

# BULLETIN



Number 131

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

Spring 2017

## Restoring the Orleans County Grammar School

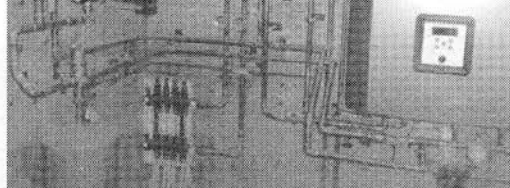
In 1869 the Orleans County Grammar School was moved down the hill, and later became the Grange Hall. Now it is back home on the spot where it was built almost 200 years ago, and it is both the Grammar School and the Grange Hall.

It is the old Grammar School, the first secondary school in the county, built in 1823 at the base of Prospect Hill. Alexander Twilight built the Old Stone House as a dormitory for out of town students. And it is still the Grange Hall, the community center of Brownington, where people can gather for dinners, celebrations, education, and entertainment.



Steve Malachuk installed running water in the Ladies Aid.

All winter and spring we have been renewing the building. But it still looks just about the same, only brighter, with a fresh coat of paint and a view that looks out onto the open expanse of Prospect Hill. You would never know that a bathroom, with a flush toilet, was tucked into the corner of the Ladies Aid Dining Hall. The wall-paper and the wainscoting look like they have always been there.



The boiler in the basement furnace room is a hi-tech improvement.

You can now turn up a thermostat, and the hot air heat, warmed by a boiler attached to the radiant floor

in the basement, heats the downstairs. The wood cook stove is still there to take the chill off and keep the Easter breakfast ham warm. In the future there will be classes on cooking with a wood cook stove.

The plumbing and heating system in the new basement is a modern work of art. Mountain Ridge Plumbing & Heating has taken pride in doing a high quality job. We hadn't realized that fire codes would require sheet rock in the basement ceiling, between the ancient, but solid floor joists, caulked with special fire stop caulking. It was tedious work, but our new Amish neighbors took on the project and did a beautiful job, at a reasonable price.

Whenever there was a dance upstairs in the Grange Hall, Larry Thompson tells us, they would wedge a strong timber under the beam downstairs to hold up the floor. Now there is a steel I-Beam spanning the dining hall, neatly boxed in with wood. Green Timberworks



Chris McCarthy and Makaio Maher of Green Timberworks ease the long I-beam through the door.

has been doing the interior carpentry work, as well as putting the porch back onto the west end of the building, with a new handicap ramp.

Jane Greenwood, board member and chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee, has been overseeing the project, and also taking care of the fussy details, like neatly patching holes, cutting down doors to fit, and carefully reusing bits and pieces that have kept the history of the building intact.

Bonnie Ingalls' painting crew has made the inside of the building shine. New storm windows have covered the window

*continued on back page*

# 2017 Events and Programs

## **The Life and Work of Rufus Porter – Saturday, June 3, 4pm**

Polly Forcier, member of the Historical Society for Early American Decoration and painter of Rufus Porter style murals, will give a slide presentation on this remarkable man who was a painter, an inventor, and is now known as the father of American folk art. Wine & cheese reception to follow. No charge.

## **Volunteer & Member Tea “New England Meeting Houses” – Sunday, June 11, 3 pm**

Join us in the newly restored Grammar School, and former Congregational Meeting House, for a lecture and slide show by Paul Wainwright about Colonial Meetinghouses of New England. Everyone is welcome to this free program sponsored by the Vermont Humanities Council. We honor our wonderful volunteers, and get inspired for the 2017 season.

## **Antique Engine Show – Friday afternoon, June 16, and Saturday, June 17, 8 am to 4 pm**

Exhibitors will begin gathering and setting up on Friday afternoon, June 16. **From 4 to 7:30 pm on Friday there will be an Amish Benefit Fish Dinner** up at the newly relocated and restored Grammar School on Prospect Hill, to help pay Lydia Kauffman’s hospital bill. On Saturday, members of the Vermont Antique Gas & Steam Engine Association will exhibit even more working engines and collections, and be joined by members of the Cars of Yesteryear with their antique and classic cars. Small engine exhibitors welcome. Phone 754-2022 for more information. Lunch on Saturday is by the Brownington Ladies Aid. Free admission to the Engine Show and the first floor of the museum.

