



## Old Stone House Museum & Historic Village

### **For Immediate Release**

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**Contact:** Drew Bush

Cell: (802)274-7069 / Office: (802)754-2022

[assistantdirector@oldstonehousemuseum.org](mailto:assistantdirector@oldstonehousemuseum.org)

### **Kids' Friday To Engage Orleans County's Youngest With Hands-On History They Can Take Home**

**Historic Brownington Village, Vermont** - Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the A.D. Henderson Foundation, \$3,000 from the Vermont Humanities Council and \$6,500 from the Francis R. Dewing Foundation, the Old Stone House Museum will expand educational programming to include the youngest members of our community. Starting Friday, June 19, preschool to elementary school aged children in the Northeast Kingdom can take part in making their community's history come alive by visiting the Old Stone House Museum.

Old Stone House Museum educators will provide a weekly free lunch, lesson plan, and take-home heritage activity kit each Friday this summer in partnership with NorthWoods Stewardship Center and Green Mountain Farm-to-School. The Old Stone House Museum curriculum will include resources, lesson plans, suggested activities, and activity guides intentionally developed to build students' skills and knowledge in an informal, engaging manner.

"Our children have been out of school for months which makes us especially excited to be able to now include preschool aged children in our programs," Molly Veysey, the Old Stone House Museum Executive Director, said. "Our lesson plans and take-home kits will give them an opportunity to learn about their community's own unique history and culture through hands-on activities and fun that the whole family can enjoy together. This means not only offering essential curricula for the summer but also making it available from the safety of home."

Education is at the heart of the mission of the Old Stone House Museum. Teaching and learning about the legacy of Alexander Lucius Twilight, one of Vermont's earliest and most noteworthy African American leaders, can play a critical role in acknowledging and healing the divisions in our nation. Mr. Twilight's story illuminates the full story of our often-difficult history. His amazing contribution to our local narrative exemplifies the enormous and important contributions African Americans have made to our nation.



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This summer's Kids' Friday sessions mark the start of a multi-year educational initiative also funded by the Vermont Humanities Council. The Henderson Foundation grant specifically supports opportunities for the youngest learners in our region. In future years, educators from area schools, libraries, childcare providers, and head start centers can check these resources out from the museum. We will also offer accredited professional development to train teachers in the use of curricula starting in Fall 2020 that will include sessions throughout the academic year.

The Old Stone House Museum won't be leaving adults or families out this summer either. The month of May marked the launch of many virtual museum programs with public workshops focused on starting your own vegetable garden at home and composting. This summer will feature even more including workshops on topics such as the history of beekeeping, knitting, wood carving, making healing salves, and flower arranging. [Find out more about our online public workshops here.](#)

"We're moving our public workshops and events like Old Stone House Day online this summer," Drew Bush, the Old Stone House Museum's new Assistant Director, said. "We'll also use our website and social media to bring you inside the museum to hear short vignettes from our history, give you the opportunity to track the seasons on our museum's gorgeous campus, and provide firsthand accounts of Alexander Twilight's life. All of this will be available from the comfort of your own home."

The Old Stone House Museum campus has already opened for socially distant visits to our stunning green spaces. Volunteers began work on our giving gardens early this spring in a new effort to provide fresh food for the neediest members of our community.

Pre-registration will soon be available for Kids' Friday on our website, [www.OldStoneHouseMuseum.org/KidsFridays](http://www.OldStoneHouseMuseum.org/KidsFridays).

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