



## SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

01257

### NEWSLETTER

Vol. I, No. 5

July 1974

#### PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

This has been an eventful and exciting year. Our celebration of the "Sheffield Declaration" last summer has had far-reaching repercussions:

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Donations to the society this past year included a munificent gift of about eighty old books for the law office, given by Mrs. Randolph Brown of Minneapolis; a letter opener belonging to President McKinley, who used it while he was in the White House, and two books on early blue laws, Mrs. Barbara Brooks of Hartford; a beaded cape, beaded bag, and an 1860-61 School Committee Report, Martin Leaf-green; old pictures, Jane Warner, Alice Warren, Helen Straleau, and Mrs. Charles Cuccio; copies of the Pine Knoll Register, Wes Warren, Jay Clarke, and Holger Oleen; an 1864 letter from Orville Dewey to Lucy Smith, Howard Mott; old history books and gazetteers, Lillian Preiss; and other memorabilia given by friends of Sheffield.

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A progressive step, which was extremely gratifying to those who worked on the grant application, was the announcement on April 18 that the society had received a grant of \$2,700 for the restoration of the Parker L. Hall law office. On June 20 the Board of Appeals granted a variance for moving the law office to a location near the historic buildings in the center of town. Ed Warren is in charge of restoration, and if you would like to volunteer labor, materials, or moral support, please let him know. The first step is to take down the chimney, brick by brick. Work of this kind can be done by amateurs; other tasks must be left to professionals. Let's make this a labor of love, a project that we can enjoy working on and take pride in when it is complete.

Simultaneously, our drive for funds for the acquisition of the Will and Clara Little House is getting under way. A descriptive brochure, prepared by Carl Cranmer, has been sent to all members. We are very grateful to Paul Greene, who made the drawing of the property for the brochure. Under the chairmanship of Carl Cranmer and Winnie Clark, a committee is planning a covered dish supper on the lawn of the Little House, July 14 at 5 p.m. This event, reminiscent of the days when community picnics were more common, is a "must;" come and bring your friends.

#### AUCTION, AUGUST 3

Our auction on Saturday, August 3, promises to be a good one. Henry Hoffman will be the auctioneer, and Marion Barnum has been collecting articles for the sale for months. It would be a great help if everyone would search his home and yard for white elephants to contribute. It would also help greatly if you would spread the word of the auction. Come yourself and encourage others to attend. Last year's auction was pleasurable and profitable; with a larger attendance this year, it will be more pleasurable and more profitable.

*that the thing can and shall be done, and then we shall find the way*

## **SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **NEWSLETTER**

**Vol. I, No. 3**

**March 1974**

### **HISTORICAL SHOW AND TELL**

Did you know that there is a letter from Abraham Lincoln in a Sheffield home? A collection of steel traps? A monk's bell? Some unusual quilts? A dinosaur toe? Alaskan artifacts? An Ammi Phillips portrait? Unusual china? Minutes of the first Congress?

All these and many more, we hope, will be on display at the next meeting of the S.H.S. Friday evening, March 8, at 7:30 at Dewey Memorial Hall. Muriel Rokos, program chairman, will be glad to hear from you with regard to what you would like to show and tell about. Call her at 229-7772 and let her know what family treasures you will show. If you want to just see and hear, rather than show and tell, come anyway. We need you too!

### **APRIL MEETING**

The April meeting would normally fall on Good Friday this year. In order to avoid conflict with Good Friday observances, we voted last month to hold our April meeting on the third Friday, which will be April 19th. At that time Wes Warren will enlighten us about the postal history of the area, and there will be some early envelopes and letters on display.

### **SHEFFIELD CEMETERIES**

The Stephen Greene Press of Brattleboro is planning a guide book to New England cemeteries. The compiler is collecting suggestions as to the cemeteries of particular interest--graves of famous people, unusual epitaphs, or remarkable examples of stone cutting or monuments. We have already submitted one suggestion to Mr. Kull, the compiler, and he has replied that he liked it very much and will be happy to include it. The epitaph suggested to Mr. Kull is that on the tombstone of Simon Willard, who was killed by a lightning bolt:

Stop here, ye gay  
& ponder whay ye doeth  
Blue lightning flew and  
swiftly seiz'd my breath  
A more tremendous  
flash will fill the skies  
When I and all that sleep in death shall rise.

If you know of others worthy of inclusion in this guide, please let us know. We are planning a tour of Sheffield cemeteries some fine day this spring. More on that later.

#### BETSY ROSS FLAG

As the national Bicentennial approaches, interest in the First Stars and Stripes, popularly called the Betsy Ross flag, is kindling. Milton Barnum has ordered a supply of these flags to be sold for the benefit of the historical society. The flags are 3' x 5' and will sell for \$10 each. Milton is taking orders now.

The Betsy Ross flag adopted by the Congress on June 14, 1777, has a circle of thirteen stars on a blue field. Legend has it that the symbolism of this flag was described by George Washington as follows: "We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty."

#### ROBERT WELCH FUND

The fund started last summer in memory of Robert Welch has now reached the impressive sum of \$92,71. Donations to this fund have been kept separate in hopes of using it for something which will be a memorial forever to Mr. Welch, perhaps a nice old piece of furniture for the restored law office, or a set of books, or some other article on which an engraved plaque could be placed. The Board of Trustees is very grateful to all those who made contributions in Mr. Welch's memory.

#### LAW OFFICE RESTORATION

The application for a grant from the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission for the restoration of the law office has finally been completed and submitted to the MBC in Boston. Chris Reavey, aide to Senator Alan Sisitsky, has commended the committee for the thorough documentation accompanying the application. Fifteen letters from individuals and organizations pledging money, materials, labor, equipment, and moral support were attached to the application, along with newspaper clippings and a copy of the Weston Historical Society Bulletin, which showed a picture of our dilapidated structure juxtaposed with pictures of beautifully restored law offices, such as that of Isaac Fiske in Weston. We are most appreciative of the splendid community support for this project.

#### CANAAN - FALLS VILLAGE MEETING

The Canaan - Falls Village Historical Society has invited all members of the Sheffield Historical Society to a meeting on April 3 at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Brian Dow, public information supervisor for the Bicentennial for the state of Connecticut, will speak on Bicentennial planning and projects. It should be an interesting and worthwhile meeting. All are warmly invited to attend. The meeting will start at 7:45 p.m.





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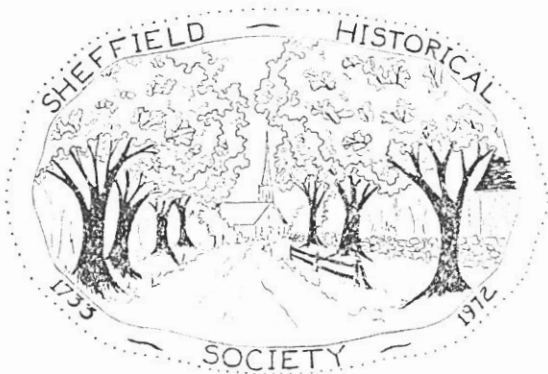
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Vol. II, No. 1.

September 1974

### DEMONSTRATION OF OLD-TIME FRAMING

Al Petersen and Ed Warren will demonstrate old-time framing at the first society meeting of the 1974-75 season September 13 at 7:30 in Dewey Memorial Hall. This is an antique method which has proved its effectiveness and should be most interesting to observe.

This will be a novelty in our programming and should "relieve the dullness of history!" In her March 2, 1894 report as clerk of the Sheffield Friendly Union, Julia Atkins Miller wrote: "I am aware that there is a feeling that some of our lectures are too profound for general acceptance. The lecture committee take great pains to have a variety of topics so as to suit all classes, and they have ample room in the programme for entertainments to relieve the dullness of history."

### MOVING THE LAW OFFICE

Early on the morning of August 7 the Parker Hall law office, having been securely boxed in and hoisted onto a trailer truck the day before, started its journey down Route 7 to the Little House grounds. There it was guided by Ed Warren onto a new stone foundation.

Slides of the moving process will be shown at the September 13 meeting. Volunteers are needed for non-professional work in connection with the restoration. We hope you will express your willingness to help.

### BUS TRIP TO SEE RESTORED LAW OFFICE

If enough people are interested, we could sponsor a trip to either Old Sturbridge Village or the Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y. Both villages include a beautifully restored nineteenth century law office among other appealing exhibits and demonstrations.

At our next meeting we will have more information on costs and possible dates. If you cannot attend the meeting but are interested in going on the trip, please let Lillian Preiss know at 229-8726.

### BUMPER STICKERS

Bumper stickers bearing the legend "Bicentennial Begins Here" have been received from the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission. Those now on hand will be available at our next meeting, and more can be ordered if wanted.

