

THE WELLS FAMILY AND THE EARLY YEARS OF OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE pdf

1: Old Sturbridge Village - The Full Wiki

Old Sturbridge Village is a living museum located in Sturbridge, Massachusetts which recreates life in rural New England during the s through s. It is the largest living museum in New England, covering more than acres (80 hectares).

We had an incredible time and my kids learned more in one day at the Village than they probably will all year from their school history books. The Village has over 50, artifacts in their collection! There are over 40 buildings on acres at Sturbridge Village, including a beautiful church, bank, schoolhouse, pottery shop, shoe shop, stores, houses, and more. My kids had no idea what a Blacksmith really did until they were able to see first hand. My kids were also amazed at how much time and effort went into making a single pair of shoes. Sturbridge Village has many actors who dress up and act like people in the s. From blacksmith to housewives, you can meet a wide array of people from the s. They are very knowledgeable and more than happy to answer questions and explain why things were done differently years ago. My kids each tried pumping water and were amazed at how much muscle it required. It was really cool to sit at a desk. You can also take a stagecoach ride. We were amazed to see that 9 people would sit in the tiny coach back in the day! This ride was one of our favorite parts of the Village. We just loved bumping along the town square pulled by those beautiful horses. No electricity just water. This amazed my children and my husband had fun explaining how it worked. Sturbridge Village is a reminder of how people used to work hard, live simply, and have great community. I found it refreshing to experience simpler times. My kids were quite pleased to see free range chickens running around. The whole Village, especially the farm really made me feel like I was transported back to s. Of course then there were crowds of school kids flashing around iPhones and iPods to remind us where we really are. It was absolutely beautiful with gorgeous colorful fall leaves everywhere. The fall is a wonderful time to visit. Sturbridge Village hosts fun events and festivals throughout the year. From Maple Days in March to Apple Days in October, you can check out these special events and really learn how things were done back in the day. Old Sturbridge Village is affordable. Your second visit is free within 10 days! Believe me, Sturbridge Village is worth every penny. We were lucky enough to be allowed to stay at the Reeder Family Lodge s and it was a wonderful experience. With four kids, you never know how things might turn out, but our rooms more than met our expectations. This photo is from the morning after. Our door opened up to a playground for the kids, which the kids loved. It was clearly a family friendly place and we were very impressed. Be sure to check it out when you plan your visit! If you live in the New England area or plan to vacation here, you should definitely visit Old Sturbridge Village. You will make wonderful family memories and learn a lot too, just like my family did. With a love for Jesus, writing, organizing, and animals, especially chickens, she stays busy and definitely does not have it all together.

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2: Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge - www.enganchecubano.com

The Wells family and the early years of Old Sturbridge Village Paperback -

In the early 19th century, the land on which Old Sturbridge Village now stands was a farm owned by David Wight. The farm included a sawmill, gristmill and a millpond which survives to this day. The millpond, which still powers the mills, was dug in 1790. While in Boston he bought tickets to the Harvard Lottery, which was set up as a fundraising technique for then Harvard College now Harvard University [when?]. He gave his father money to pay off the mortgage on his farm and logged the timber of the cedar swamp which today is the millpond. After the logging was complete, they dug the pond with a team of oxen and a scoop. This entire process took two and a half years. In 1800, AB began to shop for antiques. This influenced Cheney to collect early American timepieces and Channing to collect fine furniture. By the early 1800s AB had more than 45 rooms full of antiques in his Southbridge home. In 1800, AB, along with his brothers, family members and associates, formed the Wells Historical Museum. The Museum was given title to the various collections and charged with the care and exhibition of the artifacts. AB wanted to create a small cluster of buildings in a horseshoe around a common. His son George B proposed "a revolutionary idea. He suggested that to make this material valuable it would be necessary to have a village, a live village, one with different shops operating. Cheney Wells pledged his clocks and other items and to help "in every way I can to develop a village along the lines that George suggests. Architect Arthur Shurcliff was called in to help lay out a suitable country landscape. The early years of Old Sturbridge Village were a word of mouth attendance, mostly through word of mouth. The hurricane On August 18, 1815, gale-force winds and a torrential downpour from Hurricane Diane created flood waters that broke dams in surrounding towns and flooded the Village. Fifteen staff members were stranded by the rising waters. The Freeman Farmhouse was flooded and the Covered Bridge was swept off its foundation. Helicopters kept staff members supplied for three days until the waters receded. With great effort, Village employees managed to re-open the Village in just nine days. OSV today In response to declining attendance, shrinking endowments and rising operating costs, OSV has changed its presentation of history. Gone are the "movie set" displays with a fixed range of dialog. In their place, interpreters engage visitors in a more personal and interactive process, encouraging them to actively participate. The museum continues to add interactive exhibits such as a wintertime ice rink, baseball games and a Christmastime celebration. Structures and exhibits Old Sturbridge Village has over 40 structures, including restored buildings purchased and relocated from across New England and some authentic reconstructions. The village is divided into three main sections. The Center Village represents the center of town, with the town green as its focal point. Countryside consists of outlying farms and shops. The Mill Neighborhood features various commercial structures that rely upon a millpond for their power.

