Yankee Magazine Features OSV

New Exhibit: A Child’s World

Lost: The American Chestnut

The Explosive History of Matches

New England’s “Ice King”

Village Gristmill Back in Action
Are we there yet?
A message from President and CEO Jim Donahue

or families on long journeys together. “Are we there yet?” is the question posed more often than any other. And while parents may get tired of hearing it, they can certainly understand the eagerness to arrive at a happy destination. I often think of families coming to Old Sturbridge Village and hope that a visit here prompts the same excited question!

The question I am asked more frequently than any other is “When are you going to reopen the Lodges?” Now, thanks to the generosity of OSV Trustee Robert W. (Bob) Reeder III and his wife, Lorraine, of Bedford, New York, I finally have an answer—the OSV Lodges will reopen in June 2013, and work is already underway toward that goal.

The Reeder family has donated funds for the renovation and initial operation of the Village’s Oliver Wight property on Route 20, just 500 yards from the OSV entrance. Closed since 2005, the complex includes 60 lodging units and the circa 1789 Oliver Wight House, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Old Sturbridge Village will use the reopened Oliver Wight House and additional guest rooms as lodging for brides and grooms who marry at the Village and their wedding guests, and for museum Members, visitors, interns, and visiting scholars.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Oliver Wight House was the centerpiece of the OSV Lodges and Motor Court, which became the Liberty Cap Motel in 1962. After a 1985 remodeling, the Oliver Wight House returned to service as a premier lodging accommodation. Many people have fond memories of combining a trip to the Village with a stay at the Lodges, and they say the close proximity made them feel more a part of the Village.

When you think about it, all of us who care about the Village are a family—really a large and extended family! And during our recent 19th-Century Childhood in New England New exhibit at OSV
Lost Treasure: The American chestnut tree Lighting Up with Lucifers: the explosive history of matches Cold Cash: The story of New England’s “Ice King” OSV Grismill Back in Action: Donor support funds millwheel repair
Employee Profile: A conversation with Victoria Belisle In Memory of Rebecca Robinson (1974–2012)
OSV President’s Award: Ron Bourgeault Garden Dedication: Gertrude Wells Brennan
Fifth Annual OSV Gala OSV Federalist Dinner
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On the Cover: OSV Interpreter Katie Jernigan bundles up for winter, 1830s style.
On Common Ground:

YANKEE

Yankee magazine features Old Sturbridge Village

New England’s favorite magazine came to visit OSV earlier this year with quite a memorable result—a 12-page photo feature on the Village and its interpreters published in the November–December 2012 issue of Yankee. Titled “On Common Ground,” the feature notes that “the enduring spirit of the people who came before us lives on in the interpreters of Old Sturbridge Village.” Yankee shot more than 20 different scenes over five days for the feature, which took more than two months to plan and involved more than 35 OSV interpreters and other staff members. Yankee Art Director Lori Pedrick designed the feature and directed the photography by Sandy Rivlin and Rick Hornick. Managing Editor Eileen Terrill wrote the article, and photo captions were written by Old Sturbridge Village Curator Tom Kelleher.

Pedrick noted: “My intent was to create each vignette as if it were a painting. I wanted each image to be as captivating as a painting—something you ponder and evaluate. I wanted each reader to have an experience that really transports them back to the era portrayed by Old Sturbridge Village.”

Terrill added, “It’s an amazing feeling to reach back across the centuries to touch the spirit of the people who came before us. Despite all the physical hardships and challenges they faced, they could still find joy and love in their everyday lives in the same ways we do today; we recognize ourselves in them. That shared experience is what connects us to our past; giving us that experience is what living history museums like OSV do so very well.”

Because many of the photo scenarios included children, we reached out to the OSV community, and recruited Discovery Adventure participants Amanda Evans, Katie Wade, and Grant Porter, all of Sturbridge, and siblings Emily, Benjamin, and William Hood of Hardwick, Massachusetts, who are the children of Ed Hood, vice president of museum program at OSV.