## **Rufus Porter Talk – Saturday, July 1**

Linda Lefko, author of Folk Art Murals of the Rufus Porter School, 1825-1845, will give a Lecture and Slide Show at 4 pm, followed by a Wine and Cheese Reception at 5 pm.

## **Back Roads Readings at 3 pm in the Brownington Congregational Church, reception after in the Hall House.**

**Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>**- A Celebration of Leland Kinsey and his Poems

**Sunday, July 23<sup>th</sup>**- Ellen Bryant Voigt

**Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>**-Charles Simic

## **Gala Benefit Auction – Thursday, July 20, 6 – 9 pm at the Eastside in Newport**

Major fund raiser for the Museum at the Eastside Restaurant in Newport. Tickets \$30 Advance, \$35 at the door. Limited seating. Delicious hors d’oeuvres, live music, live and silent auctions featuring unique gifts, services and experiences. A good time for a good cause!

## **Time Travelers Camp – July 24-28 for children 8-12 (see article on page 7)**

## **Storykeepers – Teaching History Through Family Stories – July 24 – 27, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Natalie Kinsey-Warnock will offer a graduate level two credit, course for teachers of pre-K through High School on teaching students how to do historical research based on their family stories. Teachers will develop “Storykeepers Kits” to use in their classrooms as part of a project-based learning unit. This is a continuing education course of the Samuel Read Hall Education Center, a field-based program of Southern New Hampshire University, and will be held in the Grammar School. Brochures available on-line, or by calling (802)754-2022. We can invoice teachers’ school districts for the cost.

## **Rufus Porter Talk – Saturday, August 5**

David Ottinger, painted wall expert and preservation carpenter, who removed the Rufus Porter panels from the Adams Female Academy in Derry, N.H. and transported them up to the Old Stone House will talk about how the murals were rescued, and preservation of painted walls. Talk at 4 pm, followed by Wine and Cheese Reception at 5 pm

## **Old Stone House Day – August 13, 10 am to 4 pm**

The teamsters and oxen are coming back to help us celebrate the Grand Opening of the newly restored Grammar School/Brownington Grange Hall. Museum Open House, Oxen Events, Vermont Fiddle Orchestra Concert and Contra-dance, Demonstrations of Traditional Skills, Crafts, Farmers Market, Food, Music, Pie Auction. \$5 a carload. Parking on Prospect Hill and beside Twilight House. Come celebrate local history at our biggest event of the year.

## Craft Circles

**Monthly Get-togethers for Crafters.** All are Welcome! If your craft circle meets over lunch time, please bring a lunch along with you.

**Spinner's Circle:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, noon to 3 pm, May-October

**Quilter's Circle:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 9 am to noon, May - October

**Basket Weaving Workshops:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 10 am – 2 pm

**Fundamentals of Blacksmithing:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 8:30 – 12:30 Intro to Blacksmithing/1 to 5 pm. Open forge \$10 material fee.

## **2017 Adult Classes**

**Learn to Fly-Fish - Doug Swanson - Saturday & Wednesday, June 3 & 7, 10 am – 2 pm**

Doug Swanson will teach 2 beginner classes. The morning will be an introduction to fly fishing and technique. In the afternoon, we'll go practice on our pond. Children 10 + welcome with a parent. Cost is \$25 or \$20 for Museum members

**Cape Cod Blueberry Basket - Tracie Quirion - Saturday, June 3, 10 am – 2 pm**

Make a beautiful basket in this beginner basket making workshop. Learn the basics of basket making and work your way up to the more intermediate baskets offered later in the season.

Cost \$25 or \$20 for members, plus a \$26 material fee.