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VILLAGE pdf

3: Old Sturbridge Village, MA

The building, built in , is a replica of the original American Optical Company spectacle shop in Southbridge, Massachusetts, where George Washington Wells, father of the founders of Old Sturbridge Village, began manufacturing eyeglasses in the late s.

January 16, Author: The museum started with a collection of artifacts, tools, furniture, glassware, and more, amassed by industrialists Channing M. Cheney Wells of neighboring Southbridge, MA. By the brothers collection had become prolific, and A. The Wells Historical Museum would be a non-profit educational corporation that would take control of the vast collection and make is accessible to the public. Old Sturbridge Village â€” Thanksgiving at the village. A year later there was a meeting of the museums trustees, with talks and proposals discussed as to what to do next. The museum would buy and move a number of typical early colonial New England buildings to a large family owned site on Main Street in Southbridge, MA. Another member of the board suggest that instead of just a few houses that there should be a village, a living and working village. The trustees wanted the museum to be interactive, not just stuffy buildings full of artifacts. The site was acres and judge to be perfect for the new concept. Watkins acquired the formidable task of classifying and cataloging the collection, which was already numbering in the tens of thousands. As the vision for the village developed and formed the Wells brothers and the trustees would reject plans and proposals that seemed too formal or citified, and would stick to a very strong idea of what the village should look like inside and out. Undaunted the staff dug out and continued on, using some of the destruction to their advantage. Downed trees would become lumber and used on the site for construction purposes. By a number of the villages familiar landmarks were in place, such as the Fitch House, the Miner Grant Store, the Richardson House and the Gristmill. At the years end construction on the museum would come to a halt. The attack on Pearl Harbor and the interjection of the US into the second world war would put many projects such as this on hold. Construction of the museum would remain halted till the end of the war. Four years later in , with the board of trustees aging; all the members were in their 70s, leadership of the museum would pass to Ruth Wells, daughter-in-law to A. By May of the same year it was decided that the museum would open to the public. On 8 June Old Sturbridge Village had its opening day. The museum had 81 visitors that day, who would drive their cars around the grounds and could stop by the shops to see the craftsmen and the buildings. By the end of the first year more then 5, people would visit the museum. Over the next decade several more buildings would be added to the museum, including the meeting house, which was removed and restored to the museum in Map of Old Sturbridge Village. Photo courtesy of Old Sturbridge Village. The village took a beating from the storm, and 15 staff members were stranded in the museum as the storm raged and water was on the rise. The staff members were dropped food via helicopter during the three days they were stranded. The staff members, area residents, and local business owners would pull together, and just 9 days after the storm the museum reopened. The museum would have its one millionth visitor in August of , 11 years after first opening. Today the museum is open to visitors year round, with special hours during the winter. There are a total of 40 antique buildings that have been moved from throughout New England and restored on the Old Sturbridge Village property to show how they would have been furnished and lived in during the early 19th century. Visitors are welcome to pack a picnic and spend the day at the museum. There are also a number of restaurants and cafes on the museum property that visitors can dine at. Visitors will also be happy to know that full priced admission includes a FREE second visit within a 10 day period. There are several positions available and they can change throughout the year. Kiln firing at Old Sturbridge Village. The kiln must be heated to 1, degrees Fahrenheit during firing, which requires three cords of wood stoked over 24 hours. When the kiln is loaded full it can hold pieces of pottery. Visitors can also stay on the grounds of Old Sturbridge Village for an overnight. The house has 10 rooms and was built in The Reeder Family Lodges are 29 modern lodging units, with all the conveniences of modern life, including a flat screen TV. The Museum Gift shop is