For Pedrick, the hardest part was choosing which photos to include in the final article, since the allotted space could accommodate only half of the images taken. “We ended up with so many wonderful photos of the Village, I wish we could have used them all.”
New exhibit through Memorial Day 2013

In an age before super-sized toy stores, pampered children, and helicopter parents, a new concept of a child's formative years began to emerge in 19th-century New England. There was an increasing awareness that "childhood" was an important time, separate from infancy, yet distinctly different from young adulthood and maturity.

Old Sturbridge Village historians are exploring the changing world of children in the early 1800s in a new exhibit, A Child's World: Childhood in 19th-Century New England, on display through Memorial Day, May 27, 2013. For the first time, more than 200 rare children's toys, games, puzzles, portraits, clothing, and furniture from the museum's collection are on display together.

"We have spent a full year selecting the very best child-related artifacts from our collection of more than 60,000 items to portray the life of a child in the early 19th century," notes Rebecca Beall, collections manager at Old Sturbridge Village. "Many of these antiques have not been on display before, and we are exploring the changing world of children in the early 1800s through these objects." Highlights of the "Child's World" exhibit include antique dolls, dollhouses, cradles, toy soldiers, children's wagons, wheelbarrows, sleds, miniature chests, chairs, rocking horses, building blocks, and board games. A wide selection of children's clothing fashions are also part of the exhibit, including dainty dresses and a rare boy's 1820 "Skeleton Suit"—a close-fitting, high-waisted outfit often seen in paintings of the era.

According to Old Sturbridge Village historians, most rural New England children had far fewer toys than a modern child. Most, if not all, of these toys would have been homemade—carved animals, board games scratched into a scrap of wood, roughly carved toy houses, and "rag baby" dolls made from bits of leftover fabric. "Today, children are bombarded with bright plastic toys with bells, whistles, sirens, and flashing lights. Children of the 19th century had much simpler toys," Beall says. "A store-bought toy would have been a treasured plaything for most rural New England children."

Social games and amusements were also popular among 19th-century children. Board games, which had been available imported from England and Europe, were now beginning to be published in the United States. Some companies, like Milton Bradley in nearby Springfield, Massachusetts, are still in operation today. The Old Sturbridge Village exhibit includes one of Milton Bradley's very first games, "The Checkered Game of Life," published in 1860. This game proved to be enormously popular, selling tens of thousands in the first year. "The Game of Life" (albeit a modern version) is still popular with families today.

In researching "A Child's World," OSV historians found both similarities and differences between children's lives then and now. Like modern children, those of the 19th century played with dolls and toy animals, were expected to help with household work, went to school, and looked forward to the time when they would be considered "grown up."

Families were larger in early New England—with five to six children the average and families of nine or 10 children not unusual. New England couples typically married in their early to mid-20s, and might expect to have a pregnancy approximately every two years over a long span of time. Children in 19th-century families often ranged in age from infants to young adults.

Did you know?

In the 19th century infant boys and girls were dressed alike in gowns, allowing the same garment to be passed down to siblings without concern for gender. "Potty chairs," chamber pots, and "nappy" made diaper or "nappy" changes easier.

There was not much distinction between "girl" and "boy" colors. Blue was often considered a soothing color for girls, and pinks were seen as a softer shade of red suitable for boys. Boys were breeched, or allowed to wear trousers for the first time, when they were dexterous enough to manage their own buttons, usually between ages 3 and 8.
Lost Treasure: The American Chestnut Tree

By Margaret LeRoux

Under a spreading chestnut tree the village smithy stands..." The oft-quoted Longfellow poem describes a scene common to New England in the mid-19th century, according to Rich Giordano, horticultural interpreter, who often portrays a blacksmith at Old Sturbridge Village. Back then, the plentiful American chestnut represented about one-fourth of all the trees in New England. Their spreading branches provided shade for blacksmiths as well as farm animals in pastures. The trees were huge, standing more than 100 feet tall with trunks 10 feet in diameter. When the white blossoms of chestnut trees appeared in midspring, the hillsides where they stood appeared to be covered with snow.

Today, an integral part of that historic landscape is missing. Native American chestnut trees, 4 billion of them from Maine to Alabama, have virtually disappeared. Blight from Asian chestnut trees imported into the U.S. in the 1880s (but not noticed until 1904) quickly spread and destroyed almost all of the American trees within just 40 years.

