The War of 1812
Hello or Good Day?
Fall Antiques Weekend
Early Auto Touring at OSV
The Family Circus Revisits OSV
Getting the Bugs Out
Gertrude Wells Brennan
Noticing the Subtleties of the Season

A message from President and CEO Jim Donahue

I have learned a lot from our Village interpreters here in the last few years. But no lesson has been more valuable than to slow down and notice the little things. Because it is the little things that can be the first hint that bigger and more important things are on the way.

Coming from a business background, I am used to reading expert advice on how to “see around corners,” and how to go “from good to great.” These are good tips, but after working with the seasoned staff at OSV, I realize that the first key to success is simply to notice the subtleties of your surroundings.

Take the arrival of spring, for example: Whenever anyone asks me what spring is like at the Village, I state the obvious – lambs! (See more about lambs on page 21). But when I asked Village staff about their favorite harbingers of spring, I was amazed at the variety of their answers and the detailed of their observations. Clearly, they are in tune with the rhythms and subtleties of the seasons in our 19th-century Village.

Here’s a sampling of OSV staff “signs of spring”:

- The purple snowdrop flowers that grow along a sun-warmed south-facing brick wall. I am always surprised by how early they come up, often surrounded by snow.” – Deb Friedman, Vice President of Public Program

- The maple sugar run and mud season – an inevitability on the farm.” – Bruce Craven, Assistant Coordinator for Women’s Crafts

- “Red-winged blackbirds in the water near the exit, I love their call! And the witch hazel shrub blooming in March near the entrance, it’s snowy and wonderfully fragrant!” – Roberta McClaud, Horticulturist

- “Everyone will say the animals and young birds; others buds and blossoms; some may even say mud. So I will say the little miller moths that are the first bugs of spring” – Tom Keelhefer, Curator of Historic Trades, Mills, and Mechanical Arts

- “Red-winged blackbirds in the water near the exit, I love their call! And the witch hazel shrub blooming in March near the entrance, it’s snowy and wonderfully fragrant!” – Rob Lyon, Lead Interpreter, Blacksmith Shop

Now that you know what to look for, come join us for a spring visit. Could it be that spring’s early arrival is a hint of bigger, better things ahead for the Village this year? Let’s hope so!

Welcome to the SPRING EDITION of our VISITOR magazine. We hope that you will learn new things and come to visit the Village soon. There is always something fun to do at Old Sturbridge Village.

Vol. LII No. 1 Spring 2012

On the Cover: OSV Intern Sasha Fisher gets ready for spring on the farm.

Old Sturbridge Village, a museum and learning resource of New England life, invites each visitor to find meaning, pleasure, relevance, and inspiration through the exploration of history.

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President and CEO has Donahue
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The Old Sturbridge Village is a 19th century living history museum and learning resource of New England life, invites each visitor to find meaning, pleasure, relevance, and inspiration through the exploration of history.

Annual Membership:
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• Annual membership events
• Advance notice of Village programs and events
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• Special member rates for many of the Village’s live-based programs
• Member-only events

To join, to return, to provide a change of address, or to contact the Membership Department, call 800-SAVE-1830.
Looking back 200 Years

By Tom Kelleher
Curator of Historic Trade, Mill, and Mechanical Arts

The War of 1812

On the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, it remains one of America’s least understood conflicts. Yet it gave us our National Anthem, and war heroes who became our seventh and ninth presidents. It also resulted in near collapse of the Union, the burning of the capital, and the end of the old Federalist Party.

So, what was it all about? Europe had been at war since 1791, and neutral Yankees grew wealthy by supplying goods to both Great Britain and Napoleon's France. Britannia ruled the waves, and channeled all trade through British ports. France then closed European ports. Adding insult to injury, the British offered stopped American ships, seized any seamen they thought were subjects of King George, and then forced them to serve in the Royal Navy.

President Jefferson naively hoped to force Great Britain to redeem American pride and freedom of the seas, and halted to seize neighboring Canada and Florida. Land hunger led to clashes with trans-Appalachian Indian tribes, who rose up under Shawnee Chief Tecumseh. In 1811 Territorial Governor William Henry Harrison defeated the Shawnee at Tippecanoe Creek in present-day Indiana.

President James Madison was more aggressive toward the British. When Britain failed to respond quickly enough to American demands in the spring of 1812, America declared war. Ironically, at the same time, Parliament actually revoked its restrictions on American trade. But since news took several weeks to travel across the Atlantic, it was too late. War had begun.

