



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

The mission of the Orleans County Historical Society is to share our unique history through  
**Preservation, Education and Inspiration.**

**Message from the Director** By Molly Veysey

I drive from my home in Irasburg through the Village of Orleans. The Ethan Allen Furniture mill pumps out billows of exhaust from mechanization. I pass two gasoline stations, a Family Dollar store, a grocery and a bank. But instead of turning into work full of fluorescent lights, computers and whiteboards, I travel back in time.

Roads, stillness settles over everything. Slower now, I pass the Samuel Hall House – the elegant and patient sentinel overlooking the ancient neighborhood of the Old Stone House Museum. The background noise slips away. I take my time admiring the little building unassumingly stationed between the Eaton House and the Museum. It’s my favorite. Each morning I expect to see Laura Ingalls walking out it’s front door to fetch water. Slower still, I pass the Museum – imposing and proud. That all-too-familiar feeling of modern confusion melts out of me. I’ve arrived at work. There are no power lines overhead, no humming of engines.

Nestled in the quiet, there lies a resting potential waiting through the long winter for a new kind of spring. I picture this

great potential spreading out like green across the hills. It is made up by the sum force of all who have loved The Old Stone House and love it still, the stories that call it home and the many people educated and inspired by this place. I feel humbled by my task: To realize the Museum’s unlimited potential thereby bringing a place steeped in history into its own bright future. My path has led me here with what I hope are the right tools to make it happen.

It’s coming, and I get to be a part of it. What an adventure we are on! Onward, ho!

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Please consider giving to the Old Stone House Museum this year. We need your support to continue to realize the amazing potential here. Thank you!

*Annual Fund  
appeal inside!*



*Cora and Tilly Veysey (6 & 9) greet guests at Old Stone House Day in August.*

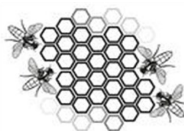
At the corner of Hinman-Settler and Old Stone House

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**Have you heard the buzz?**

Our new beekeeping support group is ‘all abuzz’ with activities to support the bee population in our community. This past season, the group was awarded a \$750 grant by the New England



Grass Roots Environmental Fund, in addition to a donation of \$500 and four top bar hives. The equipment and funds will allow the group to create an apiary on Museum grounds, as well as historic exhibits. The group

meets monthly on the last Sunday of the month, 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm, from January to October. No experience is needed if you would like to join, and beekeeping equipment donations are gladly accepted. Watch our website in 2019 for news of the upcoming meetings!



## Misconceptions about the Twilights, Part I By Robert Hunt, Curator

Over the last one hundred and fifty years, much has been written about Alexander Twilight, his wife Mercy Ladd Merrill Twilight, and their years associated with the Orleans Country Grammar School. Researching the lives of those long dead is an interesting but often difficult task. Primary sources are the most reliable information, but even these can be misleading. The first legal mention of Alexander Twilight is in Vol. 1, page 71 of the Corinth, Vermont Town Records. A postdated group listing of the children of Ichabod and Mary Twilight lists their third child as "Alexandria", and was copied on an index card in Vermont Vital Records as "FEMALE BIRTH", Alexandria Twilight, September 23, 1795." This is just one example of what can happen when trying to decipher old hand

written records.



Alexander Twilight

Whenever there is a tour of the Old Stone House, it usually begins with a brief history of Brownington and the start of the Orleans County Grammar School in 1823. This is quickly followed by the employment of Alexander Twilight as headmaster and minister in 1829, as well as the statement, "Alexander Twilight was born in Corinth, Vermont in 1795." But was he? To answer this we need to look at the life of Alexander's father, Ichabod Twilight. See our next newsletter edition for the move to Corinth and Ichabod's background.

Sources: Bowler, P.M., Sr. (n.d.). *The Twilight Mystery Solved?*, Lovejoy, John M., etc.

***"Onward is the great motto of the universe, which extends to all parts and to every individual."***

*Alexander Twilight, Sermon 14*

## Meet Volunteer Mary Lou Hoyt Wood



Mary Lou Hoyt Wood works at the Museum giving tours on average 4-5 days a week May through October. She is one of about 5 core volunteer tour guides here at the Museum. Each guide flavors his/her performance with unique personality and perspective, creating a rich experience for our guests. Mary's tours are an entertaining mix of local lore, humor, history and even singing! Having grown up in Orleans, Mary is a walking encyclopedia on all things Orleans County, especially 19<sup>th</sup> century Orleans County. Mary also volunteers in the library and archives. She, along with her colleagues Lea Cook, Joan Huguenin and Jan Delany, has transcribed and researched hundreds of primary sources dating back to the 1800's. Mary is a devoted volunteer and supporter of the Old Stone House. We honor her service and those essential volunteers like her. They sustain our operations and make our mission come to life each day. Thank you to all our amazing volunteers!!!

