



*Fall / Winter 2016-17 Newsletter*

*The Bidwell House Museum is a New England heritage site providing a personal encounter with history, early American home life, and the Berkshire landscape, through its land, house and collection. The Museum is a non-profit educational institution for the benefit of the community and today's audiences of all ages, dedicated to preservation, scholarship and enjoyment of the landmark site.*



*Adonijah's Birthday Party*

## 2016 Celebration of Bidwell's 300<sup>th</sup> Birthday

The museum's 2016 season honored Adonijah Bidwell, the founding minister of the community and builder of the house that is today the museum. Born 300 years ago, on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 1716, in Hartford, Connecticut Colony, Bidwell was the son of Prudence Scott and Thomas Bidwell.

He was ordained first minister of Township No. 1 (later Tyringham and Monterey) on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1750. Adonijah Bidwell served the town as spiritual leader until his death in 1784. He baptized 378 children and adults and married 166 couples in his 34 years as minister.

Singer and songwriter Diane Taraz composed a special program to commemorate Adonijah and the life of his mother for the museum's opening. Taraz's extensive research resulted in an essay, which can be found in the 2016 Bidwell Almanac and on the museum's website.

Yale history professor John Demos imagined a week in the life of a frontier pastor in early America for the History Talk Series.

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## Museum Begins Major Restoration

The Bidwell House is proud and grateful to announce that the museum has begun a phased restoration of the historic building. As the only mid-18th century historic home in Berkshire County open to the public and still on its original site, it is a treasure worth preserving. The house is over 250 years old and in need of major repairs and mandated improvements. The total cost of the work is estimated at \$750,000. Despite the enormity of this financial burden for a small museum in a rural community, the museum has already raised nearly \$600,000 through generous donations from museum supporters and two matching state grants.

"Now, with the help of a \$100,000 one-to-one matching grant from the Jane and Jack Fitzpatrick Trust, we are optimistic that we can reach our goal with the a little additional help from our friends and neighbors," notes Frank Kern, the museum's treasurer. "With this enormously generous challenge grant, every donor dollar has a double impact on the preservation of the historic house!"

To address the building's needs in a comprehensive way, the museum commissioned an historic structure study in

2015 to determine what needed to be done and the proper sequencing to preserve the historic elements. The work will be done in three phases, with the first two phases being roofing work (you may remember photos of the leaks from a prior newsletter). Re-roofing of the 1840s wing and the two historic out-buildings has already been completed, with the help of a \$30,000 Massachusetts Cultural Council Cultural Facilities



Fund Grant and matching donations. The next phase just began. It includes re-roofing the main house and rear ell, plus significant structural stabilization, insulation, electrical improvements and exterior painting. Local contractor Henry Kirchdorfer of Stockbridge is carrying out the work. The Museum, which is listed in the State Register of Historic Places, has received a \$50,000 matching grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund through the Massachusetts Historical Commission, Secretary of the Commonwealth, William Francis Galvin, Chairman, to help fund this phase.

*continued on page 7*

***Good News Update: Restoration Campaign Reaches \$595,766 Thank you, Donors and Friends!***

*Donors have raised \$43,866 toward the \$100,000 Jane & Jack Fitzpatrick Trust. With your help, we will raise it all. Come by the museum to see the restoration work you are funding!*

## President's Message



*Rob Hoogs leading a hiking group*

*Dear Friends and fellow "Bidwellians,"*

*Wow! What a year we've had, thanks to your enthusiastic help and support. We've celebrated Adonijah Bidwell's 300th birthday with a fabulous gala held in August in the beautiful new garden area in Adonijah's dooryard. Township #1 Day in July was as lovely a day as we could have asked for, and many families and children rollicked throughout the historic grounds and enjoyed the yummy cakes and pies. The history lecture series was enjoyed by hundreds of people. And we hosted three Housatonic Heritage Hikes that were a big hit.*

*You may have noticed some shiny new roofs on several outbuildings (and a tarp on the roof of the main house and ell). As described elsewhere, we have embarked on a major restoration campaign for the historic buildings, including all new cedar shingle roofs and gutters, plus a lot of necessary repairs and improvements behind the scenes – structural, insulation, plumbing, electrical, painting. The second phase of that work is underway and should be completed in time for our opening on Memorial Day 2017. The third and final phase of the project will enhance the visitor experience and improve accessibility for all visitors, as well as fixing surface and subsurface drainage. Overall, our goal is to preserve and protect the historic house and collection and make visits here even better.*

