

BULLETIN



Number 121

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

Spring 2011



A new archival vault and workroom building

The Old Stone House Museum in Brownington has an extensive collection of historical photographs, negatives, glass negatives, prints, postcards, journals, diaries and manuscripts as well as a collection of rare books. In planning the direction of the museum in the next five years, the staff and the board of directors realized that we needed a more environmentally secure place for these irreplaceable artifacts. Although the interior climate of our storage in the Eaton House is not terrible, it could be very much improved. The main concern was fire, humidity and theft.

During the summer and fall of 2010 the society hired Spates Construction, Inc. of Derby to build an addition to the Twilight House ell containing an archival vault. The small structure has an exterior treatment replicating the old carriage shed that had been attached to the Twilight House 100 years ago, as shown in some old photos and drawings. In the new building a firewall is hidden. Its construction is of fire proof and fire resistant materials: cement floor, steel studs, high density cellulose insulation, gypsum walls, cement clapboard and

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Museum archives and artifacts cataloging

Thanks to the generosity of OCHS Board member John Eby, our Past Perfect museum software version has been updated and we have resumed the work of cataloging the Museum's collection of artifacts and archival materials. With Mr. Eby's technological acumen and countless hours of data entry, we have added close to 3,000 records since the fall of 2009, totaling 5,364 entries in our database. We have nearly completed the entry of handwritten accession records from 1922 to present; the 'hard copy' written records are being kept up-to-date as well.

Twenty two archival collections have been added into the catalog from finding aids compiled by Darlene Young, with assistance from Tracy Martin, for the Robinson Family Papers. These include the Alexander, Austin, Barber, Barber Negative, Dopp, Green, Gross, Holbrook, Hoyt, Cole, Jones, Joslyn, Larabee, Leslie, Newcomb, Robinson Family Papers, Seavey, Sessions, Smith, Stevens, Tinkham, and Wharton Collections. The Winslow Collection has recently been processed, thanks to the work of volunteer Joan

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Old Stone House Museum programs & events

Spring Work Bee—Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Help us spruce up the museum and the grounds in preparation for our season opening. Please bring a pot luck dish to share.

Art of the Crazy Quilt—Thursdays, May 12 & 19, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

The Museum welcomes noted needlewoman and quilter *Michelle Sargent*, a master of the non-symmetrical style. On May 12 Michelle will cover hand piecing the chosen fabrics & historical background. May 19 she'll introduce embroidery and other embellishment used in these elaborate and cherished American textiles. \$25 members \$35 non-members. Call to pre-register by May 7. *

Soap Making—Saturday May 14, 10 a.m to 2 p.m.

Pauline Broe of Nature's Touch in West Charleston will teach the basics of soap making in the Hall House kitchen. Pauline will demonstrate the process and explain the simple chemistry for students, who will take home some recipes, instructions and soap. \$20 members \$25 non-members. Limited to 8 adults. Register before May 12 please.*

Hands On History Pea Seed to Pease Porridge—Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m. to noon

Learn where garden seeds come from and how to grow your own seeds the way they did in Alexander Twilight's lifetime. Take home some heirloom seeds to plant in your own garden to grow for the Heirloom Vegetable contest in October. *Families & Children 6-13 are invited to live history on second Saturday of each month from 10 till 12. Children should be accompanied by an adult and siblings are welcome to come along. Pre-registration required by the preceding Friday at education@oldstonehousemuseum.org*

Museum Opens for the Season—Sunday, May 15

Tours of the Old Stone House Museum are available Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m through October 15. Our new special exhibit is *"Home Made: Textile Manufacturing in the home 1820 to 1870."* There will be an **Open House for the New Archival Vault** and workroom in the Alexander Twilight House that day from noon to 4 p.m.

Invasive Plants of Northern Vermont—Saturday May 21, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Anne Patrice Holdridge will present a program on invasive plants and insects and suggest practical methods for dealing with them. Anne Patrice is a certified UVM Extension Master Gardener and has also worked with the Nature Conservancy and leads Community Gardens in Newport. In the Hall House. \$10 per person. Limit 10 students. Please call 754-2022 to reserve a place.

Rug Braiding Workshop—Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bring your work in progress for guidance and encouragement. Beginners welcome. If you are just getting started with our group, please chip in \$15 for supplies and access to our bountiful supply of wool. In the Education Building. Call 754-2022 or e-mail information@oldstonehousemuseum to sign up.*

Hammer-in for International Blacksmith Day—Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Celebrate the art of blacksmithing with the rest of the world, and visit our new teaching blacksmith shop to watch demonstrations and sign up for classes this season.