## What Was, What Is and What May Be By Dana Karuza, Outreach Assistant

As I move across my first calendar year as Outreach Assistant at the museum I have been awed by three things.

First, the progressive educators that lived and had influential teaching careers in this village, notably Alexander Twilight and Samuel Read Hall. Both of these educators had a vision for experiential learning and held place-based education philosophies while incorporating the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and the Arts that are the foundation of modern day STEAM education philosophies.

Secondly, I am awestruck by the quality of programming and skill that our current volunteer presenters bring to museum programs with a hands-on and inquiry based teaching approach that would make both Twilight and Read proud.



Third, I look ahead to that which may be and I am inspired to help build a strong multi-generational community of volunteers utilizing the entire historic village as an open air museum. This winter we are revitalizing program offerings to meet current curricular standards while meeting 21st Century Skills. I look forward to strengthening community partnerships with area schools, other area non-profits and groups, Nulhegan Abenaki educators and 4H clubs; always building upon the excellence that already exists with our own museum resources and exemplary volunteer community.

There are so many vital reasons to support the Old Stone House Museum's mission.  
**Please help us by donating today!**

Yes! I want to support the Old Stone House Museum with a gift

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Friend \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 to \$99.00       Benefactor \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000.00 or more

Supporter \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 to \$249.00       Additional gift to support: \_\_\_\_\_

Patron \_\_\_\_\_ \$250.00 to \$499.00       Planned Giving or Charitable Gift Annuity  
 Please contact me with more information

Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ \$500.00 to \$999.00

Check enclosed - Payable to Orleans County Historical Society

Charge my VISA / MasterCard / Discover Account \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Your gift is tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations



**Ways to Sustain**

*Your contributions are priceless!*

**Legacy Gift**

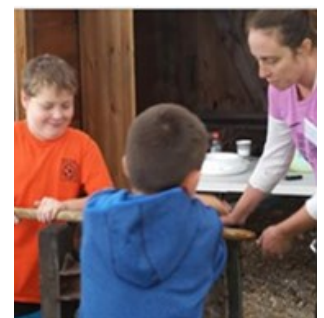
The Museum has partnered with the Vermont Community Foundation to provide Charitable Gift Annuity donors with responsible, safe management of their Annuity Fund while making the Old Stone House Museum the grateful beneficiary.

**Planned Giving**

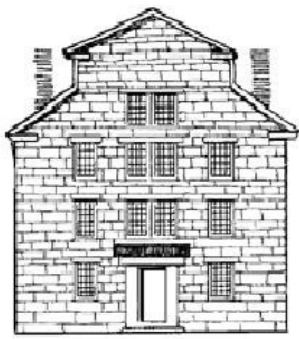
Contributions of this kind ensure a long, healthy life for our beloved and historic neighborhood. The many visitors who fall in love with our neighborhood may want to consider the Museum in estate planning.

**Unrestricted Donation**

Your unrestricted donation, at any amount, will be used for essential programs, educational outreach, care & restoration of historic artifacts, documents and heirlooms, as well as building preservation. This donation type will allow us to use your money where it's needed most.







## Old Stone House Museum

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Brownington Village, Vermont  
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Return service requested

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**PAID**  
Orleans, VT 05860  
Permit No. 4

Open Wednesdays through Sundays  
May 15th to October 13th  
11:00 am to 5:00pm

Phone: 802-754-2022 \* E-mail: [information@oldstonehousemuseum.org](mailto:information@oldstonehousemuseum.org)

Visit us on the web at [www.OldStoneHouseMuseum.org](http://www.OldStoneHouseMuseum.org)

Follow & Like us on Facebook \* Join us on Instagram

## Historic Green Spaces

At the Old Stone House Museum, we are working hard to maintain the pristine nature of our little corner of Northern Vermont. The Old Stone House village sits atop rural rolling farm hills that typify picturesque Vermont.

A natural pond graces the lowest point on the property, alive with cattails, turtles and pollywogs. The hill fields of the Museum's acreage wave with sweet timothy in the summer and glisten with untouched snow in the winter. Fall blazes with the colors of oak, maple, ash and butternut.

We hope to share our precious microcosm with our visitors and community through a series of small projects called "Historic Green Spaces". We want to develop walking trails around our 60 acre village; walking, playing, dog walking, horseback riding, skiing and snowshoeing welcome! A heritage arboretum including a large variety of native apple trees, butternuts, ash and maples is already established with the help of NorthWoods Stewardship Center and a guide brochure is available to the public. We have received grants and donations to build an educational apiary on site with the goal of encouraging pollination and conservation.

Please help us preserve our beautiful spot and continue to develop ways by which to share it by giving to the Museum this year.