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located at the entrance of the museum and offers a wide selection of gifts, some of which are even made at the village. The store is not the original, with the first one being burned after an accidental explosion. The store was restored in the s, and today serves as a museum gift shop. Interior dining room and sitting room of the Old Sturbridge Village Inn. The Inn functions inside the Oliver Wight house. Celebrations during Christmas and the 4th of July, in August reenactments are done. Other events at the museum include Maple Days March , Apple Days Fall , and Christmas By Candlelight, some events have limited seating, so check in advance, but visitors are always welcome to the museum during these times. You can check out the full calendar of events, daily and monthly, here: For historians and genealogists Old Sturbridge Village is a dream come true. Individuals looking for information on people, places or events in New England can find a wealth of valuable information in the collections of the museum. The museums collection of resources is huge, from photographs to historic documents, to artifacts and paintings. The museum has made a large amount of its collection available online. Old Sturbridge Village also contains a research library, which contains more then 35,00 volumes, and focuses on the history and lives of people in rural New England following the American Revolution until the Civil War. The collection in the research library includes everything from textbooks, maps, diaries, letters, and property deeds, to probate records, and town directories. The Research Library is open by appointment only, and is a closed stacks facility. Appointments must be made at least 14 days in advance. Undoing History through Performance. The Scarecrow Press, Encyclopedia of American Folklore. Imprint of Infobase Publishing, NY: Facts on File Inc.

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4: Oliver Wight House - Wikipedia

A.B Wells' passion for "primitives" and his industrialist spirit are the catalysts that began Old Sturbridge Village. A Living History Museum Old Sturbridge Village began as one man's hobby, but over the years it has evolved into a national institution that nearly 25 million people have visited.

In the early 19th century, the land on which Old Sturbridge Village now stands was a farm owned by David Wight which included a sawmill, a gristmill, and a millpond. The millpond was dug in and still powers the mills today. While in Boston, he bought tickets to the Harvard Lottery which was a fund-raising technique for Harvard College. He gave his father money to pay off the mortgage on his farm and logged the timber of the cedar swamp which today is the millpond. After the logging was complete, they dug the pond with a team of oxen and a scoop. This entire process took two and a half years. George Washington Wells started a small spectacle shop in Southbridge, Massachusetts in the s which became the American Optical Company. His sons Channing, Albert called "AB" , and Cheney followed him into the business, which continued to expand. In , AB began to shop for antiques, and this influenced Cheney to collect early American timepieces and Channing to collect fine furniture. By the early s, AB had more than 45 rooms full of antiques in his Southbridge home. The Wells family and others formed the Wells Historical Museum in , gave it title to the various collections, and charged it with the care and exhibition of the artifacts. AB wanted to create a small cluster of buildings in a horseshoe around a common, but his son George B proposed creating a live village with operating shops and a source of water power. Architect Arthur Shurcliff was called in to help lay out a suitable country landscape. They changed its name to Old Sturbridge Village and opened it on June 8, Attendance climbed, mostly through word of mouth. On August 18, , gale-force winds and a torrential downpour from Hurricane Diane created flood waters that broke dams in surrounding towns and flooded the Village, stranding 15 staff members. The Freeman Farmhouse was flooded and the Covered Bridge was swept off its foundation. Helicopters kept staff members supplied for three days until the waters receded. Structures and exhibits[edit] Old Sturbridge Village has more than 40 structures, including restored buildings purchased and relocated from around New England, as well as some authentic reconstructions, and the entire village is divided into three main sections. The Center Village represents the center of town, with the town green as its focal point. Countryside consists of outlying farms and shops. The Mill Neighborhood features various commercial structures that rely upon the millpond for their power. The Center Village contains: Such structures were usually 10 feet 3. They were forerunners of the large shoe factories that developed in New England later in the 19th century. The Mill Neighborhood[edit] Gristmill - uses water power to turn a 3,pound millstone for grinding grain Sawmill - a working replica of an "up-and-down" sawmill powered by a reaction-type waterwheel Carding Mill - a water-driven facility to prepare wool for spinning Old Sturbridge Village has several buildings devoted to displaying their assorted collections of early American antiques. Firearms - many displays feature firearms from colonial America through the post-Civil War era Glass - there are three categories of displays:

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5: Collector's Showcase: March - The J. Cheney Wells Clock

Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) is a living museum located in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, in the United States, which re-creates life in rural New England during the 18th and 19th centuries (the Romantic Period). It is the largest living museum in New England, covering more than 80 acres (80 hectares).