# MEMBERSHIP FOR 1974-1975

This copy of the newsletter goes to all past and present members. Future issues will be sent only to current members since this is one of the benefits of membership. If there is any doubt about whether you have paid your dues for '74-'75, please call Alice Hurlburt.

The Board of Trustees is seeking a volunteer to assume the responsibility of editing the newsletter. If you are interested, please let us know.

The society's fiscal year runs from June 1 to May 31. Dues for the current year may be sent to: Mrs. R. Walter Hurlburt, Ashley Falls, Mass. 01222. The following coupon is for your convenience in remitting dues.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

|                          |  |        |
|--------------------------|--|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Junior Member (under 18)               | \$ .50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual Adult Member                | 3.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Joint Membership                       | 5.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sustaining Members                     | 10.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Business Firms                         | 25.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Life Members (exempt from annual dues) | 50.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Benefactors (exempt from annual dues)  | 100.00 |

#### RECENT ACCESSIONS

Several fascinating articles have been donated recently by Lillias Warner. Among them is a scrapbook from which the above quotation from Mrs. Miller's report was taken. Also included were a steel engraving of Edward Everett, a copy of the New-England Galaxy of July 4, 1828, and a copy of the Ulster County Gazette of January 4, 1800.

Four scrapbooks containing some local material were donated by Mrs. Mary Hulett, now of Kent, Connecticut. Ruth Chapin has given a copy of the February 3, 1766 Connecticut Courant, which includes interesting comment on the reaction of the people to the Stamp Act, as well as the report of a lecture on "full-bottom'd wigs."

As our collection of artifacts grows, it becomes increasingly apparent that we need storage and display space. More people should have access to this rich storehouse of information.

#### DEVELOPMENT FUND

An energetic, enthusiastic, active committee under the chairmanship of Carl Crammer and Winnie Clark has succeeded in raising a total of \$13,565 in cash and pledges toward the purchase of the Little House. This figure includes the proceeds of several projects representing the efforts of many people. Our August 3 auction, sparked by Marion Barnum, cleared a little over \$1,300, including the sale of hot dogs and soda by Millie Smith and her young helpers. The patchwork quilt was won by Andy Weinberger of Brooklyn, who bought his raffle ticket at the auction. Some very generous checks and pledges have added to the present healthy total. Our heartfelt thanks go to all who have contributed.

Mrs. Harry Warren has made and donated a beautiful braided rug to be raffled off or used in any way we choose to benefit the society. Ideas are welcome on whether we should have another raffle or whether we should try to find other ways to earn money on such articles.

#### BUSING IN SHEFFIELD IN 1903

Late in 1903 the Sheffield school committee decided to reopen the schoolhouse on the Plain, which had been closed for nearly a year. The plan was to bus the colored children from the New Guinea district to the Plain school, where they were to be taught by Miss Cora Fowler, a young colored woman who had graduated from Sheffield High School at the head of a class of ten. These children were not "enjoying proper school opportunities," according to Supt. Collins, because of irregularity of attendance due to the condition of their clothes, lack of transportation, and indifference on the part of some parents.

When the school opened, no children appeared on the first day and only three on the second day. Shortly thereafter the school committee received a letter from a Boston lawyer stating that he had been retained by interested parties to file a complaint against them, alleging unjust discrimination against the Negro children in trying to insist on their attending a separate school devoted to members of their race and taught by a colored woman.

And you thought that busing problems were confined to the present day?

MEMBERSHIP

Dues for 1975-76 are now due. Some memberships were paid at the annual meeting in June, but if you would like to join by mail you may send your check to the treasurer now.

Please remit to: Mrs. R. Walter Hurlburt, Ashley Falls, Mass. 01222

Name \_\_\_\_\_

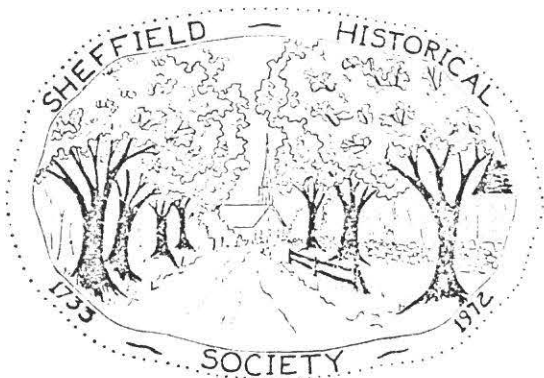
Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Junior Member (under 18 years of age)  | \$ .50 |
| Individual Adult Member                | 3.00   |
| Joint Membership (husband and wife)    | 5.00   |
| Sustaining Members                     | 10.00  |
| Business Firms                         | 25.00  |
| Life Members (exempt from annual dues) | 50.00  |
| Benefactors (exempt from annual dues)  | 100.00 |

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_





## SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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### Newsletter

Vol. II, No. 2

November 1974

### Society To Present Exhibit

It was voted at the September meeting to present an exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. The exhibit entitled "Manuscripts of the American Revolution", consists of 30 documents and letters selected by the Manuscript Society to provide a panorama of this important era in our country's history. It begins with the Stamp Act of 1765 and ends with the election of George Washington as president. It is highlighted by silk-screened-on-parchment copies of letters by Washington, Nathaniel Greene, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Benedict Arnold and others. The society will try to reserve the exhibit for the period of June 21- July 20 for a rental fee of \$100.00.

### Development Fund

Pledges for the development fund thus far total the amount of \$14,228.71. The amount in the bank is \$4,529.48. A good portion of the money pledged has been donated by non-members of the society. Let's all strive to raise the percentage of members donating much higher than the present 42%. The amount of the donation makes no difference.

Mrs. Lewis Leffingwell raffled off a lovely handmade tablecloth, realizing for her efforts the sum of \$134.50. This sum she asked to have donated to the development fund. The winning ticket for the tablecloth was held by Betty Barnum from Newington, Conn.

### November Meeting

Our November meeting will be held November 8 at 7:30 at Dewey Memorial Hall. We are pleased to have as our guest that evening Mrs. Margaret Philbrick, owner of Westenhook Gallery in Sheffield. She will give a demonstration of silk screen painting and will tell some of the history of stencilling.

Mrs. Philbrick has several gallery affiliations among them being the Ainsworth Gallery in Boston and the Westwood Gallery in her home of Westwood, Mass.

She has work in many museums and private collections, to mention just a few the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C., the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Brooklyn Museum in New York City.

Mrs. Philbrick has won innumerable awards and special honors, a recent one being the John Taylor Arms Prize, National academy, N.Y. in 1972.

This will be a very interesting program. We hope to see you all there.

#### Some Facts About Sheffield

Can you place the following?

"The principal streams that empty into the Housatonic in Sheffield are the Running Brook, which drains the northeastern part of the town and has its mouth a short distance below Sheffield village; Williams Creek, which comes from the northwestern part; and Bishop Creek, through which are discharged the waters of the southwestern part. These streams unite in the village of Sheffield and empty into the river through a common trunk."

#### Education in Sheffield

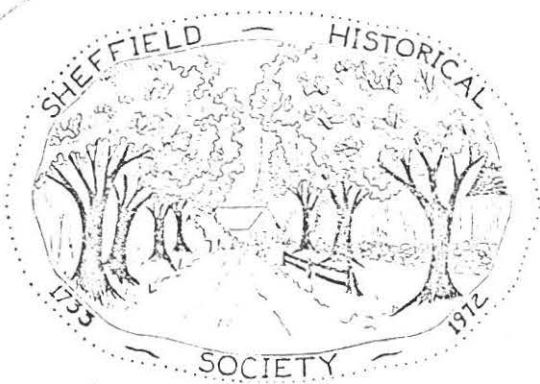
Considerable attention was given by early inhabitants to education. In 1750 a grammar school was commenced and continued for a number of years. In 1827 there were thirteen school districts, instructing 769 children, the sum annually appropriated and raised by taxation was \$750.00 and in 1837 the sum was raised by taxation and \$1,275 in addition by private subscription. At this time there were two academies or private schools to which \$300.00 tuition was paid. In 1839 a private school was started by a Mr. Stone from Litchfield, Conn. and was incorporated as the Sheffield Academy, with a capital of \$10,000.00 on March 12, 1840. The coporators were Edward F. Ensign, Moses Forbes, and Joseph Willcox. A building was erected in the center of the square on the plain, the school was later given up.

For 18 years after this school closed there was no high school taught in Sheffield. In 1870 by a vote of the town, a high school was established with Miss Ann Fitch (later to become Mrs. Dresser) as principal.

The first term of this school was kept at Ashley Falls but it was then removed to Sheffield, where it was continued for many years. The school did well and was well sustained. By a bequest of George B. Cook, in 1873 the town received a fund, the income of which was applied to the support of this school.

This was taken from History of Berkshire County Massachusetts, Volume I published in 1885 by Press of J. Henry Probst New York, N. Y.