From the start, the war went badly for the U.S. Attempts to take Canada failed miserably. British troops burned Washington as Madison and the government fled. The British pushed on, but were forced to withdraw when they failed to take Fort McHenry in Baltimore harbor. This battle was immortalized by Francis Scott Key's poem, "The Defense of Fort McHenry," which became "The Star-Spangled Banner.

Americans took heart where they could, which was about. Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry of Rhode Island defeated a British flotilla on Lake Erie, reporting, "We have met the enemy and they are ours..." Our tiny navy could not hope to defeat the mighty British fleet at sea, so Americans sought out single enemy vessels. Among the most famous victories was that of the USS Constitution over the British frigate Guerriere, which earned Constitution her nickname, "Old Ironsides."

In 1814 Federalist Party members from all the New England states gathered in Hartford, Connecticut, for an anti-war convention, where radical delegates demanded secession, and the moderate majority called for revisions to the U.S. Constitution, seeking to limit Presidents to one-four year term, and rotating the offices among citizens from different states. Four of the first five Presidents were from Virginia. They also wanted a two-thirds majority in Congress to approve any embargoes, trade restrictions, or declarations of war.

But the Hartford Convention's demands turned out to be too much. As they met, peace delegates from both America and Britain signed a treaty in Europe. Tired of the expense and bloodshed, both sides agreed to call it a draw.

The war was not really over! Trans-Atlantic communication took a long time, remember? Weeks after the peace treaty, the greatest battle of the war was fought. On January 8, 1815, General Andrew Jackson repulsed a British attack on New Orleans, inflicting thousands of casualties, while incurring relatively few American pride was restored, and some even imagined that the war was really a victory!

In that patriotic atmosphere, a time of political consensus called the "Era of Good Feelings" ensured. Democratic reforms opened up voting rights, and the "heroes" of New Orleans and Tippecanoe eventually rode their victories into the White House. And despite the British "dumping" cheap goods on the American market and a brief monetary "panic" in 1819, widespread peace and prosperity returned for a generation.

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Hello or Good Day?

The history of our terms of greeting

By Tom Kelleher, Curator of Historic Trades, Mills, and Mechanic Arts

Even though most of the time our costumed historians readily acknowledge the 21st century, we try to convey something of 19th-century New England language. We greet people with “good day” instead of “hi,” we say “receipt” instead of “recipe,” and we call Asa Knight’s emporium a “country store,” not the later “general store.” Why do we try to avoid “hi” and “hello” as greetings, in favor of a question about someone’s health, such as “How do you do?” or a greeting that wishes them a “good day?”

It may surprise some that “hi” is actually the older word, a parallel form of “hey.” From at least the 1400s, it was an exclamation (almost more a noise than a word) used to draw attention. However, it does not appear in 19th-century dictionaries, and it is not until the mid-20th century that it turns up as a greeting, which is how most of us use it today. Noah Webster’s American Dictionary of 1828 (or even 1800, for that matter) does not contain the word “hi.” It does, however, define “hey” as “an exclamation of joy or mutual exclamation.”

So, in the 1830s you might call across the fields, “Hey Tom!” or perhaps even “HiTom!” to get my attention, or “Hey, I’m glad to see you!” or even “Hey, look out!” But you would not greet me that way face-to-face... unless perhaps I had ignored your repeated greetings of “good afternoon” and you emphatically wanted to get my attention.

As for “hello,” it too was originally more of an exclamation than a greeting, but it did not appear until the 1880s. Like “hi,” it was a shout to call attention or express surprise. In the late 19th century, it became the “standard” American greeting on the newly invented telephone. Think about people for the first time speaking to someone nowhere near them! A caller then needed an inquiring outcry on a telephone (“Hello? Are you there?”) and not just the more cordial greeting of “hello,” that we use on and off the phone today. Many today still use “hello” as a questioning exclamation, as in your “Hel-LO!” to me when I fail to catch something obvious.

“Hello” is actually derived from “hallo” or “hallows,” which came from the High German “hâl,” the emphatic imperative of “hâl,” meaning “to fetch,” used especially in hailing a ferryboat operator. One of the earliest references in print for “halloa” is 1840, when Charles Dickens wrote in Barnaby Rudge, “‘Holloa there! Hugh!’ roared John.” In an 1870s novel, Harriet Beecher Stowe had a character say, “Hulloah, bub!” to get someone’s attention. Yet, in similar forms, it is even older than that. In the late 1500s, Shakespeare used “hollo” as an exclamation, and in the 17th and 18th centuries, people “hallooed” to call dogs to the chase, or get someone’s attention at a distance. Think about it: It is a sound that indeed carries over a distance, and lends itself to shouting.

