

BULLETIN



Number 109

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

Spring 2006

A PETITION

Whereas The Orleans County Historical Society is a membership organization, beholden to its members for its *Original Incorporation* and its *Life Blood* and *Fiscal Integrity*. And

Whereas The *term of membership*, for all members who are not lifetime members, is *one year*, expiring on the thirty-first day of December of the year in which dues were last paid. And

Whereas The *Annual Membership Drive* begins on the first of March in any calendar year when *Letters* and *Renewal Envelopes* are mailed to all and sundry members and friends. And

Whereas **The Privileges of Membership include voting privileges at the Annual Meeting, free admission to the Museum, a 10% discount in the Museum Shop, advance notice of museum events and classes, a discount on classes, and a subscription to the BULLETIN.** And

Whereas Some members are unwavering in their support and keen to renew and some are a little hesitant, the why and wherefore thereof we are not given to know;

Therefore be it Resolved That *we do mightily thank* those members who have renewed for year 2006, and *we do petition, solicit, entreat, and court* our members and friends who have not yet *joined, rejoined or enlisted* that they do *consider, contemplate, cogitate, deliberate, and ponder* what the Old Stone House Museum means to themselves, their families, and the community at large and that they find their *Membership Envelope*, or request another if needed, fill in the form, write a check, and entrust it to the care of the U.S. Postal Service to be delivered here in Brownington.

Thank You.

NEK History Fair

Historical research was on display Tuesday, March 21, at the Northeast Kingdom History Fair, with 130 projects produced by over 250 students in grades six through 12 set up in the big arena at IROC in Derby. Students from North Country Union High School, Orleans Elementary, Glover Community School, Coventry Village School, Irasburg Elementary, and Brownington Central School participated in the fifth annual fair organized by the Old Stone House Museum.

The students arrived in the morning to set up their projects, and then gathered to listen to a thought provoking debate about the Death Penalty conducted by North Country Union High School students Kate Page, Alyssa DeMoritt, Matt Girard and Martin Rollins. Then the students went back to school, and the fair was open for public viewing. During the afternoon the judges arrived to evaluate the projects.

IROC donated the use of their arena for the day, and many volunteers contributed their time and energy to make the day a success. Boy Scouts helped set up the 62 tables and 200 chairs. Hostesses greeted people at the door and arranged refreshments during the day. Twenty-seven members of the community served as judges, interviewing the students when they arrived back at 6 PM. And the Brownington Homemakers served delectable cookies to the students and families during the evening.

A total of \$1300 in savings bonds was awarded to the students with the first and second place entries. Each received a \$50 savings bond, donated by area banks, organizations and businesses, to help fund future education expenses. In addition, IROC gave a day pass to every participant in the History Fair.

(continued on p. 7.)

2006 Events & Programs

SPRING WORK BEE, Saturday, May 13, 9 AM – 3 PM

Friends of the Museum will convene to help with the annual spring clean-up of the Museum and grounds and to share a meal at noon. New friends are welcome. Call 754-2022 for details.

OLD STONE HOUSE MUSEUM OPENS, Wednesday, May 17, 11 AM

SPRING FIELD DAY, Tuesday, May 16, 9AM – 2PM

Students from area schools enjoy interactive demonstrations of old-time trades and skills. (Museum closed to the public.)

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER TEA, Tuesday, June 6, 3 PM

An old-fashioned tea will be served to honor Museum volunteers. Ms. Jeanne Brink of Barre, Vt., will speak on Western Abenaki history and culture. Please join us!

ANTIQUÉ GAS & STEAM ENGINE SHOW, June 17 & 18, Saturday, 9 AM – 4 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 2 PM

Exhibits and demonstrations of antique engines, Museum tours and a picnic lunch. Sponsored by the Vermont Gas & Steam Engine Association.

BIG BAND BENEFIT DANCE, Sunday, June 24, 8 PM to midnight

The Irasburg Town Hall will be swinging to the music of the *St. Johnsbury Big Band 2006*. Proceeds will benefit the Old Stone House Museum and programs. **JOIN US!**

ANNUAL MEETING of the Orleans County Historical Society, Sunday, July 9, 1 PM

At the Brownington Congregational Church. Howard Coffin will speak on *Vermont and Human Freedom*.