I would welcome anyone's suggestions about the Newsletter. If you have something of interest that you would like to share please let me know. I would be interested in any comments you might have about possible additions to the Newsletter. You may call me at 229-2667 or drop me a note Mrs. Edgar Boardman County Rd. Sheffield, Mass.



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January 1975

### January Meeting

Our January meeting will be held on January 10, this Friday, at 7:30 at Dewey Memorial Hall. The program is entitled "Reminiscing". Mrs. Gladys Roraback and Mr. Oliver Willcox will share with us their own remembrances of people, places, and things in Sheffield. This will be an opportunity to learn some historical facts never written down plus some amusing anecdotes from the past. Let's begin this new year with a large attendance at this meeting.

### Colonel Ashley House

We've learned from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carpenter of the Ashley House that an application was made this past summer to have the Colonel Ashley House declared a National Historic Landmark. The application was filed with the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The Department of the Interior next receives the application and from there it goes to the National Parks Service. They look at the house and determine if it qualifies as a historical landmark. After it is approved, there will be a dedication, awarding of a certificate and a bronze plaque designating the house as a National Historic Landmark.

### Notes From Previous Meetings

The November meeting with Mrs. Margaret Philbrick as guest was an especially interesting one. She told of the history of stencilling and pointed out one particularly interesting point of history.

Jarred Johnson, a 19th century farmer and cabinet-maker, who lived on Brush Hill in Sheffield produced many Hitchcock type stencils before his death in 1873. According to the author of Early American Stencils, Janet Waring, his original stencil bears as close a relationship as those on Hitchcock chairs as any that have been found. It is not known, however, what connection, if any, Mr. Johnson may have had with Lambert Hitchcock founder of the Hitchcock Chair Factory.

Our Christmas meeting was festive and gave everyone the Christmas spirit. We were entertained by the Cobbletones, a local barbershop group. Their versions of carols and some of their own favorite songs was heartwarming. The candlelight and table decorations added up to Christmas beauty and the goodies brought by all were the perfect final touch to a festive meeting.

#### Did You Know?

January 30th 1733-4, money was raised to build the first meeting house, 35 x 45 feet, which was erected about three quarters of a mile north of the present church and was occupied until 1760. It was evidently not erected until the following year, 1735, as the following votes passed May 22nd, 1735, in regard to its location and raising indicate:

"Voted to Set the meeting House on a Certain Nole of Land Easterly of Mr. William Goodriches Dwelling House which is In the Street or Highway.

"Voted to allow twenty Gallons of Rhumb towards or for the Raising of the meeting house or for the towns use.

"Voted to allow three Barrels of Good Beare towards or for or for the Raising of the meeting house.

"Voted to allow twenty pounds of Sugar to go with the Rhumb and Obadiah Noble and Ensign Ashley were made choice to Dool out Drinks to strangers or towns people and also to receive the money likewise Ensign Ashley to serve as pinman.

"Voted to allow no Drink to the Laborers after they are Dis-mist from labour etc.

Taken from History of Berkshire County Massachusetts, Volume I published in 1885 by Press of J. Henry Probst, N.Y. N.Y.

#### BENEFIT AUCTION

Marion Barnum has served most capably for two years as auction chairman and has asked us to find another chairman for this year's benefit sale. Please let Lillian Preiss or any other officer know if you are willing to serve in this capacity. You may call on the entire membership for your committee!



## SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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### NEWSLETTER

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June 1975



Parker L. Hall Law Office - May 1975

### ANNUAL MEETING

The third annual meeting of the Sheffield Historical Society will be held on June 13 at Old Parish Church beginning with a covered dish supper at 6:30. Each family is asked to bring a casserole or salad. The committee will take care of dessert and place settings. Laura Percy is in charge of the supper arrangements.

Following the supper there will be a short business meeting, including election of officers for 1975-76. The program will be a "show and tell" similar to the popular March 1974 program. If you have an antique or other personal treasure that you would like to show at the meeting and tell the group about, please let Muriel Rokos or Lillian Preiss know so that we can plan the necessary space.

### PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Approaching the Bicentennial year 1976, we rejoice in the fact that Sheffield has a thriving young historical society with 140 members. The organization is embarked upon a number of significant projects, each incorporating one of the Bicentennial themes: Heritage '76, Festival U.S.A., Horizons '76.



Activities of the 1974-75 year got off to a scorching start, when we held a potluck picnic supper on a blistering July day on the back lawn of the Dan Raymond-Will Little House. It was a delightful spot for a picnic, and members and friends had an opportunity to look over the property that the society is hoping to acquire.

The next event at that location was the moving, on August 7, of the Parker L. Hall law office from Sheffield Plain to its restoration site. A supporting cage was built around the structure, and a giant crane then picked it up in a cable sling and swung it aboard a Berkshire Engineering Company trailer truck. It moved quickly down Route 7 and was placed on the new foundation prepared by Warren and Macchi. The cement cellar has proved to be perfectly dry and will provide valuable storage space. Much of the exterior work has been completed. If you haven't seen it lately, take a look; it's impressive.

Through the generosity of many people, more than \$17,000 in cash and pledges has been raised toward the purchase of the Dan Raymond House. A very successful auction in August encouraged us to schedule another one for August 2 of this year. Please let Milton Barnum or Arthur Chase know what you have to donate for this important event. It is one of our major fund-raising projects. Our industrious needlewomen have produced some beautiful works of art for the benefit of the development fund: an embroidered tablecloth by Ruth Leffingwell, a quilted pillow by Rachel Willcox, and a patchwork quilt by the indefatigable quilting committee.

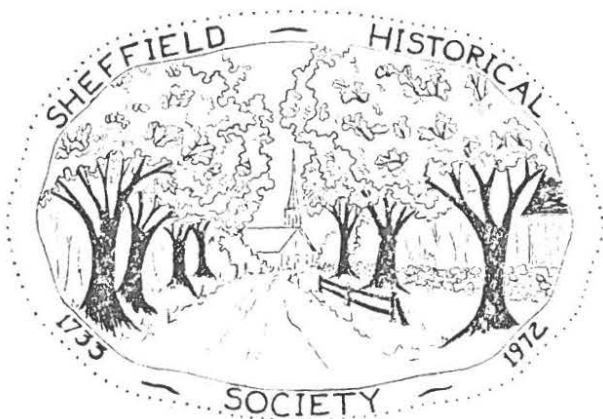
Programs this past year have proved that history is far from dull. A demonstration of the old-time method of framing by Al Petersen and Ed Warren was elucidated by a display of antique woodworking tools. Margaret Philbrick demonstrated the silk-screening process and reviewed the history of stencilling as an art form, with particular emphasis on Jarred Johnson, a Brush Hill farmer and cabinetmaker who produced many Hitchcock-type stencils. Other programs of local interest were given by Gelston Hardy, who spoke on the Ashley family monument; Oliver Eldridge, whose topic was Chauncey Jerome, a Canaan clockmaker; and Oliver Willcox and Gladys Roraback, who contributed historical anecdotes and reminiscences. Louise Stevens brought a fascinating collection of dolls to illustrate her talk, and Bernard Fryc brought samples of student work to add interest to films he showed. Pure entertainment was afforded by the Cobbletones, who sang at our candlelight Christmas party.

We are delighted to have additional opportunity for cooperating with other community organizations. The Campfire Girls will serve at the opening of our collectors' exhibit August 3. Members of the Sheffield Garden Club will be hostesses at the Col. Ashley House at the conclusion of the historical tour of the town on August 16. Your president has addressed the Mothers' Club and the Sheffield Friendly Union and has been invited to speak at the Memorial Day exercises at Sheffield Center School, where the fourth graders have planted a mountain ash as a "second liberty tree."

A stimulating series of lectures will be offered this fall for enjoyment, edification, and profit. Sponsored by the development fund committee, the lectures will be presented by Blaine A. Cota, Jr., BFA and MFA, Yale University, an accomplished artist, craftsman, social historian, and lecturer. You will hear more of this later, but spread the word and save the dates of September 19 and 26 and October 3 and 10.

Many, many thanks to all who have helped to make this a great year!

Lillian E. Preiss, President



## SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

01257

### NEWSLETTER

Vol. III, No. 1

September 1975

### LECTURE SERIES

A major fund-raising project for the acquisition of the Dan Raymond-Will Little House will offer entertainment, edification, and excellence when a lecture series by Blaine Cota of Litchfield begins on September 19 in the parish hall of Our Lady of the Valley Church.