Today’s widespread use of “hi” and “hello” as greetings may be indications of the erosion of politeness in modern society, and a love of brevity. Instead of greeting people with a pleasant wish — “Good Day” — as our forebears did, we substitute a mere vulgar cry for attention. So in the 1830s, to “hey” or “halloo” me to my face would be quite rude! Indeed, how often today do people ask, “How ya doin’?” but don’t wait for an answer?

In conclusion, I will just say “good-bye,” which is a polite good wish, an alternate of the parting “God be with you!”
By the Fireside

Exhibit on view through May 28

Time is running out to see The Fireside: Decorating the New England Parlor Hearth, 1770-1840, on view until May 28. In an age before television sets came to dominate Americans’ living rooms, the hearth was a source of warmth and light, was the focal point of the parlor. In the 18th and 19th century, the parlor was the public face of the home, where families entertained guests and spent leisure hours. And since the hearth was the focal point of the room, what better place to display art?

The OSV exhibit was covered by New York Times antiques columnist Eve Kahn, who wrote, “Cultural life in early-19th-century America revolved around the least functional fireplaces. In well-appointed houses, everyone gathered at the parlor mantelpieces; musicians performed there, politicians gave speeches, and owners filled shelves with their most treasured crystal and porcelain. Nobody cooked at those hearths, except perhaps to warm teakettles. The whole point was to convey to visitors that the hosts could afford to set aside separate fireplaces for parties and polite conversation. The toasts were more efficient at demonstrating wealth than keeping rooms evenly warm. The wall texts at Old Sturbridge quote a church pamphlet: ‘The ink froze in my pen.’”

For the first time, rare overmantel paintings, fireboards, and related artifacts are on display together. To see a video, scan this code with your mobile device.

Test Your Knowledge

These are a few of the antiques brought in for Skinner’s Stephen Fletcher to appraise during OSV’s Fall Antiques Weekend event. Can you guess what they are worth? Answers below.

1. PORTRAIT OF YOUNG GIRL: Oil on canvas, circa 1890-1910, may have been copied from a European source
2. CHINESE GINGER JAR: 19th-century ceramic jar with cover
3. SMITH & WESSON PISTOL: Circa 1865 in its original mahogany box
4. MASSACHUSETTS MAP: Linen-backed map dated 1903
5. STILL LIFE PAINTING OF VIOLIN AND FLOWERS: Oil on canvas board, French style, late 19th century
6. CERAMICS, PEA FOWL PATTERN: Hand-decorated ceramics, probably of French or English manufacture, 19th century
7. CARVED EAGLE FIGUREHEAD: Late 19th century

Answers: 1. $2,500 2. $1,000 3. $75-$100 4. $2,000-$3,000 5. $1,000 6. $800, 7. $250

By the Fireside

Share information. “Whether the item is a yard sale find or Aunt Agatha’s favorite artifact, people want to know ‘What is it? Where did it come from?’ And, perhaps most important of all, ‘What is it worth?’ This explains the enduring popularity of the annual Old Sturbridge Village Fall Antiques Weekend, which included the opening reception of the new exhibit, By the Fireside, and a special antiques appraisal event featuring renowned expert Stephen Fletcher, executive vice president of the celebrated auction house, Skinner, Inc. Fletcher is frequently seen on PBS Television, and is widely regarded as one of the nation’s foremost experts on early American furniture, American decorative arts, and folk art.

“Our curiosity about antiques is nearly universal,” Fletcher notes. “Whether the item is a yard sale find or Aunt Agatha’s favorite artifact, people want to know ‘What is it? Where did it come from?’ And, perhaps most important of all, ‘What is it worth?’ This explains the enduring popularity of the long-running PBS television show, Antiques Roadshow.”

“The annual Old Sturbridge Village Fall Antiques Weekend was a much-anticipated, long-standing Village tradition that began in the 1950s and continued through the 1980s,” notes OSV Vice President Ed Hood. “We are excited to bring it back – it’s a great way for scholars, collectors, and antiques experts to gather, connect, and share information.”

More than a dozen curious antiques lovers attended Fletcher’s appraisal event at OSV, bringing in a variety of items: pistols, paintings, toys, chairs, canes, cradles, maps, dishes, lamps, and tables. Highlights included an unrestored carved eagle figurehead dating to the second half of the 19th century worth $2,000-$3,000; a circa 1820 portrait of James Gilbert by an unidentified artist, worth $2,500, and a circa 1600-1700 chair brought in by the Quaboag Historical Society in West Brookfield, which appraised for $1,000.