**Harvest Basket - Tracie Quirion - Saturday July 1, 10am – 2pm**

Make a wonderful harvest basket for friends or family in this basket making workshop. Bring a lunch

Cost \$25 or \$20 for members, plus a \$26 material fee.

**Plantation Herb Basket - Tracie Quirion - Saturday, August 5, 10 am – 2 pm**

Make a wonderful plantation herb basket for friends or family in this basket making workshop.

Cost is \$25 or \$20 for museum members plus \$26 material fee. Don't forget to bring a lunch

## **Heritage Craft Week July 10th-16th**

**Rug Braiding - Mary Ragno - Monday & Tuesday, July 10 & 11, 1-5pm and Sunday, July 16, 10am – 2pm**

Students will create a 2' x 3' oval rug using recycled wools and wool-blend fabrics. In three 4-hour lessons, students will choose colors, fabrics, develop snug braids, and then learn to lace braids to ensure a rug that sits flat. A 2' x 3' rug is the perfect size for learning all of the essential skills needed to carry you into a rewarding new hobby. Some hand-sewing is required. If you bring in your own material please bring wool or wool blends. There will be wool available to buy.

Cost \$75 for 3 session course, plus a \$17 Supply fee. (Material not included)

**Introduction to Needle Felting - Laura LaCroix - Wednesday July 12, 1pm**

Join Needle Felter Laura LaCroix of Charleston, Vermont for this very special workshop.. What is Needle Felting? Needle felting is a process which uses barbed needles to interlock wool fibers to form a more condensed material. Felting needles are used to entangle the fibers. As the felting needle is moved up and down, the barbs on the needles catch the scales of the wool and entangle them into place. Cost \$40 or \$35 for members.

**Faux Grain Painting – Wednesday, July 12, 10 to noon, & Thursday, July 13, 10 am to 1 pm**

Instructor Martha Kinney. Students will grain a pine box from start to finish, using modern day supplies, all water based for easy clean-up. They will use a variety of tools to decorate the boxes, such as, turkey feathers, sponges, paper, cork and other items generally found in the home. Cost \$45, or \$40 for members, plus \$30 in materials.

**Traditional Rug Hooking - Diane J. Moore - Friday July 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1pm – 4pm**

Enjoy time at the Old Stone House exploring traditional hooked rugs. We will hook a small project learning the basic techniques of hooking rugs with fabric pieces. Please bring small shears and a hook if you have one. If you have a pattern you want help with, bring it. Should you have a hoop or frame, bring it. Materials fee for the class may be-not more than 0-\$10. A pattern and strips are being donated and hooks may be borrowed or purchased.

Cost \$45 or \$40 for members

**Stonewall Building Workshop - Charles MacMartin - Saturday, July 15, 9 am – 4 pm**

Charles MacMartin of Queen City soil and stone, will be teaching an introductory workshop for homeowners and trades people to promote the beauty and integrity of stone. He will focus on the basic techniques of creating dry-laid garden retaining walls and free standing walls using field stone. During the workshop we will be working on an existing but falling down stone wall here at the museum. Cost \$100 or \$80 for members, please bring a lunch

**Complete Blacksmith Course for Beginners - Courtney Mead, Wyatt Mosely, Lynn Lang - Saturday & Sunday, July 15 & 16, 9am – 5pm**

Students will learn the basics of blacksmithing as they practice half-faced hammer blows, drawing out, twisting, leaf work and a simple weld. Cost \$150 or \$125 for members plus a \$25 Material Fee.

