

May, 2017
Mill House Monthly
A Publication of the Occoquan Historical Society

**Notice of
Annual Membership Meeting**

The Occoquan Historical Society will hold its annual membership meeting at the Bottlestop located at 311 Mill Street in Occoquan. The meeting will convene on Monday, June 19, at 6:30 p.m.

Business will include the election of the Occoquan Historical Society Board for the 2017-2018 year. Those nominated for the Board at the May 11 meeting were; Boyd Alexander, Kim Deal, Jim Drakes, Dolores Elder, Barbara Frank, Earnie Porta, June Randolph and Marge Shafer.

Fundraiser at the Bottlestop!

At 7:30 p.m., following the meeting, stay on and enjoy a relaxing evening with a glass of wine and a small buffet. **Tickets for the June 19 fundraiser are \$50 per person.** While you visit with friends and help support the museum and the numerous OHS projects, view a PowerPoint that includes many of our oldest photographs from the Mill House collection. Several artifacts from the museum will be on display including photos from the 1972 flood that washed away the 1878 iron truss bridge.

Help support our fundraising efforts. We receive \$11,150 annually in combined grants from the Town of Occoquan and Prince William County. Those funds help cover operating expenses such as salaries and utilities.

Over the last 10 years the historical society has funded numerous projects. In 2007 we placed a Civil War Trail marker and a marker interpreting the history of the 1789 merchant's

grain mill at a cost of approximately \$2,500 each.

In 2015 we installed markers on the 1914 carbide bunker, the waterworks gear wheel and the 1805 Occoquan Hotel carriage stone. Those three markers with installation came at a price tag of nearly \$1,000.

There are 14 historical markers in town that were installed by the Town in 2000 and are now in need of restoration. In 2015 OHS adopted the marker adjacent to the museum building and sent it back to the manufacturer for restoration at a cost of almost \$800 with shipping.

The 1800's museum building belongs to the Town of Occoquan. In 2014 OHS paid \$1,780 for the addition of gutters to the building. Prior to this water puddled around the front of the building resulting in the rotting of the front door and wood frame.

Another project OHS completed was replacing the flooring in the museum. The old stained carpet was removed and a laminate floor was laid that can easily be cleaned. This project was another \$1,000

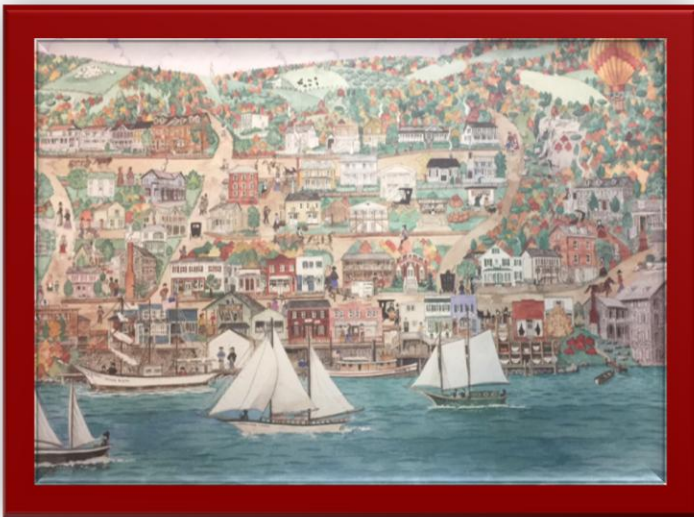
The *Past Perfect* software program was purchased not many years ago to record our collection. We can add descriptive notes, information related to the donor and any pertinent data. The price was about \$900.

In December of 2016 we placed our video display in the museum that allows us to show our collection of historical photos and videos. The computer with a mounting swing arm, software and TV for the display cost about \$1500.

These projects that help preserve and tell our history come at a cost. The projects listed previously totaled close to \$13,000 over the last 10 years.

You can see we rely heavily on the generosity of our membership and the visitors to the Mill House. OHS has been blessed with some wonderful donations over the years. The historical society hopes to continue with these important projects and is beginning the process of getting bids and the permissions to place a historical marker in the vicinity of River Mill Park. This marker will interpret the history of the 1828 cotton mill and the 1755 iron works. Funds raised on June 19 will contribute to the cost of this marker. That cost will be over \$2000.

Included in your fundraiser price is a ticket for the raffle of Helen Jean Smith's beautiful, framed, signed and numbered 383/500 *Autumn in Occoquan* print shown below.



Enter the silent auction for a chance to own a **P. Buckley Moss** print of our museum titled, *The Little Stone House* or a framed print of a photograph from the museum's collection.

Visit www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org to purchase fundraiser tickets. We hope to see many of you on the 19th. If you are unable to attend, dues can be paid and donations made at our web site. **Yearly dues are \$20** per family. Checks can be made to the Occoquan Historical Society and mailed to the same at PO Box 65, Occoquan, Virginia 22125.

We can't be here without your continued support. Thank you all!

Mill House Museum
PO Box 65, 413 Mill Street, Occoquan, VA 22125
www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org
703-491-7525
Open Sunday through Saturday 11-4