Mr. Cota is president of Heritance House, Inc., a private non-profit educational historical studies project, director of the Deacon Peter Buell Dwelling House Restoration, a member of the four-man active restoration committee for the Tapping Reeve Law School, and a lecturer on 17th and 18th century New England social history. His lecture series will include:

I. September 19 - The Deacon Peter Buell House Restoration. A discussion about the authentic restoration of the 1728 dwelling house of Deacon Peter Buell in Litchfield, in terms of documented social aspects of the family unit spanning 50 years from 1734 to 1784. Profusely illustrated.

II. September 26 - Colonial Gardens. A program in color on gardens of colonial America, their adaptation from European and English origins, their development through the 18th century and illustrations of regional differences with specific emphasis on a ten-year restoration of a New England garden.

III. October 3 - Lighting the Wilderness. A comprehensive view of the development of early lighting devices and their proper usage in New England during the period before whale oil lamps. Slides and artifacts.

IV. October 10 - The Bake Oven and Down-Hearth Cookery. A discussion of colonial foods, methods of cookery, specific usage of down-hearth equipment and firing the brick oven, as well as cookery books of the period and their peculiar function in the home.

The development committee hopes that all S.H.S. members will buy a series ticket and encourage friends and acquaintances to attend any or all of the talks. Prices are: series of four lectures, \$12.00; single lecture, \$3.50; student ticket, \$2.00; student series ticket, \$7.00. At the conclusion of each lecture there will be a question and answer period. Refreshments will be served.

The regular open meeting of the society will be omitted in October because of Mr. Cota's program. All members are urged to attend the lecture on our regular meeting night. Admission for all will be by ticket only.

#### SEPTEMBER MEETING

Mr. Edward J. Fales, Jr., of Falls Village will be the speaker at the opening meeting of the 1975-76 season. The meeting will be held September 12 at Dewey Memorial Hall starting at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Fales, past president of the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society, is a graduate of the College of William and Mary. Describing himself as a "history-journalist," Mr. Fales has been an editor, a writer, and the publisher, with his wife, of a paper called "The Country Letter." Four years ago he wrote the story of the "Iron Country," the northeastern corner of Connecticut, an intriguing subject for a future program.

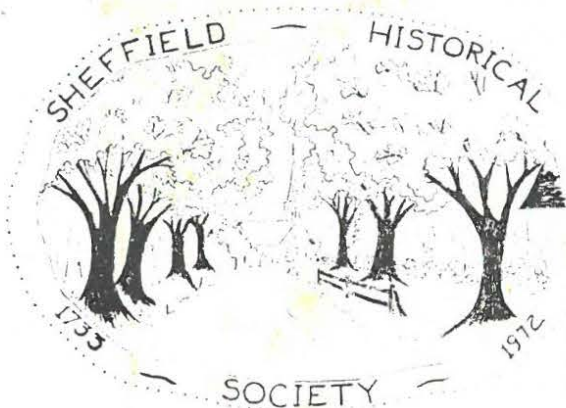
On the 12th Mr. Fales will describe the trip of the Baroness von Riedesel, who, with her children, accompanied her husband during the campaign down from Canada, his capture at Saratoga, and his years as a prisoner of the American forces. On their way to Cambridge the entourage passed through Great Barrington and the following year went by way of Norfolk and Canaan to the prison camp in Virginia. Mr. Fales will use the remarkable diary kept by the Baroness to depict the New England people and towns of that era as she and her aides saw them. Her experiences, Mr. Fales reports, were "vivid, dangerous, troublesome—and sometimes very amusing."

#### SUMMER ACTIVITIES

It has been a busy summer for the historical society and the Bicentennial committee. Because so many people did so much to help, a list of "credits" would read like the telephone directory. The exquisite and esthetic accomplishments of the quilters and pillow makers was matched by the Herculean labors of the auction committee led by Milton Barnum and Arthur Chase. Bill Bradford donated his services as auctioneer and put on a non-stop performance in near-100-degree weather.

People who attended the collectors exhibit are still talking about the hospitality of host Richard Combes. John Campbell was most cooperative about opening and closing the library for the exhibit. Dwight Ford and John Bagdaschi made wishing-wells for contributions to the development fund. Together they brought in \$90. Margaret Philbrick donated to the society one of her new serigraphs, "The Sheffield Declaration," which had its first showing at the collectors exhibit. Henry Massini donated his bus and his time for the historical tour on August 16. Narrators were Art Chase, Dwight Ford, and Lillian Preiss. Our heartfelt thanks to those named and to the many unnamed who participated in this historic pre-Bicentennial summer.





## SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

01257

### NEWSLETTER

Vol. IV, No. 1

September 1976

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

Lillian Preiss will be the speaker at the opening meeting of the 1976-1977 season to be held September 10 at Dewey Memorial Hall starting at 7:30 p.m. Her talk, entitled Historic Preservation in Germany, will be illustrated with slides taken on her recent travels in East and West Germany. Nuremberg, Munich, Rothenburg, Heidelberg, Frankfurt, and Trier are among the cities visited.

We are fortunate in arranging this talk so soon after the Preiss's return.

### SHEFFIELD: FRONTIER TOWN

After a number of agonizing delays, Excelsior Printing Company assures us of delivery of Lillian's history this week. It is a handsome, hard-bound book with town seal, end papers, inset map, chapter headings drawn by Margaret Philbrick, and dust cover—a worthy monument to Lillian's selfless devotion to this demanding project.

An autograph party will be held Sunday, September 19, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Westernhook Gallery, at which Lillian will be available to autograph the title pages, Margaret Philbrick, the drawings, and Art Chase, the poem "And Always New Frontiers," which serves as an end piece of the history.

The price of Sheffield: Frontier Town is \$7.50.

### SUMMER ACTIVITIES

An officer of the Berkshire County Historical Society recently expressed amazement at the range of summer activities in Sheffield and the number of members involved.

The Bicentennial Ball, under the chairmanship of Marion Barnum, with assistance from Milt, Dwight Ford, Margery Kirchner, and Millie Smith, brought out a distinguished collection of costumes that reappeared a week later in the jury box for Mumbet's case in the Sheffield play, All This Freedom Talk. Both events celebrated the Sheffield vote for independence of June 18, 1776.

The first Arts, Crafts, and Quilts Festival, engineered by Bob Krol, brought together over fifty craftsmen and a magnificent collection of quilts. Bob had yeoman assistance from Millie Smith, Jean Curtiss, Pamela Krol, Iona Brigham, Viola Bagnaschi, Carl Cranmer, Shears Boardman, and a lot of others.

The quilters were well represented by the work of Agnes Boardman, Winnie Clark, Trudy LeGeyt, Vera Conklin, Irene Cranmer, Marion Barnum, Rachel Willcox, Virginia Siter, Dorothy and Betty Dinan, Marian Willcox, Louise Stevens, Phyllis Whalen, and Alice Schumann.

In addition during the summer the Bicentennial Quilt had assistance from Margaret Philbrick, Esther Kervan, Alice Warren, Frances Warren, Evelyn Willcox, Minnie Markham, Mrs. Paul Batacchi, Mrs. Jost, and Betty LeGeyt.

Featured in the Great Barrington parade were the Budweiser Clydesdales and the Sheffield Historical Society float, powered by Francis Nourse, Sr. and transported by the American Legion wagon. The float depicted a Quilting Bee that included Agnes, Winnie, Trudy, Vera, and Virginia, and the Signing of the Sheffield Declaration (1773) by Milt, Loring, Charlie Viall, and Art--- (those same costumes!)

Bright weather brought a fine crowd to the society auction to hear Auctioneer Bill Bradford knock down the impressive collection of antiques and attiques handed him by Chairman Milt Barnum, Lewis Leffingwell, Shears Boardman, Loring Boardman, and Durward Willcox, while Millie Smith provided refreshments, Marion Barnum recorded, Muriel Rokos, Winnie Clark and Carl and Irene Cranmer assisted, Agnes Boardman, Ruth Leffingwell and Dorothy Dinan ran a tag sale, and Arthur and Alice Ann Chase sold books.

The proceeds from summer activities carried the Development Fund past the \$30,000 mark and strengthened our hope of taking possession of the Dan Raymond House in 1976.

