

the Chronicle INDEX

Chronicle History	12
Crossword Puzzle	9
Kids' Corner	9
Kingdom Calendar	31-33
Letters to the Editor	4-5
Obituaries	24-30
Perimeter	3
Sudoku Puzzle	5

Advertising Sections

Auctions & Real Estate	24-25
Auto	26-28
Building Trades	30
Classified Ads	34-35
Hair	10
Jobs	20
Lawn & Garden	21
Notices	22-23
Restaurants & Entertainment	31-33

Search for the Word

Find the

U P S I D E D O W N

letters scattered throughout the issue to answer the this week's word search.

This week's puzzle:

"At least half of Earth's oxygen comes from the _____."

The answer to the June 1 puzzle:
JUNE

Old Stone House celebrates Juneteenth

by Trisha Ingalls

BROWNINGTON — Juneteenth, short for June 19, commemorates the end of slavery; or, more specifically, the day two years following abolition when the news finally reached enslaved people in Galveston, Texas. It has been celebrated every year since 1866, usually with prayers, singing, educational events, and other festivities, and was made a federal holiday in 2021. In Brownington at the Old Stone House Museum, Juneteenth will be a day of reflection, celebration, and the unveiling of a new exhibit curated by Spencer Kuchle, associate director of collections and interpretations.

The central figure of the exhibit and the museum itself is Alexander Twilight, the complex and often mysterious teacher and minister credited with being the first African American to graduate from a United States university — Middlebury College in 1823. He was also the first African American elected to the state Legislature, having been elected to the Vermont House of Representatives in 1836.

The census taken during Mr. Twilight's youth listed his father as African American and his mother as white, so young Alexander Twighlight, an indentured servant in his childhood, was considered to be from a mixed race family in Corinth. Even his unique surname, Twilight — taken by his father after earning his freedom from slavery — represents a poetic mixture of light and dark. However, years later when he married his wife, Mercy, a white woman, the census listed their family as white. According to Executive Director Molly Veysey, we do not know for certain how Mr. Twilight viewed his own racial identity.

"It's surmised, at least, through his sermons and writings that he was not somebody who was going to adhere to one identity box," she said. "He let people perceive what they were going to perceive of him."

Mr. Twilight was progressive for his time. He educated girls, believed in hands-on education and experimentation, and got in trouble from the school board for not making church attendance compulsory. He and his wife had no children of their own; rather, his life's work was dedicated to educating the approximately 3,000 students who attended his school through the years.

"He lived this life that was very much focused on the elevation that can happen in a person's life as a result of a good education," Ms. Veysey said.

His story is of national importance but has flown under the radar. According to Ms. Veysey, there are a few possible reasons for that.

"I think, first of all, it's our geography that can make it hard for our stories to get out," she said. "I also think that, because he was African American, those stories have not necessarily taken priority in our national narrative."

To elevate Mr. Twilight's story, the museum is opening a new exhibit on June 19: "In a Different Hue — Race and Representation." Mr. Kuchle described the exhibit as participatory, saying that it is designed to encourage community



A new portrait of Alexander Twilight hangs in the Vermont State House in Montpelier. Artist Katie Runde's version gives Twilight a darker skin tone than the portrait the new one replaces.

Photo courtesy of the Old Stone House Museum

conversations around race and difference, so it uses objects collected by the museum for discussion. The exhibit will include questions for the audience to respond to, which will be collected and reviewed by Mr. Kuchle as part of his ongoing research.

"At a time when there are no agreed-upon facts, people are butting heads over what's truth, we are using primary sources to share those histories that are really consigned to the lower shelves of history, and are often forgotten," Mr. Kuchle said. "Telling those stories from voices that are often unheard is really important."

One of those primary sources was a portrait done of Mr. Twilight in his lifetime depicting him as a white man; recently, a new portrait of Mr. Twilight was unveiled at the state house. The work was commissioned by the Friends of the Vermont State House and completed by artist Katie Runde. The new portrait features Mr. Twilight with a darker skin tone. Mr. Kuchle said he hopes that the new exhibit will, in part, show how political, social, and cultural interests influence artistic representations.

The exhibit will open at 11 a.m. on June 19, with words from the curator, followed by a reception and open house. The day will also include children's activities, including painting self-portraits in the education building, and a mock ice cream parlour in the child and family exhibit center that will teach children about sittings. More information can be found at the museum's website — oldstonehousemuseum.org.

Laminate Floor SALE Made in the USA
Stop in for details!
 Lapierre's Shop Local and Be Safe
 Flooring & Decorating Center
 (802) 334-8878 • 378 East Main St., Newport, VT
 www.lapierreshomedecorating.com

Annual Quilters' Garage Sale!
 June 16th-25th
 1250+ bolts of fabric.
 All quilting related things.

23 Meadow Lane Circle North Troy, VT
 (802) 744-2795
 Mon.-Sat. 9:30-5:30 • Closed Sunday
 Check out our web page at: www.countrythymevermont.com

Brault's Meat Market & Slaughterhouse, LLC
 CUSTOM & COMMERCIAL BUTCHERING
 CUTTING & SMOKING
 RETAIL SALES
 Roaster pigs available, call to schedule!
 We sell BEEF JERKY!
 Anthony Brault
 TEL. 802-744-2271
 FAX: 802-744-2383
 ROUTE 100 • P.O. BOX 95
 TROY, VT 05868

5025 U.S. Route 5 Newport, VT 05855
 All About Home
 www.AllAboutHomeVT.com
 Like us on Facebook

Wright's Marine & Welding Service
 • Boat Repair - ALL MODELS
 • Spring Startups
 • Trailer Repair
 • Oil Changes
 • Tune-ups
 Over 30 Years Welding Experience
 MARINE PARTS DEALER
PROP REPAIR!
 Byron Wright, Owner • (802) 766-5091 • 2844 Salem Derby Rd., Derby

ORLEANS COUNTY Property Transfers
 can be found on the Chronicle's website
 www.bartonchronicle.com