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Early Auto Touring at OSV

People are often surprised to learn that when Old Sturbridge Village first opened in 1946, it wasn’t just a walking Village – it was a driving Village. Imagine viewing the Fitch House from your Ford! In those days, visitors could drive into the Village via a bridge over the Quinebaug River (currently the Riverwalk Bridge), then motor past the Mill Village and Blacksmith Shop, around the Common and past the Craft Shops.

What seems incongruous now must have seemed perfectly normal in post-World War II America. During the war, gasoline was rationed, and automobile production ceased as factories turned out Jeeps, planes, and tanks. After these wartime deprivations, there was pent-up demand for all kinds of consumer goods – especially cars. The country embraced the drive-through culture, and Americans loved their new automobiles.

Auto touring at OSV was short-lived, no doubt due to rising attendance at the Village. Records show that in July 1949, OSV Director Ruth Wells announced in a memo that “it was agreed that cars must be kept out of the Village proper and that some form of transportation must be provided for part of the tour around the Village.”

Americans still love antique and classic cars, and as a tribute, Old Sturbridge Village hosted two successful vintage car rallies last year, one featuring cars from the 1920s, ‘30s, and ‘40s, and one for earlier Edwardian Era automobiles. This year, both will be combined into one big Antique Car Rally on June 2. And what will be the highlight for antique car owners participating that day? The novelty of driving around the Village of course – just as it was for early visitors in 1946.

When Old Sturbridge Village first opened in 1946, visitors could drive their cars into the Village. This 1949 map marks the route and shows a parking area inside the Village just beyond the Grist Mill. Although we don’t know the identities of the visitors in the photo at the Grant Store, the car is a 1949 Mercury. OSV officials made the decision to end touring by auto in July 1949.
at July 30, we at Old Sturbridge Village opened our newspapers and were stunned — and thrilled — to see the Village featured in the famous internationally syndicated cartoon, The Family Circus, which is distributed by King Features to 1,500 newspapers worldwide, making it the most widely syndicated panel today.

We were still pinching ourselves about such wonderful coverage, when we opened our newspapers the very next day to see another, even larger cartoon showing The Family Circus cast touring the Village. In classic fashion, Billy, Dolly, and Jeffy are peppering their parents with questions, while baby PJ sleeps in a stroller.

OSV fans sent us clippings of the cartoons from papers all over the country. Others posted them on our Facebook page, and everyone wanted to know how The Family Circus happened to feature the Village. And the truth is, we weren’t really sure. Some longtime staffers thought the cartoons were reprints, but they only remembered one panel, not two. Others were sure the cartoons were new. After all, the scenes seem to capture the Village as it is today.

To get to the bottom of the mystery, we spoke to the real Jeff Keane, son of The Family Circus creator Bil Keane, who, sadly, died last November at the age of 89. His wife, Thelma, died in 2008. As many know, Bil Keane based the cartoon on his own family — his wife, and their five children: Gayle, Neal, Glen, Christopher, and Jeff, who are all two years apart in age: “I was the youngest,” says Jeff Keane. Today, Jeff has taken over production of The Family Circus.

Bil Keane taught himself to draw in high school and drew for Yank magazine while serving in World War II. He married Australian Thelma Carne in 1948, whom he met during the war, and they later moved their growing family to the southwest. “Working at home for the first time with our five children under foot, I discovered that most of the magazine cartoons I was selling had to do with family life and small children. I then decided to produce The Family Circus,” he said.

The cartoon debuted in 1960, and Jeff Keane recalls the years that followed. “As a family, it was always great. We would take three weeks and take a vacation, driving across the country. My dad would work as we were traveling, and my mom would take us around. Then, if it was a place we liked, we would all revisit.”

Did the family really visit Old Sturbridge Village? Yes, recalls Keane, who believes the trip was in 1967 or 1968, when he was 9 or 10 years old. “For this trip, I think we flew to Boston, and then drove out to Sturbridge. “All of my brothers and sister and I remember Old Sturbridge Village so well. And I especially remember the blacksmith!” — Jeff Keane

boa
Getting the Bugs Out
How to repel garden insects
1830s-style
By Tom Morehouse, OSV Volunteer

When you visit the Freeman Farm kitchen garden during the growing season, you may wonder how gardeners in the 1830s dealt with pests and problems. Yes, we worried about insects, animals, diseases, droughts, and downpours back then, just as we do now. And many early methods to repel pests still work today.

