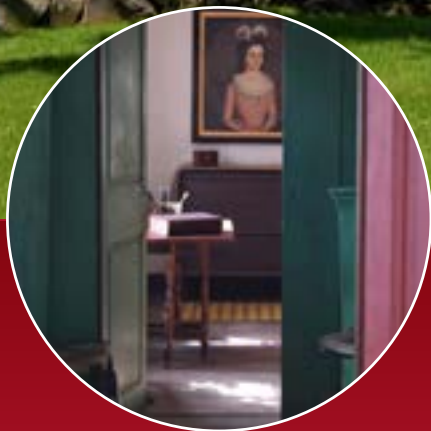


The Bidwell Almanac

2025

1760s homestead on 194 acres



► bidwellhousemuseum.org



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- Explore the trails and gardens of the 194-acre grounds
- Walk in the steps of the Native Peoples on a self-guided Woodland Trail
- Marvel at 18th century ingenuity at the hearths, ovens and tools
- Listen to the stories of the homestead and its inhabitants

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Address and Tours

100 Art School Rd • Monterey, MA 01245 • 413-528-6888 • bidwellhouse@gmail.com
www.bidwellhousemuseum.org

Guided tours of the house are by appointment only Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Tours must be booked 24 hours in advance and can be booked by calling 413-528-6888 or emailing the Museum at bidwellhm2@gmail.com. Gardens and grounds open year round, dawn until dusk, free of charge.

Admission

\$20 adult—\$15 seniors—\$5 students (12-18yr old)— children under 12 are free

Mission statement: 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.



Martha Washington" visits the Bidwell House in May 2025, photo credit Steve Gilbert.

Welcome to the Bidwell House Museum



2025 marks our 35th year of operation, and all of us associated with the Museum – our staff and those of us who serve on the Board of Directors – look forward to another wonderful season. We hope that you will take full advantage of our house tours, educational programs, the extensive trail system, and the special events we have planned. Of particular note, I invite you to join us for our **Summer Fundraiser** on Friday - July 25, 2025, which this year, will provide attendees an opportunity to meet with antiques experts and learn more about some of your treasured items. And I strongly suggest that you mark your calendars now for our upcoming **Revolutionary War Reenactment Weekend**, scheduled to take place October 3 - 5, 2025. Details about those events, and many more, can be found on our website at www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

Two hundred and fifty years ago, in April 1775, the Battles of Lexington and Concord occurred, becoming the first battles of the American Revolutionary War. A short time later, in June 1775, 56 delegates gathered

in Philadelphia for the Second Continental Congress. During that meeting, the various colonial militias were incorporated into one force, the Continental Army, and George Washington was made commander-in-chief of that force. And in August 1775, the British Parliament officially declared the North American colonies "to be in a state of rebellion". Those were extraordinary times, and our forebears in western Massachusetts were caught up in the fever of rebellion, both as Patriots and as Loyalists.

Throughout the next many months, in the run-up to the celebration of the country's Semiquincentennial on July 4, 2026, watch for events here at the Bidwell House Museum that will be planned in conjunction with the national "**America250**" programming. This is an exciting time to become more directly involved with the Bidwell House Museum. Please consider joining as a member or renewing your membership. At the \$175 "**Patron**" level you receive season tour passes for two individuals, four guest passes, and membership in the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Association, providing access to over 1000 historical, cultural, and arts organizations in the United States. The Museum is always looking for new volunteers to serve in a variety of capacities: helping us to maintain our beautiful gardens; serving as a docent giving house tours; assisting with the maintenance of our six miles of hiking trails; or participating on a Board committee planning future events. For more information, refer to the website.

I look forward to seeing you at the Museum during the 2025 season.

With warm regards,

—**Diane Austin, President, Bidwell House Board of Directors**

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2025 Season Program Schedule

MAY

May 26

First Day of Guided Tours at the Bidwell House Museum

Learn the story of the Bidwell Family and the history of the house and grounds in this 45-60 minute guided tour. The tour begins outside, where you will learn about the 18th century Berkshires and the arrival of Adonijah Bidwell to the area. The tour continues inside, where you will see how 18th century residents of Township #1 (today's Tyringham and Monterey) would have lived. Tours are by appointment only on Monday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday and can be scheduled by emailing bidwellhm2@gmail.com or calling 412-528-6888.

