



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association
Belchertown, Massachusetts
1903—2026

Fall 2026

Volume 26, Issue 1

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

2026-2027 Calendar

Please share !

Stone House Museum

Open May through October

Saturday @ 2 - 5 pm

Admission: **FREE** for Members;

Belchertown Fireworks and Fair—
September 24, and 25-27

Halloween 'n History—October 25

Graveyard tours in the Mount Hope Cemetery from 5-8 PM, weather permitting.

Yuletide—

November 7

9 AM—3 PM

We need your help!

Please consider

donating handmade items, baked goods, a themed basket, or items to help build one, **or** cash toward purchasing items for this money-maker.

See separate article for drop off dates for donations



2027 SAVE THE DATE!

February 6 Murder Mystery Dinner

The BUCC players will entertain us at Tony and Penny's in Ludlow. Watch our website and Facebook for ticket information.

May 9 The museum will reopen.

Details of the opening and the events scheduled will be published in our Spring newsletter and on our website and Facebook.

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL?

Email is a quick and easy way for us to share information about our events. If you haven't heard from us electronically, send us your email at info@stonehousemuseum.org

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

Greetings, friends, and Happy Fall! What an exciting spring and summer we have had at the Stone House this year! It is exciting to be part of an organization that is so vibrant and inspires so many people!

Our annual opening day events were held on Saturday, May 9, 2026. Many devoted shoppers cruised through the old bags and plants looking for that "something special" they'd been searching for. Many thanks to **Dianne Genie** and **Beth Jacobs** and friends for their tireless work, and to **Sally Shattuck** for dealing with the donated plants! The house was open for tours to begin the summer season. And then—

Living History Day happened! Just one week after our Opening Day, the **Green Valley Homestead Reenactment Group** arrived at the museum and set up their stations of 18th century homelife, animal husbandry, herbal and traditional medicines, textiles arts, food preparation, crafts, and more. Children had fun playing games, visiting small farm animals, and making copy books for school. Special thanks are due to trustee **Amy Lanham** for helping coordinate all this! The Stone House exterior was decorated with red, white, and blue to commemorate the 250th anniversary of America.

Our annual **Cocktail Party** was as much fun as always, and we re-acquainted ourselves with old friends and met new ones. Special thanks are due to **Denise Smith**, who plays a great role in organizing this event; almost everyone "won a prize" at the end of the evening! And thanks to **Chris Harper** for donating the "mystery item!"



Fun at February's Murder Mystery Dinner.

The weather cooperated, and the Ice Cream Social happened this year! What a "sweet" Sunday afternoon! Thank you to friends near and far gathered around the lawn enjoying their dish of ice cream while enjoying the historic dances performed by the **Wake Robin Morris dancers**, and some participated in an "Olde Tyme" accordion sing-a-long! Many thanks to **Sally Shattuck** for arranging all of this, and to **Rondeau's Dairy Bar** for providing the ice cream and freezer.

Also this summer, a dedicated team started looking at next year's 200th anniversary of the Stone House! Please see the separate article for events being planned to celebrate our home's rich history.

As we turn and look forward, it's hard to believe but **it's already time for the Belchertown Fair!** In honor of the 250th of our country, the Stone House will have a tent at the planned town celebration down at the Middle School on the Thursday night of Fair Weekend, and we hope to enjoy the fireworks! Then, the trustees are prepar-

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Museum Highlights

Opening Day, Old Bag Sale and Plant Sale

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Living History Day



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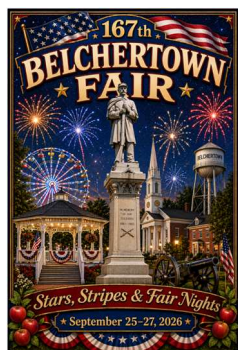
Member Cocktail Party

The Historical Association members gathered again for their annual cocktail party on Sunday evening, June 28th. Members of the association shared favorite memories, heard about upcoming events and savored this year's selection of treats on the buffet table.



Ice Cream Social

What a "sweet" Sunday afternoon! The Belchertown Historical Association wishes to thank all those who came out to the annual ice cream social on July 26th. Friends near and far gathered around the lawn enjoying their dish of ice cream while enjoying the historic dances performed by the Wake Robin Morris dancers. A big thanks goes out to Rondeau's Dairy Bar for providing the ice cream and the freezer.



Belchertown Fair September 25—27th

The trustees are preparing our fair day tent for this year's theme of Stars, Stripes and Fair Nights. We all look forward welcoming folks to our booth. This year you can view old photos of Belchertown past and buy our new t-shirt "only one Belchertown 1761-2026", that's right, Belchertown is older than America.