Spring Dinner at the Hall House—Saturday, June 4, beginning at 6 p.m.

Experience hospitality from the 19th century at the historic Samuel Read Hall House with a convivial evening of food and drink, featuring a bounteous menu of fresh local produce. This is the spring version of our wildly acclaimed Candlelight Harvest Dinner last fall. Seating is limited so reserve your place early. \$75 a plate benefits programs at the museum.

Volunteer Tea and Annual Meeting—Tuesday, June 7, 3 to 5:30 p.m. at the Brownington Grange Hall. See article on page 3.

Berries & Small Fruits, Propagation, Cultivation and Care, Todd Parlo Instructor. Will be offered in early June. Date TBA

ONGOING CRAFT CIRCLES GENERAL SCHEDULE—Spinning: third Wednesdays 1 pm to 4 pm, *May 18, June 15, July 20* – contact: Joan Hudson 754-2713; **Quilting: second Wednesdays** 1 pm to 4 pm *May 11, June 8, July 13* – contact Cathie Sheehan 755-6223; **Basket Making**, contact Carolyn Starr 626-4539, **Rug Braiding mostly second Saturdays** 10 am to 2 pm, *May 21, June 11, July 9* – contact Peggy 754-2022; **Knitting** – *Sundays May 15, June 12, July 10* – contact Diana Foster 744-6440.

* If class time goes through meal time, bring your lunch!

Time Travelers' Camp celebrates old New England holidays

“Old New England Holidays” is the 2011 theme for Time Travelers Camp. Campers will pass round the calendar year as they sample the most important holidays, a few celebrations and social gatherings that people might have enjoyed in the early 1800s. Beginning with George Washington’s Birthday in February, our time traveling campers will organize a July 4th celebration and parade, and of course Thanksgiving, but the ways folks celebrated these well known holidays may come as a bit of surprise. Some holidays are no longer observed or have taken on decidedly different significance in the intervening two centuries.

Children aged 8-12 will work with four experienced instructors, regional craftsmen and women, during the week. Choosing from Hearth & Home, Wood Craft, Pottery, Decorative Arts, Forge and possibly Farm & Garden, children will acquire new craft skills and interests. There will be a chance to exhibit their projects to the public on Friday afternoon during the traditional Family Picnic.

Campers who have reached 13 years of age may apply to be Junior Counselors. Junior Counselors are unpaid but get to work closely with instructors, honing their own skills and helping younger campers.

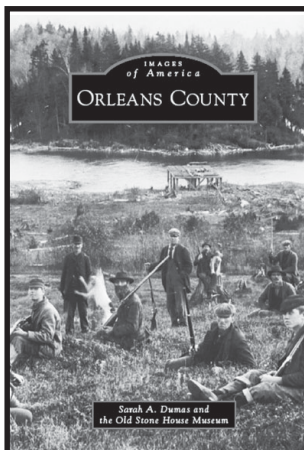
Counselors should be at least 15 years old, have prior camp experience and enjoy working with younger children. If you know of a young person who would be interested in being a Counselor or Jr Counselor please have them contact Susanna, 754-2022.

Adult volunteers are welcome in several capacities. A few adults may sign up to help defray camp tuition for their children. Others can volunteer just for a few hours to help with particular programs such as the Friday afternoon games and picnic.

Registrations for Time Travelers' Camp have already started arriving although our brochure won't be out for another month. The Camp is limited to 50 campers on a first come, first serve basis.

Call or e-mail the Museum to request a brochure with registration form at education@oldstonehousemuseum.org. Registration forms can also be downloaded from the Museum's Education website.

-Susanna Bowman



Images of America Orleans County

Written by Sarah Dumas

Old Stone House Museum
librarian

Available May 16, 2011.

*Containing photographs
from the late 19th and early 20th
centuries in every town
in Orleans County*

Available on the Old Stone House Museum's website,
www.oldstonehousemuseum.org
and at online retail stores like
Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.

Volunteer Tea and Annual Meeting

Once again this year the Orleans County Historical Society Annual Meeting will be combined with the Volunteer Tea. We learned last year that our volunteers really were interested in hearing the annual reports of the organization and voting on new board members during the brief annual meeting that was held during the tea, which honors volunteers and features programs of interest to local historians. The event also attracts other member of the Society to the annual meeting, and the refreshments are delicious. After years of sparsely attended annual meetings held at inconvenient times, we have found the solution.