JUNE

June 14

History Talk with Kirsten E. Wood

Accommodating the Republic: Taverns in the Early United States

As Americans surged westward and built their new republic in the early nineteenth century, entrepreneurial, improvement-minded men went to taverns to raise capital, promote innovative businesses, practice genteel sociability, and rally support for favored causes—often while drinking staggering amounts of alcohol. Sharing tavern spaces with other Americans intensified white men's struggles to define what, and for whom, taverns—and the nation—should be. This lecture will be held at the Tyringham Union Church at 128 Main Rd in Tyringham. This will be an in-person lecture, with the option to also watch a livestream via Zoom. For Zoom

tickets, Members are free and Non-Members are \$15. For in-person tickets, Members are \$15 and Non-Members are \$25. 11 a.m.

June 26

Concert with Cosby Gibson and Tom Staudle

Historic Songs of the American Revolution

The history of the American Revolution is detailed with many battles, conferences, and personalities. But it was also a time of patriotism, inspiration, and song. This musical program includes nine historic songs, and will give a brief narrative of the history of this war through song. Tickets will be \$15 for Members and \$20 for Non-Members. 4 p.m.

June 28

History Talk with Dennis Picard

A Mason's Tool Chest: 18th and 19th Century Stone Work

From foundations to fence posts; millstones to gravestones, the work of the Early American mason is still evident around us to this day. Come see examples of these works and learn about the tools and techniques that were used to create them. This lecture will be held at the Tyringham Union Church at 128 Main Rd in Tyringham. This will be an in-person lecture, with the option to also watch a livestream via Zoom. For Zoom tickets, Members are free and Non-Members are \$15. For in-person tickets, Members are \$15 and Non-Members are \$25. 11 a.m.

JULY

July 25

Summer Fundraising Party - Berkshire Roadshow!

Have your family heirloom assessed by our experts while helping to raise money for the Museum. Enjoy light hors d'oeuvres by Marketplace Kitchen and music from DJ Drew. Tickets go on sale in June. 4-7 p.m.

July 26

History Talk with Eric Gradoia

Plan, Form and Construction: The Bidwell house as an example of 18th century New England domestic architecture.

This talk will look at the Bidwell House as a regional example of eighteenth century domestic architecture, using it to explore common house types and floor plans of the period, along with the materials and technology used in the construction of these homes. This will be an in-person lecture, with the option to also watch a livestream via Zoom. For Zoom tickets, Members are free and Non-Members are \$15. For in-person tickets, Members are \$15 and Non-Members are \$25. 11 a.m.

AUGUST

August 26

History Talk with Dr. Amy Watson

The Battle of Louisbourg

In this talk, Dr. Amy Watson will explain why New Englanders launched this invasion of a frigid Canadian port, why they were forced to return it, and what the Siege of Louisbourg can tell us about both British party politics and the origins of the American Revolution. This lecture will be held on Zoom. For tickets, Members are free and Non-Members are \$15. 11 a.m.

SEPTEMBER

September 13

Housatonic Heritage walk with Rob Hoogs

Knox's Noble Train of Artillery through Monterey, 1 p.m.

September 28

Housatonic Heritage walk with Tom Ryan

Native Tree and Shrub Identification and Ecological Forestry Concepts with a Local State Forester, 12 p.m.

OCTOBER

October 3-5

Revolutionary War Living History Weekend

Join the Bidwell House for a three day exploration of the lives of troops and followers during the American Revolutionary War period. This exciting event will feature multiple lectures with topics including Martha Washington, Mercy Otis Warren, Frederika Reidesel, tavern life, midwifery and sutlery. There will be tactical demonstrations and visitors are also encouraged to visit the camps and speak to the participants about everyday life in the British and Continental armies. A full schedule of events and tickets will be available over the summer on the Museum website at bidwellhousemuseum.org. This program is supported in part by grants from the Massachusetts Society of Cincinnati along with the Lee, Monterey, New Marlborough, Otis, Sheffield and Tyringham Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Programs take place at the Bidwell House Museum at 100 Art School Road, Monterey, unless otherwise noted.

Additional programs may be added after publication - check the Events page on the Museum website for a full schedule.

America's 250th Birthday

In 2026, the United States will celebrate its 250th anniversary and events to

commemorate this momentous occasion, along with many of the proceedings leading up to it, have already begun in Massachusetts. From the Boston Tea Party Reenactment in December of 2023 to the demonstrations of the Battles of Lexington and Concord in Minuteman National Park in April of this year, there are programs happening throughout the Commonwealth to educate the public about the founding of the of this nation.



Boston. What became known as Knox's "noble train of artillery" was an enormous task, made all the more difficult by the winter weather conditions. This "noble train of artillery" passed right through the southern Berkshires in January of 1776.

To commemorate this incredible feat, the Museum will be hosting a Housatonic Heritage walk about the Knox trail in September 2025 and then in January 2026 we will be working with local historical societies and libraries on some programs to showcase the monumental efforts of the men who pulled off this deed.

