



Mill House Monthly

July, 2017

A Publication of the Ocquan Historical Society



Good bye to our Stewart. October 11, 1932-June 26, 2017

With great memories but sad hearts we say goodbye to Stewart Christiano. Stewart could be found at the Mill House on Sundays. If ever he was absent, everyone wanted to know where he was! A lifelong educator, Stewart's favorite lesson was instructing young and old about the history of milling and particularly that of the Ocquan Merchant's Mill. The pictures above show the hand turned grain mill he used to demonstrate the milling process. Stewart's was a life of service that included the army, a history instructor while at UVA, a local school assistant principal, PWC Park Authority Board member and chairman, and a volunteer with youth recreational groups. Stewart also served on our Ocquan Historical Society Board. He won't be forgotten.

Occoquan Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting & Fund Raiser June 19, 2017

The Occoquan Historical Society thanks everyone who attended our successful fundraiser. Although we were visited with rain earlier in the day the evening was a pleasant one. The Bottle Stop Wine Bar was a perfect venue for the annual membership meeting at 6:30 and the fundraiser that followed at 7:30. The OHS Board for the next year was elected and positions on the Board will be elected at the next monthly meeting. The 2017-2018 Board consists of Boyd Alexander, Kim Deal, Jim Drakes, Dolores Elder, Bobbie Frank, Earnie Porta, Marge Shaffer and June Randolph.

A thank you is extended also to those who supported us even if time and distance didn't allow you to join us. If you haven't had the opportunity yet to send in your membership dues here is a gentle reminder and a big thank you in advance. **Dues are \$20 per family and can be paid on our web site www.occoquanhistoricalsociety.org or a check made to the Occoquan Historical Society and mailed to the same at: PO Box 65, Occoquan, VA 22125.**



Above: Pictures from the June 19, 2017 fundraiser



Young Eli, pictured here, is sporting one of our historical society ball caps. His grandmother thought it was perfect to keep the sun off his face while they strolled through *River Mill Park*. Our museum store stocks ball caps, coffee mugs, glass retro milk bottles, ornaments, children's toys, postcards, key chains, magnets, walking tours and many local history books including *Images of Occoquan*. Next time you need a gift for someone or a treat for yourself, stop at the Mill House!

Mill House Collection

Once used together while dressing, pictured here are two items that are often admired in the museum. The button hook was donated in 1972 by Mrs. Ariella Eike and had been used by her grandmother. The button hook was used to grasp the shank of the button and pull it through the button hole. Designs have changed but button hooks are still sold today. The button closure shoes dating from circa 1895, were purchased at Leary's Lumber & General Store which had been located at 302 Mill Street. They were given to the museum as a loan in 1981 by Kathleen Ward Way. They are marked Peters Shoe CO., Diamond Brand, St. Louis. The trademark for the Diamond Brand was registered on January 4, 1892. The shoes are in such good condition they probably weren't worn to play tag, hide and seek or kick the can!



Music on Mill

The Town of Occoquan is having a free concert series in River Mill Park, from 6p.m.-8p.m. on the first Fridays and third Saturdays of the month starting July 7 and continuing through September 16. Check www.occoquanva.gov for details.

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