Set among majestic trees with lots of shade on a hot day, strolling through the streets was wonderful. The buildings are impressive and well staffed with actors depicting daily life. We spent the entire day and were among the last to leave at day's end. If you follow their suggestions the businesses included a general store, bank, sawmill, gristmill and another mill, a working blacksmith and a working farm. There were animals too, sheep, pigs, cows, horses, and chickens. Four houses in a row showed how raw wool, cotton or linen became thread, cloth, dyed, woven fabric, then a quilt. By one of the exits, there was a great herb garden, very well labeled, which categorized the plants by their uses. I took a lot of pictures to inspire me with my own garden. Although we had been before, we had forgotten a lot and it was still very interesting and educational. I would definitely recommend it for families. Took my anthropology hubby and my highly-inquisitive teenaged daughter. We had lots of questions and the hosts were happy to share. Beautifully kept grounds and buildings. The place will change from season to season, so it is always interesting. The stations with games to play was especially fun for us. The cafe was nice. The food was good but pricey. We spent about 4. Missed out on the wooded walk, unfortunately. Very cool place to walk around and observe the different crafts, ways of life, and buildings of the time period. The pathways are mostly dirt and some buildings have been made accessible for wheelchair access. The demonstrations vary as some are very interactive and others are just reading signs. Most of the presenters are engaging even to the children. The Bullard Tavern is about midway and has a lunch if you plan it accordingly and the prices are reasonable. Plan to spend the day and wear comfortable shoes and prepare for the weather since a lot of it is outside. Disappointing that they charge extra for the coach rides, boat ride and stagecoach though. The movie is even more. Many of the "shops" have working demonstrations giving us the details as an attempt to help us visualize how it was back in the 18th century. Every one of the "residents" was very very polite and enlightened us with the history. Definitely would love to go back again in Fall and Spring. The room is huge who knows when it was built you feel like you were transported back in time, so it can be loud, but the food was outstanding, fresh, the wait staff so accommodating, with Arron, at our table and manager Kim checking in and making sure our visit was everything we hoped. Best brunch around with family atmosphere, great job folks. We will be back and highly recommend.

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6: Old Sturbridge Village | Open Library

The Wells Family: Founders of American Optical Company and Old Sturbridge Village (privately printed,). "Celebrating 50 Years of History," by Jack Larkin and Mark Ashton, in Old Sturbridge Visitor, Spring

Step inside more than 40 original buildings, and explore homes, meetinghouses, a district school, country store, bank, working farm, three water-powered mills, and trade shops—all situated on more than scenic acres. Talk with authentically costumed historians and see heritage breed farm animals. Discover the endless ways to immerse yourself in the Village. Our Mission Old Sturbridge Village, a museum and learning resource of New England life, invites each visitor to find meaning, pleasure, relevance, and inspiration through the exploration of history. Old Sturbridge Village celebrates the people who lived in rural New England in the formative, first decades of our new nation—the United States of America. The Village provides an authentic, first-hand look at the often challenging and rapidly changing textures and rhythms of New England life in what were transformative years to illustrating a period in America largely driven by agriculture, industry, family and the seasons, the Village invites guests to meet those who faced the trials and triumphs of everyday life, and worked together to survive and prosper in the rural New England towns and countrysides they called home. From individual interactions with expert, costumed historians, farmers, artisans and performers to trying their hands at farming, trades and domestic chores, guests make their own history at the Village every day. Through storytelling, theatrical experiences, hands-on demonstrations and participatory learning, young and old alike are inspired by the early Republic. The Village uses its historic buildings and landscapes, expansive collections, and programs in agriculture, horticulture, households and trades to produce innovative, immersive and engaging exhibitions, interpretation, educational offerings and public events. As a result, we will continue to transform museum learning for 21st-century families and students. The acre campus also provides guests with endless opportunities to enjoy the cycle of the seasons. From nature trails and engaging play spaces to the Quinebaug River and the gardens, farms and fields, the grounds are a great place to meet up, relax, explore or simply have fun in the great outdoors. Providing excellence in guest and hospitality services. Infusing historical context and quality into its culinary offerings, museum stores, inn and lodges. Recruiting and training a talented, diverse team of staff, interns and volunteers. Ensuring the museum campus is sustainable, safe and accessible to all. Continuously listening, learning and evolving our visitor experience to exceed and anticipate the needs of our guests. Our History Founder A. Wells Industrialist Albert B. Wells of Southbridge, Massachusetts, became interested in the beauty of hand-wrought utilitarian objects in the early s on annual tours of Europe with his father-in-law, the noted Chicago architect Daniel Hudson Burnham. Working closely with his older brother Channing M. Wells also thought big about his hobbies. When rain prevented golfing, his friends suggested they go antiquing instead. Within a few years he had filled his large mansion at Main Street in Southbridge designed by Daniel Burnham and two additional barns. In Wells formed the Wells Historical Museum, a not-for-profit trust to ensure the preservation of his collection. Wells and his brothers purchased the Quinebaug Farm, setting in motion the creation of Old Sturbridge Village as we know it today. In , a heart attack forced A. Wells to move to California for his health, but he continued to keep in touch with Ruth, and offered any advice or support she needed. B Wells hired an architect to design a series of gallery buildings to better display his treasures. The Quinebaug River ran through the rolling property, providing the requisite waterpower. Trusted assistant George Watson was sent out to find and move old houses, barns and mills to create the village and help design new buildings constructed from new and reused materials to resemble early structures. The two Wells brothers hired respected landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff to lay out a rural landscape that matched their vision of early New England. Wells recalled that he never argued with anyone as much as he did Shurcliff, or knew anyone whom he respected more for his knowledge and ability. That first decade was fraught with setbacks for the new museum. Only months after buying the farm, a waning hurricane washed away the old mill dam, and another storm in caused more damage