The death of so many American chestnut trees was a severe environmental and economic loss. Because of their height and rot resistance, they were often referred to as redwoods of the East. American chestnuts were also called “cradle to grave” trees; they provided lumber for everything from babies’ beds to coffins.

“American chestnut wood is easy to split, and because the trunks were straight for at least 50 feet before branching; they were very useful,” said Giordano. "Barn beams up to 60 feet long could be hewn from the wood of a single tree." Chestnut wood was used for telegraph poles, railroad ties, split rail fences, shingles, fine furniture and even musical instruments.

American chestnut trees were prolific as well as useful; they produced bushels of nuts every year. New Englanders stored sacks of chestnuts in the attic, ate them all winter long and fed them to livestock. Chestnuts also provided food for wildlife and income for those who shipped them to the cities where street vendors roasted and sold them. One of Henry David Thoreau’s favorite pastimes was said to be gathering chestnut or “nutting,” although he decried the practice of throwing stones into the trees or beating the trunks with sticks to get the nuts to fall to the ground.

Almost a generation after the devastation of the American chestnuts, a group of scientists began a decades-long effort to restore the tree to its native habitat. The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) started the process of backcrossing American chestnut trees with blight-resistant Chinese chestnuts at their research farm in Meadowview, Virginia, in 1989.

Offspring of the first generation that showed the best blight resistance and American chestnut characteristics were bred again with other native American chestnuts. The resulting seedlings were then inoculated with blight fungus. Again, the trees that showed the best blight resistance and American chestnut characteristics were bred with other native American chestnuts, producing the next generation of seedling trees. This process has been repeated several times to produce a population of trees with high levels of blight resistance and American chestnut character. In 2005 the Foundation harvested its first potentially blight-resistant American chestnut—“Restoration Chestnut.”

Besides introducing blight resistance, the breeding program also aims to preserve the genetic heritage of the American species. “To avoid inbreeding and increase genetic diversity, our volunteer state chapters have been backcrossing into at least 20 different wild American chestnut trees,” said Kendra Gurney, New England regional science coordinator for TACF. “We have chapters doing this in just about every state within the native range of the chestnut tree.”

OSV has two of The American Chestnut Foundation’s “Restoration Chestnuts.” These potentially blight-resistant test trees are from the sixth generation of the breeding program and are 15/16th American chestnut and 1/16th Chinese.

The Village’s young American chestnut trees can be found on the Pasture Walk at the top of Powderhouse Hill. The pair is protected by fencing to discourage deer and other wildlife from nibbling on their leaves. The trees now stand about five feet tall on slender trunks and should flower and produce chestnuts within five to seven years, according to Giordano. They will be the first American fruiting chestnuts at the Village in a very long time.

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT at Old Sturbridge Village would not be complete without roasting chestnuts, which is demonstrated every year over the hearth in the Small House. After hearing the holiday classic, “Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire,” visitors are delighted to see how it’s done.

However, because the American chestnut variety has disappeared, European chestnuts must be used as a substitute. OSV Interpreter Rich Giordano dry-roasts them after making a cross cut at the base of the nut, “otherwise they would explode!” Giordano, who volunteers with The American Chestnut Foundation and raises fledgling “Restoration Chestnut” trees, prefers the flavor of the American variety. “They are much sweeter, almost like nectar,” he said.
In 1829
Londoner Samuel Jones began selling matches called “Lucifers,” conjuring images of the fire and brimstone of hell.

The explosive history of matches

By Tom Kelleher, Curator of Mechanical Arts

In good early American fashion, we Old Sturbridge Village interpreters revive fires by uncovering hot coals from under banked ashes in our hearths and stoves each morning. We add fine shavings, small splinters, or woodchips, and with the aid of bellows we kindle our daily fires, coaxing flames from the embers. Sometimes, we resort to matches to start the fires in our exhibits. This often leads to the obvious question, “Did they have matches back then?” The answer, yes, but matches today are not quite the same as they were in the 1830s.

