



"THE STONE HOUSE MUSEUM"

Belchertown Historical Association
Belchertown, Massachusetts
1903—2011

October 2011

Volume 11, Issue 4

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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

2011 Calendar

Save the dates and share them with family, friends, neighbors!

October 22 Salem Bus Trip
Call Marnie 323-5211

**October 22-23 and 28-29
BUCC Playhouse: "Our Town"**
Congregational Church
Portion of profits to be donated to BHA

**October 30 6:30-7:00
Halloween Cemetery Tour**
Ghosts & Goblins

**November 5 9-4 Yuletide
at the Stone House**

December 10 NYC Bus trip
Call Marnie 323 5211

Volunteers Always Needed!

Please don't forget that we are always looking for cleaners, dusters, house-sitters and docents during the summer months. If you have time during the week or on Saturdays and an interest in becoming more involved with our museum **contact Tom at 323-0946**

250th Winding Down in Style

BY TOM STOCKTON, PRESIDENT

What a busy and event-filled summer it has been and fall looks even busier!

In August we were very pleased and proud to celebrate our town's agrarian past and present by presenting a Farm Tour of several farms in Belchertown. Kudos to **Mau-reen Austin** and the committee for coordinating this fun-filled and informative family event! The annual display of historic small engines and tractors on the common (sponsored by the **Belchertown Agricultural Commission**) was enjoyed by many. Many thanks are due to all of our hard workers and organizers. In addition to our many volunteers I would like to thank the local businesses that sponsored our recent Garden Tour: **Easthampton Savings Bank, Country Bank for Savings, Florence Savings Bank, Bell & Hudson Insurance Agency Inc. and McCarthy's Pub.** We are indeed fortunate to live in a town where the local business community is so interested and supportive of local events, and the Belchertown Historical Association is very grateful for our community's continued support. Please support our generous sponsors! Also, thank you to all of you who supported this very valuable and very necessary FUNdraiser this year.

Many things have been happening around the Stone House this summer, and many thanks are due to **Becki Smith** for the incredible amount of organizing she has done. Thanks are also due to our Remembrance Garden volunteers who have kept



"You can't keep a Farm Girl down!"

After representing the Historical Association by riding in the Concord Coach during the Fair Day Parade the elegant Mrs. Edward Pratt pitched right in when help was needed returning the coach to the barn. Mrs. Pratt's father, "Doc" Austin, led the parade for many years. Thanks, Nancy!

this portion of our grounds looking fresh and lovely during a hot summer, and to **Peg and Lew Louraine** for the work they have done to bring historic gardening methods to life in our herb garden.

AROUND THE GROUNDS: We continue to plan for work to be done to improve our climate control system and to address certain structural issues inside the Stone House. We were awarded two Community Preservation Grants at the 2009 town meeting, and have just been given the money to deal with our old climate-control system. We also continue to hope to be part of the preservation of the Washington District Schoolhouse.

Continued on page 3

CIVIL WAR DIARY COMES HOME

By Cliff McCarthy



Thanks to the generosity of a Pennsylvania family, the pocket diary kept by Union Army soldier Myron S. Barton, a life-long Belchertown resident, has come home to reside in the archives of the Stone House Museum. The diary, which had been kept in the family by Barton's descendants, was donated to the museum in September by two branches of the family; Roy and Audrey Overholt and Ray and Pam Overholt.

The first 77 pages of the diary contain descriptions and accounts of Barton's service in the 46th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Militia from September 1862, when he began training at Camp Banks near Springfield, until he mustered out in July of 1863, also in Springfield. The latter part of the book was used to keep accounts for Barton's lumber business after the war. It also contains a few odds and ends such as this "Cholera Remedy -- one tablespoonful of salt, one teaspoonful of cayenne pepper, in half a pint of hot water."

The 46th Massachusetts infantry was largely comprised of Hampden county residents, though several Belchertown men enlisted in this unit. After training camp, the regiment rode by train from Springfield to Boston where they boarded ships for deployment in the South. The journal describes the units' experiences near New Bern, North Carolina. It participated in a mission called the Goldsboro Expedition and saw action in several minor engagements. While returning north after their nine months enlistment was up, the regiment deployed briefly in Maryland in an unsuccessful attempt to head off Rebel forces retreating after the battle of Gettysburg. All in all, however, the regiment was fortunate -- it suffered only one combat death and only thirty-five deaths by disease out of nearly 1000 soldiers.

Myron Barton returned to his hometown on July 22nd 1863 and was officially mustered out a week later in Springfield. He farmed and ran a lumber business from the Barton homestead, near the Granby line, until he moved to South Main Street in about 1898. He served the town as a selectman and was elected to the state legislature. He was also deputy sheriff for Hampshire County. Myron Barton was a trustee of both the Clapp Memorial Library and the Belchertown Historical Association and was a member of the Vernon Lodge of Masons. He served as commander of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Myron Barton was an important man in the history of our town. Now, by means of his descendants' thoughtful gift of his Civil War diary, we remember Myron Barton, not only for his service to the Union, but for his devotion to his community.