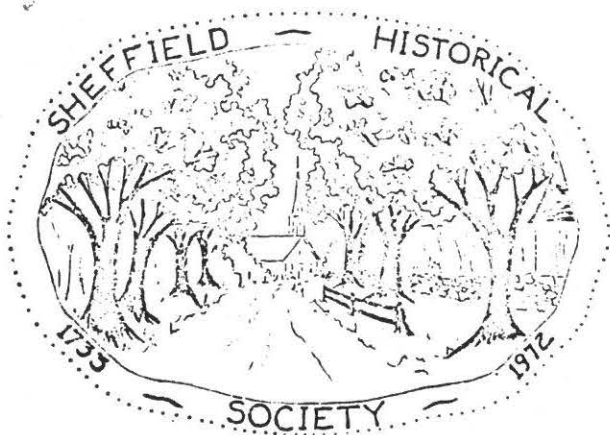
#### OFFICERS

With the end of Lillian Preiss's term as President and Muriel Rokos's as Program Chairman, we have some feelings of apprehension. The new officers have great need for suggestions and assistance from everyone. The officers and chairpersons for 1976-77 are:

President, Milton Barnum  
Vice President, Arthur Chase  
Treasurer, Marion Barnum  
Secretary, Agnes Boardman  
Program Committee, Vera Conklin, Wesley Warren, Arthur Chase  
Publicity, Lillian Preiss  
Refreshments, Helen Woodbeck  
Newsletter, Arthur Chase, Lillian Preiss  
Curators, Muriel Rokos, Alice Ann Chase  
Membership, Alice Hurlburt  
Goals, Carl Proper

#### INCIDENTAL INFORMATION

The Berkshire County Historical Society has scheduled a South County bus trip from Pittsfield, October 6th, which will include a lunch stop at The Shed and visits under the guidance of Lillian Preiss to the Old Covered Bridge, the Law Office, Town Hall, Dan Raymond House and Old Parish Church.



## SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

01257

### NEWSLETTER

Vol. IV, No. 2

December 1976

### CHRISTMAS MEETING

The December meeting of the Sheffield Historical Society will begin with a "covered dish supper" at 6:30 on December 10 at Dewey Memorial Hall.

Important request: please bring your own place setting—a dinner plate, a cup and saucer, and knife, fork and spoon.

We are very grateful to Helen Woodbeck and her able committee: Mrs. Loring Boardman, Mrs. Edwin LeGeyt, Mrs. William Conklin, and Mrs. Dorothy Dinan, for planning this festive occasion.

Mrs. Wilfred Millet is in charge of the entertainment, which will follow a short business meeting.

### SHEFFIELD: FRONTIER TOWN

With Christmas coming on, we have been pleased with the interest of Sheffield residents, both present and past, in having Lillian's history mailed out of town. The mail order business is being handled by Art Chase with padded envelopes and postage included in the 75¢ shipping charge.

Mr. and Mrs. Silk have given most generous assistance in selling several hundred autographed copies at the Sheffield Pharmacy without any commission beyond the thanks of the Sheffield Bicentennial Committee. They will stock books through the season—a great Christmas idea for the person "who has everything."

### QUILTING COMMITTEE

The lucky winner of the diamond-shaped quilt last completed by the quilting committee was A. Lockwood of Wethersfield, Connecticut. Congratulations to the winner!



### BRIGGS GRAVESTONES

On page 86 of Sheffield: Frontier Town is the statement:

"The Briggs quarry was most active following the Civil War, when John R. Briggs received a contract for 100,000 stones for veterans' graves at \$2.65 a stone."

Last month one of these marble stones, discarded because of a chipped edge, was set up at the corner of the foundation on which the Briggs mill once stood. To anyone sighting it from Berkshire School Road: No, it's not a new bury-patch.

### SOUTH BERKSHIRE TOUR

During October we were honored by inclusion in the South Berkshire tour of the Berkshire Historical Society. Two bus loads of archivists were met by Lillian Preiss at their lunch stop at The Shed Restaurant. She pointed out some of the highlights of early Sheffield history and later escorted the tour to the Old Covered Bridge, the Dan Raymond House, the Parker Hall law office, and the Old Parish Church.

At the town hall Selectman Dwight Ford and Margaret Ford, in their prize-winning bicentennial costumes, welcomed the visitors to the display of Sheffield's most cherished document, the Sheffield Declaration of 1773.

### GOALS COMMITTEE

On November 17th Carl Proper, chairman of the Goals Committee of the Sheffield Historical Society, hosted a meeting of members to discuss the acquisition and use of the Dan Raymond House.

Emphasis was placed on:

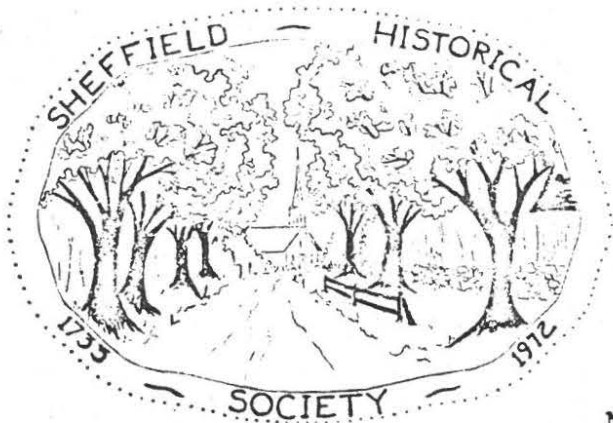
- (1) the priorities in repair and renovation required after the house is taken over, /
- (2) the need for a detailed statement of the projected uses of the house after acquisition.

### NOVEMBER MEETING

Last month Jesse O'Hara shared with us some of the fun as well as the hard work involved in researching one's family tree. Jesse is well qualified for such an assignment for he is a member of numerous genealogical organizations. He is currently working on research for Americans of Royal Descent.

The cheapest way to have your family tree traced is to run for public office.

Charleroi, Pa., Free Press



SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS  
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NEWSLETTER

Vol. IV, No. 3

March 1977

APRIL MEETING

The Sheffield Historical Society and the Friendly Union will join forces in presenting the Storowton Village Dancers at Dewey Hall on Friday, April 1 at 8 P.M. The Historical Society will hold its business meeting at 7:30 prior to the entertainment.

Admission is free to members of both organizations and \$1 for non-members.

The Storowton group, consisting of a caller and twenty dancers in costume, will demonstrate a variety of period sets that should recall festive evenings at the Ashley House and in the several inn-ballrooms of colonial Sheffield.

UNANIMOUS VOTE FOR DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

At the March meeting the Sheffield Historical Society reached a signal milestone when President Milton Barnum called for a vote on the acquisition of the Dan Raymond House. The large Society attendance approved the purchase of the house unanimously (or as Theodore Sedgwick wrote at the end of the Sheffield Declaration, Nemine Contradicente).

Near April 1 the Society will complete the purchase for \$29,500 from Milton Barnum and Edward Warren who bought the house in September 1973 and generously held it until the Society could raise enough money for its purchase. The members may well be proud of this acquisition which gives an educational center for Sheffield and a home for the Society.

BOUNTIFUL BREAKFAST

On Saturday, March 25, another group was initiated in the delectable rites of fireplace cooking by Carl and Sally Proper. These memorable events bring joy to the guests and comfort to the Development Fund.

After the vote on the purchase of the Dan Raymond House Milt Barnum and Vera Conklin presided over an illuminating and at times hilarious collection of "show-and-tell" items.

Among the relics that did not defy identification were Roger Drury's remarkable writing-and-shaving-desk of a sea-faring ancestor, Marie Walbridge's opium pipe, (drugs were a problem way back when) Richard Combes' 18th century tea set of remarkable origin, and Lillian Preiss' collection of bells for every animal but the cat. Featured were camel, water buffalo, and elephant bells. Reverend Herbert Robinson demonstrated a mechanical check-writer to protect good and bad checks from being altered. Loring Boardman's "whatzit" was designed to defeat any energy crisis. (Mr. Schlesinger take notice.)

Vera Conklin's oven produced delectable prizes for the experts (and not-so-experts) in identification.

#### PLEDGES DUE

Members and friends who made pledges to the Development Fund for purchase of the Dan Raymond House have scored a remarkable record in keeping up their payments. As this news letter went to press only three pledges totaling \$290 can be said to be due or past due.

A total of \$9,285 was pledged during the campaign. Of this amount \$3,100 by four members is due the day the Historical Society formally takes title to the property. Two more pledges totaling \$600 are still outstanding because they were made late in 1976 and are not due until 1977 or 1978.

It is hoped overdue pledges will soon be paid, as the funds are needed now for the work of restoration.

Meanwhile new pledges by members and friends to begin the first stages of restoration would be welcomed.

#### SPRING FASHION SHOW

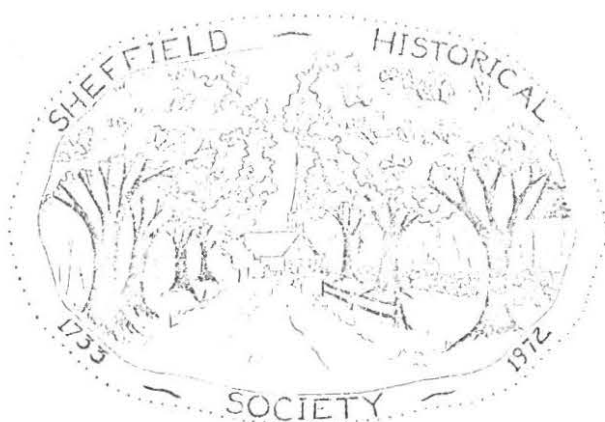
On Tuesday, April 26th at 8:00 P.M. the Sheffield Historical Society in co-operation with England Brothers in Pittsfield is sponsoring a Spring Fashion Show in the large cafeteria at Mt. Everett Regional School. Twelve tables will be decorated representing each month of the year. Door prizes including the center piece from each table will be given away.