HERITAGE CRAFT WORKSHOPS, July 10 - 15

Traditional crafts and skills will be taught in small groups at the Museum. Call 754-2022 for details.

TIME TRAVELERS DAY CAMP, July 24 - 28

A history-based day camp for young people ages 8-12. Call 754-2022 for details.

OLD STONE HOUSE DAY, Sunday, August 13, 10 AM – 5 PM

Museum open house plus demonstrations of traditional crafts and trades, farmer's market, children's activities and games and a picnic lunch. Local history and genealogy will be the focus this year.

FALL HARVEST DAY, Tuesday, September 26, 9 AM – 2 PM

Students from area schools participate in a variety of harvest time activities. (Museum closed to the public.)

OLD STONE HOUSE MUSEUM CLOSES, Sunday, October 15, 5 PM

FALL CRAFT CLASSES, Saturdays in late September & October

Details to be announced. Call 754-2022.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, Friday & Saturday, November 25

Activities and music of the season for young and old. Museum shop open. Call 754-2022 for details.

Quilt raffle 2006

Cathie Sheehan of Albany, Vt. has donated a beautiful quilt for the Old Stone House Museum's **2006 QUILT RAFFLE**. Tickets are \$2 each or 10 for \$10.

This queen-sized quilt, *Climbing to the Stars*, was inspired by two classic quilt blocks. In the center of the quilt are blocks based on the Jacob's Ladder design; these blocks climb to the border of Variable Star blocks, all of the stars being in shades of red.

Climbing to the Stars quilt is reversible, with the back being larger Jacob's Ladder style blocks with a border of fabric strips.

This quilt is machine washable in cold water, gentle cycle, using Woolite or Quilt Soap and Color Catcher. It

can be dried in the dryer or dried flat out of direct sunlight. *Climbing to the Stars* was designed and made by Cathie Sheehan and machine quilted by Sherry Greenwood.

The drawing will be held on October 15, 2006, the last day the museum is open. Tickets may be purchased by mail by sending a check, with your name and phone number or email address, to: The Old Stone House Museum, 109 Old Stone House Rd., Brownington, Vt. 05860. Tickets are also available at the Twilight House where the quilt is on display. Many thanks to Cathie Sheehan for her generous donation.

Annual Meeting

In a radical departure from tradition, the Annual Meeting of the Orleans County Historical Society will be held on Sunday, July 9 this year, not on Old Stone House Day. The meeting will be at the Brownington Congregational Church and will begin at 1 PM with a talk by Howard Coffin of Montpelier.

Mr. Coffin is well known for his work on the Civil War and is a popular speaker. His books include *Full Duty: Vermonters in the Civil War*; *Nine Months to Gettysburg*; *The Battered Stars*; and, with Jane Curtis and Will Curtis, *Guns Over the Champlain Valley: A Guide to Historic Military Sites and Battlefields*. Mr. Coffin's talk, Vermont and Human Freedom, will include slavery, the Vermont Constitution, the abolition movement, and 19th century Vermonter's views on race. He will be available after the talk to sell and sign his books. This program is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Vermont Humanities Council. It is free and open to the public.

After the talk, the Historical Society's business meeting will be called to order and will include reports on the past year, election of trustees and officers for 2006-2007, and discussion of future plans. We hope that by separating the annual meeting from Old Stone House Day, when many of our most active members are busy in the museum and around the grounds, more of our members will be able to participate in the meeting. Please join us!

Volunteer Tea

The Old Stone House Museum's annual Volunteer Tea will be held on Tuesday, June 6 at 3 PM at the Brownington Grange. All museum volunteers are cordially invited to attend.

The speaker will be Jeanne Brink of Barre, Vermont. Ms. Brink draws upon her Abenaki family history and experience to serve as a Native American consultant to schools and organizations. She is a traditional basketmaker and coauthor of a Western Abenaki language guide. Ms. Brink holds a master's degree in Native American Studies and she will speak on the history and culture of the Western Abenaki. Her topics include the Abenaki way of life, the importance of elders and children, the environment, and the continuance of lifeways and traditions.

Please join us for an informative talk, some special refreshments, and an opportunity to visit with other volunteers. Call 754-2022 for more information.

A correction

In the fall 2005 *Bulletin*, in a report on a bequest from the estate of Reynolds Hilliard of Derby, we stated incorrectly that he had passed away in November 2005. Mr. Hilliard died in November 2004.