As I learned from Christie Higginbottom, interpreter and former Old Sturbridge Village horticulture coordinator, "the most effective tool in the garden is the human hand."

No garden exists without the human touch. So the more the gardener — and gardener’s helpers — are involved in garden maintenance, the better the garden will be. Hand cultivation, quick removal of diseased and damaged vegetation, picking and destroying insects and their eggs, and many other tasks must be done daily to keep the garden healthy.

Here are some specific techniques we use at the Freeman kitchen garden every year. Don’t turn over the soil in a given area until you’re close to planting that area. Tilling the soil in early spring is fine, but the longer the freshly turned soil sits idle before planting, the more likely you’ll have weeds popping up in that area. We often till only the “cold weather crop” area first, preparing to plant such vegetables as pea and onion. Then, as the weather warms, we’ll till the area planted for warm weather crops such as cucumber, squash, and beans. This greatly eases down the development of early weeds.

The soil contains millions of insect eggs just waiting for the spring to deliver warmth, and then plants to eat. An old technique of reducing insect problems early is to pour hot (or boiling) soapy water onto the soil the day before planting seed. The heat “cooks” the eggs and young insects, preventing their growth. Farmers and gardeners of the day often recommended several plants in addition to onion for insect control. Yes, just about any member of the allium family will do, used as the plant itself, crushed, or in a "tea." We plant onion in the squash hills to discourage small rodents. We chop onion and drop it on the soil around plants to ward off ground-dwelling insects. We make “onion tea” to sprinkle on leaves of plants that show evidence of chewing insects.

One of the most effective insect control tools we’ve found is the onion. Farmers and gardeners of the day often recommended several plants in addition to onion for insect control. Tea were often made of the leaves of common dock, black walnut, young elder, and even tobacco — all known to repel insects.

There are literally dozens of other pest and problem control techniques we use in our period gardens. Next time you see us working, please stop by, and we may even ask you to help! Remember, “The most effective tool in the garden is the human hand.”

Did you know?

1. Each cubic foot of garden soil contains thousands of insect eggs, regardless of the season.
2. Many insect eggs survive the winter in the soil, and “wake up” when the soil warms in the spring.
3. Want to cut down on insect damage? Don’t grow the plants they like to eat for one full year.
4. Honey bees can travel up to seven miles in search of pollen.
5. The cabbage looper moth smells young cabbage growing, and lays her eggs at the base of the plant.
6. Ladybugs aren’t bugs! The only “true bugs” are of the order Hemiptera (cicada, aphid, leafhopper).

Insects hate onions!

Try this recipe for “onion tea” to repel chewing insects.

1. Take one onion (any variety, any size).
2. Chop it into about a dozen pieces, bulb, stem, and all.
3. Drop the pieces into a container, and add about one gallon of water.
4. Set the container in the sun for several hours.
5. When you’re ready to use the onion tea, filter the liquid into a sprinkling can.

You can use the chopped remains again for more onion tea. Note, the tea isn’t fully effective unless two rules are followed:

- Preparation requires that it sit in the warm sun for several hours to “brew.”
- You may have to sprinkle the tea on the leaves for several days in a row to repel those hungry leaf-eating insects!
He was a hot ticket, an incredible lady, and a very good friend to the Village through thick and thin,” recalls former Old Sturbridge Village Board Chairman Bruce Mois of the late Gertrude Wells Brennan (1919 – 2011), who served for many years on the Village Board of Trustees, and who was also a steadfast OSV benefactor. Her most recent gift to the Village funded the much-needed renovation of the Salem Towne House.

Gertrude was the youngest of three children (with brother John and sister Florence) of Florence Morse and Joel Cheney Wells, who was one of the founders of Old Sturbridge Village. (It is her father’s prized collection of early New England clocks that is displayed in the Old Sturbridge Village Clock Gallery). Joel Cheney Wells and his brothers, A.B. and Channing, were active in building the success of the American Optical Company in Southbridge, Massachusetts, which was cofounded in 1869 by Gertrude’s grandfather, George Washington Wells.

Born in Boston, Gertrude spent her childhood in Southbridge and married Homer Overly in 1939. The couple had three children, but later divorced. Afterward, Gertrude and the children moved to Southern California, where she married an Optical Company in Southbridge, Massachusetts, which was cofounded in 1869 by Gertrude’s grandfather, George Washington Wells.