Tickets at \$2.00 each will be available at the April 1st meeting and as it is important that a minimum of 200 be sold, the cooperation of all our members is needed.

Twelve models are needed, willing to invest one trip to Pittsfield for a fitting---for the pleasure of being a model the night of the fashion show.

Every Society member is responsible for making a "fancy dessert" for the refreshment table. Contact Mrs. William Elliot at 229-2126 to tell her what you will bring.

Any one willing to work the night of the fashion show as ushers or ticket takers, or with any questions---contact Robert Krol at 229-7955.



## SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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### NEWSLETTER

Vol. IV, No. 4

July 1977

#### SOCIETY TAKES TITLE TO HOUSE

After an energetic, three-and-a-half year fund-raising program, the Sheffield Historical Society has taken title to the pre-Revolutionary War Dan Raymond House. Work bees have been held to clean up the grounds, and a committee is engaged in establishing priorities for necessary work to be done on the house itself. One room has been set aside to hold acquisitions of the society until a permanent display can be arranged.

Carl Proper reported at the June meeting that he has researched the ownership of the house as far back as 1793, when Dan Raymond sold it to Ezra Fellows.

#### DEDICATION OF LAW OFFICE

A gala evening has been scheduled for Friday, August 5, when our restored law office will be dedicated. A sign designating the building as the office of Parker L. Hall, attorney at law, will be installed, with President Milton Barnum cutting the ribbon.

The dedication ceremony will start at 6 p.m., followed by a community potluck supper. Nancy Boardman has graciously consented to serve as chairman of the supper. Unless she calls to ask you for something specific, please bring a cold dish for the buffet table. Each person should also bring his own place setting and a folding chair. Iced tea will be furnished. We are hoping to have some informal musical entertainment. Come and bring a friend.

During the afternoon on August 5 from two to five, there will be a display of local history projects made by eighth grade students at Mount Everett Regional School under the direction of Paul Menin and Bill Gillooly. Please encourage non-members as well as members to see this interesting group of models, old pictures, family trees, and dioramas. The exhibit will be set up in the Dan Raymond House.

The Bicentennial quilt made by members of the society will also be exhibited there during the afternoon, and chances will be sold by members of the quilting committee. The group is already at work on a second quilt, which will remain the property of the society and will be on permanent display in the Raymond House. Also available at that time will be the tape of an interview with Fred "Doc" Shook. The tape was made at a meeting of the society on May 13.

#### FOURTH ANNUAL AUCTION

Antiques and miscellaneous items will be offered for sale at the society's fourth annual auction to be held Saturday, July 30, at the Sheffield American Legion Hall starting at 10 a.m. Proceeds will be used to start restoration and repair work on the Dan Raymond House. Bill Bradford will again conduct the auction.

Assistance is needed to help move auction articles to the hall, to help price items for the tag sale, and to work during the auction and tag sale. If you can spare some time before July 30 or on that day, please contact Milton Barnum or Loring Barnum. Refreshments will be sold by the American Legion Auxiliary.

#### THE "BOW-WOW DISTRICT"

We fear we may have cast an evil impression on the readers of the Courier in writing about "Bow-wow" district, sometime ago, as we do not wish them to infer that we are such a noisy neighborhood. That name was given several years ago, because a number of families kept dogs, which kept up such a continual barking that it was called "Bow-wow," but the name is becoming obsolete, as the section is seldom called by that name now.

L.H.

(from The Berkshire Courier of April 5, 1871)

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#### MEMBERSHIP

Dues for 1977-78 are now due. Some memberships were paid at the annual meeting in June, but if you would like to join by mail you may send your check to the treasurer now.

Please remit to: Mrs. Marion Barnum, Sheffield, Mass. 01257

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

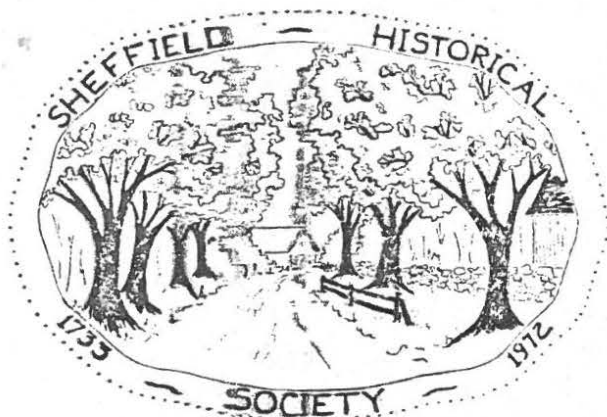
Zip \_\_\_\_\_

|               |  |        |
|---------------|--|--------|
| Please check: | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior Member (under 18 years of age) | \$ .50 |
|               | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Adult Member               | 3.00   |
|               | <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Membership (husband and wife)   | 5.00   |
|               | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member                     | 10.00  |
|               | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Firm                         | 25.00  |
|               | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member (exempt from annual dues) | 50.00  |
|               | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactors (exempt from annual dues) | 100.00 |

Additional contribution (tax deductible) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_





SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS  
01257

NEWSLETTER

Vol. V, No. 1

November 1977

DECEMBER MEETING

A surprise program will be presented at our Christmas meeting on December 9 at Dewey Memorial Hall. All we will say is: "Don't miss the surprise!"

Virginia Drury has graciously consented to serve as chairman of the covered dish supper, which will start at 6:30 p.m. Her committee requests that each one bring a complete place setting except for a dessert dish. Unless otherwise solicited, each person whose last name begins with the letters A-M are also asked to bring a "meat type" casserole large enough to serve eight. Suggestions: baked beans, macaroni and cheese, meat loaf, scalloped chicken, fish casserole, etc. Those whose names begin with N-Z should bring a vegetable dish to serve eight. Suggestions: tossed salad, string bean casserole, gelatine salad, creamed onions, etc. Please also bring serving utensils.

The committee will supply tea, coffee, milk, pies, and rolls. Those few who are unable to bring prepared dishes are invited to make a contribution toward the buying of the beverages, the butter, the cream, the decorations, and so forth. Many thanks from Marion Barnum, Virginia Drury, Carlton Mott, Muriel Rokos, and Helen Rote.

OPEN HOUSE

Breakfast at the home of Carl and Sally Proper, dinner with Milton and Marion Barnum, and now dessert with Lewis and Ruth Leffingwell - all for the benefit of the Sheffield Historical Society! The breakfasts and dinners have already taken place, and those fortunate enough to have been able to partake of the sumptuous repasts have said a hearty thank-you to their hosts. At both homes there was a convivial gathering in a setting reminiscent of days long gone. It was great fun and delicious food for a worthy cause.

On Sunday afternoon, December 11, Ruth and Lewis Leffingwell will open their 1761 house, also for the benefit of the society. Guests will enjoy coffee and dessert and have an opportunity to visit a charming old house - all for just \$1.50. The open house will run from 2 to 6 p.m. Don't miss this one!



### DAN RAYMOND HOUSE NEWS

Our current exhibit at headquarters is a collection of tinware belonging to Richard Combes. This display will continue through April, when another exhibit will be shown.

A lady from Spencertown, N.Y., visited the house recently to see our slide/tape show. She is preparing one for her town.

(30) The D.R.H. Committee is planning a "bring-a-teacup-or-teaspoon" party for June 23 in an effort to build a collection of cups for the society's use. There will be a special exhibition of dolls and doll furniture at that time.

Don't forget our annual auction on July 28. If you have anything to donate, let Milton Barnum know.

### RECENT DONATIONS

The following articles have recently been donated to the society: a letter opener which belonged to President William McKinley from Barbara Hurlburt Brooks; a painting of Sage's Ravine and a watercolor sketch of Mount Everett Regional School by Walter Cole from Willard French; an advertising souvenir of Cassidy Brothers store from Josephine Hamilton; four place settings of ironstone from Carl Proper; and two lovely cups and saucers from Marion Barnum.

### SHEFFIELD'S OLD COVERED BRIDGE

Although not a historical society project, strictly speaking, there is no group in town which should be more interested in the preservation of one of Sheffield's most cherished landmarks than our society. We cherish it not only for its aesthetic and historical significance but because it stands as a testimonial to the skill and ingenuity of our forefathers.