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and blew down acres of trees. World War II forced construction to halt, and most of the war years were devoted to moving the huge collection from Southbridge to Sturbridge. Ruth Dyer Wells, A. In , Ruth took over as director of the village after A. Partially constructed buildings were completed and others brought in. Word got out, and curious people began to come by to see what was going on. Many of these uninvited guests complained that they had mistakenly searched in vain for the Village in nearby Quinebaug, Connecticut. In the fledgling museum changed its name to Old Sturbridge Village in hopes of thwarting any further geographic confusion. Ruth Wells realized that the people dropping by were impeding work on the museum, so she decided to open it up. Over 5, more guests visited that first summer and fall. The Village Inn now the Bullard Tavern was completed in . That same year, the Center Meetinghouse, was acquired in exchange for a new Hammond electric organ to the congregation. Restoration was completed the following year. Active craft demonstrations began by , and soon guests were no longer permitted to tour the Village in their cars. As the years went by, Earle Newton was hired as director, and Ruth Wells transitioned to managing the growing crafts program. In two hurricanes, Connie and Diane, hit New England back to back. Raging floodwaters damaged several exhibits and washed the covered bridge off its footings. But the water receded, and the clean-up began. Most important, more and more people kept coming to see history brought to life at the Village, which welcomed its one millionth visitor in . Since then, many more programs, exhibits and special events have been added and refined in an effort to constantly improve the visitor experience. Through the decades, we have grown well beyond a collection of antiques in a bucolic setting, or even an assemblage of historic craft demonstrations. Cheney Wells has taken on a vibrant life of its own as a leader in the fields of museum education and living history interpretation.

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7: Exhibitions - Old Sturbridge Village

Open to the public on 8 June , Old Sturbridge Village, originally named Quinebaug Village, is a living history museum of the colonial era. The museum started with a collection of artifacts, tools, furniture, glassware, and more, amassed by industrialists Channing M., Albert B., and J. Cheney Wells of neighboring Southbridge, MA.