This year's event will be held on Tuesday, June 7, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. at the Brownington Grange Hall. Forrest Holzapfel will present "The Town Photographer in Vermont." Arranged through the Vermont Humanities Council Speakers Program, it is free and open to the public. Mr. Holzapfel will describe through slides the emergence of town photographers in the late 1800's and early 1900's, and survey images from across the United States and Vermont. With images from his hometown of Marlboro, in the tradition of the town photographer, using an 8x10 inch camera and black and white film, he will offer suggestions to those who would like to undertake similar documentation of their own towns. We will bring a selection of our own photographs to discuss at the end of the talk, and he will place our images in the context of the time period in which they were made.

This is a timely topic, in light of our recent archival vault addition that protects the precious photographs and negatives entrusted to our care. We hope to see many volunteers and members on June 7.

2010 Annual Fund Drive . . . and other gifts

ANNUAL FUND DONATIONS

BENEFACTORS - \$1,000 OR MORE

Alfred & Joan Fuller
Sidney & Joan Huguenin
Edwin & Genevieve Gage Estate

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the Chronicle
The Puppeteers

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Aetna Foundation

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 Passumpsic Bank

The Memphremagog Press
 Cabot Creamery
 Highland Lodge

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EVENT SPONSORS

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 Troy Area Lions Club
 Rotary Club of Newport
 Derby Lions Club
 Orleans County Disabled American Veterans
 Community National Bank

Mulkin Automotive
 American Legion Barton Post 76
 Lakefront & Country Rentals
 Paul & Sybil Moffat
 Joan Huguenin
 Martha P. Alexander

Fall Foliage Run:

Passumpsic Savings Bank
 Curriers Quality Market
 Concept 2
 Blanchard Oil Co., Inc.
 Columbia Forest Products
 Juddy's Septic Service
 Total Security, Inc.
 Radiant Floor Company
 Parker Pie Co.
 The Memphremagog Press
 Sharon Faust/Big Bear Realty
 Lakefront & Country Rentals
 Village Bike Shop
 Kingdom Trails
 Craftsbury Sport Center
 Village Sport Shop
 Evansville Trading Post

Collectors' Fair:

Park View Garage
 J.B. Colton's, Inc.

Kitchen Junket:

E.M. Brown & Son
 Austin's Drug Store
 Thibault's Market
 Neal Perry Farm

History Fair:

Northeast Kingdom Civil War Round Table
 North Star Financial Services, Inc.
 Joan Huguenin
 Columbia Forest Products
 North Country Union High School
 Circle of Friends
 Taylor-Moore Agency
 Community National Bank
 North Country Federal Credit Union
 Ladies Aid Society of Westmore
 Century 21 Farm & Forest Realty
 R.C. Contractors, Inc.
 Passumpsic Savings Bank
 Glover Historical Society
 Morgan Historical Society
 American Legion Post 23
 Hayes Ford
 Poulos Insurance, Inc.

GRANTS

Freeman Foundation
 Turrell Fund
 Vermont Community Foundation
 Vermont Dept. of Forest Parks and Recreation
 Vermont Division of Historic Preservation

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metal roofing. It is environmentally sound, cost effective in its energy use, and has an efficient climate control system. The existing portion of the ell that the vault addition was attached to was remodeled into a work room for collections research.

We hope that this new facility will encourage the community of Orleans County to both use this resource and add to it with actual photos and negatives of their own histories. We can scan the originals and keep them, giving a print to the donor, or we can scan the originals for our files and return the original to the owner.

One of the values of place-based history is having historical artifacts easily available for study and use in the community that created them. While we continue to write grant proposals to help with this new building and some generous donors have contributed to this important project, more funds are needed from individuals interested in the preservation of local history.

If you would like to help us raise the \$40,000 remaining of the \$110,000 cost of the archival vault project, please return your tax deductible contribution in the envelope that is enclosed in this bulletin.

Every penny helps!

-Liz Nelson

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Huguenin, and has also been added into the Past Perfect catalog (**see article below**). Accession records from 2000-2009 donations and the Bassett Collection of artifacts have been entered into Past Perfect by Peggy Ann Duckless.

Thanks to accessibility in the new vault we can now locate documents and photographs that can be found in the catalog.