2005 Annual Fund Drive . . . and other gifts

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Collectors Fair



Norm Lewis of Danville demonstrates a double-acting air pump from his collection.

Over 20 collectors displayed their collections of everything from butter boxes to World War II memorabilia in the Orleans Elementary School Gym on Sunday, February 19. Many of the collectors are members of the Antique Gas and Steam Engine Association, and look

forward to this indoor winter get-together to catch up with each other, and admire a whole new batch of stuff.

Other local collectors joined them, with previously unseen collections to be admired. Ricky Mallary from Westmore brought in a collection of oilcans he inherited from his grandmother. Ricky's wife, Nancy, served food to the crowd, and was also a big hit with her homemade sauerkraut and pickles.

Folks of all ages wandered through the gym throughout the day, looking at the variety of stuff and engaging in conversation with the collectors, who are quite a talkative bunch. Some things were for sale, like old board games, puzzles and marbles. Most were treasures on exhibit only, like the array of chainsaws from the earliest to the more modern, and a tiny working steam engine.

Danny Gore (alias Norm Lewis) brought information and propaganda about Vermont's unincorporated gores. Fred Webster of Coventry displayed some antique furniture built locally. Chet and Kathy Carpenter of Newport exhibited their albums of old postcards.

Bob Williams of West Burke, who is a member of the Gas and Steam Engine Association, helps to organize the Collectors Fair every year. The Orleans Elementary School donates the use of their space, and custodian Mike Tanguay helps us set up the tables.

It was a fun day, and a wonderful opportunity to hang out with some of the great old characters who make Vermont such a special place.

Big band benefit dance set for June 24

Brush up on your waltz and put on your dancin' shoes. The Old Stone House Museum is holding a Big Band Dance at the Irasburg Town Hall on Saturday, June 24, from 8 until midnight. The 19-piece St. Johnsbury Big Band 2006 will be bringing the classic music of the 30s and 40s back to life for our museum fund-raiser.

It's a BYOB affair, with snacks and mixers provided. The cost is \$25 per couple, or \$15 per person. World War II vets and their wives or widows get in for World War II prices.

Many of the Big Band greats, like Duke Ellington, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Woody Herman, Cab Calloway, and Tony Pastor with Betty and Rosemary Clooney have played in Orleans County. They took a break from the Boston/Montreal train to stop off in Newport, and play at the old International Club, which boasted the largest dance hall in New England. Emily M. Nelson describes the International Club in her book *Frontier Crossroads, the Evolution of Newport, Vermont*.

The building, which was located near Blanchard Avenue in Newport, measured 220 feet long and 60 feet wide, and had a polished maple dance floor that could accommodate up to 2,000 people. It drew an audience from a 150-mile radius on both sides of the border, and hosted many visiting and local bands from 1937 until it was torn down in 1953. The crowds diminished after World War II, and the big hall was closed, with only the lounge used for dances and parties. Owners Marjorie and Theron Meader took apart the dance floor themselves, because they knew no one else would be so careful with it.

Here's your chance to dance to those big band sounds again. If you've never had the opportunity to dance to Big Band music, come give it a try. If you don't want to dance, just come to hear the music and visit with friends, in a beautifully restored historic town hall.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the Old Stone House Museum at 754-2022.

NEK History Fair winners *(continued from p. 1)*

6th Grade Exhibit: 1st place Hannah Bapp from Brownington with *The Underground Railroad*, 2nd place Brian Mosher, Lance Buffie, and Orion Ferland from Brownington with *The Battle of Antietam in the Civil War*, and 3rd place Alyssa Hamel from Brownington with *Ann Story*.

7th Grade Exhibit: 1st place Danika Gallup and Holly Lalime from Orleans with *Taking a Stand, or Seat, in History: Rosa Parks*, 2nd place Trisha Morley and Marjorie Mason from Orleans with *The Rough Road to Freedom*, and 3rd place Schuyler Kepler and John Rodgers from Glover with “*Hold that Liquor Down*”- *Prohibition: the National and Vermont Scene*.