Since at least the 17th century, various chemical, electrical, and friction methods have been tried in an attempt to make fire quickly and reliably. Mechanical tinderboxes, often resembling a flintlock pistol without the barrel, were widely available, but these were cumbersome and far from foolproof.

In 1827 English druggist John Walker invented a match using chlorate of potash (potassium chlorate), sulfide of antimony, sugar, and gum arabic on a sulfur-dipped wooden stick, which was drawn through a folded sheet of sandpaper to generate friction to ignite the chemical composition. Walker called these “Congreves,” after the late Sir William Congreve, whose well-known war rockets produced the “red glare” immortalized by Francis Scott Key in “The Star-Spangled Banner.” A box of 84 Congreves sold for an English shilling, or roughly 23 cents.

Walker never patented his invention, and others soon sold imitations. In 1829 Londoner Samuel Jones began selling matches called “Lucifers,” conjuring images of the fire and brimstone of hell. Like “Xerox” and “Kleenex,” the brand names “Congreve” and “Lucifer” became generic names for any early matches.

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Although they were a bit awkward and dangerous to use, matches were certainly convenient and affordable, selling for about 10 cents a box. Access to such instant flame probably explains the increased popularity of cigar smoking in 19th-century America.

By the 1850s matches became safer. Makers sealed match heads in a layer of glue to prevent them from accidentally igniting as easily. The discovery of red phosphorus by Sweden’s J.E. Lundstrom allowed for the removal of phosphorus from the match head. This “safety match” was tipped with only sulfur, starch, and potassium chlorate. It had to be struck on a strip of red phosphorus on the outside of the box in order to light. (This technique is standard today.)

In 1889 Philadelphian Joshua Pusey began making cardboard matchbooks called “flexibles” and later sold the idea to the Diamond Match Company, which mass-produced them and began selling ads on the covers. (Pabst Beer was first to advertise on matchbook covers, by the way.) They also moved the striker to the outside for safety and added the words “close cover before striking.”

As cigarettes overtook cigars in popularity, smaller matches proved adequate, and by the 1930s matchbooks shrunk to the 1-7/8-inch size that they remain today. A decline in smoking and the availability of disposable butane lighters have reduced Americans’ need for matches. While a handful of American matchmakers remain, including D.D. Bean and Sons of Jaffrey, New Hampshire, Sweden now leads the world in match production.

Original “Lucifer” developed by Pierson Cowee of West Boylston, Massachusetts are on display in the OSV Early Lighting exhibit, along with other early matches.
Cold Cash: The story of New England’s “Ice King”

Each winter, historians at Old Sturbridge Village demonstrate harvesting one of early New England’s most important cash crops—ice—as part of the Village’s annual winter “Fire & Ice Day” celebration, set for Jan. 26–27, 2013. Visitors can try their hands at cutting ice on the Village’s frozen mill pond using old-time ice saws much like those pioneered by Boston’s “Ice King,” Frederic Tudor, who grew wealthy shipping ice from New England ponds to the tropics in the days before mechanical refrigeration.

Born into a prominent Boston family, Tudor (1783–1864) skipped Harvard College and went straight into business instead. In 1806, he sent a cargo of Massachusetts ice to the Caribbean. Although he went into debt and incurred the ridicule of his friends, Tudor persisted, improving methods for harvesting, insulating, storing, and shipping ice. By 1836, he was shipping up to 65,000 tons of ice to ports around the world. Like legendary entrepreneurs John D. Rockefeller and Bill Gates, Tudor planned constantly and kept a long-range view. In an early prospectus on the ice business he wrote, “It is a matter of certainty that the love of cold drinks & refreshments in warmer weather is nearly universal . . . & that in the course of years the use of such things will inevitably become general.”

Two recent books mention Tudor and describe how he revolutionized the food industry the world over. The bestseller At Home: A Short History of Private Life, by Bill Bryson, and The Frozen Water Trade: A True Story, by Gavin Weightman, both recount Tudor’s ingenuity and tenacity in turning his vision into a worldwide phenomenon.