In earlier years the land had been wild and rough--the hill behind the Meetinghouse had once been called Pogus Mountain and known principally as the home of bears, wolves, and wildcats. Still earlier, at the end of the last Ice Age, the great glaciers had shaped and scoured the landscape, leaving ponds, boulders, and subtler traces that Village archaeologists would find much later. Telephones, automobiles, electricity, and motion pictures were changing American life along with flappers, jazz, and Prohibition. George Washington Wells had started with a modest central Massachusetts "spectacle shop" in the late s and built it into a major firm by the turn of the century. His three sons--Channing M. Cheney Wells -- followed him into the business. They also developed in their different ways a passion for collecting that would ultimately result in the founding of Old Sturbridge Village. One decisive moment came on a rainy day in Vermont in Wells as he was almost always called , unable to play golf with three of his friends, accompanied them instead on an expedition in search of "antiques. From that day on he would fit his passionate concern for them into the busy life of a prominent industrialist. Having specialized in the manufacturing side of his business, he loved things that had been handmade in the New England countryside, things that were simple and rustic rather than ornate and urbane. If they were ingenious in design, unusual in appearance, or even bizarre, so much the better. Cheney Wells usually called Cheney , took up collecting as well. Reserved, precise, and methodical, he found an interest to match his temperament and began to amass a significant collection of early American clocks and timepieces. Channing Wells, the oldest of the brothers and long-time company president, excelled in sales, marketing, and skilled negotiation. He collected as well, particularly enjoying fine furniture, but his interests often took him in directions different from those of his brothers. However, he remained a knowledgeable and sympathetic advisor, and he and his children played a role in all family ventures. They may not have known it at the beginning, but the Wells brothers were following a path that would lead to the creation of a major American museum. Interestingly, the same course was also being taken by members of other prominent American industrial families in the s and s. These individuals were very different, as were their collections and museums. But they shared more than wealth and prominence. Each was concerned with preserving and cherishing pieces of the past against the powerful currents of change in early twentieth-century America, currents so powerful that it seemed they might carry away everything old. In their demanding business life the Wells brothers could find little time for sentiment or for tradition for its own sake. But avocationally, they sought to preserve the handcrafted artifacts of a vanishing past. Wells, the late twenties through the mid-thirties were "filled with collecting energies. At first it meant the addition of extra rooms to his large Southbridge home; finally the overflow crowded the family out completely and they moved to Walker Pond in Sturbridge. By the early s there were more than 45 rooms full of New England "primitives" in the Southbridge house, and the question of what to do with this extraordinary profusion of ordinary things could no longer be avoided. The collection had become too significant not to be shared with the public. A nonprofit educational corporation, the Museum took title to the collections and became responsible for their care and public display. But this plan was immediately "knocked He suggested that to make this material valuable it would be necessary to have a village, a live village, one with different shops operating Cheney Wells offered to add his clocks and other collections to A. There are some clues. In their travels, members of the family had had opportunities to visit European "open-air" folk museums that, in the interest of creating national unity out of regional diversity, exhibited typical rural buildings brought together from many different places. The largest and most famous was Skansen, in Sweden outside Stockholm. The resonances of Skansen can be seen in their conceptions of the "live village" and ,"model village. In some ways, this would have been a highly familiar

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concept to members of the hard-working and highly practical Wells clan. These ideas were "in the air" in the s, and they reinforced each other. Thus the Village was to be not simply an outdoor museum, but an active outdoor museum with craftsmen and costumed staff as well as houses and artifacts. No one had ever accused a member of the Wells family of wasting time. The site was judged perfect for realizing the new conception; it had sloping meadows, wooded hillsides and, as noted earlier, a fine location for waterpower along the Quinebaug River. To encompass these newly defined purposes, the Wells Historical Museum gave way to a new organization, first called the Quinebaug Village Corporation, It was established to: As they developed the guiding vision for their Village, the Wells family relied on their strong sense of the look and feel of the New England countryside, rejecting plans and proposals that seemed too formal or citified. They asked the eminent New England landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff to help them lay out a country landscape that matched their vision. Thus the Village came to be defined by unpaved country roads, clapboarded rural houses, barns and shops, and craftsmen busy at their tasks--a look that it still retains. Undaunted, the staff dug out, rebuilt, and piled up acres of "hurricane lumber" that would be used in future museum construction. But December brought the attack on Pearl Harbor, and the coming of the Second World War brought museum construction, like most other civilian activities, virtually to a halt for the duration. In , active leadership of the museum effort passed into the hands of the next generation. The brothers of the Wells "triumvirate" were all in their seventies, and their sons were engaged with American Optical or pursuing other business concerns. In , Quinebaug Village with the approval of town selectmen became Old Sturbridge Village, and in May of that year it was decided to prepare the museum to open to visitors. Like other members of the Wells family, Ruth Wells did not seek attention or claim credit--but, as an early staff member who knew her well recalled, "she had the tenacity and the drive and the administrative sense to get the Village rolling Eighty-one visitors toured the Village, driving their cars around the grounds. After 50 eventful years the Village is a very different place in many ways. It has been expanded and refined. It reaches nearly half a million visitors annually compared to the 5, of The Village was launched successfully into the unknown of the postwar years by men and women who wanted to make the New England past relevant to their own times and present it for the future. Today the Village faces the challenges of a new century and a new millennium. The "information superhighway" and rapid social and economic changes are carrying us away from the nineteenth century at breakneck speed. The staff had been searching "all over the countryside for a Meetinghouse The Village provided the Society, "by exchange of courtesy," with an organ for its new house of worship. The removal and restoration of the Meetinghouse were completed in early June Visitors arrived in increasing numbers each year--largely through "word of mouth," as returning travelers encouraged friends and acquaintances to visit the special place they had discovered. A prosperous postwar America had become a nation of tourists and travelers, and the Village had become an "outstanding attraction. The Fenno House, the Friends Meetinghouse, the Pliny Freeman House, the Printing Office, and the District School had also become vital parts of the Village landscape, which was increasingly taking on the look and feel of a living community. Then, on August 18, Hurricane Diane arrived with little advance warning. It proved to be the most powerful storm in decades, even worse than the hurricane that had ravaged the prewar Village. Gale-force winds and torrential rains pummeled the area. Route 20 was impassable by early evening. The Village took the brunt of the storm along with hundreds of businesses and thousands of residents. Fortunately no lives were lost at the museum, but 15 staff members were stranded for three days by the rising waters. The low-lying area where the Freeman Farmhouse then stood was inundated, and the Covered Bridge was washed off its foundation. It was saved by the heroics of a Village damage control team who, at considerable risk, lashed the floating bridge to trees on the bank of the Mill Pond. The stranded Villagers were fed by helicopter supply drops for three days. Over 3, local people were left temporarily homeless, and Massachusetts Governor Christian Herter was "speechless" on viewing the destruction. But the Village, the American Optical Company, and other area employers began working round the clock to clean up and get back into operation. Just nine days after the floods the Village reopened, closely followed by the optical plants in Southbridge. Friends, Trustees, and other supporters responded