As the Revolutionary fervor spread throughout New England, local colonists began the practice of erecting "Liberty Poles" on both private properties and

town squares. The raising of these poles symbolized dissent from Britain and their unpopular taxes and edicts. On the Bidwell grounds in 2025 we have raised our own Liberty Pole and are flying the "Liberty or Death" flag. On this flag you will see the Phrygian cap, which at the time was a coded symbol meaning that the Sons of Liberty should meet. Notices were often tacked onto the poles and you will see on our Liberty pole a copy of the Stockbridge Declaration which had one signey from Tyringham (today split into Monterey and Tyringham).

Make sure to check the Museum website throughout 2025 and 2026 for more programming related to the Revolutionary War.



At the Bidwell House Museum, our programming in 2025 and 2026 will look back to these early stories and we hope that some of these programs will immerse you in the New England of the 18th century.

From October 3-5, 2025, the grounds of the Museum will be taken over by the British and Continental armies for our third Living History Weekend. Visitors will get to explore the military camps, watch mock battles and listen to lectures about historical life during the Revolutionary Era. The Museum location, in the woods at the end of a dirt road, allows for a level of authenticity in these types of programs that is hard to find elsewhere.

A hugely important event in the American Revolution was the movement of artillery by Colonel Henry Knox from Lake Champlain to George Washington's camp outside of

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<p>CIRCUS & THE BARD Co-created by Allyn Burrows, Robin Eldridge & Pedro Reis AUGUST 21 – 31 Tina Packer Playhouse</p>	<p>OUTDOOR THEATER</p> <p>PLAYS in Progress An Introduction to New Works AUGUST 26 – 28 Outdoors at the Rose Footprint Theatre</p>	<p>NEW ENGLAND PREMIERE</p> <p>MOTHER PLAY A PLAY IN FIVE EVICTIONS by Paula Vogel Directed by Ariel Bock AUGUST 29 – OCTOBER 5 Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre</p>	<p>CELEBRATING JEWISH PLAYS AN IMMERSIVE WEEKEND OF STAGED READINGS OCTOBER 10 – 12 Tina Packer Playhouse & Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre</p>	<p>A Lively, Costumed Reading SENSE AND SENSIBILITY by Kate Hamill Based on the novel by Jane Austen Directed by Ariel Bock DECEMBER 12 – 14 Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre</p>

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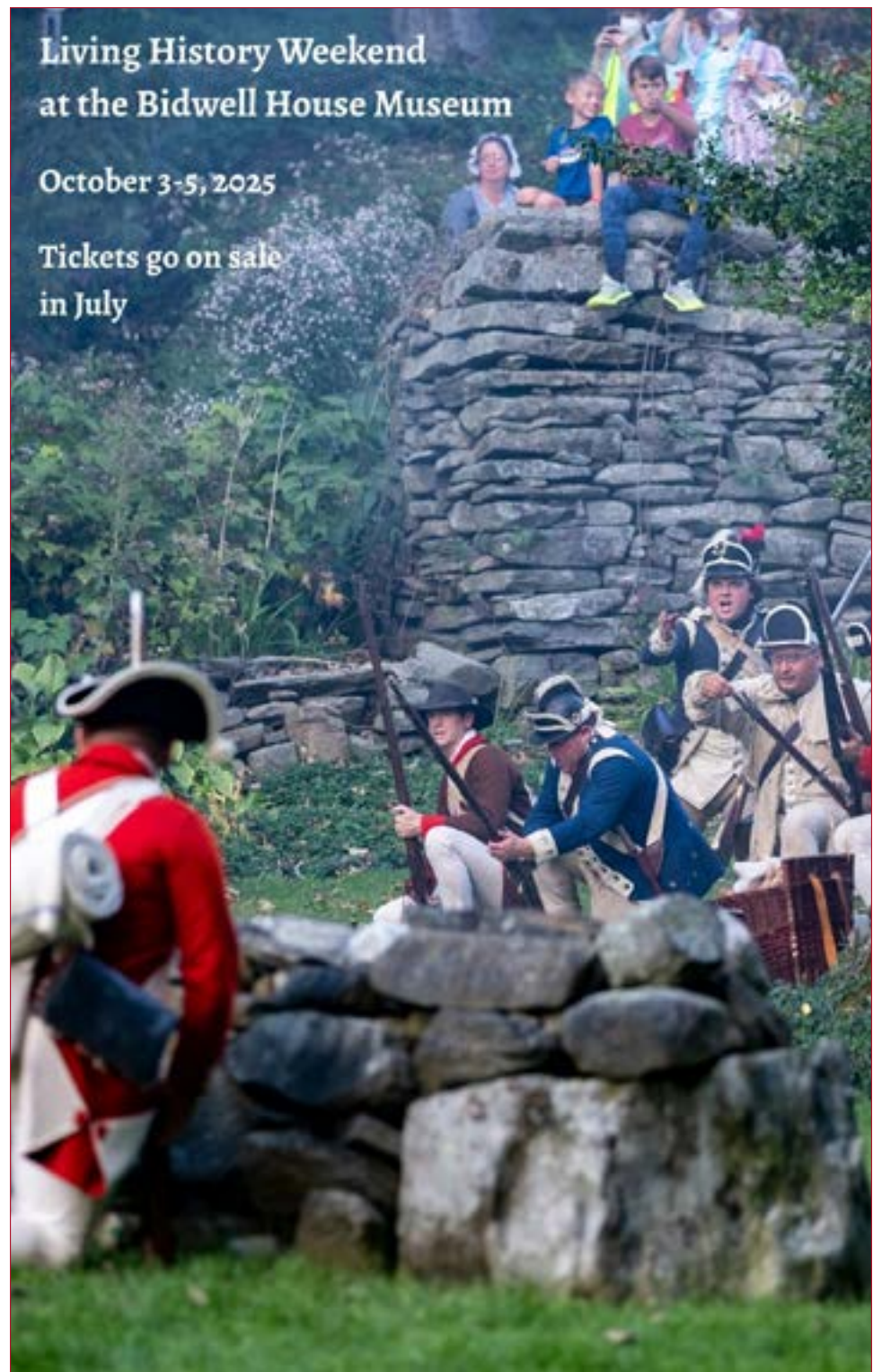
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July 25, 2025
4-7 pm