8th Grade Exhibit: 1st place Kristen Hardgrove from Glover with *George Bush and Adolph Hitler: Is there a Connection?*, 2nd place Mark Joubert and Tom Sargeant of Orleans with “*Viva La Resistance*.” *The Stand Against Nazi Germany*, and 3rd place Kristopher Viens of Orleans with *Ernesto A. Miranda: The Criminal That Changed Our Lives*. Honorable Mention went to Derek Piette from Irasburg with *World War II: The Terrible War*, Samantha Cochran, Aimmi Mathews and Stella Smith of Glover with “*Get Back to Work!*” – *Child Labor: Past and Present*, and Woody Reil of Glover with *Father of Manitoba: Louis Reil*.

9th Grade Exhibit: 1st place Maggie Jones, Lindsay Howe, and Danielle Cogan from NCUHS with *Women’s Rights*, 2nd place Russell Primeau and Houston Judd from NCUHS with *Peasants and Czarist Russia*, and 3rd place Jessica Poulin and Amy Derick from NCUHS with *Auschwitz*.

11th Grade Exhibit: 1st place Meghan Pare, Katie Staniforth, and Brittany Isabella from NCUHS with *Charles Brace*, 2nd place Amy Newton and Zoe Pierce from NCUHS with *Marian Anderson*, and third place Kaylana Blindow & Catherine Dumont from NCUHS with *Title 9*. Honorable Mention went to Joey Madey, Adam Flynn and Theron Mathews from NCUHS for *Darwin and the Theory of Evolution*, and to Shaun Farrell and Agnieszka Kurzej from NCUHS for *Kazimierz Pulaski: Our Liberty and Yours*.

Junior High Media: 1st place Dylan Bodette and Callan Roberts from Glover with *Black-Balling Black Athletes: Jackie Robinson, Jesse Owens, & Jim Thorpe*.



At the History Fair Rosa and Mark Mohrmann of Coventry examine the 1st place exhibit *Women’s Rights* by ninth graders Maggie Jones, Lindsay Howe and Danielle Cogan of North Country Union High School.

Senior High Media: 1st place Mike Pinard and Andre Bosco from NCUHS with *The History of Rap Music*.

8th Grade Essay: 1st place Emma Mohrmann from Coventry with her recreation of a historical journal titled “*This Being the Diary of Peggy Anne Weaver*” or a *Recording of the Oregon Trail Journey*.

There were two class exhibits on display. The Coventry eighth grade exhibited their ongoing diorama of the United States, and a North Country Union High School twelfth grade class filled a table with examples of people who took a stand in history, following the theme for the national and state History Day contests.

Contributors to the savings bonds awarded to the winners were: North Country Union High School, the Civil War Roundtable, Glover Historical Society, Community National Bank, Passumpsic Savings Bank, Chittenden Bank, TD Banknorth, Lyndonville Savings Bank, Westmore Ladies Aid, Brownington Homemakers, American Legion Post 23, Poulos Insurance, Coldwell Banker All Seasons Realty, *the Chronicle*, Hayes Ford, Sid & Joan Huguenin, and Jim Gosnell.

Teachers participating included Gary Johnson, Lana O’Neill, Andrew Johnson, Tom Huntington, Martha-Ann Rhodes, and Elizabeth Grout from NCUHS, George McKelvey from Orleans, Gerry Piette from Glover, Sheldon Hurd from Irasburg, Elaine Collins from Brownington, and John White from Coventry. Jethro Hayman and Annalei Babson coached the debate team.

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

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The people's history museum of Orleans County

THE OLD STONE HOUSE MUSEUM BULLETIN

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April Workshops

The five Saturdays in April have been busy at the Old Stone House Museum this year, with special spring workshops and regular meetings of the spinners, quilters and knitters groups. This month that wavers between winter and spring has been a good time for local people to expand their knowledge of traditional skills. Classes have been offered in Needle Felting, Rug Braiding, Apple Grafting and Pruning, Basket Making, Knitting, Dowsing, and Quilting.

Garden Club: *the Eaton House Garden*

The 19th Century Display Garden at the Cyrus Eaton House is maintained by the Four Seasons Garden Club of Orleans County, Vt. The club members researched shrubs and flowers appropriate to the time period when designing and planting this garden in 1980. Each spring and fall members have clean up days for the garden, and plant annuals in June to add color during the summer season. During the growing season members make weekly visits to keep the garden beautiful for Old Stone House Museum visitors.