# Donations to the Museum April 15, 2016 to May 1, 2017

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John Washburn III

##### *Chester Carpenter*

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Sue Barnett  
Ted Von Shoppe  
Tony Daniels  
VT Teddy Bear Co

**In-Kind Contributions and Labor for Oxen Event and Moving Day**

Jane Greenwood  
Dennis Gibson  
Pat Davis  
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Orleans Fire Department  
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Rudy Kaufman  
Gary Lyman  
Maxwell Farms  
The Thompson Family  
Courtney Mead  
Pete's Greens  
Phil Brown  
Kingdom Creamery  
Tim & Doug's Ice Cream  
Steve Allen  
Rick Thomas  
Phil Brooks and Orleans County Sheriffs  
Bob Judd  
Brownington Congregational Church  
Roger Poirier  
Chris Braithwaite

Long Branch Wooden Bowls

**Cash Contributions**

Paul Daniels  
Jim Greenwood  
Ray Boutin  
Jasper Hill  
Poulin Grain  
Maxwell Neighborhood Farm

**Event Committee**

Ozzie & Judy Henchel  
Dave & Lindsay Sargent  
Barbara Thompson  
Dennis Gibson

**Exhibit**

Liz Nelson  
With contributions from Susanna  
Bowman & Ethan Featherston

**Art-Drawing of Oxen Moving Building**

Carol Michaud

**Food**

Caja Madera  
Bob Davis Pulled Pork  
Kingdom Creamery  
Nancy Rodgers' Doughnuts  
Heidi & Joyce Dux -  
Kettle Coffee

**Building Move**

Messier House Movers &  
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**Grammar School Project**

**Contractors**

Design: Rob Brown, Architect  
Janet Kane, Engineer  
Jan Lewandoski, Historic Time  
Frame Consultant  
J.P. Sicard-Brad Drake,  
Project Manager  
Green Timberworks  
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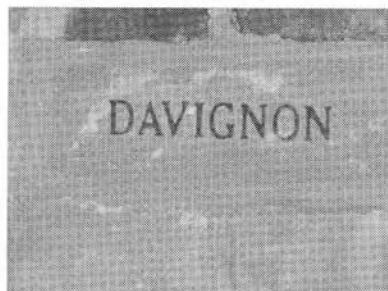
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Tom Cole  
Lee Cooper  
Dan Fantori  
Amanda Ferris  
Joey Ferris  
Colby Horne  
Michael Hutchins  
Torey Jellison  
Mariah Jellison  
Bob Judd  
Tyler Judd  
Hayden Lyford  
Gabe Michaud  
Lincoln Michaud  
Theresa Paige  
Ed & Suzanne Rogers  
Krystin Skoda  
Madison Skoda

## Please donate to restore the Grammar School!

We are still raising money for the restoration of the Grammar School. Before we can use the second floor, we need to build



a replica of the original bell tower for fire code compliance and a LULA lift for handi-capped access.

For a gift of \$500 we can have your family name engraved in a brick that will be in the chimney in the second floor Grange

Hall, or in a brick in the wall behind the wood cook stove in the Ladies Aid Dining Room. Share the cost with your relatives and make your family name a permanent part of this building.



Richard Long of Long Branch Wooden Bowls in Holland turned these large wooden bowls and platters from pieces of an ancient sugar maple that grew across the road from the Grammar School when Alexander Twilight taught there. People

who donate \$5,000 will receive the heirloom quality piece of their choice, and their name on a plaque in the Grammar School.

Inquire about scheduling your family reunion, birthday party, meeting, or special event at the Grammar School or the Hall House. Wedding reception dates still available at the Hall House for this season..

### Wish List

Dry sink for bathroom of Grammar School  
Volunteer tour guides, gardeners, educators  
White 100% cotton sheets

Windows 7 laptops or desktops  
Vacuum cleaners  
White 100% cotton sheets

Old photographs and memorabilia from the Orleans County Fair

*Bequests – Please remember us in your will, and help us preserve our historic buildings and create programs that celebrate Orleans County History.*

# 2017 exhibition highlights

Visitors to the Old Stone House Museum this summer will enjoy seeing many new items that have recently become part of its permanent collection. In addition to the Rufus Porter murals that provide a backdrop for a new exhibition of painted furniture and decorative art, the Museum is also proud to showcase unique materials related to the history of medicine and pharmacies here in the Northeast Kingdom, as well as a special exhibition celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Orleans County Fair.