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Intertwined Histories: Manning and Marge Goldense

From their courting days until their deaths, Manning and Marge Goldense of Lincoln, Rhode Island, made OSV a central part of their lives, maintaining an active membership for more than 57 years. And a hobby they first learned at the Village – braiding rugs – became a lifelong passion, creative outlet, and way to unwind at the end of a busy day.

As a tribute to their parents, sons Brad and Paul Goldense (of Dedham and Medfield, Massachusetts, respectively) recently gifted 28 of their parents’ handmade rugs to the Village, where they are being used in the executive offices and the Oliver Wight Tavern.

“Mom and Dad went on many dates at the Village between 1951 and 1953,” recalls Brad Goldense. “Dad proposed, she said yes, and it was 1953, ’recalls Brad Goldense. “Dad proposed, she said yes, and we could both walk it blindfolded!” Later, as grandparents, Manning and Marge enjoyed many more trips to the Village with Paul’s young daughters Dana, Ellie, and Kate.

Despite successful careers over the years, Manning and Marge maintained their passion for braiding rugs. They made more than 100 rugs in their lifetime – Manning died in 2003 and Marge in 2009. “In 1993, the original rugs they made as newlyweds had seen lots of traffic over the years, and the second giant wave of braiding began. These are the rugs that are now at the Village” notes Brad.

Manning, an engineer who graduated from Brown University at age 19 and served in WWII, founded his own company – M.D. Goldense Inc. of Lincoln, a supplier of engineered commercial building products. In addition to braiding rugs, he restored antique furniture, made weather vanes, and dabbled in leaded glass and calligraphy.

After several years as an at-home mom and handling finances for Manning’s company, Marge started volunteering and became president of the R.I. League of Women Voters. She also was named Citizen of the Year by the Northern R.I. Chamber of Commerce for securing voter approval to build a new library in Lincoln, Rhode Island.

Despite their career accomplishments, the couple retained their manual dexterity. And now, having begun at OSV, their passion for braiding rugs has come full circle, and their rugs will be in use at the Village for generations to come.

Marge holding Paul and Manning holding Brad at OSV’s Cobblers Shop in 1960.

Early on, Manning and Marge decided that OSV would be part of their boys’ education. “Both of us were in-strollers on the dirt roads of the Village within months after we were born,” Brad says, adding, “My brother and I have been to the Village more than 100 times – we could both walk it blindfolded!” Later, a grandparents, Manning and Marge enjoyed many more trips to the Village with Paul’s young daughters Dana, Ellie, and Kate.

“Of the things that happens at the museum is that, if you’re in costume, you expect to work at least two stations” at any given time, says Will. “I was going through the list of the stuff I’ve been trained for, and there has to be at least a dozen things, if not more.”

All that experience makes Will one of the many people at the Village who seems to know a little bit about everything here. Actually, make that “a lot.” A conversation with Will can range over any number of subjects about which he shows an amazing display of knowledge: The War of 1812, how the tune of “Yankee Doodle” was used for an ad for a cooking stove in the 1840s, and photography processes of the 19th century.

And he most definitely knows all about early printing. The print shop is where you’re most likely to find Will, explaining the ways in which printing worked in the 1830s. He’s also in charge at the Asa Knight store and, like most of the Village’s interpreters, sees real value in being able to pitch-hit wherever needed: “If you’re only in one place, you don’t get to see everyone else’s point of view.

“They say we need a school keeper, I can do that. If they say we need somebody to drive the boat, off you go. I’ve worked in the Parsonage as a minister, have done some cooking over there; I used to be in charge of the Small House,” he says. “When you’re here for any length of time, you develop that flexibility, which makes it good for the museum.”

Will is also one of several OSV interpreters who is half of a Village couple – he met his wife, Jean, coordinator of households, horticulture, and women’s crafts, on the job. Today, he’s passing along his deep knowledge of early American times to visitors of all ages, as well as to young history students who intern at the Village. “I’ve been blessed with a bunch of good interns in the last three years,” he says. “Every summer, I get a new group, and they really want to do the job. And they realize that they know more than they think they do.”

He does note one issue that has surfaced in these modern times with both interns and visitors: “We have a problem with language sometimes,” he says. “The words of the 19th century have a different ring than the words of today, which really means ‘to inspire awe, which is fear, reverence, or terror.’”

Today, it’s very different. But here, you have to think with a 19th-century mind, which is not easy to do.” For Will, though, it is easy – and all of the Village’s visitors benefit from that.