The Connecticut River Valley Covered Bridge Society has donated \$500 to the Sheffield Historical Commission toward the preservation of this historic structure, and the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges has donated another \$500. These funds will be used to match a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, if our application is approved. The selectmen have agreed to insert an article in the town meeting warrant asking for an appropriation of \$5,000 toward the restoration of the bridge. A concerned citizen has promised to underwrite the cost of hiring Milton Graton, the foremost covered bridge builder in the country, to come to Sheffield as a consultant.

A broad base of support for the project will help immeasurably in our quest for funding. Anyone who would like to contribute toward saving a valuable Sheffield antique, probably the oldest covered bridge in Massachusetts, may send a check to the Sheffield Historical Commission for the "Save the Bridge Fund," % Lillian E. Preiss, chairman of the S.H.C., Sheffield 01257. Charles Kuralt has noted that America has lost half her covered bridges in the past twenty years by flood or by neglect. The Connecticut River Valley Covered Bridge Society has adopted as its motto, "Remove not the ancient landmark which thy fathers have set." (Prov. 22:28)

### MEMORIAL FUND

Over \$400 has been donated to a fund established in memory of Kurt Preiss, who passed on February 4. He was a willing worker in many of the society's projects, and he would be pleased to know that its goals are being furthered in such a way. Lillian wishes to express her heartfelt gratitude to those who contributed so generously to this fund.



## SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

01257

### NEWSLETTER

Vol. V, No. 2

April 1978

### SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR - 1978

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| April 14   | Regular meeting - <u>A Place in Time</u> |
| April 17   | Price Chopper Fund Day                   |
| April 25   | Fashion Show                             |
| May 12     | Regular meeting                          |
| May 27, 28 | Flea Market                              |
| June 9     | Annual meeting                           |
| July 29    | Auction                                  |
| Sept. 8    | First meeting of 1978-79                 |

### A PLACE IN TIME

"It's been done in other places in the country and after all we've got this beautiful heritage, why don't we make the most of it?" Does this sound as though it might have been spoken in Sheffield? It's the way Paul Steinhardt, narrator to a film produced last year by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, sums up what preservation is all about.

The film, A Place in Time, features 25 historic preservation efforts in 14 states. New Hampshire filmmaker John Karol spent two years traveling around the country talking with preservationists about their projects. The premiere of the film was held last April at the Faneuil Hall Marketplace in Boston.

We are very fortunate to be able to see this film, courtesy of Holger Oleen, at our next meeting. Come and bring your friends - April 14 - Dewey Memorial Hall - 7:30 p.m.

### PRICE CHOPPER FUND DAY

April 17 has been designated as S.H.S. Fund Day at the Price Chopper Supermarket in Great Barrington. Five percent of all money spent at the supermarket that day by persons presenting a S.H.S. Fund Day card will be returned to our society. Cards will be available at our next meeting or from Milton Barnum or Lillian Preiss now. Plan to stock up your pantry on April 17th!

### FASHION SHOW - APRIL 25

Again, through the courtesy of England Brothers and Bob Krol, we will sponsor a spring fashion show. It will be held at Mount Everett Regional School on April 25 starting at 7:30 p.m.

The theme for decorating the tables this year is "Holidays." There are a few tables and holidays still awaiting the imagination of some willing hands and minds. If you have not yet signed up to decorate a table, see Bob Krol to choose a holiday and ask Marion Barnum for a \$10 check to cover expenses.

Marion Elliott is chairman of the refreshment table. If you will make a dessert for the table, please call her at 229-2126 and let her know what you will bring. Tickets (\$2.50) will be available at our meeting April 14. It's not too early to start telling your friends about this festive occasion. It was great fun last year. Let's see if we can top it this year.

### FLEA MARKET

Do you have May 27 and 28 marked in red on your calendar? Those are the dates for our "first annual" flea market to be held on the Massini and Wilhelm properties on Route 7A. Carl Proper, general chairman, has been working for months with Henry Cogger, manager, to make this an event worthy of perpetuating. It could be a major fund-raiser if we all work together to make it a huge success. More details at our April 14 meeting.

### LOG CABIN QUILT

The S.H.S. quilting committee has completed another beautiful quilt. Currently being raffled are tickets for a log cabin quilt in bright, harmonizing colors. Tickets may be obtained at \$1 each from Vera Conklin or Marion Barnum and will be available April 14 and April 25.

### PROGRESS ON DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

If you are in the vicinity of the Dan Raymond House while the workmen are there, stop in to see what is being done. In accordance with a vote taken at the March meeting, we have secured a \$10,000 mortgage for ten years. This will enable us to prepare an apartment so that there will be someone living on the premises. The roof has been raised toward the west and shingled, the interior walls are up and the sheetrock on. Plumbing and electrical work is under way, so before long it will be ready for occupancy.

### BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE

At our March meeting we voted to apply for membership in the Bay State Historical League. The quarterly meetings of the League feature interesting and knowledgeable speakers, and the bulletins contain information applicable to all historical societies. The next meeting of the League will be held in Worcester on April 15. For more information see Lillian Preiss.



## SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

01257

### NEWSLETTER

Vol. V, No. 23

July 1978

### OPEN HOUSE AND PICNIC

All members, friends, and other interested members of the community are invited to attend an Open House and picnic at the Dan Raymond House on August 4. Nancy Boardman has again consented to serve as chairman for the picnic, which will begin at 6:30. She requests that everyone, except those called for something specific, bring a covered dish for the buffet table, his own place setting, and a folding chair.

There will be three showings of an audio-visual history of Sheffield - at 2, 4, and 7:30. The slide show will be presented in the large meeting room of the Dan Raymond House. Bill Gilligan has offered the society a carousel projector on more or less permanent loan. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schumann have given a cassette recorder-player. We are grateful to these generous people.

Other recent acquisitions are the following: an 1801 map of Massachusetts donated by Howard Crockett, two silver spoons decorated with Sheffield scenes donated by R. W. Smith of Lee, books and a sand shaker inscribed "S. R. Kellogg" given by Willard French, an inkwell with sand shaker from Lillian Preiss, book and pictures from Rachel Willcox, book from Marion Barnum, album of Sheffield pictures from the Ballston Spa Public Library, a silver spoon made by a Sheffield silversmith from Ruth Gordon Ellis, and an 1817 indenture paper witnessed by James Bradford from Irene Armstrong.

These artifacts, as well as others previously acquired, will be on view during the open house in the Dan Raymond House and the Parker L. Hall law office. Members who have other pertinent material they would be willing to show may contact any member of the open house committee: Arthur Chase, Lillian Preiss, Marion Barnum, Irene Cranmer, or Muriel Rokos.

There will be a mystery table holding pictures and objects for visitors to identify. The person who succeeds in identifying the greatest number correctly will win a prize of a can of Sheffield maple syrup donated by Arthur Chase. Duplicate prizes will be awarded in case of tied entries.

A check representing the proceeds from the antiques flea market held on May 27 and 28 will be presented to President Milton Barnum by Carl Proper, chairman of the flea market.

The second Sheffield historical quilt and the log cabin quilt made by the society's quilting committee will be on display, and raffle tickets will be sold.

The house and law office will be open on August 4 from 2 to 6:30 and from 7:30 to 8:30. Hosts and hostesses are needed for both locations to serve for two-hour shifts. Anyone who is willing to act in this capacity should let a member of the committee know the time he can be there.

### PAUL IVORY TO SPEAK

Paul Ivory, administrator of Chesterwood, will present a program for the Friendly Union and the historical society on November 17 at Dewey Memorial Hall. The historical society's business meeting will be held on its regular meeting date, November 10, but all are encouraged to attend this informative program on Chesterwood.

### NEW LOGO ???

It has been suggested that a new logo more suggestive of the society's present concerns would be desirable. Our current logo served its purpose as the organization was coming into being, but now that we have acquired a headquarters house and are developing a program for its use, perhaps a more pertinent symbol is in order. Members of the society are asked to think about this suggestion and offer opinions. No change will be made without membership approval.

### CALENDAR

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| July 29     | Auction and tag sale                              |
| August 4    | Open house and picnic                             |
| September 8 | First meeting of 1978-79                          |
| October 13  | Regular meeting                                   |
| November 10 | Regular meeting                                   |
| November 17 | Combined meeting with Friendly Union - Paul Ivory |

### AUCTION

Our fifth annual auction and tag sale will be held on July 29 at 10 a.m. at the American Legion grounds. Articles for the auction are urgently needed. If you have something to donate and wish to have it picked up, you may call Milton Barnum at 229-2569 or Loring Boardman at 229-7750.

### WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

From the Berkshire Courier of 1842:

At Sheffield on Thursday evening by Rev. Mr. Bradford - Jeremiah Shears Esq. to Mrs. Florilla Lamb

"What if the Shears are old and rusty  
What if the Lamb is young and frisky  
A faint heart ne'er a victory won,  
Persevere - the Shearing is done!"