Graveyard Tours October 25th

Come and spend a night in the graveyard when Halloween is approaching. The Historical Association is once again holding Historic Halloween Graveyard Tours in the Mount Hope Cemetery. Inhabitants of the cemetery that impacted Belchertown's history will "come to life" represented by members of the community in period costumes. Tours will start from the United Church of Christ parish house led by a tour guide. Visitors will meet Belchertown residents from the 19th century, along with some occasional spirits, and lost souls wandering among the tombstones. The event is free, donations being collected toward continued reconstruction of the Washington District Schoolhouse. Tours will be Sunday, October 25th, from 5-8pm.

This is not a trick or treat event.



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ing our fair day tent for this year's theme of Stars, Stripes, and Fair Nights. We all look forward welcoming folks to our booth and our traditional straws game. This year you can view old photos of Belchertown past and buy our new t-shirt "only one Belchertown 1761-2026", that's right, Belchertown is older than America. **And we are again doing our best** to have our historic, 1868 Stagecoach at the beginning of the "Cavalcade" Parade.

This fall, we look forward—weather permitting—to our annual **Graveyard Tours** on Oct. 25th from 5-8 and then—all too soon!—to our annual **Yuletide** event on Nov. 7th!

Baskets and Crafts are needed! And specially this year, we have a return, on a limited basis, of our popular "**Candlelight Christmas Tours**," which will highlight our beautiful museum and the traditional festivities associated with Yuletide in New England. Please see the separate articles for each of these events.

When winter does eventually knock on our door, please look for information about our annual **Murder Mystery Dinner**, again being held at Tony and Penny's in Ludlow, with the **BUCC Playhouse Players**.

We always enjoy seeing members, friends, and well-wishers, and hope to see many of you and make new friends during the upcoming season. **And please remember**, as the "giving season" approaches—"Gift Memberships" help us to increase our membership base and spread the word about all of our activities.



Yuletide

Join us for our annual Yuletide Event on Saturday, November 7!

The trustees, docents, and interns will be hard at work transforming the Stone House Museum with beautiful holiday decorations. This event is our biggest fundraiser of the year, directly supporting the historical association's monthly bills, building repairs, and collection care.

How You Can Help Making Yuletide a success:

Crafts: Craft donations have been waning. Please share your homemade projects with us!

Raffle Baskets: *****This is our biggest money-maker, but buying items reduces our profits.**

PLEASE donate a themed basket, items to help build one, **or** cash toward purchasing items.

Baked Goods: We always appreciate your delicious donations for the bake sale room.

Donation Drop-Off Times:

Crafts & Raffle Baskets: Wednesday, Nov. 4 & Thursday, Nov. 5 from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM Baked Goods & Other Items:

Friday, Nov. 6 from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Thank you for your continued support. We can't wait to see you there and share the holiday magic with you!



Celebrating 200 Years of the Stonehouse!

The Belchertown Historical Association celebrates a remarkable milestone next year: the **200th anniversary of the Stone House, built in 1827**. Located at 20 Maple Street in Belchertown, this home was built by Johnathan Dwight as a wedding present to his daughter Julia. Today, this historic home serves as a museum, offering visitors a fascinating glimpse into everyday life of the 1800s. Throughout the year, a series of events will bring the Stone House's history to life and highlight the people, traditions, and experiences of a bygone era.

We have formed exploratory committees to plan special events for the 200th anniversary of the house. We are concentrating on the years during which the Stone House was a private residence (1827-1922).

The special events we are hoping to plan are as follows:

- **March: Poetry Reading Evening in the new schoolhouse**
- **May: Regency (1827) Tea Party for the Birthday of the House**
- **July: Edwardian (1903) Ice Cream Social to mark the formation of the BHA**
- **June or October: Roaring 20's Party & Henry Ford Car exhibition (1922)**

We need your help to create and offer these exciting and exclusive events, so we hope to get strong input and participation from our members! **If you are interested in serving on a committee (we are looking for volunteers), please let us know at info@stonehousemuseum.org** and indicate which committee(s) you are interested in joining. **It will be a fun learning experience for all!!** Thank you for all you do to keep history alive.



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Victorian Christmas Tours

Last year's revival of our house tours during the Christmas season was a brilliant success. Ladies dressed in their Victorian finest led candle-light tours through the museum, which was decorated with garland, trees, and candles. This year's tours are scheduled for the 3 consecutive weekends after Thanksgiving.

Watch for updates on days and times so you can check your calendars and register to attend. We will publicize details on Facebook, the website, and by email. It will be an evening to remember.

By the way,
if you haven't heard from us electronically, send us an email at info@stonehousemuseum.org to let us know you don't want to miss out! We will add your email address to our member database!



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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