The power of the Past Perfect catalog enables us to link items in our collection through information contained in the records about people, places, and subjects. The information added into Past Perfect is being entered both skeletally in some cases, as well as with more detailed information in others. For instance, approximately 500 names from the Barber Negative Collection's identified portraits are entered into the database. A researcher may locate an image of a person, along with text that may be found in a different record.

The software additionally is being used in the administrative side of accepting new donations to the museum collection, helping to create Deed of Gift forms, and more.

The work ahead is daunting but includes adding locations and photographs for existing items into the catalog, processing and writing finding aids for previously processed collections, and processing the backlog of recent acquisitions.

-Leslie Rowell

Winslow Collection

An important collection has been processed and added into the museum's catalog, thanks to the dedicated work of volunteer Joan Huguenin. The Winslow Collection is significant in its relevance to Brownington and the local area in the 1800's through the early 1900's. Of special interest are tintypes, cyanotypes, and a photograph album with identifications, Civil War letters from C.E. Joslyn, biographies, and genealogical records. The material contained in the Winslow Collection was donated to the Orleans County Historical Society by Miss Priscilla Winslow of Watertown, Massachusetts from 1965 to 2001 and by her brother Donald J. Winslow of Auburndayle, Massachusetts from 2000 to 2007.

This collection contains a large number of photographs, many identified, and material from the Winslow, Austin, Ordway, Powers, Densmore and Joslyn families. Evelyn J. Winslow and sister, Inez J. Winslow, as well as their parents James Monroe Winslow and Mary Powers Winslow, figure prominently in the collection. One portrait in the album is of



Elizabeth (Lizzie) Bryant (1843-1932), who lived in the Eaton House

Elizabeth "Lizzie" Bryant (1843-1932), who was born in North Brownington in the house on the Hinman Settler Road built by her father John Bryant. After her father's death in 1866, Lizzie lived with her mother and sister Sara in the Eaton House in Brownington Village.

The collection contains transcriptions of eight civil war letters written by C. Edwin Joslyn, Lt. Co. G 6th Vermont Regiment, Washington, D.C. addressed to his cousin and sister between November 1861 and June 1864. A previous catalog entry contained a record for C.E. Joslyn, which turned out to be a photograph taken of him in his Civil War uniform. This photograph has been located in the new vault.

Other correspondence of interest includes affectionate letters from Judge Orlo Henry Austin at Barton Landing to his daughter Clara (1874-1957) at Craftsbury Academy from September, 1889 through June, 1892.

We are fortunate to gain insight into local people and life in earlier times through this collection.

Pictures from the ninth NEK History Fair

Over 300 students worked for months researching and creating Exhibits, Documentaries and Performances. Schools participating were North Country Union High and Junior High, and elementary schools from Brighton, Brownington, Barton, Glover, Irasburg, and Orleans. The event was held in the big arena at IROC in Derby on March 24. Many local businesses, organizations and individuals donated money to fund the event, and over 100 tables to display the projects were loaned by organizations. Thank you to everybody who participated and helped.



Darlene Young was one of 50 judges who spent the afternoon evaluating 198 student projects at the ninth Northeast Kingdom History Fair. The judges stayed to interview the students who returned later in the evening, and then made the difficult decisions choosing the winners of each age group.



Ben Barnes was one of the judges for documentary projects. He is pictured interviewing freshmen students from Tyler Alexander's North Country Union High School class about their project, "What were the horrors of Auschwitz?" The students are, from left to right: Michiah Maxwell, Myra Degre, and Natalie Sykes.

Archaeological dig this summer!

Plans are being made for a major archaeological excavation this summer on the site of the old barn next to the Old Stone House. Details are being worked out for an Archeology Field School on the site, led by Anthony Booth, who has done archaeological investigations at the museum in recent years, preceding both the Hall House restoration and the Archival Addition construction. We are hoping to have our course become affiliated with a college so that we can offer continuing education credits for teachers. Check our website at www.oldstonehousemuseum.org, and the newspapers for specifics dates for the Field School as we know more.

The museum is planning to build a replica of the old barn on that site. We need more space to hold agricultural equipment now in storage and have room to accept more donations of agricultural artifacts, so that we can tell the story of Farming in Orleans County through the years.

The construction of the new barn will be a community project, with lumber cut and milled by the high school career center, and timbers notched by the high school building and trades class, with guidance from a local timber framer. The International Timber Framers Guild will come in June 2012 to finish the frame, with educational workshops, and then supervise the raising as a community event.

