

BULLETIN



Number 116

Orleans County Historical Society, Inc. • Brownington, Vermont 05860

Spring 2009

Holiday open house at the Samuel Read Hall House



Education Coordinator Susanna Bowman, alias Mrs. Bugbee, and her assistant Apple Sophia Barnes mulled cider over an open fire in the Hall House kitchen.



Phil and Patty Austin-Kirk and Paul Daniels played music in the parlor at the Holiday Open House.

Kitchen junket and sliding party at the Hall House planned for March 1

Back when the roads were rolled instead of plowed, winter travel was often faster and easier than at other times of the year, because the horse drawn sleighs slid smoothly over packed snow. It was easier to get out to parties too, because the cows were dry and there was no field work to do. One of the favorite winter events was the kitchen junket, also called tunk.

A description of a kitchen junket can be found in "Daisy Dopp's Vermont," edited by Elka Schumann and published by the Orleans County Historical Society in 1983. Daisy Dopp wrote stories for the *Newport Daily Express*, beginning in the 1950's, recalling her life in Glover and the times she shared with friends and neighbors. Born in 1899, Daisy lived most of her life on the

family farm on Rte. 122, which is now the Bread and Puppet Farm.

"Who could ask for anything better than to be young and carefree, riding behind a sleek fast stepping chestnut horse, in a sleigh with plenty of warm robes, going to a dance with a considerate young escort with the moon making the snow glisten like bright crystals?" Daisy wrote.

The men chipped in to pay the fiddler, and the women brought the lunch—sandwiches, cake and coffee. After barn chores, around 9, everyone arrived and threw their coats onto a bed, which usually also had a few sleeping children on it. The fiddler sometimes sat up on the counter in the kitchen to keep his toes out of the way, and began

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Upcoming events

Collectors' Fair – Sunday, February 15, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The 8th Annual Collectors Fair will be held in the Orleans Elementary School Gym. Long rows of tables will be filled with collections of all sorts—miniature engines, kitchen implements, tools, books, postcards, chainsaws, you name it. Lunch, door prizes. Free for exhibitors and spectators. Call 754-2022 to reserve a table for your collection.

Rug Braiding Workshop – Saturday, February 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Instructor Deni Mayer will help braiders solve problems, tackle the next stages of the process, and show beginners how to get started. The cost of \$15 includes materials. Bring your lunch. Spend a pleasant and productive day with an interesting group of women in the sunny parlor of the Twilight House working on your next rug. Call 754-2022 to register.

Old-Fashioned Kitchen Junket & Sliding Party – Sunday, March 1, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Bring your skis and sleds to slide on trails around the museum grounds. Neal Perry will offer sleigh rides. Burt Porter will begin playing the fiddle and calling dances in the kitchen of the Hall House at 2 p.m. for an old-fashioned Kitchen Junket. Refreshments. No charge, but donations are always welcome.

Hands on History – “Remedies” – Saturday, March 14, 10 a.m. to noon

For families with school-age children, \$3 per child, pre-registration required, 754-2022.

Northeast Kingdom History Fair – Thursday, March 26

Students in grades 6 through 12 will exhibit their historical inquiry projects in the big arena at IROC in Derby. The fair is open to the public from noon on, with prizes being awarded around 7:30 p.m. Come see the thoughtful work our students are producing, and learn some history.

Spinners Circle – Wednesday, April 8, 1 – 4 p.m.

Spring has sprung and the spinners are back! Bring your wheel and meet in the Pumpkin Parlor at the Hall House.

Hands on History – “Traveler from Boston” – Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m. to noon

For families with school-age children, \$3 per child, pre-registration required, 754-2022.

Apple Grafting and Pruning Workshop – Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Michael Phillips, author of *The Apple Grower*, is coming back for the fourth year to teach participants how to graft scions onto seedling rootstock. Rootstocks and scions provided, or bring your own scion from a favorite old apple tree. In the afternoon Michael will explain the principles of pruning and demonstrate on trees at the Museum. \$50 fee includes materials, \$40 for Museum members.

Spring Work Bee – Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friends of the Museum help spruce up the buildings and grounds in preparation for the Museum opening on May 15. There is plenty to do—rake, wash windows, prune the raspberries, vacuum the Museum. Workers are rewarded with a delicious potluck meal in the Twilight House.

Home Orchard Workshop – Sunday, May 3, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Michael Phillips will return to the Museum when the weather is right for planting and bark grafting. In the morning he will offer practical information on healthy fruit tree ecology—soil needs, insect and disease control. In the afternoon he'll plant trees and demonstrate bark grafting (a great technique to put desired varieties on wild trees). Fee \$50, members \$40.

Hands on History – “Kitchen Garden” – Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m. to noon

For families with school-age children, \$3 per child, pre-registration required, 754-2022.

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to play and call square dances, jigs, reels. The dancers filled the kitchen, and sometimes spread out into other rooms, dancing until way past midnight, when they would pile back into their sleighs for the ride home.