On Saturday, August 13th, the Belchertown Historical Association hosted Living History Days, featuring: Farm Tours of Belchertown. More pictures on our website.



SALEM BUS TRIP

What: Bus Trip to SALEM MA. to benefit Belchertown Historical Association

When: October 22, from Belchertown Common at 8 AM / Leave Salem: 6 PM

Cost: \$35 (\$32 for members)

Come see the festive, historical and bewitching sights in SALEM MA, and shop or sight-see to your heart's content. We will leave the Belchertown Common at 8AM, and will leave Salem at about 6PM. [Tickets to individual events in Salem are not included to allow you maximum freedom to follow your own interests. Popular destinations include the House of Seven Gables, The Witch Museum, and the Peabody Essex Museum.] Salem in October is a very popular destination, so get your tickets soon! Proceeds will benefit the Belchertown Historical Association. Tickets are \$35 (\$32 for Belchertown Historical Association members.) To make reservations call Marnie at 323-5211.

Message from our President Continued from Page 1

Great fun was had by all this year at the BELCHERTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION BOOTH at the Belchertown Fair where we presented a photo display from the archives from fairs gone by. We also had fun with the "straws" game, and sold raffle tickets and gift items. Many thanks to **Becki Smith** for the painted decorations for the booth, and to **Dick Loomis** who played violin for our new sales item, a newly-recorded CD of the song *Good Old Belchertown*, originally published in 1900. In honor of the town's 250th Anniversary we entered our 1869 Concord Stage Coach in the parade for the first time in many years, and we won First Prize! Cat's Meow figures of the Stagecoach are still for sale at the Stone House.

October is a busy time this year, and we invite all to come to our October activities, which this year include a Bus Trip to Historic Salem Massachusetts on Saturday, October 22, Archaeology Day, Cemetery Tours October 30, and a wonderful production of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* at the Congregational Church October 21-22, 28-29. Historic Salem is a popular destination year-round, but especially in October when thoughts turn to witches and goblins. Consider a family day in Salem as a way to prepare for the festivities of Halloween. Also, we invite all to come to our fifth fun-filled HALLOWEEN EVENT, which will be Sunday, October 30 from 6:30 – 7 PM and will again include our "Ghosts and Goblins" walking tour in the Mount Hope Cemetery (with live appearances by historic Belchertown "ghosts") and activities in the Old Town Hall. This is a great early-evening family event, and we encourage everyone to celebrate the season with history and come on out.

Our Yuletide event (November 5) is one of our most important fundraisers and will conclude with our cash raffle

drawing. Equally as important, it is a great time to come visit and renew friendships at the beginning of the New England Holiday season. We are still looking for CRAFTERS and people to donate THEME BASKETS. If you have a hobby and can help, please call Tom Stockton (323-0946). Our baskets are considered by many to be the nicest and most elegant of all the Yuletide events in town, so we can use your help keeping up our holiday tradition.

YULETIDE RAFFLES: Our Sixth Annual Cash Raffle will be drawn after this year's Yuletide event, and we hope that this raffle will be a fun way for us to help balance our operating budget as we prepare for the Heating Season. We ask everyone to please support our raffle, and, incidentally, asking a friend or neighbor to buy one ticket is a great way to initiate a conversation about our Association and its mission! (For your convenience, one book of tickets is being included with this mailing. Tickets can be returned anytime prior to or at the Yuletide event.)

December's events will include a fun day-long BUS TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY on Dec. 10. Come see the festive Holiday displays in the city, and shop or sight-see to your heart's content. To make early reservations call Marnie (323-5211).

Please make sure to read the wonderful article on page two about our recent generous gift from the Overholt family. It certainly is encouraging when other people help us in our mission. As always, we appreciate everyone's continued interest and support. And remember: for friends, new neighbors, and "old townies" who have moved to distant cities, Gift Memberships make great holiday presents, are a wonderful way to stay connected. See you soon!



YULETIDE AT THE STONE HOUSE November 5, 2011 9am—4pm

The annual Yuletide event is our major fundraiser of the year and we couldn't do it without your help. We have had enthusiastic member support in the past and are hoping that this year we can count on your help again. Please consider donating a themed basket. We are asking that **all baskets be delivered assembled**. They can be dropped off at the Stone House Friday, October 28, from 5-7 pm and Saturday, October 29 from 10-12 am. Please include your name on your basket so that we can properly thank you. Contact Carol Mierzewski 323- 4344 with any questions.

Your donations of the wonderful handcrafted items that stock our sales room entice most of the day's visitors to pull out their wallets. Our reputation for beautiful and varied crafts has grown over the years and many people like to start their holiday shopping at this event. Contact person for crafts and sales is **Mau-reen Austin** 289-1347. We also need homemade delights from your kitchen to ours. Contact for baked goods is **Sally Shattuck** 323-4239.

Last but not least, your volunteer time is crucial to this event. We will be calling to organize our volunteers in the coming weeks and hope to have you join us for a few hours on Saturday, November 5th. Please remember to tell your friends and relatives to visit our beautifully decorated museum during the **Yuletide** event!