A Conversation with Will Contino

Lead Interpreter: Asa Knight Store and Print Shop

By Don St. John

On a visit to Old Sturbridge Village, you might see Will Contino in any number of places – behind the counter at the Asa Knight store, driving the riverboat in the summertime, even giving a sermon at the Center Meetinghouse. In fact, Will’s cheerful face is a common sight to regular Old Sturbridge Village visitors, in nearly 30 years since he started as an interpreter at the Village in 1983, he’s done a little of everything. Call him a jack of all trades – and a master of them as well.

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Today, it’s very different. But here, you have to think with a 19th-century mind, which is not easy to do.” For Will, though, it is easy – and all of the Village’s visitors benefit from that.
Tufts Health Plan: Keeping People Healthy

If there is one thing the folks at Tufts Health Plan know to be absolutely true, it is this: It is a whole lot better—and smarter—to help keep people healthy than to wait to help them after they are already sick.

It sounds like such a simple—and obvious—truth. But in fact, Tufts Health Plan is one of the few health plans that has made keeping people healthy its top priority since its founding in 1979. From the beginning, Tufts Health Plan has stood for wellness and prevention.

Since 2008, Tufts Health Plan has funded fresh-air field trips to OSV for underserved children in the Boston area—helping them to get out of the classroom, stretch their legs around the Village, and expand their understanding of early American history.

“For many of these students, a Tufts-funded field trip to OSV is their first chance to see a working farm, to see sheep and cattle at pasture, and to learn where vegetables really come from,” says Aaron McGarry, director of development at Old Sturbridge Village.

The Tufts Health Plan motto “No one does more to keep you healthy” has a basis in fact: The health plan was the first in New England to offer a discount on fitness memberships. At the time, that was breakthrough thinking. And Tufts Health Plan has been expanding its innovative wellness programs every since, adding weight loss, smoking cessation, and prenatal care, among others.

And there is an added benefit to the focus on wellness—reduced health care costs. Tufts Health Plan President and Chief Executive Officer Jim Roosevelt explains: “Where we help patients stay healthy through exercise and lifestyle changes and prevent a hospitalization, it’s better for everyone.”

“Changing the way we pay for health care will also impact how care is delivered,” says Roosevelt. “We focus on paying for keeping people well rather than doing more when they’re sick. And we at Tufts Health Plan have an exceptional amount of experience with this: It is a whole lot better—and smarter—to help keep people healthy than to wait to help them after they are already sick.

Since its founding, Tufts Health Plan has expanded to serve residents of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. This expansion includes Network Health, which recently joined Tufts Health Plan, serving members with low incomes. This makes Tufts Health Plan the only local plan to participate in commercial, Medicaid, and Medicare programs, increasing access to health care coverage. Tufts Health Plan has also broadened its mission of community service through the founding of the Tufts Health Plan Foundation, which focuses on healthy aging.

Last year, the Tufts Health Plan Foundation awarded more than $2.8 million in grants to more than 75 programs in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Tufts Health Plan has helped other nonprofits through community outreach, an active employee volunteer program, and financial support. Old Sturbridge Village is fortunate—and deeply grateful—to be one of these recipients.

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Three of the most visible, memorable, and magical signs of spring at the Village are the oh-so-adorable arrival of newborn lambs, watching children in 1830s costumes have fun at our Spring Discovery Adventures, and seeing kids enjoy the fun and mild weather during April School Vacation Week—traditionally a favorite time to visit OSV for thousands of families.

Two of these traditional spring favorites were captured by Boston Herald photographer Ted Fitzgerald during one of his many photo assignments at the Village. In recent years, Photo Editor Arthur Pollock has asked him to cover a variety of activities at the Village, including the arrival of our stagecoach, hearth cooking at Thanksgiving, a re-created 1830s wedding, the Village ices in winter, and Fire & Ice Days at OSV.

One of Fitzgerald’s recent visits was on a perfect April day, and as he approached the Freeman Farm pasture, it was easy to see that a wonderful photo opportunity was developing. At that moment—quite by coincidence—costumed children in the OSV Discovery Adventures program were meeting the new lambs!

“It’s hard to miss getting great pictures at Old Sturbridge Village,” Fitzgerald says. “The scenery, the animals, and the engaging interpreters and staff make it a photographer’s dream!”

The result was a delightful photo essay for Boston Herald readers—and now for OSV Members to enjoy Happy Spring!

April Action at the Village
School Vacation Week
April 14-22

Newborn lambs usually arrive in time for April vacation, and births continue into June—but it’s hard to predict precisely! Museum educators have planned an action-packed week to keep kids busy and engaged.

