



YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

We thank each and every one of our members for their past donations. They have enabled us to continue to maintain our collection, allowed us to preserve the 1905 Town House and keep Otisfield's history alive for generations to come! In 2022, the society saw the most successful Strawberry Festival to date and our second cemetery tour was a resounding success! That being said, we do still need your continued support to keep the society energized! You can mail in your contribution in the enclosed envelope and we thank you again for your support.

OHS 2022 IN REVIEW

New Constitution Voted: At a covid-necessitated Zoom meeting on April 14th, OHS formally approved its new constitution, a long time in coming. At our first meeting in May, we will be holding one final vote to allow for more flexibility in the number of trustees. The Constitution will be updated to allow between 6 and 11 trustees. To read the whole thing, check it out via our website.

Strawberry Festival, July 10th: This year we set up a shady tent adjacent to the Bell Hill Meetinghouse and treated a goodly number of folks with sweet biscuits dripping with strawberries and whipped cream. 2022 saw our most successful festival to date! An innovation this year was the art show simultaneously happening inside the meetinghouse and sponsored by the Bell Hill Meetinghouse Association. It featured local watercolorist Steve Philbrook who was on hand to display and sell about 20 of his original paintings, some of local scenes. A good time was had by all.



Jean Hankins, Maureen Howard and Jim Howard serve a guest at our annual Strawberry Festival at the Bell Hill Meetinghouse

Bell Hill Cemetery Tour, October 1st: Starting at the Bell Hill Meetinghouse, two large groups of visitors took turns moving across the road to the old cemetery where they met along the way representatives of some old and notable Otisfield families: George Peirce, the town's first settler, followed by the Patches, Rays, Holdens, Knights, Nuttings, and Robeys. A number of knowledgeable impersonators from the Historical Society, most dressed in costume, explained how the individual strengths of various families—masons, preachers, diarists, farmers-- helped build the town we know today. The tour ended back at the meetinghouse with a seasonal offering of cider and gingerbread.



A digital facsimile of the 1824 Patch sampler, hand sewn by Julia Ann Patch, a descendant of one of Otisfield's earliest settlers. To see the sampler in person, please visit our archives

DONATIONS

Most notable was the gift of Otisfield items from Janet Rugg, dating back to the early 19th century. Among these we were especially delighted with a 12-page catalog of the Otisfield Library, printed in 1892. We are grateful for all such gifts and hope to see our collection grow even stronger. What do you have to contribute to our carefully archived collection?

TOWN HOUSE AVAILABLE

Would you like to hold an event at the 1905 Town House? The building may be listed on the National Register of Historic Places but, we can assure you it comes with many modern amenities.

If you would like to consider using the Town House for your event, please send us an email at otisfieldhistorical@gmail.com. Our building use policy is available on our website.

ARCHIVIST TO COME

Jean Hankins has been managing and enlarging our collection of documents and historic objects since 1993. She also claims she can find most things when necessary. But now that she's attained the grand age of 87, obviously we need to find her replacement.

Fortunately, Director Maureen Howard has bravely stepped up to volunteer. She has been working with Jean most Wednesday afternoons for the last few months, learning the job and getting acquainted with our system.

PROGRAMS FOR 2023

On May 18th join us as we return to our normal Thursday evening programs at 7pm at the Old Town House. Jean Hankins will present a power point on the Origins of Otisfield. In case of cold weather, program will moved to Community Hall.

On Thursday June 15th, Thursday at 7 pm at the Town House, Derek Dorr will present "Glenn Henry, The Folding Man" and give us a hard look at how this ingenious inventor, living at Spurr's Corner, contrived such novelties as a folding boat and a folding rostrum.

Come one, come all on July 9th for our annual Strawberry Festival, at Bell Hill Meetinghouse from 4-6 pm. We'll be collaborating again with the Bell Hill Meetinghouse Association, who will open their doors for an art display and sale to coincide with the shortcake. The 1839 Bell Hill schoolhouse will also be open to the public.

Still to be scheduled: Ryan Adams, of Bell Hill Forge, has agreed to show off his talents at a special program still to be announced. Stay tuned! This will probably take place in the back parking lot of the Town House on Bell Hill Road.



A folding rostrum, or podium, invented by the very clever Glenn Henry



Julia Ann Patch, played by Maureen Howard, joined us for a day to enlighten us on the history of the Patch Family, one of the first families to arrive in Otisfield

CURRENT OHS OFFICERS

President - Derek Dorr

Vice-President - Callie Zilinsky

Secretary - Jessica Dorr

Treasurer - Polly Bartow

Archivists - Jean Hankins

Archivist in Training - Maureen Howard

Directors - Alan Douglass and Mike Thorne

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Otisfield Historical Society could use your help! We need volunteers! Our programs and events can take a lot of work and extra hands are always appreciated.

If you have an interest in helping to preserve the history of our community, the ability to serve shortcake, or the know-how to run a camcorder, please let us know by sending us an email at otisfieldhistorical@gmail.com

Calendar For 2023

May 18th - Origins of Otisfield - Old Town House 7pm

June 15th - Glenn Henry, the "Folding Man" - Old Town House 7pm

July 9th - Strawberry Festival - Bell Hill Meetinghouse 4pm-6pm

Date TBA - Blacksmithing with Ryan Adams, time TBA

Make sure to check us out online

www.otisfield.org

Facebook.com/OtisfieldHistoricalSociety

YouTube.com/otisfieldhistorical

Instagram.com/otisfieldhistorical