

Banner Season

It was truly a remarkable year. At the Old Stone House Museum & Historic Village, we experienced a surge of interest in both the physical place and the remarkable stories it tells. We started the year with a major rebranding; updating and refreshing our look.

The energy of a new brand took us swiftly into the 2021 season, fully open and busier than ever. From May to October, we saw record numbers of visitors touring the museum, trail and dirt roads. People from all over the country and even abroad came to learn about the story of Alexander Lucius and Mercy Ladd Merrill Twilight and the great, progressive educational hub they built in Brownington. From Juneteenth to the Twilight Stars Party, our events were brimming with attendees. Our educational programs were more of the same, bustling with adults and children, and even reaching broader audiences online.

We thank our supporters for helping us open for a banner season. To those thinking about making a donation—perhaps your first—be assured that your generosity has a real, tangible and important impact. We need your help to continue to preserve our unique local history, educate our community and inspire all whom we reach. Thank you.

—Molly Veysey, Executive Director



Preservation



Our volunteers and interns contributed more than 760 hours in service with staff this year on a variety of programs and projects.

- **Creation** of a brand new exhibit on African American Alexander Lucius Twilight featuring his chest, bible and more
- **Development** of an inclusive language guide for the museum staff and volunteers
- **Repairs** to broken doors as well as planing and adjustment of other doors to latch properly
- **Acquisition** of Herrick Collection and Cartee Collection
- **Established** the Twilight Legacy Fund for Buildings, Grounds and Collections and contributed more than \$20,000 to it so far in 2021
- **New policies** for Board of Trustees oversight of our collections and a Disaster Planning and Preparedness workshop held for Vermont historical societies
- **Publication** of our research widely in places such as *The North Star Monthly*, Association of American Colleges and Universities *Liberal Education Blog* and *The Barton Chronicle*

Merrill Twilight Report

Education



We offered a wide variety of educational programs in varying formats to ensure the safety of our students and staff with Covid19 still present.

- Our “to go” **Kids’ Friday** program maxed out all eleven weeks (25+ students) with nearly 300 children served and 250+ free lunches handed out in partnership with Green Mountain Farm-to-School
- The museum’s **Homeschool/Children’s Enrichment Program** has provided Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM)-based outdoor programming for more than 200 children (and counting)
- Two weeks of fully enrolled **Time Traveler’s Day Camp** (40+ students) with returning camp staff and two amazing resident artists Anna Stange (leading our music program) and Leah French Hamilton (leading the theater program)
- We taught our **Alexander Lucius Twilight Curricula on Equity and Inclusion** (based upon the National Academy for the Social Studies standards) in more than 40 area preschools throughout the Northeast Kingdom while also providing teacher trainings monthly
- Our one-mile **Twilight Educational Trail** provides interpretation of both natural and human history
- More than 300 people learned about the astronomy of the late summer night sky at our **Twilight Stars Party** held in partnership with the Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium
- We attracted hundreds of adults to our adult enrichment programs that include **Paint N’ Sip, Taste of Blacksmithing, Brownington Beekeepers, Basket Weaving, 2021 Speakers Series** and **Hooked and Braided Rug Weaving**

Inspiration



We engage with artists, leaders and community members to provide inspiration for every age level and interest in life.

- Kick-off of our **Open for Interpretation** art celebration, with selection of four teaching artists to be announced this November! Their projects will help educate local students and animate our Twilight Educational Trail
- Thousands of visitors **touring the museum** in one of our busiest seasons yet, with tour reservations now available online and the majority of tours given by our dedicated volunteer tour guides.
- Hundreds of pounds of **fresh produce from our Giving Gardens** donated to those in need at our roadside stand at 109 Old Stone House Road and through local organizations
- **More than a thousand guests** took part in our public events, from our Juneteenth Open House and Twilight Exhibit Unveiling and Old Stone House Day to our July Fourth Frederick Douglass Reading and Beyond and Alexander Twilight Day Apple and Cheese Festival
- Free **year round access** to our grounds, Twilight Educational Trail, Prospect Hill and Wifi HotSpot