*We have been able to do this with your help – through your memberships, your participation at our programs, volunteering for events, and your financial support. Most of you will already have received a letter with the great news about the Capital Project Campaign. And many of you have already donated toward our goal. THANK YOU! If you have not yet contributed to the campaign, please consider making a donation. To help the museum achieve the \$750,000 goal, The Jane and Jack Fitzpatrick Foundation has awarded the museum a \$100,000 challenge grant. Every dollar you contribute now will be matched by the Fitzpatrick grant.*

*And of course, we still need your help with our Annual Appeal to fund our operating budget so we can continue programming, as well as keeping the house warm this winter.*

*Thank you, thank you, thank you...from the bottom of our heart. You make it all worthwhile.*

*Rob Hoogs, President of the Board of Trustees*

## Thank You, 2016 Business Partners

Alarms of Berkshire County  
Barrington Stage Company  
Benchmark Real Estate  
Berkshire Magazine  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts  
Brockman Real Estate  
Café Adam, Bar & Restaurant  
Cain, Hibbard & Myers, PC  
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Norman Rockwell Museum  
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Ward's Nursery  
Webster Landscaping  
Wheeler & Taylor  
Woodruff Mountain Landscaping  
*Your support funds history education,  
outreach, and more!*



## Edward Partridge, Sr., Edward Partridge, Jr. Emily Partridge, Eliza Partridge

Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren of Rev. Adonijah Bidwell, by Richard Bidwell Wilcox

Edward Partridge by the time he was twenty said that he “saw no beauty, comeliness or loveliness in the character of the God preached by the sects of his day.” Edward was the son of William and Jemima Bidwell Partridge of Pittsfield, a nephew of Dr. Oliver Partridge of Stockbridge and grandson of Rev. Adonijah and Jemima Devotion Bidwell of Monterey and Colonel Oliver Partridge and Anna Williams Partridge of Hatfield.

Edward Partridge was born in Pittsfield August 27, 1793, learned the hatter's trade and practiced it with a partner in Albany, later establishing a branch in Painesville, Ohio. In 1819, in Ohio, he married Lydia Clisbee (1793-1878) and they were converted to Campbellism. Soon after, Mormon missionaries converted Lydia to the new faith, but Edward was more cautious.

He travelled to New York to hear the preaching of Joseph Smith, approved of what he heard and was baptized by Joseph Smith in the Seneca River. Edward made a visit to his family in Pittsfield, but he and his “joyous tidings” were summarily rejected, so he returned to Ohio and within two months was called by revelation to be the first Bishop of the Mormon Church.

Joseph Smith (1805-1844) moved his flock from state to state, ending up in Nauvoo, Ill, where he engendered so much antagonism that he was killed by a mob in 1844. Brigham Young (1801-1877) was chosen to lead the embattled Mormons in their great trek west in 1846-47, and he founded Salt Lake City in what became the State of Utah.

Two of Edward and Lydia's daughters became plural wives of the Mormon leaders. Emily at 16 and Eliza at 20

worked in the Joseph Smith's home in Nauvoo and according to Emily, “were married to Brother Joseph...neither of us knew about the other at the time, everything was so secret.” She added that when Joseph Smith was killed “his plural wives were forced to bear their grief in silence.” Both Emily and Eliza remarried. Emily became the wife of Brigham Young, and they had seven children together. Eliza married church elder Amasa Lyman, and there were five children from that marriage.

Edward Partridge, Jr. also went on to become Bishop of the Mormon Church, a member of the Utah legislature and the Utah Constitutional Convention of 1895, which ratified Utah statehood. When Edward died in 1900, he had two wives and 17 children.

*Editor's note: Two descendants of Edward Partridge visited the museum this year.*

## Teen Crew Discovers Old House and its Stories



Eighteen local teens worked on Bidwell trails and explored the historic house this August, thanks to a project funded by Bidwell education fund donors and a \$3,000 matching grant from the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area. The young men and women are part of the Greenagers, a Berkshire County program connecting teens with paid outdoor work projects.

On the museum grounds, the well-trained teen work crews improved existing trails, built steps and cleared new paths. Goal of the project along with trail work was to connect the participants

with the historic site and their own local history. The group explored the museum with staff and interns, and learned about the land history from board president Rob Hoogs.

“The teens' sensibilities immediately picked up on the spiritual nature of the place,” noted Barbara Palmer, executive director. “Some found connection to their own families' homes, others were convinced there are numerous ghosts gracing the old rooms. It was really fun to explore the house with them.”