Discovery Adventures
April 16-20
• Two-day costumed Discovery Adventures: “Farm Fervor”
• One-day non-costumed Exploration Adventures (choose from 1-5 days)

Scan this code with your mobile device to watch a Discovery Adventures video.

Details on April activities: www.osv.org; 800-SEE-1830

TUFTS HealthPlan
www.tuftshealthplan.com

OSV SPRING 2012

OSV SPRING 2013
For times and details on all upcoming events at OSV, please call 800-SEE-1830 or visit www.osv.org.

**Upcoming Events**

**Spring comes alive in the Village**

**April 16-20**

**April Discovery Adventures**

This spring’s Discovery Adventure, “Farm Fervor,” is an in-costume experience in which children will take on the roles of real Sturbridge residents in the 1830s.

**April 16**

**Girl Scout Day**

The 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting is celebrated at the Village, with hands-on studios, early 19th-century girls’ activities, and a visit with an interpreter portraying Girl Scout founder Juliette Gordon “Daisy” Low.

**April 14-22**

**April Vacation Week**

Enjoy expanded hands-on and interactive activities throughout the Village, along with family-friendly performances and entertainment, and meet our newborn lambs at the farm.

**April 14**

**Father’s Day at OSV**

Moms can visit the Village for free on their special day! You can also make a reservation now for a special Mother’s Day brunch at the Oliver Wight Tavern.

**April 7-8**

**Dog Days**

Fido’s buddies are waiting for him at the Village. This is the perfect opportunity for Members to bring their leashed dog to OSV for a day’s outing.

**April 14**

**Patriots Day**

Join us in celebrating the role played by patriots of New England in the nation’s birth, with musket demonstrations and marching and drilling with the Mältia.

**April 16**

**Wool Days**

The sheep get their yearly “haircuts” this weekend, while our costumed historians demonstrate the entire wool textile process. You can try your hand at scouring, picking, and carding wool. See how the Village’s 19th-century water-powered carding mill can do the same job much faster.

**May 26-28**

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**June 16**

**Evening at the Kiln**

This special evening event offers an opportunity to see the glow of the kiln, the sparks from the fire, and wood smoke billowing into the dark night sky. Light refreshments served in redware, the potter working at his wheel, and hands-on opportunities add to this one-of-a-kind experience.

**June 2**

**Antique Car Rally**

See dozens of pre-1946 automobiles showcased on the Common throughout the day, with a grand procession of the autos at 3:30 p.m.

**June 3**

**Antique Carriage Rally**

Drivers of vintage horse-drawn carriages will gather at the Village to compete in a number of special carriage events.

**June 17**

**Music & Art Weekend**

The Village comes alive with the lost sounds and sights of 19th-century popular music and art as more than 50 singers, dancers, musicians, and artists perform and demonstrate. Free admission for dads on the 17th (Father’s Day!)

**June 16-21**

**An 1830s Independence Day Celebration**

Step back in time to see how New England villagers of the 1830s celebrated our national independence, still fresh in the minds of many. And our popular fireworks display will take place this year on July 3. Sporron Country Bank.

**April 14-16**

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**April 22**

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The Village comes alive with the lost sounds and sights of 19th-century popular music and art as more than 50 singers, dancers, musicians, and artists perform and demonstrate. Free admission for dads on the 17th (Father’s Day!)

**May 2**

**Home School Day**

Home School Day offers you and your children a great opportunity to gain exposure to many aspects of 1830s New England life in an interactive way, together with other Home School families.

**May 2**

**Mother’s Day at OSV**

Moms can visit the Village for free on their special day! You can also make a reservation now for a special Mother’s Day brunch at the Oliver Wight Tavern.

**June 3**

**Antique Carriage Rally**

Drivers of vintage horse-drawn carriages will gather at the Village to compete in a number of special carriage events.

**June 9**

**Muster Day**

See one of the Village’s most picturesque days! Troops will demonstrate drilling, military martial music, target practice, and “sham fights” or mock battles. We will also showcase how Villagers would have relaxed and celebrated on such a day.

**June 16**

**Evening at the Kiln**

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**Museum Hours**

Open year-round, hours vary seasonally:

- Open daily from early April through October
- Open Wednesday–Sunday from late October through early April
- Open select evenings only in December
- Open all Monday holidays

800-SEE-1830

Visit [www.osv.org](http://www.osv.org)

**Come see our new arrivals this spring.**