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Cult classics.

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413 528 8886

The Bidwell House Museum wants you to enjoy this beautiful land!

Set on 196 acres of forests, gardens, fields, streams and stone walls, the Bidwell House Museum cares deeply about preserving the local landscape and providing access to these beautiful Berkshire woods for all of the Museum's visitors. There are over 5 miles of trails on the property which is open daily, free of charge, from dawn until dusk.

In 2021, with a \$300,000 gift from the Turkeybush Foundation, the Museum placed 180 acres of the property into a conservation restriction to be overseen by the Berkshire Natural Resources Council and the Monterey Preservation Land

Trust. The mission of the Bidwell House Museum is to provide visitors with a personal encounter with history. The long-term preservation of the Museum property will allow visitors, residents of the Berkshires, and neighbors in the town of Monterey, to enjoy the beautiful and unspoiled grounds in perpetuity. In addition to Rev. Adonijah Bidwell's gracious 1760s home, the acres of forests and fields around the house contain the remains of important historical sites, including cellar holes from the home of the early residents of Tyringham and the site of the original Meetinghouse where Reverend Bidwell preached his sermons. In addition, the Museum property is part of the ancestral homeland of the Mohicans. Preserving this landscape

allows the Museum to continue sharing the Mohican's long over-looked history while also allowing visitors to imagine Mohican lifeways long ago as well as appreciating their ongoing presence here in the Berkshires.