Readers of our newsletter are already acquainted with the itinerant painter Rufus Porter who stenciled and painted landscapes directly onto the plaster walls of New England homes, schools and taverns in the early 1800s. Appropriately, the Porter murals donated to the Old Stone House Museum were removed from an Academy similar to the Orleans County Grammar School. Decorative antiques from the period will give visitors to the exhibition a feel for what life might have been like in Alexander Twilight's day. Items on display include: chairs and a rope bed with painted decorative finishes; a patchwork crazy quilt with various embroidery techniques showcasing the maker's skill; paintings on foil designed to glitter in candlelight and much more.

Thanks to the generosity of the Austin family, contents of the Austin Drug Store in Orleans were donated to the Museum when the pharmacy closed in 2016. The wealth of material will provide for numerous exhibitions for years to come. Included in this summer's exhibit will be tins of homeopathic medicines from the early 1900s, pharmaceutical equipment used to

prepare drugs for both animals and humans; a poison handbook used to record sale and intended use and much more — some to be used as teaching tools in our Time Traveler's Day Camp.

Finally, residents and visitors to Orleans County can not only



The first Orleans County Fair was held in 1867. This year the fair will celebrate its 150th anniversary. The museum is helping to develop an exhibit on the fair history, which will be displayed at the fair, which will be held August 16 - 20 this year. This museum season we will also display our fair artifacts in the Barton Room. There is an antique racing sulky in the Lawrence Barn.

look forward to the Barton Fair in August, but also get a preview of items that explore its rich history. Thanks to the generosity of the Utton Family, the Museum will display racing silks and racing account books from the estate of Will Utton. Utton not only ran the Roaring Brook Stables and lived in the

house adjacent to the main gate of the Barton fairgrounds. He was also a champion harness racer who raced all over New England, New York, and parts of Canada, and whose picture was featured in such magazines as *The Harness Horse* and *Hoof Beats* in the 1930s and 1940s.

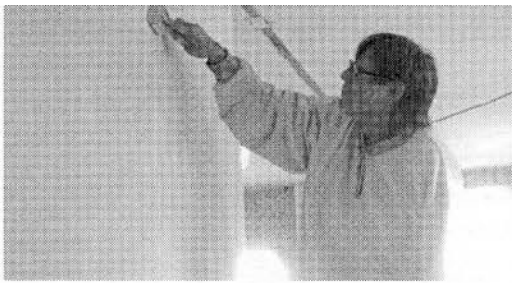
## Time Travelers' Camp explores medicine in the Kingdom

"Medicine In The Kingdom" is the 2017 theme for Time Travelers Camp. Campers will explore healthcare in the NEK from 1823 to the opening of North Country Hospital and its impact on farm and village life. They will be learning how the early settlers managed illness and wellness and about the people who delivered medical care in the past. Children aged 8-12 will work with experienced instructors and craftsmen and women during the week, and will choose four out of six possible workshops including Blacksmith, Basket Making, Medicinal Herbs, Early American Decorative Arts, Traditional Cooking, and Care of Animals. Campers may also learn to make their own ice-cream as well as participate in a variety of period games and amusements and listen to outside speakers. There will be a chance to exhibit their skills and projects to the public on Friday evening at the traditional Potluck 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, hone their own skills and help younger campers. Counselors should be 15 years of age, have prior camp experience and enjoy working with younger children. Should you know of anyone who would be interested in being a Counselor or Junior Counselor have them contact Bob at [education@oldstonehousemuseum.org](mailto:education@oldstonehousemuseum.org) or phone the museum at 754-2022.

Registration for Time Travelers' Camp has already begun. Camp is limited to 50 children on a first come, first serve basis.

Call or e-mail the Museum to request a brochure with registration form at [education@oldstonehousemuseum.org](mailto:education@oldstonehousemuseum.org). Registration forms may also be downloaded on the Museum's website, [www.oldstonehousemuseum.org](http://www.oldstonehousemuseum.org).