Now that the museum has a big farmhouse kitchen in the Hall House, and because the middle of winter is a good time to have a party, the Old Stone House Museum is inviting you to a Kitchen Junket and Sliding Party on Sunday afternoon, March 1, from 1 to 4 p.m. Though a Sunday afternoon wasn't the traditional time for Kitchen Junkets, it's a good time to ski and sled on the museum grounds. Neal Perry will be offering sleigh rides around

the field, and we will have trails cut for skiers. Bring sleds for the children. Burt Porter will begin playing the fiddle at 2 for dancing in the kitchen. We'll be serving the traditional "lunch" of sandwiches, cake, beans, coffee, and of course hot chocolate.

The Orleans Snow Stormers are donating the services of their groomer to pack the trail and Neal Perry is giving sleigh rides for free. Burt Porter is donating his fiddling skills. The Pick and Shovel and the Snow Job are contributing for other expenses. So, happily, we do not have to charge admission to this family winter party, though donations are always gladly accepted.

Peter Clark, first settler of Brownington

This tidbit in history is one of many to come in the next issues of Old Stone House Museum Bulletins. We hope these tidbits will be interesting and enlightening to the reader. Not only are we including them here in the Bulletin, we are also revamping our website in the near future to include this historical information. If you have any historical research you would like us to include, please contact us!

Peter Clark, known as the first settler of Brownington, was part of a renowned family of potters from the state of New Hampshire. His father, also Peter Clark, was a potter in Braintree, Massachusetts, before moving to Lyndeboro, New Hampshire, to start another pottery kiln. His brother Daniel had established the most successful pottery business in New Hampshire by 1810. When Peter was thirty years old, he helped his brother set up a pottery in Concord, New Hampshire, and then traveled north to settle in Brownington. He had explored the area in 1796, as it is said he went to Lake Magog (Memphremagog), looking for a place to build a house and settle down. That same year he built a residence in the town of Brownington and moved in.

In 1803 and again in 1809, his brother Daniel journeyed up from New Hampshire to visit Peter. In this last trip, Daniel bought red lead from Peter, which shows that his brother was still practicing in Brownington then. He left the area some time after 1809, for his name disappeared from all the town records.

When Clark lived here in Brownington, he was most assuredly the first, and maybe only, potter in the area. As the case with most original settlers in pioneer towns, Peter

served in many town offices—**lister**, **petit juror**, **fence viewer** and **pound keeper***. Peter lived in the area around the village where the Old Stone House Museum is now. On the museum grounds is a stone foundation, origin unknown, but assumed to be part of Peter Clark's home. In August 2008, the pond behind the stone foundation was dug for the addition of dry hydrants for the town of Brownington. During this dig, a large amount of clay was unearthed. The presence of clay in the area adds strength to the assumption that Clark established a pottery kiln there in the village.

Glossary:

***fence viewer** – He was a town or city official who administered fence laws by inspecting new fence and settlement of disputes arising from trespass by livestock that had escaped enclosure.

***pound keeper** – He was the keeper of the town pound, an officer chosen to take possession of and impound livestock found at large. He fed and cared for these strays until claimants proved ownership and paid a specified fee, or until the town disposed of the unclaimed animals. His services and those of the fence viewer frequently overlapped and in the mid-17th century one man might hold both offices concurrently.

***petit juror** – He was a member of the petit jury, the ordinary trial jury of twelve persons whose duty it is to find facts as opposed to the grand jury whose duty it is to return an indictment.

***lister** – He was an appraiser or assessor.

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

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Orleans, VT
Permit No. 4

New exhibit on the cultural heritage of Orleans County

Plans for the new exhibit that will open May 15 in the Old Stone House are under way. This year we are going to explore the cultures of the peoples that were here and that have immigrated into Orleans County over the last 250 years, starting with the American Indians, and ending with the hidden population of migrant farm workers.

If you have any photos that pertain to families moving to this area, we would like to scan them to help illustrate the immigration to Northeastern Vermont. And, if you have any artifacts that you feel might augment the show and that you would place on loan for the duration, please call us about them.

Hall House available

Schedule your family function, business retreat, or wedding at the gracious newly restored Samuel Read Hall House. There is room for a sit down meal for 50 people inside, plus an outside terrace that can accommodate another 20. There is a 100-foot flat spot for an event tent out back. We can arrange catering, or you can provide your own food.

We can also schedule a group tour at the Museum with pre-selected lunch choices for a medium size group, a buffet for a large group, or bag lunches for a picnic on Prospect Hill.

The Hall House is a wonderful addition to the museum for events and educational programs. We hope it will also bring in money through rental for private functions and food service to help maintain the rest of the museum buildings and programs. Come see what a wonderful resource we have. We're happy to work with you. Call us at 754-2022 or e-mail director@oldstonehousemuseum.org.

THE OLD STONE HOUSE MUSEUM BULLETIN

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Wish List

set of horse drawn disc harrows
traditional recipes from your family's
cultural background

For the Hall House:

andirons and fire place screens
wooden tables & chairs
a piano