To further illustrate the Museum's commitment to the land, the Bidwell

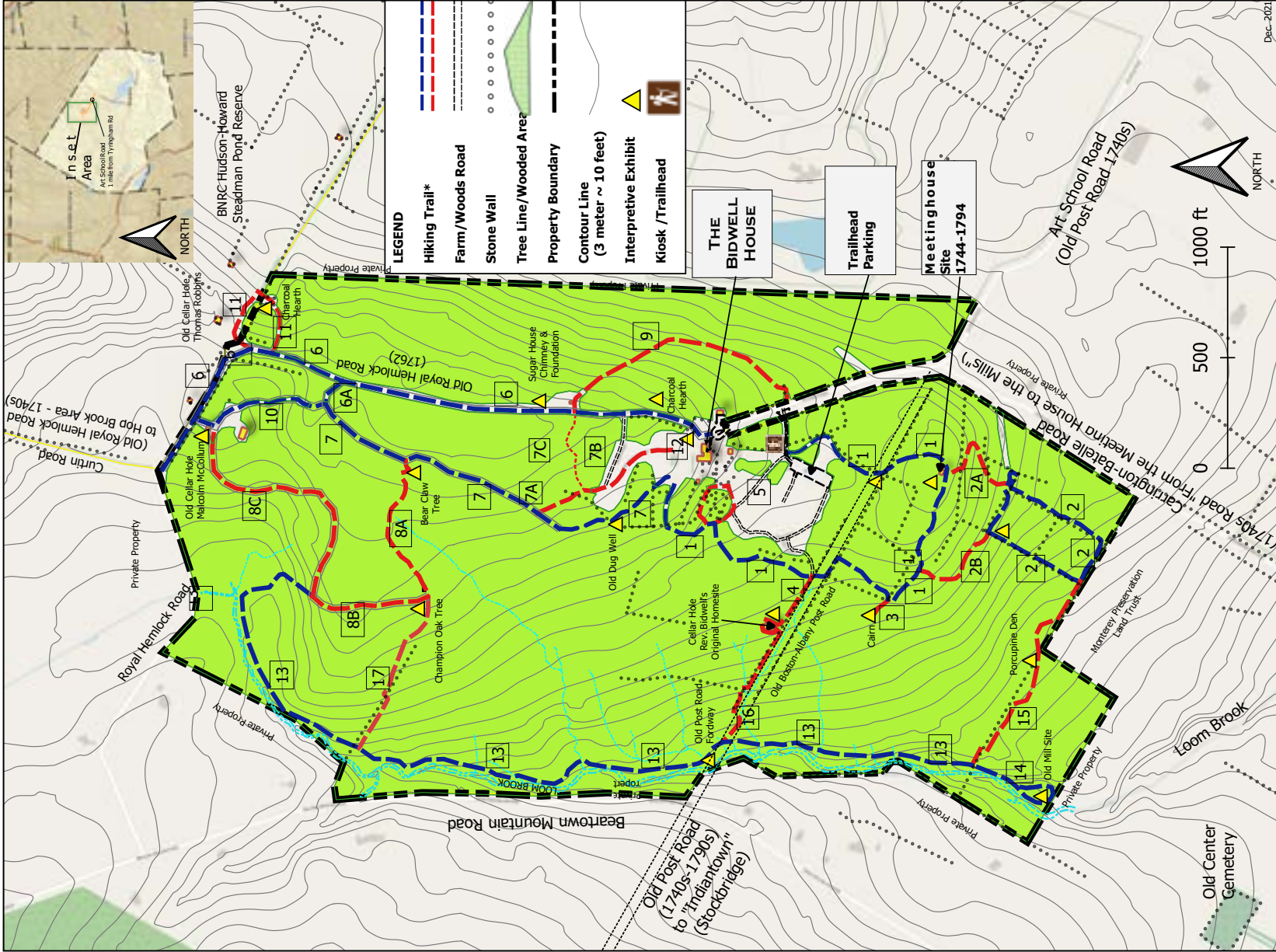


Greenagers hard at work on the Loom Brook Trail!

House worked with local organization Greenagers to construct a new interpretive hiking trail along the Loom Brook in the summer of 2021. The South Egremont based Greenagers, through its paid employment programs, internships and apprenticeships,

engages teens and young adults in meaningful work in environmental conservation, sustainable farming, natural resource management, and vocational skills building.

Using a \$21,410 MassTrails grant, the Greenagers trail crew, composed of youth aged 15-24, spent the summer building this new trail. The crew fought through driving rain and clouds of mosquitoes to clear the trail of blowdowns and brush, install bridges, control erosion, and blaze the trail. Connecting the Stone Wall Loop at the southern end of the property to the Champion Oak Trail and McCallum Trail at the northern end, the 1.7 miles of trail and 14 small bridges built will be sure to entice hikers and museum goers for years to come.



TRAIL MAP

6 MILES OF TRAILS
NATURE AND INTERPRETIVE
ON 194 ACRE HISTORIC PROPERTY
GROUNDS AND TRAILS ARE OPEN
FREE OF CHARGE
YEAR ROUND DURING DAYTIME