We got word last year that Jessie Mitchell, the widow of W.S. Mitchell who ran a farm equipment store in Newport for many years, had left a bequest to the museum of \$57,000 for a Farm Museum. We were hoping to expand our agricultural exhibit space already, so this was wonderful news, and just what we needed to spur us on. (Mrs. Mitchell left us another \$57,000 to add to our endowment, which will help sustain the

museum into the future, and we are very grateful.)

After much discussion, the board of directors has agreed that we should try to replicate buildings that were once on this site, rather put up a new building that never existed. There used to be a barn next to the Old Stone House, just barely touching the corner of the barn with the southeast corner of the Old Stone House, with a small attached shed roof passageway that led into the stone house root cellar door, which then leads into the kitchen.

We have no documentation about whether the barn was built around 1836 when the Stone House was built, or later after the building was no longer used for a dormitory and became a boarding house in the 1860's. We do know from students' journals that they often came to school with a cow or chickens to contribute food for the dormitory residents and save money on their board. They could have kept the animals in that barn, or they may have kept them across the road in the barn behind Alexander Twilight's house.

We have photographs of the barn by the Old Stone House up to around 1910, from which we can determine size and shape. We are investigating any written reference to the barn which would describe it. We suspect the barn was taken down between the time the Old Stone House was purchased by the Orleans County Historical Society in 1916 and before it opened as a museum in 1925. If anyone knows more about when and why that barn was taken down, and whether the timbers were used to build another barn in the area, please let us know. We have a lot to learn about the original barn's history, and this summer's archaeological excavation will tell us a lot about the construction, design and use of the barn.

A Legacy Society

The Orleans County Historical Society is establishing a Legacy Society to build the endowment to a level that will sustain the museum and its work. Interest from the endowment will generate a regular income to help maintain the buildings, preserve the artifacts they contain, and pay the staff to bring history alive for future generations.

Since the old stone dormitory of the first secondary school in the county was purchased by the historical society in 1916 and opened as a museum in 1925, it has been a symbol of pride in the heritage of the men and women who built Orleans County. And now, in this fast changing world of the 21st century, the Old Stone House Museum helps keep our youth grounded in the traditional skills and values of the rugged individuals who came before them.

Legacy gifts of our friends are building blocks for the museum, as enduring as the granite that Alexander Twilight used to build the Old Stone House in 1836. A legacy gift can be a bequest in your will, a *payment on death account* that you set up connected to a bank account, an insurance policy or a retirement account. Such gifts are easy to arrange and do not affect your income from the accounts during your lifetime. If you would like to learn more about The Old Stone House Legacy Society, please call us at (802) 754-2022 or send an email to Peggy Gibson at director@oldstonehousemuseum.org.

Plaques honoring donors

This summer the Museum will be installing bronze plaques in our buildings to commemorate the people and institutions who have donated so generously to the Orleans County Historical Society and the Old Stone House Museum. The names of our supporters will be imprinted in bronze for contributions to the Twilight House Renovation, the Purchase and Restoration of the Samuel Read Hall House, the restoration of windows in the Old Stone House in the "Adopt A Window" program in 2001-2002, the construction of the Blacksmith Shop, and also contributors to the Archival Vault Addition. Thank you all for your help in preserving and sustaining this wonderful place, where history is lovingly cared for so that future generations can learn from the past.

Our February Kitchen Junket



Bernard Matthews played the saw in the kitchen of the Hall House.



Neal Perry and his hardworking team of Morgan horses gave sleigh rides around the field.

Wish List

Wooden Double Bedstead appropriate for Hall House
Commercial Dishwasher
Ash Garden Baskets
Old Logging Tools to use in programs:
 Cant Hook
 Logging Chain
Volunteer Tour Guides

THE OLD STONE HOUSE MUSEUM BULLETIN

The Orleans County Historical Society, Inc.
109 Old Stone House Road, Brownington, VT 05860
Telephone: 802-754-2022 e-mail: information@oldstonehousemuseum.org
website: www.oldstonehousemuseum.org

Mike Murphy, President
Peggy Day Gibson, Director
Liz Nelson, Collections Manager
Susanna Bowman, Education Program Coordinator
Linda Child, Museum Shop & Volunteer Coordinator
Shirley Perry, Bookkeeper
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