Comments about their experience ranged from: “I helped preserve a piece

of history,” to “I loved working at an historic site,” to “The rooms gave me an idea of what the lifestyle of the period was like,” and “There were ghosts. It was cool but creepy.”

The museum is grateful to the Greenagers and their leader Will Conklin, as well as Dan Bolognani and Cory Hines at Housatonic Heritage for making this experimental program possible.

To learn more about the Greenagers and their outdoor work programs, take a look at their website: [Greenagers.org](http://Greenagers.org).

The new trail connections and bridges are there for all to enjoy!





## Season Highlights



Summer party honors Dick and Barbara Tryon with new interpretive sign dedicated in their honor



Maggie Barkin, party co-chair and ace auctioneer



Plant Dyes and Fibers workshop led by Camille Roos at the newly re-roofed Horse Barn



Allison Edwards and Mary Jo Engels celebrating Adonijah Bidwell's 300th birthday



Young party reveler



Young workshop attendees creating art with willow charcoal and inks made from nuts and berries



Isabel and Susannah Bailin, Susan and Alan Lafer and David Bailin enjoying Adonijah's anniversary



Winter adventurers looking for shelter at the Bidwell door



John Demos with granddaughter, Chris Goldfinger, Kathryn Roberts and Linda and Mark Sena at Monterey Memorial Day parade



Richard Greene leading the Royal Hemlock Trail walk in the steps of the early settlers



Rob Hoogs demonstrates traditional land surveying



Rebecca McTavish, Liz and Jesse Goodman at the birthday bash



# Season Highlights



Young History Scholar Interns Gabi Makuc, Justin Makuc, Jacob Makuc, Joe Makuc, Marya Makuc, and Lexi Shumski



Naturalist David Brown points out bear claw marks



Jacob Edelman and Kenn Basler cook up hot dogs at Township No. 1 Day



The big party tent fits perfectly in the newly created lawns below the house and gardens



Intern Talia Pott volunteering at Township Day



Walter and Mary Jo Engels celebrating Adonijah's birthday. They hosted the Bidwell Thanksgiving Party in November. Thank you, Walter and Mary Jo!



Painting en plain air at the Bidwell House on a beautiful September day with the Housatonic Art League and Frank Federico



Mark Sena and Linda Saul-Sena



Alix von Auenmueller demonstrates her pottery to fascinated young visitors at Township No. 1 Day



Bidwell Singers: Steve Pullen, Gabi Makuc, Sally Pullen, Sarah Coffman, Maggie Barkin, David Voss and Linda Saul-Sena



Maureen Banner, Chris Goldfinger and friend at break in workshop



Gentleman celebrants BJ Johnson, George Emmons, Peter Grealish and Gil Schrank at Adonijah's birthday bash



## Bidwell Gardens Blossom Thanks to Generous Gifts



*Newly installed Pollinator Garden attracts visitors, along with bees, moths and butterflies*

In honor of Adonijah's anniversary, special donations by two board members paid for extensive renewal and replanting of the Bidwell gardens in 2016. Bidwell head gardener Ruth Green updated the front perennial gardens and added a shade garden and a pollinator garden on the grounds. Visitors were greeted by the splendor of the plantings, and enjoyed herbs, vegetables and ber-

ries in the heirloom and kitchen gardens.

Generous Bidwell friends Carl and Elise Hartman donated 86 engraved botanical labels for the gardens. These professional signs list the common name, botanical name and region of origin of each plant, shrub or tree, expanding the education mission of the museum's gardens greatly.

"Visitors were thrilled by the beauty of the gardens all year," noted Executive Director Barbara Palmer. "I am so grateful to the Hartmans for the gift of the signs, to Ruth for her tremendous expertise, and to the generous board members who made the renewal of the gardens possible."



## New Trustee Linnea Grealish



At the November board meeting, the Bidwell House Board of Directors elected Linnea W. Grealish to a three-year term on the board. Linnea

is a part-time Monterey resident.

Linnea brings a love of history – specifically New England history – to the museum, along with financial know-how as a CFA (chartered financial analyst) charter holder and from a career at John Hancock Life Insurance and Battery-march Financial Management. Linnea grew up in Natick, MA, and graduated from Mount Holyoke College. She and her husband Peter have two grown children and also live in Harvard, MA. Welcome, Linnea!

Garden beauty was maintained by Ruth Green and Rosalia Padilla, with the help of volunteers Cindy and Rob Hoogs, Julie and Frank Kern, Kathryn and Marc Roberts, Barbara Tryon, Roger Tryon and Rick Wilcox. Joe Wasuik donated his time and skill to rebuild the garden stairs and the outdoor light. "Thanks to the volunteers, the community is lucky to have these gorgeous gardens they are invited to visit any time," explained Palmer. "The volunteers make it all possible."