Bonnie Ingalls and her crew painted the interior and wallpapered the outside walls of the new bathroom.

plenty of outlets. Round Hill Fence Company has installed a fire alarm system. We are getting Comcast internet to support that system, and provide WIFI for education programs that will be held there, starting this July. Bob Hunt, museum education coordinator, has revived the old ceiling lights with old looking cord, keeping the original shades and covering the holes with a nice canopy,

Bill Roddy and his crew are building the chimney, which will go through the kitchen and into the back of the Grange Hall. The old bricks from the 1869 chimney rebuild will be in the second floor Grange Hall. For a \$500 donation you can help fund the chimney, and get your family name engraved on a brick. We encourage the old Brownington families to raise \$500 among descendants to get the old family names in the chimney, and feel ownership in the new life of this old town building.

By this summer we plan to have the first floor ready for use.



Mark Mudgett and his son restored the windows in their Glover shop.

windows, all 22 of them, have been in the Glover shop of Mark Mudgett and Son, being restored.

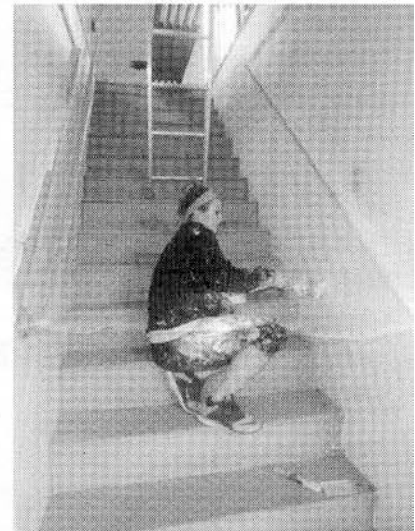
Meanwhile, J&S Electricians have wired the building for the 21<sup>st</sup> century with

The next phase will be replacing the original bell tower on the east side, which will serve as a fire resistant second exit for the second floor, first floor, and basement. And after that we will raise money for the small elevator, called a LULA. When we get the bell tower and the LULA, the Grange Hall can once again be used for 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation, and grandma or great grandma on a walker can easily attend. We can have contra dances and concerts that are accessible to everyone. None of these public events can be scheduled on the second floor until then.

Please, keep supporting this project. There are state grants we can apply for down the road to help with accessibility projects.

We hope that the restoration and renovation of the Grammar School/Grange Hall serves as an example of how an historical building can be renewed to fit modern needs and codes, while still honoring the integrity of the building and the history of the people who used it. Come see this beautiful old/new building yourself and let us know what you think.

The first event is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, June 11, at 3 p.m. We welcome everyone to hear Paul Wainwright, a Vermont Humanities Council speaker, talk about old New England Meeting Houses. From 1823 to 1841, when the Brown- ington Congregational Church was built next door, the Grammar School also was the Congregational Meeting House. This will be our annual Volunteer Tea, when we honor our wonderful volunteers, and welcome new ones. Come see the building and enjoy tea, rhubarb punch, and tasty refreshments.



The stairway paneling was covered with code compliant fire proof paint.

## THE OLD STONE HOUSE MUSEUM BULLETIN

The Orleans County Historical Society, Inc.  
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802-754-2022 information@oldstonehousemuseum.org  
website: www.oldstonehousemuseum.org

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Bob Hunt, Education Coordinator  
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## Gifts of Stock



*In Alexander Twilight's day, the term "gift of stock" may have brought to mind an unwieldy donation, a cow perhaps, or maybe an ox. Today, the term refers to something quite different. Did you know that the Orleans County Historical Society is able to receive transfers of stock as charitable donations? As a non-profit C-3 corporation, unlike a private individual, we pay no capital gains tax when we sell appreciated stock. The donor may request that such a gift be directed to the Endowment Fund, or support any of the Historical Society's activities, including the restoration of the Grammar School, or the special endowment fund being established to preserve the Historic District.*