“Lake ice was a marvelous product. It created itself at no cost to the producer, was clean, renewable, and infinite in supply,” notes author Bryson. “The only drawbacks were there was no infrastructure to produce and store it, and no market to sell it to.” That’s where Tudor came in. Realizing that rich people in hot places would pay a lot for ice, he set about creating markets for it. In Cuba, he built insulated ice houses and then offered people cool drinks as a novelty, hoping it would catch on.

Ice was shipped from ponds around Boston: Fresh Pond, Spy Pond, Jamaica Pond, Walden Pond, and from more rural areas as well. Ice from the Wenham Lake

Did you know?

- If insulated, ice could survive the 16,000-mile, 130-day trip from Boston to Bombay.
- Chicagoans saw their first lobster in 1842, shipped from the East Coast.
- The first shipment of ice to England melted because customs officials couldn’t decide how to classify the 300-ton cargo of ice.
- Ship owners were at first reluctant to carry ice for fear it would melt in the holds of the ships and endanger them.
- Sawdust, previously a worthless byproduct of sawmills, proved to be an excellent insulator for ice, and provided extra income for lumber mills.

Excerpted from At Home: A Short History of Private Life, by Bill Bryson

Ice Company in Massachusetts became so famous for its purity that it was favored by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert at Buckingham Palace.

According to Bryson, in the summer of 1844, the Wenham Lake Ice Company displayed a giant block of ice in a London shop window, causing a sensation among Londoners who had never seen such a thing—especially in the summer. To demonstrate its clarity, the company propped a newspaper behind the ice so spectators could read the paper right through the ice. And to capitalize on the fame of the Wenham brand, Norwegians actually changed the name of Lake Oppegaard, near Oslo, to Lake Wenham!

The ice industry also created profits for New England farmers. “Ice harvesting was a great way for young men to earn extra money in the winter,” notes OSV Curator Tom Kelleher. “And in the summer, ice allowed farmers to cool cream, make profitable butter, and carry milk to the cities—even on hot days.”

The ice industry’s success gave rise to refrigerated railway cars, making it possible to ship perishable food from coast to coast. No longer did fresh food have to be consumed where it was produced. Chicago became the hub of the railway industry; farmers in the Midwest could produce food cheaply in vast quantities and ship it to market almost anywhere. And it all started with a New England entrepreneur’s vision.

There is a Sturbridge connection to Boston’s “Ice King.” Tudor invested part of his ice fortune in a graphite (lead) mine here. His agent was Colonel David Wight, who owned the land that is now Old Sturbridge Village. And when Tudor came to Sturbridge to check on his mine, he stayed at Bullard’s Hotel, which is now the Publick House.

Images courtesy of the Old Sturbridge Village Museum.
BRENDA GERNAY had deteriorated beyond repair. Before constructing the new mill wheel, OSV visitor winter 2012–2013 OSV visitor winter 2012–2013 shed roof over the wheel.

and to make sure the new mill wheel lasts a long time—the committee decided to build a timber-framed millwheel design. going to the OSV carpentry crew, who spent six months carefully disassembling and reconstructing the complex reconstruction of the mill wheel. Members include Brad King, vice president of museum operations, Ed Hood, vice president, Curator Tom Kelleher, and Building Trades Manager Rich Fanelli. Special thanks go to the OSV carpentry crew, who spent six months carefully disassembling and reconstructing the complex millwheel design.

Historically, water wheels were covered either by the building itself or a separate roof. Because of this—and to make sure the new mill wheel lasts a long time—the committee decided to build a timber-framed shed roof over the wheel.

Since it opened to the public as OSV’s first operating exhibit, our Gristmill has educated millions of visitors about the importance of water power in early American life. Built in 1938 by the fledgling museum that became Old Sturbridge Village, it is not an antique structure, but rather it is a fanciful vision of what a gristmill might have looked like in the early 1800s.

Some of the mill machinery came from the Porter Mill in Hebron, Connecticut, though the mill building itself is constructed entirely of recycled old timbers and new (in the 1930s) lumber. A real gristmill was constructed on the same site in 1853 by the Wight family, and for more than 70 years now the OSV gristmill has stood here telling the story of this early New England industry, earning its own identity as a much-beloved historical icon.