*Terry Roberts' grandchildren with memorial bench*

## Memorial Gifts add

## Beauty to Gardens

Family and friends of Terry Roberts and Bill Brockman made donations in honor of their loved ones to the Bidwell House this past year. The donations allowed the museum to create a new lawn and garden area that will be enjoyed by visitors for many years to come.

Thanks to the memorial donations, several truckloads of rubble stone were removed above and below a historic stone wall in the lower gardens. The newly smooth area has been planted. The family of Terry Roberts dedicated a beautiful teak bench and planters in Terry's memory in August. A tree will be planted in the spring.

The Bidwell House Museum is grateful for these memorial donations and the special improvement projects they funded.



*Roger Tryon removing rock field*

### Thank You, 2016 Education Program Sponsors!

Alarms of Berkshire County  
Larry Birnbach & Bev Hyman  
Delight & Paul Dodyk  
Great Barrington Cultural Council  
Richard & Lindsay Greene  
Hop Brook Community Club  
Cynthia & Robert Hoogs  
Nancy Jones & Gilbert Schrank

Lenox Cultural Council  
Monterey Cultural Council  
Kathryn and Marc Roberts  
Joyce Scheffey  
Martin & Jane Schwartz  
Ronald Skrepich  
Wilma H. Spice  
Erica & Don Stern



The "Piggery" sports new cedar shingles

# Bidwell Restoration Campaign Donors

As of December 5, 2017\*

## Museum Restoration

continued from page 1

The final phase – accessibility improvements and visitor enhancements – will significantly improve the visitor experience, providing a universally accessible entryway, flooring in the carriage barn, accessible rest room, a video tour and other enhancements, plus site drainage.

“The Bidwell House Museum would not be able to restore the buildings without the support of the community, its members and donors,” noted Rob Hoogs, President of the Board of Trustees. “I want to say thank you on behalf of all who visit, enjoy and learn from this beautiful place, today and in future decades.”

A volunteer task force has worked on the campaign for over a year. The museum’s website, [www.bidwellhousemuseum.org/index.php/campaign/](http://www.bidwellhousemuseum.org/index.php/campaign/) has more information about the restoration, and there is a way to donate on line. Please feel free to contact the museum office with any questions.



## Bidwell’s 300th, con’t from p. 1

Members and friends of the museum threw Adonijah a big birthday party in August, complete with live roots-and-bluegrass music, sparkling wine and birthday cake. Special party honorees were Monterey residents Barbara and Dick Tryon.

Take a look at the party photos on pp. 4-5.

Alarms of Berkshire County  
 Henry and Gerry Alpert  
 Diane M. Austin & Aaron J. Nurick  
 Susan Bachelder  
 Joe Baker and Bonner McAllester  
 JoAnn Bell and Douglas McTavish  
 Lawrence Birnbach and Beverly Hyman  
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 Rick Wilcox and Joyce Butler  
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 Woven Roots Farm: Jennifer & Peter Salinetti  
 Michael Zisser and Marsha Morton  
 Anonymous Gifts

### Thank you for preserving the historic Bidwell House for the future!

The Campaign Task Force: Delight Dodyk, chair, Rob Hoogs, Frank Kern, Paula Moats, Kathryn Roberts, Rick Wilcox, Heather Kowalski and Barbara Palmer

\* Please forgive the Museum if we forgot anyone. It’s not the Museum’s fault, it’s the fallible staff. We are grateful to all of you!





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[www.bidwellhousemuseum.org](http://www.bidwellhousemuseum.org)



*The new trail map will help you find this Champion Oak!*



*Hikers enjoying a sunny fall day -- and the new roof on the 1840s wing*

## 2016-17 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## MUSEUM STAFF

*Barbara Palmer, Executive Director*  
*Heather Kowalski, Administrative Manager*  
*Rosalia Padilla, Caretaker*

### High School Students: Museum Offers Internships

*Thanks to the Great Barrington, Lenox and Monterey Cultural Councils and generous private donors, the museum will offer two-week stipended internships in Summer 2017. To learn more and to apply, please go to the museum's website.*

**Application Deadline: April 30th**

**☞ Become a member to enjoy every issue of the newsletter ☞**  
**Go to the museum's website: [bidwellhousemuseum.org](http://bidwellhousemuseum.org)**