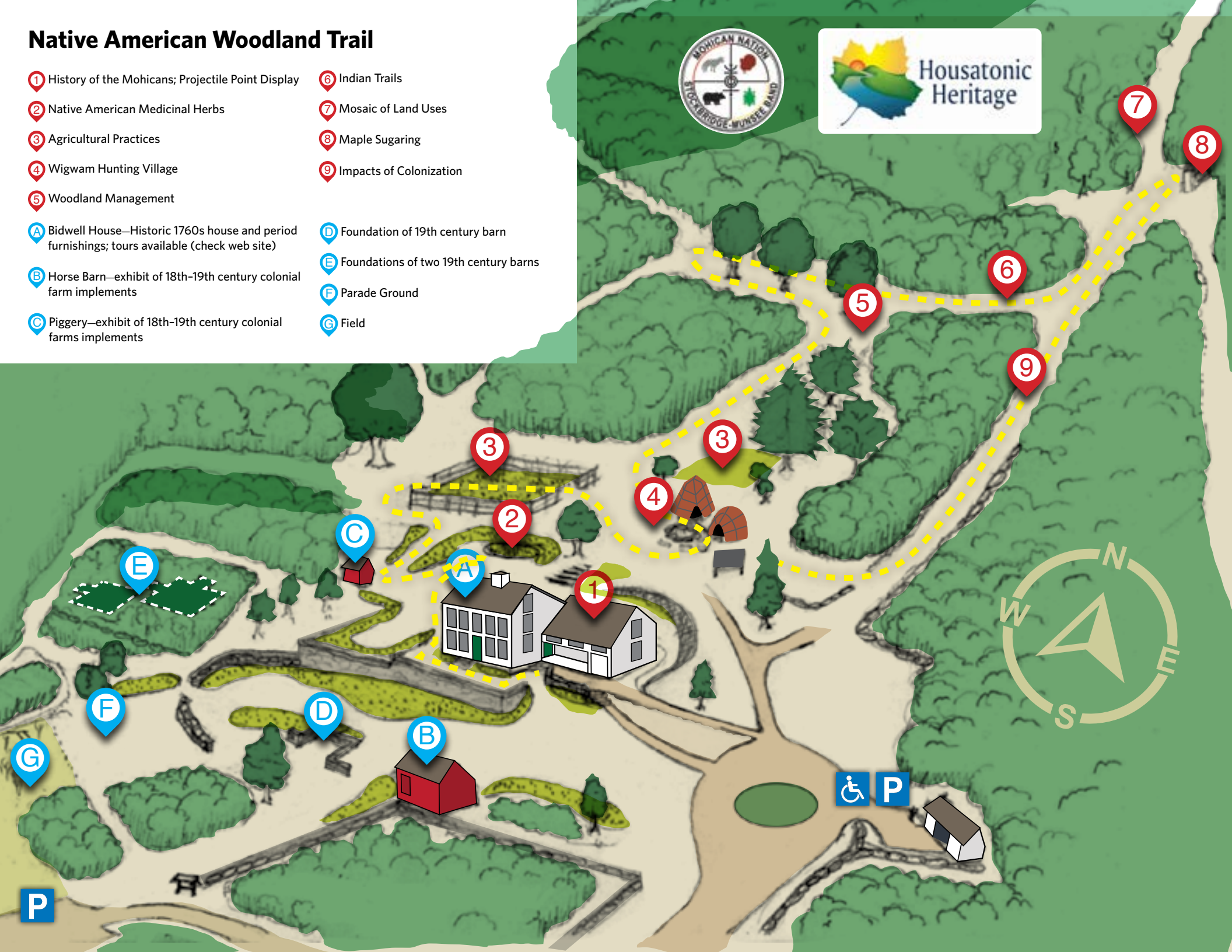


- TRAIL KEY - # Trail Name (Blaze Color) - Trail Length***
- 10. McCollum Trail (Cellar Hole) (Blue) - 0.2 mile
 - 11. Charcoal Hearth Trail (Red) - 0.1 mile
 - 12. Native American Interpretive Trail Exhibits
 - 13. Loom Brook Trail (Blue) - 1 mile
 - 14. Mill Site Stub Trail (Blue) - 0.2 mile
 - 15. Penny's Trail Connector (Red) - 0.2 mile
 - 16. Post Road Trail Connector (Red) - 0.1 mile
 - 17. Orton Trail Connector (Red) - 0.2 mile
- *Notes:**
Main Loom Trails are blazed Blue
Side Trails and Connectors are Blazed Red
Double Line Trails are wider than single line trails
Dogs are welcome
Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing is permitted but trails are not groomed
Hunting is not allowed on the property but hikers are encouraged to wear blaze orange during season

- TRAIL KEY - # Trail Name (Blaze Color) - Trail Length***
- (* All lengths are for one way trail segments)
- 1. Meeting House Loop Trail (Blue) - 3/4 mile loop
 - 2. Stone Wall Loop Trail (Blue) - 3/4 mile loop
 - 2A. Stone Wall East Connector (Red) - 0.2 mile
 - 2B. Stone Wall West Connector (Red) - 0.2 mile
 - 3. Cairn Trail (Stub) (Red) - 0.1 mile
 - 4. Cellar Hole Trail (Red) - 0.2 mile
 - 5. Barn Loop Trail (Red) - 0.2 mile
 - 6. Royal Hemlock Trail (Blue) - 3/4 mile
 - 6A. Royal Hemlock-Turkeybush connector (Blue) 0.1 mi
 - 7. Turkeybush Trail (Blue) - 3/4 mile
 - 7A. North Field Connector (Red) - 0.2 mile
 - 7B. North Field Woods Road (Red) - 0.1 mile
 - 8. Champion Oak Loop Trail (Red) - 0.5 mile
 - 7C. "Indian Path" (Primitive - not blazed) - 0.1 mile
 - 8A South; 8B Middle; 8C North
 - 9. Sugarbush Trail (Red) - 0.3 mile