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generously to Director Frank O. The Covered Bridge was set more securely on its foundations, and a high water mark was notched on the Gristmill, where it can still be seen. In fire followed flood as the wooden Blacksmith Shop burned an occupational hazard for such structures in the nineteenth century as well , but plans were swiftly made to replace it with the granite-walled shop from Bolton, Mass. In an unusual twist of tradition, it had also come to symbolize hard work, and persistence in the face of adversity. In August , the one millionth visitor arrived, and her entire family shared a celebratory cake with Village staff. They could also share an extraordinary educational experience: Type in your Search Keyword s and Press Enter In and Around

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8: Old Sturbridge Village

Situated in central Massachusetts, Old Sturbridge Village is one of our nation's largest outdoor history museums with more than 40 historic buildings and forested acres. During its year history, the Village has welcomed more than 21 million visitors from across New England, throughout the United States and around the world.

Take Exit 9 to [I West]. Stay in the right lane and follow the signs to Old Sturbridge Village. Worcester Take [Route West] toward Auburn for approx. Take Exit 7 to [I West]. Stay on [I West] for approx. Springfield Take [I East] towards Boston for approx. Take Exit 1 toward [Route 6A]. At the end of the ramp turn left onto [Route 6A] toward the Bourne Bridge. Stay on [Route 6A] for approx. At the rotary take your first exit to go over the Bourne Bridge. Continue on [Route 25 West] toward [Route] for approx. Continue on [Route North] for approx. Take Exit 22 to [I West]. Go through toll booths and travel on [I] for approx. Take [I West] towards Springfield. Continue on [Route 3 South] for 16 miles. Take Exit 32 to [Route 4 South]. Stay on [Route 4 South] for 1. Take a right to merge onto [Route South]. Travel on [Route South] for approx. Portsmouth Take [I South] for approx. Stay in the right lane to merge onto [Route South]. Merge onto [I South] toward Brattleboro. Stay on [I South] for miles. Take Exit 14 to [I East] toward Boston. Travel on [I] for 33 miles. Take the left fork and turn left onto Shattuck Road. At the end of the road turn right onto Old Sturbridge Village Road. Travel on Old Sturbridge Village Road for approx. Follow the signs to Old Sturbridge Village. Take Exit 48 on the left to [I North]. Travel on [I North] for approx. Travel on [CT] for approx. Stay on [I East] for approx. Continue on I East for approx. Travel on [I South] for approx. Continue on [I East] for approx. Toronto Take [QEW] for approx. Merge onto [HWY] and stay on it for approx. Travel on [I] for approx. Take Exit 16 and merge onto [I East]. Stay on it for approx.