YULETIDE CASH RAFFLE

Please support our Sixth Annual cash raffle, which will be drawn at the annual Yuletide Event—just in time to give you more cash for shopping! We are hoping very much that proceeds from this event will help balance our annual operating budget. Asking a friend or neighbor to buy one ticket is a great way to initiate a conversation about the Association and our mission!

The First Prize will be \$500, Second Prize will be \$200, and Third Prize will be \$100. Tickets cost \$5 apiece, or a book of six costs \$25.

For your convenience, one book of tickets is being included with this mailing. Tickets can be returned anytime prior to or at the Yuletide Event. One ticket tucked into a card makes a great gift!

Belchertown Fair a real tribute to the town's 250th Anniversary.

More pictures at our website.



Membership Update

Carol Mierzewski, Chair Email emierzewsk@aol.com Ph: 413-323-4344



Please join me in welcoming our newest members!

Elizabeth Ward	Boston
Clark & Joyce	Bridgman
Andrea K.	Filipkowski
David	Gottseger
Bruce & Eileen	Klockars
Nancy & Carl	Shafer
Nancy	Vargo

Donation was made on behalf of **Don Vargo** by his wife.

Please let us know if you have moved, changed your e-mail or phone number. Our mailings are sometimes returned as "Address Unknown." Having up to-date info helps us to responsibly manage our mailing costs. We often send out e-mail reminders to events. During these busy times of electronic mail and message machines, it may be the speediest way to contact you. Let me know of any changes.

The cost of doing business has impacted us drastically and we depend on your continued support. Please renew if you haven't already and invite friends and neighbors to join! You can't beat the price for what you receive in benefits!



Cat's Meow figures of the Belchertown Historical Association's stage coach are available at **Rannsaka** (115 North Main Street) and **Swift River Crafts** (51 South Main Street - on the common) for **\$15.00**.

Typical of stage coaches that ran through Belchertown in the 19th Century, this coach was built in Concord New Hampshire in 1869, and purchased by the Belchertown Historical Association in 1929. The coach is now housed at the Ford Annex on the grounds of the Stone House Museum. Great collector item to buy and share!

Belchertown Historical Association (BHA)

MEMBERSHIP FORM – May 1, 2011 thru April 30, 2012

I am pleased to support the Stone House Museum and the BHA Belchertown Historical Association



I am interested in getting involved in activities of the Association. Best way / time to contact me:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

If this is a Gift Membership, please indicate who the gift is from: _____

Membership Category:

Individual \$15 Student (<18) \$5 Senior (>64) \$8 Family \$30 (adult and children <18)

Friend \$50 Patron \$100 Benefactor \$250 Additional donation: \$ _____

Membership Donation in honor in memory of _____

Eligible for Corporate Matching Program (attach employer's corporate matching gift form)

Total enclosed: \$ _____ Send completed form and tax-deductible check (payable to Belchertown Historical Association) to **The Belchertown Historical Association PO Box 1211, Belchertown, MA 01007-1211**



BELCHERTOWN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
 BELCHERTOWN, MA 01007-1211

VISIT US AT THE STONE HOUSE, CALL US
 AT 413 323-6573 OR VIEW US AT
 WWW.STONEHOUSEMUSEUM.ORG

ASS'T CURATOR: SHIRLEY BOCK
 ARCHIVIST: CLIFF MCCARTHY

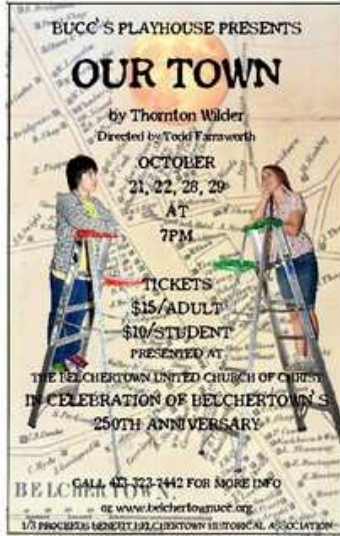
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MEMBERS NEWSLETTER —
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Production of *Our Town* in Our Town



BUCC's Playhouse, under the direction of Rev. Todd Farnsworth, will present Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* at the Congregational Church on October 22-23, and 28-29. Written in 1938 the action of the play takes place in a small New England town between 1901 and 1913.

Many people from town are playing roles in the play similar to their real-life occupations. For example, several area ministers are playing the parts of the minister, and Tom Stockton is playing the church organist. *(Please note that life doesn't always imitate art: the organist in the play is a drunk. —T.S.)*

This play is being performed in honor of the town's 250th anniversary, and one third of the proceeds are being donated to the Historical Association for our part in preserving "Our Town's" history.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students, and may be purchased by calling 323-7442 or by calling Tom Stockton at 323-0946. Don't miss the fun and please support this town-wide enterprise. This will celebrate and build up our community **and** be to our financial benefit. A Win-Win!

11007-1211
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 20 MAPLE STREET
 ASSOCIATION
 BELCHERTOWN HISTORICAL