Native American Woodland Trail

- 1 History of the Mohicans; Projectile Point Display
- 2 Native American Medicinal Herbs
- 3 Agricultural Practices
- 4 Wigwam Hunting Village
- 5 Woodland Management
- 6 Indian Trails
- 7 Mosaic of Land Uses
- 8 Maple Sugaring
- 9 Impacts of Colonization
- A Bidwell House—Historic 1760s house and period furnishings; tours available (check web site)
- B Horse Barn—exhibit of 18th–19th century colonial farm implements
- C Piggery—exhibit of 18th–19th century colonial farms implements
- D Foundation of 19th century barn
- E Foundations of two 19th century barns
- F Parade Ground
- G Field





Native American Woodland Trail – Woodlands and Hunting Grounds

Native Americans have lived in this region for over seven thousand years. The indigenous peoples to this area are the Mohican Nation who numbered about 20,000 people, and flourished in the Hudson River valley and Housatonic River valley. They used the upland woodlands including Monterey for their hunting grounds. In 2018, the Museum created a new interpretive trail with signage to illustrate different facets of Native American life from the pre-contact period prior to the 1600s.

On the front porch of the Museum you will find a map of the new trail. Begin in the carriage barn where you will find a brief history of the Mohicans – the Muh-he-con-neok – “the People of the Waters That Are Never Still” – who became

known as the Stockbridge-Munsee after living in Stockbridge in the 1700s. The self-guided walk takes you back in time with displays about medicinal herbs, farming practices and a wigwam hunting village.

Although the Stockbridge Indians were forced to relocate westward in the 1780s, this area remains their sacred homeland and the tribe maintains a strong connection here. The Native American Woodland and Hunting Grounds Interpretive Trail at the Bidwell House Museum was developed in collaboration with the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area and with the input and consent of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohican Nation. This is part of a regional Native American Interpretive Trail focusing on the Mohican Nation in Western Massachusetts and Northwest Connecticut. This trail tells one part of the Mohican story. You can find other parts of the story at the Mission House in Stockbridge, Monument Mountain in Great Barrington, and other locations.

July 24–August 17
at The Colonial Theatre

“The cleverest murder mystery of the British Theatre.”
– *The Telegraph*

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S

The Mousetrap

by Agatha Christie
directed by Gerry McIntyre

May 28–June 15
at The Unicorn Theatre
The Larry Vaber Stage

“A poignant exploration of humanity’s great cruelty and deep empathy.”
– *Vanity Fair*



The Elephant Man

by Bernard Pomerance
directed by Eric Hill

June 30–July 26
at The Unicorn Theatre
The Larry Vaber Stage

“a compelling exploration of identity and self-acceptance.”
– Peter Marks, *The Washington Post*



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World Premiere

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written and performed by Renée Taylor
directed by Elaine May

September 25–October 26
at The Unicorn Theatre
The Larry Vaber Stage

“A shimmering synthesis of image, word, and movement.”
– Ben Brantley, *The New York Times*

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Catherine Bohrman	Ursula Ehret-Dichter	Terrence and Mary Jane Hanlon	Ian and Christa Lindsay	New Marlborough Library	Sandisfield Public Library	Michael Wilcox
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Carl Bradford	George Emmons	Daniel England	Sam and Sally Herrup	Lisa Simpson Lutts	Martin and Jane Schwartz	Windsor Free Public Library
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The Heritage Garden

Behind the Museum, you will find an herb garden, bordered by a low stone wall and above that, the Heritage Vegetable Garden enclosed with a split rail fence. These gardens have been created using seeds and methods similar to those used by the Bidwell family over 250 years ago.



The Heritage Garden in August 2022

Gardens of this size would not have been large enough to supply the Bidwell family with food and medicinal herbs, but it allows our visitors to see the types of vegetables, fruits and herbs that would have been grown in 18th century New England.

In the Heritage garden, at various points in the growing season, you can find beans, blueberries, carrots, currants, onions, numerous varieties of squash, raspberries and rhubarb. The herb garden contains not only common culinary plants like oregano and thyme but also plants native to the area like elderberry and yarrow.

In 2021, Pat Parkins and her team from Gardens of the Goddess began work taking care of the Museum gardens. Her staff and volunteers used compost and mulch to make the heritage garden a productive space, similar how it would have been farmed in the 18th. In 2023 they worked to revitalize the herb garden and replant with period appropriate herbs. Gardening this way shows what a food and herb garden might have looked like for the Bidwell family all those years ago.