THE WELLS FAMILY AND THE EARLY YEARS OF OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE pdf

9: 10 Reasons Why You Should Visit Old Sturbridge Village - Living Well Mom

Old Sturbridge Village traces its beginnings to the remarkable collection amassed by industrialists Albert B. and J. Cheney Wells of neighboring Southbridge. The Wells family brought together a wealth of early New England artifacts, including tools, utensils, furniture, glassware, and clocks.

It is the largest living museum in New England, covering more than 80 acres. The Village includes 59 antique buildings, three water-powered mills, and a working farm. The museum is a popular tourist and educational field trip destination. Costumed interpreters speaking in modern language help visitors understand 19th-century life. In the early 19th century, the land on which Old Sturbridge Village now stands was a farm owned by David Wight. The farm included a sawmill, gristmill and a millpond which survives to this day. The millpond, which still powers the mills, was dug in 1791. While in Boston he bought tickets to the Harvard Lottery, which was set up as a fundraising technique for then Harvard College now Harvard University : He gave his father money to pay off the mortgage on his farm and logged the timber of the cedar swamp which today is the millpond. After the logging was complete, they dug the pond with a team of oxen and a scoop. This entire process took two and a half years. This influenced Cheney to collect early American timepieces and Channing to collect fine furniture. By the early 1800s AB had more than 45 rooms full of antiques in his Southbridge home. In 1800, along with his brothers, family members and associates, formed the Wells Historical Museum. The Museum was given title to the various collections and charged with the care and exhibition of the artifacts. AB wanted to create a small cluster of buildings in a horseshoe around a common. His son George B proposed "a revolutionary idea. He suggested that to make this material valuable it would be necessary to have a village, a live village, one with different shops operating Cheney Wells pledged his clocks and other items and to help "in every way I can to develop a village along the lines that George suggests. Architect Arthur Shurcliff was called in to help lay out a suitable country landscape. The early years Word of mouth Attendance climbed, mostly through word of mouth. The hurricane On August 18, 1815, gale-force winds and a torrential downpour from Hurricane Diane created flood waters that broke dams in surrounding towns and flooded the Village. Fifteen staff members were stranded by the rising waters. The Freeman Farmhouse was flooded and the Covered Bridge was swept off its foundation. Helicopters kept staff members supplied for three days until the waters receded. With great effort, Village employees managed to re-open the Village in just nine days. OSV today In response to declining attendance, shrinking endowments and rising operating costs, OSV has changed its presentation of history. Gone are the "movie set" displays with a fixed range of dialog. In their place, interpreters engage visitors in a more personal and interactive process, encouraging them to actively participate. The museum continues to add interactive exhibits such as a wintertime ice rink, baseball games and a Christmastime celebration. Structures and exhibits Old Sturbridge Village has over 40 structures, including restored buildings purchased and relocated from across New England and some authentic reconstructions. Old Sturbridge Village "foroyar22 Flickr The village is divided into three main sections. The Center Village represents the center of town, with the town green as its focal point. Countryside consists of outlying farms and shops. The Mill Neighborhood features various commercial structures that rely upon a millpond for their power. Center Village The Center Village contains the following structures: The name came from the fact that it was usually : The ten footers were forerunners of the large shoe factories that developed in New England later in the 19th century. The Countryside The Countryside features the following structures: Convert or so, with barn, outbuildings, and fields Blacksmith Shop - a shop where farm implements and other hardware were made and repaired and horses and oxen were shod Bixby House - the home of the blacksmith Cooper Shop - many farmers had part-time trades such as coopering - making wooden barrels, buckets, and pails Pottery Shop - New England potters made utilitarian items such as Redware milkpans, mugs, crocks, flowerpots, and mixing bowls out of local clay District School - a typical publicly funded one-room school Covered Bridge - Covered bridges extended the longevity of wooden bridges in the harsh New England

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weather. The Mill Neighborhood Mill Neighborhood features the following structures: Gristmill - uses water power to turn a 3,pound millstone for grinding grain Sawmill - a working replica of an "up-and-down" sawmill powered by a reaction-type waterwheel Carding Mill - a water driven facility to prepare wool for spinning Collections Old Sturbridge Village has several buildings devoted to displaying their assorted collections of early American antiques. Firearms - many displays feature firearms from colonial America through the post-Civil War era Glass - three distinct categories of displays:

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