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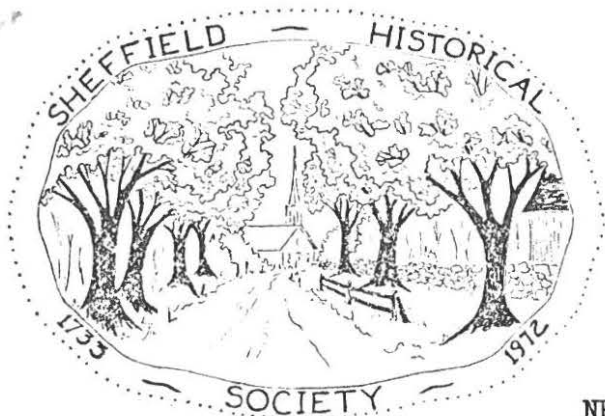
### MEMBERSHIP COUPON

Dues for 1978-79 are now due. Some memberships were paid at the annual meeting in June, but if you would like to join by mail you may send your check to the treasurer now. Please remit to: Mrs. Milton Barnum, Sheffield, MA 01257  
Individual member, \$3; Joint membership, \$5; Sustaining, \$10; Life members, \$50.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_





## SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

01257

### NEWSLETTER

Vol. VI, No. 1

November 1978

### CHRISTMAS MEETING

The menu for our December meeting includes an appetizer of Christmas gaiety, an entree of reverence in keeping with the season, and a dessert of Christmas music. Traditionally, this meeting has included a holiday dinner and entertainment rather than a serious discussion.

Virginia Drury, our ingenious chairman for the dinner, has enlisted a superb committee to help with a great idea: each table will have its own roast turkey together with the familiar accompaniments. Various society members have been asked to help with the cooking, for which everything will be furnished by the committee. The charge for the dinner will be a modest \$2!

Virginia has asked that each person bring his own place setting: dinner plate, dessert plate, cup and saucer, and silverware. Napkins will be furnished. Remember - December 8, 6:30, Dewey Memorial Hall.

### CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Do you remember our gala open house in December 1973, before we had acquired the Dan Raymond House? If you do remember, you'll surely want to come this year, and if you don't remember, you'll most certainly want to come this year.

The Dan Raymond House, decorated for Christmas, will be open for the whole community from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 17. Simple refreshments will be served. All members are encouraged to invite their friends. We are hoping to make this a community-wide tradition.

### REGULAR HOURS AT THE DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

An auspicious beginning for opening our headquarters to the public on Friday afternoons from 2 to 4 has been reported by the Dan Raymond House committee. On the first day, October 27, we had visitors steadily from 2 to 4; on the third day the hours lengthened to 4:45. It has been most gratifying.

Alice Hurlburt of the Berkshire Courier, Dick Delmasto of the Berkshire Eagle, and Bernard Drew of the River Valley Chronicle have taken pictures of the quilt and will have a story for their respective papers.

The committee, consisting of Marion Barnum, Alice Ann Chase, Ethel Mertsching, Lillian Preiss, Carl Proper, and Muriel Rokos, is formulating goals for the house, drafting an accessions policy, opening during regular hours, planning exhibits, planning educational programs, maintaining a sales table, showing our historical slide/tape program on request, selling raffle tickets, and opening the law office for visitors.

Carl and Irene Cranmer will be host and hostess there on the day after Thanksgiving, and Lillian Preiss will show the slide-tape history at 2:30 p.m.

#### CURRENT EVENTS

Items for our 6th annual auction and tag sale are already coming in, President Barnum has reported. Keep your eyes peeled for articles which you can add to this July 28th event.

Our society contributed toward the cost of the public address system at Dewey Memorial Hall so that all may hear what is being said. Each paying one third of the cost were the S.H.S., the Freindly Union, and the Council on Aging.

There's always work to be done at the Dan Raymond House, as any homeowner knows. On one day recently a group of members - Milton Barnum, Lewis Leffingwell, Carl Proper, and Ed Warren - put a new roof on one side of the pottery shop behind the house. On Veterans Day a clean-up crew raked leaves, cut brush, and spruced up the grounds. Working outside on a beautiful November day were Loring Boardman, Arthur Chase, Lewis Leffingwell, Kurt Preiss, and Charles Schumann.

#### PRICE CHOPPER FUND DAY

December 11 has been designated S.H.S. Fund Day at Price Chopper in Great Barrington. We tried to get a date before Thanksgiving, but the choice dates had all been spoken for. Next year we'll have to start earlier.

Fund Day cards will be available at the Dan Raymond House and also at our December 8 meeting. Remember: five percent of all funds spent at Price Chopper on December 11 will be returned to the society, but you must present a pink card at the time of purchase in order to have the amount credited to the society.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Every once in awhile we hear rumors that some people think of the historical society as a closed corporation. Nothing could be further from the truth! Let's all work to dispel that bit of fiction. Although we have an appointed membership committee - Agnes Boardman and Nancy Boardman - each member of the society should consider himself a part of the membership committee. Spread the word wherever you have an opportunity. We heartily welcome participation of all kinds - membership, attending meetings, and visiting the house. Agnes and Nancy will have more on this subject anon.

#### DO YOU SAVE TOP VALUE STAMPS?

The Dan Raymond House has need of many items that could be obtained at the TV stamp redemption store; for example, lamps, tables, coffee pot, clock, house-keeping accessories, etc. If you save TV stamps but don't have time to paste them in the books, you're welcome to donate loose stamps to the house committee. If you wish to donate completed books, the committee will thank you doubly!

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do you have a helpful idea to share with other members? Here's a vehicle for communicating with like-minded people. Short letters of constructive comment or suggestion regarding the society or the newsletter will be published in future issues. Please send to Arthur Chase or Lillian Preiss, editors. Address simply: Sheffield, MA 01257.



DAN RAYMOND HOUSE

## SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY SHEFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

01257

Volume VII, No. 1  
Fall, 1979

Welcome back to all members from summer vacations and related activities. The executive committee is looking forward to a productive year and has been busy on plans for the fall, so get out your calendar to mark down a few events.

### REGULAR MEETING DATES (7:30, Dewey Memorial Hall)

September 14. Gerard Chapman, noted Berkshire County historian will speak on the Erie Canal.

October 12. Martha Greene will present a program on the Mahican Indians on the Housatonic. Bring arrow heads or other Indian items for dating.

November 9. " 'Know all men by these presence.' Searching the old records," a program by Paul Greene and Harry Conklin explaining the operation of the Registry of Deeds. Find out how to learn the history of your house.

December 14. Our traditional Christmas dinner, again headed by Virginia Drury. She will be contacting some of you for assistance as the holiday season approaches. Bring your own place setting.

The program for winter and spring has many openings so make your interests known. If you know of somebody who could offer a good program, or if you would like to present a program of your own contact Catherine Miller, 229-8668.

### OTHER DATES OF IMPORTANCE --

October 6, 7, and 8. Covered Bridge Days. The Sheffield Historical Commission has put together an ambitious fund raising weekend to help save our local landmark. The event will be centered at Westenhook Gallery and feature crafts, art work, silent auction and refreshments. On Sunday, October 7, a radio telethon sponsored by Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions Club and station WSBS will be held. Call in your pledges. Help support this local cause with your contributions of food, labor and patronage. The Commission is now halfway in its local drive for \$25,000. Have you contributed yet?

OTHER DATES OF IMPORTANCE -- (continued)

December. Dan Raymond Christmas openhouse. Date to be announced.

The Executive Committee announces the following Committees for 1979-80.

DAN RAYMOND HOUSE COMMITTEE: Lillian Preiss, Chairman;  
Marian Barnum, Ethel Mertching, Muriel Rokos,  
Alice Ann Chase, Carl Proper.

CURATOR: Lillian Preiss

CURATOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Chris Coenen

ANTIQUES SALE: Carl Proper

PROGRAM: Catherine Miller

REFRESHMENTS: Rachael Willcox

NEWSLETTER: James Miller

REMINDER -- It's time for annual membership dues. Rates are \$3.00 single membership, \$5.00 for family membership. Or, if you prefer, life membership is available for \$50.00 per individual. If you have not done so, pay Marian Barnum at a regular meeting or mail payment to her.

This is a good time to get after that friend who has been talking of joining. We have good programs, good causes and lots of fun.

OF THINGS PAST -- Our annual antiques auction and tag sale netted \$2,400.00, good news for our ongoing program with the Dan Raymond House. Many people worked hard to bring this continued success. By Christmas we hope to have the keepingroom taped and painted, and the windows and door trim completed for the open house.

The Doll Show last June was a huge success with about seventy-five people attending. Exhibitors included Louise Stevens, Marian Barnum, Ruth Leffingwell and Carl Cranmer. Plans are for another show next year. New dolls are being sought so talk to your friends and search the attic and closets.