

# BULLETIN



## Local Banks Contribute to Hall House Purchase

The Historical Society has received pledges to contribute to the campaign to raise funds for the purchase of the Samuel Read Hall House from two local banks. In June, the Community National Bank made a pledge of \$10,000 to be paid over three years. CNB Chairman and CEO Richard White led an effort to enlist the support of other area banks for the project.

In mid-August, Peter Crosby, President of the Passumpsic Savings Bank, visited the Museum and toured the Hall House with members of the Board of Trustees. On his recommendation, the Passumpsic Bank has made a pledge of \$10,000 to be paid over two years, toward the purchase of the house.

The Society has now received a total of \$126,675 in donations and pledges toward our goal of \$375,000 which includes purchase and restoration of the house and an addition of \$100,000 to the Society's endowment to help pay for maintenance of the Hall House and the other museum buildings.

We thank the individuals and businesses that have made contributions to this important project. For more information about making a contribution toward preservation of the Samuel Reed Hall House, please call or write the Director or a member of the Board of Trustees. (See page 4 of this newsletter.)



Built in 1831 by George West, Esq., the Hall House is one of the finest examples of Federal Style architecture in Orleans County. The front entry, shown above, is graced by side and fan lights set within Doric pilasters. Inside, an ample hallway with open stairs gives access to two nicely proportioned parlors, an office with separate side entrance, a large kitchen with pantry, and a bath. The first floor features nine-foot ceilings and four fireplaces. The trim in the north parlor shows Greek Revival influence. The second floor contains three large and two small bedrooms.

**Inside: *pictures and stories from the Education Program***

# Quest program wins grant

The Orleans County Historical Society has received a \$4,700 grant from the Vermont Humanities Council to create a collection of Orleans County Quests, or treasure hunts, that will lead to places of historical importance in every town in the county. The treasure hunts will be designed by students, and tell the story of the place as they give directional clues in poetic verse.

The “treasure” is a tupperware container that holds a rubber stamp designed especially for that spot, an ink pad, and a notebook and pencil. The seeker imprints the stamp in their clue book, and can imprint their own special stamp in the notebook inside the box.

The creation of the quests will require investigation into local history. People who know about town history will be invited into the classrooms, and students will head

out to explore historical places in town. All of the quests will be gathered into a book to be published this summer.

This fall participating elementary school teachers learned about questing in a workshop with Steve Glazer, coordinator of the Valley Quest in the Upper Connecticut River Valley. The workshop was held in the old Brownington Grange Hall, which was originally the Orleans County Grammar School.

The teachers collaborated in writing a quest of the Brownington Historic District, which winds in a big loop around the museum grounds, up Prospect Hill, through the cemetery, and around the village. That quest and others will soon be leading people on an educational and fun exploration of Orleans County.

# Is history a thing of the past?

As a history museum, the Old Stone House was founded to realize the belief that history is not a thing of the past. That is, that a knowledge of who and what came before us enriches our experience of the present and has the potential to influence the future. This kind of commitment to an ongoing relationship with our history brings with it certain responsibilities.

In fulfilling those responsibilities, the Old Stone House Museum asks for support from its members and friends through the Annual Fund Drive. In early November, many of you received a letter about the importance of education in the museum’s programs and asking for a contribution to help support these programs.

Museum programs and admission fees do generate some income, but it is less than 10% of the annual operating expense, budgeted at \$143,000 for 2006. (To put this figure in perspective, it is about the same as the budget for the two-day *History Expo* organized by the Vt. Historical Society each summer in Tunbridge.) The greater

part of our expenses is paid by contributions to the Annual Fund Drive, by membership dues, by income from fundraising events, and by income from the Society’s endowment.

The Old Stone House is one of many small nonprofit organizations in Vermont that relies on the generosity of a limited number of people who believe that the benefit the organization provides is vital to the community now and in the future. Each and every donation the museum receives is important.

If you are among the “first responders” who have already sent your donation, we thank you. If you haven’t responded yet, please consider what the Old Stone House Museum means to you, your family, the local community, and visitors to this area. Donations can be made by check or credit card using the return slip and envelope provided in the recent mailing. If you don’t have a return slip, send a check marked *Annual Fund* or request a return slip at (802) 754-2022. Thank you!

## Winter Crafts at the Twilight House

Regular gatherings of craft groups will be held throughout the winter at the Twilight House. Please join us. Phone 754-2022 for more information.

**Spinners:** First Saturday and third Wednesday of the month, 1 - 4 p.m.

**Quilters:** First Wednesday and third Saturday of the month, 1 - 4 p.m.

**Knitters Guild:** Second Saturday of the month, 1 - 3p.m.

**Rug Braiders:** Fourth Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Basket Makers:** Third Saturday of the month, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

# The Education Program: *Enriching the lives of the young and not-so-young*

## *Heritage Crafts Workshops*



Sally Margolis concentrates on the finishing touches of the Bountiful Bread Basket that she made in Carolyn Starr's fall workshop in the Education Building at the museum. An enthusiastic group spent a fun day with Carolyn, and came away with beautiful baskets. Fall Craft Workshops were held on Saturdays from September 30 through October 28, and included Tablet Weaving, Dyeing for Rug Hookers, Wreath Making, Needle Felting, and Beginning Knitting. Look for our next series of workshops in late March and April.

## *Fall Harvest Day*



Susannah Morlock showed off her pair of Dutch belted oxen to the elementary school children who attended Fall Harvest Day on September 26. The annual event attracted 150 students from all over Orleans County and beyond. The children also saw a team of Belgian horses skid a log, met some dwarf dairy goats, and watched sheep being sheared. There was apple pressing, spinning, candle making, wood riving, corn shelling, native American artifacts, a General Ulysses S. Grant impersonator, and a blacksmith. The day ended with a scavenger hunt and quest around the museum grounds and through the gardens. Two Spring Field Days are scheduled for May to give more local students the opportunity to see traditional skills and learn about history with hands-on activities outside of the classroom.

## *Time Travelers Day Camp*



Pottery instructor Randy Williams showed campers how to use a potters wheel during the morning craft session at Time Travelers Day Camp. The children in his class made bricks and hand built pots from local clay. Other morning craft classes included felting, printing, and basket making.



Florence Thompson was swarmed by autograph seekers when she visited camp on Friday morning. All week the campers had been grouped in the morning meeting in eight Brownington School Districts, and were assigned the names of children who actually attended those schools. One child was Florence, and when she stopped by for a surprise visit just after Joan Huguenin had given out old fashioned autograph books she was a big hit.

## **Upcoming Events**

**Collectors' Fair** — Sunday, February 18, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Orleans Elementary School Gym

**History Fair** — Wednesday, March 21, at IROC in Derby. Open to the public 11 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**Orleans County Historical Society, Inc.**  
Old Stone House Museum  
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Brownington, VT 05860

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Orleans, VT  
Permit No. 4

## *The people's history museum of Orleans County*

### **THE OLD STONE HOUSE MUSEUM BULLETIN**

Published three times a year by:  
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## **Quilt Raffle Winner**



Priscilla Roy of Averill, Vt., right, was the winner of our 2006 Quilt Raffle. The quilt, being presented by Peggy Day Gibson, Education Program Coordinator, is called *Climbing to the Stars* and was made and donated by Cathie Sheehan of Albany. Sale of raffle tickets raised just over \$1,500 for the museum.