The hard-working Gristmill wheel has been replaced three times since Old Sturbridge Village opened in 1946. After 30 years of use, the 16-foot-high mill wheel built in 1981 had deteriorated beyond repair by 2011, leaving the mill unable to operate. The repair cost, estimated to be at least $90,000, was not in the budget.

Searching for a solution to get the Gristmill back in action, OSV President and CEO Jim Donahue turned to Members and supporters for help. Immediately after the first appeal, donations started coming in from all over the Northeast, and as far away as Florida, Texas, and California. Now, thanks to the generosity of more than 630 donors, who gave $83,750 to “get the wheel turning,” the iconic Gristmill is back in service.

Led by Trustee Robert Roemer, a Gristmill advisory committee was formed to plan and oversee reconstruction of the mill wheel. Members include Brad King, vice president of museum operations, Ed Hood, vice president, Curator Tom Kelleher, and Building Trades Manager Rich Fanelli. Special thanks go to the OSV carpentry crew, who spent six months carefully disassembling and reconstructing the complex millwheel design.

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donor support funds millwheel repair

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How the Gristmill Works

Today we look forward to eating fresh “corn on the cob” each summer, but in early New England, corn was grown for livestock feed and, after a trip to the gristmill, to provide cornmeal for baking.

The basic design of the gristmill machinery is old, going back to the ancient Roman world. A runner stone rotates just a slight distance above a stationary bed stone in the floor. The millstones work like rotary scissors. As the waterwheel and gears turn one stone, the grooves on its surface cross the grooves on the surface of the other stone, chopping apart kernels of grain into a fine meal.

From a wooden hopper, sitting above the wooden cover over the stones, grain pours through a hole in the spinning runner stone down between the two millstones. At the upper stone revolves, the grain is sheared into meal and moved off into a meal pit in the floor. From there, the millers scoop up the fresh “grist” into the customer’s bag or barrel.

In 1795 Oliver Evans published The Young Millwright and Miller’s Guide, listing the three types of waterwheels in common use during this time: the overshot, undershot, and breast. Breast wheels were used extensively throughout New England during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and the wheel that powers the Village Gristmill is just such a wheel.

The power to turn the 3,000-pound millstone is provided by the breast wheel mounted on the side of the mill. At the breast, or mid-point of the wheel, water fills the troughs on the rim of the wheel. They empty at the bottom, creating an imbalance that causes the wheel to turn. Its movement turns the wooden gears and shafts in the basement that transmit the power to the millstones. In the winter, snow and ice often idled slow-turning wheels like this one.

Millers served their customers by grinding grain into flour and meal for baking or provender for livestock. By law, a miller could charge a fee or toll of 1/16th of the grain bought to him as payment for milling the rest. But in the early 1800s, rural milling was changing along with the rest of the economy; even in the countryside, cash fees were beginning to replace traditional tolls.
A Conversation with Victoria Belisle

By Margaret LeRoux

As lead interpreter of the Freeman Farm, Victoria Belisle has “the dream job I’ve wanted since I was five years old,” she says. “I grew up in an apartment in Southbridge and I always wanted to have grown up on a farm. I was the little girl who wanted to be milking cows and spinning wool.”

Victoria frequently visited OSV and attended summer camp at the Village as a child. While attending Montserrat College of Art in Beverly, she volunteered during semester break and three years ago was hired as an interpreter just before graduation. Victoria has since used her background in illustration and art education to conduct Village programs and demonstrations in silhouette cutting, watercolor painting and botanical illustration. She also did artwork for the Village’s new “A Child’s World” exhibit. Most days you’ll find Victoria at Freeman Farm, where she uses everyday chores to teach visitors about life in the 19th century.

“If I’m making cheese, visitors frequently ask what kind, and I explain that varietals have different undertones. I just love that.”

Many visitors ask about family life at the Freeman Farm; what were the concerns of family members? “Many of the same things we worry about,” Victoria replies. “Finances; there was a financial panic in 1837 and people were worried about having enough funds and work opportunities. They worried about how their children would do. And if they got sick, how would they care for them?”