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Norman Rockwell, 1920

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The Bidwell House Through the Years

1737 Four townships between Westfield and Sheffield, Ma. were surveyed.

The proprietors of Housatonic Township No. 1 voted to designate one lot for “the first settled minister.”

1740s The construction of the Township No. 1 meetinghouse began. It was located in the town center on the primary east-west town road

1750 Rev. Adonijah Bidwell was called to Housatonic Township No. 1 to establish a Congregational church. He accepted the pastorate in Township No. 1 at a pay rate of four

shillings a week.

1752 Rev. Bidwell married his first wife, Theodosia Colton of West Hartford, Ct. There were no children and she died in 1759.

1760 Rev. Bidwell married his second wife, Jemima Devotion of Suffield, Ct. She was a first cousin to Theodosia Colton. Jemima Devotion Bidwell bore four children: Adonijah, Barnabas, Jemima, Theodosia.

Early 1760s The Bidwell House was constructed.

1761 Berkshire County was created out of Hampshire County.

1762 Housatonic Township No. 1 was incorporated and named Tyringham. There were 51 houses, 55 families

and 336 inhabitants within the town, concentrated mostly along the primary east-west town road and to the south.

1771 Jemima Bidwell, Reverend Bidwell's 2nd wife and mother of his 4 children, dies.

1772 Rev. Bidwell married his third wife, Ruth Kent of Suffield, Ct.

1776 Rev. Bidwell bore his “full proportion toward...the War” at age 62.

1784 Rev. Bidwell died on June 2 and was buried in the original burying ground. Adonijah Jr. inherited the family farm.

1789 Adonijah Jr. married Milcent Dench of Hopkinton, Ma. She bore 12 children during 48 years of marriage.

1790s The original meetinghouse falls to wrack and ruin. A town vote moved the location of the new proposed meetinghouse a mile to the south of the first structure. The vote caused division between the town's

people who lived in the less populated northern section and those who lived in the more densely populated southern part of town. North Tyringham and South Tyringham became terms of identification within the town.

1820 An addition was built on to the north side of the Bidwell House.

1836 Adonijah Jr. sold the Bidwell family farm to his second oldest surviving son, John Devotion Bidwell, “in consideration of...Love and Affection and One Dollar.”

1837 Adonijah the younger died on February 14 and was buried in Tyringham.

1840s The simple Greek Revival eastern addition was constructed. There were “apple, peach and plumb trees, along with a well of water enclosed in the dwelling house, three large barns, a cider mill with a corn house over it and a wood house, as well as a number of other buildings, sheds, etc. Also durable water in the



The house in 1921

barn yard, brought in an aqueduct with leaden pipes.”

1847 South Tyringham incorporated as Monterey and named for the 1846 Battle of Monterey during the War with Mexico.

1849 A third meetinghouse was completed in the center of Monterey.

1853 John Devotion Bidwell, sold the Bidwell family farm out of the family after 103 years of Bidwell ownership.

1853-1913 The Bidwell House property was farmed by successive owners, including the Carringtons.

1913 Raymond P. Ensign purchased the unoccupied house and property. With fellow Pratt Institute art teacher Ernest Watson, he purchased adjacent land and together they founded an art school.

1915- 1936 The Berkshire Summer School of Art held sessions on Bidwell and adjoining property, teaching artists and art teachers drawing, painting, design, etc. 45 bungalow cabins housed students and instructors. Ensign sold the Bidwell property in 1926.



Winter of 1960-61

1926-1960 The Bidwell House was a summer residence for a series of owners.

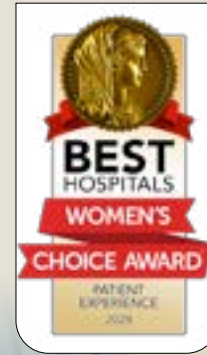
1960-1986 The Bidwell House was purchased by Jack Hargis and David Brush. They made the Bidwell House a home which sensitively yielded to the requirements of a late 20th century lifestyle.

During their 26 years of residency they carefully refurbished the house, taking heed of each historic detail. Needing to furnish the house, Hargis and Brush were

fortunate to acquire Rev. Bidwell's 1784 estate inventory and used it as a guide to assemble their collections of household appointments.

1990 At the bequest of Jack Hargis and David Brush, their private residence was transformed into a public museum. As the foundation for the Bidwell House collections, the estate inventory remains a key to the 18th and early 19th century decorative arts which fill each room and connect over 240 years of history.

2020 The Bidwell House Museum Celebrated its 30th Anniversary



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