday, October 29, 4-6 PM, and  
Friday, November 1, 3-5 PM.



## IT TAKES A VILLAGE OF VOLUNTEERS!

Dear Friends,  
This summer has been packed with activities, and fall looks even busier. We're so grateful for our dedicated volunteers who make our Association's mission possible.

Our **Opening Day** celebration was a success with better weather this year. We had 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, **Di-ane Genie** and **Beth Jacobs** who headed up the bags, and **Denise Smith** who rounded up volunteers. There were many positive comments about the Remembrance Garden, as the plantings are really growing in. It surely is special to see the garden as you drive into the grounds! Many thanks to all!

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

New this year was the first "**Dwight Day**" celebration, coordinated by **Cliff McCarthy**. Many people gathered at Dwight Station for a day of entertainment, food, and—most importantly—a day of learning about and celebrating this vital, historical part of Belchertown.

The usual great time was had by all at our (re-scheduled) annual **Members Only Cocktail Party**, and everyone went home with a door prize (thanks Denise!)



Living History Day at the Museum reimagines life 250 years ago. Join us on September 14th 9:30—4:00.

**Many things have been happening around the Stone House this summer.** You certainly will have noticed the new fence being put up! Thank you **Sally Shattuck** and **Sue Cameron** for spearheading this important project, and for coordinating the work on the cornices of the house, which were restored by trustee **Tony Trifone**. Inside the house, our dehumidifier has been repaired and Sally Shattuck coordinated the framing of the historic map, making our entry-way much more elegant. Special thanks are also due to Sally for the way that the **Remembrance Garden** has flourished and 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 an update on progress of the **Washington District Schoolhouse**, and we are pleased to announce that the electrical conduits have been installed, and that work continues on the interior of the building.

We are looking forward to our annual presence at the **Belchertown Fair** where we will present a photo display of Belchertown farms and will again have our traditional "STRAWS" game and sell raffle tickets and gift items, and expect many pictures will

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## Living History Day at the Museum —Free and open to the public

On September 14 from 9:30—4:00, the Stone House Museum will feature a free **Living History** event focusing on life in the American Revolution period, in honor of the upcoming 250th anniversary. The Green Valley Homestead Reenactment group will be hosting the event and has invited several talented master artisans from across the state to demonstrate their skills and display and sell their wares. An event schedule will be posted at [www.stonehousemuseum.org](http://www.stonehousemuseum.org).

This family-friendly event, includes plenty of activities for children: playing 18th century games, visiting with small farm animals, making a copy book for school, and exploring in a scavenger hunt. Living historians will discuss and demonstrate period cooking, cheese making, tinsmithing, basket making, candle making, loading and firing of a musket.

Andy Volpe will demonstrate copperplate engravings and printing in the Belchertown Sentinel newspaper's original print shop. Andy is a true master and has been replicating the engravings of Paul Revere, including a full-size Boston Massacre scene, for the 250th anniversary in 2026.



Don Madden, a long time Belchertown resident, has focused much of his time and interest on the Daniel Shays Rebellion and has original documents and stories to share about what he has learned and his collections.

Visitors will have an opportunity to attend lectures by Tom Allen, a native of New England and a former interpreter from Old Sturbridge Village. Tom has a PhD from Brown university. His lectures will *include Respectful Restoration of an Historic House* and *Dirty Hands, Sore Back and Blisters* regarding 18<sup>th</sup> century pre-industrial farming.

The Stone House will be open for a self-guided tour including its special exhibit featuring Revolutionary War artifacts.

Parking will be located at Center School, Beers and Story Funeral Home if available, and the Belchertown Common.



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be taken in our "cut-out face" placard made by **Becki Smith**. Although the Stage Coach will not be in the Parade this year, Cat's Meow figures of the Stagecoach are still for sale, as are Cat's Meows of the School-house.

Also this fall is **Living History Day**. The September 14th event will focus on the Revolutionary War period, in commemoration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and will include reënactors demonstrating all sorts of period activities! We expect to have a steady stream of visitors to the Stone House helping us bring our history alive for this celebration. Then, in October, we are planning a return—weather permitting—of our historic **Halloween Graveyard tours** in the Mount Hope Cemetery on October 27<sup>th</sup>.



President Tom Stockton and the Association's Trustees—all volunteers.

Our **Yuletide event** (November 2) is one of our most important fundraisers and will conclude with our scratch ticket raffle drawing. It is a great time to come visit and renew friendships at the beginning of the New England Holiday season. This event has always been a hugely popular and successful day for us, but we could not accomplish this without your help and support. We are asking for themed baskets, handmade items (especially Christmas tree ornaments), and baked goods. Drop-off dates are posted on page 1. We need volunteers to help us get the rooms ready the week of October 28. Please call, or text Sally Shattuck at 413-230-2022. We also need volunteers to work on Saturday for 2-hour shifts. Please call or text Denise Smith at 413-537-3030 if you can help. Thank you in advance for your support in keeping up our holiday tradition.

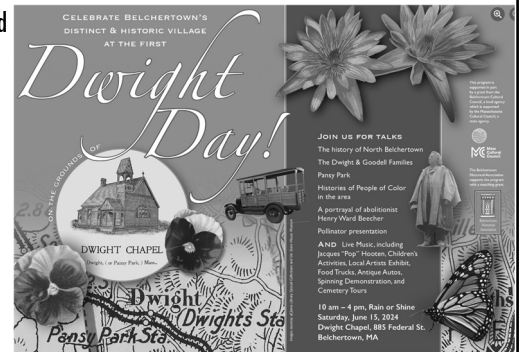
We appreciate everyone's continued interest and support, and look forward to seeing you all this fall. And remember: for friends, new neighbors, and "old townies" who have moved to distant cities, Gift Memberships make great holiday presents, are a wonderful way to stay connected, and hardly cost more than a "store-bought" card! Forms are available on the website at: [www.stonehousemuseum.org/make-history-with-us](http://www.stonehousemuseum.org/make-history-with-us). See you soon!

## Celebrating Dwight Day

On June 15, the first-ever event celebrating the distinct and historic village of Dwight, was held at Dwight Chapel, located in North Belchertown. Straddling Belchertown, South Amherst and Pelham, this often forgotten section of Belchertown was a distinct place with its own schools, place of worship, businesses, railroad stations and unique characters.

**Cliff McCarthy**, the archivist at the Stone House Museum, **Michael Carolan**, Dwight resident, retired Professor of Practice at Clark University (Department of English), and contributing writer with the Springfield Republican and New England Public Media, along with **Elizabeth Pols**, worked many months to bring this event to the public. **Rev. Emmanuel Haqq**, Pastor of Christ Community Church (owners of Dwight Chapel) and members of his congregation helped and supported this event.

The event's success was readily acknowledged by the hundreds of visitors that came throughout the day, many claiming they stayed much longer than they had planned so they could learn more about Dwight and its people.





BELCHERTOWN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
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## Halloween 'n History

Have you ever spent time in the graveyard when Halloween is approaching? The Belchertown Historical Association is once again holding Halloween Graveyard Tours in the Mount Hope Cemetery October 27th, weather permitting.

Inhabitants of the cemetery that impacted Belchertown's history will come "to life" represented by members of the community in period costumes.

We will meet up at the Old Town Hall and start the tour at 6 PM  
 Children must be accompanied by an adult.

*The trustees are looking for volunteers willing to do speaking parts in the cemetery, as well as volunteers to help in the old town hall where the tours begin. Contact Sally Shattuck at [sallyshattuck54@gmail.com](mailto:sallyshattuck54@gmail.com) or 413-230-2022.*



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.

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