Women frequently ask about opportunities for their gender in the 19th century, and Victoria delights in disavowing them of the notion that girls had to stay on the farm. “A lot of avenues were open to young women,” she points out. “Some wanted to go into the city and work at a mill; daughters of wealthy families could go to academies or to college at Oberlin in Ohio.”

Two of the characters Victoria portrays in presentations, Lydia Maria Child, who lectured and wrote about cooking and child rearing, and abolitionist Abigail Kelley Foster were important role models for women.

Victoria revels in cooking over the hearth, spinning, baking—all the chores of 18th- and 19th-century farm life, but the spirit of community and self-sufficiency is what she most treasures about her work at OSV.

Think carefully about the image.
A much-anticipated tradition at the Village is the annual dinner honoring a dedicated group of donors and supporters—The Federalist Society. This year’s honoree was Trustee Richard “Dick” Schulze, whose passionate support of the Village was recognized through 19th-century toasts and songs. The pre-dinner reception was held in our newly renovated space adjacent to the Herb Garden, the Garden View Room.

With the theme “It Takes a Village,” the all-volunteer Old Sturbridge Village Gala committee, led by Chair Lisa Dalberth, raised more than $103,000 to support Village programs. More than 265 people attended the sold-out event hosted by Late Night with David Letterman comedian Eddie Brill, who served as celebrity emcee and auctioneer.

Special honorees for the evening were Sands and Dick Hardy of Sturbridge, who received the “1946 Circle” award, named for the year Old Sturbridge Village opened to the public. 

OSV Trustee and former Gala Chair Betsy Peppel of Charlton with Southbridge residents Kathy Vairo and Ron Vairo, co-chair of the Gala advertising and sponsorship committee.

Members of the Old Sturbridge Village family gathered on a beautiful summer’s day as OSV President and CEO Jim Donahue and Board of Trustees Chairman Donna DeCorleto dedicated the Salem Towne House garden in memory of the late Gertrude Wells Brennan (1919–2011), a longtime OSV supporter and daughter of museum cofounder Joel Cheney Wells.

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Our Federalist Dinner

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Take Advantage of Member Discounts This Holiday Season

OSV-inspired gifts for everyone on your list

Members get discounts of 20–25 percent on these items on key dates in December. See sidebar for details; shop in the store or online: www.shoposv.org

Books and food make a perfect combination—especially at holiday time. Choose from more than 2,000 book titles in our New England Bookstore, or choose a customized gift basket featuring OSV items and more.

OSV 2013 Calendar
Beautiful Village scenes and upcoming events

PRODUCT NUMBER: 322887

New! Official OSV Commemorative Coin
Nearly 100 images; captures the spirit of the Village and its historic homes, farms, and mills.

PRODUCT NUMBER: 331180

New England Foods Gift Basket
Includes: Bosten baked beans, honey mustard, brown bread, pickled onion, cherry vanilla honey mustard, tomato jam, cheese dip mix, white pine cranberry and maple vinegar, honey roasted peanuts, pepper & cheese snack mix.

PRODUCT NUMBER: 204163

Candle Gift Basket
Includes: 8-inch bayberry taper candle, Village-made tie “extinguisher” and two tin chambersticks.

PRODUCT NUMBER: 322887

Soaps have

Country Bank Pledges $500,000 to OSV Education Programs

Continuing a longtime commitment to education, Country Bank President Paul Scully announced that the bank has pledged $500,000 to Old Sturbridge Village to support educational programs at the museum. In thanks for the bank’s generosity, Old Sturbridge Village President Jim Donahue has renamed the Village’s educational building “The Country Bank Education Center” in the bank’s honor.

More than 65,000 schoolchildren visit OSV on field trips each year, and a majority of school groups augment their visits with in-depth learning and hands-on historical activities led by OSV museum teachers in the Village’s education building. These include 1830s-style hearth cooking, archaeology, decorative arts, printing, weaving, farm activities, and games and amusements. Built in the 1970s, the education building, with its award-winning design, has long been regarded by educators and museum professionals as a premier setting for dynamic museum-based learning.

In announcing the $500,000 gift, Scully, who is also an OSV Trustee, lauded the Village’s success in rebounding from years of declining attendance in earlier decades. “The Village has stormed back and made a tremendous recovery under its current leadership. Through this gift, we at Country Bank are pleased to extend our educational support beyond the traditional classroom and into the vibrant interactive learning environment at Old Sturbridge Village.”

Donahue called the Country Bank gift “transformative,” and one that will allow Old Sturbridge Village to reach even more schoolchildren every year. “The year before I came to the Village, this beautiful building had been closed and shuttered as part of downsizing and cost-saving efforts. Now, it is humming with activity again, and thanks to Country Bank’s generosity, its future is secure.”

Country Bank, headquartered in Ware, has 14 branches in central and western Massachusetts and a multifaceted educational outreach program in the communities it serves. The bank has developed one of the largest school banking programs in the state, teaching thrift and financial literacy to students in more than 30 area elementary schools. The curriculum is based on materials from the State Treasurer’s Office, and other training elements designed internally by Country Bank. In addition, the bank sponsors a “Teacher of the Month” program with area radio stations, and annually offers $5,000 college scholarships to graduating seniors at 16 area high schools.
**Upcoming Events**

**Fall and Winter Come Alive in the Village**

**Christmas by Candlelight**
December 7–9, 14–16, 21–23
Don’t miss this unforgettable holiday treat. Find the simplicity of the holiday season while listening to carols, strolling the peaceful Village roads, sampling roasted chestnuts, and meeting Father Christmas (and Santa!)

**Dinner in a Country Village**
Saturday evenings, January–March
Prepare a meal over the hearth using 19th-century recipes and techniques under the guidance of an OSV historian and then enjoy the dinner you have made. This unique experience sells out quickly—book your date today.

**Winter Discovery Adventures**
December 27–28, January 19–20
Registration is now open for these two-day costumed day programs for kids ages 6–17. Spend part of December vacation or MLK weekend traveling back in time for a unique and fun adventure.

**MLK Day, January 21**
The Village is open on this Monday holiday, when we honor the civil rights leader by learning about the 19th-century abolitionists who paved the way for Martin Luther King’s historic contributions.

**Fire & Ice Days**
January 26–27
Embrace the chilly weather with ice cutting on the Mill Pond, ice skating, sledding, and sleigh rides. Then warm up by the fireside for stories, songs, and hot cider.

**February School Vacation**
February 16–24
Keep the kids busy and happy during school vacation week. OSV educators have planned a host of activities that make learning fun: hands-on crafts, special performances, as well as sledding and ice skating (weather permitting).

**Native American Weekend**
March 2–3
Maple sugaring originated with Native Americans, and on this first weekend of Maple Days you can discover more about their culture and interaction with European settlers.

**Maple Days, Weekends in March**
The transition between winter and spring means that the sap starts to flow in our “sugar bush,” and maple sugar making begins. Celebrate the changing of the season with this annual tradition.

**Celtic Celebration**
March 16–17
Irish heritage is celebrated in stories, songs, and more during this weekend event. Learn about the role of the Irish in 1830s New England and their lasting impact on our culture today.

**New Event**
**Be Mine: Chocolate & Valentines, February 9–10**
Chocolate was much more rare in the 19th century—and it was a drink, not a food! See how it was made using ancient methods. Connect to a piece of the area’s history as the birthplace of the Valentine.

**Presidents Day Weekend**
February 16–18
Vacation week kicks off with special activities honoring our first President, a hero to early Americans. Learn special dances for a Washington Ball, learn how to make Washington cake, and more.

**February School Vacation**
February 16–24
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**For times and details on all upcoming events at OSV, please call 800-SEE-1830 or visit www.osv.org.**

**NEW EVENT**
**Black History Weekend**
February 23–24
Learn about the world of African-Americans in early New England and celebrate their contributions to rural farm communities and to the rest of the young nation.

**Native American Weekend**
March 2–3
Maple sugaring originated with Native Americans, and on this first weekend of Maple Days you can discover more about their culture and interaction with European settlers.

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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